



Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

Newsletter

August - September, 2025



Cultivating Ministry from the Ground Up

Beloved OCCUMC Family,

You've likely heard the terms "Re-wilding," "Green Effort," and "Environmental Design," being mentioned around the church the last few months. It's possible you may be wondering what these terms mean in the big picture of ministry at OCCUMC, so I wanted to take a moment to share the divine inspiration that has been sparked.

As we look around our church property, we see a gift—acres of green lawn that stretch around our building, a beautiful but often underutilized space. What if we began to see this land not just as something to maintain, but as a ministry waiting to happen?

God has blessed us with space that could be so much more than grass. Imagine a vibrant community garden where fresh vegetables grow and neighbors come together. Picture a small orchard producing fruit—both literal and spiritual. Think of outdoor gathering spaces for fellowship, worship, and prayer. Envision a peaceful walking trail for quiet reflection, exercise, or conversation with a friend.

These ideas aren't just about beautifying our campus, they're about cultivating connection, hospitality, and outreach. By reimagining our lawn as a place of ministry, we live out our calling to be good stewards of God's creation. Genesis reminds us that we were placed in the garden to "work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15), and today, we have the chance to do just that. Caring for the land in a way that honors God and serves others.

This is about more than planting seeds in the soil; it's about planting hope, joy, and community. Let's continue praying and dreaming together about how God might use every part of our church (yes, even the lawn) for God's glory.

With hope,
Pastor Heidi

P.S. Please let me know if you'd like to be part of the team imagining these new spaces.

(Continued on Page 15)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Participation in a small groups at OCCUMC is important because this is where we form stronger relationships, grow spiritually, and find that sense of community among our faith family. In a smaller, more personal setting, we can share our lives, study Scripture more intimately, and support one another through prayer and encouragement. Small groups also help us stay connected and care for one another more effectively, making the larger congregation feel more like a spiritual family.

Save the dates for these two Small Group opportunities:



In this series, we'll focus on the countercultural, often radical way that Jesus calls his followers to relate to their resources, financial and otherwise. This way of relating stems from a relationship with Christ, shaping values and an identity that comes alive in daily action to transform our relationships with others and the world.

Wednesdays in the Church Library:
October 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
10:30 am Lead by Liz Imoehl
6:00 pm Lead by Pastor Heidi



Many of us find ourselves doing lots of preparing in this busy season of lights, tinsel, and wrapping paper. Yet, what are we really preparing for? Who are we really preparing for? This Advent, hear God's call: "Prepare!" – for the coming one, Jesus. This is an invitation to remove the fuss and ready your heart and life for the change that is coming when Jesus arrives.

Wednesdays in the Church Library:
December 3rd, 10th, 17th
10:30 am Lead by Liz Imoehl
6:00 pm Lead by TBD

GET OUTDOORS

Join OCCUMC for a

WALK IN THE PARK

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



Monday, August 11 @ 11:30^{AM} and 6:00^{PM}
Franklin Woods Nature Center
3723 W. Puetz Rd, Franklin

Saturday, September 13 @ 1:00^{PM}
Sheridan Park
4800 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy

**MEAL OR
SNACK
PROVIDED**

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SUNDAY



United
Women
in Faith

UWF Sunday will be celebrated on September 21st, with women leading and helping conduct service that day. We hope to have a speaker talk to us about the mission of UWF, which includes caring for women and children in our community. A time for fellowship and food will follow.

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JOIN THE



Join OCCUMC on the Bible App and
start the Featured Plan



Pick up your 1-year Chronological
Reading Plan at the Connection
Counter or view at occumc.org.

Attend a monthly gathering for
discussion & reflection:
In-person: 2nd Sundays
following worship
Zoom: 2nd Mondays at 6:00pm



OAK CREEK COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

READING BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Join us on a transformative journey to read the entire Bible chronologically in 365 days. This is more than just a reading plan. It's an opportunity to grow in faith, deepen your understanding of Scripture, and walk in fellowship with others.

In community, we find encouragement, accountability, and shared joy as we discover God's Word day by day.

