

**Oxford United Methodist Church Contacts**

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

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

# TOWER TIDINGS

*Fall  
2023*

*Oxford United Methodist Church  
Oxford, NC 27565*



## *Message from Pastor Glenn*

The fall is for reconnecting. While summer allows time for vacations and trips to visit out-of-town family, the rhythms of the school calendar draw us back in September. That makes this a season of restarts at Oxford UMC. The Learning Tree preschool is in session for the new school year. Sunday School classes that took a break for summer are back now. Wednesday evening events are starting again: Fellowship Dinners, Bible Study, Handbells, and Choir practice (see details inside). Children and Youth activities are also kicking off for the season on Sunday, September 10th.

The next few months also provide opportunities for us to reconnect in another important way. From October until April we will have a series of monthly congregational meetings. The purpose of these gatherings will be to discern who we are as a congregation. We will talk and listen to each other about questions concerning our history, our talents, our neighborhood, our politics, and our calling to mission. These are important topics to work through together, especially in light of the upcoming General Conference next April. If we know who we are and where we are called to serve, our place in the United Methodist Church will become clearer.



**Oxford United Methodist Church**  
**The Tower Tidings**  
 Vol. 98, No. 53 August 2023  
 105 W. McClanahan St.  
 P. O. Box 757, Oxford, NC 27565

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 US POSTAGE  
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# Children & Youth

2023-2024



**Kid's Club & Youth Group – first meeting of the season!**  
**September 10th**  
**4pm – 6pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**

This meeting will include an Ice Cream Social during the first hour.  
Parents should plan to attend an important planning session.

### All children are welcome!

*Pre-k children will require a parent to stay with them.*

Both our children and youth will be working on a project to support Will's Way as well as beginning their Bible studies.

We are excited about what God is going to do in our Children and Youth program.

### Mark your calendars for upcoming events!

**September** 10 & 24

**October** 8 & 22

**November** 12 & 19

**December** 3 & 17

If you're interested in helping provide a snack or volunteer to help for any of the dates listed above, please contact Kathryn Mincher.

Kathryn.Mincher@gmail.com, 252-532-0443, or sign up online by scanning or clicking the QR Code!



# Prayer Concerns

### Please pray for...

All with Mental Health Struggles  
 Those with Addiction Struggles  
 Our incarcerated brothers and sisters  
 Patricia H. Brady, Kate Brady's Mother  
 Maysi Blenk- Ellen Thompson's Niece  
 Nancy Brooks  
 Joe Bryan  
 Lucy Burgess, Kathryn Mincher's grandmother  
 Noel Burt  
 Janet Craig, healing from hip replacement  
 Sandy Peck, daughter-in-law of Dave & Cheryl  
 Margaret Duncan- Karen Brown's Mother  
 Connie Emory  
 Sharon Foster- Dee Woodlief's Mother  
 Robert and Marsha Garrett  
 Judy Hagwood  
 Lee Goldman- Sylvia Harrison's brother-in-law  
 Benda Hall  
 Lee Humphries  
 Inpanh Keolavanh  
 Annette Koerner- Sister of Lisa Pearson  
 Doan Laursen  
 Gunda Lojek, Sylvia Harrison's Mother

Bob & Eunice May  
 Caroline McMahon  
 Bill Mitchell  
 Carolyn Morton  
 Max Pope, brother of Phil Pope  
 Diane Proctor  
 Roy Reeves  
 Barbara Rush  
 Reed Spears  
 Richard Spradlin  
 Emerson Swanner  
 Bill Washburn  
 Bob White  
 Beth Williams  
 Francis Wilson  
 Lyna Carol Breedlove Wilson

Woods Landon Blake - Son of Carson & Zeke Blake, born August 19th weighing 8lb. 2oz.

### Our Troops

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

# Charge Conference

Each year, every United Methodist congregation has a meeting with their District Superintendent to review the past year and make plans for the next one.

This is called Charge Conference, and ours is scheduled for  
**Sunday, November 5th @ 6:00pm.**

Oxford UMC will be the host for several other local churches who will join us that night for worship and fellowship.

