

the grapevine

April 2016 | Monthly Newsletter of Oxford United Methodist Church



"You Wanna Go Where Everybody Knows Your Name!"

April is name tag month.

Please wear name tags this month.

We have many new members who are trying to get to know us. Let's give ourselves names.

Wear your name tag. Be kind.

We have members who are wonderfully kind folks, but not good with names. Let them read your name.

Do not embarrass them.

Wear your name tag. Be kind.

We have members with poor memories. Give them a break.

Wear your name tag. Be kind.

Attention new members!! You have a name tag in the sanctuary entrance.

Be sure to locate it and wear it. Be kind.

***Otherwise, you may be called
"Norm!"***

Heritage Sunday

Out of the Past . . . Will Come the Future Sunday, April 17, 9:15 & 11:30 am

What do John & Lottie Millsaps, William Hodges, Ellen Burns, Mary Elaine Jenkins, Charlene McGuire, Louise Taylor, Rose Cervantes, Thomas Bohannon, Joel Schnitz and Joyce Tumlinson have in common? They have been members of Oxford United Methodist Church over 50 years! Come and see what they looked like when they joined our church family in the 1950's and 1960's on Sunday, April 17, when we celebrate **Heritage Sunday—Oxford's 49th Anniversary.**

We will also recognize our 25-year members and ring the old bell to call us to church. It's a day to invite those who may have moved away to come back to remember and rejoice. Because the roots of the past only serve to anchor us for growth in our future, we will also be celebrating our newest members as well—all those who have joined Oxford within the last five years. Out of the past, will come the future.



“ATTENTION ALL INTERESTED OXFORD UMC MEMBERS”:

The Trustees are sponsoring a work/clean-up day April 9th to improve the outdoor appearance of our property. We would like all able-bodied folks to meet on April 9th and help us in that task. Start time will be 9am and finish about 12pm or so. Bring any outdoor tools you are comfortable operating so that we can be safe as possible. The work areas will be broken up into sections so we can get good coverage as we work. The last workday was very successful and with your help we can make April 9th a success as well. If you have any questions, please contact me and

the other Trustees. *Regards, Larry Riley, Oxford Trustees*

Rummage Sale Needs

Oxford's Annual Rummage Sale will be on Friday, May 6 from 9 am to 5 pm and on Saturday, May 7 from 9 am to 3 pm. We are seeking volunteers, donations of rummage and finer items for the boutique, as well as hangers and shopping bags. There are so many ways to participate, and we need your help. It will be an amazing success! You may bring your donated items to the church office. *For more information contact Sandra Peterson at sandra@oxfordumc.org*



O⁺ Youth Group News

The youth group's season of trips is about ready to take off! Here are some of our highlighted upcoming dates to mark on your calendars:

April

- 17-May 1: Financial Peace University for 8th grade –college aged youth
- 29-30: 30 Hour Famine, Lock In and community service project

May

- 22- Graduation Celebration
- 29- Parent's Day at Youth

June

- 12-18: High School Mission Trip to SOS in Memphis, TN \$100

July

- 10-13: Middle School mission trip to Mt. Wesley in Kerrville, TX \$75
- 18-22: Summer Retreat at HEB Foundation Camp Windsong, Leakey, TX \$80

When does youth meet? All 6-12 grade students are welcome to come to youth group, which meets on Wednesday evenings 6:30-8 pm in the gym and Sundays at 1:00 pm in the gym (lunch provided.) For more information please contact the youth director, Kristi Forister, in the church office 210.696.0192 or email Kristi@oxfordumc.org





KIDS' NIGHT OUT IS GREAT! DON'T MISS IT!

Kids' Night Out is Friday, April 8 from 6 pm until 10 pm. Please RSVP by Thursday, March 3 by

calling the church office or contact Ms. Rosana at mdo@oxfordumc.org



Join us at our quarterly meeting Saturday morning, **May 14 at 9:30 am in the Family Life Center** as we welcome guest speaker Dr. Ellen L. Palmer. Dr. Palmer will provide insight and understanding of the United Methodist Church's work in mission throughout the world - and in particular the involvement of UMW. Dr. Palmer is the mother of Oxford member Peggy Francis and has been a Methodist since her marriage to the late Rev. Dr. James B. Palmer, Sr. in 1954. Together they began mission work in La Paz Bolivia in 1959. The death of her husband in 2011 has not slowed her down - she is a very active member of FUMC McKinney and is currently involved in several projects in Haiti. Come ready to be inspired and energized about mission through the United Methodist Church and UMW!



