



# Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

## Newsletter

April - May 2024



### *Laughter and Light*

I hope this message finds you still basking in the joy and wonder of Easter! As we emerge from our chocolate-induced comas and our egg-hunting escapades, I wanted to take a moment to share a few reflections on the post-Easter glow that's still radiating through our hearts and halls.

First, let me extend a hearty congratulations to all those who successfully resisted the urge to devour their entire Easter basket in one sitting. Your self-control is truly inspiring and deserves a round of applause. For the rest of us, well, there's always next year, right?

Now, let's talk about those post-Easter blues. You know, that moment when you realize the peanut butter eggs are gone, and you're left wondering if it's acceptable to wear your bunny ears to work on Monday. (Spoiler alert: it totally is, especially if your workplace needs a little extra hop in its step!)

But beyond the chocolate-induced euphoria and the temptation to keep wearing bunny ears well into May, there's something truly special about the post-Easter season. It's a time when we're reminded of the incredible hope and joy that comes from knowing Christ has risen. And what better way to celebrate that hope than with a healthy dose of laughter?

In the spirit of post-Easter cheer, here's a joke:  
Why did the Easter egg hide?  
Because it was a little chicken!



Okay, okay, I know it's a cheesy one, but hey, laughter is good for the soul. And let's be honest, we could all use a little extra joy in our lives these days.

On a more serious note, let's not forget the powerful message of Easter that extends far beyond the chocolate bunnies and colored eggs. It's a message of redemption, of love conquering all, and of new beginnings. So let's carry that message with us as we navigate the days and weeks ahead, spreading kindness, love, and a good dose of laughter wherever we go.

Thank you for being such a wonderful congregation, and remember, if you ever need a listening ear or a bad joke, I'm here for you.

With laughter and light,

*Pastor Heidi*



## WORSHIP

Worship In-Person & online: 9:00 am  
Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Groups: 10:00 am for all ages between Labor Day & Memorial Day



Worship with us virtually Sundays at 9:00 am  
Facebook: [facebook.com/occumc](https://www.facebook.com/occumc) (Live)  
YouTube: [@OCCUMCyoutube](https://www.youtube.com/@OCCUMCyoutube) (Recorded)

Please, 'like' us or leave a comment so we know this ministry is beneficial.

## General Conference 2024 CONTRIBUTED BY UMDAILYNEWS

Planning a big family wedding with dozens of people coming in for a weekend is challenge enough.

But imagine trying to bring more than a thousand people together from four continents for a gathering that lasts two weeks.

They speak 10 languages, have various dietary needs, require multiple hotel rooms and must be able to come together to pray, worship and make decisions that affect millions of United Methodists. Hundreds of these visitors also need visas just to attend. (excerpt from a story by Heather Hahn, assistant news editor, *UMNews*.)

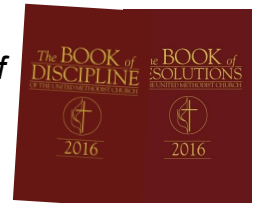
This is the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. The General Conference is the only body that can set official policy and speak for the international denomination. General Conference brings together lay and clergy delegates from four continents whose decisions will affect how millions of United Methodists do church for years to come.

The coming General Conference, scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup> - May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Charlotte, North Carolina, comes at a particularly momentous time. Typically gathering every four years, the pandemic caused the 2020 meeting to be canceled. Which means the last regular session was in May, 2016. In that time, the denomination has seen a quarter of its U.S. churches depart under a disaffiliation policy.

What comes next for the international denomination will be largely up to General Conference itself.

What does General Conference do?

General Conference is the denomination's highest legislative body. As such, it has the authority to make revisions to the denomination's *Book of Discipline* and *Book of Resolutions*. *The Book of Discipline* is the denomination's governing document that contains its doctrine, constitution, church law, rules of organization and procedures. *The Book of Resolutions* contains the denomination's positions on current social issues.



In addition, the assembly approves theological statements on subjects such as baptism and communion. The coming General Conference will consider adopting a theological statement on the United Methodist understanding of church titled "Sent in Love."

To learn more about the significance of General Conference and to stay up to date on what's taking place, visit [umnews.org](https://umnews.org).

# MINISTRY NEWS

## Christian Education Opportunities



Sundays  
10:00 – 11:00 am  
following worship

Love (Preschool – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade)	L 06 & 08
Hope (3 <sup>rd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> grades)	L 04
Faith (Jr & Sr High 7 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> )	L 05 & 07
The Oasis Faith Group (20/30/40-year-olds)	Library
Bible Browsers (Adult) Studying Matthew this year	L 27 or L 28

## Music Ministry

CONTRIBUTED BY SHELLY SWODZINSKI



Please consider joining our Altar Choir! We welcome everyone from 7<sup>th</sup> grade to age 95. **Rehearsals are Wednesdays, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm** in the sanctuary, from Labor Day through Memorial Day and we take the summer off. We sing all types of music....from traditional to contemporary. No audition necessary!

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Swodzinski (414-801-1940). Otherwise, just join us on Wednesday. **We'll have music waiting for you! Bring a friend!**

## Worship and the Arts Ministry

CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



Worship and the Arts is challenged regularly to present the congregation with a sanctuary that touches and inspires them. But we embrace that challenge!! At the Ministry Fair, we were happy to see several people from the congregation interested in joining the group. New, fresh ideas are always welcome.

We hope we reached you in a visual way during Lent and Easter, along with the message and music, so you leave your worship experience renewed and ready to go out and serve the community. Any questions? Contact Lois at [Lsdillon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Lsdillon@sbcglobal.net)

## The Cathedral Center

CONTRIBUTED BY JOANNE MUELLER

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** is our first 2024 date serving dinner at The Cathedral Center! We would like to have at least six workers, and sign-up sheets will be out soon. We leave church at 5:30 pm and return about 8:30 or 9:00 pm.