Whether you're new to the Bible or have read it before, there's a place for you in this group. Let's grow together!

 (414) 762-4600

 occumc.org

 pastor@occumc.org

SMALL GROUPS

Oasis Faith Group

CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



The Oasis Faith Group is for all 20/30/40-year olds. This year, we're shifting the group's focus and will be meeting as a social group each month. Keep an eye out in the Bulletin & Newsletter for upcoming events.

GOING TO PIECES FIBER ARTISTS

CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON

Going to Pieces has taken the summer off from meeting. We were blessed in May as a huge amount of fabric was donated to our group. If you saw us that day, it was like Christmas morning! Thank you for the donation from an area neighbor. We have been quietly sewing and getting ready for the November 22nd Craft Fair at the Oak Creek Community Center. Mark your calendars, as there is always something new in our creations.



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 Judy at ehomestead02@aol.com or Lois at lsdillon@sbcglobal.net.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

All women are welcome to join **Sarah Circle** and **Tabitha Circle**, which are a part of United Women in Faith. You do not need to be a member of the church.

Sarah Circle meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:00 am in the Library. The Book club meets a bit earlier at 9:30 in the church library. Those participating in the UWF Reading Program come to share and discuss books they've read. Our meetings usually include Bible study, sharing our joys and concerns through prayer, planning for future meetings, and enjoying the camaraderie as women in faith. For more information, contact Diane, dianelindsay54@gmail.com.

Tabitha Circle meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm for devotions and Christian fellowship. For more information, contact Bonnie at bonnieclement05@gmail.com.

SARAH CIRCLE

CONTRIBUTED BY DIANE LINDSEY

Here are the tentative plans for the next few months:

- ♦ August 14th - Riverboat tour on the Milwaukee river, from 1:00- 2:30 pm.
- ♦ August 21st, September 18th & October 16th - will be used to finalize details for these events.
- ♦ October 18th - Fundraiser Tea
- ♦ November 20th - we will focus on Giving Thanks.
- ♦ December 18th - we hope to have a Christmas party, with carol singing, games, food, fun & fellowship.



TABITHA CIRCLE

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT

Upcoming Schedule:

- ♦ August we are NOT meeting. Enjoy your summer activities.
- ♦ September 28th at 2:00 pm Chris Shultz is sharing his photography with us.
- ♦ October we are NOT meeting - we leave for Midwest Mission that Sunday.
- ♦ November 9th at 2:00 pm will be Retreat Planning
- ♦ December 14th at 2:00 pm will be cookie exchange and games.



Children's Sunday School

CONTRIBUTED BY JILLIAN IMOEHL



All children are invited to join us for Sunday School on Sunday mornings following worship beginning September 7th. Each week we'll learn a lesson, do an activity, and sing a song! Join us in the Sunday School Rooms (L6-8) at 10:00 am (10:15 on Coffee Bistro Sundays).

Youth Group

CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX CLEMENT-REICHLING



The OCCUMC Youth group is for anyone in grades 6 through 12 (inclusive). You do not need to be a member of any church to join. We meet monthly in the Youth Room (L5&7) for faith-building discussion, fellowship outings, and service to others. We are always ready to welcome newcomers!

BIBLE BROWSERS

CONTRIBUTED BY OLIVER CLEMENT



It's almost THAT time of year again!! Winter is just around the corner!! Bible Browsers will be kicking off its fall program on September 7th. We meet after church at 10:15 downstairs in the Conference Room (L27). The first lesson will be from Isaiah 36 and 37.

Bible Browsers is open to all ages, but is mainly geared for adults. We are a Bible Study group. ANYONE can join regardless of how much knowledge you may have of the Bible... from "never read it" to "I know it well". Trust me, we ALL learn from the Study Group. Come and Join us!

If you would like to ensure you receive the emails from class, please be sure to send your email address to: OliverC_occumc@yahoo.com. Not only will you receive updates from me about the Bible Browsers, but you will also receive prayer requests from both members and friends.

We even have our class on "Zoom" if you can't make it into church for any reason. The link will be posted in the email. Direct questions to Oliver Clement at 262-902-5714 or the above email.