College Scholarship Applications

College Scholarship Applications are available now! Currently we have three types of scholarships to offer. If you are interested please stop by the Education building for an application. For more information you can contact Kristi Forister in the church office or via email at Kristi@oxfordumc.org

Blood Drive

Oxford is sponsoring a BLOOD DRIVE on Sunday, April 10 from 9:15 am—1 pm in the church parking lot. Blood Donor Requirements are: Anyone who is 16 years old and weighs at least 120 pounds (with a parental consent form), or at least 17 years old and weighs at least 110 pounds, and in good general health can donate blood. Donors must present photo ID, last four digits of their Social Security and their birth date. Sign up in the Narthex this Sunday!

Stephen Ministry

On Sunday, April 10 in both worship services, we will be commissioning and acknowledging the Stephen Ministers who serve among us in the church family. We are blessed to have an active Stephen Ministry here at Oxford. To find out more about Stephen Ministry, please be in worship on Sunday, April 10 or visit www.stephenministries.org

What is the Most Important Fact About You?

In May, a group of 6th-10th graders will say, "I am a Christian" and join our church family with professions of faith. They begin exploring their journey with Christ on retreat Friday through Saturday, April 9-10 at the church.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, please:

- Make a note on your registration form in the attendance pad this coming Sunday.
- Contact Kristi Forister or Rev. Shirley Hill through the church office.

Prayer Shawls

Ever since the prayer shawls have been moved into the Sanctuary and on the pews they have been going out to people in need faster than we can knit or crochet them! If you can knit, crochet or create a prayer shawl we are in need of more ASAP! Please drop them off to the church office to be tagged and placed on a pew.

If you would like to take a prayer shawl please see a church employee or usher so we may check it out to you and follow up later about the recipient.



Message from Pastor John

At the first of July I will be leaving you as your pastor. Changes in appointments in United Methodist churches are made on a yearly basis at Annual Conference. This year the decision has been made to move me elsewhere. Our District Superintendent and I have been in conversation with District Superintendents whose areas of responsibility lie next to Dallas where my wife and I have two daughters, two sons-in-law, and five of our six granddaughters. There is a possibility that I will be appointed there. I have been pastor here for seven years, which is as good long time. It's time for someone with new ideas, new excitement and energy to take over.

I have enjoyed my time with you. I love this church and will grieve to depart from it. So many of you have been significant parts of my life, that it will tear a portion of my heart away to leave you. However, the future is bright for this church. For a while there were almost no children, but there are coming to be some more now. Also, we've had several babies born to our congregation in the last few months; that's very exciting. We have more young adults in the congregation. The youth program continues to prosper, and there are a number of youth in the program who were not in the church a year ago. The music program continues to be an excellent and integral part of the church. I will really miss Doug, Lorene, and the choir at the first service and Pat, Michelle and the Elevate band at the second. I will miss the warm, friendly, and welcoming attitude you have as a congregation. This is a place of love. And I thank you for that. Perhaps more than anything, I will miss the staff. This is a hard-working bunch, but we are not only colleagues but friends. They make it fun to come to work. I will truly miss them. I will especially miss our lunches together.

I will continue to be your pastor through late June and continue to be responsible for pastoral duties until then. But after my departure, that will no longer be the case, and you will need to look to your new pastor, whoever that might be, for your pastoral needs. After my departure I will not be doing weddings, funerals, or baptisms. This is for your new pastor to do, so please do not ask me. I will, of course, want to know what the news is from Oxford. Just because I will no longer be the pastor does not mean that I will no longer be a friend.

Our District Superintendent Carl Rohlf is already hard at work in getting you a pastor you will love. I cannot tell you when the identity of the new pastor will be announced, but I anticipate that it will be in the next two or three weeks.

I wish God's blessings upon you. I am grateful for the grace God has given me through you, and I covet your prayers for the future.

I love you.

Pastor John

Wednesday Night Study Will Return in May!

