



# oxumc

OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Newsletter



January 13, 2025

Dear church,

We are on week two of 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting (ending on January 26th). I hope that this first week has been one of renewal, refreshment, and encouragement for you, and that you have found time to draw near to God in prayer. One of my favorite ways to talk to God is through journaling. At the start of every year I get a new prayer journal from the store, decorate it with Bible verses and spiritual affirmations, and use it to write about my day, take notes while reading Scripture, doodle worship song lyrics, write down the things that God is revealing to me, make gratitude lists, and more. You can do this in the mornings, afternoons, or evenings— whatever works best for you. You can even bring your journal with you and pull it out whenever you feel the Spirit talking to you! It's a great way to draw close to God and be in constant communication with him. Plus, I love looking back on my journals every year to remember all that I experienced and all that God did in my life.

As a part of our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, you are invited to our Wednesday night prayer gathering this week on January 15th. We will gather in the sanctuary at 6:15 p.m. following our Wednesday meal. We typically have these prayer meetings twice a month and they always feed my soul in a special way. Our church has a prayer team that intentionally prays over specific needs throughout the weeks, but everyone is invited to our bi-weekly prayer gatherings on these evenings. This upcoming one to kick off the new year will be a special time of setting our hearts on God, seeking him in our personal lives, praying over the church's prayer requests, and praying for the future of our church in 2025. What a great way to carve out time for prayer!

Lastly, I wanted to recap for you a little of my sermon this past Sunday. We read together about Daniel and how he fasted and sought God in prayer for 21 days. Chapter 10 says that after these few weeks of prayer and fasting, a messenger of the Lord visited him and said "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words." What we learn from this is that 1) prayer and fasting is about setting our minds to gain understanding from God, 2) God is always listening to us and hears us when we pray to him, and 3) when we humble ourselves to seek after God, he honors that by responding to us. How incredible is it that when Daniel earnestly and humbly prayed to God, God heard his words and came to him? How incredible is it that God does that for us too? I pray that this January would be a new beginning for each and every one of us— one in which we intentionally seek after God and hear God's response to us. Have a wonderful week!

*Blessings, Pastor Delaney*



# Join us for a PRAYER GATHERING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH  
6:15—7:15 PM  
IN THE SANCTUARY



21 Days ~ January 6th—26th

- ✦ Daily prayers, Bible verses, & encouragement
- ✦ Thursday Facebook Live spiritual practices
- ✦ Prayer plans through the app “Pray First”
- ✦ Sunday sermons on prayer & fasting
- ✦ January 15th Prayer Gathering (after dinner)
- ✦ Personal time of devotion

## JANUARY 2025 SENIOR STAR ★ MRS. ELLEN RHODES ★

Ellen, A longtime member of Oxford First, is 98 years old. Although she no longer lives in the area, you may have noticed in our newsletter that several times a year she still sends greetings letting us know that she is thinking about and cares about us.

We want to let her now how much she means to us and say thank you for the impact she has made here at First United Methodist Church in Oxford, Alabama.

**Mrs. Ellen Rhodes**  
4900 Richard D. Sailors Pkwy.  
Bldg. 1000, Apt. 1207  
Powder Springs, GA 30127



## PRAYER CONCERNS-SPECIAL REQUESTS

Contact: SuBette Crisp (256) 591-0416 | [scrisp7180@aol.com](mailto:scrisp7180@aol.com)

## CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS

- Cindy Graves (req. by June Reaves)
- Patsy Hutcheson (req. by June Reaves)
- Pastor Delaney & Dylan
- Katie & Jordie Houston (Jackie Campbell's Niece & Nephew)
- Frances Johnson (req. by June Reaves)
- Alan Land (req. by June Reaves)
- Ina Houston (req. by June Reaves)
- Paula Malcom (req. by Kelli McAdams)
- Jennifer Martin (req. by Kelli McAdams)
- Carolyn Mitchell (Susan Wall's sister)
- Eric Wilder (req. by Bobby Hitt)
- Ronnie & Betsy Smith
- Lynn Frow (req. by Teely Samson)
- Mary Ann Hitt (req. by Bobby Hitt)
- Faye Ridley (req. by June Reaves)
- Unspoken Needs
- Our Church Family

- 
- Marilyn Blair
  - Bobby & Wanda Cook (req. by June Reaves)
  - Family of John Austin
  - Family of Gloria Keel
  - Family of Mike Jordan (Jackie Campbell's cousin)
  - Cindy Graves (req. by June Reaves)
  - Vickie Kilgore (req. by Angie)
  - Ina McCullars
  - Mary Alice O'Neal (req. by June Reaves)
  - Robert O'Neal (req. by June Reaves)
  - Brad Walden (req. by June Reaves)
  - Carol Walden

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

The sympathy of the Pastor and congregation is extended to Susan Wall and family upon the death of her sister, Gloria Keel, on January 9, 2025. Services are scheduled at Golden Springs Baptist Church for Saturday, January 18, with visitation at 10:00 am and the service at 11:00 am.

# OXFORD FIRST UMC YOUTH

Sunday nights from 5 - 7 pm  
in the TMMC & Youth Room



Youth from 6th to 12th grade invited.

