



Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

Newsletter

February - March, 2026



A Simple Calling for Complicated Times

The words of the prophet Micah are simple, yet demanding:

“He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8.

In a world that often feels tense, divided, and overwhelming, this verse offers us both clarity and steadiness. Micah doesn’t overwhelm us with a long list of rules or complicated theology. Instead, he points us toward a way of living that is faithful, grounded, and practical.

To do justice is about more than holding the right beliefs—it’s about living them out. It means paying attention to who is being pushed aside, who isn’t being heard, and who is carrying the weight of broken systems. In a time shaped by economic inequality, racial tension, debates about immigration, and fear about the future, doing justice means refusing to look away. As followers of Christ, we are called to stand for fairness, dignity, and equity—not as a political statement, but as a faithful response to the gospel.

To embrace faithful love reminds us that how we treat people matters. Kindness is not weakness; it is a deliberate choice to act with compassion, even when it’s difficult. In a culture that often rewards anger and division, kindness becomes a powerful act of resistance. It shows itself in how we speak to one another, how we listen across differences, how we care for neighbors in need, and how we extend grace when judgment would be easier.

To walk humbly with God is an invitation to remember that we don’t have all the answers. Humility draws us into prayer, reflection, and a willingness to learn and grow. It reminds us that our deepest loyalty is not to an ideology or a nation, but to Christ. Walking humbly means seeking God’s guidance day by day, trusting God even as we acknowledge our own limits.

As United Methodists, we do not walk this path alone. Our Social Principles help guide us as we live out Micah’s call. They affirm the sacred worth of every person, urge us to **work for peace and justice**, call us to *care for God’s creation*, and encourage us to engage the world with thoughtfulness, faith, and courage.

John Wesley taught that faith is not just something we believe or feel, it’s something we live. Our tradition reminds us that the gospel has real-world consequences. When we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, stand against racism, care for the poor, and work for peace, we are not being “political.” We are being faithful.

Living out Micah 6:8 in today’s world won’t always be easy or comfortable. It will take prayer, discernment, courage, and patience with one another. But it is also a hopeful calling. God has already shown us what is good. The task before us is how we will respond...together.

May we be a church that does justice with courage, loves kindness with joy, and walks humbly with God every step of the way.

Peace be with you, *Pastor Heidi*

AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP GROUPS

All are welcome to attend our Sunday School classes after Sunday worship.

Classes begin at 10:00 am (10:15 on Coffee Bistro Sundays).

We offer a variety of classes that we hope meet your needs.

No experience is necessary.

Please review the below opportunities and come and join us!

Children's Sunday School

CONTRIBUTED BY JILLIAN IMOEHL



All children are invited to join us for Sunday School on Sunday mornings following worship. They will take part in a lesson, do an activity, and sing a song! Join us in the Sunday School Rooms (L6-8) at 10:00 am.

Youth Group

CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX CLEMENT-REICHLING



The OCCUMC Youth group is for anyone in grades 6 through 12 (inclusive). You do not need to be a member of any church to join. We meet monthly in the Youth Room (L5&7) for faith-building discussion, fellowship outings, and service to others. We are always ready to welcome newcomers!

SACRED HEADLINES



Sacred Headlines is a new multigenerational small group that will meet after worship to explore how current events connect with our faith. Each week we'll look at a headline or news story alongside scripture, listen for God's wisdom in the midst of today's world, and share honest conversation about where we see challenge and hope. Together we'll practice what it means to follow Jesus in real life - at the intersection of faith, community, and the headlines. Come down to the Community Room (L28-30).

BIBLE BROWSERS

CONTRIBUTED BY OLIVER CLEMENT



Bible Browsers meet after church at 10:15 downstairs in the Conference Room (L27). We are studying Isaiah. Bible Browsers is open to all ages, but is mainly geared for adults.

We are a Bible Study group. ANYONE can join regardless of how much knowledge you may have of the Bible... from "never read it" to "I know it well". Trust me, we ALL learn from the Study Group. Come and Join us!

If you would like to ensure you receive the emails from class, please be sure to send your email address to: OliverC_occumc@yahoo.com. Not only will you receive updates from me about the Bible Browsers, but you will also receive prayer requests from both members and friends.

