



# TOWER TIDINGS

Advent &  
Christmas  
2024

*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 season of Advent marks a new year in our church calendar. It signals an opportunity for a fresh start. While the world counts down to the end of the year, the church claims that God works on a different schedule. We should always be ready for something new, according to God's timing.

Advent, and the Christmas season that follows, presents opportunities to worship in new and refreshing ways. Both Sunday morning worship services and Wednesday evening Bible Studies in the month of December are on the theme "The Words of Christmas." Our kids ministry is headlining the Christmas pageant (along with a potluck dinner) on Sunday, December 8th. The Longest Night Service on the 16th, led by our Stephen Ministers, will provide comfort for those who find this winter season difficult. Of course we also have our special candlelight services at 4pm and 7pm on Christmas Eve. On Sunday, December 29th we will gather for our informal Love Feast, held in the Fellowship Hall at 10am, featuring testimonies about what God has done over the past year.

Prayerfully consider how you will participate and invite others to join in what God is doing in this season.

## Holiday Worship Schedule

### Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Services

4:00pm Family Service in Sanctuary

(candlelight and communion)

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

### Christmas- New Year's Eve Love Feast Service

December 29th at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall

### 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: Donna Critcher

summerliteracy@oxfordmethodist.org

Church Website:

www.oxfordmethodist.org

YouTube Live Link:

http://tinyurl.com/OUMCLive



Return Service  
Requested

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

**Oxford United Methodist Church**

**The Tower Tidings**

Vol. 101, No. 57 November 2024  
105 W. McClanahan St.  
P. O. Box 757, 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 8th.**

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 3rd 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 Tuesday in January.*



# Prayer Concerns

## Please pray for...

Kristen Hicks Allen  
Michele Allen  
Patricia H. Brady, Kate Brady's Mother  
Maysi Blenk, Ellen Thompson's Niece  
Nancy Brooks  
Al Carraway  
Danny Crute  
Neill Currin  
David Dean, Laura Blackley and Charles Dean's Cousin  
Jo Ann and Jerry DeShane  
Margaret Duncan, Karen Brown's mother  
Sharon Foster, Dee Woodlief's mom  
Onnie Gore  
David Haley  
Inpahn Keolavanh  
Amanda Kittrell  
Doan Laursen  
Bob May  
Bill Mitchell  
Carolyn Morton  
Danielle Motto - Friend of the Carraways and Matlocks

Ray Payne  
LaVerne Pope  
Bob Sloan  
Reed Spears  
Emerson Swanner  
Isabel Talton  
Marshall Tanner  
Tommy Watkins  
Ava West  
Beth Williams  
Francis Wilson  
Lyna Carol Breedlove Wilson

## Our Troops

Jordan Blanchard	Sam Rivers
Micah Domnick	Jeremiah Rush
Hamilton Evrard	David Sergent
Brian Harvey	Zach Walker
Brock Perry	Claudia Wilmsatt
Jack Rivers	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

5:15pm – 6:15pm

Suggested Donation of \$10/person

*Menu will be sent out at the beginning of each week*

### Grief Support Group

Every Second and Fourth Monday @ 6:00pm

### AI-Anon

Every Tuesday @ 6:00pm in the Carr Classroom

### Bible Study Series *\*See page 1 for details*

Advent Study – Wednesdays, December 4 – December 18 @ 6:00pm

What We Believe: The Nicene Creed– Wednesdays, Jan. 8-Jan. 29 @ 6:00pm

Praying The Lord's Prayer– Wednesdays, February 5– February 26 @ 6:00pm

### Will's Way Project

Donation Sorting – Saturday, December 7th @ 10:00am

Donation Packing – Saturday, December 14th @ 10:00am

### Zoe Empowers Alternative Gift Market

Sunday, December 8th between services

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

Sunday, December 8th @ 5:00pm

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

Sunday, December 8th

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

Tuesday, December 3rd @ 12:00pm

### Longest Night Service *\*See page 6 for details*

Monday, December 16th @ 6:30pm

### Church Council Retreat *\*More details to come*

Saturday, January 18th 9:00am-12:00pm

### Chicken on a Mission 2024 *\*See page 4 for details*

Friday, February 28th

## City Road Men's Shelter

The new men's shelter is going well and attendance has increased somewhat with the cooler weather. We want to extend thanks to Shaynee and Warren Roper for taking the Meal in November. The December meal will be provided by Julie and Grace Allred.

