



Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

Newsletter

April - May, 2026



A Slightly Dangerous Conversation About Giving

Grace and peace to you...and don't worry, this is a message about giving but **you don't want to immediately turn the page. (At least... try to resist the urge.)**

This Lent we've been exploring *Holy Habits* (aka spiritual disciplines) in worship. One of the topics we didn't have time for was the spiritual discipline of giving. I know, I know, when the Pastor talks about "*the spiritual discipline of giving*," something within everyone kind of tightens just a bit. Whether we're talking about money, time, or energy, we all have things we like to hold onto. We tell ourselves perfectly reasonable things like, "*I'll be generous later... when I have more time, more money, and significantly less stress.*"

And then Jesus comes along and gently - but persistently - asks, "*What if you started now?*"

Giving isn't about God taking something from us, it's about God freeing something in us. It reveals what we trust. If we trust our bank account more than God, giving feels scary. If we trust our schedule more than God, serving feels impossible. But when we begin to loosen our grip, even just a little, something shifts.

It turns out generosity is less like losing something and more like unclenching a fist you didn't realize was tight.

Now...take a deep breath - this doesn't mean you need to go home and give away everything you own. Your house is safe. Your car is safe. Yes, even your favorite coffee mug is safe (we're not monsters). Spiritual discipline isn't about one dramatic moment; it's about small, faithful steps.

Maybe it looks like setting aside a portion of your income.
Maybe it's offering your time when it would be easier to stay home.
Maybe it's simply being present with someone who needs encouragement.

These small acts might not feel like much, but they shape us in powerful ways.

And here's the unexpected part: generosity has a way of multiplying. Not just in what it does for others, but in what it does within us. Joy grows. Trust deepens. Gratitude becomes more natural. We begin to see that God's provision is not as fragile as we once feared.

So this spring, I invite you to try something intentional: give on purpose.

Give a little more than feels comfortable.
Give a little sooner than feels convenient.
Give a little more joyfully than feels natural.

And then pay attention - not just to what leaves your hands, but to what happens in your heart.

You might be surprised to discover that as your hands open, your heart fills.

*With gratitude,
Pastor Heidi*

AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP GROUPS

All are welcome to attend our Sunday School classes after Sunday worship. Classes begin at 10:00 am (10:15 on Coffee Bistro Sundays). We offer a variety of classes and are always open to new ideas and topics. Let Pastor Heidi know of your ideas. Please review the below opportunities and come and join us!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTED BY JILLIAN



All children are invited to join us for Sunday School on Sunday mornings following worship. They will take part in a lesson, do an activity, and sing a song! Join us in the Sunday School Rooms (L6-8) at 10:00 am.

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!

SACRED HEADLINES



Sacred Headlines is a multigenerational small group exploring how current events connect with our faith. Each week we look at a headline or news story alongside scripture, listen for God's wisdom in the midst of today's world, and share honest conversation about where we see challenge and hope. Together we practice what it means to follow Jesus in real life - at the intersection of faith, community, and the headlines. Come down to the Community Room (L28-30).

BIBLE BROWSERS CONTRIBUTED BY OLIVER CLEMENT



Bible Browsers meet after church at 10:15 downstairs in the Conference Room (L27). We are studying Isaiah. 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.

TEAMS

TRUSTEES CONTRIBUTED BY CLINTON PEIRCE

God is Great!!

The flowers are poking their heads through the mulch and the robins are singing, which can only mean one thing....Spring Cleanup is almost upon us. We will be gathering at **8:00 am on May 16th** for a hearty breakfast and full of energy to take on the many tasks that help us to get our grounds and our buildings ready for the summer. Please join us if you can and feel free to stay for one hour or until noon. We'll take whatever help you are able to provide.



As we mentioned in the last newsletter, the fluorescent lighting in the basement is in the process of being upgraded. Thanks to financial support from the Going to Pieces group, we have successfully completed Phase 1 and will take care of the other fixtures as the need arises. Phase 1 included the rooms directly below the offices and the pre-school area.

