



ACORN Newsletter

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
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<http://www.oakchapelumc.com>



Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

"Serving Christ and Community through Love, Compassion, Fellowship and Caring"



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Rev. Bill Liming, District Superintendent

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Community Thanksgiving Meal

Oak Chapel will again be preparing a Thanksgiving meal for members and neighbors experiencing food insecurity. A traditional holiday dinner will be available for pickup only on Wednesday November 25, 2026 between 4:30 and 5:30.



Deadline for reservations is Thursday, November 19. Meals are limited to 50, so early reservations are encouraged using the reservation form available in the narthex.



Members can support this outreach by making monetary donations or by volunteering to help the day of the meal with cooking, serving, or clean-up.



Sign-up sheets for donations and volunteers will be available in the Narthex. Questions can be directed to Cindy Henshaw, Beth Patton, or any member of the Outreach Committee.



Perspectives on the practices that shape our everyday faith

Life is already full, and the idea of adding one more thing to the list can feel overwhelming. But what if spiritual practices aren't about adding more, but discovering the natural spaces already woven into our days where we can connect with God and one another?

Spiritual practices are less about adding more to our lives and more about making room for our faith to shape the lives we're already living. From prayer and Scripture to silence, gratitude, and other everyday rhythms, these practices help us grow in our relationship with God and become more intentional about how we live out our faith.

There's no single formula, and what works for one person may not work for another. The invitation is to explore practices that nurture faith, ground us in the midst of everyday life, and connect what we believe with how we live. Examples might be: Phone Sabbath, Bird Watching, Journaling, Silent Retreat, or Fasting, and there are many others.

Discipleship begins not with doing, but with noticing. Spiritual practices don't have to be complicated, time-consuming, or look the same for everyone. The invitation isn't to add another thing to your to-do list, but to find ways to make room for God in the life you're already living.



Consider: What helps you feel connected to God, grounded in your faith, or more present with others?



What is one small way you could make room for your faith in the rhythms of your everyday life this week?



Rather than adding something new, choose one ordinary part of your day and consider how it might become a space for connection with God.

Between Sundays 247 - October 20



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Finn Kitchen
- 6 Zoe Ring
- 7 Milo Kitchen
- 11 Sandy Spangler
- 25 Shana Hildebrandt
- 26 Tonya Houser
- 27 Erica Merwin
- Donna Serzen
- 30 Ken Landes



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. Great 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."

Glass Candy

Thanks to our great Candy Team, we have lots of Glass Candy to sell. This project supports mission projects sponsored by United Women in Faith. We 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. You will probably get a few orders! A one-cup bag is just \$3. A large bag (2 cups) is \$6. AND you can special order your favorite flavor. Order forms are in the Narthex. Or call Elizabeth (330.465.5782.)

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.

Card Shower

Our Card Shower for the Stillwagners continues as they navigate immigration issues. A box to collect the cards is in the Narthex. Carolina is in El Salvador; Zach, Styven, and Jacob are in Wooster. Phyllis Weaver is the contact for this outreach.

Sprucing up the Sanctuary

We are looking into re-carpeting the sanctuary and possibly reupholstering the pews. If you would like to support either project financially, please let Pastor John know. Stay tuned for further details.

All Saints Day

We will honor the lives of those who have gone before us next Sunday, November 1, when we celebrate All Saints Day. If you have a family member or friend you would like to lift up on that day, please contact Elizabeth Feldman by Tuesday. (office@oakchapelumc.com). We would also like a picture of your loved one.

Poinsettias

It is time to order poinsettias for the Christmas Season! Red, white and marble are available for a cost of \$13 each. Deadline to order is Sunday, November 22. Forms are available or contact the church office at 330.264.2837, or office@oakchapelumc.com.



**United Women
in Faith**



November 14th from 10am to 2 pm, we will host our first Cookie Walk and Holiday Hub! Your help and skill are needed to make it a success. Bring out your favorite holiday cookies and candy recipes as we will need plenty! Each person who brings cookies/candy for The Walk will receive a coupon for a discount on your purchase from the Cookie Walk.



If your cookies/candy contain nuts please mark them and package them separately so we don't put anyone with allergies in danger. They will be kept apart from the other goodies as well.



We will also have our tasty Kitchen Corner, the bake sale and a craft table. Watch for sign-up sheets for what you'll be bringing so we can get an idea of what our selection will be. We will also have a sign-up for helpers on that day! Many hands make for light work! And great fellowship!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
from Oak Chapel UWFaith



Check out the coat cubby in the Narthex. The rack and shelves are full of orphaned items. There is also a nice glass 13 x 9 baking dish with a red lid.



