



Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

Reminder

Sunday Worship:

Service at 9:00 AM
& on Facebook Live!
facebook.com/occumc
(watch later if you like)

Sunday School:

For all ages, join us the second Sunday in September through the Sunday before Memorial weekend

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM - Noon

Our Staff:

Rev. Wendee Nitz

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

Greetings!

We are in the deep of summer and actively planning and organizing our fall, 2021, ministries. We successfully relaunched in-person, in the Sanctuary worship, in June, while remaining committed to sharing worship and many of our other meetings and activities online. My prayer is that you are feeling comfortable with your decision as to how to re-engage in your faith journey here at OCCUMC. I also ask that we keep in mind that not everyone is comfortable being in-person at church at this time. Let us offer grace and compassion to each other as we find our own strides as we reenter our faith-journey again.

I want to assure you that mission and ministry has continued throughout this past year and a half during the health pandemic shut-down. We were able to adapt many of our outreach activities. We were also able to stay connected to, and with each other, through the creation of our 12 Circles of Care. We added a lot to the life of our congregation through the use of social media and regular old phone calls. We also needed to let go of some things like our Food Pantry and, for now, our monthly senior lunch gatherings to name two things.

Starting new ministries and letting go of other outdated and/or ineffective ministries, is the focus of the book that some of us read and discussed in May. Start This Stop That: Do the Things That Grow Your Church, by Jim Cowart and Jennifer Cowart, was a breath of fresh air, with permission giving recommendations as to how to move forward in new directions in the life of a church. The authors state that, "Many churches are stuck in cycles that worked for past generations but are not proving effective now." The book was an appropriate one for our book group to read as we are coming out of the health pandemic. Everything is new, and therefore all of our ministries need evaluation for their effectiveness and a possible makeover. It is time to assess what we have been doing in the past and either adapt those ministries to fit a new world following the pandemic, or we need to let them go and move on.

The Leadership here at OCCUMC is asking great questions like the following: How are we truly going to reach out into our communities and, not only tell them about God's love, but also show them God's compassion, hope, and healing? How can we effectively engage and partner with area businesses, civic groups, schools, and other area churches to help bring justice, equity, and care? These questions, and more, are about evangelism (telling about God's love and inviting folks into the journey of faith here at OCCUMC), mission (being God's hands, feet, voice, eyes, and heart in our communities and in our world), and bringing about change in our societies (naming and claiming the gospel message of life for all of God's Beloved children and creation).

I want to personally thank each of you for your prayers and work on behalf of God everyday. We are making a difference together. We are hearing God's call to help make all things new through the grace and love of Jesus Christ. Keep up the good work.

Blessings,

Pastor Wendee

Sunday Worship

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.

Worship Schedule - in August

- August 1 The 10th Sunday after Pentecost—Communion Sunday
Biblical Heroes: God Chooses Champions! And We are Chosen Too!
Genesis 12:1-9 & 15:1-6; Exodus 1:8-11, 2:1-4, & 3:11-15
- August 8 The 11th Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Speaker Liz Imoehl
Biblical Heroes: God's Champions! Samuel & David
1 Samuel 3:1-21; 2 Timothy 1:8-11
- August 15 The 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Biblical Heroes: God's Champions! Mary the Mother of Jesus & Mary Magdalene
Midwest Mission Work Mission Send Off
Luke 1:26-38 & 46-55; John 19:25-27; Matthew 27:55-56; John 20:1-18
- August 22 The 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Biblical Heroes: God's Champions! Jesus' Disciples
Luke 10:1-12 & Luke 17:20
- August 29 The 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Biblical Heroes: God's Champions! Jesus
Matthew 1:23; John 15:13; Matthew 8:23-27; Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 7:1-18; Matthew 14:15-21; Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:14-18



Summer Worship Sermon Series

We continue introducing our Old and New Testament Biblical Heroes & God's Champions.

Ways to Worship with Us

- ♦ **Worship in the Sanctuary** See page 17 for the procedures we follow. Masks and social distancing are required in the building and no child care available.
- ♦ **Listen to the Weekly Recorded 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 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 9:00 am Sunday mornings, or view past worship services at this link too.

Worship
with us
from
HOME

Facebook:

facebook.com/occumc

Website:

occumc.org

Recorded Worship:

414-253-0437

Sunday Worship

Worship Schedule - in September

- September 5 The 15th Sunday after Pentecost—Communion Sunday
Labor Day Sunday—God's Equal Treatment of Workers
Matthew 20:1-16
- September 12 The 16th Sunday after Pentecost—Rally Day
Third Graders Receive Their Bibles
Blessing of our Christian Education Ministers
James 3:13-18 & Mark 8:27-38 Growing in our faith
- September 19 The 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Celebrate 50 year anniversary of the OCCUMC Preschool
Micha 6:8 & Matthew 5:1-12
God's Mission for us here at OCCUMC
- September 26 The 18th Sunday after Pentecost
United Methodist Women's Sunday
Special Mission Recognition Award
Guest Speaker Megan Ferger
Message: Body of Evidence
1 Corinthians 12:12-18