**All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!**

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## Upcoming Events

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### Wednesday Night Dinners – Starting September 6th!

5:15pm – 6:30pm

Suggested Donation of \$10/person

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

### Grief Support Group

Every Tuesday @ 6:00pm

### Bible Study Series *\*See page 8 for details*

Wednesday, September 6th – 27th @ 6:00pm

### Choir & Handbells *\*See page 7 for details*

Wednesdays starting September 6th

Handbells @ 6:00pm; Choir @ 7:00pm

### Women in Mission Line Dancing *\*See page 4 for details*

Sunday, September 10th @ 12:00pm

### Kid's Club & Youth Group Kick-Off *\*See page 2 for full list of dates & times*

Sunday, September 10th @ 4:00pm – 6:00pm

### Will's Way Birthday Bash *\*See page 3 for details*

Saturday, September 23rd @ 5:30pm

### Charge Conference

Sunday, November 5th @ 6:00pm

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, October 20th @ 9:00am-1:30pm Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to sign up



Help us to celebrate **Will Day's birthday** this year through a Birthday Bash! This fundraiser dinner will be the official kick-off of the Will's Way 2023 Christmas Project!

**What?** A celebration dinner event to raise money for the **Will's Way Project** with an exciting program. Check out the **AMAZING** line up:

- An impact story by **Caitlin Hart, Gunner's Mom**, about how your support of **Will's Way** touched her family.
- Musical Entertainment by **Reverend Brett and Allison Pardue** (Oxford Baptist Church Pastor and his lovely wife)
- Will's Way Famous **Silent Auction** – Live & In Person
- Learn more about Will's Way Project and the **light** which still shines!

**When?** Saturday, September 23, 2023, 5:30pm (Dinner at 6:00pm)

**Where?** Oxford United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

**Why?** To help shine a light for families with children in the hospital. **#bethelight**

**How much?** \$30 per person or \$200 per table (Table seats 8)

**What's for dinner?** It is a good ole' southern style dinner with all the fix'ns, sweet tea & birthday cake!

**How do I sign up?** You can use this form, <https://forms.gle/m1RLdJivIM3iFXne8> or call OUMC at 919-693-4091. Please leave a message with your name, contact info & the number of seats or tables you would like to reserve.



**How can I pay?** There are several options to make payment:

- Pay via PayPal @OxfordUMC and type "Will's Way Birthday"
- Write a check to Oxford United Methodist Church and write "Will's Way Birthday" in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to OUMC, PO Box 757, Oxford, NC 27565.
- Drop off cash or checks at OUMC 105 McClanahan St, Oxford, NC 27565 or place it in the offering and clearly mark "Will's Way Birthday". Office Hours (8:30 to 12:30 M-F)

# Women in Mission

*Ladies, do you want to Line Dance?!*



Join the Women in Mission:

**Sunday, September 10**

**12:00pm**

*(directly following 11am worship)*

**Fellowship Hall**

Instructor Noel Jenks will teach the line dances. All abilities are welcome, from beginners to experienced!

*Duration: Approximately 30 minutes with lunch directly following*

RSVP to Beth Burt: [BethBurt28@gmail.com](mailto:BethBurt28@gmail.com) or 336-543-3075



The Women in Missions would like to thank everyone that donated, decorated and packed the Together We Rise bags for foster care children. We were able to donate 13 bags to Granville County Foster care! This is such a great cause and it will benefit our community!

# Vacation Bible School

Thanks to all who volunteered and participated in VBS 2023!



## Bible Study

**Join us for our upcoming Bible Study series!**

Bible Studies are held on Wednesday nights at 6pm in the Carr Classroom.

