

Oxford United Methodist Church Contacts

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

Church Office: (919) 693-4091	
Pastor: Glenn Stallsmith	glenn@oxfordmethodist.org
Office and Finance Administrator: Taylor Cooke	taylor@oxfordmethodist.org
Director of Worship: Caroline Allen	caroline@oxfordmethodist.org
Coordinator of Kids & Youth Ministries: Kathryn Mincher	kathryn.mincher@gmail.com
The Learning Tree Preschool Director: Ellen Thompson	ellen@oxfordmethodist.org
Summer Literacy:	summerliteracy@oxfordmethodist.org
Church Website:	www.oxfordmethodist.org
YouTube Live Link:	http://tinyurl.com/OUMCLive



TOWER TIDINGS

Advent & Christmas 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 first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of another year in the church calendar, which opens a season of renewal and expectation.

There are many opportunities in the upcoming weeks to be renewed in your spirit. Sunday morning worship services will include our favorite songs for the season. Our Wednesday evening Advent Bible Study is based on a favorite Dr. Seuss character and is open for the entire family. Our kids ministry is headlining the Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 3rd. On Sunday, December 17th we welcome Kathy Newton-Dunton, the pastor of St. Peter's UMC, as our guest preacher. The Longest Night Service on the 19th, led by the Stephen Ministers, will provide comfort for those who find this winter season difficult. Of course we also have our special candlelight services on Christmas Eve.

Come and be renewed by the Lord who makes all things new (Revelation 21:5).

Holiday Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Morning Service

10:00am in Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Evening Services

4:00pm Family Service in Sanctuary

(candlelight and communion)

7:00pm in Sanctuary (candlelight and communion service)

New Year's Eve Service

10:00am in Fellowship Hall

Oxford United Methodist Church

The Tower Tidings

Vol. 98, No. 54 November 2023
105 W. McClanahan St.
P. O. Box 757, Oxford, NC 27565

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit no. 69 Oxford, NC
27565

Staff Christmas Offering



Our OUMC staff provide many services to our church operations, the people in our OUMC family, and beyond. They always go the extra mile. Again, as we engage in the Christmas season, we ask you to consider giving a cash contribution to our staff as a gift to them for their dedication.

Donations may be mailed to P.O. Box 757, dropped off at the church office, left during in-person worship on Sunday mornings, or through our [online giving platform](#). Make checks payable to OUMC and include a note in the memo space for Staff Christmas Offering.

The deadline is Sunday, December 10th.

We thank you for your continued generosity. Merry Christmas!

-Staff Parish Relations Committee

Joy Group Meeting

The JOY (Just Older Youth) Group will meet on December 14th at 12-noon. In addition to a covered dish to share for our potluck lunch, please bring a \$5—\$10 wrapped gift (something seasonal, such as a Christmas tree ornament or unique gift) for the “Bad Santa” game! Game rules will be explained—join us and have fun!

The JOY Group mission is to offer fellowship for retirees. There are a lot of potential JOY Group members at OUMC, as well as friends, neighbors, and relatives. Join us (and invite others) for food, fun, and Christmas fellowship!

Regular JOY Group meetings will resume the first Thursday in January.



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

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
Patricia H. Brady, Kate Brady's Mother
Maysi Blenk- Ellen Thompson's Niece
Nancy Brooks
Jerry Brown
Callie Thames Carnes
Margaret Duncan- Karen Brown's Mother
Connie Emory
Harriet Farrow, Susan Bowman's Aunt
Sharon Foster- Dee Woodlief's Mother
Robert and Marsha Garrett
Benda Hall
Lee Humphries
Inpanh Keolavanh
Doan Laursen
Bob & Eunice May
Caroline McMahon
Bill Mitchell

Carolyn Morton
Henri Parham, sister of Buddy, Genny, & Harley
Sandy Peck, daughter-in-law of Dave & Cheryl
Max Pope, brother of Phil Pope
Diane Proctor
Roy Reeves
Reed Spears
Richard Spradlin
Emerson Swanner
Ava West
Beth Williams
Francis Wilson
Lyna Carol Breedlove Wilson

Our Troops

Jordan Blanchard	Sam Rivers
Micah Domnick	Jeremiah Rush
Hamilton Evrard	David Sergent
George "Fletch" Fletcher	Zach Waler
Brian Harvey	Claudia Wilmsatt
Brock Perry	Drew Wilmsatt
Jack Rivers	



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 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.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday Night Dinners

