

# The Acorn

May 2026



Monthly publication of Oak Chapel United Methodist Church  
4203 West Old Lincoln Way • Wooster, OH 44691  
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## Unleashing the Spirit that Lives Within

Having recently celebrated the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday, we now turn our attention to the next major event on the church calendar — Pentecost, a special day that commemorates the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, when it descended on the apostles and the other followers of Jesus in Jerusalem. It was the fulfillment of Christ's promise in the Gospel of John (14:26) to send a "helper" or "comforter" to His followers, which, of course, includes us, as modern-day believers.

When we first chose to accept Christ and follow Him, we were marked with a seal — the promised Holy Spirit, who became a deposit guaranteeing an inheritance in the Father's Heavenly Kingdom for all of those who are God's possessions (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Some believe in the gift of the Holy Spirit; others are skeptical; and still others reject it as fantasy. Where do you stand in regard to the Holy Spirit? As believers in the Triune God, we are encouraged to, not only accept, but also embrace it as an enormous blessing and a dynamic presence in our lives.

The Holy Spirit acts as a counselor and a guide, living within believers to strengthen, sanctify, and empower us to live according to God's will (John 14:26). The Spirit also serves as our conscience and our protector, helping to alert us to temptation and guard us from evil, while strengthening our prayer life and helping us live in a more Christlike manner.

Indeed, the Spirit inspires and empowers, drawing us closer to the Lord and illuminating a pathway to a righteous way of life. It also convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, as stated in John 16:8.

Pentecost is represented by the color red — a symbolic representation of the passion we are urged to have in our faith journey. Romans 8:26-27 tells us that "the Spirit helps us in our weakness. [When] we do not know what we ought to pray for, the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

And he who searches our hearts knows the kind of the Spirit, because the spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God." The Spirit also enables us to produce fruit as outlined in Galatians 5:22-23, namely love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. What a bountiful array of spiritual gifts!



Perhaps most importantly, Scripture tells us in Romans 8:1-2 that "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Him the law of the Spirit who gives life has set [us] free from the law of sin and death."

Given these benefits, we are reminded that we are not only a place of residence for the Spirit, but that we are actually a temple, a sacred space for a divine entity. The Spirit is, indeed, a gift that not only lives but also thrives within us. It is up to us to unleash the Spirit and bring about abundant life within us as we also work to spread the Good News among all people.

*Pastor John*

In Oak Chapel tradition, please consider wearing **RED** to church on Pentecost, May 24.

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

**Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday May 5.** 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.

### 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 May 13, we will meet at 11:30 a.m. at Beef 'O' Brady's at 244 S Market St, Wooster. Please let Phyllis Weaver or Elizabeth Feldman know if you will attend.

### Memorial Day Weekend Cookout

We are planning a Memorial Day Weekend Cookout on Sunday, May 24, after what we hope will be an outdoor worship service (weather permitting) in the Serenity Garden. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. We would like you to 'shop' our pantry and bring a dish to share. Be creative with an emphasis on beans, carrots, lentils, split peas, and rice. Please bring your recipe, so that we can share with the community as they too, shop in our Pantry. Let's all get on board to honor those who put their lives on the line as we also, celebrate our fabulous new pantry.

### 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

An EGGstravagant note of appreciation to all who offered their time, talents, money, or egg stuffings toward the recent Oak Chapel Ida Sue Egg Hunt! Also, much thanks to those of you who filled eggs, and to those who were there to help the day of. Therapy dogs and their trainers provided calming and cuddly companionship. The Easter Bunny and her helper were adored by young and old. An enjoyable morning was had by all!

### All Daughters Fiesta

May 5, 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for an evening of fun and laughter as we celebrate the daughters of Oak Chapel. Since the event is on May 5, our theme is Cinco de Mayo which is a Mexican celebration. Wear your brightest colors and join the fiesta! There will be food, games, music, and laughter. Bring your Mom, bring your Daughter, a relative, a friend or neighbor. Please send an email to [office@oakchapelumc.com](mailto:office@oakchapelumc.com), call the church office, 330.264.2537, or mark you attendance slip for your reservation.

Mucha gente la pasa bien!  
(many people have a good time!)



### 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 1 Samuel.

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Jen and Darrell Moser
- 14 Pati and Mark Ritchey
- 25 Pam and Kim Domer  
Robin and Brad Kitchen
- 28 Phyllis and Dave Weaver

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Dick Wiley
- 6 Donna Anderson  
Tina Braucher  
Jane Moore
- 7 Phil Duby
- 12 Gene Varns
- 22 Shelia Burckhart  
Alex Merwin
- 26 Justine Geiser  
Ann Kahrig
- 29 Betsy Bower  
Tom Bower



### 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.

## May Health Awareness Topics

The month of May brings awareness to many different topics. Below are just a few.

**Mental Health Awareness:** A time to become aware of how mental health plays a major role in how we function each day. By reducing the stigma of this topic it can make someone that is struggling feel more comfortable, less fearful to reach out for help. Educate yourself. Be an advocate for improved education and community support for mental wellness.

### **Asthma and Allergy Awareness:**

With springtime having notably increased allergens, this is a good time to make certain your allergy medicines are up to date. If you find the easy to access ones are no longer giving relief, it's time to seek advice from your healthcare provider.