The sign up sheet for 2025 meals is posted in the Mission Center and we look forward to this ongoing commitment and blessing for those in need. If you have questions about the process you can call or text Noel Burt at 336 339-2042.



## Red Cross Blood Drive

Special thank you to those that came out to support the Red Cross blood drive on Friday October 25th. We met our goal and collected 29 units. The next blood drive will be on Friday, February 21st in the Fellowship Hall.



# Chicken on a Mission

**Chicken on a Mission is February 28, 2024!**

This year the Methodist Men of OUMC is spearheading our annual fund raiser.

We will begin preselling tickets on Sunday, January 12, 2025.

We are looking for volunteers to help with:

On Thursday, February 27:

- Put sauce in cups
- Desserts in bags
- Labels on trays
- Cut up potatoes

On Friday, February 28:

- Chicken dippers for the late afternoon
- Collect money/distribute plates on the street
- People to pack plates- Need at least 10 people per shift.
- Clean-up crew

Contact Taylor at the church office, 919-693-4091, if you are interested in signing up to volunteer.

Proceeds will be split between the Summer Literacy Program and the Emissaries Motorcycle Ministry

## 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.

## 2025 COMMITTEES:

Trustees (NOTE: Two thirds must be professing members, Trustees may succeed themselves)

Chair: Vice Chair: Secretary:

<b>Class of 2025</b> Steve McMillan Steve Sievert Cindy Cash	<b>Class of 2026</b> Laura Blackley Harold Hilton Bill Solberg	<b>Class of 2027</b> Helen Brummitt Sylvia Harrison Ben Bryan
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### Staff Parish Relations Committee

(NOTE: Must be professing members; may succeed themselves for one three-year term.)

Lay Leader is a member of this committee

Chair: Adam Mincher Lay Leader: Kathrine Noel Member of AC: Jerry Brown

<b>Class of 2025</b> Lennie Blackley David Matlock	<b>Class of 2026</b> Ruby Stine Karen Dickerson	<b>Class of 2027</b> Adam Mincher Sylvia Harrison
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**Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development (At least one young adult must be a member-between the age of 18–30) Lay Leader is a member of this committee. Members cannot succeed themselves. Members must be professing members.**

Chair: Pastor Lay Leader: Kathrine Noel

<b>Class of 2025</b> Susan Bowman Karen Brown	<b>Class of 2026</b> Allison May Ellen Jenkins	<b>Class of 2027</b> Debra McNally Doug Roberson
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### Committee on Finance (NOTE: most positions determined by chairing particular committees)

Chair: Mark Harrison Lay Leader is a member of this committee

Pastor: Glenn Stallsmith Stewardship Chair: Sonya Carver  
 Treasurer: Ruby Stine Lay Leader: Kathrine Noel  
 Lay Member of AC: Jerry Brown Financial Secretary: Taylor Cooke  
 Church Council Chair: Sylvia Harrison Trustees Rep: Steve Sievert  
 SPRC Chair/Rep: Adam Mincher  
 At Large Members: Tommy May, Jerry Dickerson

**Endowment Committee:** Finance Chair: Mark Harrison, Pastor: Glenn Stallsmith, Crawford Knott, Beth Day

**Stewardship Committee:** Chair: Sonya Carver, Harold Hilton, Harley Muse, Kathy May, Ruby Stine

**Worship Committee:** Chair: Allison May, Pastor: Glenn Stallsmith, Director of Worship: Caroline Allen, Angela Parrot, Charles Dean, Joanie Currin, Beth Burt, Judy Matlock, Carson Blake, LaVerne Pope