## Youth New Year Kick-Off In Review

This Sunday we had our new year kick-off for the youth group. We had 11 students in attendance, as well as some parents and volunteers. The youth played four square and ate pizza, then had a time of worship and small groups. We talked about having a firm foundation on God for this new year. When we build our lives on God, we may face hardships but we won't be broken!

They also filled our youth room's chalk boards with Bible verses to build your life on. Thank you to those who helped with food, set-up, tech, music, etc. It was an incredible night seeing our youth room full again and

seeing so many young people worship God!



**Don't forget YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL  
at 9:30 am in the Forum**

## CALENDAR JANUARY 19-25, 2025

### Sunday, January 19

- 9:15 am 65 & over Class (Q.T. Walker classroom)
- 9:30 am New Disciples Class (Parlor)
- 9:30 am Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)
- 10:30 am **Worship**
- 11:30 am Worship Committee (Forum)
- 4:00 pm Church Council (Forum)
- 5:00 pm Young Adults
- 5:00 pm Youth Group (TMMC)

### Monday, January 20

SPRC Holiday - Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, January 21

5:30 pm "Bind Us Together" Emmaus Reunion (Parlor)

### Wednesday, January 22

- 5:30 pm Fellowship Meal - Breakfast for Supper
- 6:00 pm Soup for the Soul Team (Forum)
- 6:15 pm Grief Share (Parlor)
- 7:00 pm Choir Practice

### Thursday, January 23

- 10:00 am TBA Crochet (Parlor)
- 11:00 am Pr. Delaney's Devotion (Facebook Live)
- 12:00 pm Mountain Top Men (Forum)



There will be a team meeting on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:00 pm in the Forum. We will be discussing our next Soup for the Soul meal coming up on February, 1st.

# GREETINGS!

Have a joyful and happy new year!  
~ Ellen Rhodes

## WELCOME VISITORS

Sandra Hall  
Janet Parnell

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

January 12, 2025

### OUR ATTENDANCE

Sunday School	26
Morning Worship (In-Person)	51
Facebook Livestream	155

### OUR GIVING

2025 Budget TBA	
Monthly Need TBA	
This Week	\$ 1,642.23
Still Needed January	
Received YTD	\$ 9,162.23

### OFF BUDGET

Debt Reduction-Roof	\$ 45.00
UM Men	\$ 25.00
Visitation Ministry	\$ 25.00

*Total gifts for memorials and honorariums will be reported at the end of the month.*

***Please remember to mail in your offerings to our church post office box:***

***P.O. Box 3261, Oxford, AL 36203***

***Thank you.***

## THANK YOU

The final total for our 2024 White Christmas offering for Embrace Alabama Kids is \$465.00. Thank you for your generous support.

### MEMORIALS 1/12/25

#### General Fund

Given in memory of Glenda Gregory by:  
Robert & Linda Boody

#### Debt Retirement

Given in memory of Gloria Keel by:  
June Reaves

#### Visitation Ministry

Given in memory of Gloria Keel by:  
Jack & Jean Mize

*Total gifts for memorials and honorariums will be reported at the end of the month.*

U S A P I T N A M E M B E R N  
 G N I P P I H S R O W L E S P  
 S A A N T I O C H T E P A U R  
 S D E D I C A T E N N S T E A  
 U C K C A L B D E D S E H T E  
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 C T W H N E Y F M L O A H U A  
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 X B K D Y R L U A S D S R G X  
 F A G S O R F M Y S Y R I A C  
 W S B D G X D E R I P S N I P

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## 11. Church Pray & Fast for Paul & Barnabas

ANTIOCH  
 ANTIPAS  
 ASSEMBLY  
 BARNABAS  
 BLACK  
 CALLED  
 CHURCH  
 COURT  
 CYRENE  
 DEDICATE

FASTING  
 HANDS  
 HEROD  
 INSPIRED  
 LAID  
 LUCIUS  
 MANAEN  
 MEMBER  
 MORE  
 NIGER

PUT  
 SAUL  
 SENT  
 SPECIAL  
 SYMEON  
 SYRIA  
 TEACHERS  
 WAY  
 WORK  
 WORSHIPPING

First United Methodist Church  
216 Snow Street  
P. O. Box 3261  
Oxford, Alabama 36203

1/13/25



## ★ BULLETIN BOARD ★

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH

- \* 11:30 am—Worship Team Mtg. (Forum)
- \* 4:00 pm—Church Council Mtg. (Forum)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH

- \* 11:30 am Trustees Meeting (Forum)

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 28TH

- \* 10:00 am Visitation Team (Parlor)



## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Sunday, January 19, 2025**

10:30 am Morning Worship

**Rev. Delaney Holloway**

Pastor Delaney's FB live devotional  
Thursdays at 11:00 am.

Rev. Delaney Holloway  
pastordelaneyh@gmail.com

Martha Lenard  
Music Director

Laurie Martin  
Administrative Assistant  
office@oxfumc.org

Kim Williamson  
Nursery Attendant

**CHURCH OFFICE**  
256-831-3221

PHONE CALL MINISTRY - RICK GRANGER 256-452-6019