

The Acorn

June 2024



Monthly publication of The Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
4203 West Old Lincoln Way • Wooster, OH 44691
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Staving Off Extinction by Helping the Church to Flourish

Shortly after retiring from The College of Wooster in 2016, I began preparation for a new calling in ministry. Actually, it was an old calling that I failed to acknowledge for many years before finally taking the plunge. Along the way, I decided to audit a wildly popular class at Wooster, titled, “This History of Life,” taught by esteemed Professor of Geology Mark Wilson.

It was a fascinating course, rich in content. Among other topics, we looked at the formation of the universe, the many changes the earth has undergone, and the various periods of our planet’s existence from the Hadean to the Cenozoic Era.

Being a science course, one might think it was anti-religious, but to the contrary, my faith was actually bolstered during the 15-week class because it affirmed in my mind that the wonders of the universe could not have come to pass without a supreme being.

Throughout the earth’s exceptionally long history, we learned that countless species have come and gone, and we know this through the fossil record, which enables geologists and paleontologists to track everything from unicellular to multicellular organisms.

When a species no longer exists, we call it extinction. It’s unfortunate when once vibrant species disappear. As a pastor, my concern is another type of extinction — that of the church. What will happen if/when our spiritual foundation disappears? How will an already chaotic world survive without divine guidance?

We may already be headed in that direction. Church attendance is way down, and houses of worship are closing at an alarming rate. Evil has always been present in our world, but as the church’s influence fades, the opportunity for increased malevolence grows and threatens to swallow up others in a wicked den of iniquity.

What are we, as Christ followers, supposed to do in the face of this ominous threat? Well, I would suggest that we carry on with tenacity and perseverance, despite the daunting odds against us. We must continue to press on, spreading the Good News and opening our doors to all people. In addition, we must continually engage in prayer, asking God to guide us through the rocky terrain so that we might eventually reach the objectives he has set before us.

I would argue that the greatest threat to the modern-day church is not the external forces — although they are certainly formidable — but the internal apathy instead. In the Book of Revelation, God instructs John to write this to the Church at Laodicea: “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

The church at Laodicea was complacent, but not condemned. Despite its indolence, God promised to remain loyal, saying that he disciplines those he loves, essentially imploring them to awaken from their slumber because he is standing at the door and knocking. If we hear his voice and open the door, he will enter and commune with us. Therefore, we need to respond to his wake-up call. Time is fleeting. We need to rescue the church and put it in a position to flourish. Let us open the doors to all people so that God’s will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Pastor John

CHANGE THE WORLD DAY

Join us on Saturday, June 22 to CHANGE THE WORLD. We'll kick things off at 8:30 a.m. with continental breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Shortly after that, we'll pack hygiene items and Lifeline Christian Mission meals.

Hygiene items will be taken to One-Eighty for distribution to their clients who sometimes arrive for services with only the clothes on their backs.

We will also pack meals with the assistance of Lifeline Christian Mission. Lifeline will bring materials that we'll use to package shelf stable, nutritious meals that are shipped to children and families who struggle with hunger and malnutrition. The process is designed so that anyone can help with the packing. Lifeline will bring everything we need. Last year we packed almost 3000 meals.

Once the work is done, we'll remove our hairnets and enjoy fellowship and a light lunch to celebrate our part in Change the World Day.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Items needed for the hygiene kits are: Travel size shampoo, conditioner, deodorant and shaving creme. Also needed are tampons (no pads), washcloths, hand towels and bath towels.

Monetary donations are welcomed! Donations will be used to supplement items for the hygiene kits and also to fund the meals to be packed.

We have set a goal of \$2000 in donations so that we can surpass the number of meals we packed last year.

Join us on Saturday June 22 to help in this effort. Questions can be directed to Cindy Henshaw or Beth Patton.

An Invitation to Join Us

If you have been worshipping with us recently and would like to enter into membership at Oak Chapel, we would be honored and blessed to have you join our congregation. Just let Pastor John know, and he will make arrangements to officially welcome you into our church during one of our Sunday services.