THE CATHEDRAL CENTER

CONTRIBUTED BY JOANNE MUELLER

We are serving monthly dinners at The Cathedral Center on August 12th & September 9th. 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 August 12th, you may bring it to church Sunday the 10th before worship or Monday the 11th & Tuesday the 12th 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 12th 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](#).

TRUSTEES

CONTRIBUTED BY CLINTON PEIRCE

Summer is here and it seems to be flying by. 🌞

Our team has taken a little break from meetings, but will be back at it in September.

We don't have any major projects planned, although we are taking care of some required items on our list. These include servicing the doors at the Gathering Area entrance and addressing some maintenance needs on some of the furnace units in preparation for colder temperatures.



You will no doubt have noticed the addition of two small green dumpsters to our parking lot. The change came about due to the fact that our current provider, Waste Management, no longer supports curbside pickup for "commercial" locations so this is the only way garbage pickup for the church can occur.

The Fall season on our church calendar means many things, including preparing budgets for 2026. In general, we use the current year as a guide for drafting the budget for the following year, allowing for increases in services provided by various 3rd party partners who we rely on to help keep things running smoothly. As with your personal budgets, no doubt, we always look for opportunities to reduce our costs as part of the budgeting process.

We also monitor all of our assets including the status of our roofs, windows, etc. To this end, we recently obtained quotes to review the condition and replacement cost of the parsonage roof and church garage roof. The good news is that while the parsonage roof is old and approaching its end of life, it is still in decent condition and does not need to be replaced yet. The garage roof, however, is older and in need of replacement. The trustees will discuss options to get this completed during our meeting in September. More to come.



As always, if you notice something inside or outside of the 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.

DO YOU WONDER WHAT OCCUMC HAS TO OFFER ?

Worship. Serve. Grow.



**Oak Creek Community
United Methodist Church**

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

We've compiled a booklet titled *Worship. Serve. Grow.* that gives an overview of the groups and ministries we have here at OCCUMC. There are copies in the Literature Rack in the Gathering Area. Please feel free to take one or a few to share!

The Literature Rack also has booklets offering a wide variety of topics for your interest.

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.

APPORTIONMENT UPDATE

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

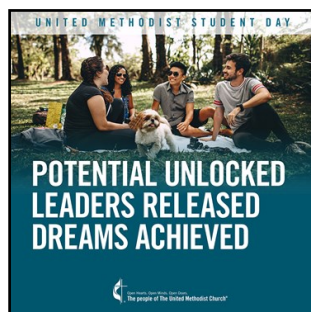
Yikes! We are halfway through 2025 and at 33% of our apportionment goal. Our target is \$33,846 and we've collected \$11,203.05 so far. Please continue to give to apportionments so we can share the blessings with the important local and international mission efforts of the United Methodist Church.

If you have questions or ideas about apportionments, please contact Jenny vH, jennyvonhelms@gmail.com
Michelle G, jeffandmichellegibbs@hotmail.com

OCCUMC FINANCIAL CENTER

		2025	2024
<u>Month of June</u>	General Fund Income	\$19,970.79	\$16,435.51
	Expenses	\$18,027.24	\$20,372.26
<u>Fiscal / Calendar Year to June</u>	General Fund Income	\$146,611.99	\$131,064.78
	Expenses	\$159,517.37	\$141,663..50
<u>Apportionment</u>	Annual Total Given	\$11,203.05	\$13,803.45
	Annual Goal	\$33,846.00	\$31,884.00

SPECIAL SUNDAY



There will be a special collection on Sunday, August 24th to celebrate United Methodist Student Day. The purpose of this collection is to support students as they pursue their undergraduate & graduate degrees. 100% of funds collected goes to funding over 70 scholarships administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM).

