



Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

Newsletter

June—July, 2025



A Summer Full of Praise! Thank you God!

As the warmth of summer begins to embrace us with longer days, blooming flowers, and the sounds of children playing, I find my heart turning again and again to a simple but powerful prayer:

“Thank You, God.”

There’s something about this season that invites us to slow down and notice the beauty around us—the pinks and purples of sunset, the laughter shared at a picnic, the fresh smell of a petunia, the restful rhythm of a family vacation. These are not just moments of enjoyment; they are glimpses of God’s goodness.

In 1 Thessalonians we are reminded, “give thanks in all circumstances.” We often lean on that verse in difficult times, but it is just as vital in the seasons of abundance. Gratitude deepens our joy. It turns simple pleasures into sacred moments. It reminds us that every good and perfect gift is from above (James 1:17).

So, this summer, I encourage us all to make “*Thank You, God*” a constant refrain. Not just for the big things, but for the little blessings we might otherwise overlook:

- ☀️ Thank You, God for the warmth of the sun and the coolness of shade.
- ☀️ Thank You, God for reunions, laughter, and the gift of time with loved ones.
- ☀️ Thank You, God for fireflies in the evening, for the sound of birdsong at dawn, and for the peace that settles in quiet moments.
- ☀️ Thank You, God for Sabbath rest and the space to breathe deeply of Your presence.

Let’s not let this season slip by without pausing often to offer a prayer of thanks. I challenge you to find one new thing each day to thank God for. And then...share it with someone else. Let’s make this a summer not just of sunshine, but of *soulshine*.

Gratefully yours in Christ,
Pastor Heidi

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Message Series

Stories are powerful extensions of who we are. We each have our own unique story to be unraveled, and by sharing them with others we help shape communities, give strength to others and paint a picture for those who follow in our footsteps.



The best story of all is the one that Jesus has told. Join us for this important season where we will embrace storytelling, whether you choose to shout it from the rooftops or quietly scribble away in a journal.

Join us as we explore the power of the Christian story!

Music Ministry

CONTRIBUTED BY SHELLY SWODZINSKI



Altar Choir takes a break during the summer. If you would like to sing, play an instrument, or join a group of pop-up-singers to add special music to our summer services, please contact Shelly at 414-801-1940. She'll even work with you to get things going. Happy Summer!!

Dementia Friendly Community

Sunday, June 8th after worship at 10:15 am, OCCUMC will host a program focused on: becoming a Dementia Friendly Community, what is dementia, warning signs of dementia, creating a dementia friendly environment, and communication & approaches for people with dementia. Community programs & resources will be available.



A Dementia Friendly Community is a community that shows a high level of public awareness and understanding of dementia. That community would show people with dementia that it is possible for people with dementia to live a good life and to live as independently as possible while continuing to be a part of their community. Most importantly, it is a community where they are met with understanding and given support where necessary.

Midwest Mission Trip

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



We are planning our annual trip to **Midwest Mission Trip October 12th - 17th**. You can be part of our team. Come for all six days or a couple of days. We stay in the Lodge with comfy beds and a full kitchen. We do a wide variety of projects which may

include sorting, kit making, sewing, and desk building. We'll find the job that is just right for you. Come with a friend or make some new ones as you do God's work and have fun!

Cost is \$16 per day for materials, \$25 per night double occupancy & \$25 processing fee double occupancy. Meals are your own responsibility. We eat breakfast & lunch in the dorm (there is a kitchen to prepare meals) and those who wish to, go out for dinner. Carpooling and scholarships are available. **Registration deadline is August 1st.**

Questions? Contact Bonnie at bonnieclement05@gmail.com or 262-497-9969.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Going to Pieces Fiber Artists

CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON

Going to Pieces (GTP) had a sewing day in April. We took donated fleece and flannel and created baby blankets for the layette project. We had three ladies cutting fabric and five ladies with their machines sewing. After four hours, we ended up with 28 baby quilts and 24 receiving blankets...a very successful day! We enjoy sewing, but we also love supporting the layette project.