Our Daily Bread

Copies of *Our Daily Bread* devotional books are in the Narthex. Feel free to pick one up and place it on your nightstand so that you can easily access it when you wake up in the morning and before you go to bed in the evening.



The Chosenness Bible Study group meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. The Bible is the sole source for the study. All are welcome!

Young Adults meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 11:30 am in the Gathering Grounds. Anyone is welcome to join us!

Monday Morning Bible Study will resume in September.



Feed My Sheep

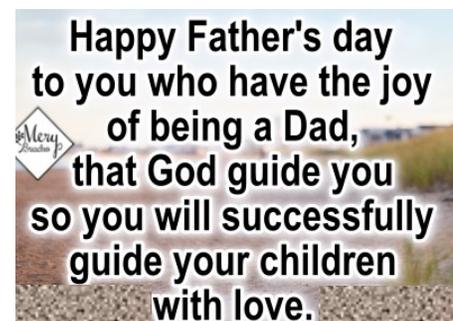
Oak Chapel will continue to collect food on the first Sunday of each month as we come to the Lord's table. Food collected will help support our in-house food pantry. Any surplus items will

be shared with People to People Ministries.

Since establishing our pantry in 2019, we have had the opportunity to provide basic food items for hundreds of people in and around our community. Those who have come in search of food are overflowing with gratitude. In the last several months, however, our food and financial donations in support of the pantry have fallen off. Please consider a donation to the pantry so that we can continue to answer Christ's call to "Feed the Hungry."

Our Love is Kind Project Continues!

Please continue to identify people whose path you may cross who may be struggling or need a pat on the back. A simple kindness of a small gift card or monetary gift, or a kind word goes a long way. Envelopes and inserts noting Oak Chapel UMC will be available in the Narthex.





Golden Agers Luncheon– June 11

In the mid 1960's the Women's Society of Christian Service, precursor to United Methodist Women and United Women in Faith, wanted to honor the wonderful folks in our neighborhood, members of Oak Chapel or not. Golden Agers luncheon was born and has continued to be a gift to our community. It is difficult to keep up with the ages of our neighbors, so we invite you, to invite a friend over 60. Please let us know by Sunday, June 2, if you are coming and if you are bringing a friend.

Our speaker will be Paul Locher, a local historian and lover of Wooster and Wayne County. He will talk to us about the history of agriculture and what treasures we can find at the Buckeye Agricultural Museum and Education Center across from the fairgrounds.

Come between 11:00 and 11:25 to visit. Lunch will be served at 11:30.

Did you know you do not have to be a member of our church to be a member of UWF? That's right! If you have a friend, neighbor or family member that would like to attend, we would love to have them come any time.



Art and Soul will resume in October. Happy Summer!

Operation Christmas Child

As we gear up for our collection this year, let's look back at 2023. Here are some facts you might like to know. Smithville Brethren Church drop-off site collected 6,318 boxes during collection week These boxes go all over the world and touch many lives. Our Akron Region collected 34,801 boxes. Thank you for taking part in OCC.

Oak Chapel will be collecting items for boys and girls ages 2-4 and we will pack boxes in late October. Thank you for your love of children.



All-Sons Dinner Tuesday, June 18

6:00 dinner in Fellowship Hall
7:00 program in the Sanctuary
Please RSVP by 6/11

Join us for great food, warm fellowship, a special presentation by author John Hopkins regarding his book, *The World Will Never See the Like: The Gettysburg Reunion of 1913*. Hopkins is a communications and public relations professional and former Vice-President for College Relations at The College of Wooster.



Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV) "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

- UMM Events that might stir you up:
- All-Sons' Banquet—June 18, see separate article
- June Breakfast - canceled—come to Change the World Day June 22
- July Event - Akron rubber Ducks take on the Bowie Baysox, Friday 7/26/24, 7 p.m.

Oak Chapel UWF has Layettes available for you to share with new mothers in our community. Pick one up in the room across from the office and sign the appropriate list, or contact Robin Kitchen if you would like help. Supply donations are also appreciated.