5:15pm – 6:30pm

Suggested Donation of \$10/person

Menu will be sent out at the beginning of each week

Grief Support Group

Every Second and Fourth Tuesday @ 6:00pm

Bible Study Series **See pages 4 & 7 for details*

Advent Study – Wednesdays, November 29 – December 20 @ 6:00pm

The Bible & The Middle East – Wednesdays, January 10th – 31st @ 6:00pm

Will's Way Project **See page 3 for details*

Donation Sorting – Saturday, December 2nd @ 10:00am

Donation Packing – Saturday, December 9th @ 5:00pm

Kid's Club Christmas Pageant **See page 5 for details*

Sunday, December 3rd @ 5:00pm

Staff Christmas Offering Deadline **See page 2 for details*

Sunday, December 10th

JOY Group Christmas Potluck & Gift Exchange **See page 2 for details*

Thursday, December 14th @ 12:00pm

Pulpit Swap **See page 8 for details*

Sunday, December 17th @ 9:00am & 11:00am

Longest Night Service **See page 6 for details*

Tuesday, December 19th @ 6:30pm

Congregational Meetings **See page 7 for details*

Sunday, January 14th @ 12:00pm

Wednesday, February 7th @ 6:30pm

Sunday, March 17th @ 12:00pm

Chicken on a Mission 2024 – Mark your calendar, more info to come!

Friday, February 23rd

Will's Way Project

The Will's Way Project provides gift bags and gift cards for families with children in the hospital during the holidays. There are several ways you can help with the project this year.

1. Collect items to be included in the gift bags for families with children in the hospital.



Will's Way Project

A Light in the Dark

- Travel Sized Hand Sanitizer
- Travel Sized Lotion
- Travel Sized Shower Gel
- Chap Stick

Gift Bags for parents & caregivers of children at UNC and Wake Med Children's Hospitals & Durham Ronald McDonald House to be delivered during Christmas.

Collecting the following items:

- Individually wrapped snacks
- Individually wrapped bars
- Crackers (Nabs)
- \$10 Starbucks Gift Cards
- Kleenex (Purse Pack)
- Chewing gum
- Small Size Puzzle Books
- Small Size Adult Coloring Books
- Colored Pencils
- Items to fit in a lunch bag

All Donations due by **December 1, 2023.**

For more info check out our website: www.willswayproject.org

2. Order items directly from our **Amazon Wish List**

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3QXXPM909D6UH7ref=wl_share

3. **Make cards or crafts** to be included in the bags. All ages can participate! Due by **December 1st** and must fit in 13" X 13" bag. Be creative!
4. Come out to help sort and count donations on **Saturday, December 2nd at 10:00am**, Oxford United Methodist Church, 105 W. McClean St., Oxford, NC 27565
5. Come out to help pack the bags on **Saturday, December 9th at 5:00pm**, Oxford United Methodist Church, 105 W. McClean St., Oxford NC 27565
6. Check out our website www.willswayproject.org to learn how to donate directly to the Will's Way Project. All funds are used to shine a light for families with children in the hospital.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS: Oxford United Methodist Church, 105 W. McClean St., Oxford Baptist Church, 197 Main St., or Granville County Public Schools Central Office, 101 Detacroix St., Oxford NC

Advent Study

We don't know why Dr. Suess' Grinch hated Christmas, we just know he did. In this Advent Study, we will explore the faith themes in the Christmas classic. How did Christmas save the Grinch? In *The Heart that Grew Three Sizes*, we will look at the familiar story through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Our Advent Study, led by Pastor Glenn, will meet November 29, December 6, December 13, and December 20 in the Chapel.

For the Kids: Children are invited to attend a children's version of the same Advent Study. Children will engage with the Bible story and Advent theme with hands-on experiences, songs, and Christmas story.

The Children's study will be led by Karen Brown and Frances Louis.

Upcoming Bible Study

The Bible and the Middle East – January 10 – 31, 2024

Our first Wednesday Bible Study series in the new year will be "The Bible and the Middle East." The conflicts in Israel and Palestine are both recent and ancient, and Christians have a checkered history in their interventions there.

Come for four weeks, January 10–31, and learn how to think biblically about the ongoing turmoil happening in the place we call the Holy Land.

Apportionments

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TURN
IN YOUR PLEDGE CARDS!

