Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church Newšletter Newšletter August-September 2024



Do You Know How Amazing You Are?

As we journey together in our faith, I am filled with immense joy and gratitude for the spirit of mission and community that thrives among us. It is truly heartening to witness the dedication and enthusiasm with which each of you embraces the call to serve and support one another in our church family.

In the first half of the year, our congregation has been actively engaged in various mission endeavors, both locally and globally. Whether it's through supporting community organizations, mission programs, service initiatives, or our students, your commitment to spreading God's love and compassion is unmistakable. The impact of your efforts is not only seen in the lives you touch but also felt in the spiritual growth and unity we experience as a church.

Being busy in mission work is not merely about filling our schedules; it's about responding to God's call to be His hands and feet in this world. It's about extending His kingdom by feeding the hungry, comforting the afflicted, and proclaiming the good news of salvation. In these acts of service, we find fulfillment and purpose, knowing that we are participating in God's redemptive work.

Our support for one another within the church community is also crucial. It is through our prayers, encouragement, and practical assistance that we build each other up and strengthen our bonds of fellowship. We are a family knit together by our shared faith and love for Christ, and each person's contribution, big or small, makes a significant difference.

I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider how you can continue participating in our mission efforts and how you can support your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Whether it's through volunteering, giving financially, or simply offering a listening ear, every act of kindness reflects God's heart for His people.

Thank you, dear church family, for your dedication, generosity, and unwavering faith. Together, let us press on with joy and unity as we continue to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor Heidí



You've seen him in Scotland, Indiana, and throughout Wisconsin! You've seen him swimming, fishing, gardening, enjoying a good ole' fish fry, and riding a UTV! Now we have a Little Jesus in the newsletter! We've placed Little Jesus A throughout the newsletter 35 times (we think). How many can you find? The first 5 people who find them all will receive a prize.

WORSHIP

Worship In-Person & online: 9:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Groups: 10:00 am for all ages between Labor Day & Memorial Day



Worship with us virtually Sundays at 9:00 am Facebook: facebook.com/occumc (Live) YouTube: @OCCUMCyoutube (Recorded)

Please, <u>'like' us or leave a comment</u> so we know this ministry is beneficial.

New Bishop



The North Central Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy, which determines bishops' assignments, announced Bishop Dan Schwerin as Bishop of the new Illinois - Wisconsin Episcopal Area effective September 1st.

"The Wisconsin Conference has enjoyed so many gifted and impactful episcopal leaders," said Bishop Schwerin. "And Julie and I have been blessed by the kindness we have received from the Northern Illinois Conference and the eighteen impactful months in ministry we have had there."

"We feel humbled and blessed to be assigned to serve among you. We now have the chance to experiment and innovate with two conferences sharing one bishop in the new Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area. I can't wait to see what God will do through us."

In the United Methodist Church, bishops are ordained elders who are called to "lead and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of The United Methodist Church." Bishops, in consultation with district superintendents, are responsible for appointing clergy. They also preside at Annual Conferences, Jurisdictional Conferences, and General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking assembly.

Bishop Schwerin was born in Waukesha. He heard a call to ministry when he was 17 at Concord UMC. Bishop Schwerin holds a bachelor's degree from Carroll University (1985), and a Master of Divinity (MDiv.) from Perkins School of Theology (1989). He received his first exposure to Bowen Family Systems Theory during the Perkins School of Theology Mentor Program (1992-1994). While serving as a student pastor in the Oklahoma Conference, he was ordained as a deacon by Bishop John Wesley Hardt (1987). After beginning his service in the Wisconsin Conference, he was ordained as an elder by Bishop David Lawson (1991). Rev. Schwerin was consecrated as a bishop on November 5th, 2022 and assigned to the Northern Illinois Area, effective January 1, 2023.

Bishop Schwerin is married to his wife, Julie. He is the father of two, and has four grandchildren. Dan and Julie love evening walks and labyrinths. His debut poetry collection, *ORS*, from Red Moon Press, won the Haiku Foundation's Touchstone Award in 2016.

Annual Conference Summary



The 2024 Annual Conference was held June 7th - 10th at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay. The theme of the session was "Abundant God, Beloved Community". For a complete summary, visit the Wisconsin Annual Conference website wisconsinumc.org.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Mission Trip

CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX CLEMENT-REICHLING

Early on June 16th, an eager group of two adults and four youth set out from the parking lot of OCCUMC. Our destination was Louisville, Kentucky, where we would spend the next five days worshiping God, serving God's people, and growing our faith. The following testimonies are a brief glimpse into the experience we had, and we hope they show you how meaningful and impactful it was. Thank you for all your support!