Sunday Morning
Worship - 9 AM

*Worship in-person in
the Sanctuary*

*Also Facebook Live!
or watch later*

Listen on your phone
414-253-0437



Daily 9 am Facebook Offerings

Join **OCCUMC** on Facebook each day of the week at 9 am for the following community offerings*:

- Mondays – Children's message usually based on the previous day's worship text
- Tuesdays – Sing-a-long with hymns from the United Methodist Hymnal
- Wednesdays – Devotional using Bishop Sally Dicks' book *The Faithful Heart*
- Thursdays – Sing-a-long with hymns from the United Methodist Hymnal
- Fridays – Children's book read
- Saturdays – Reading of the scripture text for worship the next day and prayer
- Sundays – Worship on Facebook Live!

*Please note that when Pastor Wendee is on vacation, we will post hymns each day.

Pastor Wendee
will be on vacation
August 2-8, and
on the mission trip
August 16-18.

Rev. Mao Her will
be available for
pastoral care
concerns. Her
phone numbers
are:
work 414-421-0202
cell 920-562-9609

Worship Notes

Sunday School (New Start Time 10:15 am)

The Christian Education Committee has begun formulating a plan for this fall's Sunday School Program. This year's Sunday School will kick off on Rally Day, September 12, 2021. Sunday School will now start at 10:15 am. Third Graders will receive their Bibles also on September 12, 2021, at the 9 a.m. service.



Because we value having three or four teachers per class, there is the need for 15 to 20 teachers. So far we have recruited about half the spots. Also, we will be evaluating the Sunday School curriculum this summer to find the best one that considers our faith family children's spiritual, educational and social needs.

Sunday School teacher training will be on September 1st, 6:30 p.m. at the church. Teachers will be able to spend time to set up their rooms that night if they wish.

Please keep all of these efforts in your prayers and consider volunteering to be a teacher this year! You will grow so much from the experience!

Adult 1 Class is in-person—Teachers Carlene W and Dona S
Adult 2 Class is both in-person and online—Teacher Oliver C
Senior High Class is in-person in the combined Junior & Senior High classrooms.
Confirmation will be combined with Our Lord's UMC, in New Berlin and will be a hybrid class.
Preschool/Elementary Classes will maybe both online and in-person.



New Task Force



Updating the Audio-Visual Technology needs in the Sanctuary and Doyle Hall. A new task force is being formed to name goals for updating our audio-visual technology in the worship space and in Doyle Hall so that we can reach new people for Jesus. Please contact Pastor Wendee if you are interested in being a part of this new task force.

Family/Youth/Young Adult Ministry Task Force

First meeting on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at 6:30 pm, at church (safely). The task force is charged with discerning the possibility of hiring a part-time director for these age groups. This team will gather information from our church families about how they might engage in these ministries, design a goal & outcome orientated job description, recruit & interview for the position, and with the support of the OCUMC leadership team, move forward in hiring a person for this new ministry position.

So far, the following people have agreed to participate in this new task force: Jane E, Michelle G, Janelle W, Alex C-R, and Pastor Wendee Nitz. Please keep these folks in your prayers as we work on your behalf in developing this new ministry for our faith-family.

New Opportunities

Choir

We're Back! We have started warming up our voices for when we can get back to singing in the church services as a choir. Rehearsals are **Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 pm** in the prayer garden to the west of the front door of church. Everyone is welcome to join us! If you come, please bring a lawn chair so we can socially distance, & bring a friend. We are singing hymns and some 'old choir favorites'. If you have any questions, please call Shelly S @ 414-801-1940.



Praise Band Members Needed



There is a possibility that we will relaunch the Reach Out Praise Band in worship, on the second Sunday of each month. A group of folks will be gathering on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.**, at church (safely) to dream about this new possibility. Please see Pastor Wendee for more information.

Drama Disciples

Calling all Drama Disciples, seasoned or new. It is time to get back to church. We will be starting with the worship services in August. Current members will receive details via email. However, if you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Reverend Christal Bindrich or Pastor Wendee. No experience is necessary. We do a lot of readers theater which means no memorization. Have some fun, help spread the gospel message through the art of drama.



United Methodist Men

We are a ministry of men partnering with our pastor, to support spiritual growth within ourselves, as we encourage spiritual formation in others.



2021 National Men's Gathering is virtual on August 28th, from 10 am - 4 pm presented by the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Keynote Speakers: Rev. Dr. Ron Bell, Jr and Rev. Tom Albin. Topics: Combating and healing the trauma of racism and Evangelism & Discipleship. Registration is required, so go online to bit.ly/umm21.



If you have any questions, please call 615-620-7277 or email rvance@gcumm.org.

The Cathedral Center



Starting on September 28th we will begin setting up and serving supper again at The Cathedral Center from 5:30 pm to around 8:30 pm. This is the only date we have for sure, but we will be doing this once a month. We are in the process of figuring out a few things, such as preparing food or buying food. Only four people may participate each month. If you are interested in this service, please contact Joanne M at grandmajo414@hotmail.com.

