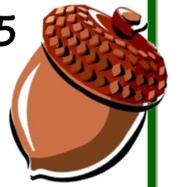


# The Acorn

November 2025



Monthly publication of Oak Chapel United Methodist Church  
4203 West Old Lincoln Way • Wooster, OH 44691  
330-264-2537 • [www.oakchapelumc.com](http://www.oakchapelumc.com)

## Start Your Day with a Song in Your Heart!

As most of you know, I can't carry a tune to save my life, but for some reason I awaken each morning with a song in my heart and a melody in my head. Some days it's a sacred hymn; other days it's a praise hymn. Either way, it helps me start my day on a positive and prayerful note.

What a blessing it is to wake up and feel the presence of the Lord even before I rise from my night-long slumber. I am confident that God does not care what I sound like; He just wants me to make a joyful noise...and that's what I try to do most of the time.

Among my favorite hymns is "This is the Day that the Lord has Made." It's such a simple hymn, and yet it is very profound. How fortunate we are that the Lord has given us another day of life, so let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Another favorite of mine is "Here I am Lord," an anthem based on Isaiah 6:8, which speaks of God's mercy, compassion, and assurance with this verse: "I have heard my people cry, all who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save." It also asks the question, when the Lord calls, how will we respond? Will we say, "Here I am, Lord! Send me!"

I also like "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," in part because it is one of the few hymns that I can play on the piano, but it goes deeper than that. I particularly like the second verse: "May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire. As Thou has died for me, O may my love to Thee pure warm, and changeless be, a living fire."



Perhaps my favorite is the popular praise hymn, "Lord I Lift Your Name on High." It is a joyous song that reminds us to pay tribute to His holy name with these lyrics, "Lord, I

love to sing Your praises; I'm so glad You're in my life; I'm so glad You came to save us."

There are, of course, countless other hymns, from traditional standards like "Amazing Grace," "Blessed Assurance," "How Great Thou Art," and "When I survey the Wondrous Cross" to music by popular Contemporary Christian artists like Casting Crowns, Mercy Me, Newsboys, and Matthew West, who encouraged all of us at last year's Wayne County Fair with his hit song, "Don't Stop Praying."

How we start our morning sets the tone for the entire day, so I invite you to wake up tomorrow and every day with a hymn in your head, and allow the Lord God Almighty to lead you on the pathway of righteousness.

As we head into a month in which we honor those who have gone before us with a special service on All Saints Day and count our blessings with family and friends on Thanksgiving, let us be joyful and grateful for our relationship with the Lord.

*Pastor John*

## Fall back

Standard time begins at 2 a.m.

Sunday. Turn clocks  
back one hour.

November 2



To view our CALENDAR, please visit  
our website—[oakchapelumc.com](http://oakchapelumc.com)

## Operation Christmas Child

On Wednesday, November 5, 2025, we will have our OCC box-packing party, beginning at 6:00 p.m. This year, we will be packing for ages 5-9; 25 boxes for boys and 25 for girls.

Please bring (or partner with someone) an appetizer to share. Dave Zech will make chili. We'll get started packing at 6, and share food and fellowship as we go.

Remember as you're packing each box, to pray for the child receiving the box. Each box represents God's love which is the message we are sending.

Some suggestions, if you still want to pick up a few things: playing cards, card games, Domino's, jump ropes, Match Box toys, crayons, coloring books, art paper, note pads, small flashlight (include batteries), small pictures or something to hang on their wall, washcloths, flip flops, balls (if a soccer ball, please deflate and provide pump). Again, these are suggestions.

What CANNOT be sent: money, realistic CAMO, anything of military nature, ie, army men, guns, knives. No food or candy, seeds, rocks. No political advertisement such as on pencils/pens/note paper. Other advertising is ok. Nothing in liquid form. No toothpaste.

Try to find things that are not one and done, then no longer bring joy to the child. We also should be aware of what would soon be trash and cannot be reused, as often, the countries have no means of trash disposal.

