

The Acorn

August 2026



Monthly publication of Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
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Amidst the Chaos, Let Us Remember to Love One Another

It has been an uncharacteristically violent spring and summer in our normally placid community. First there was the stabbing of two members of the Sheriff's Department in May and then the deadly shooting of four people, including the perpetrator, in July. Our once-naïve eyes have been opened to the presence of evil in what we thought was a safe and serene county.

Of course, there have always been isolated incidents of lawless behavior in our generally tranquil area, but these recent events have caused us to wonder if we are growing further and further from our faithful roots.

The two recent events appear to have been fueled by jealousy, rage, and substance abuse, which begs the question: "What can we, as a fellowship of believers, do to counteract such vile actions?"

I don't pretend to have the answer to that question, but I do think that a stronger grounding in faith would deter, if not discourage, at least some of these heinous acts. For example, Colossians 2 invites us to be "Alive in Christ" with this passage in Verses 6-10: "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority."

Just like everything else in life, when we have a strong foundation, we are not easily swayed or uprooted. When Christ is, in fact, our Lord and Master, we are less likely to be vulnerable to temptation. Through our relationship with Him, we can see through the deceit and dishonesty, and we are better equipped to stand strong because the Holy Spirit is there to guide and protect us.

If we immerse ourselves in Christ and in the Sacred Word of God, we are able to erect a fortress that keeps us strong and safe.



We already know the truth, but many others do not. This then makes a compelling argument for us to share our testimony and spread the Good News among others, who have either not heard or not accepted its tenets. Many churches like ours are declining in numbers and influence, but we are by no means dead yet. Now is the time for a reawakening by meeting others where they are in their journey and inviting them to worship with us.

The one hour we spend together on Sunday mornings can solidify our faith and strengthen our relationship with Him, thereby empowering us to reach out to those who are lost, troubled, angry, or filled with hatred. God can soften the heart of anyone, even those who seek to do harm to others.

These past three months have been unsettling to say the least, but instead of bemoaning these tragic incidents, we can take action, and bring God back into the picture, making Him a priority, instead of an afterthought.

Then, maybe, just maybe, people wandering in despair and darkness, will see His light and turn their lives around — honoring, worshipping, and obeying God by forgiving, loving, and serving our neighbor as He forgives, loves, and serves us.

Pastor John

Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday August 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.

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 August 12, we will meet at 11:30 a.m. at Green Leaf Restaurant at 2905 Cleveland Rd in Wooster.



Art and Soul will take a break through the summer. Our next meeting will be after the Fair. If you enjoy a particular craft at home, would you be willing to teach us? Think you can't lead? Of course you can.

Health Corner

August is National Wellness month. This is an opportunity for all of us to focus on ourselves. It's a time to make those appointments we've been putting off but need to do before the end of 2026, like eye, hearing, lab work, mammograms, or anything you've been reluctant to schedule. All caught up with appointments? What about habits you'd like to change? Tobacco, alcohol, food, couch potato-ism? Even a small change can make a positive difference in our physical and emotional health. What are you waiting for?

Inquiring minds want to know!

If we were to have a guest speaker, when would you prefer? After Sunday services? After a Fellowship luncheon? During the week?

UWFaith has a few speakers in mind and want to choose a time that best serves the majority. Are there any topics you'd like to learn more about? Feel free to let Phyllis or Elizabeth know, or jot it down on your attendance sheet that you turn in each Sunday, or give the office a call or email.

The Chosenness Bible Study group meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. We use the Bible as our resource. The topic for July is "post tribulation" in scripture.

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.

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 has started a service at the Wayne County Jail. 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 August 11 and 25 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.**

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.

Acorn Submissions

The next issue is **September 2026**.
Deadline is **August 15**.





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.

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."



United Women in Faith is the public-facing name of United Methodist Women in the United States.

Oak Chapel UWFaith is grateful for your continued support of our ministry to women, children and youth, locally, nationally and internationally.

We had a smaller, yet successful Golden Ages luncheon, an event we look forward to preparing each year. We've had the honor of serving funeral meals for a few families in recent weeks. It takes many hands, but is one way we are called upon to support others.

