

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



TOWER TIDINGS

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

During Lent and Holy Week our sermon series for Sundays and study series for Wednesday nights is: "What Jesus Says About..." Don't miss these opportunities to listen together for what God is saying to us about relevant topics such as worry, money, relationships, sickness, politics, and sin.

I also look forward to our special worship services scheduled for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday (April 13): Hot dog lunch and Easter egg hunt for our children

Maundy Thursday (April 17): Communion service remembering the Last Supper

Good Friday (April 18): Seven Last Words community service at St. Peter's UMC

Easter Sunday (April 20): Resurrection Day with two morning services and the Flowering of the Cross

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!



Facilities Focus Group Meetings

There are multiple renovations needed to our facilities. All members are invited to join a focus group meeting to discuss plans.

Wednesday, March 12th at 6:00pm *(for everyone)*

Sunday, March 16th at 7:30am *(for Men's Group)*



Return Service Requested

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

Oxford United Methodist Church
The Tower Tidings
Vol. 98, No. 58 March 2025
105 W. McClanahan St.
P. O. Box 757, Oxford, NC 27565

Holy Week

Palm Sunday Luncheon: All are invited to join us for a hotdog lunch and Easter Egg Hunt following the 11:00am service on Sunday, April 13th.

Can you help with setup and/or cleanup? If so, contact Taylor at the church office!

Maundy Thursday Service

April 17th @ 7:00pm
Sanctuary



Easter Service



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

JOY Group Meeting

The JOY (Just Older Youth) Group will meet on Tuesday, April 1st @ 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 Tuesday of every month at 12-noon in the Fellowship Hall.



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...

Kristen Hicks Allen
Michele Allen
Patricia H. Brady, Kate Brady's Mother
Maysi Blenk, Ellen Thompson's Niece
Nancy Brooks
Bubba Burgess, Kathryn Mincher's uncle
Al Carraway
Danny Crute
Neill Currin
Patricia Davis, Michael Davis' mom
Jo Ann and Jerry DeShane
Bruce Dickerson
Margaret Duncan, Karen Brown's mother
Sharon Foster, Dee Woodlief's mom
Onnie Gore
David Haley
Don Jenkins
Inpahn Keolavanh
Amanda Kittrell
Doan Laursen
David & Judy Matlock
Bob May
Bill Mitchell
Joni Monroe, friend of Cindy Cash

Adrienne Morton
Carolyn Morton
Danielle Motto, friend of the Carraways and Matlocks
Ray Payne
Steve Pruitt
Jakiya Roberts
Bob Sloan
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 Sergeant
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 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

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Suggested Donation of \$10/person

Grief Support Group

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

JOY Group Potluck *See page 2 for details

Tuesday, April 1st @ 12:00pm

Methodist Men's Meeting *See page 8 for details

Sunday, March 16th @ 7:30am

Chili Cook-off *See page 6 for details

Sunday, March 16th @ 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday Service *See page 2 for details

Thursday, April 17th @ 5:30pm

Easter Services *See page 2 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 *Save the date!

July 23 – July 25

Boy Scout Troop 637 and Pack 637

are cooking

CHARCOAL SMOKED PORK BUTTS

(no seasoning)

Friday, March 14

Pick up at OUMC 4pm – 6pm

Pre-cooked weight of 8-9 pounds

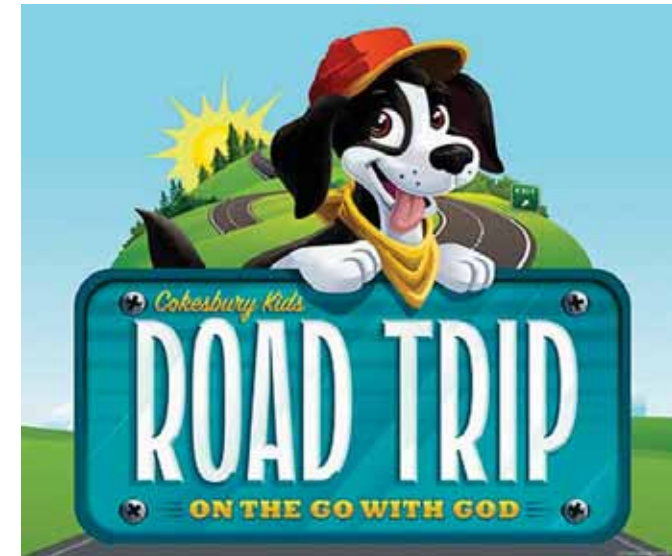
\$40 per ticket

Available from any scout or Steve Sievert (919-482-4597)

VBS Planning Team

Mark your calendars for VBS 2025!