If making food, you may bring it to church: Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> before worship, Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - Noon and leave it in the small kitchen refrigerator. If you are making a hot & ready to eat main dish, please bring it to church Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> between 5:00 pm & 5:30 pm.



The options for you to continue to support the mission are many... donations of food, finances, or working on our serving team. We will continue with donations, as the need is great. You can include your donation with your regular offering by noting the amount you want donated to The Cathedral Center. You may also give online at [occumc.org](http://occumc.org) and pick

The Cathedral Center.

Thank you in advance for your help with this mission. Any question can be directed to Joanne M (414-817-2914) or Diane W (414-405-0153).

# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## Welcoming Ministries

Ways you can  
**SERVE**

Would you like to help others enjoy our weekly worship services? You can do so by serving as a Greeter, Usher, or Worship Leader! These are very important roles within our Sunday worship. You will be rewarded with smiles and the knowledge that you are sharing your gifts and helping OCCUMC reach the community. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Pastor Heidi, Dale T, or Jane in the church office.

## Just for Men



The OCCUMC Men's Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 9:00 - 11:00 am in the Community Room (L28.) All men are welcome. For questions and more information, please contact Clinton Peirce (clinton.peirce@kohls.com) or Jonathan Loomis (asphaltcowboy4Jesus83@gmail.com).

## Coffee Bistro



Coffee Bistro is shared hospitality on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Volunteers are needed to bring in food & beverages. If you are interested in serving the faith community with this beautiful ministry, please contact Merrilee M, our Coffee Bistro Team Leader, at (merrilee.mahn@gmail.com), or sign up on the sheet in the Friendship Area.

## Garden Ministry



Well, this "NO winter" winter has made our gardens awaken early and start to bloom. While a pretty good fall cleanup was done, we are going to have to be out there pretty soon.

Our garden group this year has a few people sidelined, so we are putting out an **all-points bulletin for gardeners**. If you've ever seen a weed, pulled a weed, know what weed looks like?..... You're a candidate!!!. If you recall, **our garden group motto is easy and simple... "you come when you want... you work where you want...for as long as you want"**.

Our goal is to just keep these church gardens looking beautiful. The ones that are most important are the main boulevard right by the front door, the first two boulevards in the parking lot and the other garden areas right outside the front door.



We appreciate your help. Come join us. Any questions, contact Shelly, Lois, Kathy B, or Jan K.

## Youth Outings

### *Our youth group is growing!*

With school, sports, extra-curricular clubs, beginning first jobs, and many other things going on in their lives, youth often have limited availability to join in the traditional activities of the church. Here at OCCUMC, our mission includes growing in faith and inviting others to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Sometimes, that means moving out of familiar spaces to meet youth where they are available. Here are some ways we've found fellowship, faith, and service with youth this year:

In **January**, we made use of a limited window of snow by heading to The Rock in Franklin for some tubing. Everyone had a great time zipping down the slopes, and although it was windy, the sun was bright and kept us warm until we headed in for hot chocolate. Joining us were youth from Faith Presbyterian Church, a renewed connection of ministry from years ago when I was a youth welcomed to join in their events.



After the snow tubing, we began exploring mission trip opportunities for the summer.



In **February**, we moved forward in earnest with our first fundraiser. The youth spent a couple of hours preparing and freezing soups, and the following week we offered those soups for sale during Soup-er Bowl Sunday. Thanks to your generosity and support, we sold over 60 containers of soup and received several donations. This will help us have a truly meaningful experience as we seek to serve those in need.

**March** marked the return of a favorite activity, the Escape Room. With over a dozen participants, we split into two teams to tackle two separate challenges: surviving a great storm, and discovering Merlin's legacy. Working together, each team was able to discover clues and solve puzzles to beat the games – and we all had a great time doing it!



As we continue finding new and exciting ways to open opportunities for their fellowship, faith, and service, I want to remind you how much we appreciate the support you are already giving. Youth aren't just our future; they are our present. The donations you've made of time and money, words of encouragement and guidance that you have shared, and your presence of prayer all help us to keep inviting others in. And don't forget, if you know a youth who might be interested, keep an eye on the Connections – there are plenty of opportunities coming up.

## Youth Game Day and Craft Making



All youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> (inclusive) are invited to join us for some team games on **Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**. We'll meet in the youth room here at OCCUMC. We'll also be working on crafts for our next fundraiser; bring any crafty things you'd like to work on.



Please contact Alex at [arc\\_332@att.net](mailto:arc_332@att.net) to let us know if you will be joining us. We look forward to seeing you!

## IN THE NEWS

### Getting to Know You (CONTINUING SERIES)

**Devin Wiemann** joined the OCCUMC staff in October 2020 to take over the church's technology and media needs from previous tech specialist, Larry Gamble, who was in the process of relocating.

Former pastor, Wendee Nitz, became familiar with Devin through her husband, Jim, who taught Devin in eighth grade and stayed in touch over the years. After learning that Devin was attending UW-Milwaukee for his bachelor's degree in film, Pastor Wendee quickly brought him in for an interview.

Devin streams OCCUMC's Sunday services and has created various other videos. He is also a member of the Media & Technology Team, as well as the newly formed Men's Group.



Devin grew up in St. Francis and attended St. Paul's Lutheran School for most of his school career, until moving to Menomonee Falls during his eighth-grade year and then to Franklin, where he attended Franklin High School. During his free time, Devin indulges in the outdoors by walking nature trails, relaxing outside, and visiting his summer cottage. Additionally, he enjoys performing his juggling act for others and making movies. He will be graduating with honors this Spring, and while thrilled to begin the next chapter of his life, he also remains committed to his role at OCCUMC.

