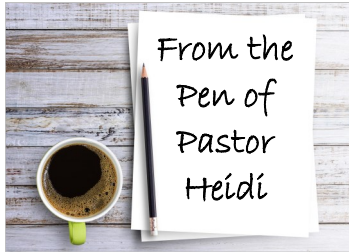




Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

Reminder

February-March, 2023



Just...pray

Our family always seems to get a running start into the New Year. Just when we think there might be a lull in the chaos of life and time to relax and enjoy the good things, something else comes along and puts us right back on our toes.

Is your family like this? Do you feel that often, just as you get your grip on life, something else comes along? It's like playing a continual game of Donkey Kong. . . You just keep jumping one barrel after another, after another, trying to get to the next ladder, and you finally get a moment to just stand in stillness...and then comes another barrel. (Yes, I'm aware that I dated myself by using a Donkey Kong reference.)

I had a moment last week when I had just about all I could handle for the day, and I became overrun with fear. Fear of uncertainty, fear of change, fear of chaos, fear of loss, fear of the future, fear of the present. I know that I'm not alone, we all face fears in life. Nothing is for certain in this world, and we begin to just stand ready to face what's going to come up next. Fear had taken control of me. And in this moment, I panicked and I began working out my fear, reasoning with logic, working things out. But it didn't help. The fear continued and even became worse as I attempted to alleviate the problems. And as my brain raced through 536 thoughts at once, one word came into focus. One word that became louder and more obvious than anything else...**PRAY!**

Do you ever forget to pray? Am I the only one who often needs God to tap me on the shoulder and say "Hey! I'm still here. You can't do this on your own. Talk to me."

God is with us! Through the fears and the struggles and the joys and the sorrows of life, God is right here! We do not need to take the cares and worries of our lives on by ourselves because we have a God who has strength to overcome anything pulling us down. A God who can carry us through the times when we are too weak to stand. A God whose light can pierce the depths of darkness and overcome. Our God IS an awesome God!

I picked up my prayer beads and began to pray. One bead at a time. In the moment, I couldn't recall exactly what I was "supposed" to pray with each bead, so I made it up. One bead at a time. Through 34 beads. One bead at a time. And I came to the end of my prayer with strength in knowing that God had everything in His control. I surrendered myself and my fears to the love of God.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." –Philippians 4:6

As we continue our walk through the first months of 2023 and look toward our journey through Lent, let us not forget to talk to God. The world would have us turn within and bear every burden alone, but God calls us to "Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved." Psalm 55:22

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Heidi

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship In-Person & online: 9:00 am

Sunday School: 10:00 am Sunday School for all ages between Labor Day & Memorial Day

Worship Schedule - February

- February 5 5th Sunday After the Epiphany
Communion Sunday
Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 12:1-3
Message: Building Community—Encourage One Another
- February 12 6th Sunday After the Epiphany
Text: 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14-21; 24-27
Message: Building Community—Value One Another
- February 19 Transfiguration Sunday
Text: Various Readings
Message: Building Community—Pray For One Another
- February 22 Ash Wednesday Worship Service
& Imposition of Ashes @ 6:00 pm
- February 26 1st Sunday in Lent
Text: Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 6:1-7
Message: Questions to God—Living with Questions & Doubts

Worship Schedule - March

- March 5 2nd Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday
Text: 1 John 4:7-19
Message: Questions to God—Who Is God?
- March 12 3rd Sunday in Lent
Text: Psalm 100
Message: Questions to God—Why Should I Go To Church?
- March 19 4th Sunday in Lent
UMCOR Sunday Offering
Text: Psalm 137; John 11:23-35
Message: Questions to God—Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?
- March 26 5th Sunday in Lent
Text: Matthew 6:9-15
Message: Questions to God—How & Why Do I Forgive?

Holy Week Schedule: April 2nd — April 9th
Palm Sunday Worship at 9:00 am
Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:00 pm in Doyle Hall
Good Friday Worship at 6:00 pm
Easter Sunday at 9:00 am

Worship
with us
from
HOME

Watch our worship services live on our Facebook page at 9:00 am.



No need for a Facebook account; go to occumc.org and click on the Facebook link. Join our services live at 9:00 am Sunday's and/or view past worship services. Please, 'like' us or leave a comment so we know this ministry is beneficial.

Listen to the Weekly Recorded Worship Service Via Your Phone!



Just call 414-253-0437, listen, and enjoy!

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Sunday School



Classes are now meeting every Sunday after worship:

Love Class (Preschool –2nd grade)
Hope Class (3rd - 6th grades)
Faith Class (Jr & Sr High 7th-12th grades)
Parents Group
Bible Browsers (Adult)



Altar Choir



Do you find yourself singing along to songs in your car? Then we want you to join our choir. Just come to a Wednesday night practice from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Sanctuary. You don't have to read music or have an awesome voice.... we welcome EVERYONE from 10-99 who loves to sing!!! Bring a friend! If you have any questions, please contact Shelly S. at 414-801-1940, or speak with her after Sunday worship services.