Nuts and Oak Chapel go hand in hand! It makes the perfect fund raiser for United Women in Faith. We have trail mix in the Narthex, but many more choices are available online. The website is on the front page at oakchapelumc.com. And did we mention that the nuts and candies are premium quality and very fresh and delicious?

**Evangelism is merely
God working through US!**

To view our **CALENDAR**,
please visit our website—
oakchapelumc.com

The **Days for Girls** Team will meet June 11 and 25, at 2:00 p.m. in the room directly across from the church office. We are making progress toward getting another shipment of kits out. We would love to have new participants in this outreach ministry to girls in underdeveloped countries. We also welcome monetary donations to help cover the cost of materials and shipping.

Join us the **second and fourth Tuesdays**.



Are you missing a coat? Jacket? Umbrella? Are you unaware you are missing any of these things? Check out the coat cubby in the Narthex. The rack and

shelves are full of orphaned items.

Prayer Shawls—We need people to make shawls! They can be crocheted, knitted, or sewn. Many sizes are needed. We meet on the last Monday evening of the month, but if you would like a different day or time, let Miriam Zech know—we are flexible! Also, if you'd like to learn yarn or sewing skills, we can teach you! Perfection is not necessary!



Acorn Submissions

The next issue is **July 2024**.

Deadline is **June 15**.

Font size for late articles will not be guaranteed.

RADA Cutlery and

Nuts and Snacks

- ♥ You may order 24/7, 365 days a year.
- ♥ Both links are on the home page of Oak Chapel's website, oakchapelumc.com
- ♥ Proceeds will support our mission projects.
- ♥ You can pick up a postcard in the Narthex with more information.
- ♥ If you have questions or would like help ordering, please ask Elizabeth Feldman.

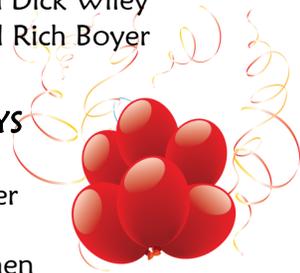
Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday June 3. Join us at Buehler's Town Market at 8:30 a.m. for great food and great conversation. No agenda, just a good time to be together.

JUNE ANNIVERSIES

- 07 Beth and Doug Patton
- 12 Shannon and Tom Bower
- 18 Rosie and Bob Troutman
- 28 Karen and Dick Wiley
- 29 Cyndi and Rich Boyer

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 05 John Finn
- 08 Lori Hauser
- 12 Ted Zech
- 14 Brad Kitchen
Elsie Mykrantz
- 19 Elaine Sprinkle (90)
- 21 Ben Bower
- 24 Patti Pfander
- 30 Shannon Bower
- 30 Dick Gasser



Wish your neighbor a Happy day!

This information comes from our membership database. Please contact the church office if there are any corrections or additions.

Oak Chapel UMC Leadership Administrative Council

- Chair Bob Troutman
- Lay Leaders..... Greg Cantrell and Doug Henshaw
- Lay Delegate..... Elizabeth Feldman
- Treasurer Bill Braucher
- United Methodist Men Captain Bill Braucher
- United Women in Faith Captain Phyllis Weaver
- Finance Captain..... Stuart Mykrantz
- Finance Secretary..... Elizabeth Feldman
- At-Large..... Bruce Bloch
- Team Captains:
 - Evangelism.....Steve Moore
 - History and Records.....Alice Giffin
 - Membership Care.....Rosie Troutman
 - Memorials..... Cheryl Rastetter
 - Nominations Pastor John Finn
 - Outreach.... Cindy Henshaw and Karen Cantrell
 - PantryConnie Reed
 - Staff Parish Relations Joyce Varns
 - Trustees.....Dick Wiley
 - Worship and MusicKim Domer
 - Youth.....Jen Moser

General Conference Recap “Be Still and Know that I am God”

“Being still is surrendering to God in prayer, trusting in the Lord with all of our heart, and with all that concerns us, leaning not on our own understanding and letting God direct our paths. Being still is not God’s call to rest, but it is God’s call for us to get out of God’s way,” Bishop Tracy S. Malone declared to the laity and clergy in Charlotte NC and to those watching online around the world.

