

**Oxford United Methodist Church Contacts**

*Office Hours are from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Monday through Friday.*

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<b>Church Website:</b>	www.oxfordmethodist.org
<b>YouTube Live Link:</b>	http://tinyurl.com/OUMCLive



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**Oxford United Methodist Church**  
**The Tower Tidings**  
 Vol. 98, No. 51 April 2023  
 105 W. McCJanahan St.  
 P. O. Box 757, Oxford, NC 27565



# TOWER TIDINGS

*Lent & Easter 2023*

*The mission of the Oxford United Methodist Church is to love God, love people, and faithfully minister to human and spiritual needs in our community and beyond.*

## Message from Pastor Glenn

The weeks leading up to and following Easter have been important seasons in the church for hundreds of years. Beginning in ancient times, Easter Sunday was the primary day for baptisms, so a season of 40 days (now known as Lent) was created as a time to prepare those seeking that sacrament. (See Romans 6:1-11 for the biblical connection between resurrection and baptism.) During that season the new converts would study the scriptures, memorize the creed, and learn how to pray based on the Lord's Prayer. In the 50 days following Easter they would continue their studies by learning about the meanings of their baptism and the sacrament of Communion.

Our Wednesday night Bible Study series are also set up with these seasons in mind. In the weeks of Lent (March 1-29) we are studying the life of Jesus, focusing on his journey to the cross. We are dwelling on passages from Luke that are emphasized in Adam Hamilton's new book: "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws." On the Wednesdays following Easter Sunday (April 12 – May 3) we will begin a series called "Methodism 101." This is for people who want to join Oxford UMC and for those who just want a refresher on our Wesleyan heritage. Then, from May 17 to June 7 we will dig into the book of Revelation.

We've made it easy to come to Bible Study. Our Wednesday Night Suppers begin at 5:30pm, giving you enough time to eat before coming to the Carr Classroom at 6:15pm.

# Listening Project

*“We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.”*

This quote is attributed to Epictetus, a Greek philosopher, who lived in Rome around 60 AD. Yet, this quote is even more relevant to us today.

Recently, the Church Council started an initiative called the Listening Project. It's based on conversations with neighbors and community leaders in Oxford. With our new pastor and a January council retreat, there was a desire for our ministries to be more focused on what people actually need and want instead of what the church thinks they need and want.

**A small group of lay leaders, as well as Pastor Glenn, started these conversations. Eight conversations have been completed so far. We focused on three questions:**

1. What are your hopes and dreams for Oxford and Granville County?
2. What are your impressions of Oxford United Methodist Church?
3. What message would you like to send to the leaders of OUMC?

**What we learned was sobering, insightful and hope-filled. Several common themes came out of these conversations:**

- All eight interviewees were excited and concerned about the growth in Oxford. They wanted planned growth where Oxford would maintain its small hometown spirit. As a community, we must have a heart for one another. Strong churches make better communities.
- The impressions of our church were positive. We have an attractive structure with lots of history. We seem to be active in the community and do a good job on outreach, yet not many folks know what we do.
- They encouraged our lay leaders to reach out to other churches and various community groups. Bridge community gaps with partners to help those in need. Interact and work together with diverse groups of people.

## 2023 Committees & Members

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### Trustees

Chair: Jimmy Crawford	Vice Chair: Sylvia Harrison	Secretary: Helen Brummitt
<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Helen Brummitt	Kate Brady	Phil Pope
David Matlock	Jimmy Crawford	Steve Sievert
Jerry Dickerson	Sylvia Harrison	

### Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Adam Mincher	Lay Leader: Kathrine Noel	
<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Ruby Stine	Adam Mincher	Lennie Blackley
Karen Dickerson	Sylvia Harrison	David Matlock

### Committee on Lay Development and Nominations

Chair: Pastor	Lay Leader: Kathrine Noel	
<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Taylor Cooke	Donna Spears	Susan Bowman
Sylvia Harrison	Harold Hilton	Karen Brown