As always, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve this community through the work we do to care for our buildings and grounds. If you notice anything that is not working properly or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the trustees.

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

GARDENS CONTRIBUTED BY CLINTON PEIRCE & LOIS DILLON



From The Ground Up Team will be in full swing as the temperatures start to improve. We'll be taking care of the beautiful new trees that we planted in fall and will start the work to add the vegetable boxes, water containers, etc. on the south side of the Sanctuary. As our plans evolve, we will be sure to let everyone know and welcome any and all assistance with this transformational work



The church gardens are waking up! We have put our **garden collection box** out in the Gathering Area. Contributions are used to purchase annual flowers to enhance our church grounds. The church gardeners thank you.

OCCUMC TEAM MEETING SCHEDULES

Please see the list of upcoming meetings below:

- ◇ **Trustees:** April 14th & May 12th at 6:30 pm;
- ◇ **Marketing:** April 29th at 6:00 pm;
- ◇ **Finance:** May 19th at 6:30 pm;
- ◇ **Servant Leadership:** May 26th at 6:30 pm;
- ◇ **SPRC:** Monday: May 18th at 6:30 pm.

Please refer to the calendars online and in the weekly bulletins for any updates/changes.



Worship with us virtually Sundays at 9:00 am
YouTube: [@OCCUMCyoutube](#) (Live & Recorded)
Please, 'like' us or open the chat & leave a comment
so we know this ministry is beneficial.

WINTER STORMS IMPACT

March 15, 2026

Dear OCCUMC members & friends:

As of March 15, this report is being prepared while another winter storm watch is in effect, with several inches of snow forecasted. As reflected in the invoices below, we have incurred significant unplanned expenses over the course of this winter season. From December through February alone, snow removal costs have totaled \$14,500.

This services is essential to maintaining a safe and accessible environment for the church property, which ensures the well-being of our congregation and visitors. However, the associated costs have exceeded initial expectations. Based on prior years, the annual budget allocated for both snow removal and lawn care was \$14,000, an amount that has already been surpassed by snow removal expenses alone.