**Life of King David** September 6 – 27

*Based on the books of 1 and 2 Samuel. We will look at David's relationship with Jonathan (his friend), Saul (his enemy), Absalom (his son), and Bethsheba (his wife). David loved the Lord but made lots of mistakes. There are many life lessons in his story.*

**Biblical Perspectives on Sexuality** October 11 – November 8

*This is currently the most divisive topic in our denomination, so it's important to investigate what the scriptures say (or do not say) about sex. Each week will focus on a different passage that addresses aspects of gender and marriage.*

# Summer Literacy Program

The Summer Literacy supplies are once again packed up, the classrooms quiet and empty--waiting for next year. We had a total of 19 students between the two sessions who attended consistently. Each session was hectic, filled with celebrations, challenges and over before we could blink. Based on an informal review of assessments, students showed growth in their reading skills. Students also showed an increase in confidence and were happy at camp. More than one parent told us that getting their child to school was a challenge, but they couldn't wait to get to camp every morning.



We were blessed again this year with both financial and volunteer support from congregation members and community groups. In addition to grants from The Duke Endowment Foundation and Granville United Way, we received grants from the Dollar General Literacy Fund, and the North Carolina Community Fund. Granville County Public Schools assisted us with transportation. Transportation is always a challenge so this was a very welcome gift!



Thank you all for your prayers and gifts. Students are blessed because of all the things that you do to make their time with us special. It truly takes a community to make Summer Literacy a success and we are thankful for the support that we receive from OUMC as well as our community partners!

## See you next summer!

# Annual Conference

Graceful Hospitality was the theme of the North Carolina Annual Conference which convened on Thursday, June 15 in Greenville NC. Clergy and Laity numbered about 1,180 attendees. Worship and song were woven into our work over the two and half days of the conference. Paul Saik of Centenary UMC in New Bern was an amazing musician and singer. His talent and enthusiasm elevated the music and worship time.

The conference began with laity and clergy executive sessions. In the laity session, members heard from several lay leaders about how their churches made disciples and extended graceful hospitality in their communities. From clothing drives (one called "Undie Sunday") to pop-up picnics, their mission work was exciting and impactful. In the clergy session, members approved the ordination of 8 people (2 deacons & 6 elders) and the commissioning of 11 people.

There were articulate and interesting speakers on the agenda. Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton, Rev. Dr. Edgardo Colon-Emeric Dean of Duke Divinity School and Rev. Adam Hamilton, Pastor of The Church of the Resurrection, all inspired us to love everyone and focus on what unites us. Rev. Sam Kiley, associate pastor from Church on Morgan, shared a passionate spoken word performance that challenged us to think about church membership as being someone who welcomes.

Oxford UMC gave \$250 to a special offering for Congregations for Children (C4C), adding to a total of about \$6,000. Two resolutions were passed: one on Creation Care Teams in local churches and another that affirmed the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Resolutions. The next Annual Conference will be held June 12-15, 2024 in Greenville NC. For a more detailed report with interesting statistics, please go to this link:

<https://nccumc.org/ac2023/ac-2023-final-wrap-up/>

# Boys & Girls Club

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This summer, the *Boys and Girls Club of Oxford* learned about growing vegetables at God's Garden through a Duke Endowment funded grant. Coordinated by Lee Clark, the program gave the children, working as a team, the experience of preparing the soil, planting, weeding, and harvesting vegetables themselves one morning each week.



# Choir & Handbells

Please join us! OUMC Choir & Handbells needs YOU!

## Handbells

Wednesdays @6:00pm – 6:45pm

Sept 6 – Dec 6 in Handbell Room at front of Sanctuary

**Handbells will play for 11:00am worship service on:**

**October 1, November 19, December 10**

*5th grade through Adults are welcome!*

## Choir

Wednesdays @ 7:00pm – 8:10pm

September 6th – December 13th in Choir Room

**Choir will sing for 11:00am worship service weekly from Sept 17 – Dec 17**

*High School through Adults are welcome!*

For more information, contact Caroline Allen at  
Caroline@oxfordmethodist.org or 919-522-3046.



We are so excited to kick off a new school year at  
The Learning Tree Preschool!

Classes begin Monday, August 28th. Keep us in your prayers as we  
welcome 29 new and returning students.