



Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

Newsletter

June - July, 2026



Three Months, One Church, Plenty of Gifts to Share!

Sabbath is one of God's earliest gifts. From the very beginning, after the work of creation was complete, God rested. Throughout Scripture, Sabbath becomes more than simply stopping work; it becomes an act of trust. It is a declaration that God is sustaining the world, the church, and our lives even when we step away from our usual routines. I mention this as we prepare for my upcoming renewal leave, June 22nd – September 20th. This time is rooted in that biblical vision.

A renewal leave is not simply an extended vacation. It is a sacred pause. **A time intentionally set aside for rest, prayer, learning, listening, and renewal.** It is an opportunity for me as your pastor to step back from the daily rhythms of ministry in order to seek God's refreshment and renewed vision for the years ahead.

But this season is not only for the pastor. It is also for the congregation.

As I step away from some regular responsibilities, you are all invited to step more fully into **ministry together**. This season reminds us of a beautiful truth: the church is not built around one person. The foundation of the church is Jesus Christ, and the ministry of the church belongs to the whole body of believers.

In many ways, this will be a season of discovery. Some may find themselves serving in new ways. Others may discover gifts they have not yet used. Together, we will remember that every member of the body has a role to play in God's work.

This is also an invitation to reflect on our own rhythms of life. We live in a culture that prizes busyness, productivity, and constant activity. Yet Scripture continually invites us into another way...a way of trust, rest, and dependence on God. Perhaps this season can become an opportunity for all of us to consider where God may be calling us to slow down, listen more carefully, and embrace healthier rhythms of rest and renewal in our own lives.

My prayer is that this shared season will strengthen our church in lasting ways:

- * that I may return refreshed and renewed for ministry,
- * that this congregation may grow in confidence and participation,
- * and that together we may deepen our trust in God's faithful leadership of this church.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and willingness to walk through this season together. I am grateful for this congregation and excited to see how God will work among us.

*With gratitude and hope,
Pastor Heidi*

FROM YOUR SPRC

Hello church family! With Pastor's upcoming renewal leave, your friendly local SPRC (think "church HR department") is here to remind you who we are and to contact us with questions/comments/concerns related to staffing and church functioning. We liaison with our staff and will be more hands-on this summer for ensuring smooth operations.

P.S. We're also recruiting! If you feel you are good at answering emails/conflict mediation/thinking through policies and ramifications, send us a message and we'll get back to you promptly. Unless you're emailing our chair, then practice patience as you await a reply. Cheers to an amazing summer, blessings to all!

◇ (left to right and down) Anna Hunter (SPRC Chair), Eric von Helms, Liz Imoehl,

Alex Clement-Reichling, Debbie Korotev



SUMMER SERMON SERIES



This summer, while Pastor Heidi is away on a season of renewal, we invite you to join us for a special sermon series, *Walking with Jesus*. Throughout the summer, Tom, Dale, Liz, Clinton, and Cathy will be sharing their unique gifts in worship as we explore what it means to walk alongside Christ in our daily lives.

Through stories of Jesus' encounters with ordinary people - moments of teaching, healing, compassion, and transformation - we will discover how faith grows through experience, relationship, and the journey itself. Come walk with us as we learn together how Jesus continues to meet us on the road of life today.

MORE FROM YOUR SPRC

A completely serious and spiritually mature list of **Do's** and **Don'ts** while Pastor Heidi is away recharging, praying, resting, and ignoring church emails.

Do's

Do pray for Pastor Heidi. Pray for rest, peace, fresh vision, and that she avoids church texts at 11:00 pm.

Do keep attending church! Pastor Heidi being gone is, ahem, not a time to take a church vacation. Nor is it time to “catch up on sleep.” Jesus is still risen, and the joy still resounds!

Do support our guest Preacher and Lay speakers. Even if they preach longer, preach shorter, or don't make you laugh as much as Pastor Heidi. Enjoy new insights!

Do solve small problems without declaring a church emergency. Examples of non-emergencies: the copier jammed, the worship slides are in Comic Sans, someone bought generic coffee. The church has survived worse.

Do volunteer! This is a perfect time to try different volunteer opportunities!

Do avoid texting Pastor with questions like: “Where do we keep the extension cords?”, “Who has the key to room L08”, “Can penguins be baptized?”