GTP met in May and spent many hours sorting through a huge amount of donated fabric, yarn and buttons. We were like kids on Christmas morning!! But now we will take a break for the summer and resume regular monthly meetings in September. In the summer, we plan to have a road trip where we will visit multiple sewing/fabric stores in one day. Always a fun adventure.



We always welcome anyone interested in sewing, quilting, crocheting or simply creating items to be sold with 100% of the profits coming back to our church. If you would like more information, contact the church office or Judy at ehomestead02@aol.com or Lois at lsdillon@sbcglobal.net.

Men's Group Soup / Chili Dinner & Auction

The 2025 Men's Group Soup/Chili Dinner & Auction was a huge success as we shared many laughs, ate delicious food, and **raised \$6,534**. This was divided between the General Fund and the Men's Group for planned activities.



Thank you to all those who came and/or donated an item to support this event; we couldn't be happier with how it turned out. Thank you also to Rich, Jonathan, Keith, Jim, and Clinton for cooking up some delicious gumbo, soup, and chili. Thank you to Dale for bringing in hot dogs.

Thank you to Devin for all the photos.



Lastly, thank you to everyone else who helped run this event. From a kayak to children's toys, there was something for everyone, and we only plan to make it even better for the 2026 Auction!



OUTREACH

Food Pantry Challenge CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



For the 4th year, Going to Pieces has led the Salvation Army Food Pantry Challenge!!

This community outreach event for our church has become a valuable contributor to the Oak Creek Salvation Army Food Pantry.



Going to Pieces thanks the OCCUMC community for the wonderful support for our Salvation Army Food Pantry Challenge. We had donations from the Men's Group, the Women's groups, large private donors, as well as your individual donations.

The total is incredible. . . \$5,050!!



The Cathedral Center CONTRIBUTED BY JOANNE MUELLER

We are serving monthly dinners at The Cathedral Center on June 10th and July 8th. If you would like to volunteer to serve, please contact Joanne (414-817-2914) or Diane (414-405-0153). We would like to have at least six workers for each date. Sign-up sheets for volunteering and food needs are on the counter in the Connection Center. We leave church at 5:30 pm and return about 8:30 or 9:00 pm.



If making food for June 10th, you may bring it to church Sunday the 8th before worship or Monday the 9th & Tuesday the 10th from 9:00 am - Noon and leave it in the kitchen refrigerator. If you are making a hot & ready to eat main dish, please bring it to church Tuesday the 10th between 5:00 pm & 5:30 pm.



If you are unable to volunteer, please consider supporting the mission financially. We welcome donations with your regular offering. Just designate the amount you want donated to The Cathedral Center on your check in the memo section. You may also give online at occumc.org > Online Giving > Donate Now > The Cathedral Center.

Blood Drive



Save lives and donate at our next Blood Drive on **June 4th from 2:00 - 6:30 pm in Doyle Hall**. There are 20 appointment slots for whole blood and 4 appointments available for double red blood cells.

Someone needs blood every 2 seconds. One donation can save three lives. All blood donated stays here in Southeast Wisconsin.

To schedule an appointment: donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11598603
Walk-ins are also welcome!

TEAM REPORTS

Trustees

CONTRIBUTED BY CLINTON PEIRCE

God is great!!!

I am incredibly grateful for the people of our community and everyone's willingness to "roll up their sleeves" and get stuff done.



Before



After

With the help of all of the Trustees from planning, to running to Menard's (and Home Depot and Lowes), to investing "sweat equity", we completed a much needed update/remodel of the parsonage bathroom. What an amazing team effort!

Spring clean-up was a huge success as always, thanks to the many, many helping hands and willing hearts. The tasks completed included trimming bushes, spraying weeds, window washing, paint repair on inside church walls, mulching, picking up fallen branches at the cemetery & church grounds, power washing entry doors and parsonage walls, gutter cleaning and dead bush removal. Thank you to everyone who was able to assist with this important work.

