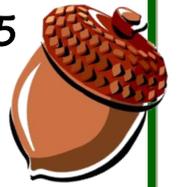


The Acorn

April 2025



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

Rejoicing with the Risen Savior in the Beauty of His Creation

Finally, spring has arrived, and not a moment too soon. March seemed to be an unseasonably cold month, but warmer weather and longer daylight hours are on the way. I look forward to a time of renewal when our spirits will be lifted by the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of God's creation and to revel in the glory of the Risen Savior.

Each year, the month of April provides a long-awaited respite from the winter weather, but more importantly it brings us the most sacred of all days when we celebrate the splendor of Easter Sunday.

It is indeed a time to be joyful, but when we consider what Jesus did for us, we must ask ourselves, "What are we doing for Him?" Are we living lives of respect, reverence, and obedience, or are we chasing our endless selfish pursuits? Are we respecting what He has created, or are we abusing the world He has provided for us?

We ask that question in the context of another April celebration — Earth Day. I remember when Earth Day was established in 1970. I was in eighth grade at the time, and it came about as a result of the realization that we were rapidly destroying our ecosystem, abusing our natural resources, and ruining the habitat of God's green earth.

A lecture last month at The College of Wooster by the Rev. Dr. Jessica Moerman, a pastor, educator, and climate and environmental scientist, outlined the effects of carbon emissions and escalating waste on the earth. In her address, she referenced Psalm 24, which states that "the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters."

The gist of her message was that environmental stewardship is not a political issue, but rather a moral and spiritual one. If we are to respect the God who created us, we must also respect the

wonderful world He has afforded us. The planet we inhabit has taken quite a beating during the past century, and it is time for us to reverse that trend through responsible environmental practices. We can very modestly begin this in our own church simply by actively recycling and avoiding the use of disposable plates and utensils whenever possible.

Despite humankind's desecration of the environment, there is a promise of hope for cleansing and renewal from the Book of Revelation (21:1), which states, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more." In other words, one day we will live in a perfect kingdom that cannot be defiled.

As we celebrate a new season, let us also rejoice in our own renewal that we have been given through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who makes all things new again. Let us all bloom together this spring in the beauty of God's creation to the glory of His Sacred Name!

Pastor John

Earth Day—April 22

Over a billion people, in 192 countries are expected to celebrate Earth Day. The theme for Earth Day 2025 is OUR POWER, OUR PLANET, inviting everyone around the globe to unite behind renewable energy, and to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030.

Green sources of power—like the sun, wind and water—are not only healthier for us and our world, but are also becoming less expensive. Log on to earthday.org for a ton of information, events, volunteer opportunities, and other ways to show your love of Mother Earth.

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

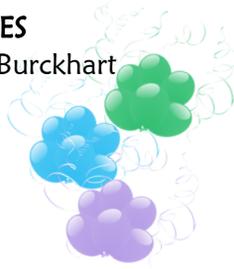
APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

13 Sheila and Jeff Burckhart

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

5 Connie Reed

25 April Aten



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.

Celebrate Lent in the Following Ways

4:00 Lenten Service

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

Easter Egg Hunt—Friday, April 11—10:00 a.m.
(third annual event at Ida Sue School)

Palm Sunday Worship

April 13—10:30 a.m.

4:00 Lenten Service

April 13—Wooster UMC
District Superintendent, Cara Stultz-Costello

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 17—6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Cantata

April 18—7:00 p.m.

EASTER

April 20—10:30 a.m.

Portraits in Grace

Join us on April 18 at 7p.m. for our Good Friday cantata, Portraits in Grace. This piece is a musical gallery of faith displaying the life, ministry and passion of Jesus. Through scripture, narration and song, the backdrop is created for the reflections of the Lenten season, particularly during Holy Week. As the cantata moves through Christ's extraordinary life, each song displays the sacred beauty of the Savior and lingers with His many graceful acts of love. The work ends with Christ's death on the cross and the bittersweet beauty of this redemptive gift to the world.



Acorn Submissions

Deadline for the May issue is April 15.



