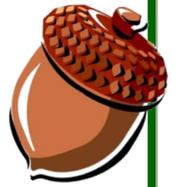


The Acorn

July 2024



Monthly publication of The Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
4203 West Old Lincoln Way • Wooster, OH 44691
330-264-2537 • www.oakchapelumc.com

Join Us as We Help to ‘Build’ God’s Kingdom on Earth

As faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, we dedicate our lives to serving Him by serving others. Very often, however, we become discouraged when we witness such widespread heartache and suffering among so many across the country and around the world. We desperately want to help, but many times, it seems impossible for us to do so.

On a local level, however, we have many opportunities to serve, and our church has loyally and faithfully answered the call to do so for many years. Later this month, we will have another chance to serve our neighbor as we lend a hand to a Habitat-for-Humanity project in our community. We will gather at a yet-to-be-determined site on Saturday, July 20, from 9 a.m. to noon, to assist in the construction of a current homesite.

If you have any type of construction skills (or even if, like me, you don’t), you are invited and encouraged to join us that morning. We probably won’t get a lot done in three hours, but every little bit helps, and not only will we feel good about our efforts, but we will also have done something that is pleasing to the God we serve, helping to advance His Kingdom here on earth.

In the Old Testament Book of Isaiah (58:7) we are encouraged to “give shelter to the homeless,” and there is no better way to do that than through a Habitat-for-Humanity project. Not only will we be helping a family realize the dream of home ownership, but we will also heighten our passion to do God’s will.

Having a safe, secure place to call home is regarded as a basic human right in our country and throughout much of the world, not to mention in the eyes of our Lord. Everyone needs a stable environment, especially children, which makes our participation all the more important.

Our faith invites us to view life through a large lens so that we can see “the big picture,” and that

includes not only where we rest in this world, but also where we hope to find refuge in the world to come.

Psalm 91 addresses this different type of shelter — that which we will find at the end of our journey here on earth. Beginning in verse 1, the passage reads, “whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’” Then, continuing in verse 9: “If you say, ‘The Lord is my refuge,’ and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.” This passage brings us both comfort and reassurance, but it also challenges us to care for our brothers and sisters.

Wooster is, for the most part, an idyllic community — a place where we live comfortably and in harmony with our brothers and sisters — but it is impossible to overlook those who are homeless. I believe that God wants all of His children to have a roof over their head, and He encourages us to work to that end.

Sure, we can scoff at the homeless and blame them for not taking responsibility for their own well-being, but God has for us a much higher calling than that. Are we ever going to bring an end to homelessness in this world? Probably not. But can we take steps to bring one more family off the streets? Absolutely!

So please consider joining me — unskilled though I may be — and others from our church for three hours as we help to construct not only a home, but also a portion of God’s Holy Kingdom here on earth. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex.

Pastor John

Health Corner

This is a month of reminders.

- 1) Check and replace smoke/fire detectors as well as carbon monoxide detectors.
- 2) Make sure you have an up-to-date fire extinguisher handy. They DO expire so be sure to check the date.
- 3) Is your sunscreen fresh? Out-dated sunscreen will be less effective causing burning even if applied.
- 4) Are your hand-rails sturdy? A wobbly hand-rail won't help you much in a fall!
- 5) Socks/slippers! Make certain they have a good gripper sole. Experience speaking here!
- 6) Throw rugs look nice, and do help keep dirt from tracking in the house but BE CAREFUL! They are one of the major causes of injury in the 65+ age group.
- 7) Hydration is important at all times, but even more so during the hot, humid summer months. Drink, drink, drink before you feel you need it. Fluids aren't just water. Fruits, popsicles, Jello, all are ways to add to your fluid intake.

Have a great summer and stay safe!

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 are available in the Narthex.

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 Choseness 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. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Monday Morning Bible Study will resume in September.

Mission u: Learning Together for the Transformation of the World JULY 19-21, 2024

University of Mt. Union

Great news— COMMUNITY is God's desire for us! Please join us at Mission u as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and one another.