"I had a really fun time going on the mission trip to Kentucky. I have always wanted to be able to help people but have never really been sure how, so I was really excited. Everybody there was really nice and fun to talk to. The sermons there were fun and I liked the comparison about being rooted in God. The trip has also made me realize how I can help more at home, and I hope I can go on more mission trips." -Maddy Genduso

"This trip has meant a lot of different things to me over the week. It's been an opportunity to meet new people and experience different things, along with helping others, like setting up houses for refugees and working in soup kitchens, and a chance to try to connect with God through songs and readings. In one scripture, Mark 2:1-12, a paralyzed man was brought to Jesus through a roof by several other men. When Jesus saw the faith those men had in him and the paralyzed man, he forgave the man's sins and he was able to walk out. This scripture stuck with me because it demonstrates when others support you and believe in you, and you have faith in God and them, that you may overcome anything. With this in mind, I hope to start helping out around the community more and do more volunteer work at kitchens and other establishments that would help others in the future." -Scarlett Platka-Weber





"This trip has been really meaningful to me because I was able to help the community, make new friends, and get closer to God. I even found I really liked working at the soup kitchen - Franciscan Kitchen. The scripture that stood out to me the most was the one about the fig tree. This is because during small group time, we talked about it and we found we didn't understand the meaning of it. It says Jesus cursed the fig tree because it didn't bear fruit, but when people don't bear fruit, Jesus doesn't curse us and sometimes helps us through it or stands by us. Even if you don't do work, you won't be alone, because we can help those who can't do the work, like in soup kitchens or refugees. So, after this trip, I plan to find ways to help our community, by

volunteering or finding other community work to do. I could do this by starting a volunteering club at school to get more people involved." -Izzy Scardino

YOUTH NEWS Youth Mission Trip to Louisville (cont'd)



"This trip meant a lot to me because I got to find out a lot about myself, as I learned that I was worthy in Christ, which was one of the scriptures that stands out to me. As Jesus, the greatest teacher, washed the feet as a servant to his disciples, his own followers. This came from the book of John, verses 13:1-5. The ceremony where my own feet were washed was very emotional because of what I just learned. I will use this scripture a lot in my own personal life, as I believe we can all be servants in different environments the way Jesus taught us, as he says the greatest will be the least, and the least will be the greatest. So hopefully, I can continue to serve others as a follower of Jesus, a true believer of all the good he has done for me, and all he has taught me." -Drew Schmitt

"It was a privilege to accompany this great group of kids to Kentucky. It has reminded me that when kids are given the opportunity to serve and help, they do so with open hearts, enthusiasm and hard work. These kids want to be helpers in the world. Despite the hot temperatures and hard or unfamiliar situations, the kids came every day ready to give their best to the jobs they were assigned. They found fellowship and community doing tasks with a group with a shared goal. They saw the impact of giving a few hours and the importance to the people they were serving. After doing these things, they want to do more.



As an adult I sometimes struggle and question how I too can serve or be a helper in this world. This trip was a direct reminder how easy it can be to do good and how much fun it is to work with the youth. How there are many ways to serve in the world, and a small amount of your time can make a big difference for others. Kids often have that burn and desire to help, but in many cases, less resources to find those opportunities. We, as adults, are an important bridge for our young people. We can guide and help find meaningful ways to give back to the community both at home and away. My hope this fall is to find opportunities at home and continue nurturing these kids towards a life of service, letting their light shine." -Ellie Genduso



"I've been blessed with so many opportunities to serve others, especially on mission trips like this. As a youth leader, my goal is to provide youth with tools they can use – such as mission trips – to build their faith. The core scripture this year was Ephesians 3:17: '[I pray] that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.' To me, that speaks to the very heart of our purpose as leaders and as Christians. Whether we are working with youth who gave up a week of their summer to experience the unknown or strangers off the street who come in seeking basic necessities for nourishment, we have precious moments to share with them Christ's love. We can't fend off every negative thing this

world has to throw at them, but in those moments we can help the roots of their faith find the strength and nourishment of Christ's love. And so, dear reader, I challenge you: who will you nourish with Christ's love today?" -Alex Clement-Reichling

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School CONTRIBUTED BY JILLIAN IMOEHL

Hello, and welcome to the 2024-2025 Sunday School year! We are looking forward to having all of you join us for an exciting, fun, and faith building journey! This year, we will be offering fun and exciting ways for our Sunday School students, both young and young at heart, to continue to learn and grow in their faith. There will be informational flyers going out as we get closer to the date! All are welcome to attend!

Finally, I would like to share some of our important upcoming dates regarding Sunday School:

•Sunday School Teacher Meeting

- (Date to be determined soon in August)
- •Rally Day September 8th
- •First day of Sunday School Classes September 15th

I am looking forward to getting started and to getting to know all of our wonderful youth!

If you have any questions, please contact me at jkimoehl@gmail.com or 414-614-6116.

Sunday School Helpers





If you enjoy working with preschool or elementary kids (ages 3 – 10), please consider signing up to help teach Sunday school. We are looking for persons who want to share their love of religion with children. Don't worry, you will have training and support. Questions? Contact Jillian Imoehl (jkimoehl@gmail.com).

