

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
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 Director: Donna Critcher	summerliteracy@oxfordmethodist.org
Church Website:	www.oxfordmethodist.org
YouTube Live Link:	http://tinyurl.com/OUMCLive



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 Permit no. 69
 Oxford, NC
 27565

Return Service
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Oxford United Methodist Church
The Tower Tidings
 Vol. 98, No. 55 March 2024
 105 W. McClanahan St.
 P. O. Box 757, Oxford, NC 27565

TOWER TIDINGS *Easter 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

I have been enjoying our "Questions to God" series that has been guiding our Sunday morning sermons and Wednesday evening Bible Studies. We've looked at "Who is God?" and "Is the Bible Reliable?" Still to come are questions like, "How Do I Forgive?" and "Why is Jesus Special?" I have especially found the Wednesday evening sessions to be a great preparation to hear what God is saying to us.

Soon it will be Holy Week and Easter, when we have special services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday. In the weeks following Easter, we will begin a new sermon series: "What is the Good News?" It will equip us to faithfully witness to the things we know to be true about God.

If you signed up for the Lenten prayer focus and have been praying through your list of names, keep it up! I hope you have already begun to see some answers to your prayers. Please share those with me as they happen. I look forward to seeing God do great things during this season!

Church Clean-up Day

Saturday, March 9th @ 9:00am

Any and all help is welcome and encouraged!
 Come prepared to work and we'll assign you a task!



Lent Sermon Series

Join us for our Lent Sermon and Bible Study Series:

Questions to God

Feb 18: Who is God? (1 John 4:7-19)

Feb 25: Is the Bible Reliable? (Hebrews 4:12-14)

Mar 3: Why go to Church? (Psalm 100)

Mar 10: Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People? (John 11:23-25)

Mar 17: How do I Forgive? (Matthew 6:9-15)

Mar 24: Palm Sunday, Why is Jesus Special? (Mark 11:1-11)

Mar 28: Maundy Thursday, Why did Jesus die? (Colossians 2:13-14)

Mar 31: Easter Sunday, Why Believe in the Resurrection? (Mark 16:1-8)



Join us to hear the sermon at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall or 11:00am in the Sanctuary

Want to learn more? Meet us at 6:00pm in the Chapel for Bible Study!

JOY Group Meeting

The JOY (Just Older Youth) Group will meet on Thursday, March 7th @ 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and invite your friends!

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 fellowship!

JOY Group meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 12-noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming meeting dates: April 4th, May 2nd



Prayer Concerns

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
Flora (Flossie) Cates, relative of Michael Davis
Tommy & Rebecca Cox
Neill Currin
Bobby Davis, father of Michael Davis
Margaret Duncan- Karen Brown's Mother
Connie Emory
Harriet Farrow, Susan Bowman's Aunt
Sharon Foster- Dee Woodlief's Mother
Robert and Marsha Garrett
Onnie Gore
Lee Humphries
Inpahn Keolavanh
John Knowlton, Peggy Payne's Brother
Doan Laursen
Wife of Jerry Lewis, friend of Mark Harrison
Bob & Eunice May
Bill Mitchell

Carolyn Morton
Faye and Kenneth Nance, Christine Baker's sister & brother in law
Bill Oakley, friend of Cindy Snipes
Ray Payne
Diane Proctor
Taylor Robertson
Pene Short, sister of Sharon Williams
Reed Spears
Richard Spradlin
Emerson Swanner
Isabel Talton
Ava West
Beth Williams
Francis Wilson
Lyna Carol Breedlove Wilson
Robin Word, Yvonne Word's Daughter

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 *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 2 for details

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm in the Chapel

February 21st – March 27th: *Questions to God*

April 1st – May 15th: *Finding Jesus in the Psalms*

Chicken on a Mission *Tickets on sale now! Volunteers needed!

Friday, March 1st @ 11:00am – 6:00pm

JOY Group Potluck *See page 2 for details

Thursday, March 7th @ 12:00pm

Congregational Meeting *See page 7 for details

Sunday, March 17th @ 12:00pm

Maundy Thursday Service *See page 7 for details

Thursday, March 28th @ 7:00pm

Easter Services *See page 7 for details

Contemporary Service @ 9:00am in Fellowship Hall

Flowering of the Cross @ 10:00am in Fellowship Hall

Traditional Service @ 11:00am in Sanctuary

Vacation Bible School *See page 5 for more Kids Club & Youth Group details

June 11th – June 13th

Sweet Rolls Sale!

