

Oxford United Methodist Church Contacts

Office Hours are from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Church Office: (919) 693-4091	
Pastor: Glenn Stallsmith	glenn@oxfordmethodist.org
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The Learning Tree Preschool Director: Ellen Thompson	ellen@oxfordmethodist.org
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Church Website:	www.oxfordmethodist.org
YouTube Live Link:	http://tinyurl.com/OUMCLive



TOWER TIDINGS

2024 Fall Edition

Message from Pastor Glenn

This time last year, in anticipation of possible changes in the United Methodist Church, we began a series of congregational meetings. We looked at big-picture aspects of our life together: we discussed our congregation's history, the demographics of our neighborhood, our outreach efforts, and our gifts.

In May of this year General Conference made some milestone decisions. The biggest of those was the removal of language in the Book of Discipline that had prevented the ordination of ministers who are in same sex relationships. These changes also allow congregations to now hold same sex weddings in their facilities.

Since May, we have been navigating these changes as a congregation. Knowing that these are not issues that we all agree on, in July we set aside time to pray and fast about these matters. Then we held another set of meetings to specifically get feedback on topics related to sexuality, politics, and finances. Those discussions were very helpful to me as your pastor.

I encourage your continued prayers for this process of continued dialogue. I do not know where it will take us, but I have become increasingly convinced of one thing: our congregation has many more years ahead of it. I believe that we need to build on the groundwork prepared by those who have gone before us.

Will you join be in praying that we can get ready for a future of faithful worship and service in Oxford? Will you pray about investing in mission and discipleship so that people in this community can hear the good news of Jesus Christ for years to come?



Oxford United Methodist Church
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Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry Information Session:

September 16, 2024 @ 6:00pm

OUMC Fellowship Hall

This session is for anyone that is interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry and how to get involved!

A note from Beth Day:

“Let me tell you a little about Stephen Ministry and how I got involved. After my son, Will, passed away, I received a short book in the mail from a friend of a friend. It was entitled “A Time to Grieve” and was a simple book with practical information on grief. I learned that the book was published from an organization called Stephen Ministry. I was intrigued and found out that Stephen Ministry was a Christian caring ministry which trains church members to care for those going through life’s struggles. After Will passed away, I felt a strong calling to use the pain and nightmare I was experiencing to help others. I truly believe God led me to Stephen Ministry. I learned that it was a significant commitment to become a Stephen Minister and I had to trust God to help me. The hymn “Here I Am Lord” signs to my soul: “Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.”

If you hear the calling, we invite you to join us to learn more about Stephen Ministry on Monday, September 16th! Just come to learn more. It is the first step, and then you can decide if it is a commitment the Lord can help you make.”

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

Please pray for...

All with Mental Health Struggles
Those with Addiction Struggles
Our incarcerated brothers and sisters
Kristen Hicks Allen
Patricia H. Brady, *Kate Brady's Mother*
Maysi Blenk, *Ellen Thompson's Niece*
Nancy Books
Carol Burgess, *friend of Susan Bowman*
Al Carraway
Jim Cramer
Danny Crute
Neill Currin
David Dean, *Laura Blackley & Charles Dean's Cousin*
Jo Ann & Jerry DeShane
Margaret Duncan, *Karen Brown's Mother*
Harriet Farior, *Susan Bowman's Aunt*
Sharon Foster, *Dee Woodlief's Mother*
Robert Garrett
Onnie Gore
Lee Humphries
Inpahn Keolavanh
Doan Laursen
Bob May
Bill Mitchell
Carolyn Morton

Danielle Motto - *Friend of the Carraways & Matlocks*
Faye & Kenneth Nance, *Christine Baker's Sister & Brother-In-Law*
Bill Oakley, *friend of Cindy Snipes*
Ray Payne
Diane Proctor
Pene Short, *sister of Sharon Williams*
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 Dornick	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 **Menu will be sent at the beginning of each week*

5:15pm – 6:30pm

Suggested Donation of \$10/person

Grief Support Group

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday @ 6:00pm

Bible Study Series **See page 4 for details*

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm in the Chapel

Will's Way Silent Auction **See page 5 for details*

Saturday, September 14th – Sunday, September 22nd

Kids Club & Youth Group Resume **See page 7 for details*

Monday, September 15th @ 4:30pm

Stephen Ministry Interest Meeting **See page 2 for details*

Monday, September 16th @ 6:00pm

ACIM Work Day **See page 6 for details*

Tuesday, September 17th @ 5:00pm

It's Just Lunch **See page 9 for details*

Sunday, September 22nd @ 12:30pm

Fifth Sunday Meeting **See page 7 for details*

Sunday, September 29th @ 10:00am in Fellowship Hall

Charge Conference **See page 7 for details*

Sunday, September 29th @ 3:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Joy Group **See page 8 for details*

Tuesday, October 1st @ 12:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Blood Drive **See page 8 for details*

Friday, October 25th @ 9:00am – 1:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Methodist Men

We would like to extend a sincere THANK YOU to the men of OUMC for the attendance we had at our Methodist Men's meeting on August 18th! A special 'thank you' to those who arrived early to help prepare the meal!

It was well attended with Pastor Glenn sharing scripture on the importance of men being active in our faith and callings, followed by a fellowship breakfast together, then open discussions and suggestions on the vision and mission opportunities for the future. We look forward to sharing with our church family the mission ideas as we move forward, so stay tuned!

