

Life of the Church

One of the great joys of being a pastor is being present for spiritual moments in people's lives. In July, we celebrated three adults coming to the fountain of grace to be baptized, plus three additional persons who joined the church on profession of faith or transfer of membership.

When babies are baptized, it's a little different. The parents are nervous as they answer questions about raising their child in faith. The giddy grandparents are taking lots of pictures. The sponsors, or Godparents, are supportive and still wondering what their role is in all of this. The baby doesn't understand and may not appreciate the drops of water on their head and face.

When an adult chooses to come for baptism, it's a very different experience. Adults know they are choosing to make a covenant with Christ, a vow, a public statement about what they believe. Since they face the altar for the sacrament, I get to see their expressions: tears of adoration for God, the release of pain, and the welcome peace which rests over each person as they welcome the cleansing water of grace and the words of blessing.

The other part of every baptism and reception of new members is the congregation's participation with renewal of our own covenant with God and our commitment to the church. In these words of affirmation, we agree to support new persons in their faith walk, and journey with them in the ministries of the church.

This is where I wonder, how much do all these words mean to each of us. Is it all just rote responses that we read because it's on the screen and it's happening to someone else and not to us? Do our words and reaffirmations match the enthusiasm and delight of those who are pledging themselves in baptism for the first time? Or do we also feel overwhelmed and invite the Holy Spirit to ignite a new fire in us?

It is through our understanding and application of our baptism and membership vows that energy and new life is breathed into the church.

So today I ask you to read these baptism vows that the congregation makes again and focus on how these statements apply to your faith journey today.



NEW MEMBERS From left: Alex Gale (baptized), Marjorie Conner, Jonathan Edwards (baptized), Sabrina Miller-Apsey (baptized), John Cody, Nancy Andrina, with Pastor Pam.

CONGREGATIONAL BAPTISM VOWS

Do you as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP VOWS

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

What do these words really mean to you and how do you put them into action to enrich your life?

In the peace of Christ.

Pastor Pam



Youth Group

Mission Trip to Pittsburgh

Making the journey were Kelsey Kloska, Logan Kloska, and Avery Lopez shepherded by Jeff Senn. Once they arrived, they were greeted enthusiastically by the camp staff. It was 94 degrees, humid, and there was no A/C in the old UMC lodging building. The 3rd floor boys' room had a floor A/C unit that managed to get the temp down below 80 degrees by day four. Meals were prepared and served Army mess hall style. Daily the teens along with Jeff attended morning worship, travel to mission sites, mission work, lunchtime devotions, evening worship and evening devotions with lights out at 11pm. The mission sites were amazing, and everyone felt the Spirit working.

Two Youth Meetings in August

Youth grades 7-12 are invited to two special events in August::



**PERSEID METEOR
SHOWER
Skywatch
AUGUST 10
9-11 p.m.
(Yes, that's later!)**

At the Senn's house on Lake Huron
7402 N. US 23, Oscoda

Back to School Pool Party
Sunday, August 24 1pm
(Yes, that's earlier)
at the Kloska's 120 Schirmer Dr,
East Tawas



Yes there will be food.
Yes there will be laughs.
Yes, you can bring your friends.



VBS On The Road With God

Our Vacation Bible School always enjoys great energy, music, crafts, science projects, games, focused around a Bible study theme. This year, with our mascot Scout the dog (AJ Cargo), and travel host Trevor Penn (Pastor's son-in-law), kids learned Bible stories with people travelling on a journey. They learned that God is always with us wherever we go. Thanks to Belle Flora and team leaders: Josi Kellstrom (recreation), Anne Killingbeck/Abby Kloska (crafts), Cathy Klein (science), Kay Gaines (lunch) and helpers galore.



The hallways in the education wing were transformed into roadways as children traveled from station to station.



