

The Acorn

April 2026



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

Celebrating New Life Through Our Savior's Resurrection

The month of April brings us hope and assurance as we once again prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Easter Sunday.

The Bible is filled with references to the resurrection and the importance of spiritual rebirth and renewal in our lives. In the Gospel of John (11:25), Jesus proclaims, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."

This declaration is integral in forming the foundation of our faith. It also serves as a great source of encouragement regarding God's promise of salvation. In rising from the dead, Jesus was literally born again, and if we are to spend eternity in His Father's Kingdom, we must do likewise in a spiritual sense.

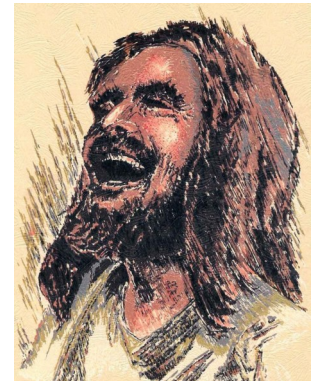
The importance of this transformation from death to life is affirmed in I Peter (1:3-4), which states, "Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for [us]."

It is the will of the Father, as outlined in John 6:40 "that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and [He] will raise him up on the last day."

So, as we prepare to celebrate our faith through our relationship with Jesus Christ and revel in the glow of His glorious light, we are also reminded that Easter provides a perfect opportunity to reach out to those who do not know Him, and help guide them into a relationship with Him.

We have been imbued with and empowered by the Spirit who dwells in us, giving us the wisdom and the words to articulate the story of salvation in a way that is understandable and accessible to others. Therefore, we must not be silent, but rather vocal about our testimony in the hopes that we will influence those who do not know Him.

We can do this through a passage from Ephesians (1:18-21), which encourages us to "know the hope to which we have been called" and to realize "the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward those who believe, according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name this is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come."



That is a detailed overview of God's plan. A more succinct summary comes to us from Isaiah 25:8 — "He will swallow up death in victory, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

So let us rejoice as we prepare for another sacred celebration marking Christ's victory over sin and death, representing His unconditional and everlasting love for each of us.

Pastor John

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

Last Supper

Please join us on Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 6:00 p.m. for a special meal in the Sanctuary commemorating *The Last Supper*. There is no charge for the dinner, but we need a head count, so please mark your intentions on your attendance insert or call in your reservation to the church office, 330-264-2537.



Join us in celebrating the Risen Christ on Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m. We will welcome a special guest to our church.

We Were There

April 3 at Oak Chapel UMC at 7:00 p.m. Cantata—combined choirs—*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. Invite others to experience this moving spiritual drama.

Membership Care Our Team will visit our home bound members before Easter. We invite the congregation to join us in sending cards also. The names and addresses of the shut-ins are available in the Church Office.

Acorn Society

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

On April 8, we will meet at the Lighted Lantern, 4537 Graber Rd, Fredericksburg 44627 at 11:30 am. Please let Phyllis Weaver or Elizabeth Feldman know if you will attend.

The Days for Girls

This Team will meet April 14 and 28 at 2 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.**



The Chosenness 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.

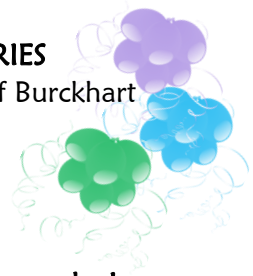
APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

13 Shelia and Jeff Burckhart

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

5 Connie Reed

25 April Aten



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.

Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday April 7. 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.

Health Notes

The month of April recognizes several areas of health care, none of which is less important than another, but we will focus on two at this time.

The first topic is National Donate Life Month (organ donation) to raise awareness about the critical need for organ, eye, and tissue donation; honor donors and their families, and to encourage public registration. It highlights the life-saving impact of transplants. Over 100,000 people are on the national transplant waiting list, with a new person added every 10 minutes. To register as a donor go to RegisterMe.org.

The second topic is testicular cancer, which is the most common cancer in men aged 15-35, though it can affect men at any age. Regular monthly self-exams are highly encouraged for early detection. Some symptoms to watch for: a painless lump, swelling and/or heaviness in the scrotum or a dull ache in the lower abdomen or groin. Should you notice any of these symptoms, it is critical to see your doctor immediately.

Volunteer Opportunity

The College of Wooster will once again host the East Ohio Annual Conference June 11-13.

