



A Glorious Baptism by Rev. Sapada Thomas



On Sunday, February 28 we celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with the baptism of Carlee Renay Manning and Kaycee Renay Dukes. Carlee is the daughter of Jamiah Speaks (from our congregation) and Ja'Darius Manning. Kaycee is the daughter of Tyra Lewis and Markie Dukes. Carlee and Kaycee

are both also the great nieces of Minister Tressie Johnson. As part of our Methodist theology, we believe that a child does not have to wait until they are a certain age to be baptized. However, we believe that children, who cannot speak for themselves, can be baptized by Water and the Holy Spirit, as

their parents speak for them, to grow in their knowledge and relationship with God as they grow. Therefore, Carlee and Kaycee's parents and sponsors, along with our congregation, vowed, before God, to help them grow into

the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ until they are able to go through confirmation. Let us celebrate with the families of Carlee and Kaycee, as we welcome them as sisters into the Body of Christ.



Leading and Showing Love by Serving **by Minister Gracie Spearman**

"I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."

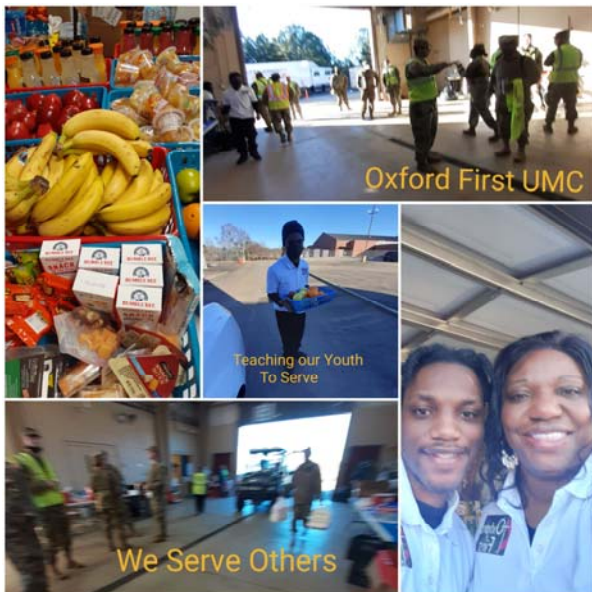
JOHN 13:15

In this scripture, Jesus set an example for us to follow, after washing his disciples feet. Jesus showed us an act of love, humility and service to others. He encourages us to follow His lead and serve one another. Jesus our Lord never placed Himself in a position above others. Jesus led by serving and loved by serving by washing feet, feeding thousands, walking to visit and heal the sick

and raising the dead. Mother Theresa once quoted "If you can't feed a hundred people than feed just one." Oxford First Family, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, we are called to look for every opportunity to serve and help our neighbor and serve our community through generosity. This country would not be what it is today, without all of our dedicated mens and

women that serve our country and community. Therefore when the call was put out by Mr Algood, who manage The Oxford Emergency Management, and posted by our own Barbara Wortham's Facebook page, asking the community for help to feed breakfast for the Vaccination Workers, which consisted of 40 National Guardsmen and 30 Healthcare workers that was not provided by the state. Some of them had driven 2 to 3 hour distances from Lafayette

county. Being led by the Holy Spirit, the Oxford First Outreach Ministry acting as only we could, "here I am Lord, send me". Oxford First, we must be the change we hope to see in our community. What we do matter, and we can do it by serving others as Jesus have set the example for us. On behalf of Pastor Sapada Thomas and the Oxford First Mission Outreach and Food Ministry we thank you for your generous donations and we love you! God Will Not Forget!



Renewal

by Rev. Sapada Thomas

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common."

ACTS 2:42-44

It has been so long since we have been able to do this!!! In some sense, it seems as this Scripture in ACTS 2 has lost its meaning. We have not been able to "devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching", "fellowship, and "all the

believers were together". This has been extremely difficult for the church and our members. It seems we have lost our connection that gives us life and energy. Thanks be to God, He has kept us through

these uncertain times, given us peace in the midst of discord, and allowed us to continue our relationship with Him through our own personal worship.

Through much prayer and discernment, we have decided to try to get back to “some” normalcy as we resume in-person worship, Sunday School and youth ministry on Sunday, March 28, 2021. We will resume adult and youth Sunday school at 9:30A.M., followed by worship at 11:00A.M. We are still praying and seeking God for how our youth ministry will look, so we will resume youth ministry very slow. We are still asking our members who choose to attend worship and Sunday school to take their temperature as they enter the

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building, wear masks, social distance and use Germ-X. I also pray you have taken the opportunity to get your Covid vaccination. We are dedicated to ensuring our members safety as we continue to seek God's presence and strengthen our relationship with him.

In addition, we will participate in closing Lent services as follows: Palm Sunday worship (March 28 at 11:00A.M.), Good Friday service (Friday, April 2, at 6:00P.M.) and Easter Celebration (Sunday, April 4 at 11:00A.M.). We invite all to pause and go to the cross with Jesus on Good Friday, and celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

As Luke recorded the joys of the church in ACTS 2, we look to resume together in fellowship as we celebrate the church, our ministries and the goodness of God in a safe manner. I pray God will revive us, restore, us and refresh us as we look to renew the celebration of the church that occurred in ACTS 2.

Jacob's Ladder
P.O. Box 277
Oxford, MS 38655

PLACE
STAMP
HERE