We even have our class on "Zoom" if you can't make it into church for any reason. The link will be posted in the email. Direct questions to Oliver Clement at 262-902-5714 or the above email.

TEAMS

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 Chairs/Team Leaders to say "YES! Count me in!"

Altar Choir Director	Shelly Swodzinski	Office Administrator	Jane Lentz
Altar Choir Accompanist	Lindsay Gardenier	Men's Group	Clinton Peirce
Baby Layettes	Joan Ketchum	Nursery	Cheryl Clement-Reichling
Blooming Garden Group	Lois Dillon	Prayer Shawls	Diane Lindsay
The Cathedral Center	Joanne Mueller	Preschool	Stephanie Paszkiewicz
	Diane Wittenberg	Servant Leadership Team (SLT)	Jenny von Helms
Certified Lay Speaker	Liz Imoehl	SLT Member-at-Large	Shelly Swodzinski
Coffee Bistro	Merrilee Mahn		TBA
ERAS	Joanne Mueller	Staff Parish (SPRC)	Anna Hunter
Finance	James Wittenberg	Treasurer	Michelle Peirce
Financial Secretary	TBA	Asst. Treasurer (Interim)	Ed Kubes
Asst. Financial Secretary	Amber Yeary	Assistant Treasurer	Janelle Wagner
Giving Tree	Michelle Gibbs	Trustees	Clinton Peirce
	Jane Eickhoff	United Women In Faith	Diane Lindsay
Going to Pieces	Lois Dillon	Tabitha Circle	Bonnie Clement
	Judy Evert	Sarah Circle	Diane Lindsay
Lay Leader	Liz Imoehl	Website	Kathy Brekeller
Lay Member to AC	Liz Imoehl	Women's Retreat	Bonnie Clement
	TBA	Worship in the Arts	Lois Dillon
Marketing Team	Michelle Gibbs	Youth Education	Jillian Imoehl
Media & Technology	Kathy Brekeller	Youth	Alex Clement-Reichling
Midwest Mission	Bonnie Clement		

OCCUMC TEAM MEETING SCHEDULES

The following teams meet at 6:30 pm. Please see the list of upcoming meetings below:

- ♦ **Trustees:** February 10th, March 10th, April 14th;
- ♦ **Marketing:** March 17th, May 19th;
- ♦ **Finance:** March 12th;
- ♦ **Servant Leadership:** March 24th, May 26th;
- ♦ **SPRC:** Meets on Monday: March 16th, May 18th.

Please refer to the calendars online and in the weekly bulletins for any updates/changes to these dates.



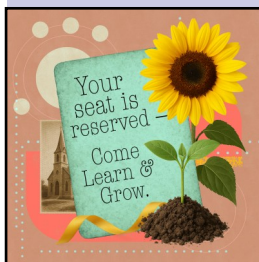
Worship with us virtually Sundays at 9:00 am

YouTube: [@OCCUMCyoutube](#) (Live & Recorded)

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

LENT SMALL GROUPS



What I Wish I'd Learned in Confirmation

Pastor Heidi and Tom Garnhart will lead a program for adults who want to review the basics of our faith as United Methodists. Six sessions will be held beginning on February 18th. Join us Wednesday mornings, 10:00-11:30, or Thursday evenings 6:00-7:30. On Thursdays we'll enjoy a meal together as well. We will meet in the Community Room (L28-30). Sign-up sheets are in the Communications Center.

February 18th, 10:00 - 11:30 am or February 19th, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Where We Come from as United Methodists

Theme: Persistence of the Faith of Jesus in spite of bitter divisions.

February 25th, 10:00 - 11:30 am or February 26th, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Jesus of Nazareth

Theme: Learning the Faith of Jesus vs. Believing things about him.

March 4th, 10:00 - 11:30 am or March 5th, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

God the Creator

Theme: What do we mean when we say "God?" Logos and mythos.

March 11th, 10:00 - 11:30 am pm or March 12th, 10:00 - 11:30 am

God the Spirit

Theme: The spirit sustained faith community. Sin and grace.

March 18th, 10:00 - 11:30 am or March 19th, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Living the Faith

Theme: What does faith require of me? Wesley's Quadrilateral.