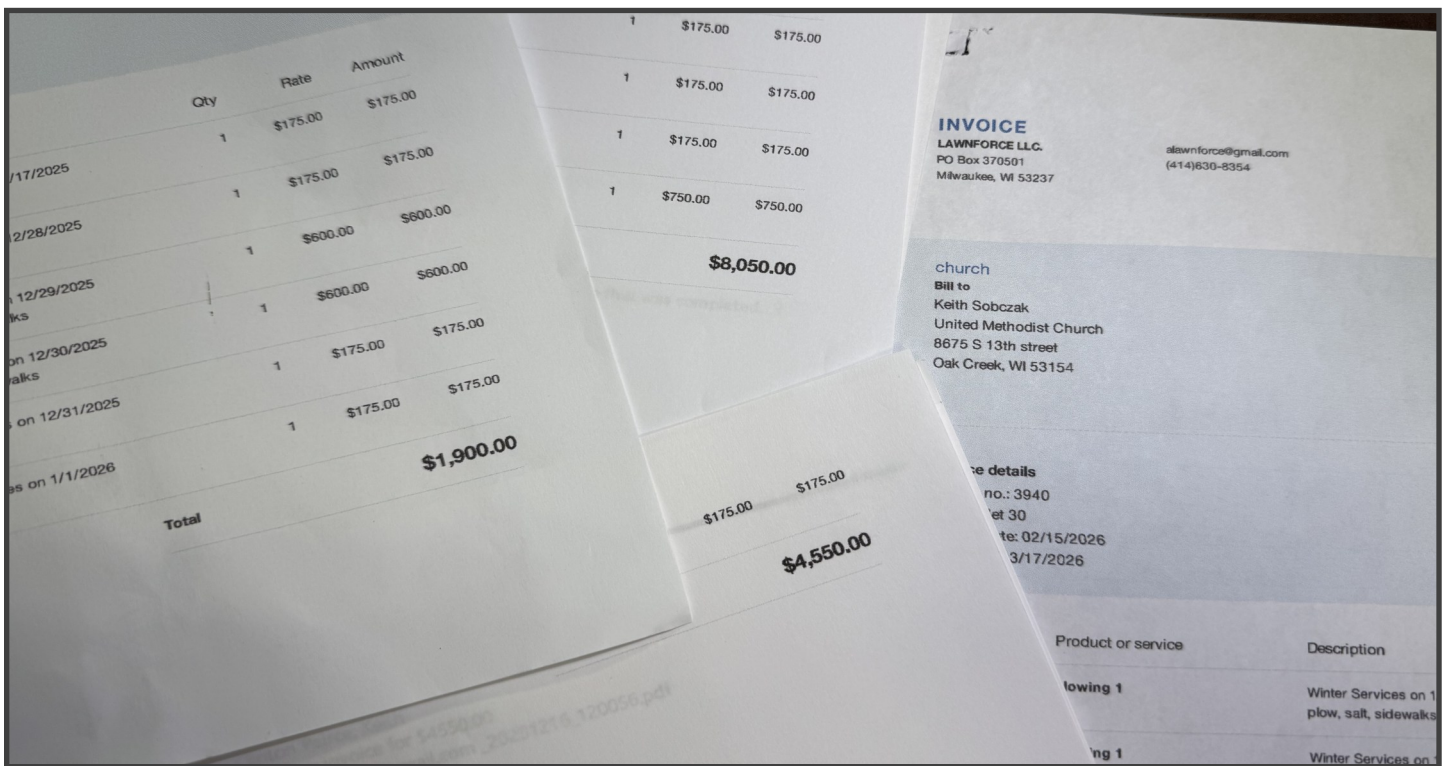
As a result, we are reaching out to our church family to ask for help in covering this unexpected snow removal bill. If you are able, please consider making a one time contribution in the coming weeks to help offset this expense. Any amount will be greatly appreciated and will help us maintain the financial stability of the church.

Gifts can be made through the usual offering methods. Please note "Snow Removal" on your contribution to go specifically towards this need.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity and faithfulness of you, our congregational members and friends. Your support helps ensure that our church remains a welcoming and safe place for worship, fellowship, and service to our community.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and continued support.

With sincere gratitude your Finance Committee: Jim W, Michelle P, Ed K, Anna H, Kathy B, Janelle W. Clinton P, Jenny vH, Amber Y, Liz I, Pastor Heidi.



FINANCIAL NEWS

OCCUMC FINANCIAL CENTER

		2026	2025
Month of February	General Fund Income	\$18,039.95	\$16,163.40
	Expenses	\$24,789.85	\$28,718.84
2026 Calendar Year	General Fund Income	\$44,697.80	\$38,195.55
	Expenses	\$51,637.60	\$58,388.95
Apportionment	Annual Total Given	\$11,384.05	\$3,789.75
	Annual Goal	\$36,348.00	\$33,846.00

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 (Interim)
Assistant Treasurer

Janelle Wagner
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

Steven Siefert
Media & Technology

Cheryl Clement-Reichling
Nursery Coordinator

Heather Paniagua
Nursery Care Support

MEMORIALS CONTRIBUTED BY KATHY BREKELLER

In Loving Memory 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.

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



For the 5th year, Going to Pieces ran the Salvation Army Food Pantry Challenge. As of this deadline we do not have the grand total collected. We appreciate our congregation always rising to this challenge to support our community food bank. Check the weekly bulletin for our final total. God bless.

SPECIAL SUNDAY COLLECTIONS



April 19th is Native American Ministries Sunday.