July 23-25



Are you interested in being a part of the planning team?

Helping with crafts, story telling, meals?

Let me know!

Kathrine Noel

kathrinenobel@gmail.com

919-691-3877

2025 Committees & Members

Trustees

Chair: Steve Sievert	Vice Chair: Sylvia Harrison	Secretary: Cindy Cash
<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Steve McMillan	Brad Cooke	Helen Brummitt
Steve Sievert	Harold Hilton	Sylvia Harrison
Cindy Cash	Bill Solberg	Ben Bryan

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Adam Mincher	Lay Leader: Kathrine Noel	Member of AC: Jerry Brown
<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Lennie Blackley	Ruby Stine	Adam Mincher
David Matlock	Karen Dickerson	Sylvia Harrison

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

Chair: Pastor Glenn Stallsmith	Lay Leader: Kathrine Noel	
<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Susan Bowman	Allison May	Debra McNally
Karen Brown	Ellen Jenkins	Doug Roberson

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

Legacy Giving Committee

Chair: Mark Harrison; Pastor Glenn Stallsmith, Crawford Knott, Beth Day, Adam Mincher, Kathy May

Worship Committee

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

A Note to the Congregation:

In the (just over) 50 years that Don and I have been members of this church we have seen many, many instances of generosity. One of the most astounding displays happened not too long after we joined in 1973-74. The Finance Chairman stood up one Sunday morning and described a need for a sum of money, I think to pay for part of the Education Building. He said, "My family and I will give \$1000." Then all around the church people began to stand up and say, "My family will give \$500," or other amounts, until the need was met.

I know of many instances when there was a need and an individual stepped forward and provided – building upkeep and repairs, steeple repair, kitchen needs, and renovations to the choir loft and sanctuary. Someone provided money for a new organ when we needed a new one. Another person provided the money to move the chapel to the first floor of the Education building.

During the late 70's we arranged to bring a refugee family to Oxford. Many members volunteered to give, and they continued to help for many years providing housing, jobs, furniture, and even tutoring for the children.

I'm reminded of the number of missions that Oxford UMC has supported over the past 50 years: ACIM, Habitat for Humanity, God's Garden, the Penn Avenue Food Kitchen, The Great Turkey Harvest, Hardy Boxes for military personnel, the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. We also supported one of our very own, Sharon Floyd Reavis and her family, as missionaries to Zimbabwe.

Generosity is also exhibited each time there is a death in our church. Women's groups and circles have especially stepped up in those moments to provide food and other needs. They have also supported residents of our state institutions and provided Health Kits, school backpacks, and Christmas Angel tree items needed by local school students.

We have sent people around the world. Youth have experienced how generosity works by repairing and working on people's homes through the Mountain Top and Cross Connection summer trips. Many of us have travelled to other countries on mission trips. Our annual Chicken on a Mission plate sale has funded youth mission efforts and now supports our Summer Literacy Initiative.

Jesus said, "In as much as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me."

Let's continue to make generosity contagious!

Ellen J Jenkins

ACIM Work Days

Our next ACIM workday will be on

Tuesday, March 18th at 5:00pm

Meet us at the ACIM building (634 Roxboro Road) to pack food boxes for distribution.

There is a collection container for food donations at the mission station. Bring food anytime!

Questions? Contact John Critcher

Annual Conference Lay Equalization Plan

Every June our primary governing body, the North Carolina Annual Conference, meets in Greenville, NC. The rules of the United Methodist Church require that our Annual Conference gatherings consist of equal numbers of laity and clergy. This means that each year, our Conference leaders look to add laity from our churches under a system called the Lay Equalization Plan.

If you would be interested in attending Annual Conference in this capacity, with rights to vote and speak from the floor, please contact Pastor Glenn.

Methodist Men Notes

Methodist Men's Next Meeting

The next Methodist Men's meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 16, at 7:30AM. Breakfast will be served, followed by the meeting. We expect to wrap up around 8:30AM.