UWFaith has an extensive reading list that we urge you to explore. There are numerous selections that fall under the disciplines of our organization, Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. Feel free to read and send us a review for the Acorn so others will read it too. Many books are in the public library.

Coming up on August 8, we will have a Soul Care SPA day. See separate article below. We are still selling RADA knives, which are amazing to use. The link for online ordering is on our website homepage: oakchapelumc.com. See Elizabeth Feldman for if you have questions. A catalog is in the Narthex.

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

Happy Summer!!

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

30 Sheri and John Finn

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 8 Elizabeth Feldman
- 9 Jim Pfander
- 12 Pam Nuchols
- Miriam Zech
- 17 Connie Garg
- 18 Pat Rickard
- 23 Joyce Varns
- 29 Keri Merickel



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.

Grace, Gratitude and Ganache

Indulge in a sweet escape with a chocolate theme spa day designed to pamper and refresh the women of our church community. This event blends physical relaxation with spiritual nourishment, featuring relaxation/meditation, make-and-take craft, nail polish station along with other forms of pampering. Of course, we will have chocolate!

As you relax your body, you will also have the opportunity to renew your spirit through uplifting fellowship on the sweetness of God's grace. This is a perfect time to pause your busy schedule, connect with your sisters in faith and celebrate the joyful, abundant life we share together at Oak Chapel.

You don't need to be an Oak Chapel member to be in UWFaith. Just join us when we have events, give us suggestions of what you'd like to do, support UWFaith when you are able.



Lincoln High-Way-Buy-Way Sales Thursday, August 13 and Friday, August 14

Here we go again! Time for the Buy-Way sales, and YOUR help is needed. We will be selling Sloppy Joe's, hot dogs and coney's along with potato salad, slaw, baked beans, chips, cookies and homemade ice cream. For ease in pricing and serving, this year we ask that cookies be two small or one large per package and bars be one bar measuring 3"x3" per package. Please package or wrap your goodies. The 5-inch square snack bags are great for this.

There will be a sign-up sheet for goodie donations and helpers for our two-day event.

This year we will have inside tables available for your rummage sale treasures and we ask that the items are pre-priced.

Some details are still in the works so stay-tuned. Proceeds this year will go to our food pantry and Lifeline Christian Food Ministry.

People shopping along the route have always appreciated a place to cool off, grab lunch, something to drink and restroom breaks. Your help makes this possible. Thank you in advance.

Kitchen Corner: Joyce Varns, Phyllis Weaver
Rummage Sale: Miriam Zech

Membership Care Our Team wants you to get to know your fellow worshippers. Each month we will highlight one person. Please say yes, when a member of the team contacts you.

This month we highlight Elizabeth Feldman. Elizabeth began attending Oak Chapel at the age of five, when her family moved to a farm just one mile south of Oak Chapel, from city life in Columbus. She participated in 4-H, band and orchestra (clarinet) and of course, had farm chores in a herd of Holsteins. She went on to Kansas State University where her parents had studied. Elizabeth's degree was in Home Economics in the field of Family and Child Development. But spent most of her working career as a church administer. She came back to Wooster and Oak Chapel in 2002. She has two children, a daughter-in-law and lots of grand dogs. She enjoys crafts, playing cards and local, district and conference United Women in Faith.

Five Minute Bible Quiz

Which disciple said to Jesus, "No, you shall never wash my feet?" Thomas, Judas, Peter, or Ralph

Joseph was Jesus' earthly father. In Matthew's gospel, what was Joseph's father's name?
Zechariah, Joe Sr., Jacob or Ezekiel

Who were Adam's children?
Cain and Abel, Cain, Abel, and Seth
Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
Cain, Abel, Seth, and other sons and daughters

Which angel visited Mary in Nazareth?
Clarence, Michael, Malachi, or Gabriel

Does The United Methodist Church have an official translation of the Bible? Yes or No

Which book of five poems was written in response to the capture and destruction of Judah?
Exodus, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, or Lamentations

Which son of Abraham's name means "laughter"?
Ishmael, Isaac, Esau, or Elmo

Which of the following words is used to describe a heavenly being in the Bible? Cherubim, Seraphim, Angel, or All of the above

