

# THE CLOCK

A publication of

OXFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Barry Judd

March 2020

"Grow in Christ...Share Our Faith"

Dear Beloved Family,

I would like to focus my March article upon the fast approaching Season of Lent, particularly from the foundation established by our recent sermon series through the Season after the Epiphany, "So You're Dead...Now What?". We have considered some of the most pertinent passages of Scripture relating to what God has revealed to us regarding the future for all disciples of Jesus following the end of our lives. While much of the material was familiar, and some of it perhaps surprising, I trust that the one common theme was hope. From our first glance at Isaiah 42, through the concepts of resurrection and kingdom, into the new Heaven and Earth and even the rewards at the time of judgment, God speaks to us of hope. God always tells His people what to expect before He does some colossal act, and our future is no exception. We need not fear that we will be forgotten, or that we will forfeit our unique character, or that others who have died before us are longing for our arrival, or that we will be bored for eternity. God has promised us so much more!

As we enter together into the contemplative Season of Lent, may we consider our hope. How do God's promises strengthen our lives today? How does our hope in Christ motivate us to make a difference in our world right now? Where do I feel hopeless, and how can Jesus live with me in those feelings too? May we stop...think...reconsider...ask questions without demanding answers and abide in Christ more intentionally than we have for a long time...and listen to God. We may be surprised what we hear if we shut up long enough to listen.

In Christ's Love.

*Pastor Judd*

## 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: Moy Bengtson, Tim Denson, George Foster and Rose Pilling.

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.

**MARCH SCRIPTURE READINGS**

<b>March 1</b>	<b>Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7</b> <b>Psalm 32</b> <b>Romans 5:12-19</b> <b>Matthew 4:1-11</b>	<b>First Sunday in Lent</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Genesis 12:1-4a</b> <b>Psalm 121</b> <b>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</b> <b>John 3:1-17</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Lent</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Exodus 17:1-7</b> <b>Psalm 95</b> <b>Romans 5:1-11</b> <b>John 4:5-42</b>	<b>Third Sunday in Lent</b>
<b>March 22</b>	<b>2 Samuel 16:1-13</b> <b>Psalm 23</b> <b>Ephesians 5:8-14</b> <b>Luke 1:26-38</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>Ezekiel 37:1-14-7</b> <b>Psalm 130</b> <b>Romans 8:6-11</b> <b>John 11:1-45</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>

**Happy Anniversary**

Malcolm & Melissa Scales 3/22

**Happy Birthday**

- Matthew Kilmonis 3/2
- Charles Stone 3/10
- Mary Ellen Peterson 3/11
- Joshua Kilmonis 3/14
- Jason Stateham 3/16
- Ruth Mathurin 3/21
- Mary Latham 3/24
- Keith Krusas 3/24
- Bethany Abrahamson 3/27
- Laura LeBreton 3/30

**Worcester Fellowship sends their sincere thanks for all the coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, blankets and other items you have donated to help the homeless stay warm during the winter.**

**This is the season of Lent. How are you preparing to celebrate the risen Christ? Come join us in worship during this most holy time in the Christian calendar.**

**Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf**

This program helps keep people of Oxford from going hungry. For the month of March, the Food Shelf is asking OUMC to donate the following: **Sugar Free and Gluten Free items**

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

**In April we will be looking for:**

**To Be Announced – Watch the announcement slides on Sunday mornings.** 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!**

**Save the Date: Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

# **3rd ANNUAL PASTA WITH A PURPOSE & TRIVIA 5 – 8 pm**

Dinner will be served from 5:00 - 6:30 followed by Trivia till 8:00 pm

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

Menu includes:

Spaghetti and sauce with or without meatballs  
 Rolls                      Salad                      Brownies



\$8.00 for Adults

\$4.00 for Children

\$20.00 per family maximum

### *March Lay Readers*

<i>March 1</i>	<i>Sue Stone</i>
<i>March 8</i>	<i>Steve Gabel</i>
<i>March 15</i>	<i>Brue Denson</i>
<i>March 22</i>	<i>Malcolm Scales</i>
<i>March 29</i>	<i>Cindy Denson</i>

### *March Altar Flowers*

<i>March 1</i>	<i>open</i>
<i>March 8</i>	<i>open</i>
<i>March 15</i>	<i>Brennan</i>
<i>March 22</i>	<i>Kilmonis</i>
<i>March 29</i>	<i>Gabel</i>

*Please let the church secretary, Sue Stone, know what you would like printed in the bulletin 2 weeks prior to your chosen date.*

## MISSION SHARES UPDATE

2020 commitment

\$15,000



March 1<sup>st</sup>

\$1,600

To meet this important goal, each month a portion of the rent we receive is earmarked for mission shares. Also included in our monthly payments are any **designated gifts**. These are offerings with “Mission Shares” marked on the envelope. There are a number of these in our offering envelope boxes. If you’d like to send an extra gift towards meeting our goal use this envelope or just write “Missions” on another envelope.