We made some adjustments to our mowing schedule which has been changed from every week to every other week. Keith has also worked with Lawnforce to reduce some of the mowing area directly adjacent to the north parking lot. These two factors will help us to reduce our mowing expenses this year by close to \$4,000.

The Trustees will not meet during the summer months, but rest assured that we will keep our eyes on things while we take a little break.

As always, if you notice something inside or outside of our church that may require attention, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the Trustees (listed below) or send a note to Jane at office@occumc.org.

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

Marketing Team CONTRIBUTED BY DALE TETZLAFF

Join OCCUMC for a

WALK IN THE PARK

- Come out for monthly walks in area parks - fun for all ages!



Wednesday, June 18 @ 11:30^{AM} and 6:00^{PM}
Froemming Park
8801 S. 51st St, Franklin

Saturday, July 19 @ 1:00^{PM}
Conservancy for Healing & Heritage
7410 W. Rawson Ave, Franklin

**MEAL OR
SNACK
PROVIDED**

FINANCIAL NEWS

Envelopes

Remember: You only need to write one check. You can designate amounts to different funds on the envelope or in the memo section of your check.

Newsletter



We are changing things up with our bi-monthly newsletter. To help control costs, we are going to try and keep the pages at 16. We have a *Worship. Serve. Grow.* booklet describing our regular ministries to help newcomers know what is going on in our congregation. It is available in the Literature Rack in the Gathering Area.

The newsletter is available online. We need your input on receiving printed copies. If you are currently receiving a copy by mail and no longer need that, please let the office know. If you are receiving printed copies in your hanging file and no longer need one, please let the office know.

Worship. Serve. Grow.



**Oak Creek Community
United Methodist Church**

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

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

Our Staff:

Rev. Heidi Loomis
Pastor
pastor@occumc.org

Jane Lentz
Office Administrator
office@occumc.org

Michelle Peirce
Treasurer
treasurer@occumc.org

Ed Kubes
Assistant Treasurer

TBD
Financial Secretary
finance@occumc.org

Amber Yeary
Asst. Financial Secretary

Shelly Swodzinski
Altar Choir Director

Todd Anderson
Organist

Lindsay Gardenier
Choir Accompanist

Devin Wiemann
Media & Technology

Cheryl Clement-Reichling
Nursery Coordinator

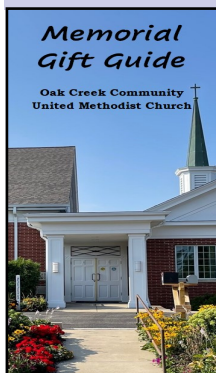
Heather Reichling
Nursery Care Support

OCCUMC Financial

		2025	2024
<u>Month of April</u>	General Fund Income	\$32,030.65	\$14,813.45
	Expenses	\$30,147.87	\$25,406.99
<u>Fiscal / Calendar Year to April</u>	General Fund Income	\$90,962.20	\$77,470.73
	Expenses	\$115,023.40	\$103,404.85
<u>Apportionment</u>	Annual Total Given	\$7,658.05	\$8,931.95
	Annual Goal	\$35,800.00	\$31,884.00

Memorials

CONTRIBUTED BY JUDY DORDEL



Honor and Remember: a way to recognize those among us and those we have lost. A contribution may be made to OCCUMC to honor our loved ones and to recognize what they have taught us through their effort and example.

If using your contribution envelope or the **Memorial Guide brochure**, please include the honoree's name, the way you would like to honor them, and your name and contact information so we can thank you.

Hello Fellow OCCUMC Members and Friends:

As a follow-up to the March congregational letter, in which we provided an update on our financial condition at that time, here is our current situation through the end of April. Our monthly expenses and contributions were as follows.