March 25th, 10:00 - 11:30 am or March 26th, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Membership

Theme: What's makes church membership different

YOUTH GROUP CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX CLEMENT-REICHLING



What's a great way to stay warm in these cold winter months? Enjoying a bowl of soup, of course! Stop by our table after worship on **February 8th** to pick up your very own handcrafted soup! All proceeds support the Youth Mission Trip, which this year is going to our very own Lake Lucerne Camp. Don't forget to grab an extra one for a friend!

MEN'S GROUP AUCTION

After a second year of wonderful fellowship, a lot of laughter and friendly bidding competition, the Men's Group is excited to be planning this year's Auction and Soup & Chili dinner.



We were able to raise **\$6,665** during last year's auction and many of you went home with wonderful items! Half of the money we raised went towards the General Fund and the other half to the Men's Group account. From that money, the Men's Group was able to provide 55 families with a full Thanksgiving meal last year. What a blessing it is to serve our community in this way.

This year's event will be held on **March 28th @ 5:00 pm** in Doyle Hall and we will be serving a variety of soup, chili and hot dogs. As always this event could not be the success it has been without your support and participation. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us on the 28th and remember, we value any and all contributions you are able to make to the items that will make up this year's auction



UPCOMING EVENTS

Food Pantry Challenge CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



For the 5th year, Going to Pieces will run the Salvation Army Food Pantry Challenge!! This has been a hugely successful community outreach event for our church, and we have become valuable contributors to the Oak Creek Salvation Army Food Pantry.

As in years past, the raising of funds instead of collecting actual food items has proven to be much more efficient, as the Salvation Army has the resources to buy in bulk and gets more value for every dollar raised. This year the Going to Pieces group voted to start the challenge with \$750. We also have a \$300 contribution from the United Women in Faith. So, that brings the total for the challenge to \$1,050.

We challenge the congregation to match the initial \$1,050 contribution. This will start Ash Wednesday (February 18th) and run through Lent until Easter Sunday (April 5th). Please be sure to mark any contribution given electronically for the Food Challenge: occumc.org > [Online Giving](#) > [Donate Now](#) > [Other](#) > [Food Challenge](#). There will be envelopes near the blue giving boxes in the Sanctuary to put your monies in when you worship in person.



OCCUMC has always stepped up to this challenge, and we pray that you will again help us to stock this local food pantry serving our immediate community!

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

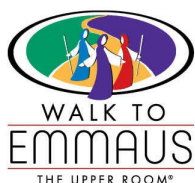


Can you survive the storm? Join us in an escape room at *60 to Escape* on **Sunday, March 15th** to see if you can solve the puzzles and riddles! All youth grades 6 through 12 (inclusive) are welcome, so bring a friend!

The cost for this event is \$35 per person, and we need to make a reservation.

Contact Alex C-R at arc_332@att.net by **Sunday, February 8th**, if you are interested.

WALK TO EMMAUS



Do you seek spiritual renewal? New understandings of God's grace & love? Worship & community with other believers?

Are you desiring to strengthen your spiritual life? Seeking answers to questions about your faith? Willing to dedicate your everyday life to God?

On an Emmaus weekend you will sing, reflect, pray, worship, learn, share Holy Communion, participate in small groups, experience God's grace in community and in the world and understand Christian love in action. The Walk to Emmaus develops Christian disciples and leaders by inspiring, challenging, and equipping active adult church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. It also benefits less active members seeking to renew a relationship with God, grow spiritually, or discover firmer foundations for their lives.

The program begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, that is wrapped in prayer and signs of sacrificial service. It continues for the rest of participants' lives with follow-up groups that contribute to participants' ongoing growth in grace, along with the local church's robust offerings.

Imago Dei Village, Clintonville Space is limited. Registration information:

Men's Walk April 16th - 19th foxvalleyemmaus.com/walkinformation-men

Women's Walk April 23rd - 26th foxvalleyemmaus.com/womens-walk

FINANCIAL NEWS

Apportionment CONTRIBUTED BY JENNY VON HELMS



A big heartfelt THANK YOU to our congregation for helping us cross the finish line and crush our apportionment goal for 2025! **We gave \$34,000 for our goal of \$33,846!**

Here are a few reminders about apportionments, as we work to meet our 2026 goal:

- *Our apportionment giving is divided and distributed throughout the United Methodist Church to support ministry and missions locally and around the world.
- *Our annual apportionment goal is determined by the Wisconsin Conference based on financial & membership numbers.
- *Apportionments are connectional -- there are 12.5 million United Methodists in 136 countries. We can do amazing things to help others in need when we combine our giving with UMCs across the globe.