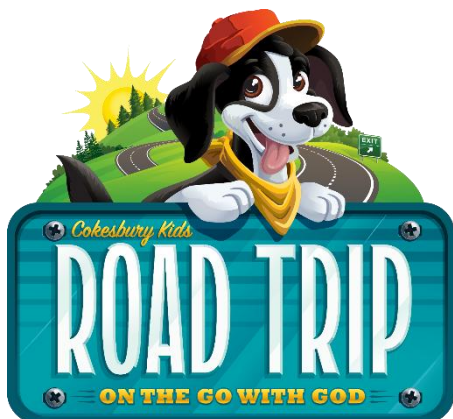
Coloring and personalizing a bag to keep all the goodies for the week together.



Travelor Trevor explained about each day's journey at gathering sessions in the hall.



While kids were in groups, Scout chased squirrels.



Prayers for August 2025

Monday

Holy and Loving One. I am Your child. I place myself humbly in Your care. Remind me today what it means to be loved by You. Thank you for accepting me as I am, but not leaving me the same.

Tuesday

Spirit God. Today I lift my friends and my family. Help them experience a real and personal relationship with You, filled with the light of Your grace and goodness.

Wednesday

Merciful Christ. You are the Lord of my life. You give me grace I do not deserve, infinite love, hope and peace. Help me to live this day in Your light and to extend Your mercy to others. Thank You Lord for giving purpose to my life.

Thursday

Only You can understand the journey of my life. I have burdens to bear; You carry them with me. I have joys to share; You delight in my happiness. I have lessons to learn; You teach me with patience. I have much to share; You fill me to overflowing.

Friday

Forgiving God. The beauty of Your creation is scarred by the carelessness of humanity. Yet, You love us. Use whatever goodness exists in me to contribute to healing my corner of the world and bringing kindness and caring to others.

Saturday

Abba, Father. Thank you for sending the Spirit to direct my steps. As seasons of life change and chapters close, open me to delight in what is coming and cherish what has already been given,

Sunday

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. ~Psalm 71:3

Remember to pray for our students, teachers, and administrators as they return to a new year of school. God guide their teaching and their learning, especially as they understand more about themselves and the gifts they have been given for the betterment of the world.

COMMUNION DELIVERY

If you know of someone who would like to have Communion but is unable to attend church, please call the office. The Caring and Sharing Committee will take a pre-filled Communion cup and Communion Liturgy to share communion. We would greatly appreciate it if anyone would like to assist with visiting those who are unable to come to worship. Please let Mary Williams or the church office know.



Please pray for:

Our Country	Connie Gillings
Our Troops	Bob Vissar
Our Students	Barb Bartsoff
Our Discernment Team	John Bartsoff
Nikki Borum	Ruthie Fullerton
Alice Mixer	Gary Rehberg
Ruth Hoyle	Paula Wilson
Teresa Rudolph	Peggy Ridgeway

PRAYER REQUESTS

Do you know someone you would like us to pray for? Please contact the office, Pastor Pam, or visit our website and click on the "Let Us Pray for You" picture and fill out the form.



Birthdays in August 2025!

Larry Lininger	08/03
Theresa Lonsberry	08/08
Jim Stafford	08/08
Lisa Bartsoff	08/10
Debbie Schirmer	08/10
Todd Beland Jr.	08/12
Laura Stafford	08/18
Ruth Hoyle	08/21
Gary Rehberg	08/23
Sharon VyDick	08/30
Robin Taylor	08/31

Happy Anniversary

David and Melanie Bowie	08/22
Sara & Casey Lee	08/29

OUMC GROUP OPPORTUNITIES UNITED METHODIST MEN



The mission of the United Methodist Men is to encourage and educate men through prayer, fellowship, and support. The next UMM breakfast meeting will be on **August 9**, at

8:30am at Desi's. All men are welcome. The men are considering a large potato distribution project in October through the Society of St. Andrew. Watch for more details.



Mission Outreach Helps Team members Gene Austin, Bob Walker and Bob Karr assembled a shed Gary Hetfield. The shed came as a kit but was a pretty involved project. It will be very helpful for storage as Gary doesn't have a garage. Thanks to our Helps Ministry for sharing their skills and talents.