Our next chance to learn and fellowship together will begin Wednesday, May 4 at 6:45 pm. Tony Thompson has agreed to lead us in another study. We haven't decided upon the material yet, but with Tony at the helm we know it will be interesting and useful to our daily lives.

We plan on bringing back the "themed" meals and games at 5:30 and we are looking for a class leader for a 4:00pm study.

So save the date, mark your calendars...May 4 – 5:30 dinner and games, followed by study at 6:45. Stay tuned for more information.

NEW United Methodist Women's Circle Forming

Peggy Francis is starting a **NEW** evening **UM** Women's Circle on Monday, April 4 @ 6:30 pm. We will start with the book Where do you Kneel? By Burt Palmer, and call ourselves the *Kneeling Sisters Circle*. Please prayerfully consider joining us as we meet monthly on the first Monday. Peggy Francis has the books available for the class. Please contact Peggy for more information at ppfand-bird@gmail.com



SAVE the DATE for our **Annual Women's Retreat at The Haven River Inn** in Comfort, TX.—April 22-24! The cost per person is \$150. Sign up today!



Senior Fellowship

Our Senior Fellowship Meals are Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's at 12 noon in the Family Life Center. We have donuts and we play cards on Wednesday's. But, every time we gather, we have a very enjoyable time. Our focus is to be together and to grow in friendship. If you are over the age of 60, we invite you to join us for our Senior Fellowship. You are invited!

APRIL

*Birthdays
of the Month*

Name	Date Of Birth - Month
Boldt, Doug	04/22
Deleon Sevcik, Kailey	04/21
Forister, Pat	04/15
Forister, Phillip (Phil)	04/15
Gerry, Alexis	04/16
Gustafson, Kathryn (Katy)	04/18
Hargis, Linda	04/13
Ivens, Billy	04/16
Keeler, Doris	04/03
Keeler, Karen	04/22
La Vallee, Robert (R.C.)	04/12
Lindemann, Eloise	04/02
Maloy, Evan (Evan Abraham)	04/03
Mason, Jerry	04/27
Mason, Margaret	04/21
McGuffin, Mary Ann	04/18
Moses, Dennis	04/29
Peterson, Paul	04/20
Phillips, James	04/24
Ross, Ricci	04/23
Taylor, Helen	04/05
Taylor, Louise	04/20
Taylor, Norman A.	04/01
Zavala, Nick	04/09

If we missed your Birthday this month, please send your birthday info to michelle@oxfordumc.org

The April Birthday Bash will be on Sunday, April



Isabel Solis, mother of Felix Solis and Gabby McCumber joined with Oxford on Easter Sunday, March 27 at the 9:15 am Worship Service.



Birth Announcements

Baby Boy Anakin Lee Work was born on March 12 2016 at weighing 9 lbs. and 7 oz. Mom and Dad Steve and Emily Work are so blessed!

Mailey Ellesse Espino, the granddaughter of Mario and Teresa Carper – Espino and Great-granddaughter to Lorene Carper, was born on March 17th weighing 7lbs 3ozs 20 3/4 inches long. Mom Meghan and Dad Mario Alan Espino are so blessed!



Worship Attendance

February 28

9:15 a.m...114
11:30 am ...98
Nursery ...12
Total... 224
Sunday School...74

March 6

9:15 am130
11:30 am...83
Nursery5
Total 218
Sunday School76

March 13

9:15.....100
11:30 a.m...92
Nursery ...10
Total202
Sunday School...92

March 20

9:15.....122
11:30 a.m...106
Nursery ...4
Total232
Sunday School...92

Living Last Supper, March 24

7:00 pm120

Good Friday, March 25

12 noon53

Easter Sunday, March 27

9:15.....181
11:30 a.m...167
Nursery ...13
Total361
Sunday School...70

Prayer List:

Our World
Our service men & women
Our nation & its leaders
Rio Texas conference churches & clergy
Oxford UMC
Kairos Ministry
Shepherd Ministry
Stephen Ministry
The Residents of The Heights
Meals on Wheels clients
Christians persecuted around the world

Current Prayer List:

The family of Hubert Davis Sr. on his passing
Hubert & Ana Davis
Larry & Tonia Riley
Lincoln Ash
Hope Galvan
Rosa
Lee
Patsy
Connie and Family
McGraw Family
Lyndsay Hodges
Robin Boldt
The Szuma Family and Lasso Sweat Gonzalez Family
Gary and Family
Jon Mageroy
Tyler Whitley
Clark Drill Team

