

Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

February 18th, 2026

6:00 pm

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE*



*No matter where you are on your faith journey,
you are always welcome at OCCUMC
and, most importantly, at God's Table.*

Welcome & Introduction to Lent

***Opening Prayer:** God, we pray that you will be with us today as we begin this season by looking at ourselves. Help us to see ourselves as you do. Give us the courage to change what needs changing, so we can grow closer to you and bear your love in the world. Amen.

***Hymn** *Just As I Am, Without One Plea* UMH #357

Words: Charlotte Elliott, 1835; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1849

Message – *The Practice of Faith*

Scripture

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 CEB

Showy religion

¹ *“Be careful that you don’t practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.*

² *“Whenever you give to the poor, don’t blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. ³ But when you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing ⁴ so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.*

Showy prayer

⁵ *“When you pray, don’t be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that*

people will see them. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. ⁶ But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

Showy fasting

¹⁶ *“And when you fast, don’t put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward. ¹⁷ When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. ¹⁸ Then you won’t look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

Earthly and heavenly treasures

¹⁹ *“Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. ²⁰ Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don’t eat them and where thieves don’t break in and steal them. ²¹ Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

L: May God add a blessing to the reading, hearing & understanding of these words.

R: Thanks be to God.

Choir *Written in Red*

Words & Music: Gordon Jensen; Arranged by Camp Kirkland; © 1984 Word Music (a division of Word, Inc.)

Imposition of the Ashes

Prayer of Confession

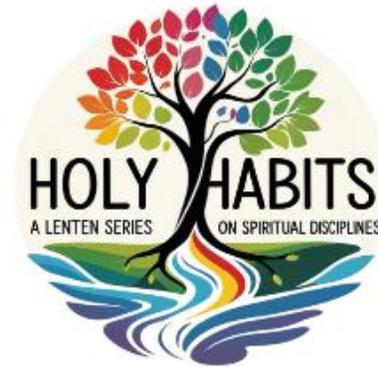
Maker of all, as we remember our humanity today, forgive us for forgetting the humanity of others. In our desire for help from you, we can become focused on ourselves and neglect the very things you care about. In this season of Lent, lead us in the way of repentance that is acceptable to you. May our prayers be matched by our actions and as we receive grace, so let us give it freely. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn I Surrender All, v1-4 UMH #354

Words: J.W. Van Deventer, 1896; Music: W.S. Weeden, 1896

*Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.



OCCUMC Staff:

Ministers	All Who Hear the Message
Appointed Clergy	Rev. Heidi L
Altar Choir Director	Shelly S
Choir Accompanist	Lindsay G
Media & Technology	Steven S
Nursery Coordinator	Cheryl C-R
Nursery Care Support	Heather P
Office Administrator	Jane L
Organist	Todd A
Preschool Director	Stephanie P

Thanks for Assisting in Worship:

Online Worship Host	Laurie S-M
Greeter/Usher	Dexter P
Worship Leader	Christal B

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✦ The Faith We Sing Hymnal
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(from OCCUMC Youth Safe Sanctuaries Policy)

Lent 2026: Holy Habits

Habits and routines help us stay on track in many areas of our lives – whether it's our physical, mental, or emotional health. They can help us grow in our spiritual lives too. In this series, we will explore several spiritual disciplines, or faithful habits, that can help us deepen our relationship with God. Lent is the perfect time to commit or recommit to a spiritual discipline, as we enter a season of self-examination in preparation for Easter.

Lenten Small Groups

Small groups are an essential tool for accountability, growth as disciples, and relationship-building in the Wesleyan tradition. Each Wednesday and Thursday during Lent, we'll meet to discuss scripture as it relates to United Methodism. No preparation is required. Just bring your Bible and your willingness to join in conversation.

When: 10:00 am **Where: Community Room**
Wednesdays: February 18th, 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

When: 6:00 pm **Where: Community Room**
Thursdays: February 19th, 26th, March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th