Contributions honor Indigenous peoples, support native congregations, and fund scholarships for Native American seminary students. It highlights contributions, fosters awareness of injustices, and supports local ministries. Envelopes are located by the blue boxes. You may add a donation with your regular offering by noting the amount for

Native American Ministry, or give online at occumc.org > [Online Giving](#) > [Donate Now](#) > [Other \(Native American Ministry\)](#).



May 31st is Peace with Justice Sunday where contributions are used to support programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize networks to engage in social advocacy and actions in a world plagued by war and terror, violence and destruction.

Envelopes are located by the blue boxes. You may add a donation with your regular offering by noting the amount for Peace with Justice Ministry, or you may go online to donate: occumc.org > [Online Giving](#) > [Donate Now](#) > [Other \(Peace with Justice\)](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON

Mark your calendars for our Spring 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, May 16th**. Check the connections for more information as the date gets closer.



Coordinators: Michelle P (cmjdpierce1@gmail.com) & Diane W (dianewittenberg53@gmail.com).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



Save the Date for the 2026 Wisconsin Annual Conference: Practicing Hope. This year's **Wisconsin Annual Conference** is taking place **June 4th - 7th** at the **Madison Marriott West Convention Center**. Centered on the theme "**Practicing Hope**" (Romans 5:3-5, NRSV), this gathering will invite us to reflect on how endurance shapes character and leads us into hope grounded in God's love.

Pastor & Liz I will be attending. We have space for one more delegate. If interested, please contact Pastor Heidi.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY CONTRIBUTED BY JANET PORTE



Are you downsizing your decorating? Have your children outgrown the Little Mermaid Christmas tree? Are you ready for something new that's festive, economic, and helps a good cause?

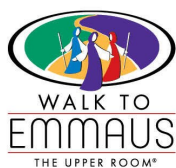
The United Women of Faith have an opportunity for you. **July 18th** we are holding a **Christmas In July Sale** to support our mission which is to help women and children in need, both locally and around the world.

On July 15th and 16th you can bring in your still pretty, but used, decorations from Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and even spring and patriotic holidays. We will display your donations in Doyle Hall. On July 18th the sale will be open to you and the public.

This is an all-church effort! Please tell your friends, relatives, and neighbors about this chance to change out and spruce up their home's decorations. Holiday music and treats will add to the fun.

Please put this event on your calendars and start planning what you can donate and what you might want to buy for Christmas 2026.

WALK TO EMMAUS



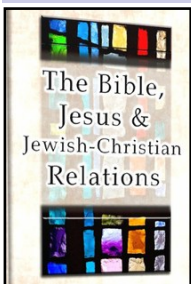
Do you seek spiritual renewal? New understandings of God's grace & love? Worship & community with other believers? Are you desiring to strengthen your spiritual life? Seeking answers to questions about your faith? Willing to dedicate your everyday life to God?

The program begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity that is wrapped in prayer and signs of sacrificial service. It continues for the rest of participants' lives with follow-up groups that contribute to participants' ongoing growth in grace, along with the local church's robust offerings.

Imago Dei Village, Clintonville Space is limited. Registration information:
Men's Walk April 16th - 19th foxvalleyemmaus.com/walkinformation-men
Women's Walk April 23rd - 26th foxvalleyemmaus.com/womens-walk

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIBLICAL PROGRAM CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



Join Bonnie, Joanne & Debbie for a free 2-day series of events on the **Biblical Teaching & Lectures with Biblical Scholar Amy-Jill Levine @ Oshkosh: First UMC on April 21st & 22nd**. Understanding Jesus & Paul through Jewish practice & belief; Jesus' Parables as Jewish Stories.

More program details can be found at: adminfumc@firstumcoshkosh.org. Please call First UMC Oshkosh (920-235-8430) to let them know you plan to attend. Ask Bonnie about carpooling.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX CLEMENT-REICHLING



The 2026 youth mission trip will be **Sunday, June 14th through Saturday, June 20th**. This trip is open to youth who have completed 6th grade in the spring of 2026 through seniors who have graduated in the spring of 2026.