Our apportionment goal for 2026 is \$36,348. You can give any time of the year -- please use giving envelopes to indicate apportionment amount or somehow designate your gift for apportionments.



Again, thank you for helping us achieve this ambitious target!

Special Sunday Collection



United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responds to disasters in the United States and around the world by working with communities and local partners. When a disaster overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own, UMCOR provides essential relief supplies and supports long-term rebuilding efforts, with local churches being the first responders to their communities.

A special collection will be taken on Sunday, February 15th for UMCOR. Please note the amount you want donated to UMCOR in the memo section of your check, or give online at occumc.org > [Online Giving](#) > [Donate Now](#) > [UMCOR](#). 100% of your donation goes to relief efforts.

OCCUMC FINANCIAL CENTER

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

Our Staff:

Rev. Heidi Loomis
Pastor
pastor@occumc.org

Jane Lentz
Office Administrator
office@occumc.org

Michelle Peirce
Treasurer
treasurer@occumc.org

Ed Kubes (Interim)
Assistant Treasurer

Janelle Wagner
Assistant Treasurer

TBD
Financial Secretary
finance@occumc.org

Amber Yeary
Asst. Financial Secretary

Shelly Swodzinski
Altar Choir Director

Todd Anderson
Organist

Lindsay Gardenier
Choir Accompanist

Steven Siefert
Media & Technology

Cheryl Clement-Reichling
Nursery Coordinator

Heather Paniagua
Nursery Care Support

		2025	2024
<u>Month of</u> <u>December</u>	General Fund Income	\$41,998.55	\$35,476.97
	Expenses	\$29,936.26	\$24,114.86
<u>2025 Calendar</u> <u>Year</u>	General Fund Income	\$296,751.98	\$275,849.53
	Expenses	\$309,112.98	\$292,386.58
<u>Apportionment</u>	Annual Total Given	\$34,000.00	\$31,900.00
	Annual Goal	\$33,846.00	\$31,884.00

NEWS

TRUSTEES REPORT

CONTRIBUTED BY CLINTON PEIRCE

The days are getting longer and, even if it's winter out there, every time each of us has the opportunity to walk through any of the doors of our church, we feel the warmth of the building and the comfort of the fellowship that our community offers. What a gift from God!

Speaking of gifts, we have those in abundance within our community and within our Trustee Team. We sadly bid farewell to Daryl Borchardt who has served our church as a trustee for many, many years and in that time has offered his skills, time and knowledge without hesitation. The next time you see Daryl, please thank him for his dedication to OCCUMC. Thank you Daryl!



We also have the opportunity to welcome two new members to the team; Dexter Peirce and Pete Siepert. Please thank them both for volunteering to be a part of this team.



Once again, thanks to a generous donation, we've been able to make some much needed major improvements to the parsonage and garage. Both buildings have received a new roof and windows.

Other smaller projects have been completed as well, including adding more permanent reflectors to the bottom of each driveway to ensure that folks who use our church at night have no trouble finding their way safely into our parking lot. Two flushing systems in the upstairs ladies and men's bathrooms have been replaced, and we are in the process of replacing the bathroom soap dispensers as well.



If you use the downstairs rooms, you will probably have noticed that most of our lighting is provided by fluorescent tube fixtures. For reasons relating to changes in the bulbs for these types of fixtures and other details that I won't bore you with, we will be systematically upgrading all of these fixtures starting with rooms where the fixtures are currently not working eg. the adult Sunday School rooms and the Preschool. Thank you to Rich for leading this effort.

As always we are grateful for the opportunity to serve this community through the work we do to care for our buildings and grounds. If you notice anything that is not working properly or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the trustees.

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

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

CONTRIBUTED BY UWF TREASURER



United
Women
in Faith

The monies used for our mission projects comes from individual pledges from members and our fundraiser tea, which brought in \$900.