UWF hosted a wreath making day with the help from Nats Crafts. Everyone learned to make wreaths for year round décor!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WELCOMES NATIONAL UWF OFFICER



August 17, United Women in Faith welcome Julia Paradine-Rice, Finance chair of the national UWF board, to share the message at the Sunday traditional worship. She is an energetic and visionary

speaker with a passion for the UWF ministry which includes 800,000 women.

She will be joined by Charlene Sutherby, one of the co-Presidents of the Northern Skies District UWF.

We are group of women who work to help in missions in the USA and other locations around the world. We meet the third Thursday of every month at 1pm. The women meet Thursday, **August 21 at 1pm** in the library.



United
Women
in Faith

On **August 24**, UWF will host a Birthday Potluck Dinner after Sunday worship to celebrate birthdays of everyone in the church. Each table in the Fellowship Hall will represent a month of the year. Come and sit at the corresponding table that represents your birthday month. Everyone brings a dish. If you would like to attend, please contact Veronica Irvine or the church office and confirm your birthday month.



CPR & First Aid Training

During July, Veronica Irvine organized CPR classes for both adults and infants, and a class that assists people in an actual emergency with "Stop the Bleed" tourniquet administering class. Useful tools in the event of an actual emergency. Those who attended received certification for each procedure.

Vee is planning to offer additional CPR sessions and other critical incident response training.

Adult Sunday School Class The Chosen: Season 5

The adult Sunday School class is watching season five of the television series The Chosen through September 14. The class begins at 8:45 to allow time to watch the episodes and have some discussion. (No church or class on August 31)

In this season, we review the events of Holy Week up to the evening in the garden. It begins with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and navigates through the political tensions of the day along with the tremendous mix of feelings being experienced by the disciples and Jesus as they know the ministry on earth is about to change.



If you have not seen previous seasons of this production, you can borrow DVDs from Pastor Pam or find it on Prime Video.

GIVING MADE EASY

Did you know we offer electronic giving? You can contribute anywhere, anytime, right from your computer, smartphone or tablet. Give online by visiting our website at www.oscodaumc.com and clicking "Online Giving". Download our free Vanco Mobile app from the Apple Store or Google Play. Get started today!! All transactions are safe and secure.

Special Tour of New Exhibit at Besser Museum

Wednesday August 27, we are invited to a special tour of the new Northeast Michigan History exhibits at the Alpena Besser Museum, featuring information and artifacts from our own Indian Mission and Chippewa communities. The tour can accommodate up to 20 people from our churches, so please call the church office at 989-739-8591 to add your name to the list. Lunch will be provided. We will carpool up to enjoy the day and to learn about the Native American Heritage in our area. Thanks to Amy Alberts for arranging the details and making this experience possible.



Chrismon Class Prepares for Holiday



Each year at Christmas, every family who attends a Christmas Eve worship service receives a special Chrismon ornament. Chrismons are "Christ Monograms" which are symbols of the life and ministry of Christ. This year

Laura Stafford is leading the effort to make a six pointed star Chrismon for our Christmas gift. Thanks to all for making this special gift.



Free Pantry Attendant Dates Open

NOON -2pm M/W/F *Sign Up Sheet In Foyer*

We need volunteers for our Little Food Pantry this summer. Our pantry is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from Noon-2 pm. Attendants commit to a 2-hour time slot and assist individuals who come to shop the pantry. Please consider volunteering in this wonderful outreach ministry. Sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

August

F1 – Pat Gooch

M4 –

W6 – Sharon & Ginny

F8 – Mike Derosia & Cindy Fulton

M11 – Cathy Klein & Bunnie

W13 – Sharon & Ginny

F15 –

M18 – Cathy Klein & Bunnie

W20 – Sharon & Ginny

F23 – Mike Derosia & Cindy Fulton

M25 – Cathy Klein & Bunnie

W27 – Sharon & Ginny

F29 – Pat Gooch

September

M – Labor Day – No Pantry

W3-Sharon & Ginny

F5-

M8-

W10-Sharon & Ginny

F12-

M15-

W17-Sharon & Ginny

F19-

M22-

W24-Sharon & Ginny

F26-

M29-

Our Pantry Is Getting Low

Current pantry needs:

Canned vegetables, canned fruit, peanut butter, Ramen Noodles/Cup O Noodles, Vegetable oil, jelly, canned meat (chicken, tuna), flour, sugar, salt, pepper, granola bars, bread, powdered milk. Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste) Laundry detergent, Dish soap, Household cleaners



MISSION AND OUTREACH



Get involved in supporting local ministries such as the baby pantry, food distribution, our church pantry, and more! Our next meeting is August 12 at 4:30 pm. We also have a "Helps Ministry" that

focuses on helping people with tasks around their home that they are unable to do themselves. During our last ice cream social, we raised \$104 for the God's Country Community Ministries in the upper peninsula.

An ice cream social is planned for August 10. The mission team provides the treats and a freewill offering is accepted. Our offering that day will support the **Rio Texas Conference flood relief fund**. Please give generously to help those affected in the floods.

Mission Outreach team meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at OUMC. Come join us!

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

For those who have lost children, the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church Family Center, 5300 N US 23, Oscoda 7:00 pm. If the Oscoda Area Schools are closed due to the weather, the meeting will be canceled too. For information, call 989-254-5888.

HEALING HEARTS

Healing Hearts grief support group will meet on Friday, **August 8** at 2pm in the church library. This group is led by *Bob Karr and Gail Getty*.



This is a faith-based program. These sessions are open to anyone of any denomination who may be dealing with the loss of a loved one.

OUMC FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Thank you so much to all who volunteered for the month of August! Please consider this wonderful outreach and hospitality ministry sometime this summer. It is a wonderful way to meet fellow church members and new friends. The Signup sheet is in the fellowship hall.

August 3 – Breakfast Worship

August 10 – Mission Ice Cream Social

August 17 – UWF

August 24 – Potluck Birthday Dinner

August 30 – Beach Potluck / No Sunday Service

OUTSIDE GROUPS & EVENTS

OGEMAW HILLS FREE CLINIC

Free Medical Care for adults 18 and older who lack health insurance, meet income guidelines, and live in Ogemaw or surrounding counties. Need more information or to make an appointment call: 989-345-7880.

BABY PANTRY DATES

August 12, 11am-4pm

August 26, 11am-4pm

106 Division St. Next to Myles Insurance. An **appointment** is necessary. Call Joyce at 989-739-1369.



F.I.S.H. August 25 at 1PM

FISH Inc. (*Friends Immediately Sharing Help*) Oscoda needs volunteers to answer the phone, at their residence, one day a month to assist families in need. If you can help with this

charitable organization or have any questions concerning responsibility, please call Jane 989-559-3040.

SALVATION ARMY

Help with utilities, rent, gas for medical appointments, food pantry appointments, prescriptions, clothing, and some furniture. Oscoda (989) 305-0751
Tawas (989) 305-2442

OSCODA SENIOR CENTER

Food Boost Program

Tuesdays: 10-1pm and Thursdays 5-8:30pm.
653 State St, Oscoda, MI 48750

SAINT JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHARITY

Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesdays and Fridays 9-10am
115 West First Street, Tawas City, MI 48763

MEALS ON WHEELS 989-728-2206 Provides hot, nutritious meals delivered to the homebound.

Raise the Roof



Please remember to add loose change to your bucket fund! Bucket Weekend is August 23 & 24, and your gift is matched 2 to 1. We still need about \$3,000 in contributions to make our goal of \$35,000.

Worship at The Beach August 30 Combines All Congregations



Fellowship, praise music, food, community outreach at the Oscoda Beach Pavillion.

This summer event is a highlight of the entire year! Our biggest outreach and connectional event that combines our favorite grill foods, potluck goodies, incredible music from the PeaceTones, and casual worship with our entire family of faith gathered from all three of our congregations: Indian Mission, Casual Saturday, Sunday Traditional.

The church provides hamburgers and hot dogs, plates and silverware; plan to bring a side dish, salad, fruit, dessert, or a 12 pack of soda or bottled water. We'll be setting up grills and tables starting about 3. Our grill master's will get started and we'll begin serving around 4:30.