Do remember renewal leave is biblical. Even Jesus withdrew to quiet places. Elijah took naps. The disciples were told to rest. God literally created Sabbath time. So yes, Pastor can take a break without the church collapsing...probably.

Don'ts

Don't redesign the entire church when Pastor is gone. This includes, but is not limited to: sanctuary paint colors, logo rebrands, replacing pews/chairs with beanbags, introducing fog machines “for revival purposes.”

Don't compare every guest Preacher/Speaker to the Pastor. Thoughts you don't need to share include: “Pastor would have explained that better.” “Pastor usually finishes before lunch.” “Pastor doesn't use that many farm stories.” Smile. Nod. Say thank you. And rejoice that the community is stepping up to share their gifts.

Don't assume renewal leave means “available for random tasks.” Pastor Heidi is not secretly working from home, waiting to referee a dispute, or available to settle what the acceptable temperature of the sanctuary thermostat should be (the answer is 70).

Don't panic if things feel slightly different. Different is okay. The church is built on Christ alone. Deep breath. The Kingdom survives.

Final reminder...Pastor Heidi will be back! When she returns: don't hand her a 14-page list of problems, don't say “while you were gone...”, definitely don't begin with “you'll never believe this...”. Instead say: “Welcome back! We're glad you rested. Also...the men's group accidentally bought a llama.”

FINANCIAL NEWS

OCCUMC FINANCIAL CENTER

		2026	2025
<u>Month of April</u>	General Fund Income	\$18,055.12	\$32,030.65
	Expenses	\$26,109.88	\$30,147.87
<u>2026 Calendar Year</u>	General Fund Income	\$89,456.77	\$90,962.20
	Expenses	\$109,927.77	\$115,023.40
<u>Apportionment</u>	Annual Total Given	\$15,380.05	\$7,658.05
	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

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

SPECIAL SUNDAY COLLECTIONS



On June 14th, OCCUMC will collect gifts which support UMCOR's administrative costs. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100% of all giving to a specific disaster or humanitarian crisis will go toward that project and not the cost of doing business.

Prayerfully consider a donation with your regular offering by noting the amount you want donated to UMCOR in the memo section of your check, or by giving online at occumc.org > [Online Giving](#) > [Donate Now](#) > [UMCOR](#)



Golden Cross Sunday on July 19th supports United Methodist ministries that do the work of those who are often unseen: the elderly in long-term care, children who need a safe place to grow, families navigating illness or poverty. Hospital chaplains supported by Golden Cross offerings walk alongside patients in their most

vulnerable moments. Thirteen health and welfare ministries in Wisconsin serve as Jesus' hands and feet to some of the state's most vulnerable people, through food, clothing, shelter, child care, health care, community development, employment and more.

Prayerfully consider a donation with your regular offering by noting the amount you want donated to Golden Cross in the memo section of your check, or by giving online at occumc.org > [Online Giving](#) > [Donate Now](#) > [Other](#).

LITTLE JESUS IS BACK!



Take a Little Jesus with you this summer!

As you venture into your yard, community or neighborhood exploring new places and visiting exciting destinations take a Little Jesus with you. Be sure to take pictures with Little Jesus and share them on social media using [#occumclittlejesus](#). Then email them to office@occumc.org.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2026 GOALS

Earlier this year, the Servant Leadership Team (SLT) met and prayed on goals for OCCUMC for 2026. Below are the three goals we want to champion this year.

#1. Develop a church response to current social justice issues. As Methodists, we are part of a church that has a long and active tradition of seeking justice for all people. We are called to use our voice and our privilege to speak out and act against racism, war, and other forms of injustice. Our first step is hosting a gathering of people interested in learning and doing more. Stay tuned for details about our first gathering.

#2. Focus on our external community. OCCUMC is a thriving church family, but it shouldn't be the best kept secret in Milwaukee County. We want to continue to look for ways to serve others and invite people into our building for worship or other activities. Can we be doing more mission work on a local level here in Oak Creek or in nearby communities? This goal complements the focus of our Marketing Team, but we need more ideas and help to put this into action.

#3. Increase awareness about church finances. There's an adage that says it's not polite to talk about money, but we're not following that anymore. Our congregation has been around for nearly 200 years, and we want to be here 200 years from now. The key to this longevity is passionate people and financial stability. The SLT wants to be more transparent about how your offering is spent. You may have noticed that we've started this already with "fun facts" about how much OCCUMC spends on snow removal, trash pickup, and other items & services. We want to show you that we're being good stewards with our finances.