### Committee on Finance (NOTE: most positions determined by chairing particular committees)

Chair: Mark Harrison	Pastor: Glenn Stallsmith
Stewardship Chair: Sylvia Harrison	Treasurer: Marshall Tanner
At Large Member: Tommy May	Lay Delegate AC: Beth Burt
Lay Leader: Kathrine Noel	Church Council Chair: Beth Burt
Financial Secretary: Taylor Cooke	SPRC Chair/Rep: Adam Mincher

### Stewardship Committee

Chair: Sylvia Harrison	
Harold Milton	Marshall Tanner
Harley Muse	Sonya Carver



Please Join Us For A  
***Floating Baby Shower***  
honoring  
**Taylor and Brad Cooke**

Saturday, May 13  
2pm – 4pm  
At Oxford United Methodist Church  
*Taylor is registered at Amazon & Nan's*

*Instead of bringing a greeting card, please write your inscription and wishes in your favorite children's book!*



***Thanks to all who joined us for our pancake supper!***

**The Church Council 2023**

Chairperson  
Secretary  
Lay Leader  
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair  
Annual Conference Lay Delegate  
Finance Committee Chair  
Trustees Chair  
Treasurer  
At Large Member  
Mission Outreach Team Facilitator  
Stewardship Committee Chair  
Worship Committee Chair  
Discipleship Ministry Team  
Mustard Seed Advisory Board Member  
Summer Literacy Program  
UMW  
Nursery & Safe Sanctuary Coordinator

Beth Burt  
Ellen Jenkins  
Kathrine Noel  
Adam Mincher  
Beth Burt  
Mark Harrison  
Jimmy Crawford  
Marshall Tanner  
Kate Brady & Laverne Pope  
Noel Burt  
Sylvia Harrison  
Christine Baker  
Karen Brown  
Susan VanHorn  
Donna Critcher  
Kathryn Mincher & Ashley Salazar  
Donna Critcher

**United Methodist Committee on Relief Offering**  
***March 19, 2023***

One of the reasons we support the United Methodist Church is because of the incredible mission work we do around the world. Our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has an "early in, last out" legacy to help in times of disasters, wherever these may occur.

This was recently true for Hurricane Ian, one of the most devastating storms to hit the United States in years. Before the hurricane hit, UMCOR staff was in touch with the annual conferences that were likely to experience the storm and made preparations with them to minimize the damage.

**We can all support the incredible work of the UMCOR by making our gifts to the UMCOR Sunday, March 19, 2023 offering.**

Our gifts on this day ensure that 100% of our special offerings throughout the year go directly to the causes we designate. No church or charity is more robust than our UMC in having low overhead costs and sending all the money you give directly to the causes you choose. Be UMC! Give UMC! Serve UMC!

(Make out your check to OUMC and mark it UMCOR)

***Holy Week***

**Palm Sunday Luncheon:** All are invited to join us for a hotdog lunch and Easter Egg Hunt following the 11:00am service on Sunday, April 2nd.  
*Can you help with setup and/or cleanup? If so, contact Taylor at the church office!*

**Maundy Thursday Service:** Join us for a special service at 7:00pm on Thursday, April 6th!

**Easter Sunday:** Contemporary Service at 9:00am, Flowered Cross Service at 10:00am, Traditional Worship at 11:00am



# Take me out to the ballgame

Mark your calendars for a group outing!

When: Sunday, April 30th @ 5:05pm

Where: Durham Bulls Baseball Game  
Meet at Durham Bulls Park or ride in church van  
Departure time to be announced at a later date



Tickets on sale now: \$15/ticket

\*\*The Durham Bulls Park is requesting a head count by March 31st. Please contact the church office if you are able to attend.\*\*

## CALLING ALL YOUTH & KIDS!

OUMC Youth Group and Kid's Club is off to a great start for 2023! We have been discovering the miracles of Jesus this semester.

*Our next meeting is Sunday, 03/19/23 at 4:30pm - come join us!*

April 2nd, right after the 11:00am service, we'll gather with the church for an Egg Hunt and hot dog roast.

