



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Sapada Thomas, Pastor

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UNITED METHODISTS: WHO ARE WE?

METHODISM 101

by Rev. Mattie Gipson

Would you like to know more about who we are? Just who are those people called Methodists? If so, please come and join us for a five (5) week study beginning Monday, September 20, 2021. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall of Oxford First UMC from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. We will take a close look at what we believe and our roots. We will learn about our liturgical seasons and what they mean; we will learn about the governing rules of the UMC.

Our main resources will be THE UNITED METHODIST MEMBER DIGEST, A STUDY OF FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY- Membership in the United Methodist Church by Chip Bennett, The United Methodist Discipline, The Book of Resolutions, The United Methodist Hymnal, and The Holy Bible.

We will begin with a fill-in-the-blanks questionnaire that contains some very basic

questions about who we are as well as some more advanced information. There will be several hand-outs as the class progresses and we learn more about who these people called METHODISTS really are.

This study is available to members and non-members. So come out and join us as we refresh ourselves or dig deeper into what it means to be A MEMBER OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.



**Sunday Worship
Time Change
9:00A.M.
September 12, 2021**

Beginning Sunday, September 12, 2021 Oxford First UMC will begin morning Worship Service at 9:00A.M. Sunday School will follow after service at 10:30. Weekly Bible Study has already moved to Tuesday nights at 7:00P.M.

LABOR DAY

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE?

by Rev. Mattie Gipson



Labor Day is celebrated on the First Monday of September every year. It is an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. The idea came about in the late nineteenth century when

labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions that workers have made to build America's strength, prosperity, and well-being. Before it became a national holiday, Labor Day was recognized by Labor Activists in individual states. A movement developed to make Labor Day a national holiday. New York was the first state to introduce a bill, but Oregon was the first state to pass a law recognizing Labor Day as a national holiday. They passed the law on February 21, 1887. Over the years, several other states joined Oregon. By 1894 many more states had adopted the holiday and on June 28, 1894, Congress, during the presidency of Grover Cleveland, passed an act making the first Monday in every year a legal holiday.

History annals tell us that in 1882, Peter McGuire, General Secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of

Labor, suggested that a day be set aside for a "general holiday for the laboring classes" to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold." On September 5, 1882, New York City held the first Labor Day Parade.

Today many Americans celebrate Labor Day with parades, picnics, and parties similar to the festivities of those patriots who first proposed the holiday who declared that the day should be observed with a street parade to exhibit "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This pattern of celebration is still carried today.

Some years later prominent men and women began giving speeches and emphasis was placed on economic and civic issues. In the years to follow, in 1909, a resolution by the American Federation of Labor Convention, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the Labor Movement.

American laborers have raised the nation's standard of living and have contributed to

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Outreach Ministry

Mother Teresa once said: “Give Your Hands To Serve and Your Heart To Love” To the Oxford First Family and the First Presbyterian Church Family, on behalf of The Oxford First Outreach and Food Ministry & Pastor Sapada Thomas, we would like to thank all of our volunteers and church members who came out to serve God’s people with your hands and hearts in unity on Tuesday, August 31st. We are so grateful for our new brothers and sisters of FPC, who have partnered with us to meet the needs of our community and to help the arginalized. Because of your faith in action, we were able to serve 263 needy families and hand-delivered to 25 of our shut-in and disabled, by providing a little more food for their tables. “Alone we can do little, but together we can do much,”said Helen Kellar. God Will Not Forget Your Labor Of Love.

—Minister Gracie Spearman



Serving Others
With
Hearts and Hands



My Faith By My Works



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the greatest production the world has ever known. The labor movement has brought us close to the realization of our country's ideals of economic and political democracy. It is, therefore, appropriate to pay tribute to our nation's workers on Labor Day.

As our Pledge of Allegiance states, we are "one nation, under God..." Therefore, as we celebrate the laborers, we would be remiss if we did NOT celebrate the One who gives strength and wisdom to the laborers, the One, whose name is above all names, the One who is the beginning and the end. We must pay homage to the CREATOR, The

GIVER, The SUSTAINER of Life. Because He has given us the strength and the wisdom to raise our standard of living, I would like each of you to join me and contribute one hour's salary, above your normal giving, to our general budget and designate it for Mission Shares. As we give thanks and celebrate the

fruits of our labor, as we give thanks for God bringing us through this pandemic, let us go an extra mile and share by giving back to the GIVER!

COME ON, LET'S CELEBRATE!!!!

For us retirees, based on a 40 hour work week, we divide our income by 160 to determine the amount of one hour of our salary.

Jacob's Ladder is a monthly publication of Oxford First United Methodist Church. EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Clarence H. Franklin. ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Niler P. Franklin. All rights reserved. Announcements or articles should be submitted to Rev. Sapada Thomas or submitted by e-mail directly to Franklin at chfrank@panola.com. Visit our website at www.OxfordFirst.org and click on the *Jacob's Ladder* link to view previous month's issues.