In this season of Pentecost, fresh winds of the Spirit are blowing upon our beloved United Methodist Church. Our quadrennial General Conference met for 10 days concluding on May 3 and there are some exciting changes happening within our denomination. General Conference brings together clergy and lay delegates from around the globe whose decisions affect how millions of United Methodists will do ministry for years to come. The General Conference is the only body that can set official policy and speak for our international denomination. Several significant decisions and changes happened during General Conference, including the removal of the restrictive language from our Book of Discipline that banned LGBTQIA+ clergy. Language prohibiting clergy from performing and churches hosting same-gender weddings was also removed.

It should be noted that nothing passed by General Conference or under consideration would compel churches to receive a gay pastor. The legislation approved at GC also explicitly protects the right of clergy and churches not to officiate at or host same-sex weddings.

Another significant change includes regionalization, which allows the church to minister in its own specific context and puts the church’s varied geographical regions on equal footing, making the church less US-centric. You may also watch a video of Bishop Malone discussing these changes at <https://vimeo.com/942723701> or read the ResourceUMC recap at <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/general-conference-legislative-recap>.

After a year of learning about what regionalization means for East Ohio, clergy and lay members will vote on this change to the Discipline at the 2025 Annual Conference.

These changes are opportunities to bring healing to those who have been harmed and to share the love of Christ with all people.

Celebrations at GC included 26 Deaconesses and Home Missioners being consecrated. (Pam Domer is a Deaconess. ☺) 16 missionaries were commissioned and our Bishop Tracy S. Malone was installed as President of the Council of Bishops.

Delegates at General Conference also voted to adopt the Compass account balance retirement plan for clergy; approved climate justice petitions that direct churches to conduct annual audits of the carbon footprint of their buildings, grounds, and facilities, encourage annual conference sessions to reduce energy waste and consumption, and update or re-adopt existing church resolutions on creation care; approved a resolution asking that United Methodist institutions not buy government bonds from Israel, Turkey, and Morocco, given that those nations have engaged in long-term military occupations; elected the nine members of the Judicial Council; agreed to a full communion relationship with the Episcopal Church; approved the departure of four Eurasian annual conferences that plan to become the autonomous Christian Methodist Church; and

This is a very busy season in our “connection.” John Wesley used this term as he founded the Methodist movement and built a network of preachers and groups bound together by shared beliefs and a common structure. The connection provides support and accountability to individuals and local churches within it, and working together, we can do so much more than any one of us can do individually.

During the month of June, pastors and lay members from United Methodist churches throughout East Ohio will gather at the John S. Knight Center in Akron from June 12–15 for a time of worship and meetings during which we hear the ways the Spirit is moving across our connection. During Annual Conference, we celebrate the lives of pastors who have died during the year, we celebrate the ministries of those pastors who are retiring, and we license, commission and ordain new pastors. We review and approve budgets and set the minimum salaries for pastors across our connection. This gathering at Annual Conference is also a time of spiritual renewal and provides for new and rekindled relationships.

Many ministry groups will have table displays in the lobby area of the JS Knight Center to highlight the good work they are doing in East Ohio and beyond, and to give churches and individuals a chance to support these ministries.



ACORN Newsletter
 Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
 4203 West Old Lincoln Way
 Wooster, OH 44691-3239
<http://www.oakchapelumc.com>

2024
 June



WE INVITE YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.
Young Adult SS	11:30 a.m.

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

“Serving Christ and Community through Love, Compassion, Fellowship and Caring”

Rev. John Finn Pastor
 Elizabeth Feldman Secretary
 Jen Moser..... Organist and Choir Director
 Miriam ZechCustodian
Church Phone**330-264-2537**
 Pastor John’s Cell Phone.....330-988-2577

E-mail addresses:

pastor@oakchapelumc.com office@oakchapelumc.com

Visit our website: www.oakchapelumc.com

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK! CHECK US OUT!

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 330-499-3972, ext. 202 or email centralvalley@eocumc.com
 Rev. Cara Stultz Costello and Rev. Edgar Brady, Co-District Superintendents
 Megan Myers, Administrative Assistant