Recently I was at a District committee meeting where the subject of the NC Conference Disaster Relief Mission came up. The Pastor from First UMC in Rocky Mount said he and his church, like most United Methodist Churches had always supported this mission with their prayers and financial giving though apportionments. But earlier this year Rocky Mount was hit by a tornado. Within 18 hours (yes, he said *18 hours*) a NC Conference Disaster Relief team was in Rocky Mount with over 15 chainsaws at work along with many other useful tools.

As the days of recovery went by, several people shared with him how many groups had come to Rocky Mount to offer moral support and prayers, but the UMC was the only group who put feet and hands with their prayer.

Through our apportionments, the NC Conference Disaster Relief Mission is just one way our giving helps God's people in need. It may seem like a small gift but to the people that are suffering, it is priceless.

It's not too late to make a financial faith commitment. Prayerfully consider how God is leading you to give to the church in 2024.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us: for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the need of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

-II Corinthians 9:11-12

Sylvia Harrison
Stewardship Chair

Pulpit Swap - Dec 17

On Sunday, December 17 we will welcome the Rev. Dr. Kathy Newton-Dunton, pastor of St. Peters UMC, who will preach both services that morning. Meanwhile, Pastor Glenn will preach at the 11:00am service at St. Peters.

Please plan to join and support the historical connection we share with our neighboring congregation!

Altar Flowers

The worship committee is seeking donations to purchase silk flower arrangements to place in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the church office.

Online Giving Now Available

Scan the QR code, or [click here](#), to learn more about how you can give through the platform called Vanco Faith. One-time giving and scheduled gifts are available.



Poinsettias

To make our sanctuary festive for the Christmas season, we will be purchasing poinsettias. If you would like to make a donation in memory or in honor of someone, please contact the church office. The suggested donation is \$8 per order. All donations will help cover the cost of the poinsettia display surrounding the chancel rail. The deadline is Sunday, December 17th.

Youth Group & Kids Club

Our children and youth have been busy the past few months here at OUMC! We enjoyed an ice cream social kickoff in September and have been having fun ever since!

Our Kids Club (ages preschool thru 4th grade) has been learning about the Fruit of the Spirit through stories and crafts.

We have painted kindness rocks (did you find them around the church?!), planted seeds, made floating boats, and enjoyed fellowship and making new friends while learning all about Jesus.



We are currently getting ready for our Christmas Pageant on *December 3rd* at 5 pm and hope you all plan to join us and see the joy that God has given us!

Our Youth Group (ages 5th thru 12th grade) has been learning about the Ten Commandments as well as working on many mission projects. We helped pack 20 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, visited Fairport Farms and helped them prepare for Fall Fun and went shopping with the money raised through our Christmas Blessings fundraiser (over \$1200!!) to bless local children this Christmas. We also got to wrap the gifts and get them ready for delivery in time for Christmas!

Kids Club and Youth Group meet every other Sunday evening from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. If you are interested in more information on how to get involved as a kid, youth, or adult please contact Kathryn Mincher [kathryn.mincher@gmail.com or 252-532-0443].

We would love to have you join us!

Longest Night Service

Longest Night Service - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 6:30pm

Oxford United Methodist Church will hold the **Longest Night Service- It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** on **Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm.**

This unique and meaningful service is sponsored by OUMC Stephen Ministry and will honor those that are greatly missed this holiday season. In remembrance of your loved ones, you may choose to provide a picture with name and dates (optional), which will be incorporated into a slide show projected during the service. This information and pictures should be emailed to Ginny McLaurin at ladybug52673@yahoo.com by **December 4, 2023.**

Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are struggling at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope. Join us at OUMC as we offer this sacred space for our congregation and community. All are welcome.



Congregational Meetings

We are halfway through the discernment process of envisioning who we are and whom God is calling us to serve.

Our first three meetings focused on our congregation (via its history), our community (via demographic data), and our denomination (via some hallmarks of being United Methodist).

In 2024 we will look at our gifts as a congregation, our mission to serve others, and our vision for how God is calling us to bring all this together. This will come to a conclusion for the season of Easter, when we will step into a season of intentionally inviting others to be a part of what God is doing at Oxford UMC.

Please plan to attend our upcoming meetings:

Sunday, January 14th at Noon
Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30pm
Sunday, March 17th at Noon

Note to the Congregation

To the wonderful church family of OUMC,

The family of William A. Lytton thank you for your kindness, your help, your services expressed for us on November 4. We were given love from each of you, all who helped in a sad , but also joyous, Celebration of Life.

How comforting the day was to our family and friends.

God bless you,
Elaine Lytton