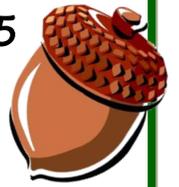


The Acorn

March 2025



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

Let Your Kite Fly High This Month

I can't recall the last time I flew a kite, but it had to have been at least 35 years ago when our kids were young. I remember blustery, swirling winds on overcast Saturday afternoons in March at Kinney Field serving as the perfect conditions for such an activity. It was fun to watch the invisible winds take the kite skyward, while we held on tight so it wouldn't fly away and be lost forever.

March winds also provide a meaningful metaphor for our journey here on earth. Not only do they illustrate just how unpredictable life can be and that there are many things over which we have no control, they also suggest that we consider letting go on occasion and getting caught up in the exhilarating bustling breezes.

Let's address the down side of winds first. As we know, strong gusts, not to mention tornadoes and hurricanes, can cause massive damage and even death in a matter of minutes. Therefore, it is vital to understand that we cannot control the winds. The Gospel of John (3:8) states that "the wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes."

However, we know that winds are also associated with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 2:1-2, we read that "when the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting."

In both a secular and sacred context, winds can do considerable harm, but also provide great value. For example, in recent years, wind turbines have been constructed on mountain tops to harness swirling gusts and produce energy. Likewise, the Holy Spirit has the power to move freely within us, bringing about change and enabling us to do things we never thought possible.



This month, I invite you to reflect on the March winds, and possibly even consider flying a kite. How will you stand strong in the face of violent storms, while also taking chances and getting caught up in the swift and sometimes unpredictable gusts that take you to a place you have never been before? Might this give you new perspective on the possibilities of a deeper, fuller, richer life in Christ?

May your March be blessed as we head into the sacred, solemn season of Lent. Allow yourself to get swept up in the place that God has set forth for you. While it is wise to take shelter from the storm, it is also advisable to let yourself go and allow the Lord to gently move you into a different place where you can apply the gifts he has given you.

You may not choose to fly a kite this month, but you might want to consider a new journey where you can fly high as on eagles wings and make a difference in our world through your service to God and to others. Let yourself go, and see where He leads you.

Pastor John

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

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Cheryl and Jim Rastetter
- 9 Wendy and Tom Rife
- 18 Carol and Steve Gossage
- 23 Zoe and Dale Ring

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Kevin Horst
- 6 Bill Braucher
- 7 Stephanie Long
- 14 China Bower
- 15 Doug Patton
- 19 Jane Moore
- 21 Cameron Boyer
- 23 Dale Ring
- 28 Robin Kitchen
- 30 Hilda Wacker



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.

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. It always falls six and half weeks before Easter, beginning the Lenten season of preparation for Christ's Resurrection on Easter.

On Palm Sunday we receive palm leaves, which have been blessed, to hold onto during worship and bring home. The leftover palms from Palm Sunday are then burned and saved for the next Lenten season. So, this year's ashes are from the palms of Palm Sunday of 2024.

The ashes symbolize our mortality. They are a physical reminder that our bodies will decay, but our souls will live on in eternal life.

"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." *Pope Francis*

Directories in Progress

Our new church directories are at the printer and should be delivered by mid-March. We will be sure to distribute them as soon as they arrive.



Acorn Submissions

The next issue is **April 2025**.

Deadline is **March 15**.

Font size for late articles will not be guaranteed.



The Choseness Bible Study

group meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. The Bible is the sole source for the study.

Exodus Bible Study

Our Monday morning Bible Study group is continuing its exploration of Exodus, a fascinating and immensely important foundational book in the Bible. Please join us each week from 9:30-10:30 a.m. as we consider the power of God's redemption and review some of Scripture's most epic events, including the parting of the Red Sea, the building of the Tabernacle, the Ten Plagues, the Passover, and, of course, the giving of the Ten Commandments. It's never too late to sit in on one of our sessions. We meet in the Gathering Grounds in the lower level of our educational wing.

Building Better Harmony

Bruce Bloch will lead a three-week workshop beginning Thursday, March 6, to help achieve better relationships when collaborating with friends, family members, and co-workers. Reading materials will be available, but there will be no homework. Register online at oakchapelumc.com. On the home page, scroll down to *Register for March Workshop* here! Or email office@oakchapelumc.com.