In 2026, our youth mission trip will take us to the exotic locale of central Wisconsin. It may not seem as flashy as a two-day road trip to the east coast, but accepting the call to help those in need sometimes means recognizing there are needs close to home.

Lake Lucerne Camp is one of the camps owned and operated by the United Methodist Church in Wisconsin. It offers programs and camp lodging year-round, but especially shines in its summer opportunities for children, youth, and adults to experience God's creation. As with any camp, they always have in mind projects that can help enhance camper experiences. We may be painting, clearing brush, doing light repair work, or other similar activities.



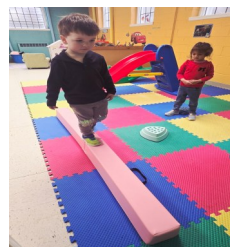
If you know of any youth who might be interested in this trip, please contact us at arc_332@att.net. Make sure to include the name of who will be participating and what grade each participant will complete in spring of 2026.

PRESCHOOL CONTRIBUTED BY STEPHANIE PASZKIEWICZ

Thank you for helping our preschool by enjoying meals at Cousins in Franklin. So far this school year, Cousins has returned \$1,107.39 to OCCP. Our next fundraiser at Cousins will be **May 17th** from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.

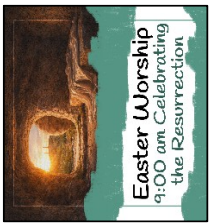





Open enrollment for the 2026-27 school year has begun. Oak Creek Community Preschool offers 2, 3, or 4-day programs, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 – 11:30 am. We offer a quality preschool, licensed by the State of Wisconsin. Contact our Preschool Director Stephanie at occpreschool@gmail.com or 414-762-4600 to set up a tour.

Preschool students enjoying items purchased with money from our Cousin's Fundraisers



April 2026

(as of 3/31/26)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5  Easter Worship 9:00 am Celebrating the Resurrection	6 	7 9:00 am Preschool	1 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	2  Join us Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 pm	3  Good Friday Service 6:00 pm	4
12 9:00 am Worship Pastor on Vacation	13 7:00 pm AA Meeting	14  4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	15 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	16 9:30 am UWF Book Club 10:30 am Sarah Circle	17 Pastor's Sabbath Day	18 UWF Social Action Day 9:00 am - Noon Watch Party in Sanctuary
19 9:00 am Worship Native American Ministries Collection 10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group 10:00 am Memorial Team Mtg	20 9:30 am GTP Meeting 6:00 pm 365 Bible Group 6:30 pm See Spot Play 7:00 pm AA Meeting	21 5:30 pm Cathedral Center 6:30 pm Trustees Tream Mtg	22 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	23	24 Pastor's Sabbath Day	25 9:00 am Men's Group
26 9:00 am Worship Coffee Bistro following worship 10:15 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group Women's Retreat Concludes	27 7:00 pm AA Meeting	28 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	29 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	30	24 Pastor's Sabbath Day Women's Retreat	 Earth Month



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







Sunday Worship 9:00 am
 Sunday School for all ages @ 10:00 am every Sunday
 Worship on YouTube @ [OCCUMCyoutube](https://www.youtube.com/OCCUMC)

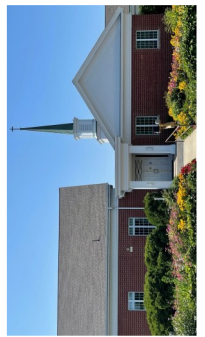
Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Monday - Thursday
office@occumc.org