The Choseness Bible Study

group meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. The Bible is the sole source for the study. See page 3.

Bible Study

Our Monday morning Bible Study group will resume on April 28. Please join us for a new study from 9:30-10:30 a.m. 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.

Men's Bible Study

Rich Boyer continues to host a Bible Study for men based on Mark Henry's book, *The Man Code*, on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at his home. (3595 Kister Road). A light dinner will be served followed by the study. If you would like to attend, please contact Cyndi 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 Egg Hunt

The Outreach Team will be hosting our third annual Easter Egg Hunt at Ida Sue School on Friday, April 11, 2025. Kids, grandkids or friends of church members are more than welcome to attend. The hunt begins at 10:00 a.m. Egg hunting and other activities will run until 11:00. Call Cindy Henshaw to save a spot, 330-201-2561.



Maundy Thursday

Oak Chapel will once again host an informal Maundy Thursday service on April 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary to commemorate the Last Supper of the Lord and His disciples. The light supper menu is still being worked out, but we look forward to another sacred service. If you would like to attend, please notify the office via email, phone call, or on the attendance sheets in worship, so that we can get a rough headcount and plan accordingly.

Evangelism is merely God working through US!

Christian Education Opportunities at Oak Chapel

This is an invitation to bring Christian learning opportunities to your doorsteps. Our Church has offered a variety of Bible studies at various times during the week, for many years. Attendance and interest in these sessions has been robust. Most recently, we have offered a three-part workshop on *Soft Skills - Building Harmonious Relationships*. Twenty-one folks registered and actively participated in the sessions.

We want to build on the interest and energy of this Congregation and our friends, in advancing our understanding and application of Christian values to daily living – *Where the Rubber Meets the Road Initiative*.

More detailed information is forthcoming. In the interim, please think about topics where more information would assist you, your children and other family members in your walk toward Christ. You may also think about convenient times and meeting formats for you, such as face-to-face meetings, Zoom meetings or newsletters which zoom in on your topics of interest. We want to deliver these opportunities to your doorsteps. Kindly share your topics and availability with Bruce Bloch by: email

(bbloch@lotandblocksolutions.com), by writing on the back of the bulletin attendance sheets that some of us do not use for the intended purpose (but should) or by leaving information on the legal pad in the narthex. Please include your contact information. We will be able to deliver. Thank you. Bruce Bloch, Education Team Captain

Jingly Buckets

Don't you just hate it when your wallet and pockets are full of change? We have the solution! On April 27 we will pass the buckets and collect all those pesky, heavy, noisy coins weighing you down! (We will gladly accept "quiet" money, too.) Quarterly, United Women in Faith will choose the mission project/agency to benefit from your generosity.

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!

New Church Photo Directory

Our new church directories have been delivered to the church. If your picture is in the directory and you have not received yours, please see Rosie or Bob Troutman to get your copy.

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.

Thanks 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!

Oak Chapel UMC Leadership Administrative Council

Chair..... Bob Troutman
 Lay LeadersGreg Cantrell and Doug Henshaw
 Lay Delegate Elizabeth Feldman
 Treasurer..... Bill Braucher
 Finance Captain Stuart Mykrantz
 Finance Secretary Elizabeth Feldman
 Team Captains:
 Education Bruce Bloch
 Evangelism... Steve Moore
 History and Records Alice Giffin
 Membership Care your name here!
 Memorials Cheryl Rastetter
 Nominations..... Pastor John Finn
 Outreach Cindy Henshaw and Beth Patton
 Pantry Connie Reed
 Staff Parish Relations..... Joyce Varns
 Trustees Dick Wiley
 United Methodist Men Stuart Mykrantz
 United Women in Faith Phyllis Weaver
 Worship and Music..... Kim Domer
 Youth Jen Moser

Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday April 1. 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.

Senior Social

We did it! The launch of our new program happened on March 18. We will meet again on April 15 (the third Tuesday) at 1:00 in Fellowship Hall. Snacks, games, fellowship are on the agenda.



Our next gathering for Art and Soul will be April 7 at 7:00 pm. Miriam will lead us in painting and dipping mega marshmallows. 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. We pass the donation bucket at Art and Soul for the leader and any supplies she shares.

