

THE CLOCK

A publication of

OXFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Barry Judd

February 2019

"Grow in Christ...Share Our Faith"

Dear Beloved Family,

I would like to devote this article to four January birthdays:

January 11 - I cannot thank you enough for the overwhelming expression of love I received from you recognizing my 50th birthday. What a party! I appreciate so very much the presence of all of you who were able to be present, and the gifts, cheer and blessings from many of you who were unable to be present. It was such a joy to celebrate this milestone of 25% of my life (yes, I only plan to live to be 200) with you. It is a joy and pleasure to be part of this special spiritual family.!

January 19 - Karen also wishes to express her gratitude to the many people who sent cards and gifts to celebrate her birthday as well. She is as blessed as I am by our Church family. It is impolite to discuss a lady's age, and Karen is a true lady. However, I'll simply note that she is closer to 200 than am I.

January 16 - Blessing Marie Judd was born, making us first time grandparents. Yay! We would also like to thank you for the many expressions of joy we received from you, in celebration together with us. She is doing very well and will be going home soon. She has already brought excitement and happiness to my family. Thanks be to the Lord.

January 15 - The birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Let us together give thanks to God for the vision and determination of people such as MLK and continue the work which needs to be accomplished to make the dream he articulated a reality one day. I continue to be amazed that after his life experiences he was not promoting his race to rise up in fear against anyone; but to stand firm in trust of God's love to bring equality to everyone. This is not a concept developed by people, but is an idea revealed by the very mind of God.

May God richly bless you throughout the remainder of 2019, as we serve the Lord together.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Judd

FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 3 Jeremiah 1:4-10
 Psalm 71:1-6
 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
 Luke 4:21-30

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 10 **Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)**
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

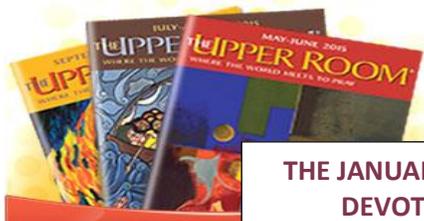
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 17 **Jeremiah 17:5-10**
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 24 **Genesis 45:3-11, 15**
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

GET YOUR FREE COPY WHILE THEY LAST



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. And for John and Danielle.

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.

**Quinsigamond United Church
 Chicken Parmesan Dinner**

Saturday February 23, 2019 at 5:00pm
 cost \$10.00 for adults. \$5.00 12 and under
 Free for under 5 years
 Reservations would be appreciated

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

Watch for announcements about our March 5th Shrove Tuesday [also known as "Fat Tuesday" or "Mardi Gras"] celebration.

5 Ways to Welcome Newcomers to Your Church

Why it's so important to make everyone feel at home in church.

Arthritis had crept into her joints and the years had caught up with her, but that didn't stop Macie Bailey each Sunday morning. She's gone home to be with Jesus for quite a while now, but I can still see her so clearly, her white hair in a bun and a sweet smile as she made her rounds through our church.

She'd greet newcomers with "Welcome, I'm so glad to see you'uns!" as she gave them a hug. It didn't matter if they were from low-income housing, wealthy or a big-name politician, all were made to feel welcome. I always enjoyed watching the reactions. Some would be taken aback, unused to such exuberant hospitality, but they always walked away with a smile. None of them ever left our church feeling like they hadn't been warmly welcomed.

So you can understand why it made me so sad to read a friend's Facebook post recently. She and her husband have moved to a new state and they've been trying to find a church home.

Here's what she posted:

We've gone to this church about eight times. It's like we're ghosts. I started going to the women's Bible study. I can't imagine sitting with a new person and sharing like you do in Bible study, and not trying to connect. Every single week after the study, ladies figure out where to go to lunch. And I'm right there and not one person invites me to join them. The retreat was yesterday. A lady asked if I was going. I explained that we have one car and that Gary needed it for work. Talk about a perfect opportunity to offer to give me a ride. Nope. She walked away.

Folks, that's so sad to me. That's not how church should be—yet I've experienced it myself when I've been out of town and visited churches. What broke my heart was thinking about all those hungry souls—about people who were desperately searching for God's love—who might have finally worked up their courage to go to church...and then no one spoke to them or made them feel welcome.

How to fix that? Here are 5 ways:

- 1) Make sure that everyone who walks through the doors will feel welcome and wanted. A simple "I'm glad you're here, and I hope you'll come back!" goes a long way.
- 2) Instead of jetting out the doors as soon as the "Amen" is uttered from the closing prayer, take a few minutes to talk to the newcomers. Invite them to Bible study. Tell them about the activities for their children.
- 3) Be an extension of God's loving hands. Take a casserole, send a card or provide help as needed.
- 4) Ask newcomers how you can pray for them.
- 5) Introduce them to other church members and your staff. Help them build a community.