Tabitha Circle



All Women are invited to join Tabitha Circle via Zoom, on the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm to share Christian fellowship & devotions. Contact Bonnie C at cc32drc@tds.net so she can send you the Zoom meeting link.

Thursday Morning Gathering



EVERY THURSDAY at 10:30 am everyone is welcome to meet at church. We will share devotions, concerns and celebrations. We close our gatherings with a Prayer for Peace composed by one of our group. There is no limit to the number of people who can come and share with us. If you have any questions, please call Carlene W. at 414-764-5034.

Ways You Can Serve



Would you like to help others enjoy our weekly worship services? Become a Worship Leader! What is needed for this ministry? Someone who is friendly and able to speak clearly. You work with Pastor Heidi to help guide the congregation through worship. If you are interested, please contact the office or Pastor Heidi.

Welcoming Ministries We are looking for additional members to be greeters & ushers. **Greeters & Ushers** are the first to welcome people into our community on Sunday. If you would like to learn more about how you can help in these ministries, please contact Dale T., DaleT251160@hotmail.com. It won't take a lot of time on your part, but you will reap the benefits and maybe get to know a few new people.

SING PRAISES TO THE LORD!

Technology Grant



In 2021 and 2022, OCCUMC received anonymous donations to go toward adding technology to our worship space. Thanks to these donations and the work of Pastor Heidi and Jenny vH, we applied for and received a \$15,000 matching grant from the Wisconsin Annual Conference Board of Trustees! With these funds we will be able to add technology to enhance our streaming capabilities as well as our in-person worship experience.

Stay tuned for more details and please add some prayers of thanksgiving for all those who worked to make this possible!

Bakery Corner



United Women of Faith Bake Sale Results: Thank you to all bakers, and volunteers helping and supporters buying bakery. The total raised was \$1,054.00. Some funds are distributed to support United Women of Faith through Legacy and Mission. The balance is distributed to nonprofit organizations. This year funds went to Salvation Army, Midwest Distribution, 16th Street Clinic and OCCUMC Youth.

Children's Book Drive

A huge thank you to all who scoured their bookshelves and closets for gently used books, and even purchased new ones.

We **collected over 350 books** for the 21st Century Preparatory School in Racine! The principal and teachers give out books as rewards to their students in grades K through 8.

We celebrate the support of this program, and lift in prayer the school's teachers, staff, and the recipients of these books.



Principal Stacey James (2nd from right) accepts our book donation. Also present are Dyanne L, Janet P, Robert P, Pastor Heidi, Kathy B, and Carlene W

Giving Tree



THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our 2022 Giving Tree, and to our coordinators, Jenny Von Helms and Michelle Gibbs.

Through our generosity, OCCUMC was able to provide Christmas gifts and grocery gift cards for a family of seven.

Additionally, we collected the following items to support the families and mission of United Methodist Children's Services:

- 159 pairs of socks, 37 infant onesies, 19 toys for all ages,
- 17 pairs of gloves, 14 bath sets, 12 craft kits, 6 hats, 5 blankets!

YOUTH EVENTS

Bowling Party Recap



The OCCUMC youth were on the move bowling on Sunday, January 8th. We all had an amazing time with challenges, laughter, and building friendships. Sierra P. may have a future on the bowling circuit, having the high score for the youth. We ended the day with pizza and soda. Stay tuned! More youth adventures are on the horizon.

Youth Escape Room Outing



Do you enjoy solving puzzles and thinking outside the box? Come join us in an escape room at *60 to Escape* on **Sunday, March 12th**. Become a master thief, save the world, become rulers of the realm, rob an underwater casino, or search for lost treasure! We'll meet at the church at 12:30 pm. All youth in grades 7 through 12 are welcome, so **bring a friend!**

The cost for this event is \$30 per person. We need to a head count to make a reservation, so please contact Susan via email, suej852@hotmail.com, or text, 262-308-5301, by Sunday, February 5th, if you are interested. We look forward to seeing you!

Youth Mission Trip—Summer 2023

"I'll follow You into the homes of the broken, follow You into the world.
I'll meet the needs for the poor and the needy, God. I'll follow You into the world."
-*"Follow You"*, Leeland



We are excited to announce we are preparing a youth mission trip for Summer 2023! Our primary option is Louisville, Kentucky through the organization Youthworks. This location is open to students who have completed 6th grade in the spring of 2023 through seniors who have graduated in the spring of 2023.

Youthworks offers a wide variety of assignments, but all are focused on relational work. At Louisville we may help with youth programming such as VBS, work at food pantries and soup kitchens, sort items at clothing distribution centers, or work on simple home repair projects.

