

August 16, 2026

Bringing Forth the Light		
Prelude	Jen Moser	
Welcome and Announcements	Pastor John	
Opening Prayer	Pastor John	
*Responsive Reading (Psalm 119:33-34)	Pastor John	
Pastor: Teach us, Lord, the way of your decrees,		
People: That we may follow it to the end.		
Pastor: Give us understanding		
People: So that we may keep your law and obey it.		
*Apostles Creed	Donna Serzen	
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. On the third day, He rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!		
Passing of the Peace	Donna Serzen	
*Hymn	“He Leadeth Me O Blessed Thought”	No. 128
*Prayer of Assurance	Donna Serzen	
Father, our love for you has never wavered, but the depth of our dedication sometimes wanes. Guide us in our efforts to draw closer in our relationship with you, so that we may know you more completely, and be better equipped to spread the Good News among others. In Your Wise and Wonderful Name, we pray. Amen!		
Call to Confession	Pastor John	

Prayer of Confession		Pastor John
Lord in Heaven, we have given way to the desires of our heart, instead of following the guidance of the Spirit. We sincerely regret our misdeeds, and ask that you have mercy upon us as we reverently confess our transgressions. Cleanse our souls and help us embrace holiness, so that we may live just, and humble lives for the glory of your Sacred Name. Now and forever. Amen!		
Prayer of Preparation		Pastor John
Psalm 25:4-5	Pg. 580	Pastor John
Jeremiah 9:23-24	Pg. 801	Donna Serzen
Philippians 3:10-12	Pg. 1231	Pastor John
Hebrews 4:12-13	Pg. 1256	Donna Serzen
John 6:35-38	Pg. 1117	Pastor John
Response		
Pastor: Let us rejoice in God’s Holy Word!		
People: For His Word brings us Light, Hope, and Joy!		
*Gloria Patri		
*Hymn	“Lord, Speak to Me”	No. 463
Message	“Back to School”	Pastor John
Our Morning Prayer		Pastor John
The Lord’s Prayer		
Presentation of Our Gifts		Pastor John
*The Doxology		Pastor John
*Hymn	“Lead On, O King Eternal”	No. 580
Benediction		Pastor John
Postlude		Jen Moser
<i>* = An Invitation to Stand in Body or Spirit</i>		

WHAT’S COMING UP?

Card Shower	Oak Chapel is putting together a Card Shower for the Stillwagners as they navigate their immigration ordeal. Words of support and encouragement can be addressed in a card to Carolina, with a separate card to Zach, Styven (age 16), and Jacob (age 5). A box to collect the cards is in the Narthex.
Buy-Way Sale Success	Thanks to all who helped with the Buy-Way Sale last week as well as those who contributed items and donated food. Once again, the sale was very successful, netting funds for our Food Pantry and Lifeline Ministries.
Pickleball Picnic	An All-Church picnic at Christmas Run Park in the Finn Pavilion, will be held on Saturday, August 29 at 4:00 p.m. Would you like to try your hand at Pickleball? Our seasoned players will be there for a Beginner’s Clinic. Mark your calendar.
Mission Barn Trip	Our trip to the Mission Barn in Pennsylvania will be this Wednesday, August 19. We depart at 8 a.m. and return about 5 p.m. If you would like to participate, please let Pam Domer know.
Laboring for the Lord Ministry	Our <i>Laboring for the Lord Ministry</i> has really taken off. Thanks so much to Carla and C.J. Krichbaum, and many of you who have participated in projects to help others, The Spirit of God is alive and well in our church! Let’s keep it going.
Annual Worship and Picnic at the Lake	Our annual outdoor service at the Cherry Lane Lake will be on September 20. Mark your calendar.



Praises and Prayers

God of Great Provision and Blessings, we give you thanks and praise for your wisdom and guidance as well as the many blessings you bestow upon us. We come before you again today, asking that you will hear our voices as we lift up our praises and prayers.

Praises

- *For our Food Pantry, which continues to feed our neighbors
- *For Gene and Joyce Varns’ 50 years together
- *For Oak Chapel’s monthly worship service at Danbury
- *For a summer season of rest and relaxation
- *For the faith that we so readily share with others
- *For all those who serve the church in so many ways
- *For the hospitality shown to all who worship with us
- *For health and healing
- *For the presence of God’s Holy Word in our church
- *For safe passage for those who travel

Prayers

- *For the family of Marie Houghton, who died this week
- *For the family of Joey Lemon, who died this week
- *For the family of Marjorie Starkey, who died on June 13
- *For Kane, who continues to recover from surgery
- *For Stillwagner Family as they navigate immigration issues
- *For Cyndi Boyer, who is dealing with vertigo
- *For the Hildebrandt Family, after their grandfather’s passing
- *For Mark Stanley as he prepares for chemo and radiation
- *For Jim Kemp, who had a pacemaker inserted last week
- *For Mike Holmes, who is recovering from foot surgery
- *For Sherry Shafer, who is dealing with cancer
- *For Tom Rife, who continues to recover from a broken arm
- *For Ron Dailey’s father as he transitions to assisted living
- *For Dave Preston, who continues to recover from surgery
- *For all those dealing with Parkinson's and ALS
- *For victims of wildfires at home and abroad
- *For an end to the violence in our nation

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry This Week...

Sunday 8/16	Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
	Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday 8/17	Trustees	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8/18	Girl Scouts	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 8/19	Mission Barn Trip	8:00 a.m.

Looking Ahead

Sunday 8/23	Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
	Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday 8/24		
Tuesday 8/25	Days for Girls	2:00 p.m.
	Girl Scouts	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 8/26	Worship Team	6:00 p.m.
Thursday 8/27	4-H	7:00 p.m.
Saturday 9/29	Pickleball Picnic	4:00 p.m.

Beautiful Bulletin Boards

Amy Sayre and Betsy Bower have put together beautiful bulletin boards to the left of the Narthex. Amy created a wonderful display representing the many missions and outreach activities in our church. Betsy put together a striking tribute to our nation on the occasion of its 250th anniversary. Be sure to check out both displays!

Clergy / SPRC Consultation

Our annual meeting with the District Superintendent will be held this Tuesday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Moreland UMC. Please plan to join us.

Week’s Attendance..... 49 in person7 online
Last Week’s Offering..... \$3368

Upcoming Worship Service

August 23 The Last Word
August 30 A Better Way
September 6..... Working Overtime

Oak Chapel
United Methodist Church



Today’s Message

“Back to School”

August 16, 2026

4203 West Old Lincoln Way
Wooster, Ohio
330-264-2537

John Finn, *Pastor*

*Serving God and Community
through Love, Compassion,
Fellowship, and Caring*