

THE CLOCK

A publication of

OXFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Barry Judd

January 2019

“Grow in Christ...Share Our Faith”

Dear Beloved Family,

While January 1 is in some ways another of many indistinct dates upon a calendar, it is simultaneously the beginning of a year (thank you, Gregory the Great) our culture will designate as 2019. A new year is a handy milestone from which to survey the past and consider the future. Our Church has made some important strides in the past year and a half, and we are poised to continue growth internally and externally through our ministries for Jesus Christ, thanks be to God!

On a local level, I am going to concentrate more on spiritual discipline #5, Fellowship, than I have until now. In 2017 we gave great emphasis to discipline #1, Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth. In 2018, we focused upon the spiritual renewal for our community which comes through disciplines 2 and 3: Meditation and Prayer (sometimes with fasting). In 2019, while not neglecting 1-3 or 4 (silent contemplation) I think we must begin to consider how Fellowship is a necessary component in our capability to hear the voice of God, as individuals and a corporate body. Sometimes Fellowship is packaged as social interaction, but that interaction is really just one component. If we are to interpret the Word of God as a community, we must know and respect one another in some close ways in order to know one another's baggage which is carried into the interpretive process. Everyone can see my emotional and cognitive presuppositions ("baggage") except me. Thus, we must rely upon one another, in sincere humility, to identify the blind spots we don't see about ourselves. This can only happen in genuine fellowship with one another. In this way our worship can transform from a monologue from the pastor to a dialogue between shepherd and flock, as demonstrated in the New Testament.

I trust fellowship will incorporate occasions for the Church family to have fun, interpret Scripture together in small groups and begin an international visitation plan. Please pray about our spiritual fellowship and contact me directly if you feel called to be involved in a Fellowship Team.

2019 is going to be great! Jesus be Praised!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Judd

NOVEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 6 *Isaiah 60:1-6* **EPIPHANY**
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 **OF THE**
 Ephesians 3:1-12 **LORD**
 Matthew 2:1-12

January 13 *Isaiah 43:1-7* **FIRST**
 Baptism of the Lord *Psalm 29* **SUNDAY**
 Acts 8:14-17 **AFTER THE**
 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 **EPIPHANY**

January 20 *Isaiah 62:1-5* **SECOND**
 Psalm 36:5-10 **SUNDAY**
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 **AFTER THE**
 John 2:1-11 **EPIPHANY**

January 27 *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10* **THIRD**
 Psalm 19 **SUNDAY**
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a **AFTER THE**
 Luke 4:14-21 **EPIPHANY**



Please Pray:

Please pray for the sick or injured, 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.

Please pray for Janet Pilling, Rose Pilling and Daniel Fay.

Please pray for our nation and for all of God's children around the world. Pray for our leaders, local, national and global that they may be guided to bring about peace for ALL. Pray for all who are dealing with mental health problems.



Notes From Your Renewal Team

We have been very busy these past few months working on ways to build awareness of our church in the community.

First, we are looking to hold a Red Cross Blood Drive sometime in early spring. The Oxford Police Department and The Oxford Fire Department have an annual Blood Drive challenge and hopefully we will host the event. We are waiting on approval from the Red Cross as to whether the church has enough space and other requirements needed to hold a blood drive.

Second, we would like to have a "Blessing Of The Animals" also in the spring. This is to be held on the town common and perhaps in May a "Blessing Of The Motorcycles". More details will follow.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we are in the process reaching out to over 100 members of our church who, for whatever reason, have stopped coming to services. We are planning to hold some type of "welcome back/meet the new Pastor" service in March, again more details will follow.

We must all be reminded that the renewal of our church is not just in the hands of a 7member committee. It is up to every member of our congregation to do whatever she or he can to build awareness of our church and bring more people back to Christ. A way you can start is if you notice that your "Pew Buddy" has been absent for a while, reach out to that person. Let them know that you and their church family miss them and care about them.

As always, we welcome any and all suggestions that you may have regarding renewal.

USHERS NEEDED

Our Head Usher, Bill Abrahamson, is looking for volunteers to serve as ushers, especially on the 4th or 5th Sundays. Even if you are not able to serve every month, an occasional Sunday would be greatly appreciated. Please call Bill at 508-864-0671 or send an email to him at: abrahamsonoxford@aol.com

January 6, 2019 is Epiphany Sunday - the day Christians celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi.

During our worship service, the three "Kings" or "Magi" will present their gifts to the Christ child and the congregation will be invited to bring forward "White Gifts" to be presented to the Christ child with assistance from our Sunday School.

The White Gifts can include any of the following wrapped in white paper:

Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf: baby food, disposable diapers, children's hats and mittens

Worcester Fellowship: \$5 or \$10 Dunkin Donuts gift cards, white socks, men's & women's cotton briefs small medium & large

You may give cash or a check made out to OUMC with the designated Mission on the memo line if you wish. Please put any monetary donation in a white envelope indicating to which mission you would like to designate the gift:

Oxford Ecumenical Council Food Shelf
Worcester Fellowship
UMCOR

If you would like tax credit for your gift, please write your name and envelope number on the front of the envelope.

May the peace of Christ be with you today and always!