Thank you for spreading God's love to children through your generosity. Phyllis Weaver

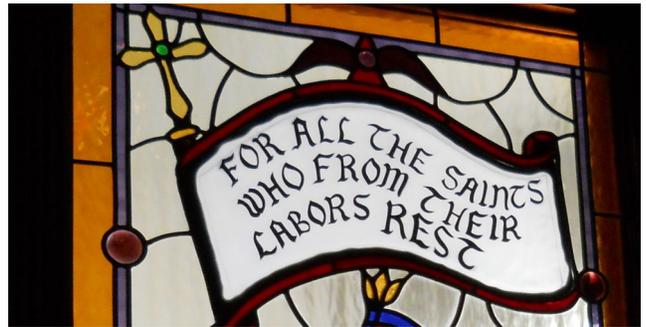
Each sunrise is a new page –  
Fill it with gratitude, kindness, and joy!

## Wayne County Care Center Day

On Friday, November 7 at 1:30, United Women in Faith will be working on crafts with residents at Wayne County Care Center.

Please consider joining us as we bring fun and laughter to the residents. If you'd like to read a short story, or sing a song while we craft, please let us know. The craft is pre-cut and glued and shouldn't take long.

If you can't join us but would like to provide a treat to be shared, that is also a welcome addition to the day. Things like pudding cups, soft cookies, brownies, applesauce are some easy things for them to eat. Please let Phyllis know so we do not duplicate or have too much.



On All Saints Day, let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth, who have led us to Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices so someone else may hear about the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Oak Chapel will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 2. It is an opportunity to give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith. It is a time to celebrate our history.

## 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.

**Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday November 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.



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

Our Monday morning Bible Study group meets every Monday at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome as we continue our study of Deuteronomy. It provides valuable insight into Old Testament laws, customs, and spiritual guidance.

## 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.



November 4

Oak Chapel is no longer a polling place! Check with Wayne County Board of Elections

### Book Review—

#### **The Nickel Boys** by Colson Whitehead

This story is based on recollections of life in the south in the 1960's where young boys were imprisoned in juvenile reformatories.

Young Elwood was unfairly sentenced to The Nickel for a minimum time of two years. His vision of attending college was squelched. When he thought things couldn't get any worse as a black man in the south, he found out quickly that street life was a much better place.

The book goes into detail of the horrendous treatment the young boys endured. Beatings, hot boxes, solitary confinement and food that was sparse and in most cases barely edible. Of course, the black population was treated worse than the white boys.

At times I had to put the book down and clear my head of the atrocities described, yet other times I couldn't put it down so I could get to the next event.

The Nickel is a fictional reformatory that is based on a school that operated for 111 years. It warped, ruined, and destroyed the lives of thousands of children. The remains of some of these children have been recovered in a mass grave site in the unforgotten parts of the reformatory grounds. Buried without family or funerals. Atrocities buried, with those in control never to be held accountable for their actions.

This book is in the category of Social Action on the UWF reading list. Reviewed by Phyllis Weaver

Do you have a favorite book that you would like to share with others? Submit a short review to Elizabeth by the 15th of the month.

### Charge Conference

According to the *United Methodist Book of Discipline*, the primary responsibilities of the Charge Conference shall be to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals that are in keeping with the objectives of The United Methodist Church. This annual meeting is required to keep our 501c3 tax exempt status. Oak Chapel will meet with area churches on November 1 at Fusion Community Church in Killbuck.

### Acorn Society

We will meet on November 12 at the Lyn-Way Restaurant, 1320 Cleveland Ave, Ashland, 44805, about 25 minutes from Oak Chapel. The purpose is to go out to lunch and enjoy the company of and get to know other women. All women of Oak Chapel are invited and bringing friends is a great way to add to the fun.



United  
Women  
in Faith

UWF continues to sell **RADA** knives and kitchen tools. These make great gifts, as

well as being enjoyed in your home. Our online store can be accessed by going to the home page at oakchapelumc.com. If you are not comfortable with online ordering, please call Elizabeth Feldman, 330.465.5782. There are catalogs in the Narthex.

### World Thank Offering

The "World Thank Offering" refers to a fundraising initiative by United Women in Faith to support mission work for women, children, and youth. Funds support national and global Mission programs, empowering communities to improve the lives of women, children, and youth in local and global communities. The 2025 theme is "For Generations to Come." Oak Chapel will celebrate World Thank Offering on November 23 and is an opportunity for the congregation to support UWF nationally and globally.

### Our Daily Bread

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

## Opportunities for Service at Oak Chapel

1. Counters' Team
2. Greeters for November
3. Librarian

If you would like to volunteer, see Elizabeth.