These goals were developed by the SLT, but we need the entire OCCUMC community on board to accomplish them. Please look for ongoing updates on these goals throughout the year. If you have questions or ideas, please feel free to contact Jenny von Helms or Pastor Heidi.



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.*

UPDATES



Please inform the office of a new address, phone number or email address. We don't want you to miss out on anything from us. Contact the office at 414-762-4600 or office@occumc.org

MINISTRY TEAMS

FROM THE GROUND UP

CONTRIBUTED BY MICHELLE PEIRCE



Our **From The Ground Up Team** is excited to see that our 20 new trees are all budding and flowering after the care given to plant and water them last fall. As the 12 fruit trees settle in, we are working toward becoming skilled at pruning and care.

We have also installed five vegetable boxes. We plan to get some vegetables planted to start the season.

You may have noticed that two rain barrels for the water catchment system are in the process of being installed on the south side of the sanctuary. These will supply water for our young trees and to the vegetable boxes.

If you are interested in being part of this budding ministry we would love to hear from you! Contact Michelle or Clinton P (cmjdpeirce1@gmail.com).

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

CONTRIBUTED BY DIANE LINDSAY



United
Women
in Faith

For those of you who may not know, the mission of United Women in Faith is to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities. With a focus on women,

children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities. Here at OCCUMC, we have two circles - Sarah Circle meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:00 - 11:30 am. For information on Tabitha Circle please watch the connections inside the bulletin every week.

We support the layette project, which provides a "going home" outfit for newborns at Aurora Sinai and the 16th Street Clinic, and for babies at the La Causa Crisis Nursery Center in downtown Milwaukee. In addition, we have supported Northcott Neighborhood house, Midwest Distribution, Rooted and Rising, the Salvation Army and other local and domestic agencies that work for the improvement of the lives of women and children in particular. All women are invited to join us for all events. You do not have to be a member of OCCUMC or any church or even attend meetings.

Questions? Please contact Diane Lindsay (414-510-9342 or dianelindsay54@gmail.com).

TABITHA CIRCLE & SARAH CIRCLE UPCOMING EVENTS



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events. Remember that all women are invited to attend any event. You do not have to be a member of OCCUMC. For more detailed information, please refer to the connections.



- ⇒ **June 14th @ 2:00 pm in Doyle Hall:** Tabitha Circle: Amber Yeary will teach us some fun things we can do with our phones. There's so much more you can do than just call and text. Do you know how to drop a pin? *Tell Amber before this meeting if there's something you'd like to know how to do on your phone.*
- ⇒ **June 21st** - Father's Day breakfast following worship
- ⇒ **July 4th:** Walk in the Oak Creek 4th of July Parade
- ⇒ **July 12th @ Noon** - Tabitha Circle picnic at Doug & Bonnie Clement's house. Spouses and children are welcome. We'll provide the meat. Bring a dish to pass. Please **RSVP by July 1st**
- ⇒ **July 18th 8:00 am - 2:00 pm:** Christmas in July Rummage Sale
- ⇒ **Early August** - reading program logs due
- ⇒ **September 27th** UWF Sunday

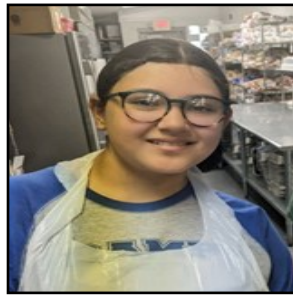
YOUTH MISSION TRIP CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX CLEMENT-REICHLING

*"Where You go, I'll go; where You stay, I'll stay; When You move, I'll move - I will follow You!
Who You love, I'll love; how You serve, I'll serve; If this life I lose, I will follow You!"
-"I Will Follow", Chris Tomlin*

Those of you who have youth in your lives know that their lives are full of demands on their time: school, extra-curriculars, even work in some cases. Summer might seem to provide a relief, but many of those commitments continue year-round. To deliberately make space for a week of service is a particularly meaningful choice for these youth, especially when they are travelling into the unknown. When we leave on June 14th to begin our mission trip to Lake Lucerne, we will not know what each day will bring – only that the Spirit is calling us to serve, and we are answering the call.



