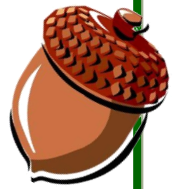


The Acorn

October 2026



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

Improving the Church in Honor of the God We Serve

At long last, our new septic system is now in place and very soon it will be fully operational. Somehow I find comfort in the fact that things are flowing unimpeded beneath the surface. After all, no one wants a back-up in the church.

Our sincere thanks to the Trustees for their meticulous planning and expert organization, which enabled the project to proceed in an efficient and orderly fashion.

We are also grateful to all of you for your very generous financial support of a project that was necessary but not all that appealing. Now we move on to several other projects in and around the church.

We hope to break ground on our playground when the weather breaks in the spring. You might be asking, “Why would a church construct a playground when there are no children?” Well, it’s not exactly a “build it and they will come” scenario, but rather a symbol that we are committed to raising a new generation of children in our church.

Not too many years ago, this church was teeming with young people. I believe that if we remain faithful and continue our evangelistic efforts that God will bring children to us.

Another improvement under consideration is new carpeting for the Sanctuary, and, perhaps eventually, the entire church. Our current carpeting is torn and tattered, shabby and stained. It’s time for a fresh floor surface. We have a donor who is willing to provide a substantial portion of the financing to get us started, but if any of you would like to contribute, you are more than welcome to do so.

You might be asking, why concentrate on the church building when there are so many needs in our community? That is a very fair question, and the answer is that we believe we can do both. We have active and vibrant outreach and mission projects, which include our food pantry, our Lifeline Ministry project, our quarterly trips to the Mission Barn in Pennsylvania, Operation Christmas Child, and so much more. We are also considering a Thanksgiving meal for



those in need in our community. However, it is important that we care for our structure as well, so that it can serve the needs of future generations.

Our ancestors established this church in 1812, and it has grown steadily during the past two centuries, including our current sanctuary, which was built in the mid-1960s. Because of their faith and foresight, we have very practical yet attractive building that serves us well.

Over the years the Trustees have provided sage oversight and careful stewardship by being proactive with repairs and improvements. Since 2020, we have made a number of major improvements, including our beautiful Serenity Garden, our spacious Gathering Grounds, our large Sanctuary screens, and our new outdoor pantry.

It is our hope that Oak Chapel will continue to be influential and impactful in our community for many years to come by continuing to provide spiritual nourishment, physical assistance, and uplifting encouragement. With God’s help and our efforts, we can make it happen.

Pastor John

Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday October 6. 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 NOT meet in October. And in November, we will meet on the first Tuesday, November 3 at 6L30 pm. Both these changes are due to Candy Making on Mondays.

Acorn Society

October 28, 2026 at Dominic's, 221 S Jefferson St, Medina 44256, at 11:30 a.m.

*** A reminder that our Acorn Society will now be meeting the 4th Wednesday of the month, with the exception of the November/December holiday months, when we will meet on December 2 at the Pine Tree Barn. Note. We will meet one-half hour early, at 11:00 a.m.

All women and guests of Oak Chapel are invited to join the Acorn Society when we gather (like nuts) for good food and great fun. Conversations are lively and laughing hysterically is not unheard of!

Membership Care

Our Team wants you to get to know your fellow worshippers. Please say yes, when a member of the team contacts *you*.

This month we highlight the Krichbaum family. Mom Carla and her son C.J.—named after his father, Clayton—were part of Oak Chapel in an earlier season of life when C.J. was born. Carla's daughter Jackie, along with her husband Kevin and their son Lucas, also attend Oak Chapel from time to time.

Carla enjoys reading, walking, and savoring her favorite treats: Coccia House pizza and Hartzler's Dairy ice cream. Her favorite holiday is Easter, and she loves Oak Chapel because of the wonderful people who make it feel like home.

C.J. is on our Tech Team and enjoys watching sports and working on jigsaw puzzles. His favorite foods are Coccia House pizza and chicken tenders, and his favorite holiday is Christmas. C.J. appreciates Oak Chapel for its strong biblical foundation.