	Income	Expenses
January	\$22,032	\$29,670
February	\$16,163	\$28,719
March	\$20,736	\$26,487
April	\$32,031	\$30,148
Year-to-Date Totals	\$90,962	\$115,024

As you can see, our contributions are lagging behind our expenses through April. We had positive April donations, but expenses also were up. We were blessed with a \$12,000 contribution in April to help us catch up. However, as you can see, we still have a deficit to make up. Although it is not reflected in the above numbers, we also received a generous \$15,000 contribution in May. These gifts have been a huge blessing and we are thankful for the faithfulness of the OCCUMC faith family. We still recognize that, on a month-to-month basis, we need to increase our giving and reduce expenses.

Your Finance Team, along with other leaders in the congregation, have been looking at ways to reduce expenses. Such as allowing part of our property to go wild. This change will reduce the costs associated with mowing. We also will discuss with our mortgage lender how we can reduce the monthly mortgage commitment for our church.

The Finance Team is exploring options to increase revenue. If you, as members and friends of OCCUMC, have any suggestions, please let us know. Please also prayerfully consider your current giving.

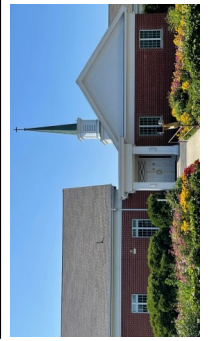
As we mentioned in our previous letter, we have witnessed God's abundant blessings in our ministry, with beautiful lives being touched, people growing in faith, and outreach opportunities expanding! Our ministry continues to thrive, and it is a testament to your faithful support, prayers, and dedication. Despite the challenges described above, we have confidence that God continues to provide. We ask for your continued faithfulness in your tithes and offerings. Your generosity makes the vital work of our church possible.

Jim Wittenberg
Finance Team Chair

June 2025

(as of 5/27/25)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Worship Baptism Graduates Blessing	2 7:00 pm AA Meeting	3 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	4 2:00 pm Blood Drive 7:00 pm AA Meeting	5 WI Conference UMC Annual Conference	6 WI Conference UMC Annual Conference	7 WI Conference UMC Annual Conference
8 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Dementia Program Annual Conference Concludes	9 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10 5:30 pm Cathedral Center 7:00 pm AA Meeting	11 7:00 pm AA Meeting	12 7:00 pm AA Meeting	13 Pastor's Sabbath Day	14 Pastor's Sabbath Day
15 9:00 am Worship HAPPY Father's DAY	16 7:00 pm AA Meeting	17 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	18 7:00 pm AA Meeting	19 Juneteenth National Independence Day 9:30 am UWF Book Club 10:00 am Sarah Circle Mtg	20 Pastor's Sabbath Day	21 9:00 am Men's Group
Youth Mission Trip to Harrisburg, PA						
22 9:00 am Worship	23 7:00 pm AA Meeting	24 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	25 7:00 pm AA Meeting	26 7:00 pm AA Meeting	28 Pastor's Sabbath Day	
29 9:00 am Worship Baptism 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Cousins Fundraiser for OCCPreschool	30 Pastor Heidi on Vacation 7:00 pm AA Meeting					



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




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

WORSHIP
with us

Sunday Worship 9:00 am In-Person
Worship on Facebook Live! at 9:00 am
or watch anytime at:
facebook.com/occumc.org
[YouTube @OCCUMCyoutube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUJMCyoutube)

July 2025

(as of 5/27/25)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	2 7:00 pm AA Meeting	3 Pastor's Vacation	4 	5
6 9:00 am Worship	7 7:00 pm AA Meeting	8 5:30 pm Cathedral Center	9 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10	11 Pastor's Sabbath Day	12 WI Conference UWF
Pastor's Vacation						
13 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship Coffee Bistro following worship	14 7:00 pm AA Meeting	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Finance Team Mtg	16 7:00 pm AA Meeting	17 9:30 am UWF Book Club 10:00 am Sarah Circle Mtg	18 Pastor's Sabbath Day	19 9:00 am Men's Group
2:00 pm Tabitha Circle Picnic	21 9:00 am Worship	22 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	23 7:00 pm AA Meeting	24	25 Pastor's Sabbath Day	26
20 9:00 am Worship	21 7:00 pm AA Meeting	22 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	23 7:00 pm AA Meeting	24	25 Pastor's Sabbath Day	26
27 9:00 am Worship	28 7:00 pm AA Meeting	29 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	30 GTP Road Trip 7:00 pm AA Meeting	31 		