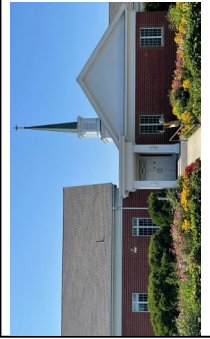
As of year end 2025, we sent the district \$1,000 in pledges, \$355 towards World Thank Offering and another \$75 as gifts to mission and memorials.

Our local gifts were presented to Rooted and Rising, Midwest Mission, The Cathedral Center and Northcott Neighborhood House and amounted to a total of \$1,300. We also contributed \$300 to the Going to Pieces Lenten challenge in support of The Salvation Army, and intend to pay \$500 to UMCOR.

February 2026

(as of 1/27/26)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group	2 7:00 pm AA Meeting	3 9:00 am Preschool 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	4 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	5	6 Pastor's Sabbath Day	7 Servant Leadership Team Retreat 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
8 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Bistro 10:15 am Sunday School, 365 Bible Grp, Small Groups Soup-er Bowl Fundraiser	9 9:30 pm GTP Meeting 11:45 am Preschool Board Mtg 6:00 pm 365 Bible Grp Zoom 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10 9:00 am Preschool Clergy Day Apart 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Trustees Team Mtg 7:00 pm AA Meeting	11 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath Day	14
15 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Preschool Cousins Fundraiser 4:15 pm See Spot Play	16 6:30 pm See Spot Play 7:00 pm AA Meeting	17 9:00 am Preschool 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	18 Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm Service 10:00 AM Lenten Small Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	19 9:30 am Book Club 10:00 am Sarah Circle 6:00 PM Lenten Small Group	20 Pastor's Sabbath Day	21 9:00 am Men's Group
22 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Bistro 10:15 am Sunday School, Small Groups	23 7:00 pm AA Meeting	24 9:00 am Preschool 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	25 10:00 AM Lenten Small Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	26 6:00 PM Lenten Small Group	28 Pastor's Sabbath Day	



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 8675 South 13th Street (corner of 13th & Puetz Rd)
 Oak Creek, WI 53154
www.occumc.org
 414-762-4600

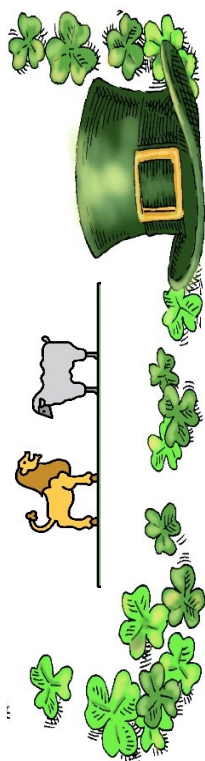
Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Monday - Thursday
office@occumc.org

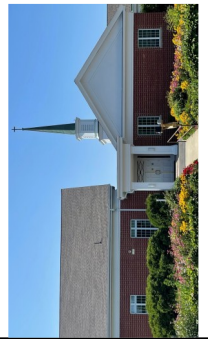
WORSHIP
with us

Sunday Worship 9:00 am
 Sunday School for all ages @ 10:00 am every Sunday
 Worship on YouTube @OCCUMCyoutube

March 2026

(as of 1/26/25)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group	2 9:00 am Preschool 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 7:00 pm AA Meeting	3 9:00 am Preschool 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	4 10:00 AM Lenten Small Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	5 6:00 PM Lenten Small Group	6 Pastor's Sabbath Day	7
8 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Bistro 10:15 am Sunday School, 365 Bible Grp, Small Groups 2:00 pm Tabitha Circle	9 9:30 pm GTP Meeting 6:00 pm 365 Bible Grp Zoom 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10 9:00 am Preschool 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Trustees Team Mtg	11 10:00 AM Lenten Small Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	12 6:00 PM Lenten Small Group 6:30 pm Finance Team Mtg	13 Pastor's Sabbath Day	14
15 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Preschool Cousins Fundraiser Escape Room Activity for Youth 4:15 pm See Spot Play	16 9:00 am Preschool 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm See Spot Play 7:00 pm AA Meeting	17 9:00 am Preschool 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm See Spot Play 7:00 pm AA Meeting	18 10:00 AM Lenten Small Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	19 6:00 PM Lenten Small Group 9:30 am Book Club 10:00 am Sarah Circle	20 Pastor's Sabbath Day	21 9:00 am Men's Group
22 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Bistro 10:15 am Sunday School, Small Groups	23 9:00 am Preschool 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg 7:00 pm AA Meeting	24 9:00 am Preschool 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	25 10:00 AM Lenten Small Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	26 6:00 PM Lenten Small Group	27 Pastor's Sabbath Day	28 Auction & Soup/Chili Dinner 5:00 PM
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group	30 7:00 pm AA Meeting	31 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers				