### OCCUMC Preschool

preschool registration



There are still a few openings for the 2024-25 school year. If you have a 3-5 year old and are interested in your child attending, you can make an appointment to tour the Preschool and meet the teachers.

We offer 2, 3, or 4-day programs. Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 11:30 am.  
Call 414-762-6900 or e-mail [occpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:occpreschool@gmail.com) .

### Thank You

*Thank you everyone for your thoughts and prayers. The surgery was successful without complications and all tests came back negative. Recovery is going well. We really appreciate having such a caring and supportive church family. Doug C and family*

### Marketing Team

The Marketing team is planning several events for 2024, with several new fun activities you will want to be a part of. We welcome all ideas, so if you have something you would like to share with the team, please feel free to reach out, to:

Michelle G., Merrilee M., Laurie S., Judy D., Dale T., Allan L. or Pastor Heidi.

Upcoming in 2024:

August 25<sup>th</sup> Outdoor church picnic following the 9:00 am service. We'll have a meal, games and activities.

Fall Concert — details to follow

Creation of a church logo

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

### Merry Mat Makers

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



**Merry Mat Makers are making sleeping mats, and you can join the fun.** Making mats is easy and it's **open to all ages and abilities.** We use clean, dry plastic grocery bags. If you can flatten and cut off the bottoms and handles that would be great, but not necessary. There's a collection box in the Friendship Room.

Stop by on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm or Thursdays at 10:00 am. We meet in the Loom Room (L09) downstairs. (Unless there is a Sarah Circle Meeting or a Cathedral Center food serving.) We'll show you what to do - you can try weaving (which requires standing) or help with folding, cutting and tying bags (where you can sit). If you can't meet at these times, you are welcome to come work on the loom as your schedule allows or take supplies home to work there. It feels good to be doing something in front of the TV! For more information, contact Bonnie at [bonnieclement05@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieclement05@gmail.com)

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

CONTRIBUTED BY DIANE LINDSAY



If you know of anyone who may be going through tough times, feeling lonely, or feeling anxious, give them an equivalent of a hug - a reminder that they are not alone - by gifting them with a prayer shawl. Our shawls have been made with love, prayed over, and are a tangible gift representing God's love and constant presence in their lives. Just let us know who you give them to, so we can pray for them too. If you would like to be involved in this ministry, please contact Diane L at

414-510-9342 or [dianelindsay54@gmail.com](mailto:dianelindsay54@gmail.com).

### Tabitha Circle

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



**All Women are invited to join Tabitha Circle for any of our events.** We meet the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm** for devotion and Christian fellowship. Some meetings are online so we can meet with our friends who are not close by, while other meetings are in person.

- ⇒ April 14<sup>th</sup> - We will finalize Women's Retreat plans
- ⇒ April 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> - Women's Retreat at Lake Lucerne Camp and Retreat Center
- ⇒ May 12<sup>th</sup> via zoom, for a meeting link contact Bonnie at [bonnieclement05@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieclement05@gmail.com)

### Sarah Circle

CONTRIBUTED BY DIANE LINDSAY



We meet on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month**, where we study the Bible with Pastor Heidi and conduct our business meeting.

We continue to support non-profit organizations that benefit women & children, specifically La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center, Aurora Sinai Hospital, Rooted & Rising Washington Park (formerly United Methodist Children's Services) and the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Clinic, through the Layette program.

### Sarah Circle Layette Project

CONTRIBUTED BY JOAN KETCHUM

We are off to a good start this year with enough baby items to compile and deliver 24 layettes by the end of March. Thank you to all of you who contribute to this Mission Project.



We are in need of sleepers and onesies in size 3 months. We are always in need of 1 yard of flannel for receiving blankets which we hem. There is a sample of our layettes in the cradle in the Friendship Area so you can see the finished layette. If you have any questions, please contact Joan K. at 414-215-7088 or at [joanmketchum@gmail.com](mailto:joanmketchum@gmail.com).

## MISSIONS

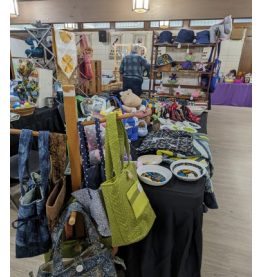
### Going to Pieces Fiber Artists

CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



We were at it again!! We participated in a spring craft fair at All Saints Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We thank many of our church congregation for visiting us there and supporting us.

Going to Pieces quilt group has a goal of creating and selling items with all profits going back to the church. We all love our craft and enjoy creating beautiful unique things and getting them out into the community. We also help the layette project by providing baby afghans, blankets, and quilts.



This is our 4<sup>th</sup> year of having the Salvation Army Food Pantry Challenge. This year the United Women in Faith have joined us in challenging the church to match our initial seed money. It's been a very successful local community mission and as usual, our church family has stepped up again this year. Look in the next newsletter for the grand total.

Going to Pieces meets on the second Monday of every month at 9:30 am (September to May) when we plan for other craft fairs or community missions, help problem solve projects that people are working on, have a demonstration and do a "show and tell" which is always exciting and inspiring. We have had several new members this year and we'd love to have more... all are welcome. 🧵🌍

### Rice Meal Packs

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



On Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm, OCCUMC is hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rice Meal Pack for Midwest Mission. These meals help meet hunger needs, and provide disaster relief meals.

We have set-up (3:00 - 4:00 pm), packing (4:00 - 6:00 pm) and clean-up (6:00 - 6:30 pm) slots available. You can pack for one hour or two. There are sitting and standing jobs available. Sign up on your own and make some new friends, or get your family and friends together and sign up for several slots. (We recommend participants be 10 years or older.) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A9AC28A1FFCF8-47937154-rice>



One bag feeds 5-6 people and only costs \$2 to make. We are purchasing enough supplies to make 1,200 bags!

