

Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church
March 15th, 2026



As a praying church family, we are called to hold one another in prayer. *Please feel free to fill out a yellow card located on the back of the chairs and place it in the blue box.* This week we invite you to hold in prayer these randomly selected members and ministries: Clinton, Michelle & Dexter P and our Memorial Team.

- Praises for Tamra Schneider who met with the District Committee on Ministry and has been approved as a Certified Candidate for ministry!
- From Cherie S: For Heather K who is having complications during the last weeks of her pregnancy; For her sister-in-law Lynne S who is home now with 24-hour care and has a long road to recovery.
- From Cathy B: For her son and his family and all affected by the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Toronto. All are safe.
- From Paula S: For cousin's son Josh who is on active duty in the middle east; and for all military and their families.
- From Suzie M: For Melissa who has terminal cancer.
- From Joan L: For friend Roger who passed away from cancer and for his family as they traveled to California for his funeral; For granddaughter Alyssa who is having health problems.
- From Michelle G: For her friend Mary, who lost a lifelong friend; for Mary's husband who had a major health scare, & her brother who needs brain surgery. Prayers for strength and healing for her and her family.
- For Pastor Heidi's mom Kathy who had a knee replacement this week.

Opportunities for Service



TODAY (March 15th) we are pleased to celebrate Scout Sunday! We thank all Scouts and adult leaders for their service and commitment to our church and community.



The 5th Annual Salvation Army Food Pantry Challenge is underway.

The collection runs until Easter Sunday (April 5th). Please be sure to mark any contribution given for the Food Challenge. Online giving is available at:

occumc.org > [Online Giving](#) > [Donate Now](#) > [Other](#) > [Food Challenge](#). There are also envelopes near the blue giving boxes in the Sanctuary to put your monies in when you worship in person.



Tom Garnhart and Pastor Heidi are leading a program for adults who want to review the basics of our faith as United Methodists. You don't have to attend every session. **Join us Wednesday morning, 10:00-11:30, or Thursday evening 6:00-7:30.** Dinner is provided on Thursday nights, so please arrive by 5:30 pm. **The topic this week is *Living the Faith*.** We meet in the Community Room (L28-30).



We need your pictures & articles on events you participated in since the last newsletter, and upcoming events. Please send them to Jane, office@occumc.org.



Please take time to view the 200 bags created for Midwest Distribution Center on the table across from the Connection Center.

Going to Pieces received a large donation of heavy-duty fabric scraps from the company that did the window treatments in Doyle Hall. We had two sewing days in January and February sorting, cutting, ironing, surging and sewing these bags (plus MANY hours sewing at home). They are used for school bags. We enjoyed this

wonderful mission project.



Excitement is building and donations are already coming in for the **2026 Men's Group Auction on March 28th!**

If you'd like to contribute, simply bring your donation to the church office during office hours or drop it off at the Connection Center on Sunday.

What could you donate? Get creative! Here are a few ideas to spark inspiration:

Themed Gift Baskets: Game Day Favorites, Fine Dining Night, Book Lover's Bundle, Grill Master Kit, Local Favorites Sampler, Super Fan Gear, DIY Crafter's Box, Coffee Enthusiast Collection, Camping Adventure Pack, Dog Lover's Basket, (and anything else you can dream up!)

Memorable Experiences: Museum, concert, or fair tickets, Vacation rental or weekend getaway, Private lessons (music, art, fitness, etc.), Guided nature walk or outdoor adventure

Personal Services: Photography session, Gardening or yard work, Child care, Sewing or mending

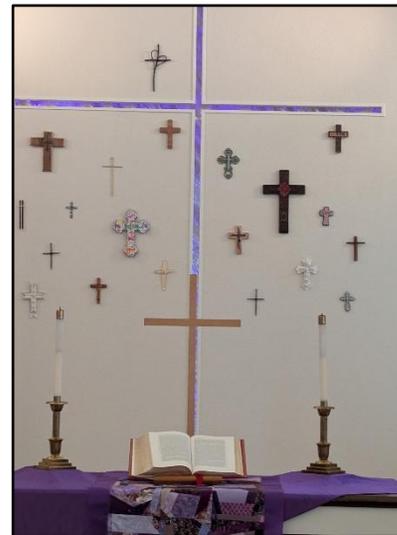
Every donation makes a difference and helps make this event a success. Thank you for your generosity and creativity!