## Family Fun Day @ Camp Oak Hill

When: Saturday, May 20th

There will be fishing, water activities, and we will eat lunch together there.

The day will end with a lakeside service.

To register, email Amy - [amy@oxfordmethodist.org](mailto:amy@oxfordmethodist.org).

## Prayer Concerns

The Oxford Methodist Church Prayer Chain is ready at any time to give support for any prayer need. To activate the chain, email Pastor Glenn, [glenn@oxfordmethodist.org](mailto:glenn@oxfordmethodist.org)

*Thank you for all the ways we are being God's people -especially at this time.*

### Please pray for...

All with Mental Health Struggles

Those with Addiction Struggles

Our incarcerated brothers and sisters

Jimmy Allen- Husband of Caroline

Maysi Blenk- Ellen Thompson's Niece

Kate Brady

Nancy Brooks

Jack Cummins

Lee Goldman- Sylvia Harrison's brother-in-law

Lee Humphries

Inpanh Keolavanh

Doan Laursen

Bob & Eunice May

Caroline McMahon

Bill Mitchell

Lisa Pearson

Diane Proctor

Reed Spears

Bill Washburn

Beth Williams

Phyllis Williams- Friend of Steve McMillian

Francis Wilson

Lyna Carol Breedlove Wilson

Linda Lilly Winston- Friend of Christine Baker

Pratt Winston

### Our Troops

Jordan Blanchard

Micah Domnick

Hamilton Evrard

George "Fletch" Fletcher

Brian Harvey

Brock Perry

Jack Rivers

Jeremiah Rush

David Sergent

Zach Walker

Claudia Wilmsatt

Drew Wilmsatt



If you know someone who is going through a difficult time, contact our Stephen Leader, Beth Day at 919-691-4603 or [edaycpa@embarqmail.com](mailto:edaycpa@embarqmail.com) about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care—to help that person experience the healing power of Christ's love.

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# Upcoming Events

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## Wednesday Night Dinners

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Suggested Donation of \$7/person

Menu will be sent out at the beginning of each week \*\*No dinner on April 5th\*\*

## Palm Sunday Luncheon & Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 2, 2023 @ 12:00pm (following 11:00am service)

## Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 6, 2023 @ 7:00pm

## Durham Bulls Baseball Game

Sunday, April 30, 2023 @ 5:05pm – until

\*See page 4 for details & contact the church office ASAP to reserve your spot!

## Bible Study

April 12 – May 3, 2023 : *Methodism 101*

May 17 – June 7 : *The Book of Revelation*

## 2023 OUMC Education Grant Applications Now Available!

The Oxford United Methodist Church Scholarship was first awarded in 1987. The United Methodist Women, as with countless other generous projects, were responsible for the idea and the seed money which initiated the fund. Other contributions, memorial gifts, and bequests have been added to the fund which is now invested with the United Methodist Foundation of the North Carolina Conference. In 2022, the committee responsible for awarding these gifts revised the criteria for eligibility.

## Oxford United Methodist Church Education Grant Guidelines

The recipients of the Oxford United Methodist Church grants preferably shall be members of the Oxford United Methodist Church. Education grants may be awarded, for a maximum of 4 years, to those students who are pursuing undergraduate studies. Post graduate learners may be considered on a case by case basis. The applicant AND his or her immediate family must be actively and currently involved with OUMC. Grants shall be awarded on the basis of character, church activity, letters of recommendation, academics, and a complete application. Eligible persons are those anticipating enrollment or currently enrolled in institutions of higher education. Persons who have received the scholarship may re-apply in subsequent years, for a maximum of 4 years. To receive the links for the instructions, guidelines, and application form, please email [scholarshipcommittee@oxfordmethodist.com](mailto:scholarshipcommittee@oxfordmethodist.com).

# Notes of Thanks

## Blood Drive

Thank you to all that donated blood at the Blood drive on Feb 17th. Our goal was 30 units and we collected 34 units thanks to the turnout of a lot of members that supported the drive. The next Red Cross blood drive will be on Friday, June 16th.