The cost per participant for this trip is expected to be about \$380. However, youth will be participating in fundraising efforts through the year, and there are also scholarships which may be available to help limit cost as a barrier for participation.

Available weeks for this location are 6/11-6/16, 6/18-6/23, 6/25-6/30. Since we have selected a site close enough to reach within one day of driving, we do not need to overnight along the way.

If you are a youth, or know youth who might be interested in this trip, please contact us at suej852@hotmail.com and arc_332@att.net. Make sure to include the name of who will be participating, what grade each participant will complete in spring of 2023, and pick the best week from the selection above.



On Sunday, February 5th, we will hold an in-person meeting at 11:00 am for any youth, or parents with youth, who are interested in going on a mission trip this summer. Please plan to attend after service to find out more about our trip.

UPCOMING ITEMS OF INTEREST

Lenten Message Series



Who is God? Why do bad things happen to good people? How can I face the future? Asking questions is a normal part of human life. Having doubts is part of the human experience. We do not have to be ashamed of our doubts or hide our questions before God. In fact, God fully welcomes them and welcomes us. This Lent, we will practice bringing some of our biggest questions and doubts to God. We will practice embracing this deeply human part of ourselves as we move together toward the great and joyous mystery of Easter resurrection. (See Worship Schedule on page 2)

Lent Small Group Opportunity



Every Wednesday in March from 6:00 - 7:00 pm in Doyle Hall, we will have an opportunity to share ideas and thoughts from worship, dig a bit deeper into our scripture for the week, and enjoy Christian fellowship and conversation. There is little preparation needed, and the small group worksheets will be available in your hanging folders in the Friendship Room in the coming weeks. There is no sign-up, please come as you are able.

Tax Help



AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is planning to operate "In Person" tax sites starting February 1st the at following locations:

- ⇒ Greenfield Library - Mondays
- ⇒ Wilson Park Senior Center - Tuesdays
- ⇒ Franklin Library - Wednesdays
- ⇒ Cudahy Library - Thursdays
- ⇒ West Allis Senior Center - Fridays

NO APPOINTMENTS CAN BE MADE IN PERSON. Appointments can be made online at freetaxhelp.as.me. All required forms can be downloaded from the website or picked up at one of the sites after you have made your appointment. Appointments are filling up fast!

Please have all of the required forms completely filled out when you arrive for your appointment. Remember to bring your copy of last year's tax return, your ID, and Social Security Card.

Summer Staff Needed



Applications for Summer Staff 2023 are open NOW! For a summer of life-changing experiences and life-long friendships, seasonal positions are available as summer camp counselors, healthcare coordinators, and program support staff.

Working at camp is the Best. Job. Ever. No other job allows you to change the lives of campers while building a community of lifelong friends and learning tangible skills that will serve you in any future career field. Together we are building community, equipping disciples, and modeling care of creation in ways that reflect the love and grace of God. To apply for a position, go to <https://wiumcamps.brainstaff.com>

UPCOMING MISSION EVENTS

Women's Retreat



Spring Women's Retreat April 28th - 30th, 2023 at Lake Lucerne Camp and Retreat Center. *"Baskets full of Blessings" is the theme.* Join women from across the state for a weekend of fun, relaxation, and learning. Each day features enriching workshop choices, devotions, nature walks and more. There's no shortage of fellowship, good food, and time to relax in nature.

Cost is \$160 for a shared room, \$230 for a single. Registration fee covers 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, 3 workshops, and all necessary materials. Registration forms will be available by year end with a **deadline to register of April 1st**. Questions about this weekend can be directed to Retreat Leader, Bonnie C at bonnieclement05@gmail.com

Service at UMC Camps



April 30th – May 5th, 2023 - Lake Lucerne UMC Camp, Neshkoro, WI. In 2023, we are offering a spring trip to Lake Lucerne Camp. Instead of watching the leaves on the trees change color, we will watch as the leaves turn green! We will be preparing for the opening of camp rather than helping to close up for the winter. We will help wherever needed. Tasks are likely to include general spring cleaning, installing the pier, general maintenance, cutting down some trees, and more!

Participants should plan to arrive Sunday afternoon, but no meal will be offered that evening. Instead, we will gather in the Ridgewood Retreat Center for snacks and fellowship, and to sign up for our tasks for the week. Lodging will be in the Ridgewood cabins with meals in the Milton Giese Dining Hall. Morning and evening devotions will also be in the Retreat Center each day. The last meal will be breakfast on Friday.