Opportunities

Versiti Needs Blood Donors

There is an urgent need right here in our community for all blood types!

Unfortunately, due to staffing challenges, the blood drives that OCCUMC sponsors will not take place. However, there are six area donor centers. The closest center is the Versiti Blood Center on 76th and Edgerton Avenue, near Southridge Mall.



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.

Donors should sign up online for an appointment. When donors make their appointment by visiting <https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/zip> or by calling Versiti Blood Center of WI at 877-232-4376, they should add "OCCUMC" to the notes section so Versiti can celebrate their gift of life along with your willingness to help.

Prayer Garden



Are you enjoying the beautiful flowers around our church building and parking lot? If you have not been to church lately or driven through our church parking lot, you are missing something spectacular! The gardens in the parking lot boulevards are beautiful. The Blooming Garden team has worked hard on them for several years and they are really gorgeous. Sit in the **prayer garden** and take in the view...it can do nothing but lift your spirits. A quiet peaceful time...be with God and say a little prayer! If you would like to help maintain these gardens please contact Lois D, Jan K, Kathy B, Shelly

Volunteers Needed!

Please contact Pastor Wendee if you are available to complete one of the following projects:

1. Clean out the history cabinet in Doyle Hall.
2. Organize the Church Library.
3. Clean out and organize the Sunday school cabinets and rooms.
4. Clean and sterilize the toys in the Nursery.
5. Wash the inside windows in the Sanctuary, Friendship Room, Doyle Hall, Library, Bathrooms, Church Offices, Children's Sunday School Classrooms, and the Adult 1 Sunday School Classroom.
6. Weeding the flower beds.



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 <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/oakcreek/>



Giving
Hope
Today

Opportunities

Monthly Church Growth Book Study

Please contact Pastor Wendee if you would like to join one or more of these discussion!



Jacob Armstrong
with Adam Hamilton and Mike Slaughter

The
New
Adapters



Shaping Ideas
to Fit Your Congregation

September 20th 6:30 pm: *The New Adapters: Shaping Ideas to Fit Your Congregation*

Learn how young pastors from across the country are translating eight time-tested principles of church leadership to today's congregation. Adam Hamilton and Mike Slaughter introduce each principle and discuss its importance in their ministries, and how to reach people in today's world. Author Jacob Armstrong, the founding pastor of Providence Church in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, then shows how each principle works in new contexts today. *The New Adapters* is a road map for the future.

(the above comments were compiled from the book jacket)

Webinar Opportunity

Five Things Your Visitors Are Thinking But Won't Ask - Webinar on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. As our faith-family moves forward in mission and ministry following the COVID-19 health pandemic, we may need to again need to relearn and refocus our efforts on inviting, welcoming, and befriending new folks in worship. This webinar will help us attune our hearts to helping guests feel like they belong here at OCCUMC. Please consider joining.

Link to the recording of the event :

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/YQIMCMFvjCw64stgy_ufY_MLZDcavN49ZjfqmGxRDPyqhGSLHFc8h47RLE-IS3E5.nnu6ehK9JTJiC9xX

Here's the link to the event handbook: <https://bothand.tv/2MvY4Bt>



Take Note!

Midwest Mission Distribution Center Volunteers

11 people make up our Midwest Mission Distribution Center team this year. We will be heading to Chatham, IL August 15 - 20. Some of us will be leaving after worship on Sunday, August 15th. Please come send us off with blessings.



OCCUMC has been sending a team to MMDC every year since 2002, with the exception of 2020. While there, we work with the MMDC staff and other volunteers from around the country putting together kits of all kinds - Health, School, Cleaning, Birthing. We also make patterns, sort and count items, roll garbage bags, and much more. One of our groups' favorite tasks is making desks. Maybe it is because we get to use power tools! Along with the hard work we share meals, play games and always have a puzzle or two going.

Please keep our team in your prayers during our mission trip. Bonnie C, Joanne M, Pat P, Lynn W, Shelly W, Christal B, Pastor Wendee, Lois R., Julie C, Gail N, & Patti A.

If you would like to know more about MMDC and how they are *bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief*, check out their website www.midwestmission.org or ask any of our mission team members.

Our Harmony Club



Our Harmony Club is open at two locations one day a week. Each location will offer food, crafts and entertainment. All clients and volunteers must be fully vaccinated. Please contact Dawn V at 262-880-5301 should you have questions, want to volunteer, or have a client placement interest.

- ♦ St. Sebastian, 3030 95th St, Sturtevant
will be open on Mondays 9:30 am to 3:30 pm for clients
- ♦ St. Richard of Chichester, 1509 Grand Ave, Racine
will be open on Thursdays 9:30 am to 3:30 pm for clients

Susan J, Site coordinator for OCCUMC

Senior Stockbox Distributions

Hunger Task Force is distributing a box of free, healthy food for seniors every Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 am till Noon at St. Stephen Church, in Oak Creek and once a month at the Grobschmidt Senior Center in South Milwaukee.