We had men of all ages ranging from 18 years old and up in attendance, and we all would like to sincerely extend an invitation to all men in our congregation to attend our next meeting on September 22nd. Breakfast will be served at 7:30am and our meeting will wrap up around 8:30am. We kindly request a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of a hot breakfast prepared by your fellow brothers in Christ.

*Calling all
Methodist Men!
Join us on*



Bible Studies

This fall, we look forward to resuming our Wednesday night Bible studies.

From Labor until Advent, we will run three different series:

September 4-25: The Book of James

This study will supplement our sermon series on faith and politics based on this important letter of the New Testament

October 2-23: How to Read the Bible

Understanding the meaning of scriptures requires more than simply reading the words. Learn how to interpret and apply what the Bible says

October 30-November 20: Heaven and Hell

What happens in the next life? A study of different biblical visions about death, judgment, and eternity will accompany a sermon series on these topics.

5th Sunday Meeting

Our next fifth Sunday meeting will be held on:

Sunday, September 29th

10:00am

Fellowship Hall.

Gaston Warner from Zoe Empowers will be our guest speaker

Please plan to attend to learn more about this new mission opportunity!

OUMC Prayer Buddies

If you have been wanting to get to know our children and youth better, or to find a way to help them in their faith journey, this is your opportunity! You can sign up below to become a Prayer Buddy! Each congregation member will be paired with one of our own OUMC children or youth and have the opportunity to pray for them throughout this school year. You will be provided with some basic information about your buddy as well as opportunities to do things together at events to get to know each other better!

If you are interested, please send an email to the church office or to kathryn.mincher@gmail.com. Kathryn Mincher will be in touch with you about your prayer buddy and all information needed! Thank you for taking this chance to make a difference in the life of our kids and youth!

If you are also interested in helping with our Sunday evening Kids Club and Youth Group activities by providing snacks or volunteering your time, please also make a note below of what you feel called to do and Kathryn will be in touch!

It's Just Lunch

The Oxford Women in Mission will meet at the House of Ribeyes

Sunday, September 22nd at 12:30pm

Please join them for food and fellowship! This is a time for women who are interested in coming together to get to know each other better – no agenda!



CALLING ALL WOMEN

Stewardship Committee

When Pastor Glenn told me the title of his sermon series for the Fall was “Sharing Abundantly” I thought, is this like living “out loud” except it involves sharing?

Turns out it can be a combination. Abundantly means “amply supplied”. Living out loud means we are living on purpose, with purpose and not by default, being proactive and utilizing our full potential. If we’re to utilize our full potential, then I believe sharing abundantly will come naturally.

2 Corinthians 9 vs.6-8 says: *The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully, will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

Let’s share our gifts, our talents, our time and then by default we’ll be living out loud.

Sonya Carver, Stewardship Chair

JOY Group

The JOY Group (Just Older Youth) will begin meeting again on the second Tuesday of every month!

Our next meeting will be old on:
Tuesday, October 1st @ 12:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Bring a covered dish and a friend!



Will’s Way Project

a Light in the Dark

The Will’s Way 2024 Online Auction will start on:

Saturday, September 14th – Sunday, September 22nd

You don’t want to miss it!!

The auction link can be found:

- ✓ Included in OUMC weekly email reminders
- ✓ Posted on the Will’s Way Facebook Page
- ✓ By reaching out to Beth Day



Blood Drive



Our next blood drive will be held on Friday, October 25th from 9:00am – 1:30pm at the OUMC Fellowship Hall.

For questions and sign-up information, please contact Ruth Carraway with at carrawayrt@gmail.com.

Online Giving 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.



ACTM Workdays

ACIM meeting dates are the 3rd Tuesday of each month

Our next ACIM workday will be held on:

Tuesday, September 17th at 5:00pm

Meeting at the ACIM building to pack food boxes for distribution

ACIM Address: 634 Roxboro Road, Oxford

ACTM Collections

There is a collection container for ACIM food donations at the Mission Station.

Please bring food at any time!

Where is the Mission Station?

The Mission Station is located between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, near the breezeway entrance.



Please see John Critcher for any ACIM questions!

Charge Conference

David Joyner, our new District Superintendent, will be joining us on Sunday, September 29th. He will be bringing the message at both worship services that morning. He will stay for Charge Conference that afternoon at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

Kids & Youth

OUMC helped our kids and youth kick off the school year on August 4 with a special Youth Sunday service, Bible presentations, Blessing of the Backpacks and a pool party! We are so proud of all of our youth and kids who helped out by reading scripture, acolyting, ushering and leading prayer. We also presented Bibles to 5 of our rising 3rd and 4th graders: Jane Rhine, Jack Brown, Madisyn Mincer, Walker Cannady and August Solberg. The church wide pool party was a great way to end the summer! A huge thanks to all who helped make this day possible!

Our youth and children Sunday School classes have resumed after a brief summer break. Shaynee Roper will be leading our preschool through 5th graders and Beth Burt will be leading our middle and high school youth. If you are interested in being a substitute or helping out with either of these classes, please contact Kathryn Mincher.

Kids Club and Youth Group will resume on Sunday, September 15 at 4:30. We will plan to meet every other Sunday again this year. We are looking forward to serving the Lord, OUMC and our Oxford community again this year as we grow in faith and fellowship together!