Note – it will be necessary to bring your own sleeping gear and towels. Cost: \$180 (includes lodging, meals, work supplies and donation to camp). **Registration and \$36 deposit deadline is April 7th (Good Friday)**. Checks should be made out to WAC/VIM. Please let us know if you will not be staying for the entire week. REGISTRAR/Co-leader: Gail Burgess - 6510 203rd Avenue, Bristol, WI 53104, 262-945-8578 or Co-leader: Donna Kiefer - momkiefer@juno.com 608-655-3097 (H), or 608-575-9529.



May 14th - 19th - Pine Lake UMC Camp, Westfield, WI. Camp preparations and repairs for summer or seasonal camping. Participants will be staying at the Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader Retreat Center, which includes the Don and Elaine Mevis Wing. Each room has one double and one single bed with private shower and bathroom facilities. Bedding and towels are also provided. Projects include installing or removing piers and docks, general seasonal cleaning and preparation for the coming season. The camp always plans a major project for us to complete.

Cost: \$180 per person for the week; \$36 per day. You are encouraged to come for a day or two if you are not able to spend the week. This is a drive to camp. Please register in advance whether coming for the week or a day. **A deposit of \$36 is due with registration.** Checks should be made payable to WAC/VIM Camp – **Deadline is April 1st**; 608-783-2652; weshurlburt@gmail.com Co-Leader: Don Mevis, Westfield, WI; (608)296-2827; mevis@frontier.com

MISSIONS

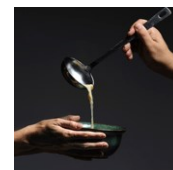
The Cathedral Center & Friendship House

THE
CATHEDRAL
CENTER



I want to take this time to thank all who were so generous during the last year in donations to The Cathedral Center. We sent a total of \$4,970.00 (WOW!) to the center. I know that when the need is there, OCCUMC always steps up. 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 and pick The Cathedral Center.

Mark your calendar! We will be going back on April 25th to serve a meal. Be aware they still use Covid protocol, which means masks and gloves when serving. So, the options for you are to continue to support the mission with donations of finances, food, or to work on our serving team.



Thank you so much for your support of this mission.

Peace, Joanne

Any questions? Call Joanne at 414-817-2914 or email grandmajo414@hotmail.com.

Greeting Cards



Come Create Greeting Cards! The next sessions will be on Thursdays, February 9th and March 16th, at 6:00 pm, in Doyle Hall. We make seasonal cards which are donated to nursing homes in the area. Materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your own scissors or glue. You can also bring any designs to create your own, but samples will be available for those who prefer to recreate existing designs. Contact Karen so she knows how many to expect: call or text 414-791-4284; or email SendingToKaren@gmail.com.

Worship & the Arts



Are you creative? Do you love to decorate? Do you like to try new things? Do you love to browse Pinterest? Are you just waiting to join a group or team? We have the place for you!!!!

Worship and the Arts is where you can let your creative juices flow! We are looking for people with bright ideas that want to help make our worship experience meaningful. That's what Worship and the Arts does. We try to create a place where God's Word will reach and move you so you take God's message out into your everyday life and share it with the people and world. We have a very flexible schedule, as we have times of the year that we are very busy—Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and many months of the year where we do minimal decorating. Please contact Lois D. or Judy E. for more information. We would love to have you join us making OCCUMC services exceptional!



Are you available once a month for 15 minutes? One of the missions of the Worship and the Arts Team is preparing Communion for the first Sunday of the month. This is done by the **Communion Steward**.

What does this involve? Before the service: collecting the communion bread from Carol L. (she bakes it and brings it to church the morning of the service), setting out Pastor Heidi's communion cup & plate, and setting out the prepackaged communion elements and napkins. After the service, the cup & plate are washed and everything else is put away. The elements can be put out the morning of, the day before, or several days before. If you are interested in taking on this service to our church, contact Lois D or Pastor Heidi. Thank You.

MISSIONS

OCCUMC Missions support opportunities for members to do God's work and grow as a faith community. The missions outreach includes local, regional and international efforts.

Going to Pieces



We had a wonderful 2022, participating in two Craft Fairs and raising a lot of money for OCCUMC. We are a group that has so many talented people, creative sewers, knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, and just over all crafters! Our craft fair tables showcase a little bit of everything!

Our next meeting is Monday, February 13th at 9:30 am in Doyle Hall. At this meeting we will discuss a plan for the use of our finances, plan for a group project, plan possible community outreach programs, and finish with our ever popular "SHOW AND TELL". We are already registered for a Craft Fair on Saturday, November 18th, 2023, at the Oak Creek Community Center. So, mark your calendars as that is a great time to start Christmas shopping.

Our meetings and Fairs are open to all. Come join us!

Layette Program

Sarah Circle is very appreciative of all your donations of baby items for our Layette Mission Project. We are one of the many parts of our United Women in Faith's programs here at OCCUMC. Our joy is in creating the layettes for several places in our area. We reach out where there is a need.