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WORSHIP
with us

Sunday Worship 9:00 am In-Person
Worship on Facebook Live at 9:00 am
or watch anytime at:
facebook.com/occumc.org
YouTube @OCCUMCyoutube

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Pastor Heidi will be at the WI Annual Conference June 5th - June 9th.

She will be on vacation June 30th - July 6th.

Please call the office if you experience any emergency pastoral needs during these times.

Graduates



Cali Eickhoff: UW-Madison, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, taking a year off before deciding on going for her master's in athletic training.

Kailyn Eickhoff: Oak Creek High School. Attending UW-Whitewater in the fall and plans on majoring in accounting.

Ethan Ferger: UW-Madison Bachelor of Science in Data Sciences.

Andrew Schmitt: Franklin High School. Attending MATC for prerequisites and will then transfer to UW-Parkside with plans to major in pathology or the physician assistant program.

Nathan Schmitt: MATC with a double major in IT Web and software development and IT mobile application development.

Steven Siepert: UW-Milwaukee, Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Film.

Preschool

CONTRIBUTED BY STEPHANIE PASZKIEWICZ

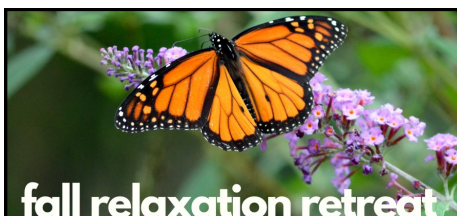


Do you know of any families with 3-5 year old children? Oak Creek Community Preschool offers 2, 3, or 4-day programs, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 – 11:30 am. We offer a quality preschool, licensed by the State of Wisconsin. Contact our Preschool Director Stephanie at occpreschool@gmail.com or 414-762-4600 to set up a tour.

Please visit Cousins Subs on Ryan Road in Franklin on Sunday, June 29th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, 20% of the proceeds benefit our preschool.



Come & Relax



Metamorphosis September 4th-7th – Fall Relaxation Retreat weekend at Pine Lake Camp. With over 400 acres to explore, we'll learn from God's smallest creatures, there is so much to learn from the amazing world of insects! We'll also focus on self-care, both physically, nutritionally, and mentally. Candy Ruffolo and Joni Shavlik will lead the retreat again, along with a certified massage therapist!

Favorites from past retreats like yoga, hikes, meditation, tea time, water activities, Christian music, crafts, and a lovely prayer labyrinth will be brought back by popular demand. Enjoy evening vespers at the campfire, plenty of free time, a gorgeous retreat center to stay in, meals cooked for you, and a connection to God's gift of relaxation given to us all, because he loves us.

What to bring: Journal or Notebook and Pen, Yoga Mat, and/or blanket. Favorite Christian song to share. A favorite tea if you'd like to share (a variety will be provided). Rain activity or craft. Christian video if you have one you'd love to share on a rainy day. If you want to fish, you'll need to purchase a license prior to camp. We will have experienced anglers on hand to help you, provide gear and bait, and even help you clean the fish so you can bring a meal home!

To register go to: <http://wiumcamps.campbrainregistration.com>

ITEMS OF INTEREST



Back by popular request... a Little Jesus! Summer is the perfect time to travel, see family, explore new places or reminisce while visiting the more familiar places. As you journey this summer, be sure to take a Little Jesus with you!

Share pictures of Little Jesus on your social media using [#occumclittlejesus](https://twitter.com/occumclittlejesus). Then, email the picture to office@occumc.org.

If you've misplaced your Little Jesus, or are new to OCCUMC since last summer, pick up a Little Jesus at the Connection Counter.