Organizers are seeking individuals who would like to volunteer to help with Vacation Bible School, which will enable clergy and laity with children to participate fully in Annual Conference without the worry and expense of child care. It will also be an opportunity to share the love of Christ with our youngest disciples. This year's theme, "Snowball Mountain Challenge," offers us an opportunity to talk about how we can find our strength in God while enjoying a winter sports-themed curriculum. If you are interested and able to serve any time slot please contact Rev. Amy Vittorio at pastoramyv@gmail.com.

Earth Day, April 22, 2026

The official theme is "Our Power, Our Planet." The 56th-anniversary theme focuses on community-driven action, urging collective participation to combat climate change, accelerate the transition to renewable energy, and protect ecosystems through grassroots efforts.



Ministry in the Community

Oak Chapel is hosting a worship service at Danbury Assisted Living on the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. and hopes to begin a service 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.



United
Women
in Faith

Busy as bees, we are! The next scheduled event will be the All-Daughter's Banquet

on Tuesday, May 5. The theme...Cinco de Mayo! Art and Soul made flowers to be used for decorations and a fun menu has been planned as well as some fun entertainment.

On Tuesday, June 14 (Flag Day) we will have our annual Golden Agers luncheon to celebrate our nation's 250 years of freedom. Details coming soon. Anyone 60 or over is invited to the fun.

August 8 brings us to our Soul Care Retreat. This is a day of pampering, meditation, dining and of course, sisterhood. Hint: chocolate may be involved!

On November 14, we will hold our yearly event, formerly known as a bazaar. We're still trying to update how our event will be defined, but we DO know this year we're trying something new. We'll be having a Cookie Walk! We will have a sign up sheet for cookie donations (no store bought, please!). There will be a set price per pound. Of course, many traditional stations will continue and we will bring those details to you as soon as possible.

On March 30, UW Faith will be preparing a meal for Homeward Bound. This is being done in conjunction with the Outreach Team. We think this will be a fun way to connect two teams for a worthwhile service to our community. Quarterly is our thought at this time,

What activities would interest you? What would entice you to be a more active member? Please let

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.) The collection will go to Operation Christmas Child.



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 and/or carrots, or rice, 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."



Magazine Exchange

Do you receive great magazines that are hard to throw away after you have read them? Perhaps some-

one else would like to read them. Bring them to Oak Chapel to share. Bring one or Take one!

Cancer Shoe Drive

Boots, ballet shoes, sandals, athletic cleats, dress shoes, kids shoes, adult shoes. Wooster Noon Lions is collecting new or gently used shoes. Every pair collected will help raise funds to support kids and families fighting pediatric cancer through "Ohio Lions Pediatric Cancer Foundation" and "Kids Get Cancer too."

Please rubber band them or tie the shoestrings together. Leave them in a bag in the Narthex with my name on the bag. Deadline—May 1.

Many Thanks, Phyllis Weaver

P.S. There is Lion's Eyeglass Collection Box near the elevator.

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.

Acorn Submissions

The next issue is **May 2026**.
Deadline is **April 15**.



Our Daily Bread

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

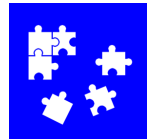


Art and Soul will meet on Monday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m. If you enjoy a particular craft at home, would you be willing to teach us? Think you can't lead? Of course you can. And we want to learn a craft from YOU!

Mark your calendars for the first Monday of each month.

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,



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.

*Be brave enough
to be bad at something new!*

Easter Word Search

G S N O I T P M E D E R Y Y M
J J U Y K I R Y T T F X E O L
R L K F W E E C I O J E R C K
X Y N G Q C U W V U P C M C K
R C R O S S H R E D P H M N E
I F V A I B Q U I R G P Q R N
S A Q Z M T M I R A C L E T S
E I A O I R C H R C O Y I U E
N T T P R C G E Y O H S S R L
I H H S O O C A R K I E P V K
N W O R C S D U B R J V R G T
O H T N G N T E S F U L A M I
D P V O U Q F L D K A S Y S H
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APOSTLES
CROWN
LAMB
PRAYER
RESURRECTION
SON

CHURCH
FAITH
MARY
REDEMPTION
RISEN
SUNDAY

CROSS
JESUS
MIRACLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
TOMB





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 FinnPastor
 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

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK! CHECK US OUT!

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