Jesus told his followers the kin-dom was among them (Luke 17:21). What does that mean? Who does Jesus say will inherit the kin-dom? How do we transform ourselves and our communities in ways that bring us closer to the kin-dom and the kin-dom closer to us? Dive into these questions and more at Mission u 2024 as we examine Scripture together and join in worship, fellowship, and action.

Adult — Welcome Home by Neomi Fletcher The adult curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

Youth — Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom by Nica Sy—In Creation, we see the power of symbiosis, or interdependent relationship. The youth (Gr. 7-12) curriculum explores the idea of symbiosis between our relationships with one another and our relationship with God. By drawing closer to one another and our world, we draw closer to the kin-dom.

Children — Me in the Kin-dom by Kathy Cook The children's (Gr. 1-6) curriculum uses the Lord's Prayer as a lens to help us see that we are all members of the family of God. Children will begin to understand that the kin-dom is living with Christ and one another on earth as in heaven. See Elizabeth Feldman with any ??



United Women in Faith

Oak Chapel's Unit of UWF has arms reaching in many directions. It is our purpose to share Love in Action in our

community. Join us July 13 for our Soul Care Retreat and on September 24 we'll have our Operation Christmas Child packing party. This year we'll have it as an event on its own, not connected to the Fellowship lunch. And on October 1 we'll have a fun event with an announcement later when plans are complete. The UWF will continue to have nuts and trail mix for sale in the narthex or you can order online. RADA knives are also available by ordering online.

You do not need to be a member of the church to attend our events and we encourage you to check us out. Bring a family member, bring a friend! The more, the merrier.

Operation Christmas Child

Oak Chapel will be collecting items for boys and girls ages 2-4 and we will pack boxes on September 24. Thank you for your love of children.



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."

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!

Soul Care Retreat

United Women in Faith is having a Soul Care Retreat on Saturday morning, July 13, from 9:30 a.m.—noon. A light luncheon will be served following the activities.

We will be offering hand waxing and chair massage, chair tai chi with breathing exercises, nail polishing, chips and chat, crafting and more. We hope you'll join us for this time of fellowship, relaxation and devotions. Please invite a friend. All women and girls are welcome.

Please RSVP via the attendance sheet or an email to office@oakchapelumc@gmail.com



Akron rubber Ducks take on the Bowie Baysox, Friday 7/26/24, 7:05 p.m. Breakfast on July 20 is canceled so we can work at Habitat.

Oak Chapel UWF has Layettees

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 link for ordering 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 July 9 and 23, 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.



“Our Hearts were Strangely Lukewarm: The American Methodist Church and the Struggle with White Supremacy” by John Elford. The author leads

the reader on a most unusual journey through Methodist history. Along the way, we discover how the White American Methodist Church became deeply entangled with White supremacy. From the founding of the church in the late eighteenth century to the present, we have too often been silent bystanders or active accomplices in the enormous harm caused by racism. It’s a complicated and shameful story few Methodists know. And yet, if we want to transform the world toward a different and better future for all, one free of the stranglehold of racism, we must come to terms with the story of our past—the whole story! “Our Hearts Were Strangely Lukewarm” is a trustworthy guide into the church’s troubled history. It’s also a present-day call to action that finds inspiration in those Methodists who stood against the tide and those guiding the church today toward the horizon of racial justice.

The East Ohio Conference will host a presentation by the author, John Elford on September 21.



Acorn Submissions

The next issue is **August 2024**.

Deadline is July 15.

Font size for late articles will not be guaranteed.

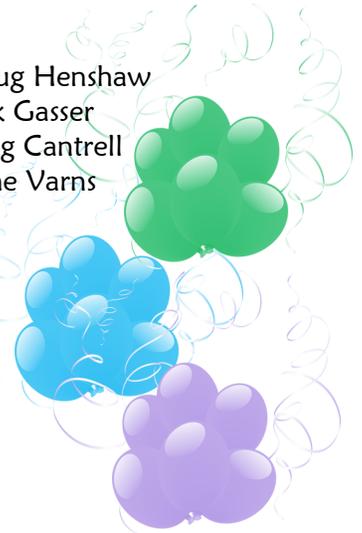
Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday July 2. Join us at Buehler’s Town Market at 8:30 a.m. for great food and great conversation. No agenda, just a good time to be together.

