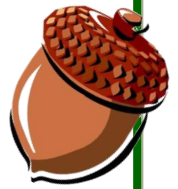


The Acorn

September 2026



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

Seeing Signs, Opening Minds

If all goes well, Oak Chapel will have a new illuminated sign on the front exterior wall of the church sometime this month. The rationale for the sign, which, by the way, will be financed through a private donor, is to help our church be more visible to those who travel along Route 250 and turn onto Smyser Road.

We have a bright digital sign on the southeast side of the property, but those unfamiliar with our church would have no idea who we are if they come from the other direction. Granted, GPS makes it pretty easy to find us, but because our official address is Old Lincoln Way and our parking lot is adjacent to Smyser, there may be some confusion, and when it comes to trying to attract people to our church, clarity is critical.

Scripture makes a number of references to signs, most of which address the coming of the end times, but Jesus' miracles — from healings to exorcisms — were certainly signs of his power and majesty. Of course, the most significant of all signs, and the one that serves as the foundation of our faith is His glorious resurrection, which overcame sin and death.

All of this begs the question: "What signs, if any, does God provide as evidence of His presence in today's world?" Well, some people see things — like natural disasters or seemingly miraculous events — and proclaim that they represent some sort of sign, but Scripture is quick to point out that we are to be wary of inaccurate interpretations. For example, in Matthew 24:11, Jesus says that "many false prophets will arise and lead many astray."

So how do we know that God is with us today, and how can we be sure if the signs we see are credible? Well, I think the answer to that question lies within each of us and our efforts to make Him known. Through our love and compassion, as well as our willingness to share our faith with others, we can actually be the sign, by sharing our faith and influencing others, and that is precisely what each of us is called on to do.



In the Gospel of Matthew (28:19-20), Jesus summed up our call quite succinctly when he said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In 1993, a group named "Ace of Base" released a song titled, "The Sign," and it became a major hit that is still played by radio stations today. Although it is secular in nature, it certainly has spiritual overtones with these lyrics: "I saw the sign, and it opened up my mind."

Will our new sign open the minds of others? Hard to say, but it might just draw attention to our church, and perhaps lead others to consider putting their foot in the door. Then it will be up to us to connect with them and be the sign that ultimately seals the deal.

Pastor John

Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday September 1.

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.



Art and Soul will meet on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. We will be painting gourds, led by a friend of Cheryl Rastetter's. She will provide all needed supplies. The cost is \$20.

Please sign up in the Narthex. Seating is limited.

Attention Ladies

The August Acorn Society met at The Green Leaf with 17 ladies attending. Loud, chaotic and fun summed up the time together. The Giving Plate for next month was awarded to Betsy Bower and the grab-bag was given to Miriam Zech since it was her birthday. She was also serenaded by the group with accompaniment by Jeannie and her kazoo! It was discussed and decided that due to numerous conflicts occurring the second week of most months, that Acorn Society be **changed to the 4th Wednesday of each month**. September will be at Belle 220 in Ashland. See separate article below. If you know of a restaurant that would make a fun and good place to eat, please let Elizabeth or Phyllis know. Any and all Oak Chapel ladies and friends are welcome to join the fun!

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 September 23, at 11:30, we will meet at Bella 220, at 121 Church St in Ashland 44805.** Seating is limited, so we will need reservations.

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, and sometimes a video, as our resource.

Our Monday morning Bible Study will resume on September 21 at 9L30 a.m.

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 September 8 and 22 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. **Please join us the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 2:00 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 **October 2026**.
Deadline is **September 15**.



The Kister Water Mill

Indie Author and Artisan Festival

Ohio based authors and Artisans,
Saturday and Sunday / September 26/27



Oak Chapel has a wonderful opportunity to support one of Ohio's treasures—The Kister Mill, and Ohio authors. And in the process, earn some money for our mission projects. We will sell bottles water, coffee and grab/go treats. They are expecting 1500-2000 people in two days. We are asking volunteers to help set up our tent on

Friday night. It will take 6-8 people and a truck to transport the tent, stored in what we affectionately call The Coffin.

The hours are 10-5 on Saturday and 12-5 on Sunday. There will be a clipboard in the Narthex for you to work during the festival and to bake treats—Cookies and bars similar to those we had at the Buy-Way Sale.

