

Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church
Faith Connections
April 28th, 2024



- As a praying church family, we are called to hold one another in prayer. This week we invite you to hold in prayer these randomly selected members and ministries: Alex & Cheryl C-R and the Mission Teams.
 - From Jan K: For Ed who is in the hospital with pneumonia.
 - For Jay Hartshorn as he is beginning chemotherapy.
 - From Cherie S: Continued prayers for future son-in-law Kelly, as he recovers from surgery.
 - From Joann M: For her cousin Rose who is recovering from a fall and that they find a caregiver for her.
 - For Judi I as she is recovering from a concussion.
 - From Judi I: For Keith I as he is entering home hospice.
 - For all who share their time and talents to OCCUMC and our community.
 - For our members who are recovering from various surgeries.
 - From Jane L: For her brother & sister-in-law as they travel to visit their son's family; for her brother-in-law who is awaiting test results.
 - That all at OCCUMC envision God's call to share their story.
 - For peace in the Ukraine and Israel.
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Opportunities for Service



The next Blood Drive is this **Wednesday, May 1st** from 2:00 - 6:30 pm. There are 23 appointment slots for whole blood and 5 appointments available for double red blood cells.

Someone needs blood every 2 seconds. Donors are at The Heart of Our Community! Remember all blood donated stays here in Southeast Wisconsin. Walk-ins are welcome.

May 1st: https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/261692



Dear OCCUMC Members and Friends:

Our church needs someone to step forward and assume the important position of Financial Secretary. This person is a member of the Finance Committee and the Senior Leadership Committee at OCCUMC.

Briefly, responsibilities include:

- Uploading Counters' spreadsheets into the churches accounting software
- Print reports and upload files for online giving
- Manage EFT giving
- Prepare the Monthly Contribution Report
- Attend the Finance and Leadership meetings
- Mail Quarterly Statements
- Record Annual Pledges
- Re-order & Distribute Offering Envelopes

Please prayerfully consider stepping into this critical position. If you would like more information, please contact the church office, Pastor Heidi or Jim Wittenberg.



Our regular youth group gathering for the month of May will be from 1:00 – 3:00 pm on **Sunday, May 5th**. We'll be joining in fellowship through games, activities, and discussion. All youth 6th grade through 12th grade (inclusive) are welcome, so spread the word and bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you!



Spring Clean Up Day is scheduled for **Saturday, May 18th**. We'll be serving **breakfast at 8:00 am** (eggs, sausage, pancakes and fried bananas!) to get the day off to a wonderful start. Please come and join us for some breakfast, fellowship, and as much work as you are comfortable doing.

May 14th is our next date for serving dinner at **The Cathedral Center!** We would like to have at least six workers. We leave church at 5:30 pm and return about 8:30 or 9:00 pm.



Signup sheets for volunteers and those making food are on the counter in the Friendship Room. The main dish this month is Sloppy Joes. There is also a need for side dishes: pasta salad, raw veggies, pickles, hamburger buns, chips, fresh fruit, bars (no nuts) and juice.

If you can't volunteer to serve or bring food, donations are also welcome. 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 > [Online Giving](#) > [Donate Now](#) > [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).



Oak Creek Community Preschool still has 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



Graduation season is just around the corner. We plan on celebrating our high school and college graduates at the June 2nd worship service. Please email the office with the names of those from our congregation who graduated in December, or will graduate in May and June. Thank you.

The History of the merging of the United Brethren and the Methodist Churches

If you've ever wondered where the "united" in United Methodist Church comes from, you're not alone. The UMC we know today was born out of the 1968 merger of two pre-existing denominations: The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The Methodist Church was directly descended from the ministry of John Wesley, but fewer people know the origins of The Evangelical United Brethren (EUB).

The beginnings of The EUB trace all the way back to the Late 18th Century in Colonial America (at the same time as the early Methodists). The EUB began as two separate religious movements among the growing German immigrant population in the Colonies: The Church of the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Church.