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 07 Cindy and Doug Henshaw
- 19 Carol and Dick Gasser
- 30 Karen and Greg Cantrell
Joyce and Gene Varns

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Jim Rastetter
- 04 Tom Rife
- 07 Bob Troutman
- 13 Pam Domer
- 18 Rich Boyer
Patti Ritchey
- 23 Oliver Kitchen
- 24 Becky Schlund
- 30 Steve Gossage



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
Pantry	Connie Reed
Staff Parish Relations	Joyce Varns
Trustees.....	Dick Wiley
Worship and Music	Kim Domer
Youth.....	Jen Moser

Annual Conference 2024: Faith Hope Love taken from complete article by Rick Wolcott found on eocumc.com

Bishop Tracy S. Malone called to order the 55th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference with 316 clergy and 320 laity gathered in the John S. Knight Center in Akron, Ohio June 13-15, 2024.

Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion

The service of Commemoration and Holy Communion recognized 36 clergy, clergy spouses, and laity who entered the Church Triumphant since last year's Annual Conference.

Episcopal Address

"The United Methodist Church no longer has any statements, policies or othering practices within its polity that discriminates, regulates, or excludes any person or people groups. Praise be to God," said Bishop Tracy S. Malone in her Episcopal Address to the laity and clergy of the East Ohio Conference. "The United Methodist Church has gone back to her Wesleyan roots, to her history, to retrieve what was at risk of being left behind, her ability to proclaim and live love."

Minimum Salaries for Clergy

In her report as chairperson of the Commission on Equitable Compensation, Dr. Gloria Brown made a motion that minimum salary for clergy across all categories be increased 5% in 2025. The recommendation was made "in an effort to move the minimum salaries toward a more sustainable wage, to address the current inflation rate to an extent, and to keep churches viable and vital," Brown shared.

Simplified Accountable Structure

Many churches in the East Ohio Conference and each of the four districts use the Simplified Accountable Structure model of governance, which reduces the number of people serving on committees so that more individuals are available for ministry in the local church. Executive Director of Connectional Ministries, Rev. Ed Fashbaugh, introduced the motion to begin Phase 1 of transitioning the East Ohio Conference to the Simplified Accountable Structure model of church governance. Phase 1 entails creating the Conference Leadership Board that will begin its service on January 1, 2025.

Foundation

Brian Sheetz, executive director of the Methodist Foundation of Ohio, suggested that clergy and laity spend time dreaming and imagining what could be with some planning instead of living with an attitude of scarcity. "So many of our churches have lost the ability to dream. Money is tight, attendance is tighter," he said before offering helpful tips for how to change our mindsets. "Spend some time dreaming, it might be the best thing to happen to your church."

Wellness and Wholeness Teaching Session

Rev. Dr. Ronald Bell, the director of Healing and Resilience for Discipleship Ministries and the Upper Room, led the Annual Conference in two times of learning and reflection on the themes of wholeness, well-being, and resilience. "God will keep you even when the waves feel like they are bashing up against you. God will keep you even when you feel like you are overwhelmed. God will keep you even when you find the flood is coming against you. God will keep you in the midst of your storm. God will keep you in the midst of your trials," Bell declared.

Church Apologizes to Victims and Survivors of Sexual Misconduct in The UMC

On behalf of The United Methodist Church, the General Conference in May apologized to the victims and the survivors of sexual misconduct for the hurt and harm done to them by the Church. The United Methodist Church pledged to share the apology in every annual conference across the connection, educate church leaders, and provide healing resources. At Annual Conference 2024, Bishop Tracy S. Malone read the apology,

2025 East Ohio Conference Budget

On behalf of the Conference Council on Finance & Administration, chairperson Rev. Dan Bryant introduced a 2025 Conference budget of \$8,237,340. The proposed budget is a 20% reduction from the budget approved for last year for 2024.

Videos and complete articles can be accessed on the Annual Conference website: <https://www.eocumc.com/eoac24/index.html>



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



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 Phone330-264-2537
 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!

CENTRAL VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICE
 8800 Cleveland Ave NW, Canton, OH 44720
 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