If you're able to help offset the supply expense, we suggest a donation of \$25 per person. If you are not able to donate the full \$25, any donation is appreciated. If you are only able to donate your time, we look forward to seeing you! You can bring \$ that day or donate online at [occumc.org](http://occumc.org) > [Online Giving](#) > [Donate Now](#) > [Other \(specify Rice Packs\)](#).



If you have questions, contact the church at 414-762-4600 or event organizer, Bonnie C 262-497-9969.





## Ingathering



WI Conference Mission Motivation Committee will again be collecting items for Midwest Mission at Annual Conference. OCCUMC will be a drop off site. Please bring items between May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>.

This year the focus is on **Personal Dignity Kits** and **Home Care Kits**. All items should be NEW – and all kits should have only the items requested. Midwest Mission distributes these items locally, nationally, and internationally to those in need during times of crisis. All supplies are given free of charge regardless of gender, race or religion. Thank you for your generous support of

our mission – bringing the hearts and hands of God’s people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.

### Personal Dignity Kit

- 1 Hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 Toothbrush (no multipacks)
- 1 Bar soap - 3-4 oz.
- 1 Shampoo -12-19 oz.
- 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz. (stick, roll-on, or pump)
- 1 1 - Gallon resealable plastic bag
- \$2 donation for toothpaste and carrying bag



Please add your heartfelt prayers to each kit

### Home Care Kit

- Liquid household cleaner: 56-80 oz. total (no spray bottles)
  - Dish soap - 42-64 oz.
  - Liquid laundry detergent - 100-150 oz. total
  - 1 Scrub brush (with or without handle)
  - 1 - 5 Gallon round bucket with resealable lid
- Please add your heartfelt prayers to each kit



We are also collecting these **urgently needed items separately** :

⇒ Lotion 8-10 oz. (no pumps); Diaper Cream 2 oz (not A&D)

The following items don't need to be new!



- ⇒ Sewing machines electric and treadles (We can accept sewing machines that need a little tuning up, oiling, etc. We cannot accept the computerized ones.)
- ⇒ Bicycles (adult in good condition with minimal rust)
- ⇒ Medical equipment such as folding walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, canes, knee scooters, shower chairs, hospital beds, walking boots, and slings. (no toilet risers please)
- ⇒ Blankets new or gently used, for disaster response
- ⇒ Non-electric tools specifically shovels, brooms, rakes



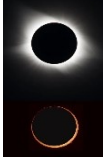


Please place donations by the **OCCUMC Collection sign** near the highboy by the Sanctuary entrance. We are an **Ingathering Drop Off Site**, which means other churches will leave their donations by the coat rack.

### Looking for a chance to help Annual Conference and to meet new people? Volunteers are needed at the Annual Conference in Green Bay:

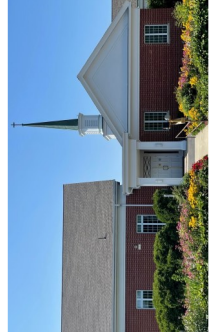
- ⇒ Help check in and load donations anytime during our drop off hours: Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm and Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Contact [bonnieclement05@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieclement05@gmail.com) if you'd like to help.
- ⇒ Be a part of the Youth Tech Crew/Stage Crew. No experience is necessary; we will teach you how to set up and use the equipment. As a team, we will also have time to play games and do other fun things to get to know each other. We are looking for committed and responsible volunteers 12 years old or older by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Sue Snellenberger at [Snellenberger-sue@gmail.com](mailto:Snellenberger-sue@gmail.com) for an application. All applications must be submitted to **by May 20<sup>th</sup>**.

# April 2024

(as of 3/25/24)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pastor Heidi on Vacation	2 Primary Vote	3 9:00 am Preschool	4	5 Pastor's Sabbath Day	6
	7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10:00 am Merry Mat Makers		
<b>7 COMMUNION SUNDAY</b>	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and on Facebook	9:00 am Preschool	9:00 am Preschool	9:00 am Preschool	10:00 am Merry Mat Makers	Pastor's Sabbath Day	5:00 pm Soup & Chili Dinner and Auction
10:00 am Sunday School Bible Study, Small Group		5:30 pm Cathedral Center	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10:00 am Merry Mat Makers		
<b>14</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary Coffee Bistro following worship	7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:30 pm Trustees Team Mtg	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10:00 am Memorial Team Mtg	Pastor's Sabbath Day	Rice Meal Pack Assembly 3:00 pm Set-up 4:00 - 6:00 pm Assembly 6:00 pm Clean-up
10:00 am Sunday School Bible Study, Small Group	7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Finance Team Mtg	10:00 am Memorial Team Mtg	10:30 am Sarah Circle		
1:00 pm Youth Game Day	7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Preschool Board Mtg via Zoom		
2:00 pm Tabitha Circle	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>21</b>	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and on Facebook	Earth Day 	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	9:00 am Preschool	10:00 am Merry Mat Makers	Pastor's Sabbath Day	Women's Retreat
10:00 am Sunday School Bible Study, Small Group	7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Preschool Board Mtg via Zoom	Arbor Day	
10:00 am Memorial Team Meeting	28	29	30			
<b>28</b>	29	30				
9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and on Facebook	Pastor on Vacation	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting			
Coffee Bistro following worship	9:00 am Preschool					
10:00 am Sunday School Bible Study, Small Group	7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers				
Women's Retreat Concludes						

# ARBOR DAY



Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church  
8675 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street (corner of 13<sup>th</sup> & Puetz Rd)  
Oak Creek, WI 53154  
[www.occumc.org](http://www.occumc.org)  
414-762-4600