The Church of the United Brethren was founded by German-born missionary Philip William Otterbein and Pennsylvania pastor Martin Boehm. Otterbein was brought up in the German-reformed tradition, while Boehm was raised in a Mennonite (Anabaptist) community outside of Lancaster.

Despite coming from very different church traditions, the two men came together in 1767 when Otterbein attended a service at Long's Barn to hear Boehm preach. After the service he embraced Boehm and said in German "We are brothers." The two co-led a revival movement among Pennsylvania and Maryland's German-speaking community that held its first conference in 1800, officially forming United Brethren in Christ, which quickly spread to the Midwest.



Otterbein's words when meeting Martin Boehm, "We are brethren," inspired the name of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. Photo by Jay Rollins, United Methodist Archives and History.

The Evangelical Church was formed by German-Lutheran pastor Jacob Albright in Lancaster, PA. Albright had begun attending Methodist meetings in the 1790s and was inspired by their zeal and organizational model. He began leading Methodist-style classes among the German-speaking community. Albright's movement would not take the name Evangelical Association until 1816, eight years after his death. The name was changed to Evangelical Church in 1923

Though they began as separate movements, the United Brethren and the Evangelical Church were interconnected to each other and the Methodist Episcopal Church

through common practices and beliefs as well as bonds of fellowship and mutual respect between its founders. Albright had originally been approved as a preacher within The MEC and Boehm late in life became a member of The MEC even as he continued to lead the United Brethren. Boehm's son Henry became a preacher within The MEC and even accompanied Francis Asbury on many of his travels.

Both The United Brethren and The Evangelical Church continued to grow and develop over the 19th Century, spreading their ministries into the Midwest. The United Brethren founded Otterbein University in 1847, which is still operating today. Both denominations took a much harder line against slavery than The MEC. Both underwent splits in the Late 1800s over disagreements in polity and organization. The United Brethren gradually abandoned worship in German in favor of English, while the Evangelical Church retained their German roots much longer.

Talks of merging the two similar denominations began in the Early 20th Century. The two united to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1946. Prior to the merger the United Brethren had allowed women to become ordained, but ended this practice at the insistence of the Evangelical Church, which allowed only men serve as elders.

Not long after, talks began with the Methodist Church (formed in 1939) about creating new denomination together. While already sharing a common history and very similar ecclesiology, the EUB was smaller than the Methodist Church, both in terms of membership and geographical reach. There were other more significant differences as well.

The EUB took issue with the Methodists practice of segregating its African American clergy and churches into separate conferences (known collectively as the Central Jurisdiction). Though there were already efforts within the Methodist Church combating racial segregation, the prospect of a merger with the EUB brought added pressure on the larger denomination to abolish the Central Jurisdiction once-and-for-all. Meanwhile, The EUB agreed to recognize women's ordination in accordance with the Methodist Church's position.

The two denominations officially came together at the Uniting Conference in 1968 held in Dallas, TX. The merger was signified by the joining of hands between Bishop Reuben H. Mueller of the EUB and Bishop Lloyd Christ Wicke, not very different from the way the original United Brethren began with Otterbein and Boehm embracing as brothers. The new denomination would become known as The "United" Methodist Church, honoring the legacy of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.



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.



We love all the children and welcome them in worship! But if parents/grandparents need care support, we have a staffed Nursery available during service for ages 0 - 4. There are also activity bags available in the gathering area.



Connect/Prayer & Praise 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.



In response to God's love, you may support the ministries and mission of OCCUMC and beyond by giving:

In-Person: place your offering in the blue boxes

Online: www.occumc.org

Mail: OCCUMC 8675 S 13th St, Oak Creek, WI 53154

Electronic Funds Transfer: contact finance@occumc.org

The **May June** issue of *The Upper Room* is available in the literature rack in the Friendship Room.



The large bulletin board above the hanging file baskets is updated weekly with items of interest. If you would like something posted there, please contact Jane in the office.

Please check your hanging folder weekly. There may be something of interest in it. If your family doesn't have a folder please let Jane know (office@occumc.org or 414-762-4600). If you need a name badge, please contact Jane in the office.