Qualifications are:

- ♦ 60 years or older
- ♦ Monthly household income of less than \$1,396 (1 person) or \$1,888 (2 persons)
- ♦ Be a resident of Wisconsin
- ♦ ID showing your age

Registration will take place at each site.

Office Notes

Membership Records



Did you receive a mailing from OCCUMC in mid-June? This contained your family's membership information that we currently have on record. Have you moved, changed your phone number or email address, gotten rid of your landline, had a baby, gotten married ... ? Even if you have had none of these events in your life, we may still be missing some of your information. Please help us by reviewing the information, correcting and adding to that information, and even if there are no additions or corrections, please return it to the office. Or, you can email or call the office at office@occumc.org with that information.

Attendance and Prayer Requests



If you have prayer requests or other office items please email office@occumc.org.

We mail out information such as bulletins with prayer requests, newsletters, etc. 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.



If you are viewing our 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). This helps us with our annual reporting to the WI Conference. Attendance is used by some lenders to get our refinancing approved, which is done every 3-5 years.



Drop off & Pick up Bins

We have 2 bins located outside the office entrance. They are labelled for drop off and pickup.

The Green bin is for drop off . This may be Personal Dignity Kits, Layette items, etc. We will check it daily Monday—Thursday. If you plan to leave something time sensitive or very important, please contact the office.


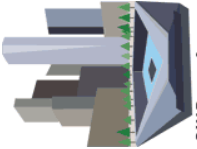

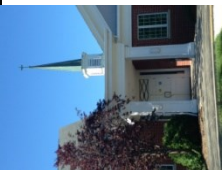
The Blue bin is for pick up. This includes Sunday School materials, bible study books, etc. We will notify you if we are leaving something in the Blue bin for you. Then you can pick it up within a few days, at your convenience.

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! Biblical Heroes! 10:00 am Facebook Weekday Post Recorded	2 7:00 pm AA Meeting	3	4	5 Pastor Wendee is on vacation	6	7
8 Pastor Wendee: vacation 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! Biblical Heroes! Guest Speaker: Liz Imoehl 1:00 pm Tabitha UMW Circle	9 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Team Meeting	10 1:00 pm Marketing Team 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting	11 6:30 pm Choir Practice Outside by main entrance	12 10:30 am Sarah UMC Circle	13	14
15 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! Biblical Heroes! MMDC Work Mission Sendoff 10:00 am Facebook Weekday Post Recorded	16 7:00 pm AA Meeting	17 Pastor Wendee is on MMDC Mission Trip	18 6:30 pm Choir Practice Outside by main entrance	19 10:30 am Sarah UMC Circle	20	21
MMDC Work Mission Trip						
22 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! Biblical Heroes! 10:00 am Facebook Weekday Post Recorded	23 7:00 pm AA Meeting 6:30 pm Leadership/Finance Team Meeting	24 2:30 pm Pastor Wendee Meeting with District Superintendent 6:30 pm Webinar: Five Things Your Visitors Are Thinking But Won't Ask	25 6:30 pm Choir Practice Outside by main entrance 6:30 pm Family/Youth/Young Adult Task Force Meeting	26 10:30 am Sarah UMC Circle	27	28
29 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live! Biblical Heroes! 10:00 am Facebook Weekday Post Recorded	30 7:00 pm AA Meeting	31 6:30 pm Confirmation Orientation Meeting on Zoom				
		Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church 8675 S. 13th Street (corner of 13th & Puetz Rd) Oak Creek, WI 53154 www.occumc.org 414-762-4600		Sunday Worship Schedule: 9:00 am In-Person 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		
Church Office Hours - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Monday-Thursday office@occumc.org						

While Pastor Wendee is on vacation and on the mission trip, the Rev. Mao Her from Greenfield Christ UMC will be on call for any pastoral emergencies that may arise. Pastor Mao's phone numbers are: work 414-421-0202 & cell 1-920-562-9609.