Men's Bible Study

Rich Boyer will be hosting a Bible Study for men based on Mark Henry's book, *The Man Code*, on Thursday evenings, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at his home. A light dinner will be served followed by the study. If you would like to attend, please contact Cyndi Boyer at 330-641-6789.

Our Daily Bread

Copies of *Our Daily Bread* devotional books are in the Narthex. Feel free to pick one up at no charge.

Easter Flowers

Would you like to help fill the Chancel with beauty and color for Easter? You may order a lily, tulip, daffodil or bulb garden. Each plant is \$12. Your donation may be in honor of, or in memory of a loved one or event. Deadline to order is March 12. The order form is on the last page of this newsletter. You may take your plant home after Easter Worship on April 20.



March 9, 2025

Showing Love in Action

Suggested activities for the six weeks of Lent.

- Week 1: The Hand of God—write a letter a day to a friend, near or far away.
- Week 2: The Voice of Love—Telephone two people each day just to say what they mean to you.
- Week 3: The Deed of Love—take something you have made or purchased to someone you rarely express your love.
- Week 4: The Heart of Love—Make a list of ten people for whom you will pray daily including friends, and enemies to forgive and ask forgiveness.
- Week 5: The Mind of Love—Use this week to pray for yourself and look forward. Read the book of John.
- Week 6: The Victory of Love—this is a week of celebration. God's love for us is celebrated in many ways. Get outdoors and enjoy the weather, invite friends over for dinner or to enjoy conversation.

Lenten Sunday Joint Services

4:00 p.m.

United Methodist Pastors and Congregations from Oak Chapel, Moreland, Smithville, New Pittsburg, Church of the Cross, and Wooster, will share worship experiences during Lent. An offering will be taken for a local mission project. Fellowship time will follow each service.

- March 9—Hymn Sing at Oak Chapel
- March 16—Pastor David Rittgers—Moreland
- March 23—Pastor John Finn—Smithville
- March 30—Pastor James Lance—New Pittsburg

Jingly Buckets

Don't you just hate it when your wallet and pockets are full of change? We have the solution! On the 3rd Sunday of each month (March 16) we will pass the buckets and collect all those pesky, heavy, noisy coins weighing you down! (We will also gladly accept "quiet" money, too.) Quarterly, United Women in Faith will choose the mission project/agency to benefit from your generosity.

Fellowship Dinner—March 16—Think Green!

Enjoy a wonderful spread of homemade dishes while catching up with your fellow disciples. Bring a dish or two to share and your table service.

NOTE OF THANKS

What would I do without my Oak Chapel family? You have been so supportive throughout this journey with your hospital visits, cards, gifts, cookies, phone calls and, above all else, your prayers. I am doing well and continue to move forward. Please know that I am so appreciative and grateful and eventually will win this challenge. Thanks so much.
Caroline



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.

Prayer Shawls—We need people to make shawls! They can be crocheted, knitted, or sewn. Many sizes are needed. If you would like to join others in this endeavor, let Miriam Zech know. Also, if you'd like to learn yarn or sewing skills, we can teach you!

Thank to everyone for the wonderful support of our food pantry! It is serving the community every single day! How exciting! As a reminder, we cannot accept anything that is not in tamper-resistant packaging. Nor can we take perishable foods. Please donate only SHELF STABLE items. If you like canned black beans and/or carrots, please shop in our pantry!

Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday March 4. 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.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung will be at Otterbein UMC in Navarre on March 13. Laity of the Central Valley District are invited to join Bishop Jung from 5:00-8:30 p.m. for dinner followed by a worship service, Bible study, and conversation on vision and ministry. Contact Elizabeth to make a reservation.



Our next gathering for Art and Soul will be March 3 at 7:00 pm. This month we will have a guest, Connie Barnard, who will be instructing us on water color painting. Think "nature" for the theme. A sign up sheet will be in the narthex. If any supplies are needed, it will be announced before the March gathering. We will pass the donation bucket at Art and Soul for our guest and any supplies she shares. We are in need of others to lead a class, so if you have a craft you'd like to share with the group there will be a sign up sheet in the narthex.

The Acorn Society will gather again on March 12 at 11:30 a.m. at Muddy's in Wooster. You may text or email Phyllis or Elizabeth or sign up at church. Acorn Society is for women who enjoy eating lunch out together once a month. All are welcome.