Stay connected with the adventures of Little Jesus and your faith family at OCCUMC from now till Labor Day.

Little Jesus Word Search

Adventure	Ice Cream
Automobile	Jesus
Baseball	Lake Michigan
Beach Ball	Little
Bicycle	Plane
Boat	Sunshine
Concert	Swim
Fishing	Train
Flowers	Travel
Food Truck	Vacation

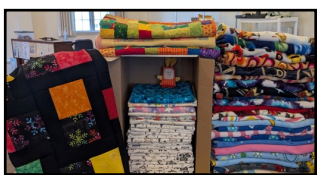
C	Y	O	F	A	X	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	A
X	B	Z	T	O	D	I	O	F	V	U	P	T	F	U
O	U	E	W	O	O	V	E	U	Y	R	O	R	I	L
L	D	I	A	F	Y	D	E	R	P	G	O	A	S	I
A	N	C	U	C	R	R	T	N	S	D	V	V	H	T
K	E	E	T	J	H	F	J	R	T	B	R	E	I	T
E	A	C	O	E	B	B	L	C	U	U	O	L	N	L
M	P	R	M	S	O	M	A	O	H	C	R	L	G	E
I	L	E	O	U	A	T	R	L	W	I	K	E	T	C
C	A	A	B	S	T	P	X	J	L	E	V	A	R	O
H	N	M	I	B	I	C	Y	C	L	E	R	T	A	N
I	E	Z	L	U	M	G	D	Q	Y	D	B	S	I	C
G	J	J	E	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	A	N	E
A	O	P	F	T	B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	T	R
N	I	A	P	Y	F	S	W	I	M	O	S	R	M	T

MISSIONS & MINISTRY NEWS

Layette Mission Project

CONTRIBUTED BY JOAN KETCHUM

As we enter the 6th month of this year, we have donated, collected, laundered, packaged and delivered 42 layettes. We also collected several bags of women's gently used clothing items for Aurora Sinai Hospital's Women's Closet and a few items of children's clothing for La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center.



Again, we cannot thank our ladies of the Going To Pieces group enough for working 5 hours at their last meeting to give us 29 quilts and blankets and 24 receiving blankets. They are such a blessing! As are all of you who donate the sleepers, onesies and flannel so that we can give the babies and their mothers something beautiful to bring home.

For the past few years we have been able, to provide eight layettes a month to one recipient at a time. The bags we put the eight completed layettes in are donated to us from Kohl's by way of Clinton Peirce. Thank you Kohl's and Clinton.

By donating the needed items you will keep us busy preparing and delivering our layettes and extra clothing to our three main recipients.

Thank you for your help, if you have any comments or questions, please contact Joan @ 414-215-7088 or joanmketchum@gmail.com.

Garden Ministry

CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON

The gardeners are at it!! We are out on the church grounds weeding, spraying, trimming, purging and pruning... keeping our gardens in good shape. We can always use anybody's help. So if you feel the urge to come for an hour or so, we welcome any time you can give. The gardens will be in full bloom soon. The daffodils are done, the Iris are coming, the phlox is beautiful...then cone flowers, black eyed susans and annuals. It's something new all the time.



Come early for church or a meeting, or stay late and enjoy the prayer garden. Just sit and look out at the flowers and visit with God.

We want to send a special thank you to the Trustees. You never know what is going to happen on cleanup day; while Lois was weeding around the bush near the west door by Doyle Hall, a duck flew out! We won't weed around that bush until the duck moves out.

On church cleanup day, they hauled two loads of mulch for us and spread it. We are grateful for that help. We are looking forward to a beautiful summer.

Merry Mat Makers

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



The Merry Mat Makers have finished 16 sleeping mats. We are collecting bags again for the sleeping mats. We're asking for thicker ones only (Festival, Menards, Sendik's, Kwik Trip, Target), as the thin ones (Walmart, Walgreens, Dollar Tree) break easily. We love bright colored bags. And as always the bags need to be clean, dry and empty of all contents. Flattened bags are especially appreciated.