## Chicken on a Mission

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, OUMC held another successful Chicken on a Mission event! Taylor Cooke and Donna Critcher planned and carried out a day filled with Christian fellowship, fun, and service as we worked with the Emissaries Motorcycle Ministry to benefit our own Summer Literacy Program and the Emissaries' community outreach projects.

The Emissaries cooked the 750 chickens while OUMC and Emissary servants packed plates in the plastic-covered fellowship hall. All tickets were sold by the day of the event. We will have some extras next year!

OUMC and the Emissaries made about \$2000 profit from Chicken on a Mission, which will be split 50/50. The funding for community service programs is important work, and we hope the fellowship and partnership with the Emissaries will continue for years to come. Thank you to all who helped sell tickets, bought tickets, prepared the fellowship hall, packed plates, delivered plates, made desserts, and prayed for this event!

## Special Notice of Thanks

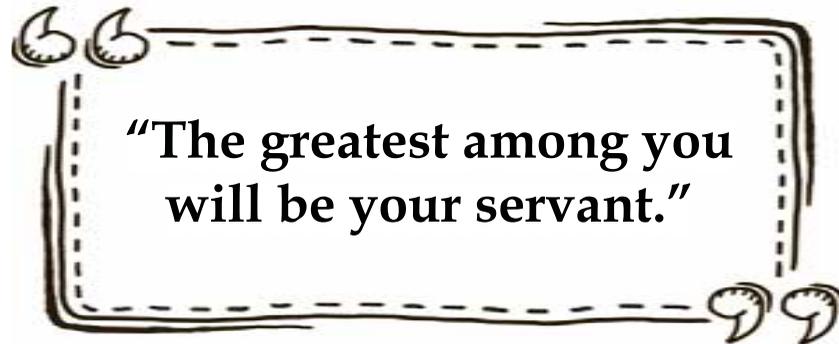
I recently watched the video of the prayer service for me. I wanted to let you know from the bottom of my heart and soul, what this meant to me, and still does. I couldn't have done this without my church family, friends, and God. God be with you, with a grateful heart,  
Lyna Carol Breedlove Wilson



# Serving Upside Down

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Do we really believe Jesus' words in Matthew 23:11?



This past month Pastor Glenn's sermon series was so inspiring. One highlight for me was when he said having a commitment to serve in some way on Sunday morning gives us a reason to be at church.

*It's not too late!*

Take a few minutes and fill out the [Opportunities to Serve](#) survey. Pick up a paper copy after church or fill it out online. Give yourself a reason to be in worship with all your brothers and sisters.

## Grief Support

*Supported by Stephen Ministry*

You Are Not Alone.

The OUMC Stephen Ministers are facilitating a grief support group beginning Tuesday April 11 at 6:00pm in the Carr Classroom. The support group will meet on a weekly basis through the end of May. All are welcome to join.

What is a grief support group? It is a safe place to come and leave behind the rest of the world and focus on the person, thing or life experience you miss so much. It is not a place that has all the answers or a place where you learn to get on with life as if nothing has ever happened. During the group you can share as much or as little as you are comfortable. The comfort is being around others that have experienced something similar to you and knowing you are not alone. If this would be a comfort to you, I hope you will join us. If you have questions feel free to reach out to: Beth Day 919-691-4603 or Ginny McLaurin 919-691-3218

"I have been asked hundreds of times in my life why God allows tragedy and suffering. I have to confess that I really do not know the answer totally, even to my own satisfaction. I have to accept, by faith, that God is sovereign, and He is a God of love and mercy and compassion in the midst of suffering."

~Billy Graham

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## Meal Ministry

We are beginning a meal ministry in order to provide food to both celebrate happy occasions and support persons in times of need. Within this ministry, we will prepare and deliver meals to families in times such as: joining the church, baptism, birth or adoption of a child, graduation from school, illness, or death of a loved one. We are looking for volunteers to either prepare meals and/or donate to the ministry. We would love to have you join and help us to spread Christ's love through food! Contact Shaynee at [girlie218@sbcglobal.net](mailto:girlie218@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at 281-435-1202.