All men of OUMC are invited! Even if you haven't attended a meeting before, you are more than welcome to join us.

Chicken on a Mission – Thank You!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported Chicken on a Mission 2025! Your prayers, words of encouragement, and hands-on help (in too many areas to list) were truly appreciated. Thanks to you, this year's event was a success in supporting OUMC's summer literacy program.

City Road Men's Shelter

Thanks to Don and Ellen Jenkins for providing the meal for the men's shelter in February. They gave 18 chicken on a mission meals which were delivered to the shelter and enjoyed by all. It was requested that we include the shelter on any barbecue chicken we prepare at OUMC!

The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the mission area (across from the kitchen), or contact Noel Burt at 336-339-2042.

Youth Group & Kids Club

Our kids' and youth Sunday School classes are back in full swing!

- **Kids' Class (Pre-K through 5th grade):** Starts the Sunday School hour (10:00–11:00 AM) in the chapel before moving to its classroom for a lesson and activities.
- **Youth Class (6th–12th grade):** Meets upstairs in the room with the kitchen.

Sunday Evening Schedule

We will be keeping the same Sunday evening hours as last year:

- **Kids Club: 4:30–5:30 PM**, beginning and ending in the fellowship hall.
- **Youth Group: 4:30–6:00 PM**, beginning and ending in the fellowship hall.

MLK Day of Service Recap

A big thank-you to everyone who helped with the MLK Day of Service! Several of our kids and youth, along with adults from our church, volunteered with **Rise Against Hunger** again this year. They helped pack over **65,000 meals** and collected donations for **ACIM**! We hope to send another group next year – don't miss out on the fun!

Service Day at ACIM

On February 9, several kids, youth, and adults enjoyed lunch at Toros before packing boxes at ACIM. We had a great time!

Parent's Night Out

OUMC hosted its first-ever **Parent's Night Out** on Valentine's Day! Shaynee and Warren Roper, along with Beth Burt and Meredith Mincher, helped nine of our OUMC kids make their own pizzas and ice cream sundaes, play games, and have a night of fun – while parents enjoyed a well-deserved evening out. We hope to make this a regular event at OUMC!



MAR 4	Pancake Dinner - Youth Fundraiser 4:30 - 8:00
MAR 9	Youth Group & Bring a Friend Night 4:30 - 6:00
MAR 23	Youth Group 4:30 - 6:00
APRIL 13	Palm Sunday Youth support in hiding eggs for Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School
APR 27	Final Youth Meeting & End of Year Celebration Time TBD
JULY 23-25	Vacation Bible School Time TBD - Youth Volunteers needed

*Indicates special meetings or events that do not take place on a Sunday

Annual Chili Cook-Off

Mark your calendar for March 16th @ 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 13 or 14 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 – all ages are welcome!

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go the NC Triangle Chapter of Bladder Cancer Advocacy.

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!



Monthly Financial Update

Total February Income	\$32,159	Total Income YTD	\$61,442
Total February Expenses	\$33,412	Total Expenses YTD	\$61,206
Deficit for February	(\$1,253)	Surplus YTD	\$236

From the Trustees

The Trustees need a little help with a couple of ongoing needs!

The OUMC Live Broadcast each Sunday, 11 o'clock service:

Are you interested in participating in a vital OUMC ministry? Our 11 am services are broadcast live via YouTube each Sunday. We need a couple of additional people to start the broadcast on select Sunday mornings. If you can open and use an app on your smartphone, you can also do a live broadcast. Steve Sievert will give complete instructions and will provide a step-by-step instruction sheet.

Grounds and Pruning:

Spring growth will soon be here and our plantings could use some final seasonal pruning. Instructions provided!

To assist with any Trustee project, please contact:

Steven Sievert
919.482.4597 (call or text)

Note to the Congregation

Dear Folks,

While Beth and I are relatively new members of the OUMC Congregation, we find ourselves quite surprised by the \$37,300 deficit spending reported during 2024 and noted in some of the last Church bulletins. We recognize there can be a lot of mystery surrounding the issues of giving and generosity in a church, but there is no magic. We as parishioners must become comfortable talking about giving, teaching about it and practicing it personally. The congregation must understand church finances and never shy from the topic.

We have therefore mathematically calculated what we believe is our share of this deficit and have written OUMC a check above and beyond our recent pledge. We pray you will consider joining us.

Bob Williams