

# THE CLOCK

A publication of

OXFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Barry Judd

April 2018

"Grow in Christ...Share Our Faith"

Dear Beloved Family,

As many of you know, I am in seminary, which gives me lots of time to think...which can be dangerous. Recently, I have had opportunity to consider how we are created in God's image. Genesis tells us that men and women are all created in the image of God. This cannot possibly mean that we "look like God," for God is a spirit, and is invisible, according to Scripture. What then DOES it mean? Theologians for millennia have attempted to discern this unique distinction granted to people. Many concluded that we are different from animals because we employ reason, whereas animals only act upon instinct. Further, that animals do not have a capacity for emotion, especially love. I have always rejected these notions. Our little toy poodle, Casper, may serve to illustrate. If I am eating popcorn in our kitchen, Casper will bug me to share some with him. Not only is this not real healthy for him, but it also annoys me. So, I will throw a piece into the dining room for him to chase, and then close the door so he cannot return to the kitchen. After performing this twice, the third time he looked at the popcorn in the dining room, licked his chops, but stayed in the kitchen and kept bugging me. If that isn't reason over instinct, I don't know what would be!

Further, to suggest that animals do not have the capacity to love is ludicrous. My cat, Nina, is overjoyed when I return home at night -even when her bowl is full of food. And, she "scolds" me when I have been away for what she considers to be too long. What, then grants us the unique distinction of being in God's image, which brings with it the similarly unique opportunity to have dominion over the earth, and the requisite responsibility to positively care for and tend it toward health; and not simply exploit it to our own selfish advantage? John Wesley's conclusion was, a capacity for God. The capacity to have a spiritual life in relationship with God was what he considered to be the only distinguishing characteristic between people and animals. Further, in his sermon, "The General Deliverance," Wesley communicates his belief that animals will one day be restored to the capacity of humans, and humans will be restored to a greater capacity than angels. With this in mind, one of his requirements for Methodist Preachers was that they must each day properly rub down their horses and never ride them too hard. May we too realize the blessings and responsibilities incumbent upon us as those who share God's very image.

In the Love of Christ,

*Pastor Judd*

## APRIL SCRIPTURE READINGS

|                                   |  |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>April 1<br/>Easter<br/>Day</b> | <b>Acts 10:34-43</b><br><b>Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24</b><br><b>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</b><br><b>John 20:1-18</b> | <b>RESURRECTION OF<br/>THE LORD</b> |
| <b>April 8</b>                    | <b>Acts 4:32-35</b><br><b>Psalm 133</b><br><b>1 John 1:1-2:2</b><br><b>John 20:19-31</b>                   | <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF<br/>EASTER</b>  |
| <b>April 15</b>                   | <b>Acts 3:12-19</b><br><b>Psalm 4</b><br><b>1 John 3:1-7</b><br><b>Luke 24:36b-48</b>                      | <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF<br/>EASTER</b>   |
| <b>April 22</b>                   | <b>Acts 4:5-12</b><br><b>Psalm 23</b><br><b>1 John 3:16-24</b><br><b>John 10:11-18</b>                     | <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF<br/>EASTER</b>  |
| <b>April 29</b>                   | <b>Acts 8:26-40</b><br><b>Psalm 22:25-31</b><br><b>1 John 4:7-21</b><br><b>John 15:1-8</b>                 | <b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF<br/>EASTER</b>   |



## Please Pray:

Please pray for the sick, those caring for the sick, those in recovery, shut-ins and those in mourning. Please pray for healing, recovery, comfort, peace & grace for:

Church members, friends and family who are shut-ins, including: Harriet Brunnett, Bob Hatfield, Doris Norcross, Sally Johnson, Hazel Prouty & Carlton Thomas.

Family and friends of church members: Brayden, Donna Adamec, Don Baker, Rob Langley, Kathy Mack

Please pray for our nation and for all of God's children around the world.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

For the month of **April** the Food Shelf is accepting donations of:

Condiments (salad dressing, ketchup, mustard, mayo, pickles, olives, spices, etc.).