Bible Browsers CONTRIBUTED BY OLIVER CLEMENT



This Fall, the Bible Browsers will be selecting our next Book of the Bible to study. We have no age restrictions on our group. We welcome 'adults'. Come join us for fun, challenging discussions in an open setting. You don't have to have experience or knowledge of the Scriptures. We print out the lessons for each class along with the discussion questions. Everyone can participate. We encourage questions. And the

"Class moderator" doesn't have all the answers. You can bring your own Bible version if you like, use one of the Bibles in class, or read online.

If you are not able to attend Bible Browsers in person, we also run our class live on Zoom. If you ARE attending trough Zoom, the Scripture verses will be posted for you in the "chat box".

Please let Oliver (OliverC_occumc@yahoo.com) know if you wish to receive emails about class and special programs coming up. (We also post prayer requests in emails).

Oasis Faith Group CONTRIBUTED BY PASTOR HEIDI



The Oasis Faith Group – for all 20/30/40-year olds! Join us for this weekly gathering to share in life conversation and spiritual growth. We'll meet in the Library following worship (around 10:15). Bring your coffee, treats, thoughts, opinions, and faith to this relaxed group seeking to follow Jesus and work through the waves of life.

MINISTRY NEWS

Garden Ministry CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



Summer weather and rain makes for beautiful flowering gardens!...it also makes for WEEDS! We have been trying to hold our own on the gardens with a limited crew this year. We can always use anyone's help for the remaining months... August, September, October... Boy, there is still a lot of growing/clean up season left.

If you would like to help but not necessarily permanently commit to

this group, that would be great. Just come on up and pull weeds... we will welcome temps!! Help keep our church looking beautiful.

Thank you... Blooming Gardeners (Shelly: 414-801-1940, Lois: Lsdillon@sbcglobal.net, Kathy B: kbrekeller@yahoo.com, and Jan K: jkdeltajan@gmail.com.



Music Ministry Contributed by Shelly Swodzinski



Summer means a little break for the choir, but we still welcome special music for our Sunday Services! The door is open for any adults or children who would like to add to our services by playing instruments or singing. Every Sunday in August is open. Please contact Shelly (414-801-1940) for more information.

DOIN THE CHOIR!

Our Altar Choir begins **rehearsals in the sanctuary Wednesday, September 4**th **at 7:00 pm**. Rehearsals last until about 8:30. We rehearse every Wednesday after that, and sing every Sunday starting September 8th. We welcome everyone from 5th grade to age 99. We sing all types of music....from traditional to contemporary. We have a wonderful accompanist and sometimes sing with other instruments and percussion. No audition necessary!

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly. Otherwise, join us for our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 4th. **We'll have music waiting for you! Bring a friend!**

Coffee Bistro



Coffee Bistro is shared hospitality on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. We need volunteers to bring in food & beverages. If you are interested in serving the faith community with this beautiful ministry, please contact Summer Coffee Bistro Team Leader Dale T at DaleT251160@hotmail.com, or Merrilee M, our Coffee Bistro Team Leader at merrilee.mahn@gmail.com, or sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area.

Worship & the Arts Ministry CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



We hope all are enjoying the summer sermon series on Dr. Seuss. It will continue through the month of August. Worship and the Arts members have really enjoyed gathering the books and items needed to help us all learn lessons from Dr. Seuss's books. We are already gearing up for Fall, Advent and Christmas seasons!! New and interesting sermon series are coming. Anyone interested in joining our group please reach out to us...we would love to have you. Any questions? Contact Lois at Lsdillon@sbcglobal.net.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Just for Men



The mission for the Men's Group is to make a safe and loving environment to fellowship with other Christian men of all ages and walks of life. We are here to help during times of joy, pain and needed advice for life's ups and downs.

We meet the 2nd Saturday of every month from 9:00 to 11:00 am in the Community Room (L28). All men are welcome. There is no commitment to be there every time or the whole time.

Tailgate & Game CONTRIBUTED BY RICH IMOEHL



The Men's group is sponsoring a tailgate and Brewers Game on August 10th. The Brewers will play the Cincinnati Reds. We will have a <u>tailgate</u> from 2:00-3:30 at OCCUMC. Everyone is invited to the tailgate whether you are going to the game or not. At 4:15 we will board a <u>bus</u> to the game. The bus will return to OCCUMC after the game. Everyone going to the game witll receive a <u>T-shirt</u>. All for \$35. Details are n the signup sheet in the Gathering Area. It is also William Contreras City Connect Replica Jersey Day! We should get to the ballpark in time to receive one of those jerseys.

Trustees CONTRIBUTED BY CLINTON PEIRCE

Yay summer!! I love this time of year for a few reasons, including the fact that our church looks especially vibrant and inviting thanks to the work that so many teams do both inside and outside of the building.

We completed Spring clean-up in May and were blessed with many willing hands that worked together to get us ready for Summer. Thank you to everyone who was able to help out!

