

The Acorn

June 2026



Monthly publication of Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
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Simple Acts of Service Take Root at Oak Chapel

After decades on this planet, most of us realize that we can't solve all of the world's problems by ourselves. We can, however, affect the lives of others in a very positive way with simple acts of kindness and service at the grassroots level.

Such an effort has hatched here at Oak Chapel, thanks to Carla and C.J. Krichbaum, who proposed a simple plan to offer assistance with half-day projects for those in our church and in our community. Already this effort is bearing fruit. In fact many of you have hopped on board.

These are the types of endeavors that God encourages us to undertake. It doesn't have to be major; it doesn't have to be expensive; it doesn't have to be time-consuming. It only has to be genuine and sincere, and it will be blessed by our Creator.

Scripture abounds with passages about service, including Galatians 5:13, which states, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

It's perfectly fine for us to pursue and enjoy the things that bring us joy in this world, but we are called to be aware of and respond to the needs of others. And when we answer that call, we are blessed with an even greater joy that comes from serving others.

In fact, in a passage from Hebrews (13:1-3), which I frequently refer to, we are told that such outreach brings about Divine intercession with these words of encouragement "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."

Empathy is a critical component of our faith journey. In fact, it is almost impossible to be compassionate without being empathetic. It is important that we consider "walking a mile in another person's shoes" as the oft-quoted saying goes. It is then



that we can truly understand and relate to the experiences of another. That then, gives us the incentive to step in with a heart full of goodness and kindness.

I am so grateful to all of you for your many acts of goodwill, and I hope you will consider joining one of our service initiatives, which we have titled, "Laboring for the Lord." Not only will you be helping others in need, but your spirit will be enriched, encouraged, and energized by the experience.

Even as we enter the summer season — a time when we think about slowing our pace and taking time to enjoy life — we are reminded of God's call, as in the passage from Isaiah 6:8, which states, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

Let us take time this summer and in the year ahead to answer God's call to love and serve one another by serving Him with great joy and fulfillment.

Pastor John

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



Art and Soul will meet on June 1. at 6:30 p.m. Tomorrow evening we will paint 6-inch pots. Join us for Fun! Creativity! Fellowship! Please



bring a six-inch pot and your imagination! If you enjoy a particular craft at home, would you be willing to teach us? Think you can't lead? Of course you can.

Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday June 2. 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 June 10, we will meet at 11:30 a.m. at Top of the Viaduct restaurant, 607 Lincoln Way W, Massillon, 44647. Please let Phyllis Weaver or Elizabeth Feldman know if you will attend.

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 and the Men's Bible Study are on break until Fall.

Our Daily Bread

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

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.

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 and Days for Girls.



Change the World Day Saturday, June 13

Everyone is welcome on Saturday June 13 to 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." We will continue lighting a candle for each \$100 raised and hope to have 18 candles glowing brightly by June 13.

We'll meet in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 for a lite breakfast before we begin the meal packing. Lunch will be provided after the work is complete.

Let us know that you are able to join us that day, by calling or emailing the church office.

Questions about the project can be addressed to Pam Domer or Beth Patton.

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.

The Days for Girls

This Team will meet June 9 and 23 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. **Please join us the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 2 p.m.**

Acorn Submissions

The next issue is July 2026. Deadline is June 15.



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Beth and Doug
- 12 Shannon and Tom Bower
- 18 Rosie and Bob Troutman
- 28 Karen and Dick Wiley
- 29 Cyndi and Rich Boyer

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Pastor John
- 12 Ted Zech
- 14 Brad Kitchen
- 21 Ben Bower
- 30 Shannon Bower
- 30 Dick Gasser



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.



United Women of Faith *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Today women, children and youth throughout the world face threats of prejudice, slavery, abuse, prostitution, and many other atrocities. UWFaith works to organize, educate, serve and advocate for these women. UWFaith is a worldwide organization whose goal is to help women help themselves.

We do this by funding, rescuing, and giving these women a sense of purpose so that they will be able to help not only themselves, but help teach their children, friends and neighbors how to be strong enough to rise up and survive, making the world a better place. We believe love in action can change the world!

Are you a UWF member? You can be, by supporting our missions, attending meetings and inviting others. You do not need to be a member of our church to be a member of United Women of Faith. YOUR support and spreading the word will help many. What are you waiting for?