Scholarship applications open in January. To be notified when applications open for 2026, sign up at gbhem.org/scholarships/

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

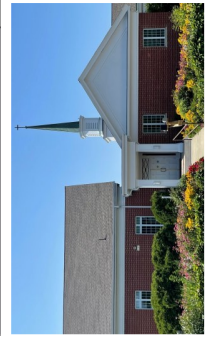
Cheryl Clement-Reichling
Nursery Coordinator

Heather Reichling
Nursery Care Support

August 2025

(as of 07/24/25)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 God's Garden: 						
3 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship Coffee Bistro following worship	4 7:00 pm AA Meeting	5 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	6 2:00 pm Blood Drive 7:00 pm AA Meeting	7	8 Pastor's Sabbath Day	9 Pastor's Sabbath Day
10 9:00 am Worship	11 11:30 am & 6:00 pm Walk in the Park @ Franklin Woods Nature Center 37 th & Puetz 7:00 pm AA Meeting	12 5:30 pm Cathedral Center	13 7:00 pm AA Meeting	14 RiverKeepers Boat Tour 1:00 - 2:30 pm	15 Pastor's Sabbath Day	16 9:00 am Men's Group
17 9:00 am Worship	18 7:00 pm AA Meeting	19 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	20 7:00 pm AA Meeting	21 9:30 am UWF Book Club 10:30 am Sarah Circle Mtg	22 Pastor's Sabbath Day	23
24 9:00 am Worship Baptism UM Student Day Collection	25 7:00 pm AA Meeting	26 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	27 Preschool Teacher Days	28	29 Pastor's Sabbath Day	30
31 9:00 am Worship Pastor on vacation						



Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church
 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

WORSHIP
 with us

Sunday Worship 9:00 am In-Person


Sunday School for all ages @ 10:00 am every Sunday

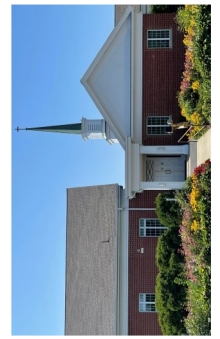
Worship on Facebook Live at 9:00 am on Sunday or watch anytime at:

facebook.com/occumc.org

September 2025

(as of 7/24/25)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 pm AA Meeting	2 Pastor on vacation 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	3 Preschool Orientation	4 Preschool Orientation	5 Pastor's Sabbath Day	6 Pastor's Sabbath Day
7 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship	8 7:00 pm AA Meeting	9 9:00 am Preschool	10 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	11 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	12 Pastor's Sabbath Day	13 Pastor's Sabbath Day
10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group		5:30 pm Cathedral Center 6:30 pm Trustees Team Mtg	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting			
14 9:00 am Worship	15 7:00 pm AA Meeting	16 9:00 am Preschool	17 9:00 am Preschool	18 9:00 am Preschool	19 Pastor's Sabbath Day	20 9:00 am Men's Group
Coffee Bistro following worship 10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group	9:30 am GTP Meeting Newsletter Article Deadline 6:30 pm SPRC Team Mtg 7:00 pm AA Meeting	4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Finance Team Mtg	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	9:30 am UWF Book Club 10:30 am Sarah Circle		
21 UWF SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship	22 7:00 pm AA Meeting	23 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	24 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	25 Pastor's Vacation	26 Pastor's Vacation	27 Pastor's Vacation
10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group		4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting			
28 Pastor's Vacation	29 7:00 pm AA Meeting	30 Pastor @ Leadership Institute 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers				
9:00 am Worship Coffee Bistro following worship 10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group 2:00 pm Photo show for all						



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

WORSHIP
with us

Sunday Worship 9:00 am In-Person
Sunday School for all ages @ 10:00 am every Sunday
Worship on Facebook Live! at 9:00 am on Sunday
or watch anytime at:
facebook.com/occumc.org
[YouTube @OCCUMCYoutube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUUMCYoutube)

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

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Pastor Heidi will be on vacation August 28th - Sept 2nd.
Please call the office if you experience any emergency pastoral needs during these times.

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON

Mark your calendars for our Fall Puzzle Social!

Do you enjoy making puzzles? Or do you enjoy cheering on others making puzzles?

Everyone is welcome to join us for an afternoon of great company and friendly puzzling on **Saturday October 4th**. **Check the connections for more information as the date gets closer.**

Coordinators: Michelle Peirce (cmjdpeirce1@gmail.com)
& Diane Wittenberg (dianewittenberg53@gmail.com).