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, please place food items in the collection basket at the front of the church when you come forward to receive Communion. For the rest of the month, donations can be put in the basket in the narthex

In May, we will be looking for Rice-A Roni type products:

Many families coming to us have members with "diabetes" and "gluten allergies".

Low sugar, sugar free, and gluten free items are always in need.

<http://www.oxfordfoodshelf.org/>

**Thank you for your generosity!**



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# Pasta With a Purpose

OUMC Teen Ministry Fundraiser

Saturday, April 14, 2018

5:30 - 7:00pm

Oxford United Methodist Church

465 Main St.

Oxford, MA. 01540

**All proceeds will go to the mission trip to Camp Mechuwana in July.**

Menu includes:  
Spaghetti with meatballs  
Rolls  
Salad  
Brownies



\$7.00 for Adults

\$4.00 for Children

\$20.00 per family maximum



If you are interested in having flowers placed on the altar for a particular Sunday, please see the Altar Flower Chart, which is on the wall outside the sanctuary. If there is a week you know you would like flowers, please write your name on the chart. It is possible to have two bouquets on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of most months. The cost for a bouquet is \$18. Please speak with Cindy Denson (508-987-5241) if you have any questions.

**UPPER ROOM**

**START YOUR DAY WITH THE LORD!**

Pick up your FREE March/April edition of the devotional guide, The UPPER ROOM this Sunday. You can find them on the table under the display cabinet in the narthex and on the pamphlet rack outside the restrooms.



We have both regular and LARGE print available.



**If you cannot make it to church, you can join us on YouTube!!!**  
**Go to YouTube and type in "Oxford Massachusettts United Methodist Church"**  
**You can watch and send us messages by typing right on the site; you can send your prayer request to us to be read in church with the other prayers.**  
**Yes you do have to miss type Massachusettts**

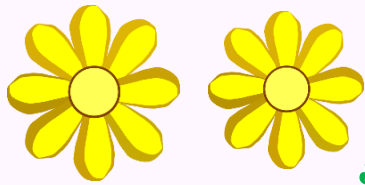
**MISSIONS NEWS**

The Mission Committee will soon begin a new global ministry. We will be collecting items to make **UMCOR** "Cleaning Kits". The **United Methodist Committee On Relief** delivers these kits to areas that have been hit by natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earth quakes and tsunamis through-out the globe.

When disaster strikes, **UMCOR** responds. This arm of the Methodist church is one of the first organizations to send help to people in need of relief and support.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a poster showing the items we will be collecting during the month of May. All the items we are collecting are things people need to clean and sanitize their homes after a disaster.

**The CLOCK has been sent...** mostly by email. If you think someone new would like to receive The Clock either by email or through the post office, please have them contact the Editor, Cindy, at: ([c.l.denson54@gmail.com](mailto:c.l.denson54@gmail.com)). The most recent issue will also be available for pick-up in the Narthex. If you do not wish to receive the OUMC Newsletter, reply to this e-mail with "unsubscribe" in the subject line or speak with Cindy (508) 987-5241.



*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck Brunch*

*Join us after church on April 29<sup>th</sup>*

*In order to have variety of choices here is a suggested  
break down but if you have a favorite dish please bring it  
along!!*

*A – G Pastry*

*H – O Breakfast Casserole*

*P – Z Fruit, Juices or Yogurt*

*Any questions see Nancy Bouchard*







April 1-7: Doug McVeigh, Jeffrey LaPlante, Pam Sigel

April 8-14: Janice Torteson

April 15-21: Carlton Thomas, Doris Caplette

April 22-28: Kenneth Flynn

April 29-30: Amelia Lee



April 18: Charles & Sue Stone



*April Lay Readers*

- April 1 Sue Stone*
- April 8 Cindy Denson*
- April 15 Bruce Denson*
- April 22 Brenda Gabel*
- April 29 Nancy Bouchard*