We know that we are not alone when we set out. This faith community provides invaluable help to our work, not just financial – as from our Soup-er Bowl Fundraiser – but also in the encouragement and prayers lifted for us. Thank you for your support!



WOMEN'S RETREAT CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



We had a wonderful time at the Women's Retreat the last weekend in April. Over 40 women enjoyed many activities at Lake Lucerne Retreat Center. It was good to see Pastor Doug, who shared bible study with us and Pastor Caleb, a talented musician who introduced us to many new and fun songs from the three UMC hymnals. Joni taught us about blood sugar levels and how to avoid spikes.



We had a vinegar tasting; who knew there were so many! Marie taught us ways to keep our brains healthy, provided us a healthy snack and taught us some folk dances to help our brains. We tapped into our creativity by making beautiful greeting cards with Laetitia, pictures using buttons with Rebecca, and flower arrangements with Linda. We shared poetry and a hike with Robin. Rebecca studied many resources about what joy is and what it is not, and taught us some ways to cultivate our joy.




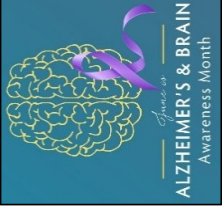




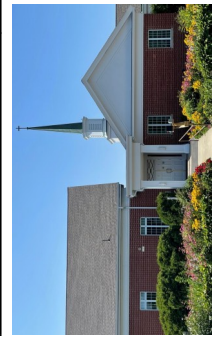
There was lots of laughter, prayer, singing, and devotions shared throughout the weekend. We found joy while getting to know each other with the *pass the present* Q&A, making bead projects, playing games, doing puzzles, hiking, walking the labyrinth, and chatting by the fireplaces in our cabins. We thank Wild Rose UMC for their gracious hospitality in providing our meals.

Watch the weekly bulletin/connections for details on the UMC Camp website about the **Fall Relaxation Retreat** September 10th - 13th at Pine Lake Camp which is co-ed, and next year's **Spring Women's Retreat** April 23rd - 25th, 2027 at Lake Lucerne Retreat Center.

June 2026

(as of 6/01/26)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 7:00 pm AA Meeting	3 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	4 7:00 pm AA Meeting	5 Annual Conference	6	
7 9:00 am Worship	8 7:00 pm AA Meeting	9 5:30 pm Cathedral Center	10 7:00 pm AA Meeting	11 Pastor's Sabbath Day	12 Pastor's Sabbath Day	13
14 Flag Day 9:00 am Worship COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:15 am 365 Bible Study 2:00 pm Tabitha Circle	15 7:00 pm AA Meeting	16 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	17 6:00 pm Walk in the Park Abendschein Park 7:00 pm AA Meeting	18 Pastor's Sabbath Day	19 Pastor's Sabbath Day	20 9:00 am Men's Group 
Youth Mission Trip						
21 9:00 am Worship 	22 7:00 pm AA Meeting	23 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	24 Pastor on Renewal Leave	25 Pastor on Renewal Leave	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship	29 Pastor on Renewal Leave	30 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm AA Meeting			



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




WORSHIP
with us

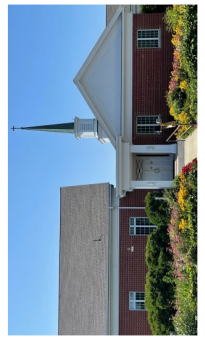
Sunday Worship 9:00 am In-Person
 Worship on YouTube @OCCUMCyoutube

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

July 2026

(as of 6/01/26)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
						
						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
COMMUNION SUNDAY						
9:00 am Worship		4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm AA Meeting			UWF walks in Oak Creek 4th of July Parade
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Pastor on Renewal Leave						
9:00 am Worship		5:30 pm Cathedral Center	Christmas in July Donations Drop-off			9:00 am Men's Group
10:00 am 365 Bible Group		6:30 pm Trustees Team Mtg	6:00 pm Walk in the Park Franklin Woods Nature Center			UWF Christmas in July Sale 8:00 am - 2:00 pm Doyle Hall
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pastor on Renewal Leave						
9:00 am Worship		4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm AA Meeting			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Pastor on Renewal Leave						
9:00 am Worship		4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	6:00 pm Marketing Team Mtg 7:00 pm AA Meeting			
						



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UPCOMING EVENTS

BIBLICAL PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTED BY CRISTAL BINDRICH



TranscenDance Offering

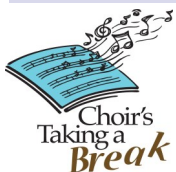
Are you ready to shake off stress, release tension, rejuvenate your body, center your mind and connect with your spirit?