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Monday - Thursday  
[office@occumc.org](mailto:office@occumc.org)








Sunday Worship 9:00 am in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook  
Worship on Facebook at 9:00 am  
or watch anytime at:  
[facebook.com/occumc.org](https://facebook.com/occumc.org)  
YouTube @OCCUMCyoutube

Sunday School, Bible Study & Small Group @ 10:00 am every Sunday

# May 2024

(as of 3/25/24)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			9:00 am Preschool <b>2:00 pm Blood Drive</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Merry Mat Makers	Pastor on Vacation	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Pastor on Vacation		9:00 am Preschool			Pastor's Sabbath Day	9:00 am Men's Group
9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School Bible Study, Small Group	7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10:00 am Merry Mat Makers		
12 <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> 9:00 am Worship Coffee Bistro following worship 10:00 am Sunday School Bible Study, Small Group 2:00 pm Tabitha Circle	13	14	15	16	17	18
	9:00 am Preschool	9:00 am Preschool	Graduation / Spring Program 	Preschool Teacher Work Day 10:30 am Sarah Circle	Pastor's Sabbath Day	8:00 am Breakfast and 
9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School Bible Study, Small Group	9:30 am GTP Meeting 6:30 pm SPRC Team Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting	5:30 pm Cathedral Center 6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Trustees Team Mtg	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 am Worship			Pastor on Vacation			
10:00 am Sunday School Bible Study, Small Group	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Marketing Team Mtg 7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10:00 am Merry Mat Makers		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:00 am Worship Peace With Justice Offering	Pastor on Vacation 	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	Clergy Session on Zoom	10:00 am Merry Mat Makers	Pastor's Sabbath Day	



**Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church**  
8675 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street (corner of 13<sup>th</sup> & Puetz Rd)  
Oak Creek, WI 53154  
[www.occumc.org](http://www.occumc.org)  
414-762-4600



Sunday Worship 9:00 am in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook

Worship on Facebook at 9:00 am  
or watch anytime at:

[facebook.com/occumcorg](https://facebook.com/occumcorg)  
YouTube @[OCCUMC9youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUUMC9youtube)

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Monday - Thursday  
[office@occumc.org](mailto:office@occumc.org)

Sunday School, Bible Study & Small Group @ 10:00 am every Sunday

# SOUP & CHILI DINNER

FOLLOWED BY:

# LIVE & SILENT AUCTION



*Hosted by* **OCCUMC MEN'S GROUP**

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL**  
**13<sup>TH</sup>**



**OAK CREEK COMMUNITY  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
8675 S 13TH ST  
5:00 PM**

**FREE WILL OFFERING  
FOR THE MEAL.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**FACEBOOK.COM/OCCUMC**  
**414-762-4600**



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Blood Drive



The next Blood Drive is **May 1<sup>st</sup>** from 2:00 - 6:30 pm. There are 23 appointment slots for whole blood and 5 appointments available for double red blood cells. In March we collected 12 units of whole blood and 2 units of double red cells.

Someone needs blood every 2 seconds.

Donors are at *The Heart of Our Community!*

Remember all blood donated stays here in Southeast Wisconsin.

May 1<sup>st</sup>: [https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/261692](https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/261692)

### Community Meals



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
Health & Human Services

**Senior Dining** is offered at the Kelly (6100 S Lake Drive, 414-481-9611) and Grobschmidt (2424 15th Ave, 414-768-5722) Senior Centers and the Franklin City Hall (9229 W Loomis Rd, 414-427-7696). **Anyone 60+ can enjoy lunch.** Register for a Diner Card (applications are in the literature rack in the Friendship Room). There is a suggested contribution of \$3.00. You can view menus online. Reservations can be made the day before you want to dine in. If you have any questions, call the local center or (414) 289-6995.

A **free** Community Meal is served at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1111 North Chicago Avenue in South Milwaukee on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month from 5:00 - 6:30 pm.** A community organization serves up the meal and benefits from any free will donations. Nothing fancy, just good food and sharing community.



### UMW 2024 Camp News



**Camp Positions Open** For a summer of life-changing experiences and life-long friendships, seasonal positions are still available: summer camp counselor (1-2 male counselors aged 18+) and healthcare (Physician, RN, PA, Athletic Trainer, EMS, Wilderness 1<sup>st</sup> Aid course). If you know of people who may be suited for these roles, please encourage them to apply at [wiumcamps.org/about-us/employment/](http://wiumcamps.org/about-us/employment/).



**Summer Camp 2024 Registration** We couldn't be more excited to invite you to join us at one of our camps this summer! No matter which camp you choose, we are always a place where people are loved and cared for, just like Jesus loves us each and every day. [wiumcamps.org/summer-camps/](http://wiumcamps.org/summer-camps/)

### Missionaries

#### Meet Our Missionaries



**#STILLINMISSION** – Are you interested in learning more about United Methodist missionaries? Do you wonder what day-to-day life is like in mission?

**#STILLINMISSION** is a monthly Zoom event where you can hear first-hand experience from missionaries about their call to mission

and the communities they serve. Join us to see how missionaries share God's love in partnership with communities around the world. Get details and register at [umcmmission.org/stillinmission](http://umcmmission.org/stillinmission).

Upcoming dates: April 4<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 am.