*Your gift may be someone else’s miracle*



### *5th Sunday Brunch*

*Join us after church on March 29th right after Church*

*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 Breakfast Casserole*

*H – O Juices or Yogurt*

*P – Z Fruit*

*Any questions see Nancy Bouchard*



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.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank you to those who knit and those who crochet. They pray as they work with the yarn to make prayer shawls. The shawls are then placed on the altar and blessed during Sunday worship. They are then placed in the hall near the entrance to Fellowship Hall. They are there so they can be given to people whom we want to surround with our prayers and our love. Won't you consider making a shawl. We have bins of donated yarn for you to use. Patterns are available from Cindy Denson

Do you have a favorite hymn? Write it down and give it to our organist, Ed LaLiberte, a choir member or a member of the Worship Committee, (Melissa Scales, Pam Marshalkowski, Bob Shedd and Cindy Denson).



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 prayer.

## Easter morning will be here on April 12<sup>th</sup>

Please use this form if you would like a pot of Daffodils or Tulips placed on the altar on Easter Sunday "In Honor of" or "In Loving Memory of" someone special. The price is \$8.00 for each pot of blooming bulbs. Please complete the information below and put the form in an envelope and into the offering plate, or mail it to: Oxford United Methodist Church, 465 Main Street, Oxford MA 01540. All checks should be made out to "OUMC Altar Flowers", with "Easter" on the memo line. The deadline for ordering is March 29<sup>th</sup>.



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In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ given by \_\_\_\_\_

# of Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_ # of Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: due to severe allergies, there will be no live Easter lilies in the church this year.

## **Baked Haddock Dinner**

**Friday, April 3, 2020**

**Adults \$10.00**

**Children \$5.00**

**Dinner includes:**

**Clam Chowder, Baked Haddock,  
Rice Pilaf, Carrots**

**Dessert & Assorted Beverages**

**Contact Nancy Bouchard**

**508-328-8839 with questions & advanced reservations**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <h1>MARCH 2020</h1>						1
1 <b>Choir 8:30</b> <b>WORSHIP 9:00</b> Sunday School 9:15 <b>FOOD SHELF DONATIONS</b> Fellowship Following Worship	2 <b>Spiritual Formation Classes at OUMC</b> 7 PM	3 <b>Choir</b> Rehearsal 7 PM	4 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 <b>Bible Study 10AM</b> Renewal/Worship 7 PM	5 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00	6 Pasta for a Purpose Spaghetti Dinner 5-6:30 PM Trivia @ 8	7 <b>Spiritual Formation Classes</b> 10 at QUMC <b>TEEN GATHERING 6-8 PM</b>
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 8 BEGINS <b>Choir 8:30</b> <b>WORSHIP 9:00</b> Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship with coffee and donuts Following Worship	9 <b>Spiritual Formation Classes at OUMC</b> 7 PM	10 <b>Choir</b> Rehearsal 7 PM	11 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 <b>Bible Study 10AM</b> Ad Council 6:30 PM	12 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00	13	14 <b>Spiritual Formation Classes</b> 10 AM at QUMC
15 <b>Choir 8:30</b> <b>WORSHIP 9:00</b> Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship with coffee and donuts Following Worship	16 <b>Spiritual Formation Classes at OUMC</b> 7 PM	17 <b>Choir</b> Rehearsal 7 PM 	18 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 <b>Bible Study 10AM</b>	19 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00	20 	21 <b>Spiritual Formation Classes</b> 10 AM at QUMC <b>TEEN GATHERING 6-8 PM</b>
22 <b>Choir 8:30</b> <b>WORSHIP 9:00</b> Sunday School 9:15 Fellowship with coffee and donuts Following Worship Sandwich Making for Worcester Fellowship	23 <b>Spiritual Formation Classes at OUMC</b> 7 PM	24 <b>Choir</b> Rehearsal 7 PM	25 Office Hours & Pastor's Hours 9:00-12:00 <b>Bible Study 10AM</b> CLOCK DEADLINE 6:00 PM	26 Office Hours 9:00 – 12:00 CLOCK DEADLINE 6:00 PM	27	28 <b>Spiritual Formation Classes</b> 10 AM at QUMC
29 <b>Choir 8:30</b> <b>WORSHIP 9:00</b> Sunday School 9:15 <b>BRUNCH</b> during Fellowship Following Worship	30 <b>Spiritual Formation Classes at OUMC</b> 7 PM	31 <b>Choir</b> Rehearsal 7 PM	 <p>Photos by Unknown Author is licensed under <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/">CC BY-ND</a></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](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.



As winter comes to an end, the wet season is beginning. Please donate new white crew socks or tube socks to help the homeless keep their feet dry. We hope to fill the box next to the side entrance with new socks by April 19<sup>th</sup>.



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## Oxford United Methodist Church

### Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 AM                                      Choir Rehearsal  
 9:15 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
Organist/Choir Director	Ed LaLiberte
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.



### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

The next edition of The Clock, the OUMC newsletter, will be for April 2020. The **deadline** for submitting articles for this edition is 7:00 PM on **Thursday, March 26th**. Please send any items for The Clock to: [c.l.denson54@gmail.com](mailto:c.l.denson54@gmail.com) **Thank you.**