Then join Cristal B for a movement modality on the 2nd Tuesday of the month on Zoom and the 4th Tuesday of the month in person at OCCUMC. This practice is suitable for any fitness or mobility levels. It can be done sitting, laying down or standing up. Register your interest by sending an email to crystalbindrich@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

Flyers are available at the Connection Counter. The month of June is free to ALL participants. Invite a friend.

SUMMER MUSIC NEEDS

CONTRIBUTED BY SHELLY SWODZINSKI



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

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 **\$1,409.74** to OCCP.

Open enrollment for the 2026-27 school year is underway. 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.



JUST FOR MEN



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.

DISASTER CASE WORKERS NEEDED



Disaster recovery continues long after the storm, and Disaster Case Workers are needed to help support households affected by April's severe weather across Wisconsin. Volunteers will make Crisis Cleanup outreach calls, listen to survivors' needs, and help connect households with organizations able to assist. A laptop and phone are required, training is provided, and scheduling is flexible.

Interested individuals can sign up here: <https://forms.gle/MxeyCVuGjWZpqysP7>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**, we are holding a **Christmas In July Sale** to support our mission to help women and children in need, both locally and around the world. This sale will benefit Joy House of the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

On July 15th and 16th between Noon & 6:00 pm, you can bring your still pretty, but used, **decorations from Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and even spring and patriotic holidays**. We will display your donations in Doyle Hall. If you can price your items before bringing them to church, all the better.

Please come back on July 18th and bring your friends and family. Renew your holiday decorations. Any holiday. Put yourself in a holiday spirit. You'll be helping our neighbors at the same time. Giving to others and shopping for fun...what a good day!

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.



MIDWEST MISSION TRIP

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



We are planning our **annual trip** to Midwest Mission in Pawnee, IL from **October 18th - 23rd**. You can be part of our team. We have been sending a team to Midwest Mission since the facility opened in 2000 (except 2020). We keep going back because we are serving our Lord and we have so much fun. Plus we get to use power tools!

Come for the week or a couple of days. We stay in the Lodge with comfy beds and a full kitchen. We do a variety of tasks which may include sorting, kit assembly, sewing, and desk making. There are jobs for every skill level from sitting to building. Come with a friend or make some new ones as we work together on a number of projects.

Cost is \$25 registration fee double occupancy, \$25 per night double occupancy & \$16 per day for materials. 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. We've got one room left which can accommodate up to 3 people! Contact Bonnie for more information (bonnieclement05@gmail.com or 262-497-9969). **Registration deadline is August 1st.**



OCCUMC 2026

WALK IN THE PARK SERIES

- Get outside and join in a walk at a beautiful County Park each month.
- Don't forget your walker punch card! Get 3 (or more!) punches on your card and earn a free admission to **Boerner Botanical Gardens**.
- All parks have parking lots, restrooms, and are dog friendly.

Wednesday, May 20TH @ 6:00^{PM}
Emerald Preserve Park
8031 S. 6th St, Oak Creek

Wednesday, June 17TH @ 6:00^{PM}
Abendschein Community Park
1311 E Drexel Ave, Oak Creek

Wednesday, July 15TH @ 6:00^{PM}
Franklin Woods Nature Center & Kayla's Playground
3723 W. Puetz Rd, Franklin

Wednesday, August 19TH @ 6:00^{PM}
Froemming Park
8801 S. 51st St, Franklin

Sunday, September 20TH @ 11:00^{AM}
Petrified Springs Park
5555 7th St, Kenosha

Hosted by the OCCUMC Marketing Team



BEVERAGE PROVIDED

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

CONTRIBUTED BY JILLIAN IMOEHL

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Hello from your youth education coordinator, Jillian Imoehl! We had another fun and successful Sunday School year this year. I am so grateful to our teachers and their dedication to our program. Thank you Liz, Debbie, Alex, and Diane.