# MINISTRY TEAMS

## Trustees Team Meetings @ 6:30 pm



- Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>

## Servant Leadership Team Meetings @ 6:30 pm



- Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Marketing Team Meetings @ 6:30 pm



- Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>
- Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>

## Staff Parish Relations Team Meetings @ 6:30 pm



- Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>

## Finance Team Meetings @ 6:30 pm



- Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>

## Memorial Team Meetings @ 10:00 am



- Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>
- Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>

**How can you use your gifts to further the mission and ministry of OCCUMC?**

**We welcome your help in any of these ministries.**

**Contact Pastor Heidi or any of the team leaders to say "YES! Count me in!"**

Altar Choir Director	Shelly Swodzinski	Men's Group	Jonathan Loomis
Altar Choir Accompanist	Lindsay Gardenier	Missions	Clinton Peirce
Blooming Garden Group	Lois Dillon	Nursery Coordinator	TBA
The Cathedral Center	Joanne Mueller	Nursery Care Support	Cheryl Clement-Reichling
Certified Lay Speaker	Diane Wittenberg	Office Administrator	Heather Reichling
Computer Support	Allan Lindsay	Preschool Director	Jane Lentz
ERAS	Doug Clement	Preschool Liaison	Stephanie Paszkiewicz
Financial Team	Joanne Mueller	Staff Parish (SPRC)	Janelle Wagner
Financial Secretary	James Wittenberg	Treasurer	Dale Tetzlaff
Asst. Financial Sec.	TBA	Asst. Treasurer	Judie Peterson
Going to Pieces	Amber Yeary	Trustees	Ed Kubes
Lay Leader	Lois Dillon/Judy Evert	United Women In Faith	Clinton Peirce
Lay Member to AC	TBA	Tabitha Circle	Diane Lindsay
Lay Speaker	Allan Lindsay	Sarah Circle	Bonnie Clement
Leadership Team	Liz Imoehl	Website Support	Diane Lindsay
Marketing Team	Doug Clement	Worship in the Arts	Kathy Brekeller
Media & Technology	Dale Tetzlaff	Youth Education Leader	Lois Dillon
Member-at-Large	Devin Wiemann	Youth Leader	Jillian Imoehl
Memorial Gifts	Janet Porte	Youth Team	Alex Clement-Reichling
	Judy Dordel		Alex Clement-Reichling
			Eric von Helms

# MINISTRY TEAMS

## Trustees

CONTRIBUTED BY CLINTON PEIRCE

The robins are out in full force which can only mean that Spring has or is about to Spring! 🌱. For the Trustees and no doubt everyone else, we've started thinking about the work we need to do to clean up from the winter and get ready for the warmer days.



**Spring Clean-up** is the event we hold to help get this work done. This year we will come together on **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am**, to do this work and will be serving breakfast (eggs, sausage, pancakes, fried banana) to get the day off to a wonderful start. Please come and join us for some breakfast, fellowship and work.

As a reminder, the road construction work on 13th Street will start in April/May. We expect that access to the 13th street driveway will be affected and at times, be limited. We suggest that you consider using the Puetz entrance as you come and go from church during the construction period, which is likely to run through October.



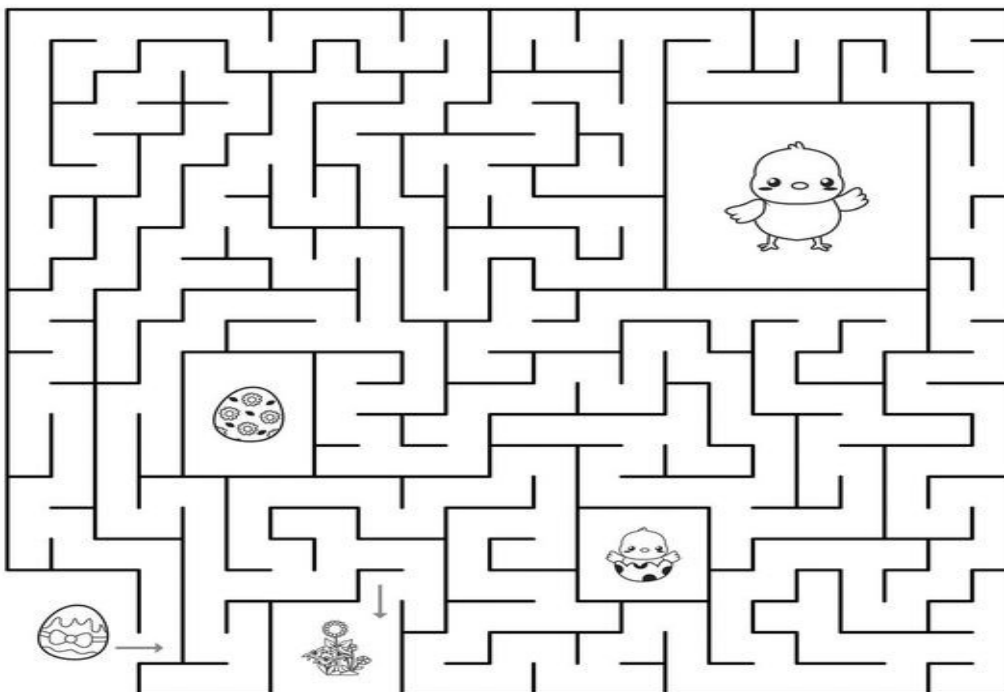
A quick Trustee team update: With Kathy B stepping down, Jane E has stepped into the vice-chair role. Thank you, Jane!!

May God continue to bless the work we do together, Clinton P, Daryl B, Ed K, Eric V, Fred S, Jane E, Keith S, Kathy B, Rich I, Terry P



## Springtime Maze

Can you get through the maze?