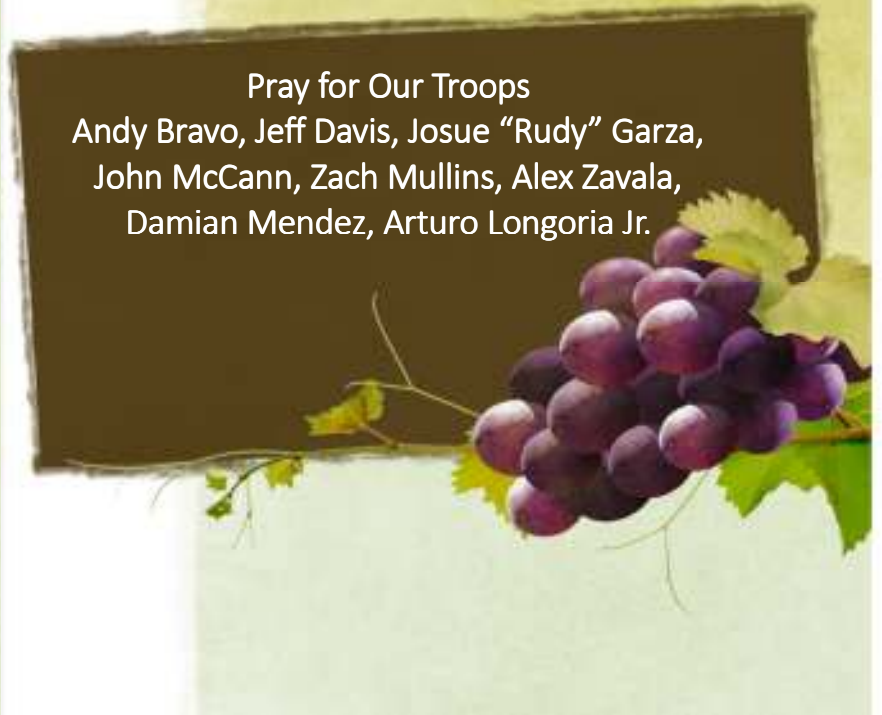


Abbie West
Hugo Isensee
Maria Frausto Espino and family
Jeaneen Close
Nancy Garibay-Donaldson
Rachel

Pray for our Military

Pray for Our Troops

Andy Bravo, Jeff Davis, Josue "Rudy" Garza,
John McCann, Zach Mullins, Alex Zavala,
Damian Mendez, Arturo Longoria Jr.



Ongoing Prayer List:

Tom & Bernice Adamietz
Lily Robinson
Sadie & her grandma Delores Koeck
Margaret & Jerry Mason
Richard & Linda Persyn
Jackie Duke
Dennis and Sue Moses
Jimbo Frazier
Michele Frazier
Nolan & Rosalyn Hoelscher
Rev Phil Robberson
Dr. Walter R.
Ernie Garibay
Carl Taylor
Milton & Eloise Lindemann
Brian Flanner
Barbie Tarr
Max & Barbara Maxwell
Patricia & Kevin and family
Mary Morgan Marshall
Susan Gaches
Peggy Fry
Gerry Rodriquez
Rev. Boone
Ruth Martinez
Rose Cervantes
Mark C.
Nolie Tolbert

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. John G. Hargis pastorjohn@oxfordumc.org

Program & Communications Director

Michelle Garibay-Carey michelle@oxfordumc.org

Youth Director and Program Assistant

Kristi Forister kristi@oxfordumc.org

Traditional Music Director

Douglas Boldt doug@oxfordumc.org

Contemporary Music Director

Pat Carey pat@oxfordumc.org

Facility Manager

Sandra Peterson sandra@oxfordumc.org

Mother's Day Out Director and Nursery Coordinator

Rosana Orr mdo@oxfordumc.org

Financial Administrator

James Minor james@oxfordumc.org

Custodian

Jose Moya

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship at 9:15 am
Sunday School for all ages at 10:30 am

ELEVATE Contemporary Worship at 11:30 am
O Positive Youth at 1:00 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 9 am—4 pm
Office Closed Friday