### **Health Vision Awareness:**

As mentioned in past columns, treat your eyes well! They're the only ones you'll get. Protect them when you need to. Wear UV protective sunglasses as much as possible. Even on cloudy days you need to protect them from harmful UV rays. See your eye doctor regularly.

### **Melanoma/Skin Cancer Awareness:**

WEAR SUNSCREEN!!! There is NO such thing as a healthy tan. Do regular skin checks and if you have lots of freckles and moles, talk with your provider about any changes you may notice.

## May 2 is World Labyrinth Day

Every year on the first Saturday in May thousands of people around the globe participate in World Labyrinth Day as a moving meditation for world peace and celebration of the labyrinth experience. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one way in and the same way back out. Which makes it perfect for meditation.



## 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** All-Daughter's Banquet on Tuesday, May 5. The theme...Cinco de Mayo! See the separate article.

On Tuesday, June 16, 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!

What activities would interest you? What would entice you to be a more active member? Please let us know. We look forward to your replies.

## 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.

## 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. If you are interested and able to serve any time slot please contact Rev. Amy Vittorio at [pastoramyv@gmail.com](mailto:pastoramyv@gmail.com).



### 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

**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."

### Expanding Our Pantry

Oak Chapel's food ministry had grown dramatically since it originated in 2020. Now, thanks to Blair, Cathy, Greg, Dick and others, we have a beautiful new structure that will also house our trash receptacle and other equipment. Thanks so much to those who constructed the unit and to the individual who covered the cost of materials. We are so very grateful!



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 not meet in May. If you enjoy a particular craft at home, would you be willing to teach us? Think you can't lead? Of course you can.

### Trip to the Mission Barn

Our next mission trip to the Mission Barn in Pennsylvania is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20. The work will include assembling and verifying UMCOR kits as well as preparing lumber for building handicapped ramps. We will leave the church at 8:00 a.m. and return around 5:30 p.m. You will need to bring a light snack as we will work from 10:00-3:00 then head to a local restaurant for an early dinner. Please let Pastor John or any member of the Outreach Team know if you can help. We would love to take a team of 12-15 members make the trip.

### Change the World Day Saturday, June 13

Everyone is welcome to come and work together to pack 5000 meals for Lifeline Christian Mission. The process is easy and rewarding with jobs available for all skill levels.

This project is made possible through monetary donations from the Oak Chapel congregation. Please label donations intended for this effort as "Change the World." Beginning in May, we'll be lighting a candle for each \$100 raised and hope to have 18 candles glowing brightly by June 13. Questions about the project can be addressed to Pam Domer, Cindy Henshaw, or Beth Patton.

### The Days for Girls

This Team will meet May 12 and 26 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.**

### 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,



## Book Review by Phyllis Weaver

### **Rough Sleepers** by Tracy Kidder (UWF mission category)

The dangerous, homeless, down-ridden streets of south Boston was where Dr. Jim chose to spend a year serving those forgotten individuals. He chose this over a fellowship. That choice led to his life calling.

The book tells of the lives and deaths of thousands of the people he met. He learned of circumstances too grim to imagine. He learned of choices made to live on the street vs the horrible home life. Dr. Jim worked at and prayed for others to join him. Through donations, borrowing and bartering and prayers, he was able to stock a beat up van with as many things as possible to help others. Socks, hygiene items, bandages, soup and other food items were his needed things. He offered kindness, empathy, humor and friendship. He strived to never look down on someone he vowed to care for. His "crew" was his support. His goal was the true meaning of medicine...the patient comes first. He didn't look away, he helped improve the life of countless people living and sleeping on the streets. He offered dignity to many that had lost theirs. The name *Rough Sleepers* is the name given to those individuals because it absolutely is rough trying to sleep on the streets.

A very eye-opening book that demonstrates how kindness, giving of one's self, and prayer can change a life. Maybe not always forever, but even for a moment. It's all some people will ever have.

Would you like to review a wonderful book you have read? Deadline is the 15th of each month.



### **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!

### **Acorn Submissions**

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



## Help Keep the Calendar Clean

If you or your Team schedule, or cancel, a meeting, please notify the church office. It's easy if you add the office to your Team email group. [office@oakchapelumc.com](mailto:office@oakchapelumc.com).

## East Ohio Conference Storyboard

*Storyboard: Faith Witness Transformation* is a podcast highlighting ministries across the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church that are transforming lives locally, nationally, and globally.

Episode 80—<https://www.eocumc.com/storyboard/index.html>, tells the story of Liberia Farmer to Farmer Ministries, Inc in Harrisburg Liberia. Elizabeth Feldman has been to Harrisburg three times and continues to support the ministries as a Board member. Check out the podcast and learn why she loves this ministry.

Explore the other 79 podcasts to see exciting things the United Methodist Church is doing.

**Oak Chapel UWFaith 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. Supply donations are also appreciated.

## UWFaith International Assembly

Three members of Oak Chapel and UWFaith will attend this quadrennial Assembly in Indianapolis IN, May 14-17. Pam Domer, Deb Kerns and Elizabeth Feldman will join 5000± women to celebrate Love in Action. Assembly 2026 is a once-every-four-years gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. Picture a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith, and brings you together with an unstoppable sisterhood.



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

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