

Our Faith in Action, Announcements, and Opportunities to Service and Share God's Love:



• In response to God's love, if you would like to support the ministries and mission here at OCCUMC and beyond, there are three ways you can give:

- 1-**Electronic Funds Transfer**, contact finance@occumc.org
- 2-**Mail** your offering to OCCUMC 8675 South 13th Street, Oak Creek, WI 53154
- 3-**Online** using the Donate button on our church website at www.occumc.org

• **Listen to the Weekly Recorded Sermon/Worship Service Via Your Phone!** OCCUMC has added this resource for you to listen to the weekly worship service via a simple phone call. All you need to do is call 1-414-253-0437, listen, and enjoy!



• **Watch our worship services live on our Facebook page.** You do not need a Facebook account. Just go to occumc.org, click on the Facebook link, and then click videos. You can join our services live at 9:00am Sunday mornings or view past worship services at this link too.

• **Worship Service attendance records.** If you are viewing this worship service online, please click on attendance@occumc.org to help us keep track of our faith-family's weekly attendance. Type the names of all the people who viewed the service with you in the subject line and include the date (ex: Jane, John & Johnny Cass attended worship 5/16/21.) Thank you.



• **Prayer Requests** If you have prayer requests or other office items, please email office@occumc.org. Thank you.

• **Sunday School classes for all ages are on Zoom.** Teachers have gotten creative with their lesson plans including videos, crafts, games, and much more. No materials or prep required for the Adult class. You can attend **via Zoom** (on your device or by calling a phone #) or we can arrange to have you join **via speaker phone** If you would like to join a class contact the office at 414-762-4600 or office@occumc.org



Oak Creek Community UMC Faith Connections for Ascension Sunday May 16, 2021

Prayer Requests

You are invited to pray for the following prayer requests:

- For our shut-ins and those who are in long-term care: Janice B, Gay D, Kim D, Jeanne and David H, Jean J, Elaine L, Robert L, Ginger P, Diane P, Eileen S, Dorothy S, Pat and Rod S, Gwen S, Rick Z, Carl S, Dave A, Allan B, Karl F, and Violet B.
- For Karl F and his family as they walk with him through the journey into new life. Karl was placed in the loving care of hospice on Saturday, April 17, 2021
- Carole L asks for that the prayer chain include their friends, Julie, Michael, and family. On Wednesday (12th), Julie will undergo a major kidney surgery. Prayers for God's love, and his healing.
- Joseph D as he celebrated his 90th birthday this past week!
- From Alex C for his friend's sister, Rachel, who is going through major heart surgery on May 20; prayers for healing and strength.
- From Bonnie C for her friend Jenny who is undergoing a catherization, for success in that procedure so she doesn't have to have surgery and that her pain is resolved.
- From Diane L for her Mom Daphne who is ill.
- Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month – Prayers for respect, compassion, and developing deep relations with our Asian Pacific Islander siblings.
- For the people of Israel and the Gaza Strip as the escalating violence and death continues to stretch the understanding of what it means to search for security and self-rule. For the loss of life, the suffering those injured, and the destruction of homes and lives in the violence in both countries.
- For the people of Afghanistan as they work towards independence from fractions that continue to threaten peace. For the future of the people who seek to live in peace.

(PRAYERS CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE)

- COVID-19 is still very much a part of our lives. We continue to hold our world in prayer as we encourage more and more people to be vaccinated. Please pray for those with the disease, those who grieve the death of a loved one, those who serve others on the frontlines, and for God's Spirit to bring healing, hope, and compassion to others through each of us. We especially pray for the people of India as they are greatly suffering from so many COVID-19 infections that their health system is collapsing.

- My Church Can Improve (MCCI) and Break Through Prayer Initiative (BTPI): On May 3, 2021, over a dozen folks from OCCUMC shared time together on Zoom seeking clarity regarding our faith-family's involvement in the MCCI resourcing process. The Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, a leader in the MCCI process, joined us as we prayerfully asked the question: Is the MCCI resourcing what OCCUMC needs at this time? The leaders of OCCUMC discerned that our congregation will take a pause in the MCCI resourcing process until next November when we will again take up the conversation. The Holy Spirit is leading us in a different direction at this time. We thank Bishop Hee-Soo Jung and the WI UMC Cabinet for prayerfully and financially supporting our faith-family in this endeavor.

- Good news! It looks like we will be able to have in-person worship in the sanctuary very soon. There will be a meeting on Sunday, May 16th at 1 pm, via a Zoom link, to discuss which date in June or July, we will return to in-person worship in the sanctuary. The zoom link invitation was sent out to the general church on Thursday. If you did not receive this link, please contact Pastor Wendee by Sunday morning May 16th, and she will forward you that link. Please note that we will always be offering Facebook Live! worship services along with in-person worship in the sanctuary. There will be specific COVID-19 protocols for in person worship.