The Oxford Women in Mission sweet roll sale is on! They will be taking orders before the 9:00am service, between the two services, and immediately after the 11:00am service. Find them in the Lyon Building in the Missions Center area!

Cinnamon Rolls and Iced Sticky Buns topped with Pecans

\$10 per pan

Pick up on Palm Sunday, March 24th at OUMC

ACIM Outreach

Area Congregation in Ministry:

ACIM is one of Oxford UMC's core outreach ministries. This ministry helps provide food for those in need in Granville County.

How can you help?

We can all help by donating food in the ACIM basket in the Mission Center, OR by volunteering to help fill boxes one week a month.

Many thanks to our Youth and Children who packed boxes on February 18th!

We are looking for another group to pack boxes one weekend in March. Contact John Critcher at 919-691-1744 for details and to schedule your group to participate in this vital ministry.

Be Our Guest

Did you know you can now invite a guest to dinner on Wednesday at OUMC?! First time visitors and interested friends and neighbors can be your guest for a complimentary meal at our mid-week gatherings.

Look for these pew/basket cards and share them with visitors you meet in worship, or neighbors who would like visit OUMC, and invite someone to *Be Our Guest!*



2024 Committees & Members

Trustees

Chair: Steve Sievert Vice Chair: Sylvia Harrison Secretary: Cindy Cash
Class of 2024 Class of 2025 Class of 2026
Jimmy Crawford Phil Pope Laura Blackley
Sylvia Harrison Steve Sievert Harold Hilton
Ben Bryan Cindy Cash Bill Solberg

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Adam Mincher Lay Leader: Kathrine Noel Member of AC: Jerry Brown
Class of 2024 Class of 2025 Class of 2026
Adam Mincher Lennie Blackley Ruby Stine
Sylvia Harrison David Matlock Karen Dickerson

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

Chair: Pastor Glenn Stallsmith Lay Leader: Kathrine Noel
Class of 2024 Class of 2025 Class of 2026
Donna Spears Susan Bowman Allison May
Harold Hilton Karen Brown Ellen Jenkins

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

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

Stewardship Committee

Chair: Sonya Carver; Harold Hilton, Harley Muse, Kathy May, Ruby Stine

Endowment Committee

Chair: Mark Harrison; Pastor Glenn Stallsmith, Crawford Knott, Beth Day

Worship Committee

Chair: Christine Baker; Pastor: Glenn Stallsmith, Director of Worship: Caroline Allen, Angela Parrott, Charles Dean, Joannie Currin, Beth Burt, Judy Matlock, Carson Blake, LaVerne Pope

Notes from Church Council

The OUMC Church Council met on January 27th under the leadership of Council Chair, Sylvia Harrison.

Your Council approved the 2024 budget, affirmed that OUMC will request a summer intern from Duke again this year, and heard an update from Donna Critcher on the Oxford Women in Mission.

Pastor Glenn gave a teaching on small groups in the faith community, with the origins of small groups dating back to the time of John Wesley.

We agreed that the idea of frank and open conversation to address OUMC missions and ministry needs would not only more fully help us to perform the tasks necessary to live out our mission, but these conversations will help us to grow in our relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ.

To accomplish this, the Council format will include emailed reports from committees, then distribution of these reports by Sylvia prior to the meeting. At each meeting, the Council will focus on one area of ministry and the group will discuss ways each committee can contribute to the success of that ministry.

The first meeting of 2024 focused on Children and Youth Ministries.

In order to begin the year by having a holy conversation together, Sylvia instructed members to think about ways each committee can assist the other church committees in accomplishing their goals.

This was followed by a round table discussion and lots of input and assistance offered. It was an encouraging and blessed process!

We look forward to growing in Christian love as we navigate 2024 together!

Kathrine Noel, Lay Leader

Online Giving Now Available

Scan the QR code to learn more about how you can give through the platform called Vanco Faith. One-time giving and scheduled gifts are available.



Trustees Takeaways

What were the Trustees up to in 2023?

A few things you may have already noticed:

Carpet in Fellowship Hall was cleaned; the “old parlor” (room beside Sanctuary) was turned into the Handbell Choir’s room; new blinds were installed in various areas of the Education Building and Lyon Building; some changes in the kitchen include a new electric oven and a new ice maker; a new a/c unit was installed for the Sanctuary; the mulch was replenished on the playground; repairs were done to the exterior upper part of the Sanctuary and Lyon Building; new chairs for the Chapel in the Education Building; church van maintenance; leak repairs; and updating AEDs and fire extinguishers.

There’s a lot that goes into maintaining our building and grounds!