For more information or questions, contact:
Clinton - cmjdpeirce@gmail.com



Spring Women's Retreat April 24th – 26th, at Lake Lucerne Camp and Retreat Center - *Sharing the Joy of Jesus*. Unlike happiness, which depends on external circumstances, joy is an internal, enduring state of mind rooted in the unchanging character of Jesus Christ. Join women from across the state and beyond for a weekend of fun, relaxation, and learning as we share the joy of Jesus. 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.

All women are invited to attend. Registration forms are on the Connections Counter or online <https://forms.gle/RaRkqYMns2RgmsgX6> Deadline is April 1st. Questions contact bonnieclement05@gmail.com.



A Lenten message from the Worship and the Arts Team:

- ❖ The cross represents God's love, salvation, redemption and victory over sin, death and evil.
- ❖ The cross is an emblem of faith, hope and the sacrifice of Jesus.
- ❖ The cross is a symbol of discipleship. It represents the call to "take up your cross" and commit to follow Jesus.
- ❖ The cross serves as a symbol of strength & resilience. It can provide comfort during times of trial.

Save the Date!
Saturday
May 16th



Trustees Spring Cleanup
8:00 am – Noon

Puzzle Social
1:00 – 4:00 pm

1. What does the term 'Lent,' which comes from 'lencten,' mean?
 - a. Sacrifice b. Time c. Spring d. March Madness
2. How were ashes imposed in the early church?
 - a. The shape of a cross was drawn on the forehead.
 - b. Ashes were smeared across closed eyelids.
 - c. Ashes were poured or sprinkled over the head.
3. Why do people give things up for Lent?
 - a. To follow the example of Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness.
 - b. To help us focus on prayer and devotions.
 - c. To give the acquired savings to the poor.
 - d. All of the above.
4. What snack food has significance during Lent?
 - a. Chocolate b. Pretzels c. Popcorn d. All of the above.
5. Many people fast during Lent. How often did John Wesley fast?
 - a. Twice a week
 - b. Twice a month
 - c. Twice a year
 - d. Rarely
 - e. He did not fast.
6. Why does Lent last 40 days?
 - a. To represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, tempted by Satan.
 - b. To recall the 40 days and nights the earth was flooded in the Old Testament.
 - c. To remind us of the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert.
7. What do some United Methodists not sing at Lent?
 - a. Doxologies
 - b. Alleluia
 - c. "In the Garden"
 - d. The communion liturgy
8. Which hymn, based on St. Patrick's prayer, would be a good Lenten devotion?
 - a. "Jesus Walked This Lonely Valley"
 - b. "Christ Beside Me"
 - c. "O Happy Day, That Fixed My Choice"
 - d. "Come and Find the Quiet Center"
9. True or false? Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent.

True False
10. When early Methodists in America sat in a church on a mourner's bench, they would:
 - a. Repent their sins
 - b. Experience a new birth
 - c. Rededicate themselves to Jesus
 - d. All of the above



Stay After Worship to enjoy:

- **Sunday School** for our elementary kiddos (L5&7)
- **Bible Browsers** as we discuss Isaiah (L27)
- **Sacred Headlines** which discusses current headlines and how they connect with scripture (L28&30)



Worship with us virtually Sundays at 9:00 am

YouTube: [@OCCUMCyoutube](https://www.youtube.com/@OCCUMCyoutube)

Please, ['like' us or open the chat to leave a comment](#) so we know this ministry is beneficial.



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



Connect/Prayer & Praise Cards are located on the back of the sanctuary chairs. Please place completed cards in the blue boxes. If you're worshipping virtually please email your information/request to office@occumc.org.



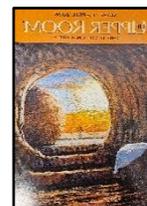
In response to God's love, you may support the ministries and mission of OCCUMC and beyond by giving:

In-Person: place your offering in the blue boxes

Online: www.occumc.org

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

Electronic Funds Transfer: finance@occumc.org



The **March-April** issue of *The Upper Room* is available in the literature rack in the Gathering Area.

Answers: 1-c; 2-c; 3-d; 4-b; 5-a; 6-a; 7-b; 8-b; 9-true; 10-d