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office@occumc.org

WORSHIP
with us

Sunday Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School for all ages @ 10:00 am every Sunday
Worship on YouTube @ [OCCUMC](https://www.youtube.com/OCCUMC) Youtube

ITEMS OF INTEREST

PRESCHOOL CONTRIBUTED BY STEPHANIE PASZKIEWICZ

Thank you for helping our preschool by enjoying meals at Cousins in Franklin. Our next fundraiser at Cousins will be February 15th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.



Open enrollment for the 2026-27 school year begins on March 1st. Oak Creek Community Preschool offers 2, 3, or 4-day programs, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 – 11:30 am. We offer a quality preschool, licensed by the State of Wisconsin. Contact our Preschool Director Stephanie at occpreschool@gmail.com or 414-762-4600 to set up a tour.



JOIN THE CHOIR



Choir practice **takes place in the sanctuary every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.** Rehearsals last until about 8:30. We welcome everyone from 9th grade to age 99. We sing all types of music....from traditional to contemporary. We welcome singers, percussionists, and other musicians.

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly after worship or call her at 414-801-1940. Otherwise, just come on Wednesday. We'll be in the Sanctuary.

We'll have music waiting for you! Bring a friend!

Community Meals



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Health & Human Services

Senior Dining is offered at the Kelly Senior Center (6100 S Lake Drive, 414-481-9611) 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. 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 **3rd 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.

EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY WITH PRAYERS

Please show your care for members and friends of our congregation who are homebound, ill, having surgery, experiencing anxiety, depression or sadness, or in need of encouragement or support, by using one or all of the below:

- ♦ The Sarah Circle **Card Ministry** has cards available every Sunday in the Gathering Area;
- ♦ Yellow **Prayer Request/Praise Card** are located on the back of the chairs in the Sanctuary. If you are worshipping virtually, please email your information/request to office@occumc.org;
- ♦ **Prayer & Pocket Shawls** are in the basket next to the coat area that you can give someone to wrap around themselves to provide a comforting hug. All we ask is that you let us know who you gave it to, so we may keep them in prayer as well.

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

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

GOING TO PIECES FIBER ARTISTS CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON

Our Going to Pieces Group had a sew-a-thon in January and will have another in February. The members hauled bags, boxes, and giant rolls of fabric up from the basement closet. We sorted... again... and any "rejected" fabric due to thickness or size went to the Wilson Senior Center. Our "cutters" cut (Susan & Jan), fabric was surged (Judy E), then ironed (Kathy B), and finally sewn into bags (Lois D & Nancy B). We finished 11 bags and cut, surged & ironed 38 more!! Remaining fabric was returned to the closet where there is still more unsorted material. We took many started bags home to finish. Lois predicts that by the February meeting the GTP will have assembled close to 50 bags!!! These bags will be sent to Midwest Mission.

If this sounds like a fun mission for you, please contact:

Judy at ehomestead02@aol.com
or Lois at lsdillon@sbcglobal.net.



Gardens CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



With the long, dark, dull winter days of January, February and March...don't you just hope to see a tiny bit of green popping in the gardens?... Well not just yet...but there is hope and it won't be long before the daffodils and tulips are welcoming us to church....Think about joining the gardeners to keep our church grounds in beautiful shape. All levels of talent, experience and availability are welcome!!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

All women are welcome to join **Sarah Circle** and **Tabitha Circle**, which are a part of United Women in Faith. You do not need to be a member of the church.