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.

Monday Bible Study will continue the study of 2 Samuel on Monday mornings from 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Men's Bible Study

This study will begin on Wednesday evening, October 28 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. We begin with a nice meal and then study Scripture as it relates to our current journey in life. at Rich Boyer's home (3595 Kister Road – just off of Route 226 South) All men are welcome.

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.

Our Daily Bread

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

The Days for Girls

This Team will meet October 13 and 27 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.) We have reach our goal for shipping our Operation Christmas Child boxes. Collections for October, November and December go to Days for Girls.



**United
Women
in Faith**

As we head into autumn
UWFaith has multiple projects
up our sleeves. October 5 at

6:30 p.m. candy making begins. Bring your candy cutting skills and join the fun. Can't cut? There's on the job training, plus other jobs such as bagging and labeling. Something for everyone. Ohhh, what a delicious aroma throughout the church for the next several weeks.

On November 12 at 6:00 p.m. we will have our Operation Christmas Child packing party. A light soup supper will be served first.

A list will be in the Narthex of suggested items for packing, as well as items we have on hand. We will be packing for girls and boys ages 10-14. Colorful greeting cards with a handwritten message and/or favorite scripture is a great item for packing. This year we will be adding the church web address to our boxes so the children can reach out to us when possible.

November 14 will be our first ever Cookie Walk! What is a cookie walk? Watch your bulletin and upcoming Acorn for details. Hint: dig out your favorite holiday cookie and candy recipes and bring lots for selling. Not store-bought treats. Real, delicious, homemade goodies. If you bake and donate cookies, you will get a discount when you take a turn around the entire selection. We will also have our bake sale items as before, lunch and handmade crafts. Join us for the Oak Chapel Harvest Hub!

We would like to offer a time for guest speakers on topics that can be of safety issues, social issues, health issues, etc. If you know of someone that you'd like to learn from, please give the information to Elizabeth Feldman or Phyllis Weaver. When would you be more interested in attending? Fellowship luncheon? After Sunday services? Mornings? Afternoons? Please let us know.



Are you missing a coat? Jacket? Umbrella? Are you unaware you are missing any of these things? Check out the coat cubby in the Narthex. The rack and shelves are full of orphaned

items. There is a nice glass 13 x 9 baking dish with a red lid.

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

Health Corner—National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

Within our own congregation, many families quietly walk the challenging path of memory loss, dementia and caregiving. As a church family, we are called to surround these individuals with prayers, understanding and active support.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurological condition that gradually affects memory, thinking, and daily functioning. It's more than the expected part of aging. It is a difficult journey that challenges family dynamics. It can place a huge emotional and physical demand on the caregiver. How can you help? A simple visit, a short phone call, or a shared prayer in a card can offer solace to one who may feel isolated.

Offering to sit with a loved one while the caregiver runs an errand, takes a hot bath or even a short nap can be so refreshing. Offering to bring a hot meal or run errands is usually appreciated and gives the caregiver a break as well.

Spiritual memory often remains intact when all else has diminished. Sitting with the person and reading scriptures, holding their hand while offering a prayer, singing familiar hymns can be a moment of connection for that person.

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Trip to the Mission Barn

Our next mission trip to the Mission Barn in Pennsylvania is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4. Mark your calendars now. We would love to take a team of 12-15 members make the trip.

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.

Acorn Submissions

The next issue is November 2026.
Deadline is October 15.



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Miriam and Dave Zech
18 Erica and Alex Merwin

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Sheri Finn
5 Kim Domer
6 Sara Hauser
8 Paula Schrader
10 Bruch Bloch
15 Rosie Troutman
21 Julie Grossniklaus
29 Karen Wiley



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.



Magazine Exchange

There is now a good variety of magazines in the Sing-Mar Room for you to take home to enjoy. 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.