United Women in Faith

UWF has a wonderful Reading Program that offers many titles over five categories; Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Leadership Development, Education for Mission, and Nurturing for Community. Check out the list in the Narthex.

Something to Remember This Winter!

(To the tune of Three Blind Mice)

*Wipe your feet, Wipe your feet
Wipe them once again
Wipe them once again
When you leave the snow and the ice outdoors,
You won't make puddles all over the floors.
The Custodian once again implores,
Please Wipe Your Feet!*

From our Custodian, Miriam Zech

Yummy Chef Salad Take-Out on March 9. UWF is offering a Chef Salad for just \$10. Salads must be ordered by March 2 and picked up after worship on March 9.

March is Women's History Month

It is a month that the contributions of women are acknowledged and celebrated. United Women in Faith celebrates women every day, not just in March. We are a legacy of trailblazing women, who for generations now have put our love in action to change the world. Can you think of the women who have influenced your life? Probably, you can think of many. Let's make sure that we call them by name this month and thank God for how they poured love, grace, and courage into us. May their witness inspire us to do likewise and together work toward a brighter and more just and equitable future for all, especially women, children, and youth. Also, on March 23, United Women in Faith celebrates 156 years of mission and laying the path to the future. Paraphrased from Sally Vonner's message in the March/April *response* magazine. Sally Vonner is the General Secretary and CEO of United Women in Faith.

The Days for Girls Team will meet March 11 and 26 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.**

Mark your calendars!

4:00 Lenten Service

April 6—Pastor Jennifer Darling Mellott—
Church of the Cross UMC

Easter Egg Hunt—Friday, April 11

(second annual event at Ida Sue School)

Palm Sunday Worship—April 13

4:00 Lenten Service

April 13—DS Cara Stultz-Costello—
Wooster UMC

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 17—7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Cantata

April 18—7:00 p.m.

Easter—†—April 20

Mark Your Calendars for a trip to the Mission Barn

The Mission Barn, formerly known as The Eastbrook Mission Barn, is one of six UMCOR Relief Supply Network depots across the United States. In 2000, Eastbrook UMC acquired a former dairy barn and in 2008, the church began using the heated office space to store UMCOR cleaning buckets. During 2022 we were outgrowing our space at the former dairy barn and started looking for a new home. In early 2023 we purchased a warehouse, only eight miles away in Shenango Township, near New Castle, to continue the ministries.

The Mission Barn supports UMCOR ministries by verifying cleaning buckets, assembling personal hygiene and feminine hygiene kits, and assembling and installing handicap ramps throughout neighboring communities. Oak Chapel has supported the Mission Barn in the past by quarterly mission visitations. Due to limited interest our involvement was discontinued for some time.

Some members of the Outreach Team have shown renewed interest in reconnecting with this mission site with the hope that additional members of the congregation will become involved also.

We have scheduled a trip to the Barn for Wednesday, April 30. The site is two hours away so we will leave the church at 7:30 a.m. and return at approximately 7:00 pm. We take a sack lunch with us and eat an early dinner in Pennsylvania before heading home.

Please consider joining us as we travel to Pennsylvania to be the hands and feet of Christ in partner with this very vital ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Save the date now, April 30, 2025. Sign-up sheets will appear in your bulletin later in March or you can contact the church office to be a part of this outreach group.

Senior Social

Do you believe in “Third Time’s a Charm”? Getting any new program off the ground is difficult. Now we have factored in the weather! We will reboot on March 18 at 1:00 in Fellowship Hall. Snacks, games, fellowship are the only agenda items. Maybe the Leprechauns will join us!



2025 Spring Plant Order Form

Order a lily, daffodil, tulip, or a bulb garden to help decorate the Sanctuary in celebration of the resurrection of Christ.

Last day to order is **March 12**. Please fill out the form and place it with your check in the collection plate or drop off at the church office. Each plant will cost **\$12** each.

Make checks payable to Oak Chapel UMC and mark Spring Plant in the memo line.

Please note: You may pick up your plant(s) following the 10:30 Service on April 20. Thank you.

GIVEN BY _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

Lily_____: Tulip_____: Daffodil_____: Bulb Garden_____ (a mix of daffodils, tulips pansies)

Please indicate the quantity ordered: _____plants X \$12 = _____ Total due.



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 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!

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