**Church Office Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday  
9:00 am - Noon

### Our Staff:

**Rev. Heidi Loomis**  
Pastor  
[pastor@occumc.org](mailto:pastor@occumc.org)

**Jane Lentz**  
Office Administrator  
[office@occumc.org](mailto:office@occumc.org)

**Judie Peterson**  
Treasurer  
[treasurer@occumc.org](mailto:treasurer@occumc.org)

**Ed Kubes**  
Assistant Treasurer

**TBD**  
Financial Secretary  
[finance@occumc.org](mailto:finance@occumc.org)

**Amber Yeary**  
Asst. Financial Secretary

**Shelly Swodzinski**  
Altar Choir Director

**Todd Anderson**  
Organist

**Lindsay Gardenier**  
Choir Accompanist

**Devin Wiemann**  
Media & Technology

**Cheryl Clement-Reichling**  
Nursery Coordinator

**Heather Reichling**  
Nursery Care Support

# FINANCE

## OCCUMC Financial Center

2024		2024	2023
<u>Month of March</u>	General Fund Income	\$18,219.40	\$20,923.73
	Expenses	\$20,931.75	\$21,930.04
<u>Fiscal / Calendar Year</u>	General Fund Income	\$43,486.55	\$38,653.90
	Expenses	\$57,308.88	\$47,747.78
<u>Apportionment</u>	Annual Total Given	\$4,400.90	\$2,301.00
	Annual Goal	\$31,884.00	\$31,680.00



Please use only 2024 envelopes. Envelope numbers from prior years may be assigned to someone else. If you need envelopes, please contact [finance@occumc.org](mailto:finance@occumc.org).

Remember: You only need to write one check. You can designate amounts to different funds on the envelope.

## Newsletter Word Search

V L V E X D C J X D Y I R Q K U Q Y Q J  
 Q N N N B L U N O H O N L U H N R B X V  
 V I M Z A F L L B E I Z O J E N O Z F L  
 Q E K G X N Q P L A R N G L S L P T V U  
 S S V K Q R J F C R E A J O L K W Q S O  
 L C H V R W G J H T N C A L E N D A R C  
 B A C P X E W G I C S P R I N G U U T H  
 H P E Z A D F G C I H V F T S J R J D O  
 D E Z M N D D I K Y Q Z M B M U P A C I  
 X R O C Z I Z M E E B L H D C G R C F R  
 G O G O U N W Z N T C Y U A E G W T B G  
 W O D A J G A K E X K D W I U L O Z S J  
 X M W B R Q O R O H Y O R R V I K K F M  
 M O H I E D X L M X K D Y J E N X C A F  
 W G K C L P E Z K Q F S C G F G B W P E  
 W X K Y Y G I N S O Q M S T I J V T K A  
 C F V C L X M M P M N T Y P K M M P V Y  
 C F M L M Y X G S M A R K E T Y F V L A  
 D Z M E I N X N K G K F Y N Y E L L O W  
 E Q M A U C T I O N B K L Y V D N N U D

- CHICKEN
- AUCTION
- YELLOW
- CHOIR
- MARKET
- GARDEN
- JUGGLING
- CALENDAR
- ESCAPE ROOM
- VIM
- GTP
- HEART
- PLARN
- SPRING
- BICYCLE
- WEDDING



## Mission Trips

### Midwest Mission CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT

Oak Creek Community UMC is planning our annual trip to **Midwest Mission October 20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**. You can be part of our team. We have been sending a team to Midwest Mission in Pawnee, IL every year since the facility opened in 2000 (except 2020.) We keep going back because we are doing God's work and we have so much fun. Plus we get to use power tools!



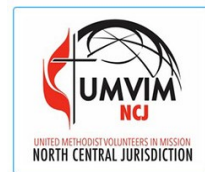
You can come for a few days or all five. There are jobs for every skill level from sitting at a table counting items to making desks. Come with a friend or make some new ones as you work together on a wide variety of projects.

Cost is \$12 per day for materials, \$25 per night double occupancy & \$25 processing fee double occupancy. Meals are your own responsibility. We eat breakfast & lunch in the dorm (there is a kitchen to prepare meals) and those who wish to, go out for dinner. Carpooling and scholarships are available. Don't delay if you want a bottom bunk in the dorm.

Contact Bonnie, [bonnieclement05@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieclement05@gmail.com) or 262-497-9969 for details.  
**Registration deadline is August 1st.**

### Volunteers in Mission CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT

Volunteers in Mission (VIM) provides volunteer opportunities to express Christ's love by helping our brothers and sisters in our local community, across our nation and around the globe through disaster response activities, housing projects and rehabilitation, education, and medical assistance. When we reach out and use what God has given us in the service of others, we have life-transforming experiences.



For more information on the below mission opportunities such as costs and registration deadlines, go to: [wisconsinumc.org/files/documents/ministries/](http://wisconsinumc.org/files/documents/ministries/)

**May 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Pine Lake UMC Camp**, Westfield. Come and join our annual pilgrimage to Pine Lake as we get the camp cleaned up and open for the busy summer season. We will be staying in the Rader Retreat Center, where each room has a double and a single bed with private bathroom. Bedding and towels will be provided. Projects will include installing docks and piers, cleaning cabins and washing windows. There will probably be wood cutting, splitting, stacking, chipping and general grounds clean-up - whatever projects the staff has on the priority list. You provide your own transportation to camp, with a cost of \$200.00 per person for the week or \$40.00 per day. You are encouraged to come for a day or two even if you can't stay the whole week. **Registration deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup>**, with a deposit of \$40.