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.

Thanks again for supporting our Preschool while enjoying a great meal at Cousins Subs on Ryan Road in Franklin on Sunday, June 29th. We received **\$403.11** for our program.

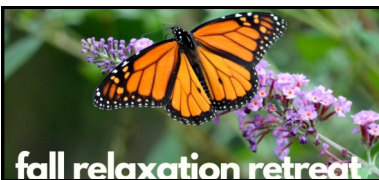
JOIN THE CHOIR



Choir practice begins September 3rd! **Choir rehearsal takes place in the sanctuary every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.** Rehearsals last until about 8:30. We welcome everyone from 9th grade to age 99. We sing all types of music....from traditional to contemporary. We welcome singers, percussionists, and other musicians.

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly after worship or call her at 414-801-1940. Otherwise, just come on Wednesday. We'll be in the Sanctuary. **We'll have music waiting for you!**

COME & RELAX



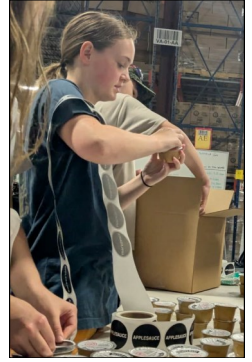
Metamorphosis September 4th - 7th Fall Relaxation Retreat weekend at Pine Lake Camp. With over 400 acres to explore, we'll learn from God's smallest creatures. There is so much to learn from the amazing world of insects! We'll also focus on self-care, both physically, nutritionally, and mentally. Candy 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.

To register go to: <http://wiumcamps.campbrainregistration.com>.
Contact bonnieclement05@gmail.com or 262-497-9969 for more details.

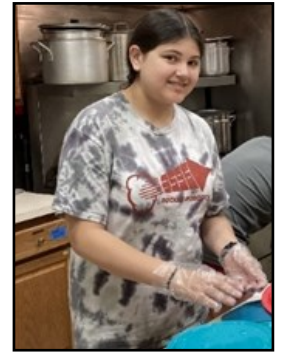
YOUTH MISSION TRIP REFLECTIONS

"As my second mission trip, this trip has solidified my love for them. We got to travel across the country together, and I met a lot of new people and formed bonds with the other people in my group. The mission work for my group, while it wasn't giant food pantries, was based in the more local community, and we got to meet and get to know many of the people from there. I really liked the message of the week, which was to follow Jesus so closely we get the dust from his sandals on us. It really stood out to me and I thought about it a lot on the ride home. All in all, this trip has shown me new ways to help the community, and I look forward to seeing what else I can do."-Maddy G



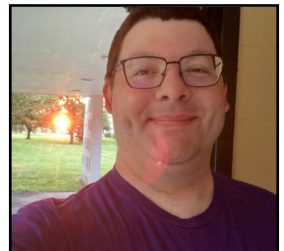
"I had a ton of fun on this trip and it has been a great way to grow connections with God, the Harrisburg community, and my friends. I hope I am able to go on many more trips like this, and help serve in other communities. One Bible passage that stood out to me was Matthew 18:12-14, where it talks about how a man will search for 1 sheep out of 100. I have heard this message many times, but the way it was described really helped me understand the message of God loving all. This trip has helped me know what I can do to help back home. Whether it's cooking one meal, or working for hours in doing trash cleanup, I know it will make a difference for my community."-Asher G

"I had a lot of fun on the mission trip this year. We got to revisit worksites throughout the week, and we learned more about the people's lives. We also got to learn how to do some yard work. I really liked the theme for this year. It was DUST, meaning to follow Jesus so close that you'll get dusty. I want to help my community more this year, using some of the same lessons I learned during this trip."-Izzy S



"This trip meant helping the community and having a fun time. I was able to connect with people from many churches and get to know a different community. The community we were in was different than what I'm used to. I grew by seeing something new. I learned a lot about helping other people and my friends. I want to do more helping my friends, people within the church, and in my community."~Grayson L