The band will play contemporary favorites starting at 5 and we'll get worship going a little after 6. Invite your friends and neighbors, bring lawn chairs, and let's all wear our red shirts.

***Please note we will not have
Sunday worship services
August 31 at OUMC or OIM***

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					¹ 12pm AA Meeting 12-2pm Food Pantry	² 10 am Alberta Sabin Interment 6pm Casual Worship
³ 9am Adult Class 10:30am Breakfast Worship 1pm OIM	⁴ 9:30am Wacky Walkers 12-2pm Food Pantry 6pm Discernment Team	⁵	⁶ 9:30am Wacky Walkers 10:30am Caring/Sharing 11 am Bob Quinge Interment 12-2pm Food Pantry 5pm Boy Scout 7pm Choir Practice	⁷ 5pm Praise Band	⁸ 9:30am Wacky Walkers 12-2pm Food Pantry 12pm AA Meeting 2pm Healing Hearts	⁹ Communion 830am UMM breakfast at Desi's 6pm Casual Worship
¹⁰ Communion 8:45am Adult Class 10:30am Traditional 1pm OIM Youth Group 9-11 pm <i>at Senns for meteors</i>	¹¹ 9:30am Wacky Walkers 12-2pm Food Pantry 6:30pm Trustees 7:30pm Finance	¹² 10am Hospitality Team 11-4pm Baby Pantry 4:30pm Mission Outreach Team	¹³ 9:30am Wacky Walkers 12-2pm Food Pantry 5pm Boy Scouts 7pm Choir Practice	¹⁴ 5pm Praise Band	¹⁵ 9:30am Wacky Walkers 12-2pm Food Pantry 12pm AA Meeting	¹⁶ 6pm Casual Worship
¹⁷ 8:45am Adult Class 10:30am Traditional Service 1pm OIM	¹⁸ 9:30am Wacky Walkers 12-2pm Food Pantry 6:30pm SPRC 7:30pm Ad Council	¹⁹ 9am Quirky Quilters 10:30am OHS Food Giveaway	²⁰ 9:30am Wacky Walkers 12-2pm Food Pantry 5pm Boy Scouts 7pm Choir Practice	²¹ 5pm Praise Band 1pm UWF	²² 9:30am Wacky Walkers 12-2pm Food Pantry 12pm AA Meeting	²³ 6pm Casual Worship
²⁴ 8:45am Adult Class 10:30am Traditional Service/Charge Conf 1pm OIM Youth Group 1 pm <i>Pool Party at Kloskas</i>	²⁵ 930am Wacky Walkers 12-2pm Food Pantry 1pm F.I.S.H. Meeting 3:30 pm Huron Housing Hope	²⁶ 11-4pm Baby Pantry	²⁷ 9:30am Wacky Walkers 9:30am RAB 12-2pm Food Pantry 7pm Choir Practice	²⁸ 5pm Praise Band	²⁹ 9:30am Wacky Walkers 12-2pm Food Pantry 12pm AA Meeting	³⁰ Worship at the Beach 4:30 Potluck 5:00 Band Concert 6:00 Worship Service
³¹ No Worship	September 1 OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY					

A PLACE OF GRACE NEWS

Sent With Love and Hope

Monthly News from

OSCODA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND OSCODA INDIAN MISSION CHURCH
120 West Dwight St., Oscoda, MI 48750
989-739-8591

Office Open 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monday-Friday

umcoscoda@gmail.com

www.oscodaumc.com

YouTube and Facebook: Oscoda United Methodist Church



August 2025

Oscoda United Methodist Church Oscoda Indian Mission Church

Pastor Pam Harkema

Worship at OUMC

Casual/Contemporary – Saturday at 6 p.m.

Traditional – Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School 9 a.m.

Youth Sunday School during traditional worship

Worship at Oscoda Indian Mission

Traditional Worship 1 p.m.

7994 Alvin Rd., Oscoda MI 48750