## The Church Council 2025

Chairperson	Sylvia Harrison
Secretary	Ellen Jenkins
Lay Leader	Kathrine Noel
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair	Adam Mincher
Annual Conference Lay Member	Jerry Brown
Finance Committee Chair	Mark Harrison
Trustees Chair	[elected by the Trustees at first meeting of 2025]
Treasurer	Ruby Stine
At Large Members	Ginny McLaurin & Tabatha Boyd
Mission and Outreach Coordinator	MacGregor Knight
Stewardship Committee Chair	Sonya Carver
Worship Committee Chair	Allison May
Discipleship Ministry Coordinator	Karen Brown
Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator	Kathryn Mincher
Summer Literacy Program Director	Donna Critcher
Men's Ministry Coordinator	Dee Woodlief
Nursery & Safe Sanctuary Coordinator	Donna Critcher

### Church Staff:

Pastor: Glenn Stallsmith  
Admin and Finance Secretary: Taylor Cooke  
Director of Worship: Caroline Allen  
Church Custodians: Anthony and Barbara Hunter  
Learning Tree Preschool Director: Ellen Thompson  
Summer Literacy Director: Donna Bowling-Critcher

*Note: These were the names approved at Charge Conference, any adjustments needed will be made at church council in the new year.*

## Youth Group & Kids Club

Our Kids Club and Youth Group have been busy this fall! The Kids Club claimed their own space upstairs in the education building down the hall from the youth room and have been learning about Abraham and Moses.

The Youth Group has been busy getting to know each other and enjoyed a field trip to Fairport Farms as well as shopping for our Operation Christmas Blessings angels from the Credle Angel Tree! Thank you to OUMC for supporting this wonderful mission. What a gift it is to be able to share the love of Christ with others!



All of our kids and youth as well as their families enjoyed a fun evening at Dixon Farms in fellowship and enjoying the fall weather. We also visited ACIM and helped with making sure boxes were ready to go out.

*The Kids Club will present their Christmas pageant "Christmas Cheer" on Sunday, December 8th at 5:00 pm in the fellowship hall and invite their OUMC Church Family to join them and bring something yummy to share for a potluck dinner to follow!*

Our kids and youth will also gather on Sunday, December 15th to go caroling and come back to the church to decorate cookies!

If you are interested in volunteering with our Kids Club, Youth Group or Sunday School programs, please contact Kathryn Mincher ([kathryn.mincher@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.mincher@gmail.com)).

# Longest Night Service

**Longest Night Service - Stairway to Heaven  
Monday, December 16, 2024 at 6:30pm**

Oxford United Methodist Church will hold the **Longest Night Service- Stairway to Heaven** on **Monday, December 16, 2024 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, birth and death date, relationship to family, and/or family information (mother, father, siblings, grandkids, etc), which will be incorporated into a slide show projected during the service. This information and pictures can be dropped off at the church office, personally handed to Ginny McLaurin or Beth day, or emailed to Ginny McLaurin at [ladybug52673@yahoo.com](mailto:ladybug52673@yahoo.com) by **December 11, 2024.**

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.



# Methodist Men

OUMC Methodist Men in partnership with the Kid's Club, Youth Group and Josie Rose Sunday school class, will be meeting at 10:00AM in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, Dec 15th for our "Christmas Card for Shut In's" mission. We will be writing notes and attaching small treats to Christmas cards for several of our local assisted living, nursing homes and rehab centers. All congregation members are invited to join in to help with this project! Snacks will be provided.

OUMC Methodist Men will be meeting Sunday morning, Jan 12th. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 followed by an important meeting regarding Chicken on A Mission! All men of OUMC are encouraged to attend as our group has committed to making Chicken on A Mission another success on February 28th and supporting OUMC Summer Literacy Program.

# Monthly Financial Update

Total October Income	\$22,478	Total Income YTD	\$261,223
Total October Expenses	\$24,659	Total Expenses YTD	\$281,356
Deficit for October	\$(2,181)	Deficit YTD	\$(20,133)

# 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.