- * **Sarah Circle** meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:30 am in the Library. The Book Club meets a bit earlier at 9:30 in the church library. Those participating in the UWF Reading Program come to share and discuss books they've read. Our meetings usually include Bible study, sharing our joys and concerns through prayer, planning for future meetings, and enjoying the camaraderie as women in faith. For more information, contact Diane, dianelindsay54@gmail.com.
- * **Tabitha Circle** meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm for devotions and Christian fellowship. For information, contact Bonnie bonnieclement05@gmail.com.



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

THE CATHEDRAL CENTER

CONTRIBUTED BY JOANNE MUELLER



We will be going back to serve food monthly from April to October of 2026. Information will be listed in the weekly connections. We look forward to your continuing support.

You can still make donations with your regular offering. Just designate the amount you want donated to The Cathedral Center on your check in the memo section. You may also give online at occumc.org > Online Giving > Donate Now > The Cathedral Center.

LAYETTE MISSION PROJECT

CONTRIBUTED BY JOAN KETCHUM

At the beginning of each year we are hopeful that we will be as successful this year as we've been in the past several years. We are so grateful for all the donations, help and prayers you bring us.

We currently need more quilts, knitted, crocheted or purchased blankets and flannel (1 yd) for receiving blankets. Eventually, we will need sleepers and onesies (sizes newborn to 9 mos.). Our recipients are: La Causa Children's Crisis Nursery and Respite Center, Aurora Sinai Hospital and Sixteenth Street Clinic.



We appreciate your prayers for our Mission and for the families that receive the layettes. Thank you for your help. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Joan, 414-215-7088 or joanmketchum@gmail.com.

WORSHIP & THE ARTS

CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON

As we all take a deep breath after a glorious holiday season and RESET our souls, values, purpose and direction concerning our faith, our walk with Jesus and our commitment to our church. Let's also set our sights on upcoming Lent and Easter. The worship team, through the decorations in the Sanctuary and Friendship Room, hopes to enhance and deepen your worship experience.

If you would like to join our team, please contact Judy (ehomestead02@aol.com) or Lois (lsdillon@sbcglobal.net).

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

CONTRIBUTED BY DIANE LINDSAY



There is a chill in the air and someone may need a little comfort. Do you know of anyone who may be experiencing feelings of anxiety, loneliness, or uncertainty? A prayer shawl may provide comfort and warmth and remind them they are loved. If a prayer shawl is too big, a pocket shawl could provide the same feelings of reassurance. Shawls are available in the basket in Gathering Area.

If you have any questions or suggestions for how this ministry may be more effective, please contact Diane (dianelindsay54@gmail.com) or text/phone (414-510-9342).

MERRY MAT MAKERS

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



The Merry Mat Makers have finished 20 sleeping mats.

If you would like to help make these mats come to Room L09 Tuesdays from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. If this time doesn't work for you, contact Joanne (grandmajo414@hotmail.com). She is happy to show you what to do at a time that is convenient for you. You are welcome to come work on the loom during office hours as your schedule allows or take supplies home to work there.

COOKIE WALK CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX CLEMENT-REICHLING

On a bright December afternoon, we gathered for a multi-generational cookie walk in Doyle Hall. A variety of cookies were brought and shared through a complicated dance of positions, and we warmed up with a hot cocoa bar while decorating even more cookies. Afterwards tins of cookies and cards were delivered to the homebound members of our faith family. What a wonderful way to celebrate the season!



BLUE CHRISTMAS CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX & CHERYL



The holidays can be a time of great joy, but they can also bring great sadness for those who have lost loved ones, feel disconnected, or are burdened by the troubles of this world. This year, we were honored to offer a space for these in the form of a Blue Christmas service.

Always remember that Jesus walks with us through whatever we face, and if we listen closely we can hear Him.

CARD MINISTRY CONTRIBUTED BY JANET PORTE



In this electronic age, receiving a card personally signed by members of your church family can be a tangible sign of God's love and the family's care for you. While we respect everyone's privacy and comfort level to share personal concerns, once someone's prayer request is published in the bulletin, we will reach out to you through the Card Ministry.

Cards will be on the credenza to the left of the main sanctuary doors. Please know that even if you don't know the person for whom the card is intended, taking the time to sign it is an act of kindness, appreciated by everyone who receives a card from you, their church family.