"When we set out to serve others on a mission trip like this, we strive to live out the servant leadership Jesus called us to do. In John 13:15, a prominent scripture for our week in Harrisburg, Jesus says, 'For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.' While the theme of the week was about following Jesus so closely that we are 'covered in the dust of our Rabbi', I also found myself thinking about our role as Christians and leaders in that process. You see, we, too, have people who follow us – children, coworkers, students, friends, family. Sometimes, knowing how closely others may follow us can be daunting. How do we make sure that we are leading them well? Here's the thing: those who follow us notice who we follow. So, the answer is the same: follow Jesus closely."-Alex C-R



MISSIONS

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE



Sarah Circle is collecting CLEAN worn out, holey, socks of any size, color, brand or fabric. Place them in the basket marked Sock Ministry in the Collection Center. Northcott Neighborhood House will receive cash from TerraCycle® and hopes to use these funds to fulfill a long-held dream of adding a 24-hour daycare. **\$54.25** has been earned so far. Keep bringing them in.

LAYETTE MISSION PROJECT CONTRIBUTED BY JOAN KETCHUM

Sarah Circle is so grateful for all of you who keep this Mission Project going. We have completed 58 layettes which were delivered by the end of July. We've also received 7 bags of women's clothing for Aurora Sinai Hospital's Women's Closet and 4 bags of children's clothing for La Causa Children's Crisis Nursery & Respite Center.



In July, Pastor Heidi delivered the clothing for Aurora Sinai Hospital's Women's Closet, as my home has become a distribution center ☺ and neither Kathy nor Missy (social workers) were available to pick up the items. Thank you both for this extra help.

Please continue to support this Mission by purchasing onesies and sleepers in sizes 0 - 6 months, 1 yard of flannel for receiving blankets and working your magic with yarn and material for quilts and other blankets. 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 Blooming Gardeners are literally knee deep in endless flowers in our church's wonderful gardens. The gardeners have been busy weeding, spraying, trimming, and pruning. The flowers are thriving and spreading and we hope you walk slowly in and out of church on Sundays and take in the beauty and fragrance of God's creation.

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 can always use helping hands. So if you feel the urge to come for an hour or so, we welcome any time you can give.



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. 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: 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.



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! Bonnie C is planning on attending this service opportunity.

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.

WI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT

Thank you for the donations to Ingathering 2025! Your love of God is shown through your generosity and service to and care of others. The box truck and trailer were almost full with 1,340 Personal Dignity Kits, 591 Home Care Buckets, fire gear, school supplies, bikes, wheelchairs, crutches, tools, sewing machines and sleeping mats. We also collected \$7,904.29.

OCCUMC donated 11 Personal Dignity Kits, 4 Home Care Buckets, 4 Bikes, 4 Bike Racks, 1 Wheelchair, 1 Shower Chair, 5 Sleeping Mats, 7 Toothbrushes, and \$1,110!

BLOOD DRIVE



Save lives and donate at our next Blood Drive on **August 6th from 2:00 - 6:30 pm in Doyle Hall**. There are 23 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/11598604
Walk-ins are also welcome!

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; 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: 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 25% off Piggly Wiggly prices. The market accepts debit cards, credit cards and Quest EBT, but no cash.



- ⇒ 1st Thursday of the month from 2:00 - 3:30 pm at Lake Forest Apartments, 8471 S Chicago Rd, Oak Creek;
- ⇒ 3rd Tuesday of the month from 2:30 - 4:00 pm at Williamstown Bay Apartments, 3400 E Ramsey Ave, Cudahy;
- ⇒ 4th Friday of the month from 10:00 - 11:30 am at Thompson Meadows Apartments, 32120 E Norwich Ave, St. Francis.

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.

- ⇒ 2nd Thursday of the month from 8:30-10:00 am 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

CULTIVATING MINISTRY FROM THE GROUND UP (CONT'D)

As Pastor Heidi introduced in her article on page one, we are working to better utilize some of the grassy areas on our church property, to do some exciting things! We've gathered ideas from our congregation members over recent months and have prioritized a few of these to get us started.