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<div><div>1</div><div>Preschool Work Day</div></div> <div><div>6:30 pm Sunday School Teacher</div><div>6:30 pm Choir Practice</div><div>Outside by main entrance</div></div>	<div><div>2</div><div>Preschool Work Day</div></div> <div><div>10:30 am Sarah UMC Circle</div></div>	<div><div>3</div></div>	<div><div>4</div></div>
<div><div>5</div><div>Communion Sunday</div><div>9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live!</div><div>10:00 am Facebook Weekday Post Recorded</div></div>	<div><div>6</div><div>Labor Day</div><div>OFFICE CLOSED</div><div>7:00 pm AA Meeting</div></div>	<div><div>7</div><div>Preschool Work Day</div><div>6:30 pm Praise Team Meeting</div></div>	<div><div>8</div><div>Preschool Orientation</div><div>6:30 pm Choir Practice</div><div>Outside by main entrance</div></div>	<div><div>9</div><div>Preschool Orientation</div><div>10:30 am Sarah UMC Circle</div></div>	<div><div>10</div></div>	<div><div>11</div><div></div><div>9/11 Remembrance</div></div>
<div><div>12</div><div>Rally Day</div><div>8:00 am Facebook Weekday Post Recorded</div><div>9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live!</div><div>10:15 am Sunday School</div></div>	<div><div>13</div><div>9:00 am Preschool Starts</div><div>7:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Team Meeting</div><div>7:00 pm AA Meeting</div></div>	<div><div>14</div><div>9:00 am Preschool</div><div>11 am Clergy Circuit Gathering Zoom Meeting</div><div>1:00 pm Marketing Team</div><div>6:30 pm Trustees Meeting</div></div>	<div><div>15</div><div>9:00 am Preschool</div><div>6:30 pm Choir Practice</div><div>Outside by main entrance</div><div>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</div></div>	<div><div>16</div><div>9:00 am Preschool</div><div>10:30 am Sarah UMC Circle</div></div>	<div><div>17</div></div>	<div><div>18</div></div>
<div><div>19</div><div>Golden Cross</div><div>8:00 am Facebook Weekday Post Recorded</div><div>9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live!</div><div>10:15 am Sunday School</div></div>	<div><div>20</div><div>9:00 am Preschool</div><div>6:30 pm Book Study on Zoom The New Adaptors</div><div>7:00 pm AA Meeting</div></div>	<div><div>21</div><div>9:00 am Preschool</div></div>	<div><div>22</div><div>9:00 am Preschool</div><div>6:30 pm Choir Practice</div><div>Outside by main entrance</div></div>	<div><div>23</div><div>9:00 am Preschool</div><div>10:30 am Sarah UMC Circle</div></div>	<div><div>24</div></div>	<div><div>25</div><div>Tabitha Women's Retreat Planning</div></div>
<div><div>26</div><div>UMW Sunday</div><div>8:00 am Facebook Weekday Post Recorded</div><div>9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live!</div><div>10:15 am Sunday School</div><div>Tabitha Women's Retreat Planning</div></div>	<div><div>27</div><div>9:00 am Preschool</div><div>6:30 pm Leadership/Finance Team Meeting</div><div>7:00 pm AA Meeting</div></div>	<div><div>28</div><div>9:00 am Preschool</div></div>	<div><div>29</div><div>9:00 am Preschool</div><div>6:30 pm Choir Practice</div><div>Outside by main entrance</div></div>	<div><div>30</div><div>9:00 am Preschool</div><div>10:30 am Sarah UMC Circle</div></div>	<div></div>	
<div><div>Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church 8675 S. 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</div></div>						
<div><div>Sunday Worship Schedule: 9:00 am In-Person</div><div>Worship on Facebook Live! at 9:00 am or watch anytime at facebook.com/occumc.org</div><div>OR Listen to the recorded service at 1-414-253-0437</div></div>						

Ministries

United Methodist Women

On Sunday, September 26th, at the 9:00 am worship service, we will be observing UMW Sunday. Megan Ferger will be sharing the message in worship. We will be honoring Edith & Larry G with special mission recognition award.

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. **We are women with a Purpose!**

"I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God which is within you." - 2 Timothy 1:6
As United Methodist Women, we give our gift of God with others through mission.



Our emblem reminds us of our purpose of growing in our understanding of and willingness to participate in the global ministries of the church. The overall fluid and free flowing shape of the emblem suggests change and mobility. Our foremothers were advocates for change; change and growth continue to be at the heart of United Methodist Women's sisterhood and mission.

Thursday Morning Gathering



EVERY THURSDAY at 10:30 am everyone is welcome to meet under the tree in the North Parking Lot. We share devotions, concerns and celebrations. We close with a prayer for Peace composed by one of our group. There is no limit to the number of people that come and share with us. We do practice social distancing. So bring a chair and a beverage and join us.

Layette Mission Project



Many thanks to all who have contributed to our Layette Mission Project. We barely missed a beat considering 15 months of limited get together activities.

From January through June of this year, we gathered, purchased and home crafted items for ...**57 layettes**. They are then laundered and put together to distribute to our four local recipients: a clinic with satellites, a hospital and United Methodist Children's Services. This is a record amount for us but we are on a roll and the need is plentiful.

We had representatives from United Methodist Children's Services and Aurora Sinai Hospital visit us and let us know how appreciative they are to receive and give the individual packaged layettes to their new moms.

Please continue to support this worthy project with your handiwork, money (we will purchase items for you), flannel (1 yd), yarn, onesies and sleepers in sizes 0 to 9 months, especially in the 3 months and 6 months sizes. We currently need more blankets, flannel and sleepers and onesies. Our boy inventory for sleepers and onesies is depleted at this time.

It has been estimated that each layette has a monetary value of between \$40 and \$50, so you know they are a treasure to the recipients.