LENTEN SEASON



Ash Wednesday
Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday

February 18th
March 29th
April 2nd
April 3rd
April 5th

Service @ 6:00 pm
Service @ 9:00 am
Service @ 6:00 pm
Service @ 6:00 pm
Service @ 9:00 am

MISSIONS

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? Get details and register at umcmmission.org/stillinmission. Upcoming online dates: February 6th @ 7:00 pm, March 6th @ 11:00 am, & April 3rd @ 6:00 pm.

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 mission opportunities such as costs and registration deadlines, go to: wisconsinumc.org/volunteers-in-mission or contact Bonnie (bonnieclement05@gmail.com) as she will be going on some of the upcoming below listed trips. Can you say carpool?



March 16th - 21st Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Pawnee, IL. Participants will have the opportunity to pack the various kits (Personal Dignity, Home Care, etc) that Midwest Mission sends around

the world. Other tasks include repairing bicycles and sewing machines, helping with the mailings, building school desks, unloading supplies and various other tasks. Midwest Mission accommodates a wide variety of ability levels and provides information about the work they do during the mandatory breaks! We stay in the dorm on the MMDC grounds, and travel to the site individually or by car-pooling. Cost: \$270 per person. Full payment due with your VIM registration Form. Questions? Contact trip leaders Mike & Bobbi Couillard @ 608-215-6630 .



May 10th - 15th @ Pine Lake UMC Camp Westfield Come and join our annual pilgrimage to Pine Lake as we get the camp cleaned up 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 & piers, getting watercraft ready, cleaning cabins, and washing windows. There will probably be wood cutting, splitting, stacking, chipping & general ground clean-up.

This is a drive-to camp with a cost of \$250 for the week or \$50 per day. You are encouraged to come for a day or two if you can't stay for the whole week. Registration deadline is April 25th, with a deposit of \$50. Questions? Contact Wes Hurlburt @ 608-783-2652 or weshurlburt@gmail.com; or Don Mevis @ 608-296-2827.



September 20th - 25th @ Lake Lucerne UMC Camp, Neshkoro Join us for a week of fellowship, fun and hard work! You'll stay in one of the cabins and share morning and evening devotions. Meals will be eaten in the Lodge starting with Monday breakfast and concluding with breakfast on Friday. Tasks may range from cleaning out cabins to working at the waterfront, to cutting down trees & brush. This is a drive-to camp with a cost of \$200 which includes lodging, meals, work supplies and a donation to the camp. Registration deadline is September 1st, with a \$40 deposit. Questions? Contact Gail Burgess @ 262- 945-8578 or hb53104@aol.com; or Donna Kiefer @608-655-3097 or momkiefer@juno.com.

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** provides a 2-3-day supply of emergency food on **Wednesdays & Thursdays: 9:00 - 11:45 am and the 1st Monday of the month from 2:00 - 5:00 pm**. No appointment is necessary. 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).
- Resident of ZIP Codes 53129, 53130, 53132, 53154.

MOBILE MARKET

The Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that travels throughout Milwaukee County with grocery staples: 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 25% off Piggly Wiggly prices. The market accepts debit cards, credit cards and Quest EBT, but no cash.



- ⇒ 1st Thursday of the month at Lake Forest Apartments, 8471 S Chicago Rd, Oak Creek;
- ⇒ 3rd Tuesday of the month at Williamstown Bay Apartments, 3400 E Ramsey Ave, Cudahy;
- ⇒ 4th Friday of the month from 10:00 - 11:30 am at Thompson Meadows Apartments, 3120 E Norwich Ave, St. Francis.

Check hungertaskforce.org/what-we-do/mobile-market/ for times as they may change each month.

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 \$1,957 (1 person) or \$2,664 (2 persons)
- Be a resident of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
- Receive SANP, FDPIR, SSI, Low Income Subsidy Program &/or Medicare Savings Programs

- ⇒ 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.

Oak Creek Community
United Methodist Church

8675 South 13th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154

February - March '26

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



Oak Creek Community
United Methodist Church
Phone: 414-762-4600
Website: www.occumc.org
E-mail: office@occumc.org
youTube: [@OCCUMCyoutube](https://www.youtube.com/@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.
