

THE CLOCK

A publication of

OXFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Barry Judd

December 2019

“Grow in Christ...Share Our Faith”

Dear Beloved Family,

For the December newsletter, I would like to take a moment to express the joy and gratitude that Karen and I feel for you, our spiritual family, at this time of the year. Throughout Christmastide and Epiphany we will celebrate the grace of our Lord Jesus toward us in giving us spiritual riches beyond our comprehension. Some of these spiritual riches come to us through our connection to the Church. It is at this season of contemplation and celebration that the Judd family is reminded of the blessings God confers to us through each one of you.

While a statement of 'thank you' is not nearly enough, it is what we are able to bring as a blessing to you this season. We thank you for the presence you give to us throughout the year, and at Christmastide. No, I did not spell presence wrong. Presence is exactly what I wish to identify as an expression of one joy which our Lord gives to us through each one of you. There is a certain peace, joy and contentment which only comes through one's presence. I think of the traumatic moment in our Lord's life when He admitted that He was deeply grieved, even to death and asked His closest friends simply to "...stay awake with Me." (Matt. 26:38) There is something about the presence and attention received by one's friends at momentous crossroads in life that absolutely nothing else can replace. The same is true about the 'regular days' in life, when we may not be able to identify any trauma (thanks be to God!) but still would not wish to pass the days by all alone.

You give us the present of your presence at least each and every Sunday, and often so much more. If you ever wonder if anyone notices whether or not you are in Church any given week, rest assured that we notice. This is not said to add more stress to your life, but only in order to say thank you for the gift of your regular presence in our lives, not only at Christmas but 52 weeks a year. You may not know it, but you give to us a great gift of joy just by being there for us all the time. We pray we will share the same gift of presence with you so that our joy may be complete. Merry Christmas!

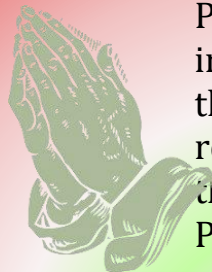
In Christ's Love,

Pastor Judd

DECEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 1	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>
December 8	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
December 15	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
December 22	Isaiah 7:1-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
December 29	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23	<i>First Sunday After Christmas Day</i>

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 and their caregivers, including: Harriet Brunnett, Bob Hatfield, Sally Johnson, Hazel Prouty & Carlton Thomas.

Pray for our church, our conference, our nation and for peace throughout the world.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.



Come join us for our candlelight service at 9:00 PM on Christmas Eve.

MISSION SHARES UPDATE

The latest financial figures show that we are behind in meeting our Mission Shares commitment this year. Mission Shares are our church's contribution to the programs funded by the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church. These programs are critical in supporting local, national and global aid to those in need.

If you find your giving commitment behind this year, this is a perfect time to catch up! All special offerings this holiday season will also be earmarked toward mission shares.

Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

This program helps keep people of Oxford from going hungry. **For the month of December, the Food Shelf is asking OUMC to donate the following: Coffee (regular and decaf) and hot chocolate**

Throughout December please place food items in the collection basket in the narthex (next to the office door).

In January we will be looking for:

Personal care items [soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, etc.]

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!

TEEN MINISTRY NEWS

This month is busy for the teens. We have our regular gathering on December 14th with food, fun and devotions. Then there are 2 opportunities for you to spend time with the teens. First, we are making pies on Saturday December 21st from 9:00am until we are done. If you would like to donate supplies or your time, both would be appreciated. Then on Saturday December 28th we are going to a Railers game at 7:05. After the game we come back have some food, fun and sleep. Let us know if you would like to join us for either of these events. The teens are an awesome group and you will leave with a smile on your face and joy in your heart.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Savannah Canty 12/4
Zachary Canty 12/19
Brenda Gabel 12/19
Kevin Stateham 12/28
Bruce Denson 12/28

Do you have a favorite hymn?

Write it down and give it to our organist, Ed LaLiberty, a choir member or a member of the Worship Committee, (Melissa Scales, Pam Marshalkowski, Bob Shedd and Cindy Denson).

OUMC MISSIONS

While you are enjoying the warmth of your home, remember our brothers and sisters that have no home and struggle to stay warm and dry during our New England winter. There is a blue box in Fellowship Hall where we are collecting winter clothing and other items to help keep the Lord's less fortunate children warm. All new and clean, gently used items accepted.



Please join us for our Christmas Pageant during service on December 15th!

This year our re-telling of the Christmas story will allow participation by all in the congregation who are moved by the Spirit to join in the fun! No need to prepare or bring a costume – just bring yourself and your singing voice.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT AND EPIPHANY

Dec 1st: First Sunday of Advent: Hanging of the Greens, Blessing of the Advent Wreath and Tree lighting

Dec 8th: Second Sunday Advent: Candle Lighting & Hanging of the Chrismons.

Dec 15th: Third Sunday of Advent: Candle Lighting & Blessing of the Nativity, Placement of Animals, Sunday School Christmas Pageant.

Dec 22nd: Fourth Sunday of Advent: Candle Lighting and Placement of Mary and Joseph in Nativity.

Dec 24th: Christmas Eve Service at 9pm. Lighting of Advent Candles and the Christ Candle, Placement of Angel and Christ Child.