We are always looking for more people to donate new sleepers and onesies in sizes newborn through 9 months, a yard of flannel to make receiving blankets, and your own creation of knit, crocheted or quilted blankets. These can be placed in the cradle on the table in the Friendship Area by the prayer shawls.



We also accept and welcome gently used children's clothing for La Causa as they are a 24/7 emergency housing facility for children to stay for up to 3 days when they are facing a crisis at home. Aurora Sinai Hospital welcomes women's gently used pants, tops and jackets for their women's closet for mothers in need. We've purchased packages of new undergarments for

them, which we are told can help when they are ready to leave the hospital as they arrive with only the clothing they are wearing. If you have questions, please call Joan K. @ 414-215-7088.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



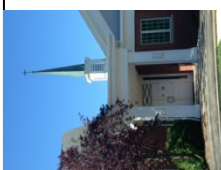
If you know of anyone who would benefit from being wrapped in a tangible prayer, please feel free to pick up one from church in The Friendship Area. By providing us with a name or brief description of the person who you are gifting with the shawl, we will be able to keep that person in our prayers.



Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn how? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for more people to help with this ministry. The shawls are a tangible gift of prayer from us to you, a loved one, or friend, with prayers woven into each stitch, and blessed upon completion. Please contact Diane L. at 414-510-9342 or dianelindsay54@gmail.com if you have time or materials to donate to this ministry.





February 2023

(as of 1/22/23)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 <p>Black History Month</p>					
5 Communion Sunday 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages	6 7:00 pm AA	7 9:00 am Preschool	8 2:00 PM BLOOD DRIVE 7:00 pm Choir Practice	9 10:30 am Thursday Morning Gathering	10 Pastor's Sabbath Day Off	11 9:00 am - 3:00 pm WI UMC Sermon near Doyle Hall
12 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages 2:00 pm Tabitha Circle	13 9:30 am GTP Meeting in Doyle Hall 7:00 pm AA	14 6:30 pm Trustees Team Meeting	15 9:00 am Preschool 7:00 pm Choir Practice	16 10:30 am Thursday Morning Gathering 11:45 am Preschool Board Meeting 7:00 pm Greeting Card Ministry	17 Pastor's Sabbath Day Off	18
19 Transfiguration Sunday 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages	20 7:00 pm AA	21 6:30 pm Finance Team Meeting	22 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Service Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Choir Practice	23 10:30 am Thursday Morning Gathering	24 Pastor's Sabbath Day Off	25
26 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages	27 9:00 am Preschool 7:00 pm AA	28 9:00 am Preschool				
	<p>Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church 8875 S. 13th Street (corner of 13th & Puetz Rd) Oak Creek, WI 53154 www.occumc.org 414-762-4600</p>		<p>Sunday Worship 9:00 am In-Person Sunday School for all ages @ 10:00 am every Sunday Worship on Facebook Live! at 9:00 am or watch anytime at facebook.com/occumc.org OR Listen to the recorded service at 1-414-253-0437</p>		<p>WORSHIP <i>with us</i></p>	

March 2023

(as of 1/30/23)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
		Women's History Month	9:00 am Preschool	9:00 am Preschool	Pastor's Sabbath Day Off	
5 Communion Sunday 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages	6 7:00 pm AA	7 9:00 am Preschool	8 6:00 pm Lent Small Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice	9 10:30 am Thursday Morning Gathering	10 Pastor's Sabbath Day Off	11 Pastor's Sabbath Day Off
12 Day light Saving Time Begins 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages 2:00 pm Tabitha Circle	13 6:30 pm SPRC Team Meeting 7:00 pm AA	14 4:30 pm Marketing Team Meeting 6:30 pm Trustees Team Meeting	15 6:00 pm Lent Small Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice	16 10:30 am Thursday Morning Gathering 7:00 pm Greeting Card Ministry	17 Pastor's Sabbath Day Off 	18 Pastor's Sabbath Day Off
19 UMCOR OFFERING 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages	20 7:00 pm AA	21 9:00 am Preschool	22 6:00 pm Lent Small Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice	23 10:30 am Thursday Morning Gathering	24 Pastor's Sabbath Day Off	25 Pastor's Sabbath Day Off
26 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages	27 6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting 7:00 pm AA	28 9:00 am Preschool	29 6:00 pm Lent Small Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice	30 10:30 am Thursday Morning Gathering	31 Pastor's Sabbath Day Off	
	Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church 8875 S. 13th Street (corner of 13th & Puetz Rd) Oak Creek, WI 53154 www.occumc.org 414-762-4600		Sunday Worship 9:00 am In-Person Sunday School for all ages @ 10:00 am every Sunday Worship on Facebook Live! at 9:00 am or watch anytime at facebook.com/occumc.org OR Listen to the recorded service at 1-414-253-0437			

MINISTRY TEAMS

Trustees Team Meetings @ 6:30 pm



- Tuesday, February 14th
- Tuesday, March 14th
- Tuesday, April 11th

Leadership Team Meetings @ 6:30 pm



- Monday, March 27th
- Monday, May 22nd

Marketing Team Meetings @ 4:30 pm



- Tuesday, March 14th
- Tuesday, May 9th

Staff Parish Relations Team Meetings @ 6:30 pm



- Monday, March 13th
- Monday, May 8th

Finance Team Meetings @ 6:30 pm



- Tuesday, February 21st
- Tuesday, April 18th

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 and let them know of your interest.