Prayer Shawls Available: A tangible gift of prayer from us to you, a loved one, or friend. We have a collection of quilted, crocheted and knitted prayer shawls crafted by members of the congregation, with prayers woven into each stitch, and blessed upon completion. If you know of anyone who would benefit from being wrapped in a tangible prayer, please feel free to pick up one at the church office. 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.



Announcements



May 19, 2021 2:00pm – 6:30pm Blood Drive There is an urgent need right here in our community for all blood types! When you donate blood, you will save LOCAL lives. Every blood donation helps up to three patients with red blood cells, platelets and/or plasma.

Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin is the only provider for the local hospitals in SE Wisconsin. It takes less than an hour to donate. Whole blood donors are eligible every 56 days and dual red donors 112 days. Individuals receiving a Covid vaccine must wait 2 full days after receiving a vaccine to donate blood. All donors will be required to wear masks. Sign up online at <https://bit.ly/occumcmay2021> or call Versiti Blood Center of WI at 877-232-4376.

The need for blood will continue through the summer months! Save the date or reserve your spot now:

June 9 (if you can't make the May 19th drive) <https://bit.ly/occumcjune2021>

July 14 (May donors eligible) <https://bit.ly/occumcjuly2021>

Aug 11 (June donors eligible) <https://bit.ly/occumcaug2021>

Questions: visit www.versiti.org/covid19



May 24th 6:30- 8 pm on Zoom

Would you like to be part of this discussion? Please contact Pastor Wendee to get your book for this discussion.

Less Talking, more doing. We need less conventional wisdom and more creative leadership. Not all of the advice you've heard on church growth works. It's time we re-evaluate the standard thinking on how to grow a church, especially considering new voices questioning the worth of church growth.

Start This, Stop That is a much-needed "how to" book that has the potential to help you take your church to the next level. Jim and Jen Cowart are not mere theorists, but practitioners who have lived out these principles to build a dynamic church that is making a huge impact!

Jim Cowart is shepherding an amazing story. 1800 professions of Christ in ten years have propelled Harvest Church from a church plant of four – Jim's family – to a thriving community of Jesus disciples. Harvest is changing their world and having a party while they do it. Learn why conventional church thinking such as pastoral care, long-term planning, stewardship campaigns, committees and even staff inhibit church growth. Learn how to do less, and lead more people to Christ.

(Quoted from the introduction to the book.)



May 27th at 11 am on Zoom meet with missionaries that are **#STILLINMISSION** around the world. Join a United Methodist missionary for a conversation about their work around the world.

Registration is limited. By preregistering, you will have the opportunity to join a small group and one missionary. You will receive a confirmation email once your registration is accepted. If the limit is reached, you will receive priority for future events. Find out more at www.umcmmission.org



The Blooming Garden Group cares for the landscaping around the church grounds. We don't meet on any regular basis... but rather just come to church at our own convenience, and weed and clean up any area we feel needs it. If you love gardening, getting your hands dirty, and want to help keep our church property beautiful ...come when you want ... work as long as you want ... do what area you want ... it

all adds up! Please contact Lois D, Jan K, Kathy B, Shelly S, or Janet P to let us know you will participate in this beauty-giving project.

Senior Stockbox Distribution What is a stockbox? This box provides healthy, shelf-stable foods to low income seniors across our state. Qualifications: 60+ years of age, a resident of WI, monthly income less than \$1,396 (1 person household) or \$1,888 (2 person household). Distribution is every Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 am to Noon at St. Stephen Church, 1441 W. Oakwood Rd., Oak Creek.

You must bring your ID as proof of age.



The Ingathering for the 2021 Annual Conference will be virtual on June 18-19. OCCUMC is a collection site for Personal Dignity and Homecare Kits. If you would like to contribute an entire kit, or separate items, please drop them off in the green bin outside the church office. The lists of supplies needed for those kits are below. Monetary donations are also being collected. Please make checks out to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Personal Dignity Kit	Homecare Kit
1 Bath Hand Towel - No kitchen towels 1 Bath Washcloth - No kitchen towels 1 Adult Toothbrush - No multipacks 1 Bar Soap: 3 - 4 oz. 1 Shampoo: 15 - 18 oz. 1 Deodorant: 2 - 3 oz. stick, roll on, or pump Place items in a 1-gallon resealable plastic bag Video at www.midwestmission.org \$2 for toothpaste and razor	2 Liquid Household Cleaners: 16 - 40 oz (no spray bottles) 2 Dish Soaps: 16 - 34 oz 2 Liquid Laundry Detergents: 32 - 64 oz 1 scrub brush with or without handle Place items into a 5-gallon resealable bucket with a resealable cover.

Layette Mission Program



Sarah Circle continues to collect, prepare, package and deliver layettes to four organizations around Milwaukee County. We welcome your donation of any of the following: one yard of flannel for receiving blankets; a knitted, crocheted, quilted or purchased blanket; and sleepers & onesies in sizes from birth to 9 months. Or if you would like us to purchase any of these items, a cash donation is also appreciated.

Questions, please call Joan K @ 414-215-7088. Thank you to all who have been so faithful in supporting this mission.