Jan 5th: Epiphany Sunday (Three Kings): Placement of the Wise Men. "White Gifts" for Babies served by the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf to be brought forward.

From the Trustees

A big Thank You to all that donated to the window fund, we raised \$6,115.00 dollars, the project will be done soon. The price of the windows was \$2,800.00 they are vinyl windows, and the projected price of the vinyl siding \$4,600.00. That will do the back part of the building, excluding the brick. The siding is a Charcoal Gray, the existing windows and doors will be wrapped in aluminum flashing to extend their life.

Looking into the future, the projects on the table include fixing the sidewalks, filling the cracks and holes making it easy to walk on and not to trip, applying for a grant to replace the emergency exit doors at the front of the sanctuary.

Winter will be here soon, again this year we are using an ecofriendly salt mix with molasses. There will be buckets at the doors with shovels.

Please let me or Betty Caplette know if you have additional questions!

Blessing to all this holiday season!

Joe Bouchard

OUMC Teen Ministry Christmas Pie Fundraiser

The Oxford United Methodist Teen Ministry is making Christmas pies to raise money for their mission trip in July 2020. The pies will be made on Saturday December 21st and available for pick up that afternoon from 2:00-5:00pm or Sunday from 10:30 - 11:30. If you need delivery or a different time please call or text David at 508-769-4617. We will be baking apple crumb, sugar-free apple, pumpkin, chocolate cream pie and apple crisp. You may complete the order form and drop it off at the church, see a member of the Teen Ministry group, or call the church office at 508-987-5378. **Orders due by December 15, 2019.** You may pay by cash or a check made out to the Oxford United Methodist Church with teen ministry on the notes line.

OUMC Teen Ministry Christmas Pie Fundraising Order Form

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Dessert Type	Cost per pie	Quantity	Total
Apple Crumb	10.00		
Sugar-free Apple	10.00		
Pumpkin Pie	10.00		
Chocolate Cream	10.00		
Apple Crisp	10.00		



Please order your **poinsettias** now. The price is \$7.50 per plant. The cut-off date for ordering is December 11th.



In Loving memory of _____

given by _____

In Loving memory of _____

given by _____

In Honor of _____

given by _____

In Honor of _____

given by _____

Please make checks out to OUMC. Put the check and the order form in an envelope, write Poinsettia on the envelope and put it in the offering plate or call Cindy at 508-987-5241 by December 11th.

Thank you,
Cindy Denson

Total # of plants: _____

SAVE THE DATE: The Oxford United Methodist Charge Conference will be Sunday December 1st at 2:30 PM.



<i>December 1</i>	<i>Sue Stone</i>
<i>December 8</i>	<i>Cindy Denson</i>
<i>December 15</i>	<i>Brue Denson</i>
<i>December 22</i>	<i>Brenda Gabel</i>
<i>December 24</i>	<i>Sue Stone</i>
<i>December 29</i>	<i>Steve Gabel</i>

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 mistype Massachusettts.

<i>December 1</i>	<i>Open</i>	
<i>December 8</i>	<i>Cady</i>	
<i>December 15</i>	<i>Bouchard & Gabel</i>	
<i>December 22</i>	<i>Poinsettias</i>	
<i>December 29</i>	<i>Open</i>	

Please know that if there is a week when you would like to have flowers on the altar, but there is already a name there, a second bouquet can be added.
The cost is \$18. per bouquet. And yes, you do take the flowers home with you after the service.



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:
 The next edition of The Clock, the OUMC newsletter, will be for January 2020. The **deadline** for submitting articles for this edition is 7:00 PM on **Friday, December 27th**.
 Please send any items for The Clock to: c.l.denson54@gmail.com **Thank you.**

Oxford United Methodist Church

Sunday Morning Schedule		Serving the Church	
8:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Ministers	All members of the congregation
9:15 AM	Sunday School Classes	Pastor	Barry Judd
9:00 AM	Morning Worship Service	Organist/Choir Director	Ed LaLiberty
(child-care available during Sunday activities and service)		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



DECEMBER 2019

<p>1</p> <p>Choir 8:15 WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 FOOD SHELF DONATIONS Fellowship Following Worship</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10AM Renewal Team Committee 7 PM</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00 Spiritual Formation 7 – 8 PM</p> <p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>Choir 8:15 WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship Following Worship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10AM Ad Council 7 PM Poinsettia Orders Due</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00 Final Spiritual Formation 7 – 8 PM</p> <p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>TEEN GATHERING 6-8 PM</p>
<p>Pie Orders Due 15</p> <p>Choir 8:15 WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 DISCRETIONARY FUND DONATIONS DURING COMMUNION Fellowship with coffee and donuts Following Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>Office Hours 9:00-12:00 Bible Study 10AM</p> <p>18</p>	<p>Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00</p> <p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>TEEN Pie Making 9 AM – 4 PM</p>
<p>Choir 8:15 STEWADRSHIP WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship Following Worship Sandwich Making for Worcester Fellowship</p> <p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Christmas Eve Service 9PM</p> <p>24</p>	 <p>25</p>	<p>Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00</p> <p>26</p>	<p>CLOCK DEADLINE 6:00 PM</p> <p>27</p>	<p>TEENS going to RAILERS GAME</p> <p>28</p>
<p>Choir 8:15 WORSHIP 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship with coffee and donuts Following Worship</p> <p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

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.