Any questions, please contact Joan K @ 414-215-7088 and thank you again.

Ministries

Tabitha Circle



TABITHA CIRCLE has been meeting via Zoom the second Sunday of each month, with devotion and discussion. It is a time to chat and catch up, share our joys, and concerns. We will continue to meet online a bit longer until we are ready to get back to our usual activities of tours, movies, plays, etc. All women are welcome to be part of Tabitha Circle. If you would like to be involved contact Bonnie C cc32drc@tds.net.

Our September meeting will be a smaller overnight get together at Lake Lucerne Camp to do planning for the upcoming April 22 - 24, 2022 Women's Retreat. We will review our plans postponed from 2020, and support our UMC Camps. Watch for Women's Retreat Registration Forms in our first newsletter of 2022.

We collected \$70 in place of school supplies this year. This allowed United Methodist Children's Services to provide gift cards to those they help so appropriate school supplies could be purchased. Thank you to all who supported this ministry.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Community Groups

We hope to transform our pandemic Circles of Care into Community Groups. These new Community Groups will encourage every person connected with OCCUMC to be a part of one of these new fellowship, care, discipleship, and service orientated groups. So far, we are recruiting leaders for these new groups. Keep tuned for your opportunity to join one of these groups.

Compassionate Care - Send them a note!

You are invited to show your care for those members and friends of our congregation by contacting them via the phone and/or sending them cards. Please call the church office for our shut-in'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 shut-ins:

Janice B	Violet B	Gay D	Kim D	David H	Jeanne H
Jean J	Elaine L	Robert L	Diane P	Ginger P	Carl S
Dorothy S	Eileen S	Gwen S	Pat S	Rod S	Rick Z

Your Teams



Leadership / Finance Team Meetings

**Meetings are on Mondays
at 6:30 pm via Zoom**

- Monday, August 23, 2021
- Monday, Sept. 27, 2021
- Monday, October 25, 2021
- Charge Conference Date to be determined
- Monday, Dec. 6, 2021



Trustees Team Meetings

**Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesdays
at 6:30 pm via Zoom**

- Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021
- Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021
- Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021
- Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021
- Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021



Marketing Team Meetings

**Meetings are held on monthly basis
On Tuesdays at 1:00 pm via Zoom**

- Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021
- Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021
- Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021
- Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021
- Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021



Staff Parish Relations Team Meetings

**Meetings are held once a quarter on
Mondays at 7:00 pm via Zoom**

- Monday, August 9, 2021
- Monday, September 13, 2021
- Monday, October 11, 2021
- Monday, November 8, 2021

Special Offering: Golden Cross—September 19, 2021



In the midst of great challenges, the WI Conference of the United Methodist Church's Health and Welfare ministries are providing vital services. These ministries serve people all over Wisconsin. From urban to rural. From Milwaukee to Superior, from Janesville to Oshkosh. From Hudson to Sheboygan. From children, youth and families, to older adults.

One of the important ways we support these ministries is through the **Annual Golden Cross offering**. Your gift to Golden Cross is truly a mustard seed gift. Our organizations use these gifts as matching funds to secure foundation funding and other grants that are two, three, or even four times larger than the match.

Please prayerfully consider a donation in the envelope included in the September 19th Program.

Finance

Treasurer's Corner

	Month of <u>June-21</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>General Fund</u>	Income	20,707	
	Expenses	23,408	23,437
	Excess/(Shortfall)	<u>(2,701)</u>	
	<u>Fiscal 2021 YTD</u>		
<u>General Fund</u>	Income	114,582	
	Expenses	122,942	144,399
	Excess/(Shortfall)	<u>(8,360)</u>	
<u>Apportionment</u>	Income	1,761	2,693
	YTD	12,856	16,158



2021 Contribution Update—Thru June, 2021

	2020	2021	Difference
General	117,881.46	105,700.95	(12,180.51)
Apportionment	4,252.00	12,856.00	8,604.00



Memorial & Special Gifts



Have you ever considered giving a gift to the church, either now or as a legacy in the future? Did you know that OCCUMC memorials and special gifts can be designated for a particular purpose?

There are three types of memorial gifts that can be given to the church: Monetary, Non-Monetary, and Investment, which can be designated, undesignated, or larger gifts. Larger gifts are used to make a significant ministry impact beyond the vision of the available memorial donation options. In the past, we have used gifts to create our prayer garden, supplement the choir and musicians' resources, expand children's ministries, fund new technology needed to connect with the community outside the church, and maintain and beautify our church, making our church more welcoming to members and visitors.

The OCCUMC Memorial team currently consisting of Kathy B, Russ P, and Janet P, coordinates the desires of donors and their families, the needs of the church, and the dreams and future goals of the church. We work with the Pastor, the Trustees and the leaders of the church to ensure all gifts are carefully invested or spent according to the wishes of the families.

We are here to give advice to anyone wondering where their gift might do the most good, however, we do not do estate planning at this time. If you are thinking about giving a gift to the church, either now, or as a legacy in the future, please don't hesitate to contact members of the Memorial Team, Pastor Wendee, or a Trustee. We would be happy to sit down with you and discuss your options.