East Ohio Annual Conference—June 11-13—The College of Wooster

Everyone is welcome to attend worship services which begin at 9:00 a.m., each day. Thursday's service will be in McGaw Chapel. Friday and Saturday services, as well as plenary and business sessions, will be held in the Gault Recreation Center. See more at <https://www.eocumc.com/eoac26/index.html>



Golden Agers Luncheon

Our annual luncheon to honor the wisdom in our community will be June 16. We gathering at 11:00 and lunch will be served at 11:30. We welcome folks age 60+.

Reservation deadline is June 9. We will celebrate our flag and the 250th birthday of our nation.



Oak Chapel UWFaith continues to be busy and managing events that benefit our purpose, as well as that of the Church. Third Sunday of each month is our Jingly Bucket day. Consider saving change (folding money too) to add to our coffers. This money goes towards shipping fees for Operation Christmas Child.

Our All Daughter's Fiesta is in the books! Tacos and sides, Mock-a-ritas, fresh fruit and almost fried ice cream rounded out the menu. Musical chairs and a pinata brought plenty of laughs.

We continue to sell Rada knives. Ordering is done online and Elizabeth Feldman can assist you. If you haven't used these knives yet, you should!

Golden Agers luncheon will be June 16. See separate article above.

Coming later this summer is our chocolate themed Soul Care Retreat on August 8!

You do not need to be a church member to join UWFaith. All women and girls are welcome.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Oak Chapel's annual outing at an Akron Rubber Ducks game will be on Friday, August 7, at 7:17 p.m. Tickets are \$15. If you would like to attend, contact Stuart Mykrantz.

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.



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 or Meals Together, Inc.

Oak Chapel's food ministry has 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!

Thank you to Connie Reed, Rosie Troutman, Cindy Mykrantz and Donna Serzen for regular monitoring and food purchasing.

Thanks to everyone for your wonderful, continuing support of our food pantry! It is serving the community every single day! How exciting! **REMINDER:** Please donate only SHELF STABLE items. We cannot accept anything that is not in tamper-resistant packaging. Nor can we take perishable foods.

We have 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."



Juneteenth is a federal holiday. It is celebrated annually on June 19 to commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States.

The holiday's name, first used in the 1890s, is a portmanteau of the words "June" and "nineteenth", referring to June 19, 1865, the day when Major General Gordon Granger ordered the final enforcement of the Emancipation. Has slavery really ended?

Since it was designated a federal holiday in 2021, Juneteenth has become more universally recognized beyond Black America. Many people get the day off work or school, and there are a plethora of street festivals, fairs, concerts and other events.



Lincoln Highway Buy-Way Sale

Oak Chapel will participate in the Buy-Way Sale again this year on August 13, 14, 15. Joyce Varns, Phyllis Weaver and Miriam Zech will need your help. Time to begin identifying your treasures to donate. Mark the week of August 9 on your calendars now!

Oh Say Can You See? Many Cannot.

Did you know there's an eyeglass collection box in the hallway across from the Sing Mar Room? Wooster Noon Lion's collects them and takes them to a facility near Columbus where they are cleaned, repaired and the prescription is read.

They are then sorted and sent to agencies throughout the USA that send them to other countries who are able to distribute them to individuals in need. Your donation of old, used, broken eyeglasses, sunglasses, readers (even the cheapies), and eyeglass cases will be put to good use for those in underserved areas of the world. Places you may find those eyeglasses? Try looking in the back of the drawer, under the couch cushion, in the glovebox in your car, in a gym bag, in your desk. The possibilities are endless.

Wooster Noon Lion's says thank you!

Health Notes

June 1-7 is National CPR/AED awareness week.

Consider contacting The Red Cross to get CPR certified. You might save a life.

Oak Chapel has an AED unit in the hallway east of the Narthex. It hangs on the wall in a readily accessible location. Learn where it is in case you hear "Someone get the AED!"

YOU are SOMEONE!

June 8-14 is Men's Health Week.

Know your lab numbers. Do self checks. Watch your skin for abnormal looking moles or freckles.

June 21 is International Day of Yoga

Anyone willing to teach a simple yoga class?



ACORN Newsletter
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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

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WE ARE ON FACEBOOK! CHECK US OUT!

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