If you would like to help make these mats come to Room L09 on Tuesdays from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. If this time doesn't work for you, contact Joanne at grandmajo414@hotmail.com. She is happy to show you what to do at a time that is convenient for you. You are welcome to come work on the loom during office hours as your schedule allows or take supplies home to work there.

MISSIONS

Missionaries

Meet Our Missionaries



#STILLINMISSION – Are you interested in learning more about United Methodist missionaries? Do you wonder what day-to-day life is like in mission? Get details and register at umcmmission.org/stillinmission.

Upcoming online dates: July 10th @ 6:00 pm, August 7th @ 11:00 am, September 4th @ 6:00 pm.

Volunteers in Mission

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT

Volunteers in Mission (VIM) provides volunteer opportunities to express Christ's love by helping our brothers and sisters in our local community, across our nation and around the globe through disaster response activities, housing projects and rehabilitation, education, and medical assistance. When we reach out and use what God has given us in the service of others, we have life-transforming experiences.



For more information on mission opportunities such as costs and registration deadlines, go to: wisconsinumc.org/volunteers-in-mission. Below is a brief description of upcoming trips.



September 21st - 26th @ Lake Lucerne UMC Camp, Neshkoro. Join us for a week of fellowship, fun and hard work! Plan to arrive and settle into your room in one of the cabins, then join us for dessert and our first evening together in Ridgewood, where we will share morning and evening devotions. Meals will be eaten in the Lodge, starting with Monday breakfast and concluding with breakfast on Friday. Tasks may range from cleaning out cabins to working at the waterfront, cutting down trees & brush, roof repairs, and laying new sidewalk! Fall or spring,

Lucerne is a place to appreciate God's creation. This is a drive-to camp with a cost of \$200, which includes lodging, meals, work supplies and a donation to the camp. **Registration deadline is September 1st**, with a \$40 deposit. Questions? Contact Gail Burgess @ 262- 945-8578 or hb53104@aol.com; or Donna Kiefer @608-655-3097 or momkiefer@juno.com.

Northcott Neighborhood House



Women from Sarah and Tabitha Circles toured Northcott Neighborhood House in May. It was founded 65 years ago and is supported by the United Women in Faith and the United Methodist Church. They delivered four boxes of food to the House from OCCUMC.

Northcott Neighborhood House serves thousands of people each year, providing a community center for youth, families & seniors and training programs in construction, hydroponics, agriculture, landscaping, arborist & demolition. It also provides fresh foods to close the gap in relationship to food insecurities in Milwaukee for youth, families & seniors.

Events organized by Northcott Neighborhood House include the Juneteenth Day Celebration on 6/19; Jazz & Blues Festivals on Saturdays in June through August; Harambee Back to School Block Party (8/15); a Halloween Trunk or Treat (10/26); and 'Tis the Season Thanksgiving (11/27) & Christmas (12/25) which provides home cooked meals and gifts; and Forever in Our Hearts Homicide Candlelight Vigil (12/28).

COMMUNITY NEWS

Food Pantry



We support our community and neighbors in need by supporting the Salvation Army. Please drop off non-perishable food items at the Salvation Army or visit their website to make an online donation at <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/oakcreek/>

The **Oak Creek Centennial Corps Food Pantry on Howell and Centennial Drive** also provides a 2-3-day supply of emergency food to neighborhood individuals and families in these zip codes: 53129, 53130, 53132, & 53154, on **Wednesday & Thursdays: 9:00 am - Noon.** **NEW: 1st Monday of the month from 2:00 - 5:00 pm.**

The food is given on the day it is requested and represents breakfast, lunch, and dinner for all members of the household. Those receiving food are also informed about how they can participate in supplemental food programs so they can move beyond visiting food pantries.