Construction on 13th Street is very much underway and as you all know, the work crews will be making their way down 13th Street in our direction pretty soon. As a reminder, consider using our Puetz entrance as you come and go from church during the construction period, which is likely to run through October.





We have some work planned for the south entrance walkway that has experienced some moving and lifting over the last few years. Our plan is to address the uneven sections of this walkway before we welcome our preschoolers back this Fall.

If you notice something inside or outside of our church that could need attention, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, 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, Terry P

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. For more information, contact Diane L at dianelindsay54@gmail.com.

Tabitha Circle meets the 2nd Sunday of the month. For more information, contact Bonnie at bonnieclement05@gmail.com. There will not be a meeting in August.

Upcoming Events

Welcoming Ministries Classes



Are you between the ages of 12 & 99? Would you like to help others enjoy our weekly worship services and welcome others to OCCUMC? You can do so by serving as a Greeter, Usher, Worship Leader, Welcome Center Host, or Coffee Bistro Assistant.

We are hosting a Hospitality Class after worship on Sunday, September 15th. It is open to everyone in the congregation. We will help you understand what is involved with these important positions. You will be rewarded with smiles and the knowledge that you are sharing your gifts and helping OCCUMC reach the community. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Pastor Heidi (pastor@occumc.org) or Jane in the church office (office@occumc.org).

Youth Group



CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX CLEMENT-REICHLING

Have you ever had the opportunity to see our United Methodist camps in the most colorful season of the year? This could be your chance! All youth in grades 6th through 12th (inclusive) are invited to join us for an overnight at **Pine Lake Camp on Saturday, October 19th - Sunday, October 20th**.

We will play games, watch movies, and experience the beauty of God's creation all around us. Cost for this event is \$35. Please contact Alex Clement-Reichling at arc_332@att.net no later than **September 30th** if you are interested in joining us.

Church Picnic



Dave the Date ... September 8th. We will celebrate Rally Day and each other with food and fun!

Depending on the weather, we will have outdoor games and food. The Church will supply the meats and buns. We ask you to supply a dish to pass. There will be a signup sheet in the Gathering Area after the Marketing Team makes final preparations at their August 7th meeting.

Bring your own chairs & or blankets. We hope to see you there!

United Women in Faith CONTRIBUTED BY DIANE LINDSEY

Driven by God's love and *united* in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of *women*, children and youth. Every day, we show up. We take action. We get it done.



United Women in Faith

Sunday, September 29th, during worship at 9:00 am, we will be observing United Women in Faith Sunday. We will be honoring two individuals with a special mission recognition award. Our guest speaker will be Kady Herr-Young, Deaconess.



The **deadline for submitting your Reading Program Log** is August 31st, but we would like you to turn in your log at our August 15th meeting. If you need a book or two to complete requirements for any level, remember:

- Any books you have started can be included now. You have until the end of the year to complete your reading.
- Check out the youth and children's books in any categories you might be missing. They are quick and easier to read and have very meaningful messages.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

National Night Out



National Night Out is a celebration held to help communities learn about crime prevention and meet local police officers, firefighters, and local partners. Free safety and crime prevention materials will be available. There will also be fire and police vehicles on display. Area businesses will have displays and handouts.

Oak Creek NNO Senior Day: Monday, August 5th from 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 South Howell Avenue, Senior-focused event featuring health and wellness-related vendors and guest speakers.

Oak Creek: Tuesday, August 6th from 6:00 – 9:00 pm Oak Creek Community Center

Franklin Monday, August 5th, from 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Franklin Public Library, 9151 W. Loomis Road

South Milwaukee: Monday, August 5th from 5:30-9:30 pm, in the Parking lot behind the City Hall, 2424 15th Avenue, with fireworks at 9:00 pm

Blood Drive



The next Blood Drive is **September 4th** from 2:00 - 6:30 pm. There are 23 appointment slots for whole blood and 5 appointments available for double red blood cells.

Someone needs blood every 2 seconds. Donors are at The Heart of Our Community! Remember all blood donated stays here in Southeast Wisconsin.

September 4th: https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/261694

Community Meals



MILWAUKEE COUNTY Health & Human Services Senior Dining is offered at the Kelly (6100 S Lake Drive, 414-481-9611) and Grobschmidt (2424 15th Ave, 414-768-5722) Senior Centers and the Franklin City Hall (9229 W Loomis Rd, 414-427-7696). Anyone 60+ can enjoy lunch. Register for a Diner Card (applications are in the literature rack in the Friendship Room). There is a suggested contribution of \$3.00. You can view menus online. Reservations can be made the day before you want to dine in. If you have any questions, call the local center or (414) 289-6995.

A free Community Meal is served at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, COMMUNITY 1111 North Chicago Avenue in South Milwaukee on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. A community organization serves up the meal and benefits from any free will donations. Nothing fancy, just good food and sharing community.