*April Altar Flowers*

- April 1 Easter Plants*
- April 8 Brennan*
- April 15 Open*
- April 22 Adams*
- April 29 Mitsoulis*



**A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:**  
 The next edition of The Clock, the OUMC newsletter, will be for May 2018. The **deadline** for submitting articles for the May 2018 edition is 7:00 PM on **Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**. Please send any items for The Clock to: [c.l.denson54@gmail.com](mailto:c.l.denson54@gmail.com).  
**Thank you.**

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is happy to announce that we have recently hired a new person to serve as the Oxford United Methodist Church secretary. Please welcome Sue Stone. Sue plans to be in the church office on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 – 12:00.

## Oxford United Methodist Church

### Sunday Morning Schedule

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 8:00 AM   | Choir rehearsal         |
| 9:00 AM   | Sunday School Classes   |
| 9:00 AM   | Morning Worship Service |
| (child care available during Sunday activities and service) |                         |

### Serving the Church

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ministers        | All members of the congregation |
| Pastor           | Barry Judd                      |
| Nursery Care     | Denise LeBlanc & Denise Stewart |
| Church Secretary | Sue Stone                       |
| Church Custodian | Don Parker                      |

The church office is regularly open on Mondays & Thursdays, 9:00am to Noon.  
 Pastor Judd's Office Hours are Thursdays, 9:00 AM to Noon or by appointment.



# APRIL 2018

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY    | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|--|---|--|-----------|---|
| <p>1</p> <p><b>EASTER SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>WORSHIP 9:00</b></p> <p>NO Sunday School<br/>Child Care Provided<br/>Fellowship Following Service</p>                       | <p>2</p> <p>Office Hours<br/>9:00 – 12:00</p>  | <p>3</p>   | <p>4</p> <p><b>Finance Stewardship Meeting</b><br/>7:00 PM</p>  | <p>5</p> <p>Office Hours<br/>9:00–12:00<br/>Pastor's Hours<br/>9:00-12:00</p>  | <p>6</p>  | <p>7</p>  <p><small>This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed</small></p>                   |
| <p>8</p> <p>Choir 8:00<br/>Sunday School 9:00<br/><b>WORSHIP 9:00</b><br/>Fellowship Following Service</p>   | <p>9</p> <p>Office Hours<br/>9:00 – 12:00</p>  | <p>10</p>  | <p>11</p> <p><b>Ad Council</b><br/>7:00 PM</p>  | <p>12</p> <p>Office Hours<br/>9:00–12:00<br/>Pastor's Hours<br/>9:00-12:00</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p><b>SPAGHETTI SUPPER</b><br/>5:30-7:00</p>  |
| <p>15</p> <p>Choir 8:00<br/>Sunday School 9:00<br/><b>WORSHIP 9:00</b><br/>Fellowship Following Service</p>  | <p>16</p> <p>Office Hours<br/>9:00 – 12:00</p> | <p>17</p>  | <p>18</p>                                       | <p>19</p> <p>Office Hours<br/>9:00–12:00<br/>Pastor's Hours<br/>9:00-12:00</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p>   |
| <p>22</p> <p>Choir 8:00<br/>Sunday School 9:00<br/><b>WORSHIP 9:00</b><br/>Fellowship Following Service<br/><b>Worcester Fellowship</b><br/><b>Sandwich Making</b></p> | <p>23</p> <p>Office Hours<br/>9:00 – 12:00</p> | <p>24</p>  | <p>25</p> <p><b>SPRC</b><br/>7:00 PM</p>  | <p>26</p> <p>Office Hours<br/>9:00–12:00<br/>Pastor's Hours<br/>9:00-12:00</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p>  <p><small>This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC</small></p> |
| <p>29</p> <p>Choir 8:00<br/>Sunday School 9:00<br/><b>WORSHIP 9:00</b><br/><b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch</b></p>   | <p>30</p> <p>Office Hours<br/>9:00 – 12:00</p> |  |   |  |           |   |

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