Administrative Assistant	Jane Lentz	Memorial Gifts	Janet Porte
Altar Choir Director	Shelly Swodzinski	Missions	TBA
Computer Support	Doug Clement	Preschool Director	Stephanie Paszkiewicz
ERAS	Joanne Mueller	Preschool Liaison	Janelle Wagner
Financial Team	James Wittenberg	Staff Parish (SPRC)	Dale Tetzlaff
Financial Secretary	Bonnie Clement	Treasurer	Judie Peterson
Asst. Financial Sec.	Amber Yeary	Asst. Treasurer	Ed Kubes
Blooming Garden Group	Lois Dillon	Trustees	Clinton Peirce
Lay Leader	TBA	United Women In Faith:	
Lay Member to AC	Allan Lindsay	Tabitha Circle	Bonnie Clement
Lay Speaker	Liz Imoehl	Sarah Circle / Thursday Morning Gathering	Carlene Wintermote
Certified Lay Speaker	Allan Lindsay		Kathy Brekeller
Leadership Team	Doug Clement	Website Support	Lois Dillon
Marketing	Dale Tetzlaff	Worship in the Arts	Alex Clement-Reichling,
Media & Technology	Devin Wiemann	Youth Team	Eric von Helms,
Member-at-Large	Janet Porte		Susan Jacobs-Tetzlaff

TEAMS

Trustees

Blessing to you all for the New Year !!!

2023 brings changes to the Trustee team:

- ◆ We welcome Jane Eickhoff as a new member of the Trustee team.
- ◆ We bid farewell to Doug as he focuses on other leadership roles within the church.
- ◆ Clinton and I (Kathy) have switched roles... Clinton is the Trustee Chairperson and I am the Vice-Chairperson.



2022 was one of the most eventful years of my life, and I say without hesitation, it was also a very rewarding year. The Lord blessed me with many talents, skills, and experiences so little did I know several years ago when I prayed to the Lord to use me as he saw fit, that it would be as an OCCUMC Trustee.

I am blessed to work with this group of Trustee's who are spiritually driven, dedicated, and committed to whatever is put in front of us. This was another activity-packed year for the OCCUMC Trustees, but a lot more work is ahead of us. I reiterate what was said in the last Newsletter: "Being a Trustee is a rewarding way to serve our Lord".

If, like me, you feel you are called to serve, we'd love to welcome you to the Trustee team. Or, if you have skills to share but don't want to formally join the Trustees, let us know, we'd welcome your skills and experience.

May the love & blessings of the Lord be with you always,
Clinton P, Kathy B, Terry P, Steve D, Daryl B, Eric V, Keith S, Jane E,
Ed K, Fred S.

Clean-up Day



Thirteen people participated in the Trustee Workday held on January 21st. We worked non-stop for four hours. There were flatbeds and dollies full of furniture, trash and "treasures", rolling down the hallways all morning!! So

much activity!! Traffic jams! The storage rooms and closets look great! We even found some goodies.

Everything planned for donation was put in the west hallway in the basement, with folding chairs & side chairs in Room L09. We invite you to go down and take anything you can use. We can deliver it to you, if needed. We will arrange for donation pick up of the remaining stuff, the second week in February.



A special thank you to Kathy B. for her organization and coordination of this massive undertaking. She did a lot of cleaning and rearranging before the 21st.

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9:00 am - Noon

Our Staff:

Rev. Heidi Loomis

Pastor

pastor@occumc.org

Jane Lentz

Administrative Assistant

office@occumc.org

Judie Peterson

Treasurer

treasurer@occumc.org

Ed Kubes

Assistant Treasurer

Bonnie Clement

Financial Secretary

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

Treasurer's Corner

<u>Month of December, 2022</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>General Fund</u>	Income	18,367	
	Expenses	<u>19,876</u>	24,574
	Excess/(Shortfall)	<u>(1,509)</u>	
 <u>Fiscal 2022 YTD</u>			
<u>General Fund</u>	Income	261,922	
	Expenses	<u>264,924</u>	296,767
	Excess/(Shortfall)	<u>(3,002)</u>	
<u>Apportionment</u>	Income	907	2,640
	YTD	26,491	31,680



Please use only 2023 envelopes. Envelope numbers from prior years may be assigned to someone else. If you need envelopes, please contact finance@occumc.org.