In a Protestant Bible, how many books are in the Old and New Testaments?
66 books: 39 OT, 27 NT, 66 books: 27 OT, 39 NT
73 books: 46 OT, 27 NT, or 73 books: 39 OT, 34 NT

Which of these miracles is recorded in all four gospels?
Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead,
Jesus feeds the multitude bread and fish,
Jesus walks on water, or Jesus turns water into wine

All-Church Pickleball Picnic



On August 29, you are invited to an all-church picnic, at 4:00 p.m. at the Finn Pavilion at Christmas Run Park, on Bowman St near the YMCA. Our seasoned pickleball players will conduct a beginner clinic, if you would like to give it a try. All of the congregation can enjoy the picnic. Mark your calendar. More details coming soon.

UWF Cookie Walk * Crafts * Bake Sale

November 14 will be a new venture for Oak Chapel UWFaith! Our focus this year will be our first cookie walk. You will select a box (or bag) and go through the line and select the cookies that you wish to purchase. Your box of cookies will then be weighed and you will pay according to weight. The price per pound has not yet been determined.

Please search your recipe files and cookbooks for your most special homemade holiday cookies. Think of special cookies, unique cookies, something other than the ordinary. We will, of course, have need for some of the usual ones but since we're heading into the holiday season people may be thinking of their holiday gift boxes and cookie trays.

We will also have our bake sale table just as we've had in past years, as well as some craft items. More information and sign up sheets will be coming soon. Bon Appetit!

Mission Trip Opportunity

Wooster United Methodist Church is planning an adult trip to Appalachia Service Project this fall (ASP). They plan to serve in Jonesville, Virginia for the week of October 18 – 24. The cost is \$375 plus transportation per person. If you are interested and have questions, contact Deb Clow 217-799-0594.

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

- Answers to the Bible questions.
1. Peter
 2. Jacob
 3. Cain, Abel, Seth, and other sons and daughters
 4. Gabriel
 5. No. When it comes to UM teaching resources published by The UM Publishing House, the Common English Bible (CEB) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are the preferred texts for curriculum.
 6. Lamentations
 7. Isaac
 8. All of the above
 9. 66 books: 39 OT, 27 NT
 10. Jesus feeds the multitude bread and fish

Change Happens

"I like the idea of change more than I like change."

Most of us like the idea of growth. Change, on the other hand, can be a little harder to embrace.

Yet at the heart of the Christian faith is a simple truth: disciples are people who are being changed. When Jesus called His first followers, He invited them to leave something behind and step into something new. That invitation continues today.

Do You Perceive It?

One of the questions we wrestle with is this: *What preferred future do you see for your faith, your church, and your community?* Change often begins not with a grand plan, but with the willingness to imagine that God might not be finished with us yet.

The prophet Isaiah records God saying, *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland"* (Isaiah 43:19).

It's a curious question: *Do you not perceive it?*

The new thing God is doing isn't always obvious. Sometimes we become so focused on the dry ground beneath our feet that we miss the small stream beginning to flow nearby. We become so familiar with the wilderness that we stop looking for signs of life. Yet God's work often begins quietly—a conversation, an unexpected opportunity, a growing sense of hope... Before the stream becomes a river, it starts as a trickle.

Field Notes

This week, pay attention. Where do you see signs of life where you expected only dryness? Where might God be creating a pathway forward where you only saw obstacles?

Question: *What "new thing" might God already be doing around you that you have not yet fully perceived?*

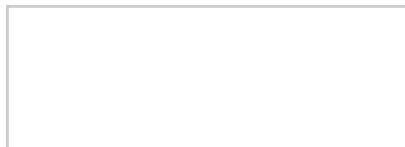
*From Between Sundays 247
East Ohio Conference*

August is National Back to School Month

It began in the 1960s as a seasonal marker for the shift from summer to school time. Retailers, community groups, and schools all played roles in shaping it. Stores promoted supplies while teachers encouraged early preparation, and families embraced the chance to organize. This natural mix of interests helped the month grow without a single official founder.



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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