One area we would like to improve next school year is in our weekly attendance. I know many of our children and families have so many wonderful activities they are involved in, and making it to Sunday School can be difficult. So, after some careful consideration and brainstorming, we are planning to revamp our Sunday School program next year.

Instead of Sunday School taking place following the service, we will be including it as part of our Sunday morning service. Children will be in the sanctuary for the start of our service. Following the scripture reading, all children are welcome to join the Sunday School teachers in the classroom for a lesson revolving around the scripture reading from that week. Communion Sundays will be a non-Sunday School day because of the importance of taking part in Communion.

The organization of the class schedule will be finalized come fall. I am excited to see how this plan works out! Please let me know if you have any questions or if you want to be a part of the Sunday School teacher rotation. Thank you for your support and participation!

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

GARDENS

CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



The gardens are coming in and are full and ever-changing.. daffodils to phlox to tulips to iris to coneflowers and black eyed susans. But then there are also those pesky dandelions, thistles and other various unwelcome intruders!

Our gardeners are hardy and will conquer... but **we need your HELP!** We are a little "thin" this year and would love it if others could find a hour or two to help us.. come when you want, work as long as you want, in whatever area of the gardens that you want.. thank you! Questions may be directed to Judy at ehomestead02@aol.com or Lois at lsdillon@sbcglobal.net.

THE CATHEDRAL CENTER

CONTRIBUTED BY JOANNE MUELLER

We are serving monthly dinners at The Cathedral Center on **June 9th and July 14th**. 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 June 9th, you may bring it to church Sunday the 7th before worship or Monday the 8th & Tuesday the 9th 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 9th 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 occumc.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

Practicing gratitude is so easy when I think of all the many people that support this Mission. We would not exist without all the beautiful handcrafted blankets and purchased items for each layette. So thank you for your generous donations and please continue with your prayers, creations and purchases.



Through May this year, we have been able to deliver 40 layettes to our 3 recipients: Aurora Sinai Hospital, La Causa Nursery Respite Center and 16th Street Clinic. Also, we've donated many bags of children's clothing to La Causa and women's clothing to Aurora Sinai Hospital's Women's Closet.

Any comments or questions? Please contact Joan K (414-215-7088 or joanmketchum@gmail.com).

MERRY MAT MAKERS

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT

Merry Mat Makers meets 4:00 - 5:30 pm Tuesdays except on the days we go to the Cathedral Center. Join us for time together in conversation and mission. Jobs include sorting, folding and cutting bags, tying bags into weaving strips called plarn (plastic yarn), and weaving on a table top loom. The group also enjoys other social time like going out to dinner or a movie. We appreciate plastic grocery bag donations - keep those coming. The thinner ones break but we love thicker bags, especially colorful ones. And as always the bags need to be clean, dry and empty of all contents. Flattened bags are especially appreciated.

To find out more, stop by the Loom Room (in the east end of the lower level) on Tuesdays or contact bonnieclement05@gmail.com.

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: July 9th @ 11 am, and August 6th @ 11:00 am.

SOLES FOR JESUS

CONTRIBUTED BY DIANE LINDSAY

Shoes. They are a basic luxury that we take for granted every day. Many of us are unaware that millions of people across our globe live barefoot lives. Children cannot attend school without shoes and adults must be able to walk long distances to their places of employment. Wearing shoes instead of walking barefoot offers protection and safety by reducing the risk of exposure to parasites and hazardous substances that affect public health.



We asked you to bring in new or gently used sneakers/athletic shoes. You responded with **44 pairs!** These are now going to ShoesForJesus and will help change lives in Africa. Thank you!



VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



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.

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

BY BONNIE CLEMENT

With the help of many generous donations, OCCUMC was able to assemble 31 Student Kits for Midwest Mission. The remaining donated school supplies will be sent to Midwest Mission, where they will be used to complete additional student kits for children in need. In addition to many other items for Ingathering, OCCUMC has collected:

- ⚙ 31 Student Kits assembled
- ⚙ 191 one-handed bags
- ⚙ 19 scissors
- ⚙ 49 notebooks
- ⚙ 2 packs of colored pencils
- ⚙ 69 erasers
- ⚙ 19 rulers
- ⚙ 82 sharpeners
- ⚙ 282 pencils



We are excited to be able to continue supporting the vital outreach of this amazing organization!

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

June - July '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.