May 2026

(as of 03/31/26)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 National Foster Care Month		 #breakthestigma <small>MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH</small>			1 Pastor's Sabbath Day	2
3 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group	4 7:00 pm AA Meeting	5 9:00 am Preschool 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	5 9:00 am Preschool 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	7	8 Pastor's Sabbath Day	9
10  9:00 am Worship Coffee Bistro following worship 10:15 am Sunday School, 365 Bible Study, Small Group	11 9:30 am GTP Meeting 6:00 pm 365 Bible Group 7:00 pm AA Meeting	12 9:00 am Preschool 5:30 pm Cathedral Center 6:30 pm Trustees Team Mtg	13 Graduation Program 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	14	15 Pastor's Sabbath Day NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	16 8:00 am Spring Clean-up 9:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Puzzle Social
17 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Small Group 11:00 - 2:00 Preschool Cousins Fundraiser 2:00 pm Tabitha Circle	18 6:30 pm SPRC Team Mtg 7:00 pm AA Meeting	19 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Finance Team Mtg	20 6:00 pm Marketing Team Mtg 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	21 Pastor's Vacation	22	23
24 Pastor's Vacation 9:00 am Worship	25 OFFICES CLOSED 	26 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	27 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	28	29 Pastor's Sabbath Day Off	30
31 9:00 am Worship Peace with Justice Collection						

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 414-762-4600



Sunday Worship 9:00 am

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

Worship on YouTube @OCCUMCyoutube
 YouTube @OCCUMCyoutube



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

office@occumc.org

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Just for Men



Are you looking for a place to hang out with other guys? OCCUMC's Men's Group meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:00 am in the Community Room (L28-30) to discuss life, our relationship with God, and plan events that everyone can be a part of.

We host the annual Men's Group Auction, a Mother's Day Brunch, and Thanksgiving Meal Boxes. Last year we were able to supply meals to 55 families in need.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

JOIN THE CHOIR



Choir practice **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. Come and find out if this is a ministry for you. We sing at worship from September through May.

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! Bring a friend!**

COMMUNITY MEALS



Senior Dining is offered at the Kelly Senior Center (6100 S Lake Drive, 414-481-9611) 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. 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, 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.

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, by using one or all of the below:

- ♦ 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;
- ♦ **Prayer & Pocket Shawls** are in the basket next to the coat area. You can give someone one of these to wrap around themselves to provide a comforting 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.*

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

GOING TO PIECES FIBER ARTISTS CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



Going to Pieces received an enormous amount of heavy drapery, upholstery type fabric last fall. We had group sewing days in January and February and created totes/bags for the Midwest Distribution Center. Our "cutters" cut (Susan & Jan), fabric was serged (Judy E), then ironed (Kathy B), and finally sewn into bags (Lois D & Nancy B).

Our goal was 100 bags, but we decided to sew until we used up most of the fabric...200 bags were created. We enjoyed this mission outreach and pray the recipients enjoy their new bags.

We meet in the Library the 2nd Monday of the month @ 9:30 am. At our April or May meeting we will be taking a trip to the Serenity Quilt Shop in Racine. At every meeting we have 'show & tell'. It's nice to see what everyone is working on.

If this sounds like a fun mission for you, please contact:
Judy at ehomestead02@aol.com
or Lois at lsdillon@sbcglobal.net.

SPECIAL COLLECTION CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT

We are hoping to fill as many of the 200 bags made by GTP as we can with needed student school supplies. These will then be forwarded to the Annual Conference and then Midwest Mission. As part of the Ingathering collection, we encourage you to donate these school supplies. Look for a basket by the Donation Center.

- 3 wide lined spiral notebooks
- 1 12" Ruler with metric
- 6 unsharpened pencils
- 1 Pencil Sharpener
- 1 2" or larger pencil eraser
- 1 Box of 12 colored pencils
- 1 Box 24 Crayons
- 1 Pair of Student Scissors



Join us at our meeting on **Sunday, May 17th at 2:00 pm** when we'll put together as many Student Kits as we can.

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 information, contact Bonnie bonnieclement05@gmail.com.