There will not be a dinner in August as no sponsor stepped forward. However, there will be a dinner in September.

				(as of 07/31/24)		August 2024
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 am Merry Mat Makers	2 Pastor's Sabbath Day	2:00 pm Wedding Bowe/Sherry
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY 5	2	9	2	8	6	10
9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Livel 5	nip in Sanctuary and Facebook Livel 5:30 pm South Milwaukee Community Nicht Ant 6:00 nm Oak Creek	6:00 nm Oak Creek	6·30 nm Marketing Team Mtg	10:00 am Merry Mat Makers	Pastor's Sabbath Day	9:00 am Men's Group 2:00-3:30 Tailgate at OCCI IMC fallowed by
<u>u</u> , r	5:30 pm Franklin Community Night Out 7:00 pm AA Meeting	Night Out Makers	7:00 pm AA Meeting			Brewers Game
11	12	13	4	15	16	17
9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary					Pastor's Sabbath Day	
and Facebook Live! Coffee Bistro following worship		5:30 pm Cathedral Center		10:30 am Sarah Circle		
10:15 am Membership Class PT 2						
	7:00 pm AA Meeting		7:00 pm AA Meeting			
	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary				Pastor's Vacation	acation	
and Facebook Live!				10:00 am Merry Mat Makers		10:00 AM
						Salvation Army Back to
1	7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Finance Team Mtg	7:00 pm AA Meeting			School Bash
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Pastor's Vacation	ation		Preschool Teachers Work Day	ners Work Day	Pastor's Sabbath Day	
9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Livel Coffee Bistro following worship 7	7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm AA Meeting	10:00 am Merry Mat Makers		
	Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church 8675 South 13 th Street (comer of 13 th & Puetz Rd) Oak Creek, WI 53154 www.occumc.org 414-762-4600	lnited Methodist Church mer of 13 th & Puetz Rd)	MM	Sunday Wo WORAIIP Worship on or watch ar	Sunday Worship 9:00 am In-Person Worship on Facebook Livel at 9:00 am or watch anytime at:	

Worship on Facebook Livel at 9:00 am or watch anytime at: facebook.com/occumc.org YouTube @OCCUMCyoutube

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Monday -Thursday

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-	2 Offices Closed	3	4	5	6	7
		Preschool Teacher Work Day	Preschool	Preschool Orientation	Pastor's Sabbath Day	
9:00 am Hymn Sing in Sanctuary			2:00 pm Blood Drive			
and Facebook Live!	aboluay		7:00 pm Choir Practice	10:00 am Merry Mat Makers		
		6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm AA Meeting			
	7:00 pm AA Meeting					
8 COMMUNION SUNDAY	6	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary		9:00 am	9:00 am Preschool		Pastor's Sabbath Day	9:00 am Men's Group
and Facebook Live!	1:00 pm GTP Road Trip					
10:00 am Sunday School Rally Day				10:00 am Merry Mat Makers		
10:00 am Church Picnic	6:30 pm SPRC Team Meeting	5:30 pm Cathedral Center	Patriot Day			
	7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:30 pm Trustees Team Mtg	7:00 pm Choir Practice			
0 pm labitha Circle			/:00 pm AA Meeting			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary		9:00 am	9:00 am Preschool		Pastor's Sabbath Day	
and Facebook Livel 10:00 am Sundav School				10:30 am Sarah Circle		SE District UWF Gathering
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE			7:00 pm Choir Practice			
	7:00 pm AA Meeting	6:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm AA Meeting			
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1	Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church	Juited Methodist Church		Sunday M	Sunday Worship 9:00 am In-Person	
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	office@occumc.org		ſ		YouTube @OCCUMCyoutube	JMCyoutube

OUTREACH

Going to Pieces Fiber Artists CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



Going to Pieces has a goal of creating and selling items with all profits going back to the church. We all love our craft and enjoy creating beautiful unique things and getting them out into the community. We also help the layette project by providing baby afghans, blankets, and quilts. We welcome new members, so come to our regular meetings beginning in October on the second Monday of each month at 9:30 am.

We've taken a summer break from our meetings, but everyone is still sewing and creating new and beautiful items. We had a "road trip" to quilting shops and lunch in July that was so much fun.

In September, our regular meeting on Monday, September 9th will also be a "road trip". We are touring our members' fabulous sewing rooms. It's always interesting to view these wonderful places were we turn into *creative geniuses*!! We all hope to get tips on ways to improve or change our own sewing rooms. We will end up on a beautiful lake in Pleasant Prairie with beverages and snacks.

We are registered as a vendor at a holiday faire on Saturday November 23rd at Oak Creek Community Center. Mark your calendars, as it will be a perfect time to start your holiday shopping.

If you have any questions please contact Lois D at scillon@sbcglobal.net.