Please remember to always check lights and locks and close all doors propped open for fire safety/protection when leaving the buildings. This is especially important if you enter/exit during the week or other times when the church is not occupied.

Thank you for helping keep our building secure and, most importantly, our members and guests safe!

Helen Brummitt, Trustee

Stewardship Moment

During our Baptismal vows we are asked, “As members of this congregation will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?”

We answer: “I will”.

The Hebrew term for “presence” is translated “face”, implying a close and personal encounter with the Lord. My most close and personal encounters with the Lord almost always occur when I’m worshipping together with our church family.

Although, there are times when I am present that I am not in HIS presence because I have allowed my “to do” list to invade my thoughts and my mind closes to HIS message. I strive to get better at being completely present. Will I do better? With the Lord’s help, I will.

Pastor Glenn will be preaching a sermon series titled “The Stewardship of Presence” on April 28th, May 5th, and May 12th. See you there!

Youth Group & Kids Club

Our Kids Club and Youth Group have been busy to start off the new year!

The Kids Club kids are continuing to learn about the Fruit of the Spirit, and our youth are working their way through the Ten Commandments.

We made Valentine’s cards for the Will’s Way Valentine’s Day project and hosted the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. We are so thankful for all the support at the dinner!

We also helped at ACIM and had a great time learning about the wonderful mission and how we can make a difference in our community.

Upcoming Events:

March 3 & 17

Kids Club will meet from 4:30 – 5:30

Youth Group will meet from 4:30 – 6:00

March 25

Palm Sunday – Hotdog Lunch and Egg Hunt

April 7

Kids Club will meet from 4:30 – 5:30

Youth Group will meet from 4:30 – 6:00

April 21

End of year fun! More info to follow!

June 11-13

Vacation Bible School 2024

As always, we welcome volunteers and kids of all ages to join us for fun and fellowship! If you would like to volunteer or want more information, please contact Kathryn Mincher.

Acolyte Training – Sunday, March 17th @ 3:30pm in the Sanctuary

If you are interested in serving as an acolyte and are in grades 2nd – 6th, join us!

We will practice lighting the candles and learn our role in worship service for Easter!

Questions? Contact Karen Brown at quilting4karen@gmail.com.



Annual Chili Cook-Off

Mark your calendar for March 10th @ 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Once again it is time to get out your cookbooks for your favorite chili recipe. The Annual Joe McLaurin Chili Cook-Off is just around the corner!

Ginny McLaurin's husband, Joe, initiated this fundraiser 12 or 13 years ago. He loved cooking, and came up with the idea of the Chili Cook-Off as a fundraiser for the church.

What is the Chili Cook-Off?

Members of the church make their favorite pot of chili. We gather together to sample each chili and vote for the best!

The chili chefs are competing for the title of Chili **King** or **Queen**. Entry is not limited to adult chili-masters. Last year, Chili Princesses Meredith and Madisyn Mincher took home the title!

Proceeds from this fundraiser will be split evenly between the NC Triangle Chapter of Bladder Cancer Advocacy and a second cause to be decided by the church.

Last year we raised \$300 and half of the contributions were donated to Will's Way.

If you cook, bring your chili and enter the contest (no pre-registration necessary).
If you don't cook, bring your appetite!

Voting is done monetarily.

This is a family friendly event – you don't want to miss it!



Blood Drive Update

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the Blood Drive on February 24th. We collected **30** units of blood!



Mark your calendars for our next blood drive on June 21, 2024.



Maundy Thursday Service

March 28th @ 7:00pm
Sanctuary



Easter Service

9:00am – Contemporary – Fellowship Hall
10:00am – Flowered Cross – Fellowship Hall
11:00am – Traditional – Sanctuary



Congregational Meetings

Since the first week of October, we have gathered for five congregational meetings for the purpose of finding the themes that define the mission and purposes of Oxford UMC. We have looked at our congregational history; the demographics of our community; the realities of our denomination; our gifts and talents; and our outreach efforts. A team of six discussion facilitators has worked together to identify some emerging ideas that can help us clarify who we are.

Our final meeting in this series will be at **12:00 noon on Sunday, March 17th**. We will hear from our facilitators what they have heard us saying as a congregation. We will look at some clarifying statements about our mission in Oxford and the world. A draft of a new church logo will be presented, and we will dream together about what the next season in our congregational life might look like. Please don't miss this important moment in our life together!

Note to the Congregation

To the church family of OUMC,
It is with great pleasure that Lyna and Francis Wilson announce that their son, Joseph (Joe) Wilson, has accepted a new job as Human Resource Director of Kelloggs Co.