

# The Acorn

March 2026



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)

## Make March a Month of Blessings Rather Than Betrayals

As we prepare to turn our calendars from February to March, we look forward with great anticipation to the end of a frigid and blustery winter and the promise of a warm and gentle Spring.

March is also a time for reflection as our Lenten journey continues, leading up to the agonizing crucifixion of Jesus on the cross, followed by His glorious resurrection from the tomb.

One cannot escape the fact that this sequence of events was prompted by an act of betrayal, not only by Judas, but also by Peter, who denied Jesus three times. Whenever I reflect on these Biblical accounts of disloyalty, I have to ask myself, "How many times have I betrayed Jesus in my life?" Unfortunately, I'm always very troubled by the answer.

Do we, in fact, betray our Lord every time we sin? In my mind, I'm afraid that we do. Most of the time, we know better, and yet we continue to violate His commandments and dishonor His Sacred Word. I think that's why it's so hard for us to accept His forgiveness because we see ourselves as wretched and worthless. Likewise, when we can't forgive ourselves, we have great difficulty forgiving others. Fortunately, we are saved by His precious blood and His unconditional love.

There are countless passages in Scripture that assure us of forgiveness, while encouraging us to forgive others. Most of these are quite familiar to us, but it is wise for us to review and reflect on a few of them, especially during Lent.

Ephesians 4:31-32 advises us to "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from [us] along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

As humans, we are prone to hang onto and fixate on the injustices that have been done to us, but if we surrender these burdens and lay them before the Lord, we are liberated from the wages of resentment.

Colossians 3:12-13 offers this pearl of wisdom: "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness,



and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

We have already been blessed with the tools of forgiveness through the Holy Spirit, which was given to us when we first accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior. Therefore, let the goodness inside of us — the compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience — overcome any inclination toward revenge, and we will be so much better off as a result.

1 Peter 3:9 reminds us that we are "not to repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this [we] were called so that [we] may inherit a blessing."

Betrayal can be damaging and even devastating, especially when it comes from a family member or friend. Therefore, it is important that we overcome the desire to respond with condemnation, and instead pursue reconciliation. There are so many broken relationships in this world, but all are repairable through love and forgiveness.

So, let us not seek retribution, but rather resolution, so that we may love and forgive others as Christ loves and forgives us.

*Pastor John*

## Shared Lenten Services

Our shared theme for the Lenten rotation services this year is *Maturing from as Good as David to Being as Great as Jesus!* We will be looking at four times where we see King David and Lord Jesus in similar scenarios or similar themes and how they responded. We will study their responses and what they teach us on how to mature, and be greater than we are now. We will work to move from being as Good as King David, to being closer to Great like Lord Jesus. We will have two guest preachers who will not necessarily, follow our theme. Our offering will be evenly split between Urban Missions of Steubenville and People to People.

We will meet at 4:00 p.m.

February 22 at Church of the Cross UMC  
5100 Cleveland Rd.—Rev. Brian Sheetz

March 1 at Moreland UMC  
138 Moreland Rd.—Pastor John Finn

March 8 at Smithville UMC  
243 N Milton St. —Pastor David Rittgers

March 15 at New Pittsburg UMC  
9670 Ashland Rd. —Pastor Aimee Hare

March 22 at Oak Chapel UMC  
4203 W Old Lincoln Way, —Pastor James Lance

March 29 at Wooster UMC  
243 N Market St. —Rev. Kimberly Arbaugh

April 3 at Oak Chapel UMC at 7:00 p.m.  
Cantata—combined choirs—*We Were There*  
See separate article below.

## *We Were There*

Our Good Friday Cantata is titled “We Were There, by Pepper Choplin. In this piece, the people who were at the cross were asked to come down from their stained glass windows, to leave their perfect poses in the paintings and tell their story. Come on Good Friday, April 3, at 7: 00 p.m. and experience the cross with them. The combined choirs will be directed by Jen Moser at Oak Chapel.

Be brave enough  
to be bad at something new!

**Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday March 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.



## The Choseness Bible Study

group meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. We use the Bible and *The Leadership Styles of Jesus Christ* as resources.

Our Monday morning Bible Study group meets every Monday at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome as we continue our study of Judges.

## Men’s Bible Study

Rich Boyer is continuing a Men’s Bible Study at his home (3595 Kister Road – just off of Route 226 South) on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. We begin with a nice meal and then study Scripture as it relates to our current journey in life. All men are welcome.

## Well, This is Puzzling!

We have a variety of jigsaw puzzles that need some attention. So, we have started a puzzle exchange program! You are welcome to take a puzzle home and then bring it back when you have solved it. No rush! If you have lonely puzzles at home, consider sharing them with others. Look for this blue puzzle sign on a door in the hallway between the office and the nursery,



## Acorn Society

The Acorn Society is an opportunity for women of the church to go out for lunch together, just for the pleasure of getting to know one another.

**On March 11, we will meet at Moxie’s, 700 Medina St. Lodi 44254 at 11:30 am.**

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

## Come Meet the Bishop

Thursday, March 12, 1:45 – 2:30 p.m.