WI Annual Conference Ingathering Summary





Thank you! Ingathering 2024 was a huge success. You are incredible! Last year donations overflowed the truck, so this year Midwest Mission sent a truck and a trailer, which was filled with 1800 Personal Dignity Kits, 170 Home Care Buckets, school supplies, sleeping mats, medical equipment, were collected.

There is no way to put a price on the value of God's lavish grace poured out in your mission efforts. No way of fully marking the impact of lives transformed, communities blessed, hope rising from despair, and coming to know that God is good. God is here. God knows you. God can transform messes into messages.



OCCUMC donated 5 Personal Dignity Kits, 4 Home Care buckets, 3 bikes, 1 wheel, 2 sewing machines, 1 walker, 1 sleeping mat, 12 onesies, 8



one-handled school bags, 8 toothbrushes, 2 bottles of shampoo, 4 towels, 3 washcloths, and 13 bars of soap.

Midwest Mission, now in its 25th year, provides so many fun, unique, engaging, hands on ways to get involved. You can put together School Kits,

Feminine Hygiene Kits, Layette Kits, make sleeping mats from plastic grocery bags, be a part of a Rice Meal Pack, reuse old school bleachers to make student desks, collect old fire gear, medical equipment, sewing machines and bikes. Last year it touched the lives of more than 3 million people.

Midwest Mission blesses the giver as well as those who receive. Together with Midwest Mission, we show God's love in a practical way to those in need in their time of crisis. God's presence in this ministry is undeniable - bringing the right people and resources together, allowing us to share His hope and empowerment around the world and around the corner. Thank you!

OUTREACH

The Cathedral Center CONTRIBUTED BY JOANNE MUELLER



August 13th & September 10th are the next dates for serving dinner at The Cathedral Center! We would like to have at least six workers for each date. Look for the signup sheets in the Gathering Area. We leave church at 5:30 pm and return about 8:30 or 9:00 pm.

We will have a 'picnic' on August 13th. The menu will consist of "build your own sandwiches" on buns, with turkey, ham, cheese (no American), lettuce (only head lettuce), tomatoes & onions. We'll need Mayo (squeezable), green onions, raw veggies, cucumbers, dill pickles, melons (all kinds), chips (variety), cookies, lemonade and iced tea.



The options for you to continue to support the mission are many ... donations of food, finances, or working on our serving team. We welcome donations, as the need is great. You can include your donation with your regular offering by designating the amount you want donated to The Cathedral Center. You may also give online at occumc.org > Online Giving > Donate Now > The Cathedral Center.

Thank you in advance for your help with this mission. Any questions can be directed to Joanne M (414-817-2914) or Diane W (414-405-0153).

Preschool Supply Drive



Thanks for your support of our preschool. Your donations have helped the preschool trim their budget so that they can invest more back into the program.

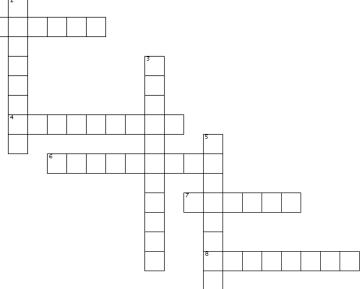
Thank you to The Men's Group for donating five new area rugs for the enrichment stations.

Rooted & Rising CONTRIBUTED BY JENNY VON HELMS



OCCUMC is collecting backpacks for Rooted & Rising (formerly United Methodist Childrens Services). This is a call for <u>new backpacks only</u>, not school supplies. They need backpacks for a range of ages – pre-kindergarten to high school. Please bring the backpacks to church by Sunday, August 11th.

Outreach Puzzle Image: Constraint of the condiments needed at Cathedral Center for August 13th. 2. One of the condiments needed at Cathedral Center for August 13th. Image: Constraint of the Center where we are serving dinner on August 13th. 6. Oak Creek Community ______. Image: Constraint of the traint of



MISSIONS

Prayer Shawl Ministry CONTRIBUTED BY DIANE LINDSAY



If you know of anyone who may be going through tough times, feeling lonely, or feeling anxious, give them an equivalent of a hug - a reminder that they are not alone - by gifting them with a prayer shawl.

Our shawls have been made with love, prayed over, and are a tangible gift representing God's love and constant presence in their lives. The shawls are

located in a basket in the Gathering Area. Just let us know who you give them to, so we can pray for them, too.

If you would like to be involved in this ministry, please contact Diane L at 414-510-9342 or dianelindsay54@gmail.com.

Sarah Circle Layette Project CONTRIBUTED BY JOAN KETCHUM



Many thanks to all of you who answered our call for blankets and other baby items for our Layette Mission Project! Through the end of July, we've been able to distribute 56 layettes to our three recipients: La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center, Aurora Sinai Hospital and the 16th Street Clinic.

Our sizes for the layettes are newborn to 9 months sleepers

and onesies. We also accept one yard of flannel, which is hemmed for receiving blankets. Our blankets are quilted, crocheted, knitted or purchased. Thank you again for all your support of prayers and items needed.



