



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Charles Seaton, Jr., Pastor

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Charles Seaton, Jr.



Living for Christ: A Life That Counts

"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

—Philippians 1: 21 NIV

Oxford First UMC, I am writing to give you GOD's mandate for our church in this season. You can call it our church Mission for the season.

A Life Worth Living

In a world that often measures success by money, possessions, titles, and accomplishments, the Apostle Paul gives us a different standard: **"To live is Christ."** Paul understood that life finds its greatest purpose when it is centered on Jesus Christ.

Living for Christ means that our faith is not something we practice only on Sunday. It means Christ influences how we treat people, how we handle adversity, how we serve our

communities, and how we make decisions when nobody is watching.

Paul was not saying that death is something we should seek. Rather, he was declaring that his confidence in Christ was so strong that even death could not defeat him. **If he lived, he would live to serve Christ. If he died, he would be with Christ. Either way, Christ was his gain.**

What Does It Mean to Live for Christ?

To live for Christ means **serving instead of simply being served, forgiving instead of holding grudges, loving instead of hating, and trusting God even when circumstances are difficult.**

It means allowing the light of Christ to

shine through our everyday lives.

- Our families should see Christ in us.
- Our coworkers should see Christ in us.
- Our communities should see Christ in us.
- And even those who disagree with us should be able to recognize that something different lives within us.

The Gain Is Greater Than the Loss

Paul's words also remind us that death does not have the final word for the believer. Because of Jesus Christ, death is not the end—it is the doorway into eternal life. That is why Paul could say, “to die is gain.”

But until that day comes, we have work to do. There are people to encourage, families to strengthen, communities to serve, and souls to reach.

So let us not merely exist. **Let us live with purpose. Let us live with faith. Let us live with love. Let us live for Christ.**

Because when Christ is the center of our lives, **living has purpose, serving has meaning, suffering has hope, and even death has no victory.**

The message is simple: Live for Christ today, serve Him faithfully tomorrow, and trust Him with eternity.



Special Prayer for Back to Schoolers: On Sunday, August 23, 2026, Pastor Seaton called all the OFUMC youth starting the new school year up for a Special Prayer.

HARRISONVILLE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

BACK TO SCHOOL

SUPPLY DRIVE

AUGUST 1ST
10AM - 2PM

- ✓ FREE FOOD
- ✓ FREE SUPPLIES
- ✓ LIVE MUSIC
- ✓ PRAISE DANCES
- ✓ GUEST SPEAKERS
- ✓ GAMES

Fun for the whole FAMILY!

PASTOR
Lenair Person

68 COUNTY ROAD 164
OXFORD, MS 38655

DJ CASEY D

★ COME OUT FOR A DAY OF BLESSINGS, FUN, AND PREPARATION! ★



Back To School Supply Drive: OFUMC Youth attended the Harrisonville M.B. Church BackTo School Supply Drive on August 1, 2023..

In Memory of Sister Terry Williams Vaughn



June 29, 1950—August 15, 2026

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The Word for the Month

Finally, brethren,
whatsoever things *are* true,
whatsoever things *are* honest,
whatsoever things *are* just,
whatsoever things *are* pure,
whatsoever things *are* lovely,
whatsoever things *are* of good report;
if *there be* any virtue,
and if *there be* any praise,
think on these things.

Those things, which ye have both learned,
and received, and heard, and seen in me,
do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

—PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9 KJV