Blessings,
Cindy Denson
Missions Committee Chair

OXFORD UNITED METHODIST TEEN MINISTRY

Teen Ministry Gathering dates:

Saturday, January 12th - Teen Gathering - from 6-8pm

Sunday, January 13th - **Soup, sandwiches and Games** - 12:00-2:00pm (come have lunch with us)

Saturday, January 26 - Teen Gathering - from 6-8pm

Saturday, February 9 - Teen Gathering - from 6-8pm

Sunday, February 10th - **Soup, sandwiches and Games** - 12:00-2:00pm (come have lunch with us)

Our Teen Ministry Gatherings are open to all teens ages 13 and up and held at the Oxford United Methodist Church. If you have any questions, please contact Dave or Christine Kilmonis at dck3b1@gmail.com.

Soup, Sandwiches and Games

The Teen Ministry group at Oxford United Methodist Church would like to invite you to their winter lunches on **January 13th**, February 10th, and March 10th, from 12:00-2:00. If you would like to get out of the house and spend some time with others please come and have a good meal and some fun during the cold days of winter. In January we will be serving tomato soup and ham and cheese sandwiches, February will be chicken noodle soup and grilled cheese sandwiches and March will be vegetable soup with turkey and cheese sandwiches.

We will have Yahtzee, Scrabble and Uno available or bring your own game and teach others how to play!



Enjoy the free meal!



Enjoy time with friends!

Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

For the month of **January** the Food Shelf is accepting donations of: **Canned pasta**
On January 6th 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 (next to the office door).

In February we will be looking for instant potatoes, hamburger helper, tuna helper

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!

**PULPIT EXCHANGE
PRAYERS, PRSENCE, GIFTS,
SERVICE, WITNESS**

Starting January 13th and ending February 24th, Pastor Judd and four other pastors that are part of the Worcester Area United Methodists will be taking part in a pulpit exchange. Each pastor will preach about one of the promises we make every time someone is Baptized in our presence. We have promised to uphold the United Methodist Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. We will also be learning about what it means to Witness. Each pastor will preach on one topic at each of the five churches taking part.



If you cannot make it to church, you can join us on YouTube!!! Go to YouTube and type in "Oxford Massachuestts 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 mistype Massachuestts.

I want to say thank you for the Christmas gift. It was very much appreciated. I really do enjoy working as your Church Secretary.
Sue Stone

From the Financial Secretary:

Please note that the new 2019 giving envelopes will be in the Narthex, closer to the end of January, on a table, ready for you to pick up before or after church service. If you need the envelopes mailed to you, please reach out at the number or email below.

Please be reminded that if you need a report of your charitable contributions to the church for your 2019 taxes, either contact me at 508-581-9299 or palsigel@yahoo.com, OR leave a message in the church office.

Also, please note that the only method we have of recording your contributions, to provide you with an end-of-the-year report, is to link you to a giving envelope number. If you would like to have a box of giving envelopes, please see one of the counters in the church office after Sunday service, or contact me at the phone number or email above.

Please note that beginning January 1st, Kim Zostant will be your new Financial Secretary. It has been my pleasure and a blessing to serve OUMC in this capacity. Thank you to all the counters, and the Finance Committee for the help you so faithfully provided.

Thank you!

Pam Sigel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Keith Brennan	1/3
Stephen Bouchard	1/11
Hazel Prouty	1/18
Daniel Lee	1/22
Wendy Bengtson	1/26
Kody Morio	1/30



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

The next edition of The Clock, the OUMC newsletter, will be for February 2019. The **deadline** for submitting articles for the February 2019 edition is 7:00 PM on **Monday, January 28th**.

Please send any items for The Clock to: c.l.denson54@gmail.com. **Thank you.**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Wendy & Moy Bengtson 1/3



January Lay Readers

January 6	Sue Stone
January 13	Angela Gillette
January 20	Bruce Denson
January 27	Nancy Bouchard

January Altar Flowers

January 6	open
January 13	Morrow
January 20	Bathgate
January 27	open

Oxford United Methodist Church

Sunday Morning Schedule



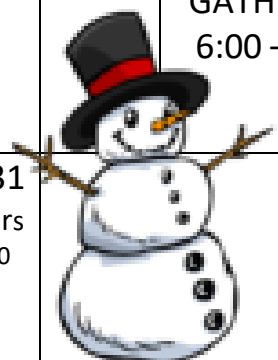
8:00 AM	Choir rehearsal
9:00 AM	Sunday School Classes
9:00 AM	Morning Worship Service

(child care available during Sunday activities and service)

Serving the Church

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

Starting on November 5th, the church office will usually be open on Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9:00am to Noon, and Pastor Judd's Office Hours will be Wednesdays, 9:00 AM to Noon or by appointment.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <h1 style="color: blue; font-family: serif;">JANUARY 2019</h1>						
		1	2 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10 AM	3 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00	4	5
6 EPIPHANY/WHITE GIFTS SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship Following Worship	7	8	9 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10AM Ad Council 7PM	10 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00	11	12 TEEN GATHERING 6:00 – 8:00
13 WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship Following Worship Soup, Sandwiches & Games 12:00-2:00	14	15	16 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10AM Finance 7PM	17 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00 PPRC 7PM	18	19
20 WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship Following Worship Missions Committee meeting	21	22	23 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10AM	24 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00	25	26 TEEN GATHERING 6:00 – 8:00
27 WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship Following Worship Sandwich Making for Worcester Fellowship	28	29	30 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10AM	31 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00	 <small>This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC</small>	

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). 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.