The Acorn Society will gather again on April 9 (the second Wednesday) at 11:30 a.m. at The Barnstead. (Twp. Rd. 362, Berlin OH 44610) You may text or email Phyllis or Elizabeth or sign up at church. Want to car-pool? Meet on the south side of Fischer Auditorium at 11:00. Acorn Society is for women who enjoy eating lunch out together once a month. All are welcome.

United Women in Faith

What a busy group! In March we were able to have our first Senior Social after two failed attempts due to Ohio weather. And the Acorn Society had a great turnout at Muddy's in Wooster.

April will also be a busy month. We will be taking a trip to WestView Healthy Living for a few hours of crafts and fellowship with some of the residents. The Senior Social will meet on the 15th for games, conversation and light snacks. On the 23rd we will have our *Call to Prayer and Self Denial service*, beginning with a very simple meal.

And finally on the 27th we plan to have UWF Sunday which will be sure to provide a few laughs mixed in with our service. Rada knives can still be ordered online and the nuts and assortments are available in the Narthex. You do not have to be an Oak Chapel member to attend any of our events and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Happy Spring! HE is risen!

April Health Awareness

This month the focus is on having those difficult conversations. Not the birds and the bees! The ones where we discuss our health care wishes, our end of life wishes, those difficult issues. Make sure your loved ones know of your wishes. Get your wishes documented, dated and given to your designated person, your healthcare provider, your attorney, and a copy for your records. It's very important to have the discussion as well as the written form. By explaining why you want certain things done (or not done) your family will feel more peaceful if they are called upon to give those instructions at a time when emotions are frazzled.

Caregivers also need to know how to initiate these topics. The Conversation Project is an organization that provides talking points to help you with these subjects.

Visit theconversationproject.org site to get answers to some of your questions. There are also internet sites to obtain the proper forms to be filled out, as well as discussing with your attorney.

The Days for Girls Team will meet April 8 and 22 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 at 2:00 p.m.**

Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

United Women in Faith is committed to empowering women and girls in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to gain competence and skills through leadership development, economic empowerment, and skills building. Our goal is to have young women make up 50 percent of the participation in these programs. In 2023, we awarded 16 economic development grants totaling \$188,100.

The 2025 offering will support economic development and microenterprise projects, vocational training, life skills, and livelihood training internationally.

Trip to the Mission Barn—April 30

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 to eat on site and then 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 partnership with this very vital ministry of the United Methodist Church.

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

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.

It's a Pajama Party

Mark your calendars. Our annual All Daughters Banquet is Thursday, May 15, at 6:00 p.m. The theme is Pajama Party. Be creative and come for an evening of fun and fellowship honoring all Daughters of the King.

Who is United Women in Faith?

We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation.

Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Every day, we show up. We take action. We get it done. And we invite you to join us.



Easter, Passover, and Ramadan are all happening around the same time this year. It's a rare and wonderful coincidence, and it's an opportunity for people of different faiths to come together and celebrate their traditions.

The fact that these three major religious observances occur at the same time this year is significant because it highlights the common themes of faith, sacrifice, and renewal that are shared by many religions.

Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's a time of renewal, hope, and reflection, and Christians around the world attend church services, exchange Easter eggs, and share meals with family and friends.

Passover is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. It's a time of celebration, freedom, and renewal, and Jews gather with family and friends for a Seder, which is a special meal that retells the story of the Exodus.

Ramadan is an Islamic holiday that commemorates the revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad. It's a time of spiritual renewal, connection, and charity, and Muslims around the world fast from dawn until sunset, and focus on prayer, reflection, and charitable giving.

The coincidence of these three holidays happening at the same time is a chance for people of different faiths to come together and learn from each other. It's an opportunity to celebrate our shared values of hope, renewal, and compassion, and to build bridges of understanding and respect.

Easter and Passover fall on the same weekend more often than not, but the two only coincide with the Islamic holy month of Ramadan about once every thirty years.



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!

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 Megan Myers, Administrative Assistant