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 is serving the community every single day! This structure also houses our trash receptacle and other equipment. 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."

"Jesus has heavenly treats." – Roger W. Hancock

Glass Candy

We will begin making this tasty treat on Monday, October 5, at 6:30 p.m. Please consider joining our Team. We need 12-15 each week to produce the Glass Candy. On-the-job training is available. We would love to have some new cutters, and it is a great time of fellowship. We also need you to spread the word, and sell this treat to family and friends. If you are in a card or service club, please take a small bag to share. Probably you will get a few orders! A one-cup bag is just \$3.

Hygiene Kits Are Back

We have Hygiene Kits from The Mission Barn available for those in need. Feel free to distribute them to individuals and families in need, or keep some in your car in case you see someone who could benefit from these supplies.



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 want to 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.

Halloween presents us with a unique opportunity—a chance to reflect deeply on the eternal spiritual battle between light and darkness that scripture speaks about so eloquently. Rather than avoiding the season entirely or participating without thought, we can embrace it as a moment for meaningful faith reflection and family discussion.



Carpeting the Sanctuary

We are considering new carpeting for the Sanctuary. A donor has come forward to cover the cost, so no church operating funds will be used. The Trustees have approved the project and will pass the motion onto Administrative Council for final approval. Stay tuned for further details.

Fall Puzzle

G N I T A E R T R O K C I R T G I M G O D B Y E
V W I A X U N R E F F O H F T H F W O B Q A E P
H W Y H H H O G O E O H C I K W E X P A T Z X C
A X C P R N N T J S L W S L A Z M L N G B D A D
Y T G N I V I G P V E V L N N I C O B E H N N B
R I M R P Z U R T T I F W A S G A B E I D O O G
H T G U S C U H E B N I R E N Z U V N Y B U E Z
X A L U B H M F F U J E X O S K M T C G J E T H
E U S I I Q Q T W R H T E S M Q L O Q Z I W Y T
R E P Y J T P Q K I O P H W J T R J P I S K Y L
J F Q S L U O H G E S T V B O N H I G C A A Y L
M X K T N N F Q J D W W U X O L H E K Y D N A C
J X P H R T V E T E Q M L S Z S L F D S D W W Z
C I H S N E S A V I O R U X W B A A D E Y J G X
D Z W C T O A O Q R E O V O S M H K H U A U J C
X P I Q Z D L T Z M I F L W I L B V U M A D C O
K U H C I T D F B G S L E L A B R A M K X M H Q
F M M E B F S X I A E M Y J P S C R I P T U R E
X P D W R A V L X F G F A J U H U S R E J E I K
T K Z V R E E B Q P U S G V O G Y S Y S A C S I
O I H G V R Y Y H N Z Y I N C O S T U M E S T K
V N X B F C O A N C I V E S T S O H G B G S I N
J S S I Q Q L V R Y Q X F T X K D N S T Y K A N
A K Q I G P O A S P A X G O S P E L A Y X T N L

rosefromthedead
familyfun
candycorn
costumes
giving
Jesus
died

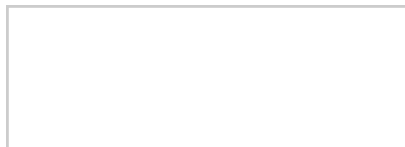
trickortreating
treatbags
halloween
Savior
prayer
bible
love

goodiebags
religious
Christian
buried
ghouls
abram
God

fellowship
scripture
pumpkins
ghosts
gospel
candy



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

Church Phone 330-264-2537

Pastor John's Cell Phone..... 330-988-2577

E-mail addresses:

pastor@oakchapelumc.com

office@oakchapelumc.com

Visit our website: www.oakchapelumc.com

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK! CHECK US OUT!

CENTRAL VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICE

8800 Cleveland Ave NW, Canton, OH 44720

330-499-3972, ext. 202 or email centralvalley@eocumc.com

Rev. Bill Liming, District Superintendent

Megan Myers, Administrative Assistant