*gathered
together*

STRONGER
TOGETHER

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

THE CATHEDRAL CENTER

CONTRIBUTED BY JOANNE MUELLER

We will be serving monthly dinners at The Cathedral Center on April 14th and May 12th. If you would like to volunteer to serve, please contact Joanne M (414-817-2914) or Diane W (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 April 14th, you may bring it to church Sunday the 12th before worship or Monday the 13th & Tuesday the 14th 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 14th between 5:00 & 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 oc-cumc.org > [Online Giving](#) > [Donate Now](#) > [The Cathedral Center](#).

Thank you in advance for your help with this mission.

LAYETTE MISSION PROJECT

CONTRIBUTED BY JOAN KETCHUM

In March we delivered 24 layettes with the last delivery being to La Causa Children's Respite Center. We want to thank all of you that have so generously contributed to this Mission with your purchases of sleepers, onesies (sizes newborn to 9 months) and flannel (1 yd) for receiving blankets. Also a special thank you for all the homemade quilts, blankets, and hats which complete each layette. Your prayers and gifts have kept this program going for several decades and we hope to continue this project for many more years as the need is more crucial than ever.



We appreciate your prayers for our Mission and for the families that receive the layettes. Thank you. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Joan K (414-215-7088 or joanmketchum@gmail.com).

WORSHIP & THE ARTS

CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



Christ has Risen!! He has risen indeed! Worship and the Arts hopes everyone that attended all the holy week services: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday and felt the mood of each service and the presence of Jesus. As busy as those eight days are, our team enjoys the opportunity and challenge to set the tone for these services with our decor in both the sanctuary and Doyle Hall.

If you would like to join our team, please contact Judy (ehomestead02@aol.com) or Lois (lsdillon@sbcglobal.net).

MERRY MAT MAKERS

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT

The Merry Mat Makers have finished **20 sleeping mats!**

If you would like to help make these mats come to Room L09 Tuesdays from 4:00 - 5:30 pm. If this time doesn't work for you, contact Joanne (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.



INGATHERING 2026



WI Conference Mission Motivation Committee will be collecting items for Midwest Mission at Annual Conference. Please bring items to OCCUMC between May 1st and May 31st.

This year the focus is on **Personal Dignity Kits** and **Home Care Kits**, but we appreciate any items found at midwestmission.org/kits and in the *2026 Kits & Projects* brochure in the Collection Center. All items should be NEW – and all kits should have only the items requested. Midwest Mission distributes these items locally, nationally, and internationally to those in need during times of crisis. All

supplies are given free of charge regardless of gender, race or religion. Thank you for your generous support

Personal Dignity Kit (Value \$15)



Hand towel (no kitchen towels)
Washcloth (no dishcloths)
Toothbrush (no multipacks)
Bar soap: 3-4 oz.
Shampoo: 12-19 oz.
Deodorant: 2-3 oz. (stick, roll-on, pump)
Lotion: 8-10 oz
1 Gallon resealable plastic bag

Put all items in a 1-gallon resealable plastic bag

Home Care Kit (Value \$20)



Liquid household cleaner:
58-80 oz. total
(no pump/ spray bottles)
Dish soap: 42-64 oz.
Liquid laundry detergent: 100-150 oz. total
Scrub brush (with or without handle)
5 Gallon round bucket with resealable lid

Place all items in the bucket

Instead of shopping for a kit, you may donate towards the value of an above kit, &/or cover the shipping costs for: a Personal Dignity Carry Bag: \$2.00; Shipping Costs: \$1.00 for each Personal Dignity kit or \$1.50 for each Home Care bucket. Please include your donation with your weekly offering noting the amount for 'Ingathering' or donate online: occumc.org > [Online Giving](#) > [Donate Now](#) >



The following items don't need to be new!

Sewing machines: electric and treadles (Acceptable machines that need a little tuning up, oiling, etc. but not computerized ones.)