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

The 2022 Contribution Statements were mailed out at the end of January. Please check your statement and contact Bonnie at finance@occumc.org with any questions.

Contributions



OCCUMC members are a giving community. Every month contributions are received for various organizations. For 2022, the totals are as follows:

- ⇒ Flowers & Gardens — \$265.00
- ⇒ Human Relations Sunday — \$120.00
- ⇒ World Communion Sunday — \$186.00
- ⇒ UMCOR — \$5,890.00
- ⇒ Peace With Justice Sunday — \$60.00
- ⇒ UM Student Sunday — \$230.00
- ⇒ Native American Sunday — \$400.00
- ⇒ UM Children's Services — \$1,264.27

Apportionment



Applause for the Apportionment and For Us!

It brings great pride and joy to announce that Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church paid in full its share in the work of the greater church: \$31,360! This is due to your faithful giving and the determination of the church leadership to fulfill its responsibility to the Apportionment. You have also been faithful givers to the special Sunday offerings that go to the missions of the United Methodist Church. To give to the local church and the greater church shows true commitment to doing God's work. Thank you for making this possible!

Finance



Thank you to those who turned in the Commitment Cards. These help the Finance Team make good decisions as they steward the funds of OCCUMC. Please know that you can change your estimate at any time—up or down—to better reflect what you plan to give this year. We understand situations can change and the latest information will help us with our planning.

Items of Interest

Good Samaritan Fund



Here in the church we have a fund called the Good Samaritan Fund. This is a fund that isn't funded by our budget. It is funded by donations specifically to the fund.

Our Good Samaritan Fund can offer some limited financial help. We use this fund when someone calls and needs help with buying groceries, putting gas in their tank, buying seasonal clothing, or school supplies for their kids, or in an emergency where they need a hotel room for a night.

If you'd like to contribute to the Good Samaritan Fund, you can do so by designating an amount on your check or giving envelope. You can also give online at occumc.org click Online Giving > Miscellaneous > then type in Good Samaritan Fund.

Helping Those In Need



UMCOR

Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

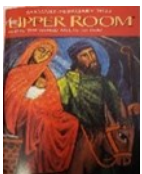


United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responds to disasters in the United States and around the world by working with communities and local partners. When a disaster overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own, UMCOR provides essential relief supplies and supports long-term rebuilding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

While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, it stands ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until a "new normal" is established after a crisis. **"Early in and last out" is a guiding principle of UMCOR.** When disasters happen, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding – that disaster response is local – forms the foundation for UMCOR's U.S. disaster training and response efforts.

Please be there for survivors by including your donation with your regular offering, noting in the memo line of your check the amount you want donated to UMCOR; or by giving online @ occumc.org, pick Miscellaneous, and enter UMCOR (you may choose Where Most Needed, or a specific disaster like Tornado Relief, Wildfire Relief, Ukraine etc.). Remember, 100% of your donation goes to the relief efforts.

The Upper Room



Don't forget to pick up the January-February 2023 edition of *The Upper Room* which is available in both regular type and large type. It is located in the literature rack in the Friendship Room.

The next edition (March-April) will be arriving shortly.

If you find this publication useful, please let us know. Take a copy for yourself and for someone you know who is in need of a daily devotional.

Items of Interest



come WALK WITH JESUS!

Men's Walk April 20-23
Women's Walk April 27-30
Camp Lake Lucerne
W6460 County Road YY Neshkoro

Fox Valley Walk to Emmaus
P.O. Box 12541 Green Bay, WI 54307
foxvalleyemmaus.com

The walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The Walk to Emmaus begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of 15 talks by lay and clergy volunteers on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship and what it means to be the church.

It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful discernment and invitation from a sponsor. After one accepts this invitation, they complete an application. The Emmaus leaders prayerfully consider each applicant and in God's time, the person is invited to attend a three-day experience of New Testament Christianity as a lifestyle.

Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ. Through the formational process of accountable discipleship in small groups and participation in the Emmaus community, each participant's individual gifts and servant-leadership skills are developed for use in the local church and its mission. Participants are encouraged to find ways to live out their individual call to discipleship in their home, church, and community.

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Heidi or Jonathan L.

Nursery

Our Nursery is open! Ages 0-5 are welcome to join our Nursery Team during worship in Room U22, across from the restrooms.

Tell your friends and enjoy worship while our nursery team cares for your little ones.



SENIOR DINING / MEALS ON WHEELS



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Department on Aging

What is Senior Dining?