It takes so little to make someone feel welcome—and it takes so little for someone to feel so unwelcome that they will never enter the doors of a church again.

Every church needs a Miss Macie to make folks feel welcome. Could you be the Miss Macie for your church?

OXFORD UNITED METHODIST TEEN MINISTRY

Teen Ministry Gathering dates:

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 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 February we will be serving 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 **February**, the Food Shelf is accepting donations of:

instant potatoes, hamburger helper, tuna helper

On February 3rd 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).

**February is our church's month to be the host church at the Food Shelf.
Help is needed every Thursday night from 5:15PM to 7:15PM.**

In March we will be looking for HBA items:

(toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, deodorant, shaving cream)

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!

Mission shares paid in full!

This is the sixth year in a row Oxford has met its commitment. When churches meet this goal, we insure programs like UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) have sufficient funds available when disaster strikes. Regardless of the location in the world or type of situation, UMCOR is there ready to assist.

Our Mission Share commitment for 2019 is listed in our annual budget at \$15,729. We will reach this goal much like how we did last year: apportioning some of the regular offering each week and any envelopes marked as "Missions". The church supper profits are oftentimes earmarked for mission shares. Your Finance Committee meets regularly to review income and prayerfully decide how to balance payments to best meet all our financial obligations. Your pledges are making a difference! Thank you and praise God!

2 Corinthians 9:7 – *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"*.

PRAYER BEARS



Thank you for your generous donations of Prayer Bears. Please keep them coming. We can never have too many to pass on to those in need of comfort and prayer.

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



MISSIONS

Thank you for your continued support of Worcester Fellowship. This wonderful program provides food and clothing to homeless people in Worcester. Along with handing out lunches and new socks, Worcester Fellowship also provides a weekly worship service with prayer, song and communion. There is a weekly Bible Study on Sunday evenings in the atrium at St. Vincent's Hospital. Dunkin Donuts gift cards, often donated by members of OUMC, are used to provide hot drinks during the Bible Study.

Their Thursday Café at All Saint's Church gives people a chance to rest with-out fear of their few belongings being stolen. This is also where they can receive new underwear, toiletries and warm clothing donated by you and members of other churches.

There is a constant, year-round, need for new socks, t-shirts, underwear for men and women, feminine products and toiletries.

Let Jesus guide your heart and your giving.

Hebrews 13:16 ESV

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Carolyn Adams	2/2
Iver Peterson, Jr.	2/5
Drahoradova, Lenka	2/19
John Adams	2/20
Bob Parmenter	2/21
Andrew Naim	2/21
Lisa Bellafatto	2/23



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

The next edition of The Clock, the OUMC newsletter, will be for March 2019. The **deadline** for submitting articles for the March 2019 edition is 7:00 PM on **Monday, February 23rd**.

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

I am very pleased to inform you that our church now has a renter. We have been praying for this to come about and our prayers have been answered.

Our new tenant is the Tabernacle of Praise - Assembly of God Church led by Pastor Sue Lynch. This church has been in Oxford for quite a few years and they needed to find a new place. The Tabernacle of Praise will be holding their Sunday morning service in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. and will also have a Sunday evening service. They will hold mid-week Bible Study and Prayer Group as well. The church runs the Community Go Round which is a clothing ministry to those in need. The CGR is in the large space on the left at the back entrance and is open Thursdays from 4 -7 p.m. This is a wonderful ministry to those in need.

We welcome Pastor Sue and her congregation.

Sue Stone
Lay Leader

February Lay Readers

<i>February 3</i>	<i>Sue Stone</i>
<i>February 10</i>	<i>Bob Parmenter</i>
<i>February 17</i>	<i>Bruce Denson</i>
<i>February 24</i>	<i>Iver Peterson</i>

February Altar Flowers

<i>February 3</i>	<i>Linda Primel</i>
<i>February 10</i>	<i>open</i>
<i>February 17</i>	<i>Parmenter</i>
<i>February 24</i>	<i>open</i>