This Mission Project is over 40 years old here at OCCUMC because of your continued support to help mothers and babies with much needed new items of clothing. More recently, we've been giving La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center gently used children's clothing that we collect, sort and launder and to Aurora Sinai Hospital's women's clothing closet we've given gently used women's clothing that we collect, sort and launder if necessary.

Please contact Joan Ketchum @ 414-215-7088 or joanmketchum@gmail.com with any questions or comments.

100 Onesies Contributed by Bonnie Clement



The mission team wants to collect 100 Onesies to bring with us to Midwest Mission in October. We'll be collecting 0 - 6 month size onesies (no camouflage patterns) October 6th, 13th & 20th. We leave for Springfield, IL on October 20th. Check out the collection area by the hospitality counter to see all the cute onesies and how the count is coming. Thank you for being part of our mission.

Merry Mat Makers Contributed by Bonnie Clement



Do you have some extra time? Youth, do you need service hours? The Merry Mat Makers are making sleeping mats, and you can join the fun. Making mats is easy and it's **open to all ages and abilities.** We'll show you what to do - you can try weaving (which requires standing) or help with folding, cutting and tying bags (where you can sit).

Stop by the Loom Room (L09) on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm or Thursdays at 10:00 am. If you can't meet at these times, you are welcome to come work on the loom as your schedule allows or take supplies home to work there. For more information, contact Bonnie at bonnieclement05@gmail.com.

MISSIONS

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 umcmission.org/ stillinmission. Upcoming dates: August 8th @ 11:00 am & September 5th @ 6:00 pm.

Midwest Mission Contributed by Bonnie Clement

This is the 23^{rd} year that Oak Creek Community UMC will be going on our annual trip to **Midwest Mission October 20^{th} - 25^{th}**. We keep going back because we are doing God's work and we have so much fun.

You can be part of our team. You can come for a few days or all five. There are jobs for every skill level, from sitting at a table counting items to making desks. Come with a friend or make some new ones as you work together on a wide variety of projects.

Cost is \$12 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. Don't delay if you want a bottom bunk in the dorm. **Registration deadline is August 1st.**

Contact Bonnie, bonnieclement05@gmail.com or 262-497-9969 for details.

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.



MISSION

For more information on the below mission opportunities such as costs and registration deadlines, go to: wisconsinumc.org/volunteers-in-mission.



Join us for a week of fellowship, fun and hard work **September 26th - October 4th at Lake Lucerne UMC Camp** in Neshkoro. 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 each day. Meals will be eaten in the Lodge starting with Monday breakfast and concluding with breakfast on Friday.

Tasks may range from cleaning out cabins (washing windows, sweeping floors), to doing work at the waterfront, to cutting down trees and brush, to roof repairs and laying new sidewalk! We will do what the staff asks us to do -- and more! Fall or spring, Lucerne is a place to appreciate God's creation.

You provide your own transportation to camp. Note – it is now necessary to bring your own sleeping gear and towels. Cost: \$200.00 – includes lodging, meals, work supplies and donation to camp. To ensure adequate planning, **registration deadline is September 1**st with a deposit of \$40 (Check made out to WAC/VIM Camp)

Questions? Registrar/Coleader: Gail Burgess - 262-945-8578 Email - hb53104@aol.com Co-Leader: Donna Kiefer - momkiefer@juno.com 608-655-3097 (H); 608- 575-9529.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Apportionment Contributed by Jenny von Helms

OCCUMC is committed to contributing to apportionments that support the missions and efforts of the greater United Methodist Church, including global and local

missions, UMC camps and conference center in Wisconsin, developing new ministries, and training for clergy and lay leadership. OCCUMC's 2024 target for apportionments is \$31,884. So far, we've collected \$13,803.45 through June 30th, which means we are at 43% of our goal with six months left.

In order to reach our target, the Finance Team is asking members to continue using your giving envelopes to designate apportionment gifts, and if possible, please consider increasing your support to help us help others through reaching our 2024 goal. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Heidi or Jim Wittenberg (jaw112688@gmail.com).

Memorials Contributed by Judy Dordel

In Loving Memory When someone we love passes away, we mourn the loss even as we celebrate their life, and we keep our memories of them in our hearts. One way to honor loved ones is to create a memorial in the form of a gift to the church. We also can create a lasting memory by remembering the church in our own wills and estates. Please refer to the **Memorial Gift Guide** which is located in the Gathering Area for more information.

Memorials in the names of D. Zahn, L. Stewart, J Bindrich and J. Seely have been allocated to the Worship Technology system. Many thanks and prayers for these members and their families who remain forever in our hearts.