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

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.

November Health Corner

This month's topic is antibiotic information and safety. Did you know that every cold, cough, or illness does not need to be treated with antibiotics? In fact, the over-use of them has helped create antibiotic resistance or the need for more potent ones.

If your health care provider suggests you give your symptoms more time to resolve on their own, they most likely will. When you do get a prescription for one, please TAKE IT AS DIRECTED! When you take it for a few days and begin to feel better, you need to finish the course. When you stop it too soon the medication will have killed off the weaker bacteria thus letting you feel better, but the stronger bacteria is still present and will flare up again.

So, after a week or so you begin to feel sick again and you finish the few you had left over and the cycle repeats. You go to the doctor, tell him you're not better, he gives you a new prescription which often isn't necessary if the directions had been followed. This is how the resistance can begin. And you've now spent money on a prescription you may not have needed!

Another issue is storing the medication as stated on the label. If it says to refrigerate then that's what you should do. Same if it says store away from heat or light. Always follow the package label whether it's over the counter or prescription. If you have any signs of allergic reaction to any medication call your healthcare provider or 9-1-1 immediately. Some signs are itching, rash, shortness of breath, and the airway feels tight. There are more but those are the most common. When in doubt check with your prescribing provider.

Acorn Submissions

The next issue is December 2026/January 2027. Deadline is November 15.



Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday, November 3.
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 in November on the first Tuesday, November 3 at 6:30 pm.

Acorn Society

We will celebrate the November/ December holiday months, when we 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!



Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

On November 12 at 6:00 we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a light supper of assorted soups, salads and light dessert. A representative from OCC will give a brief talk and then we will begin packing our boxes.

Think of the joy in each child as they learn of God's love, then receive this box, packed by YOU and prayed for by all of us at Oak Chapel. By now you will have seen the poster in the narthex and will have provided items to be added to what we already have to fill the boxes of fun and useful things.

This is to be a mission of joy and fun, not so much a humanitarian effort. There is also a clipboard by the poster if you'd like to provide a soup, salad or light dessert for that evening.

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.

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 Morning Bible Study

Join us as we explore the Old Testament Book of 2 Samuel. We meet each Monday morning from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Gathering Grounds on the lower level of our Educational Wing.

Men's Bible Study

This study will continue on Wednesday evenings, 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, held 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. We have also 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.

Days for Girls

This Team will meet November 10 and 24 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 reached our goal for shipping our Operation Christmas Child boxes. Collections for November and December will go to Days for Girls.

The Acorn

November 2026



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Standing Strong Against the Forces of Temptation

The month of November brings with it many things, not the least of which is an opportunity to express our gratitude for God's many blessings over a bountiful Thanksgiving meal. Unfortunately, the month also ushers in the beginning of cold and flu season, which for those of us of a certain age signals a time to take the proper precautions so that a scratchy throat or a runny nose doesn't turn into something much more serious.

But how do we protect ourselves from the microscopic particles that we can't see? Well, there are inoculations and preventive medications, but sometimes we just can't hold off the things that jeopardize our physical health.

Threats to our spiritual health can be equally stealth and dangerous. Temptation comes in all shapes and sizes, and very often it is in disguise. Satan's greatest weapons are his ability to persuade and to deceive. Fortunately, we are equipped to combat these evil forces with the instructions God has given us through Scripture. For example, Matthew 26:41 encourages us to be proactive — to "watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Indeed, we are weak in the flesh, but strong in the Spirit.

Therefore, we should remember this from 1 Corinthians 10:13: "No temptation has overtaken [us] except what is common to humankind. And God is faithful; he will not let [us] be tempted beyond what [we] can bear. But when [we] are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that [we] can endure it." Knowing that we have an escape route is reassuring.

Further encouragement comes from the Book of James (4:7), which advises us to "submit [ourselves], then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from [us]."



Clearly, the Lord is our greatest ally in the fight against evil and temptation. By turning to Him, we will have the strength to turn away from darkness.

Unlike colds and flu, Satan knows no season. He is always on the prowl, seeking to attack and destroy. The good news is that he can't get to us unless we surrender to him. Thus, we can fall back on the familiar passage that ensures us that we are, in fact, equipped to battle and defeat the forces of evil. This comes to us from Ephesians 6 (10-11, 13-17): "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

We can, indeed, do all things through God who strengthens us. With Him by our side, we can never be defeated.

Pastor John