1. Currently we have four great people on our *Counting Team*. Six would be ideal. These faithful four meet in teams of two and count the offering after each worship service. This task takes about a half hour. Each team counts two Sundays in a row, and trade off when one has to be gone. See Elizabeth if you would like to join our team.

## Did you Know?

Thomas Jefferson was the president who refused to declare Thanksgiving a national holiday. He believed that a presidential



proclamation for a day of thanks would be an unconstitutional endorsement of religion, which conflicted with his strong views on the separation of church and state. Jefferson saw a national Thanksgiving Day as a form of state-sponsored religion, which he opposed. He was concerned with maintaining a clear separation between government and religious worship.

Jefferson's stance was used by his political rivals to accuse him of being anti-religious, a move to sway public opinion against him. Before Jefferson's presidency, presidents like George Washington had issued Thanksgiving proclamations, but the tradition had not yet become a permanent annual holiday.

The first official, permanent national Thanksgiving holiday was proclaimed by Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

**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.

## Acorn Submissions

The next issue is **December 2025/January 2026**.  
Deadline is **November 15**.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Finn Kitchen
- 6 Zoe Ring
- 7 Milo Kitchen
- 11 Sandy Spangler
- 26 Tonya Houser
- 27 Erica Merwin



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Patti and Jim Pfander

## Wish your neighbors a Happy day!

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



Art and Soul will meet on **TUESDAY, November 4** at 7 p.m. We will fold the pages of a paperback book into a Christmas Tree. Bring an old paperback if possible. If you enjoy a particular craft at home, would you be willing to teach us? Think you can't lead? Of course you can. And we want to learn a craft from YOU!

## Ministry to Inmates

The Evangelism Team is building a prison ministry to serve those in the Wayne County Jail. It takes time to get approval for those who want to go inside the prison.

Applications for interested individuals are available in the office. See Keri Merickel for more information.



## Coming up!

November 30—First Sunday of Advent

The theme is Hope, The color is Green,  
December 21, 2:00 p.m.—Hymn Sing

## Poinsettias

Be on the lookout for information to order poinsettias to enhance our Sanctuary during Advent. They can be purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones or an event.

## Congregational Meeting

We will have another congregational meeting following our worship service on November 9 to discuss financing for our new septic system. Please plan to join us for this brief informational session.

Our church is faced with performing a mandatory upgrade of the current septic system. Our septic system is one of over 2000 dry-well septic systems in Wayne County that were declared illegal by the EPA in March of 2020.

Oak Chapel was notified on July 18, 2023 of this mandate. From that date, we were given 10 years to correct the problem. The Trustees started on the process of correcting the system almost immediately. Two years later, we are finally at the point of being able to start the actual work.

## Jingly Buckets

On the 3rd Sunday of each month (November 16) we will pass the buckets and collect all those pesky, heavy, noisy coins weighing you down! (We will gladly accept “quiet” money, too.) The collection will go to *Days for Girls*.

## Fellowship Dinner

Our next Fellowship Dinner is November 16 immediately after worship. Bring a dish or two to share and your table service. Beverages are provided.



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. And also check in the kitchen.

## 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

## We are in the middle of Glass Candy season!

Do you notice the sweet smells as you enter the building? We will gather on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. through November 17. Would you like a bag of just one flavor? Just fill out an order form or contact Elizabeth and we will make up a special bag for you. We need *you* to be our sales associates. Reach out to your neighbors, card clubs, book clubs, and other places you work and volunteer. A large team is needed each week—12-15 willing workers, but it is also a fellowship opportunity, with a tangible outcome that helps our mission coffers. Contact Elizabeth Feldman for more information and questions.

330-465-5782 or [eflogil@gmail.com](mailto:eflogil@gmail.com).

## The Days for Girls

This Team will meet November 11 and 25 at 2:00 p.m. in the room directly across from the church office. 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 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 2 p.m.**



## Feed My Sheep

Oak Chapel continues 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.

**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, rice and/or carrots, please shop in our pantry after worship or anytime!

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. Your support of the pantry is vital so that we can continue to answer Christ's call to "Feed the Hungry."



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.

**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 Zech .....Custodian  
**Church Phone .....330-264-2537**  
 Pastor John’s Cell Phone.....330-988-2577

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Visit our website: [www.oakchapelumc.com](http://www.oakchapelumc.com)

**WE ARE ON FACEBOOK! CHECK US OUT!**

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