



# Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Charles Seaton, Jr., Pastor

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## Pastor Appreciation MONTH

Close your eyes for a second and think about his voice. Not the Sunday sermon voice. The real one. The one you heard when he pulled you aside after service and asked how you were really doing. The one that prayed over your mother in the hospital when the machines were louder than your faith. The one that said your name like you mattered, even on the days you were not sure you did.

**Isaiah 52:7 - "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who proclaim salvation."**

Beautiful. That is the word God uses for the ones who carry His voice into the world. He was the first voice you heard when you walked into church not knowing if you belonged. He was the voice on the other end of the phone at 10 p.m. when you did not know who else to call. He remembers your birthday, your grandchildren's names, that you sit in the third row. Not because it is his job. Because he actually cares. He showed

up at the hospital before you even asked. He prayed at your kitchen table when things were falling apart. He found words when no one else could.

On Sundays, you do not just hear a sermon. You hear the voice of someone who has walked with you through the hardest and most beautiful chapters of your life.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. And before it begins, we wanted to start not with a reminder to buy a gift, but with a moment to remember what his voice has meant to you. He probably does not hear it enough. **So this month, tell him.** A word. A card. A moment where the man who speaks life into others gets to hear it spoken back.

**Heavenly Father, thank You for pastors who carry Your voice into our lives with such faithfulness. Bless them today. Remind them that their voice matters and their love has not gone unnoticed. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen**



On September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Girl Scouts Hearts of the South held their annual Women of Distinction Awards. The awards are designed to recognize women in leadership throughout the Lafayette County community. Oxford First UMC was one of the sponsors of the program.

The 2026 nominees included:

- **Dr. Erica Avent** - Undergraduate Retention Coordinator, Department of Teacher Education, Univ of MS
- **Whitney Bolen** - Bridal Consultant, Oxford Floral
- **Kristina Joy Carlson** - Founder & CEO, Outrageous Kindness
- **Marlee Carpenter** - Executive Director, Stronger Together Oxford
- **Laura Frazier** - Director of Membership and Community Relations, Oxford Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce
- **Kathleen Hamilton** - Teacher, Lafayette Elementary School
- **Danielle King** - Partner/CFO Client Accounting and Advisory Services, GranthamPoole PLLC
- **Michelle Strauss Mason** - Senior Mortgage Advisor, Story Financial Partners

- **Lee Pryor Mullen** - Teacher, Oxford School District
- **Dr. Shanika Ward** - Executive Director, Empower Advocacy Oxford Inc.

- **Barbara Mathis Wortham** - Director, Oxford Learning Center

Dr. Ward was named the overall Woman of Distinction for 2026.



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Charles Seaton, Jr.



# Am I Showing Christ-like Humility?

Oxford First, I greet you with the Peace and Love of GOD! As we step into the Fall season my prayer is that the cool wind of the new season bless you with all GOD has for you. We must give GOD our full attention to our spiritual journey. The question this month is am I showing Christ-like humility?

Christ showed humility not by thinking less of others, but by serving them. He listened,

welcomed people others overlooked, and chose love over the need to be praised or proven right.

That example invites a personal question: Am I showing Christ-like humility? When someone needs help, do I make time for them? When I'm wrong, can I admit it? When I do something good, am I content if no one notices?

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Humility is not a claim we make about ourselves. It shows in the way we treat others, especially when serving them costs us something.

I encourage you, in this season and seasons to come, to demonstrate humility in your daily lives. Harvest is coming, what we sow we will also reap. Be blessed, encouraged, and be an example of humility.



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## **A Lesson from Sunday School: Support Your Church Leaders**

We should **SUPPORT** our church leaders. This means praying regularly for pastors and ministry leaders and asking God to give them wisdom, patience, and spiritual endurance, especially during challenging seasons. When a congregation prays for its leaders, it creates a spiritual environment where leaders can respond with faith rather than frustration. Encouragement and grace from the congregation helps leaders remain faithful and emotionally healthy in their calling. When we pray for, respect, and encourage our leaders, we create a community where God's work can thrive, and leaders can lead with faith, wisdom, and endurance.

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