



# Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Roger Wilson, Pastor

Volume 25, Number 4, April 2025

## AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

# IRON SHARPENS IRON

SATURDAY, APRIL 5



Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church

The African American Leadership Academy Iron Sharpens Iron event takes place **April 5** beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Anderson United Methodist Church located at 6205 Hanging Moss Road in Jackson.

The aim of the meeting is to foster unity and collaboration among the African

American congregations of the Mississippi United Methodist Conference. Its goal is to offer resources and education that would equip and inspire both congregations and clergy to serve their community effectively, tackle challenges and thrive in their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

# The Northern Hills District of the Mississippi Annual Conference

## Lay Servant Training Event

**Date:** April 12, 2025

**Location:** St. Luke United Methodist Church 1400 Clayton Ave, Tupelo MS 38804

### Classes and faculty

**Adult Basic Course:** Rev. Astra Robinson, pastor at McDonald United Methodist Church (Pontotoc).. This course should be taken before any other. It introduces basic skills in 3 primary aspects of Lay Servant Ministries: leading, caring and communicating.

Advanced:

**1: For the Common Good: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts.** Class leader: Rev. Dwayne Robinson, pastor at St. James United Methodist Church (Amory). *This course offers a scriptural understanding of spiritual gifts and helps participants identify their gifts, abilities and sense of calling.*

**2: Embracing Personal Prayer: Lord, Teach us to Pray.** Class Leader: Rev. Amber Lea Gray, pastor at St. Luke United Methodist Church (Tupelo). *This study helps participants embrace the spiritual power of prayer and provide practical ways to help you overcome obstacles to intimacy with God*

### Schedule

Saturday, April 12, 2025

7:30 – noon

Opening Gathering & Class

12 noon – 1 pm

Lunch \* - Guest speaker: Northern Hills District Superintendent Rev. Lynn Mote

1 pm – 4 pm

Class



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Detach and return along with your check to the Tupelo District Office: PO Box 3957, Tupelo MS 38803

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Home church \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_  
Select course:  Basic  Spiritual Gifts  Lord, Teach us to Pray

Payment of \$45 is expected at time of registration. Make checks payable to the Tupelo District Office (we have not changed our checking account name). Classes must have at least 12 registrants to make. Maximums are set by each instructor.

**Registration deadline: April 9, 2025**

\*Snacks and lunch will be provided.

# The Northern Hills District of the Mississippi Annual Conference

## Lay Servant Training Event

**Date:** April 26, 2025

**Location:** Maples Memorial United Methodist Church  
8745 Goodman Rd, Olive Branch, MS 38654

### Classes and faculty

**Adult Basic Course:** Class leader: Lent Ross – District Lay Leader. This course should be taken before any other. It introduces basic skills in 3 primary aspects of Lay Servant Ministries: leading, caring and communicating.

### Advanced:

**1: For the Common Good: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts.** Class Leader: Rev. Chuck Bursi, pastor at Love Station United Methodist Church (Hernando). This course offers a scriptural understanding of spiritual gifts and helps participants identify their gifts, abilities and sense of calling.

**2: Embracing Personal Prayer: Lord, Teach us to Pray.** Class leader: Rev. Keith Mason, pastor at Strickland United Methodist Church (Holly Springs) and Taylors Chapel United Methodist Church (Victoria). This study helps participants embrace the spiritual power of prayer and provide practical ways to help you overcome obstacles to intimacy with God

Saturday, April 26, 2024

7:30 – noon

Opening Gathering & Class

12 noon – 1 pm

Lunch \* Guest speaker: Northern Hills District Superintendent Rev. Lynn Mote

1 pm – 4 pm

Class

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Detach and return along with your check to the Tupelo District Office: PO Box 3957, Tupelo MS 38803

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Home church \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_  
Select course: \_\_\_\_\_ Basic \_\_\_\_\_ Spiritual Gifts \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, Teach us to Pray

Payment of \$45 is expected at time of registration. Make checks payable to the Tupelo District Office (we have not changed our checking account name). Classes must have at least 12 registrants to make. Maximums are set by each instructor.

**Registration deadline: April 23, 2025**

\*Snacks and lunch will be provided.



# Conversation Café

Soul Force Magazine with Clarence H. Franklin  
and Burns-Belfry Museum

Join us for coffee and pastries and learn about SOUL FORCE Magazine, the voice of Oxford and Lafayette County's African American community between the early 1970s and 2000.

And be sure to check out the exhibit in the Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library Foyer (pictured at right) all month long at 401 Bramlett Blvd., Oxford, MS!

*Sponsored by the Friends of Lafayette  
County & Oxford Public Library*

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025—10:00A.M.**

*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. Roger Wilson or submitted by e-mail directly to Franklin at [chfrank@panola.com](mailto:chfrank@panola.com). Visit our website at [www.OxfordFirst.org](http://www.OxfordFirst.org) and click on the *Jacob's Ladder* link to view previous month's issues.



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