Bicycles: adult in good condition with minimal rust - no thin tires

Medical equipment: folding walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, canes, knee scooters, shower chairs, hospital beds, walking boots, and slings. (no toilet risers please)

Non-electric tools: specifically shovels, brooms, rakes

Sewing Notions: Bobbins, bobbin cases, buttons, needles, needle threaders, pin cushions, safety pins, scissors, seam rippers, straight pins, tape measures, thimbles, thread, thread clippers, fabric (min. 1 yard)

Please place donations by the **OCCUMC Collection sign** by the Collection Center. We are an **Ingathering Drop Off Site**, which means other churches will leave their donations by the coat rack.

Please refer to Page 11 for a special collection for filling the bags made by our GTP Team.

MISSIONS

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: April 2nd @ 11:00 am, May 7th @ 11:00 am, & July 9th @ 11 am.

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 or contact Bonnie (bonnieclement05@gmail.com) as she will be going on some of the upcoming trips. Can you say carpool?



September 20th - 25th @ Lake Lucerne UMC Camp, Neshkoro Join us for a week of fellowship, fun and hard work! You'll stay in one of the cabins and 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 to cutting down trees & brush. This is a drive-to camp with a cost of \$250 which includes lodging, meals, work supplies and a donation to the camp. **Registration deadline is August 10th.** Questions? Contact Gail Burgess @ 262- 945-8578 or hb53104@aol.com; or Donna Kiefer @608-655-3097 or momkiefer@juno.com.

WHAT IS DONE ON A VIM TRIP?



During the week of February 8th - 14th, a Wisconsin VIM team of 18 men and women from across the conference -including Appleton, Bristol, Burnett, Iron Ridge, Madison, Marshall, Mayville, Oak Creek, Onalaska, Omro, Ripon, Spring Green, Verona and Wind Lake (as well as McKinney, Texas!) were at Midwest Mission near Springfield, Illinois.

The group was on hand to bless a semi-load of supplies heading out to Peru while also finishing the final pallets of School Kits that were sent out on Friday. Everybody helped put together the 2025 Impact Reports, which were sent out by mail the next week. In addition, they were busy with a plethora of other tasks: loading and unloading trucks; pallets of bedding; walkers and mattresses; repairing sewing machines; working in the polyurethane shop; building desks; tracing and cutting hygiene pads; preparing offsite kits; stacking canes, crutches, boots, and shoes; and sorting papers. The group also cleaned up the areas in which they worked and lived during the week. Two members of the crew were in charge of preparing delicious meals while everyone pitched in with the dishes. Volunteers also led twice-daily devotions.

Evening free-time activities included putting together puzzles, card games: reading and just relaxing. The group also enjoyed a night out at Pizza Ranch.

Contact Bonnie (bonnieclement05@gmail.com) for any questions as she plans on going on a few VIM trips.

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** provides a 2-3-day supply of emergency food on **Wednesdays & Thursdays: 9:00 - 11:45 am and the 1st Monday of the month from 2:00 - 5:00 pm**. No appointment is necessary. 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).
- Resident of ZIP Codes 53129, 53130, 53132, 53154.

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 at Lake Forest Apartments, 8471 S Chicago Rd, Oak Creek;
- ⇒ 3rd Tuesday of the month at Williamstown Bay Apartments, 3400 E Ramsey Ave, Cudahy;
- ⇒ 4th Friday of the month from 10:00 - 11:30 am at Thompson Meadows Apartments, 3120 E Norwich Ave, St. Francis.

Check hungertaskforce.org/what-we-do/mobile-market/ for times as they may change each month.

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 \$1,957 (1 person) or \$2,664 (2 persons)
 - Be a resident of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
 - Receive SANP, FDPIR, SSI, Low Income Subsidy Program &/or Medicare Savings Programs
- ⇒ 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.

Oak Creek Community
United Methodist Church

8675 South 13th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154

April - May '26

*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
youTube: [@OCCUMCyoutube](https://www.youtube.com/@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.