New Pittsburg UMC

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung is coming to our area for the day and would like to meet YOU! Bishop Jung will tour each of the churches in our shared Lenten worship group plus Apple Creek and have combined conversations at three locations. He will have quick tour of Oak Chapel at 1:00-1:15, then Pastor John will take him to New Pittsburg for conversation, visit and prayer, about 45 minutes, with both churches together. He will ask three questions; Do they have faith? Do they have fire? Do they have fruit? Church leadership should plan to attend. Everyone is welcome!



## 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. In extremely cold weather, canned items will be brought inside to our Pantry.

If you like canned black beans or 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."



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.

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt Candy

On March 27 the Outreach Team will hold the 4th annual Easter Egg Hunt for the preschoolers at Ida Sue School. Your individually wrapped, kid friendly candy donations are welcome. A collection basket will be in the Narthex beginning March 8.

Your help for this mission is appreciated. We will be collecting candy through March 22.



## Remote Ministries

Oak Chapel is hosting a worship service at Danbury Assisted Living on the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. and hope to begin at the Wayne County Jail later this year. If you would like to participate in these ministries, please contact Keri Merickel or Pastor John. Volunteer information forms are available in the office.

## Sub Sandwich Sale

*Thank you* to each of you that purchased a sub sandwich from UWFaith. We appreciate your support of our outreach to women, children and youth. And thank you also for bringing cans of soup for our pantry in honor of the Super bowl.

## Jingly Buckets

On the 3rd Sunday of each month we will pass the buckets and collect all those pesky, heavy, noisy coins weighing you down! (We will gladly accept "quiet" money, too.) This collection will go to Operation Christmas Child until we have paid for shipping our boxes.

## 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



### 2026 Spring Plants for Easter

Would you like to order a lily, daffodil, tulip, or a bulb garden to help decorate the Sanctuary in celebration of the Resurrection? Each plant is \$13. The deadline to order is March 15 and the form is on the last page of this newsletter.



Join us in celebrating the Risen Christ on Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m.



**United Women in Faith** We would love to have you attend a UWFaith event AND we'd like to hear from you about future

events...what would interest you? Speakers? Outings? Let Pam, Phyllis, Elizabeth or Miriam know. If you prefer to remain anonymous, slide your request into one of our mail boxes.

Repeating events to put on your calendar;

Last Fellowship Dinner, 11:35—March 15

First Monday, 6:30 p.m.—Art and Soul—a group that likes to experiment with crafty projects.

Second Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.—Acorn Society—a group that likes to go out to eat and enjoy fellowship and getting to know on another.

Once a year events to look forward to:

Golden Agers Luncheon—June 16, celebrate Flag Day and our 250 birthday as a nation

All Daughters Banquet—Cinco De Mayo—May 5

Soul Care Retreat—August 8, a favorite spa day with a chocolate theme!

### The Soul-Sleep Connection

March brings attention to our spiritual wellness, as well as sleep awareness. One focuses on our inner peace and the other on our biological rest and they are deeply connected.

Spiritual practices like prayer and meditation can reduce psychological distress and “mental noise” that can often lead to insomnia. Quality sleep is not just physical; it provides clarity of the mind which is needed to help maintain emotional balance. During sleep, the mind continues to process life's experiences and spiritual insights which help us to resolve internal tensions.

Some ways to transform your sleep into a more relaxing and helpful time are:

1. Gratitude Journaling: Start by writing down three things you're grateful for at the end of each day.
2. Evening Meditation: Mindfulness or "breath prayers" help to quiet the soul and lets your body know it's ok to rest.
3. Dream Journal: each morning jot down a few notes about your dreams. This can turn your nightly rest into a means of self awareness.

There are many books and internet articles to help you navigate the spiritual means of relaxation which will most likely help you enter into a healthy night's rest.

Sweet dreams, and don't forget to journal that dream. Zzzzz



### Happy Birthday

United Women in Faith!!

March 23 is our birthday, and we are celebrating 157 years of faith, hope, and love in action. Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Everyday, we show up. Everyday we take action. Everyday we get it done!

**And we invite you to join us.**



**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.



Art and Soul will meet on Monday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. We will make large paper flowers in preparation for our All Daughters Banquet on Cinco de Mayo. 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! Mark your calendars for the first Monday of each month.

### The Days for Girls

This Team will meet March 10 and 24 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.

Oak Chapel UWFaith 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. Supply donations are also appreciated.

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Cheryl and Jim Rastetter
- 9 Wendy and Tom Rife
- 18 Carol and Steve Gossage

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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



### 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.

### Acorn Submissions

The next issue is April 2026. Deadline is March 15.



### Our Daily Bread

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

## 2026 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 15**. 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 **\$13**.

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 Easter Service. Thank you.

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

Lily \_\_\_\_\_ : Tulip \_\_\_\_\_ : Daffodil \_\_\_\_\_ : Bulb Garden \_\_\_\_\_ (a mix of daffodils, tulips and hyacinths)

Please indicate the quantity ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ plants X \$13 = \_\_\_\_\_ Total due.



ACORN Newsletter  
 Oak Chapel United Methodist Church  
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**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

**E-mail addresses:**

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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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