**September 26<sup>th</sup> - October 4<sup>th</sup> - Lake Lucerne UMC Camp**, Neshkoro. Join us for a week of fellowship, fun and hard work! Plan to arrive and settle into your room in one of the cabins, then join us for dessert and our first evening together in Ridgewood, where we will share morning and evening devotions each day. Meals will be eaten in the Lodge starting with Monday breakfast and concluding with breakfast on Friday. Tasks may range from cleaning out cabins (washing windows, sweeping floors), to bringing in work at the waterfront, to cutting down trees and brush, to roof repairs and laying new sidewalk! We will do what the staff asks us to do -- and more! Fall or spring, Lucerne is a place to appreciate God's creation. You provide your own transportation to camp. Cost: \$200.00 – includes lodging, meals, work **supplies and donation to camp. To insure adequate planning**, registration deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup> with a deposit of \$40.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Food Pantry



We support our community and neighbors in need by supporting the Salvation Army. Please drop off non-perishable food items at the Salvation Army or visit their website to make an online donation at <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/oakcreek/>

The **Oak Creek Centennial Corps Food Pantry on Howell and Centennial Drive** also provides a 2-3-day supply of emergency food to neighborhood individuals and families in these zip codes: 53129, 53130, 53132, & 53154, on **Wednesday & Thursdays: 9:00 am - Noon**. The food is given on the day it is requested and represents breakfast, lunch, and dinner for all members of the household. Those receiving food are also informed about how they can participate in supplemental food programs so they can move beyond visiting food pantries.

**The following are required in order to be eligible:**

- Client picture ID (Must have current address and be shown every time)
- School record, Birth Record, Birth Certificate, for children in household. If you do not have this information you will only be served for yourself and not the other household members
- 2 proofs of residence (Mail and utility bill from the last 30 days ).

### Mobile Market

The Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that travels throughout Milwaukee County with grocery staples, such as fruits, vegetables, milk (dairy & non dairy options), chicken, beef, pork, deli meat, cheese, yogurt, etc. Canned items or processed foods are not sold here. The market is an active store, not a food pantry or donation center. Prices are 50% off Piggly Wiggly prices. The market accepts debit cards, credit cards and Quest EBT, but no cash. Hours and days vary at locations in South Milwaukee, St. Francis, Cudahy and Franklin.



For sites & times go to: [hungertaskforce.org/what-we-do/mobile-market/](http://hungertaskforce.org/what-we-do/mobile-market/)

### Senior Stock Box Distribution

Hunger Task Force is distributing a box of free, healthy food for seniors at different spots around Milwaukee County. All stockboxes include cereal, milk, canned veggies and fruits, pasta or rice, protein, fruit juice, canned meats and 2 pounds of fresh Wisconsin cheese. Qualifications are:



- 60 years or older (Bring an ID showing your age)
- Monthly household income of less than \$1,580 (1 person) or \$2,137 (2 persons) **(NEW)**
- Be a resident of Wisconsin
- Paperwork will be filled out at each site by Hunger Task Force employees.

- ⇒ 1st Thursday of the month from 1:00-2:00 pm at the Greenfield City Hall, 7325 West Forest Home Avenue;
- ⇒ 1st Friday of the month from 1:00-2:00 pm at the Grobschmidt Senior Center, 2424 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue in South Milwaukee;
- ⇒ 2nd Thursday of the month from 12:30-1:30 pm at Franklin Senior Meals in City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road;
- ⇒ 3rd Thursday of the month from 12:30-1:30 pm at the Kelly Senior Center, 6100 South Lake Drive, Cudahy
- ⇒ Every Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 am till Noon at St. Stephen Church, 1441 West Oakwood Road in Oak Creek.

## OFFICE NOTES

### Compassionate Care - Send them a note!

Please show your care for members and friends of our congregation who are homebound. You can contact them via the phone and/or by sending them cards. Please call the church office if you need someone's contact information.

Have fun sharing God's grace with those who may feel like they need a good word! Thank you for caring!

#### List of our OCCUMC homebound:

Lowell A	Jean B	Gay D	Jean J	Elaine L
Eileen S	Pat S	Alicia W	Kathy Z	Rick Z

*We always thank  
God for all of you  
and continually  
mention you in  
our prayers.*

### Connect/Share/Prayer Cards Requests



**Connect and Praise Report/Prayer Request Cards** are located on the back of the sanctuary chairs. Please place completed cards in the blue boxes. If you're worshipping virtually, please email your information/request to [office@occumc.org](mailto:office@occumc.org).

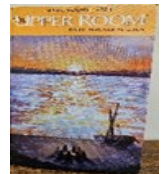
### Embracing Our Community

The Sarah Circle has expanded its **Card Ministry** to include the congregation. Cards are available every Sunday, in the Friendship Room, for you to become a part of this ministry. When you sign the card, you are sharing your concern and prayers for those receiving the card. The yellow **Prayer Request/Praise Cards** on the back of the chairs in the Sanctuary let us know who in our church family needs prayer.



### The Upper Room

The March-April issue of *The Upper Room* is available in regular and large print in the literature rack in the Friendship Room. Please let us know if you find this publication useful. The May-June issue will be available the 1st week of May.



### Membership Information - Name Badge



Do you have a name badge? Our badges are white with gold frames. Please wear one at events and worship. Contact the office if you need a new badge or have misplaced yours, [office@occumc.org](mailto:office@occumc.org)

### Mailings



**Please inform the office if you move. We still mail out statements and special correspondence. The post office doesn't always give us the forwarding information. We don't want you to miss out on anything from us.**

We also mail out information such as bulletins and newsletters to our members and friends who are not online. Contact the office at 414-762-4600 or [office@occumc.org](mailto:office@occumc.org) if you, or someone you know, should be added to the list of those being mailed materials from the church.



# Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church



8675 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street

Oak Creek, WI 53154

Phone: 414-762-4600

Website: [www.occumc.org](http://www.occumc.org)

E-mail: [office@occumc.org](mailto:office@occumc.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/occumc](https://facebook.com/occumc)

YouTube: [@OCCUMCyoutube](https://@OCCUMCyoutube)

## *Mission Statement:*

*Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church is a Christian fellowship whose mission is to worship God, love and serve all people, grow in faith, and invite others to become disciples of Jesus Christ.*

# *April - May '24*

*No matter where you are on your journey,  
ALL are welcome here.*

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