The following are required in order to be eligible:

- Client picture ID (Must have current address and be shown every time).
- School record, Birth Record/Birth Certificate for children in household. If you do not have this information you will only be served for yourself and not the other household members.
- 2 proofs of residence (Mail and utility bill from the last 30 days).

Mobile Market

The Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that travels throughout Milwaukee County with grocery staples, such as fruits, vegetables, milk (dairy & non dairy options), chicken, beef, pork, deli meat, cheese, yogurt, etc. Canned items or processed foods are not sold here. The market is an active store, not a food pantry or donation center. Prices are 50% off Piggly Wiggly prices. The market accepts debit cards, credit cards and Quest EBT, but no cash. Hours and days vary at locations in Oak Creek, St. Francis, Cudahy and various Milwaukee locations,



For sites & times go to: hungertaskforce.org/what-we-do/mobile-market/

Senior Stock Box Distribution

Hunger Task Force is distributing a box of free, healthy food for seniors at different spots around Milwaukee County. All stockboxes include cereal, milk, canned veggies and fruits, pasta or rice, protein, fruit juice, canned meats and 2 pounds of fresh Wisconsin cheese. Qualifications are:

- 60 years or older (Bring an ID showing your age)
- Monthly household income of less than \$1,632 (1 person) or \$2,215 (2 persons)
- Be a resident of Wisconsin
- Paperwork will be filled out at each site by Hunger Task Force employees.

- ⇒ 1st Thursday of the month from 1:00-2:00 pm at the Greenfield City Hall, 7325 West Forest Home Avenue;
- ⇒ 2nd Thursday of the month from 12:30-1:30 pm at Franklin Senior Meals in City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road;
- ⇒ 3rd Thursday of the month from 12:30-1:30 pm at the Kelly Senior Center, 6100 South Lake Drive, Cudahy



OFFICE NOTES

New Members



Become
Part of the
OCCUMC
Church
Family

Oak Creek Community UMC is a place where you can see how your Christian faith can change your life, and how, in turn, that can transform the world.

We have five expectations for our members: worship, study, serve, give, and share. These five essential practices are designed to become a part of the rhythm of life on your faith journey toward becoming a deeply committed Christian. We believe fulfilling these practices will change your life in powerful ways, bringing you meaning and joy.

If you're interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Heidi pastor@occumc.org.

Embracing Our Community with Prayers

Please show your care for members and friends of our congregation who are homebound, ill, having surgery, experiencing anxiety, depression or sadness, or in need of encouragement or support. We have the following available:

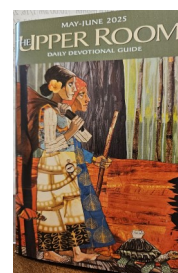
- ♦ The Sarah Circle **Card Ministry** has cards available every Sunday in the Gathering Area;
- ♦ Yellow **Prayer Request/Praise Card** are located on the back of the chairs in the Sanctuary. If you are worshipping virtually, please email your information/request to office@occumc.org;
- ♦ We have **Prayer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

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

List of our OCCUMC homebound: Lowell A Jean B Eileen S Kathy Z Rick Z

The Upper Room

The May-June issue of *The Upper Room* is available in regular and large print in the literature rack in the Gathering Area. Please let us know if you find this publication useful. The July-August issue will be available the last week of June.



Name Badges



Do you have a name badge? Our badges are white with gold frames. Please wear one at events and worship. Contact the office if you need a new badge or have misplaced yours, office@occumc.org

If you've lost the magnet for the back of your badge, we have extras in the church office.

Mailings



Please inform the office if you move. We don't want you to miss out on anything from us. Contact the office at 414-762-4600 or office@occumc.org

Oak Creek Community
United Methodist Church

8675 South 13th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154

June - July '25

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



Oak Creek Community United Methodist

Phone: 414-762-4600

Website: www.occumc.org

E-mail: office@occumc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/occumc

YouTube: @OCCUMCyoutube

Mission Statement:

Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church is a Christian fellowship whose mission is to worship God, love and serve all people, grow in faith, and invite others to become disciples of Jesus Christ.