Thank you for consideration of caring for your church and church family at Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church.

OCCUMC Leadership Team Update

Progress Towards Perfection

During this past 15 months, our leadership team has been busy learning how to adapt to the changing environment that COVID-19 has presented. Using this time to reimagine who God wants us to be, we have sought direction and vision through our Break Through Prayer Initiative. Throughout everything we have done, we have worked diligently to remain true to the following mission: **We are 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.** Our discussions and actions have been guided by the following vision: **To help build a beloved community in the kin-dom of God where all are welcomed, accepted, and affirmed.** In a spirit of transparency, a summary of our focus, guiding values, and goals for 2021 is as follows:

MISSION FOCUS	VALUE	2021 GOAL
Christian Fellowship	Transformation and Community	Family, youth, young adult ministry and minister
Worship God	Connection, Gratitude, and Inclusiveness	Build on media movement
Love and Serve Others	Call to Action, Compassion, Spiritual Gifts	Reignite
Grow in Faith	Understanding	Reengage Leadership Development
Invite Others to Become Disciples of Jesus Christ	Reaching Out	Marketing Team

The leadership team is thankful for all of your support, and for the many volunteers who helped us to remain open (in a virtual way) so that we could carry on with the blessed work of growing in faith through worship and fellowship, serving others, and introducing others to God's love. Now that we are worshipping both in person and virtually, the exciting work continues.

The **SPRC Team** is working to move through COVID-19 by reaching out to past and current membership by building relationships through phone calls, extending personal invitations, and sending postcards. Working with Pastor Wendee to create a diverse environment in membership and staffing, they are also developing outreach programs with other churches, The Salvation Army, and various committee groups and charitable organizations.

The **Marketing Team** has designed a strategy that includes inviting new parishioners, retaining current members, working with Pastor Wendee to develop consistent evangelism messaging, designing operational plans and analytics, developing policies for facility usage, and planning and promoting events like concerts, book clubs, and other church activities. Our first event will be hosting a free community wide concert on November 6th, with musical guests the Glory Way Quartet. You can view the group at <https://glorywayquartet.com/lyric-videos> or you can visit their website at www.GloryWayQuartet.com.

The **Trustees** have been busy getting our building ready for in-person worship by repairing or improving the interior and exterior, and they have worked hard to get our technology up to date so we can operate efficiently and effectively.

The **Memorial Team** is developing policies for the use of memorial funds to help us to honor the benefactor while helping to make God's love work in our family of faith and the community.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

OCCUMC Leadership Team Update

The **Worship Teams** have worked hard to create sacred, inspiring, and safe worship environments, and to offer us a bit of normalcy through the gifts of music and the visual arts. They have creatively designed new ways to sing God's praises and celebrate communion while participating in safe fellowship, surrounded by beauty.

The **Master Gardeners** have patiently and diligently tended to the landscaping, offering us opportunities to experience awe and tranquility.

The **Finance Team** has worked diligently to be good stewards of your resources. Although contributions have decreased during the pandemic, some of you have been able to contribute at higher levels which have allowed us to still dream about how we can best serve God's people.

As the Chairperson of the Leadership and Finance Teams, and as a member of the Marketing Team, I am deeply grateful to all the many members of our family of faith who have worked, and who will continue to work behind the scenes to make meaningful things happen here at OCCUMC. Our teams work together, inspired by God's love, to love God's people. I welcome all feedback on how we're doing, and also encourage you to consider joining us on this sacred journey.

Stay blessed! Patty Amborn

In-Person Worship Guidelines

The COVID-19 pandemic is still continually changing. The City of Oak Creek defers to the CDC. The UMC WI Annual Conference guidelines:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/going-back-to-church-what-to-expect>.

Please worship at home if you are not feeling well, if anyone in your household is awaiting test results, or if anyone has been exposed to a sick person. We seek to **Do No Harm** and ask for your prayers and patience.

In-Person Worship Guidelines:

- ◆ Entry from the **North** parking lot only.
- ◆ Only the Sanctuary, Narthex, hallway restrooms, will be open.
- ◆ Drinking fountains are not to be used, and will be covered.
- ◆ Masks are required at all times while in the building. Masks will be available.
- ◆ Hand sanitizer will be readily available.
- ◆ There is no childcare/nursery.
- ◆ Social distance 6-ft. from others not in your household, **avoid gatherings**.
- ◆ Ushers will guide you in and out of worship.
- ◆ The sanctuary will be filled from front to back, and emptied from back to front.
- ◆ Bulletins will be placed in the pews the Thursday prior to Sunday, and can be taken home.
- ◆ Congregant singing will be permitted with a mask on, except for Shelly S. in Doyle Hall.
- ◆ Pass the peace to others worshippers with a nod or bow, but no contact.
- ◆ Offering can be placed in a basket as you enter or depart from the church.
- ◆ Communion cups w/wafers will continue to be used, receptacles will be placed for disposal.
- ◆ Online worship will be recorded live during in-person worship.
- ◆ No beverages or food will be served, but you may bring your own if you would like to do so (not to be shared).
- ◆ Our church will be sanitized after the service.