The Land Conservancy recently acquired Kister Water Mill from Rich and Cindy Boyer, who live across the street. Rich continues restoration of the Mill, that he and his father, Arden, began in the 1990's. Kister Water Mill was built in 1816 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Over the past two centuries, it has operated as a woolen mill, sawmill, gristmill, cider press, woodshop and planing mill. All operations are powered by a waterwheel that measures 18-feet in diameter. This mill is unusual because of the ability to perform multiple operations, most historic mills specialized in making a single product. Additionally, the mill has unique machinery for creating custom-made parts used in mills across the country.



Tours of the Mill will be available during the festival if you register before September 25. For more information on the Mill, go to <https://wrlandconservancy.org/kister-water-mill>.

Come join us on September 26 and 27.

Worship at the Lake

Our annual trip to the Cherry Lane Lake will be on September 20. We will worship together and the enjoy our monthly Fellowship Dinner at the lake located at 186 Cherry Lane. We invite you to bring a friend—and a dish to share, utensil for serving and your table service. If you can, please bring a lawn chair. There will be some seating in the pavilion. In case of inclement weather, we will meet at Oak Chapel.

Beyond Knowing

I've been thinking about this question lately - It's a broad generalization, but how did we come to know so much about our faith without always knowing what it means to us? There are certainly exceptions to all such statements, yet, I find time and time again that many within mainline churches can answer much faster what we KNOW about the stories of faith compared to what those stories mean for our lives and our world today.

We have become better at transmitting information about faith than helping people discover how faith actually transforms their lives.

When faith remains primarily something we know about, it can become something we possess rather than something that actually shapes how we live.

Consider this: We ask, What do you know? much more easily than we ask, Why does that matter to you? We teach people that God loves them, but perhaps spend less time helping them notice what it feels like to actually be loved by God. We tell the stories of Jesus, but don't always leave enough room to wonder where our own lives intersect with these stories. Maybe we have treated faith a little too much like something to understand and not enough like something to experience, wrestle with, feel, and live.

Perhaps that is simply neater and easier. It preaches neater. It teaches cleaner. But transformation happens when faith moves beyond something we know to something that shapes who we are, how we live, and how we understand our place in the world.

Rev. Beth Otiz
Beyond Sundays 247

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



Wayne County Fair

September 12-17

Come support our 4-H members and all exhibitors at the best county fair in Ohio! Miriam and Dave Zech are the principal advisors of the Jefferson Pioneers 4-H Club.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Lucas Lawson
- 9 Cindy Henshaw
Beth Patton
- 24 Stuart Mykrantz
- 25 CJ Krichbaum
- 26 Sandy Hower
- 27 Carla Krichbaum
- 28 Phyllis Weaver
- 29 Doug Henshaw
- 30 Samantha Burckhart



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.



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.

We have a beautiful new structure that will also house our trash receptacle and other equipment. It is serving the community every single day!

REMINDER: Please donate only **SHELF STABLE** items. We cannot accept anything that is not in tamper-resistant packaging. Nor can we take perishable foods.

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

Let's try this again? Do you receive great magazines that are hard to throw away after you have read them? Perhaps someone else would like to read them. Bring them to Oak Chapel to share. Bring one or Take one!

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. If you bake cookies, you will receive a discount per pound.

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!



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

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. Some are in our library and many books are in the public library.

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

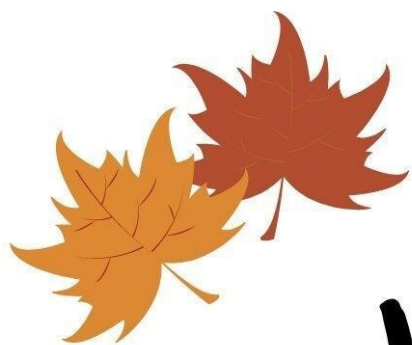


United Women in Faith UWFaith continues to sell **RADA** knives and kitchen tools. These make great gifts, as well

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.

Glass Candy Making Begins October 5

Continuing our tradition to make this yummy treat, we meet every Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. beginning October 5. We need a team of 12-15 to cut this hot treat before it cools. On the job training is provided. The fellowship cannot be beat!



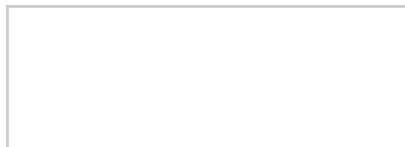
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ACORN Newsletter
Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
4203 West Old Lincoln Way
Wooster, OH 44691-3239
<http://www.oakchapelumc.com>



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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