



Jacob's Ladder



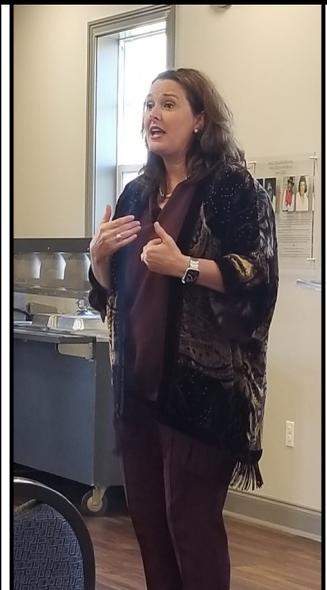
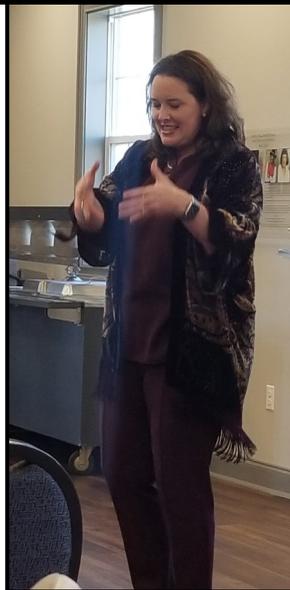
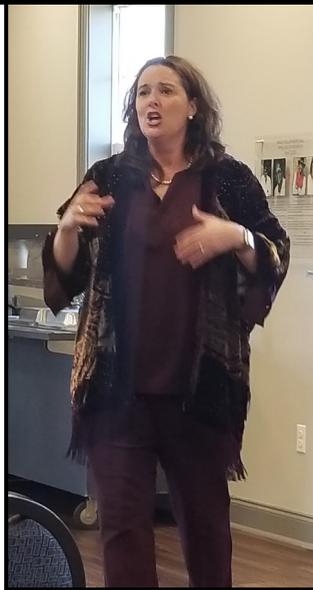
A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Sapada Thomas, Pastor

Volume 21, Number 12, December 2021

OFUMC Charge Conference

by Rev. Sapada Thomas



"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."
—PHILIPPIANS 3:14

On Sunday, November 28, we hosted our Annual Charge Conference in the Fellowship Hall. This was the first charge conference we have been able to host in our new church building, and what a blessing it was. We were blessed to have the District Superintendent of the New Albany District,

the Rev. Dr. Raigan Miskelly, along with her administrative assistant, Ms. Cheryl Prather, lead our charge conference. Historically, charge conferences would only approve reports, with not much talk about church ministry. However, this charge conference focused on Discipleship. During the charge

conference, Dr. Miskelly gave us a descriptive account of the true meaning of discipleship, summarized the results of our members' discipleship surveys, and encouraged our congregation to take a serious look at where we are as a church as it pertains to being a disciple of Christ. The results of our discipleship surveys indicated that we are a healthy congregation, however, we do have room for improvement. I challenge each member of our congregation to continue to improve their personal discipleship by engaging in Oxford First's

core values: Authentic Worship, Generosity, Outreach, and Personal Spiritual Disciplines. When we intentionally focus on our personal discipleship, it will cause us to truly live out the true essence of being a disciple of Christ. In order to be true disciples of Christ, we must be a follower of Christ. It is not enough to have the Great Commission written on the walls of our sanctuary, we need to have it written on our hearts and live out the call to be disciples and make disciples of *"All Nations."*

Super Bowl Champs



Ashton Milliner and Malachi Henderson, and their team, the Lafayette Dolphins won the Pop Warner Super Bowl Championship game of 7 and 8 year olds, on October 16th at Lafayette High football field known as William I. Buford Stadium. The two were class mates at Hope's Child Care, and are now second graders at Lafayette Elementary. Congratulations to Ashton and Malachi.

Hay Ride & Fun Day



On October 31st, James Milliner held a Hay Ride and Fun Day at his house after church for the youth. There were hay rides, games, Bar-B-Que and even baseball. It was an enjoyable day of fun and games for everyone. Thanks James.



On November 14, 2021, OFUMC surprised the Spearman Family with a baby shower for their new addition, little Antonio, Jr. Pictured above (from left to right) Rhondalyn Peairs, who made the presentation of gifts from the church, Antonio, Gracie, Christopher and Fred Spearman.

Reflecting The Love of Christ by Minister Gracie Spearman

During His time on earth, Jesus was good at drawing marginalized people to Himself, especially those who were pushed aside by society. Jesus listened, He took action, and He met needs. Jesus sought out those who were looked down upon- the least of these. As followers of Jesus, we should endeavor to do the same. We should never lose sight of the fact that we should be alienated from the love of Christ, yet God shows His love for us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (ROMANS 5:8). We will learn to love and care for our underprivileged when we understand how God has loved us. Loving and serving the marginalized is not an optional upgrade for the Church, it's the way we look like



Jesus. That being said, on behalf of Pastor Sapada Thomas, Rev. Mattie Gipson, and yours truly, I would like to thank our brothers and sisters of First Presbyterian Church (FPC), Oxford First Family, and all of our Volunteers for looking a lot like Jesus in loving and helping to serve nearly 300 needy families in our community and we were honored to serve more Hispanic families through the effort of FPC Family and the Oxford School District.

God Will Not Forget

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.



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