OCCUMC Financial Center

2024		2024	2023
Month of June	General Fund Income	\$16,435.51	\$29,774.76
	Expenses	\$19,798.72	\$24,164.25
<u>Fiscal / Calendar</u>	General Fund Income	\$130,564.78	\$132,693.78
<u>Year to Date</u>	Expenses	\$137,286.83	\$130,145.45
<u>Apportionment</u>	Annual Total Given	\$13,803.45	\$11,540.80
	Annual Goal	\$31,884.00	\$31,680.00

Contributions Thru June 30th

- $\begin{array}{c} \Rightarrow \text{ Good S} \\ \Rightarrow \text{ Human} \end{array}$
- \Rightarrow Flowers & Gardens: \$78.57



- \Rightarrow Native American Sunday: \$2,750.00
- \Rightarrow Peace With Justice Sunday: \$195.00
- \Rightarrow The Cathedral Center: \$2,115.00

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

MINISTRY TEAMS



Contact Pastor Heidi or any of the team leaders to say "YES! Count me in!"

	,	,	
Altar Choir Director	Shelly Swodzinski	Men's Group	Jonathan Loomis
Altar Choir Accompanist			Clinton Peirce
Blooming Garden Group	Lois Dillon	Missions	ТВА
The Cathedral Center	Joanne Mueller	Nursery Coordinator	Cheryl Clement-Reichling
	Diane Wittenberg	Nursery Care Support	Heather Reichling
Certified Lay Speaker	Allan Lindsay	Prayer Shawls	Diane Lindsay
Computer Support	Doug Clement	Preschool Director	Stephanie Paszkiewicz
ERAS	Joanne Mueller	Preschool Liaison	Janelle Wagner
Financial Team	James Wittenberg	Staff Parish (SPRC)	Dale Tetzlaff
Financial Secretary	ТВА	Treasurer	Michelle Peirce
Asst. Financial Sec.	Amber Yeary	Asst. Treasurer	Ed Kubes
Going to Pieces	Lois Dillon/Judy Evert	Trustees	Clinton Peirce
Lay Leader	ТВА	United Women In Faith	Diane Lindsay
Lay Member to AC	Allan Lindsay	🙈 Tabitha Circle	Bonnie Clement
Lay Speaker	Liz Imoehl	Sarah Circle	Diane Lindsay
Leadership Team	Doug Clement	Website Support	Kathy Brekeller
Marketing Team	Dale Tetzlaff	Worship in the Arts	Lois Dillon
Media & Technology	Devin Wiemann	Youth Education Leader	Jillian Imoehl
Member-at-Large	Janet Porte	Youth Leader	Alex Clement-Reichling
Memorial Gifts	Judy Dordel	Youth Team	Alex Clement-Reichling
Office Administrator	Jane Lentz		Eric von Helms

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. 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 South Milwaukee, St. Francis, Cudahy and Franklin.

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) (NEW)
- Be a resident of Wisconsin
- Paperwork will be filled out at each site by Hunger Task Force employees.
- ⇒ <u>1st Thursday of the month</u> from 1:00-2:00 pm at the Greenfield City Hall, 7325 West Forest Home Avenue;
- \Rightarrow <u>1st Friday of the month</u> from 1:00-2:00 pm at the Grobschmidt Senior Center, 2424 15th Avenue in South Milwaukee;
- ⇒ <u>2nd Thursday of the month</u> from 12:30-1:30 pm at Franklin Senior Meals in City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road;
- ⇒ <u>3rd Thursday of the month</u> from 12:30-1:30 pm at the Kelly Senior Center, 6100 South Lake Drive, Cudahy
- ⇒ Every Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 am till Noon at St. Stephen Church, 1441 West Oakwood Road in Oak Creek.



HUNGER TASK FORCE

FREE & LOCAL

OFFICE NOTES

Compassionate Care - Send them a note!

Please show your care for members and friends of our congregation who are homebound. You can contact them via the phone and/or by sending them cards. Please call the church office if you need someone's contact information.

Have fun sharing God's grace with those who may feel like they need a good word! Thank you for caring!

Jean J

Rick Z

List of our OCCUMC homebound:

Lowell A Jean B Eileen S Pat S

Gay D Kathy Z Elaine L

Weatwars mention you our prayers

Connect/Share/Prayer Cards Requests



Connect and Praise Report/Prayer Request 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.

Embracing Our Community 🛔

The Sarah Circle **Card Ministry** has cards available every Sunday, in the Gathering Area, to share, support, encouragement and celebration with others.

You may also fill out a yellow **Prayer Request/Praise Card** located on the back of the chairs in the Sanctuary to let us know who in our church family needs prayer.

The Upper Room

The July-August 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 September-October issue will be available the 1st week of September.

Membership Information - Name Badge



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 still mail out statements and special correspondence. The post office doesn't always give us the forwarding information. We don't want you to miss out on anything from us.

We also mail out information such as bulletins and newsletters to our members and friends who are not online. 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.







Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church



8675 South 13th Street Oak Creek, WI 53154

August-September '24

No matter where you are on your journey, ALL are welcome here. Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church 8675 South 13th Street Oak Creek, WI 53154 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 describes and christ.