The Dream:

- ♦ Utilize lawn space to serve OCCUMC and our communities.
- ♦ Provide more productive and other natural resources to our community and neighbors.
- ♦ Reduce current lawn footprint and maintenance costs.

Initial Efforts:

- ♦ Establish a vegetable garden.
- ♦ Establish a small fruit tree orchard.

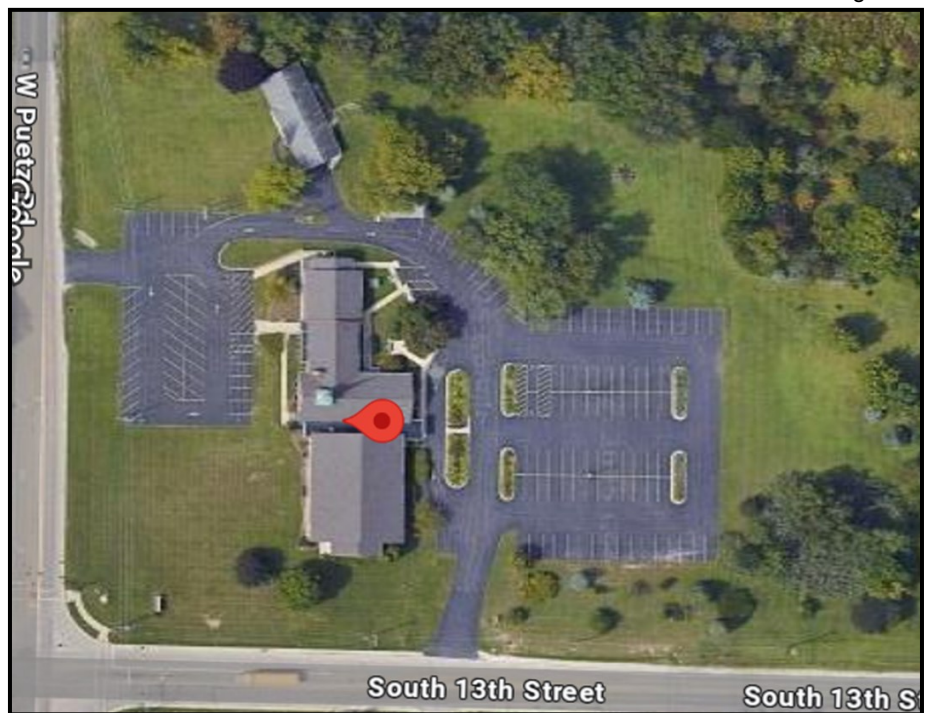
Progress:

- ♦ We have brainstormed and documented many ideas, recommendations and challenges.
- ♦ We have partnered with Rachel Belida (Jim and Diane Wittenberg's daughter) from *Daily Harvest Design* to develop a design proposal for how we might proceed based on our property's opportunities. Rachel's recommendations were reviewed at an open church meeting.
- ♦ Based on the input received, we are proceeding with the following initial efforts:
 - 1) Fruit Tree Orchard:
 - ♦ We've received a grant from Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District to fund 12 fruit trees, which will be planted on the grassy slope in front of the parsonage.
 - ♦ After some research, we have selected 2 pear, 2 peach, and 8 apple trees (Golden Delicious and Cortland)
 - ♦ We are actively preparing to plant our new trees in October.
 - 2) Vegetable Boxes:
 - ♦ Install a number of raised vegetable boxes this Fall to be ready for use in Spring of 2026.
 - ♦ They'll be located on the front corner of the church in the area between the sign and the building.
 - ♦ Raised boxes will significantly limit weeding and be more comfortable for gardeners.

We have lots to figure out as we get started and we welcome your input. We're energized and excited to be starting the journey of transforming our beautiful church property!

Please reach out to
Michelle Peirce
(cmjdpeirce1@gmail.com)
& Diane Wittenberg
(dianewittenberg53@gmail.com)
with any questions.

Overhead view of church acreage.



Oak Creek Community
United Methodist Church

8675 South 13th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154

August-September '25

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



Oak Creek Community
United Methodist Church
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.
