



Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

Newsletter

October - November, 2026

Coming Home

Three months.

When I left for renewal leave in June, three months sounded like a long time. And now, somehow, it feels like it went by in the blink of an eye.

I've been thinking a lot about what it means to come home.

During these past three months, I stepped away from my usual work, my calendar, my meetings, my sermons, and my "work shoes." I traded them for rambling shoes, a backpack, a beach towel, some time on the road, and a lot more space to simply be.

And I needed that space.

Renewal leave gave me the gift of slowing down enough to notice things I had been too busy to notice. I spent time with family and friends. I hiked. I explored. I sat quietly. I laughed. I rested. I spent time with Grayson. I found God in places I had forgotten to look for God. Especially in nature.

Before life became so complicated, some of my most meaningful conversations with God happened outside - walking a trail, sitting beside the water, watching a sunset, or simply being quiet. Renewal leave helped me reconnect with that part of myself.

My star word for this year is *story*. My life story has changed a lot over the past year, and I needed some time to listen for what God might be writing in the next chapter.

I don't have the whole story figured out. I'm pretty sure God has never required that of me anyway.

But I do return with a deeper sense of gratitude, a little more space in my soul, and a renewed awareness that ministry is not something I do for God. It is something I am invited to do with God - and with all of you.

And speaking of all of you...I missed you. I missed your laughter and your stories. I missed worshiping together. I missed the random conversations in the hallway and the unexpected moments that somehow become the things you remember most. I missed being part of the life of this congregation.

(Pastor's notes continued on page 2)

(Pastor's notes continued from page 1)

But I am also incredibly grateful that the ministry of OCCUMC continued while I was away. You worshiped. You preached. You prayed. You served. You cared for one another. You kept showing up!

That matters!

A renewal leave is sometimes described as a time for a pastor to rest and renew. And it is that. But it can also be a gift to a congregation. It gives all of us a chance to remember that the church is bigger than any one person—including the pastor.

So as I come back, I'm not coming back with a giant list of things we need to fix or a five-year master plan.

I'm coming back grateful.

I'm coming back hopeful.

I'm coming back curious about what God is already doing among us.

And I'm coming back ready to listen, to laugh, to dream, to serve, and to walk with you into whatever comes next.

Thank you for giving me the gift of these three months.

Thank you for trusting me enough to let me step away.

And thank you to the many people who stepped up, preached, led worship, cared for the congregation, handled the details, and kept things moving while I was gone.

Most of all, thank you for being a church I am happy to come home to.

The next chapter is waiting. Let's see what God does with it.

And yes... I've put my work shoes back on.

But I'm keeping the rambling shoes handy.

With gratitude,
Pastor Heidi



Welcome Back
POTLUCK

To welcome Pastor Heidi back from her leave, there will be a potluck after worship in Doyle Hall on October 4th. Ham & rolls will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

OCCUMC FINANCIAL CENTER

		2026	2025
<u>Month of August</u>	General Fund Income	\$30,812.32	\$33,446.30
	Expenses	\$22,495.45	\$21,219.85
<u>2026 Calendar Year</u>	General Fund Income	\$213,032.22	\$196,820.84
	Expenses	\$202,966.90	\$204,938.69
<u>Apportionment</u>	Annual Total Given	\$24,353.00	\$18,144.00
	Annual Goal	\$36,348.00	\$33,846.00

Apportionment



We are into the last quarter of our year and at 67% of our apportionment goal. Our target is \$36,348 and we've collected \$24,353.00 so far. Please continue to give to apportionments so we can share the blessings with the important local and international mission efforts of the United Methodist Church.

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

WOMEN IN FAITH SUNDAY

We celebrated the work done by women during United Women in Faith Sunday on September 27th. Pastor Heidi shared the mission of UWF and described briefly the mission projects promoted by our UWF unit at OCCUMC.

Barb and Ed Kubes were recognized for their faithfulness in supporting the mission of the church with a certificate, special mission recognition pins and a donation to the district conference on their behalf.



Yenh Mikolajewshi, Office Manager of Soles for Jesus, gave us an informative and inspiring message on their mission, the origin, the results to date, and how a simple pair of shoes can change the life of an adult or child in remote parts of Africa, not just physically but spiritually as well. We learned how we could help them in their mission, by providing shoes, volunteering to pack the shoes, providing funds to ship the shoes overseas, and by praying for their success in transforming souls. Pastor Heidi encouraged the congregation to lay hands on Yenh while she blessed the efforts of Yenh and the four other staff members who were responsible for all the logistics involved in their mission project.

OCCUMC donated 62 more pairs of shoes and sandals. This is in addition to the 44 pairs donated in the spring. Thank you so much for your generosity. 52 people stayed for fellowship and good food at the potluck that followed worship.

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

TBD
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

FROM YOUR TEAMS

TRUSTEES

CONTRIBUTED BY CLINTON PEIRCE



As Fall approaches so does our **Fall Cleanup Day**. We will meet on **Saturday, October 24th from 8:00 am to noon**. As always we welcome everyone to join us since many hands make light work as they say. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 am and then the group will select tasks from our list. Some tasks are small and inside while others are a little larger and outside. Come for breakfast and stay for as long as you are able.