Once known as the Elderly Nutrition Program or the Senior Meal Program, Senior Dining has been a part of Milwaukee County since 1973. This program has been serving meals to adults 60+ years old in various community settings. The program receives funding from the State of Wisconsin's Bureau on Aging, Title 111-C of the Federal Older Americans Act, and contributions from seniors in our community.

What is the Cost?

There is a suggested contribution of \$3 for diners 60 and over and a cost of \$8 for their guests under 60. If this contribution amount is a hardship for you, please give whatever you can.

What is on the Menu?

The menus must meet Federal guidelines for nutritional and calorie content. A wide variety of foods that equal 1/3 of the recommended daily allowance of Vitamins A & C and Calcium are offered. Menus are posted at the meal sites and take home copies are available.

How do I Sign Up?



Each diner must sign up by completing a Registration Card (application forms are available in the Friendship Room literature rack), which requires a Driver's License or a Senior Citizen ID card. You will then receive a Diner's Card with a Diner Number that you may use to dine at any of the Milwaukee County Senior Dining Meal locations. **All diners must place a reservation at least one day in advance for the date they wish to dine. All meals ordered for the following day are based on the number of meals recorded on the reservation list.**

Franklin City Hall Community Room 9229 W. Loomis Rd., Franklin. Still serving pick up only Monday-Friday, between 10:30 am and 12 pm; use the Senior Dining entrance for pickup. Reservations may be placed in person or by phone (414-427-7696) from 9:30 am to 11:30 am weekdays.

Grobschmidt Senior Center 2424 15th Ave., South Milwaukee. Serving Monday-Friday, Although the Senior Center is open for all programming, the Senior Dining Program will continue to be distributed outside in a drive through type fashion. Meals are dispersed in the back parking lot from 11:00-11:30 am. Reservations must be made by 11:30 am the previous day by calling 414-768-5722. Monday reservations need to be made by Friday.

Warnimont- Kelly Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy. Serving Monday-Friday, in person now 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. Reservations must be made between 9:30 – 11:00 am the day prior to dining by calling (414) 483-3532.

Milwaukee County Meals on Wheels, Aging Resource Center, Call (414) 289-6874 to register.

Special Diets Available. To be eligible for Meals on Wheels, you must be:

- 60 or older
- A Milwaukee County resident
- Homebound
- Unable physically or mentally to prepare your own meals
- Home at the time of delivery



FIGHTING HUNGER

Food Pantry



Because we no longer operate a food pantry here at OCCUMC, we encourage you to drop off non-perishable food items at the Salvation Army. Or, you can 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 to neighborhood individuals and families who are hungry. 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 charity food pantries.

Items Needed Year-round:

Fruits: fruits canned in own juice, or 100% fruit juice

Grains: whole-grain foods like brown rice, oatmeal, cereal (no sugar added), multigrain pasta

Dairy: boxed skim & 1% milk, or milk alternatives like almond & soy milk

Condiments: healthy and salt-free flavors of salsa, oil, mustard, seasonings

Vegetables: low sodium, canned vegetables, pasta sauces

Protein: lean sources of animal and plant-based protein - canned chicken, tuna, peanut butter, dried or canned beans

Snacks: healthy, low in fat foods for on-the-go, like granola, nuts and seeds, breakfast bars, graham crackers

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. Please share this information.



Qualifications are:

- 60 years or older (Bring an ID showing your age)
- Monthly household income of less than \$1,473 (1 person) or \$1,984(2 persons) (**NEW**)
- Be a resident of Wisconsin
- Paperwork will be filled out at each site by Hunger Task Force employees.

- ⇒ 1st Wednesday of the month from 8:30-11:00 am at Franklin Senior Meals in City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road;
- ⇒ 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 (**NEW**) at the Grobschmidt Senior Center, 2424 15th Avenue in South Milwaukee;
- ⇒ 3rd Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:00 am at the Wilson Park Senior Center, 2601 West Howard Avenue;
- ⇒ 3rd Thursday of the month from 12:00-1:30 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!

You are invited to 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:

Ginger A	Barbara B	Jean B	Gay D	Kim D
Jeanne H	Jean J	Elaine L	Robert L	Joanne M
Diane P	Eileen S	Pat S	Rick Z	



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.

Extra Keys



Do you have any church keys you no longer are using? If so, you can bring them to the office Monday-Thursday between 9 am and noon, or give them to Pastor Heidi after worship on Sunday. Thank you!

Membership Information—Name Badge



Do you have a name badge? Our badges are white with gold frames. We would like to have everyone wear one at events and when worshipping. Please contact the office if you need a new badge or have misplaced yours, 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. Please contact the office at 414-762-4600 or 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 13th Street, Oak Creek, WI 53154

Phone: 414-762-4600

Website: www.occumc.org

E-mail: office@occumc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/occumc

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.

***February -
March '23***

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