2021 WI Annual Conference Laity Report

The Wisconsin 2021 Annual Conference was held virtually during the week of June 14 - 19, with the Clergy session held Monday June 14, the Laity session on June 15, and the main conference held June 18 & 19th.

The Clergy session addressed retirements, and new members of the clergy. While we wish the retiring elders and clergy well, it is disturbing that we had 20 retirements and only 11 new clergy at various levels, with one being a transfer from the Korean Methodist Church.

The majority of the Main Session was worship sessions, a Bible study presented over the two days titled "Building Beloved Community: Creating Healthy Eco-Systems of Radical Inclusion and Racial Justice", and administrative matters including the approval of the budget.

Full summaries of the conference videos, budgets, proposals and presentations can be found on the conference website: wisconsinumc.org



Report on the Laity Session of June 15th by Allan Lindsay

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung presented the opening. His theme focused on Ezra 1:1-7; the Israelites return from exile, which he believed offered us three lessons as we return from our exile.

- 1) Return is a time for celebration. Let go of the past. Do not forget it, but do not let it limit your future.
- 2) Things can/will not return to the way they were, but will move to a new reality.
- 3) The exile lead to new diversity, the incorporation of new ideas, new peoples and new ways of doing things. We cannot drop them. The idea of God's messengers coming on wings was inherited from the Babylonians. What new beliefs will come about from our exile? With Zoom, Facebook and other communications, the world has shrunk. Our fellow worshiper can be a thousand miles away. Will we give this up and return to our old narrow beliefs?

While the Clergy will provide much needed leadership in moving forward, the Laity is needed to make the return work, both as leaders and as enthusiastic workers. The church is the Laity and the Laity are the church. Lay leadership must contribute and combine their knowledge, gifts, talents, resources and expertise to sustain a rebirth of the church. The Wisconsin conference is one of the most diverse in both laity and the clergy, including Caucasians, Native Americans, Hispanics, Hmong, African-Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders and many other groups. We must make use of the knowledge and traditions of all these groups to forge a strong future for the church. The Rev. Dr. Jaview Vieira, the new president of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary declared that very few churches will reopen, as only a few churches that he knew of closed during the pandemic, and while they might now be opening their physical buildings, it would only be an addition to the work they have been doing during the pandemic.

Deanna Schinkio, Conference Lay Leader, informed the Laity of one of the special offerings for this year, a drive to purchase Yamaha motorcycles for the Bolivar Evangelical Methodist Church allowing the ministers to travel over the poor or non-existing roads to reach their flock.

A video presentation of the basic history and works of the United Methodist Women was presented

The Global Board of Discipleship presentation was on the many aids they provide to the Laity and Clergy, especially the new Generosity Audit; a guide and opportunity to analyze the habits of our church's overall giving climate to see what is currently working, as well as where opportunities for a culture of generosity to increase might exist.

Many Thanks!



Thank you to our 12 Circles of Care Leaders!

At the start of the COVID-19 health pandemic, we set up 13 Circles of Care to help our faith-family stay connected and respond to any needs that came up. Thirteen people from the congregation volunteered to reach out via email, phone calls, texts, and regular old snail mail, anywhere from once a week to once a month. The leaders cared for anywhere from 5 to 40 people throughout the pandemic. Their efforts are greatly appreciated!

The following people said YES to God's invitation to servant leadership as one of our Circles of Care leaders: Janet P, Lois D, Christal B, Kim W, Shelly S, Carole L, Jen S, Carlene W, Liz I, Lillian B, Joan A, Kathy B, and Oliver C. Please make sure that you reach out to these leaders and let them know that you appreciate their efforts! Well done, good and faithful servants!



Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you for your gift of \$760 to UMCOR—Where Most Needed. Through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in the U.S. and in more than 60 countries in which UMCOR and partnering agencies engage in direct ministry to persons in need. May we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

*Grace and Peace,
Roland Fernandes, General Secretary*



Our church participates in the meal program at **The Cathedral Center**. Our goal is \$250 each month to serve about 60 people a warm, nutritious meal. We've just sent another \$525 check for June & July!

That brings the total donations for the year to \$1,880.

Thank you for your continued support of this vital program.



warmer. safer. drier.®

Sometimes I find myself at a loss for words. Saying THANK YOU just doesn't seem like enough to convey the feeling I have for your gift of \$95. It is no small thing to have received these gifts of love. Love for the mission and vision of ASP, love for the families we serve, love for the staff who have faithfully continued working during a pandemic. Because of YOU...our doors remain open, and we are able to once again serve families all over Central Appalachia this summer.

*Thank you!
Walter B. Crouch, President/CEO*

Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church



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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.***

August & September 2021 Newsletter

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