Oxford United Methodist Church

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

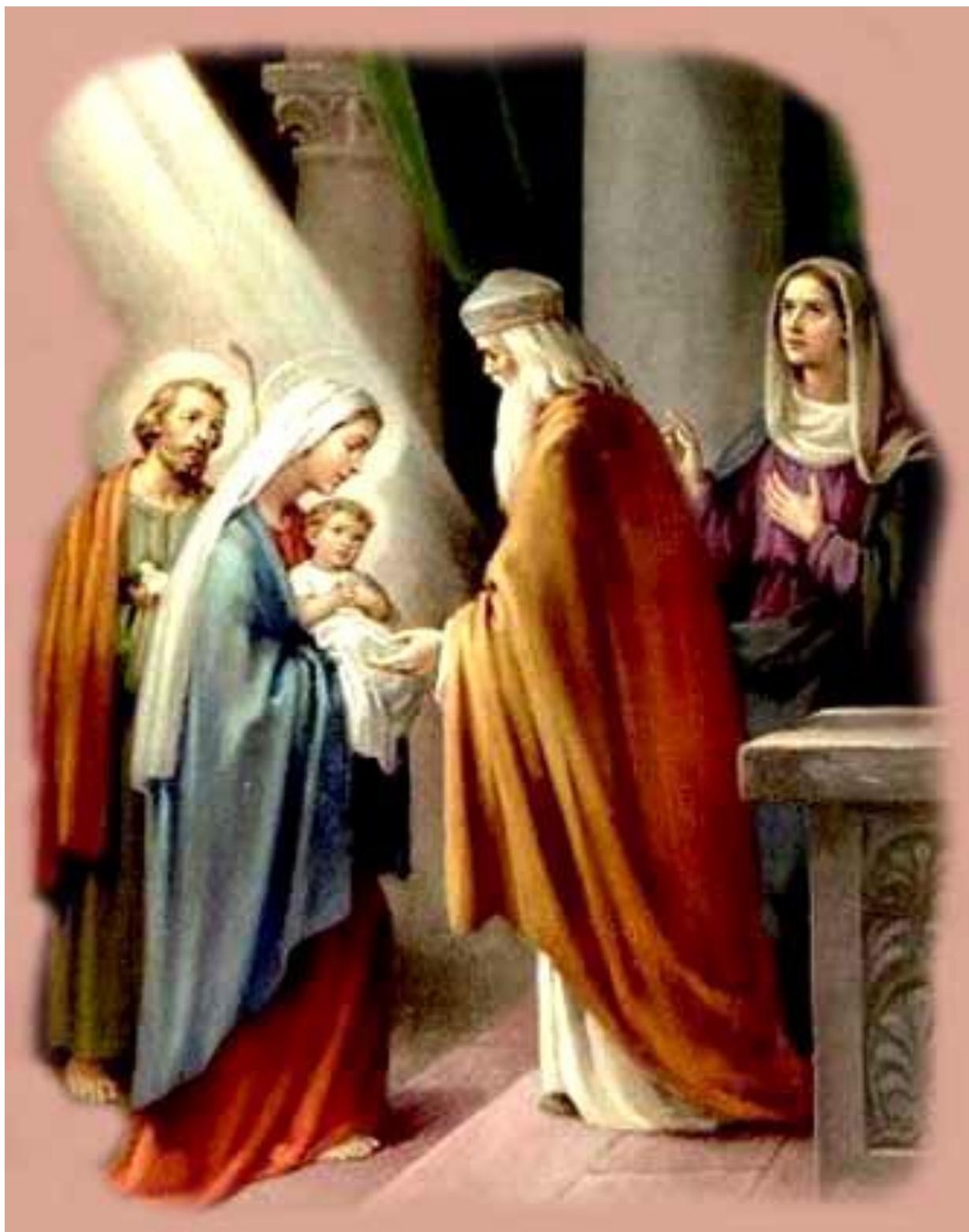
The church office is usually open on Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9:00am to Noon, and Pastor Judd's Office Hours are usually Wednesdays, 9:00 AM to Noon or by appointment.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
 <h1 style="font-family: serif; font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">FEBRUARY</h1>							
							1
<small>This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC</small>							
3 WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 SOUPER BOWL LUNCHEON Following Worship	4	5	6 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10AM Renewal Team 7PM - office	7 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00 OUMC Host at Food Shelf 5:15-7:15	8	9 TEEN GATHERIN G 6:00 – 8:00	
10 WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship Following Worship Soup, Sandwiches & Games 12:00-2:00	11	12	13 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10AM Administrative Council 7PM office	14 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00 OUMC Host at Food Shelf 5:15-7:15	15	16	
17 WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship Following Worship Missions Committee meeting	18  <small>This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC</small>	19	20 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10AM Finance/Stewardship 7PM - office	21 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00 SPRC 7PM OUMC Host at Food Shelf 5:15-7:15	22	23	
24 WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship Following Worship Sandwich Making for Worcester Fellowship	25	26	27 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10AM	28 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00 OUMC Host at Food Shelf 5:15-7:15	2019		

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.

Presentation of the Lord

Remembered on February 2,2019



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