As noted in our last newsletter, the parsonage kitchen was undergoing an upgrade. Thanks to Daryl for all of his hard work and being instrumental in this long overdue upgrade. The funds for the upgrade were taken from funds that had previously been donated and designated for kitchen projects.



Part of our responsibility as your trustee team is to ensure that the building is safe and in working order. To this end, we contract with a company, Grunau, to test and maintain our fire protection system. During their last visit, Grunau identified some fire extinguishers that need to be updated, and that work will be completed soon. Along a similar line, we are in the process of updating our two AED machines to ensure that they are in proper working order.

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.

GARDENING TEAM

CONTRIBUTED BY KATHY BREKELLER



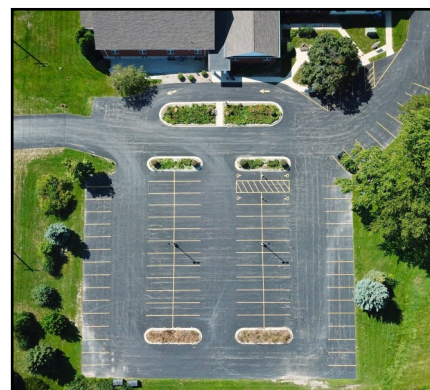
For many years the same group of women have been weeding the church planting areas in addition to the six flower boulevards in the north parking lot. It was in 2019, when the current boulevard was planted with new perennials, that these women were named "The Blooming Gardeners".

We have loved keeping the gardens looking nice, but due to health conditions, life changing events, and lack of new gardening team members, the Blooming Gardeners have made the very difficult decision to disband.

We don't want to disband and leave the garden boulevards in the out-of-control state they are in, so we are in the process of planning ways to clean out the boulevards. These plans will minimize maintenance, but there will still be a need for some weeding.

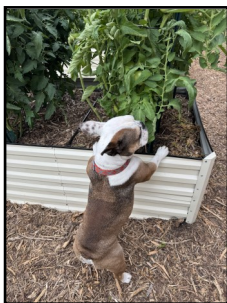
We will wait until next spring to do anything, so we invite you to take any of the plants from the boulevards from now until spring 2027, when we will share our plans.

If you have any questions or would consider taking over the gardening, please contact Kathy (kbefeller@yahoo.com), Lois (lsdillon@sbcglobal.net), or Shelly (shellyswodzinski@gmail.com).





The summer months were busy, busy, busy for the From The Ground Up Team.



Our veggie garden surprised us all with the amount of produce grown, certainly surpassing all expectations. Wow, what an abundance! We grew tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, eggplant, carrots, lavender and a variety of peppers.

We learned a lot about what works in our garden this season, and it was a delight to offer the produce to our OCCUMC congregation.

Our fruit trees are healthy and happy just one year after being planted. Having removed much of the fruit to let our young trees focus on establishing themselves, we enjoyed a small but very tasty harvest of pears, peaches, and apples.



By the end of the season we expect that around 400 pounds of both fruit and vegetables will have been offered and enjoyed. Some of our bounty was shared with the Project Concern food pantry in the Cudahy - St. Francis area.

As we call it a wrap for the season, we once again say a big thank you for all of your encouragement and support of this local OCCUMC ministry.



FTGU team (Michelle, Clinton and Dexter Peirce, Jim & Diane Wittenberg, Chris Schultz, Michelle Gibbs, Marty Posekany, Diane Lindsay).



ITEMS OF INTEREST



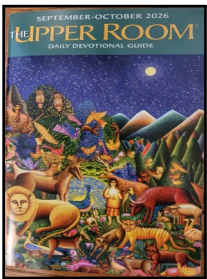
Please join us for worship **Sunday, November 1st at 9:00 am** as we honor those who have gone before us and the saints among us.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY



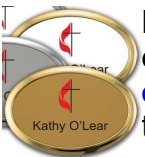
Coffee Bistro is shared hospitality on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. If you are interested in serving the faith community with this beautiful ministry by bringing in food & beverages, please contact Merrilee, our Coffee Bistro Team Leader, at merrilee.mahn@gmail.com, or sign up on the sheet at the Connection Center.

THE UPPER ROOM



The September-October 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 November-December issue will be available the last week of October.

NAME BADGES



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.

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 Cards** 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

CONTRIBUTED BY JILLIAN IMOEHL

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



what is being talked about upstairs. Following the 30-40 minute lesson, the children will be escorted back upstairs to meet their parents.

I am Jillian Imoehl, and I am the Youth Education Coordinator here at OCCUMC. Our Children's Sunday School program is going to take place during the second half of the church service following the scripture reading. Children will be escorted downstairs to the Sunday School Room by the teachers. The lessons will be based on the scripture readings that week to provide our children with a more "kid-friendly" understanding of

Sunday School for the children will NOT meet on Communion Sundays as that is an important event for all to take part in. Our teachers this year include Liz Imoehl, Debbie Schmidt, Alex Clement-Reichling, and myself.



I am excited to see how this works for our youth this year! If you have any questions, or you are interested in being included in our teaching rotation, feel free to reach out to me at jkimoehl@gmail.com.

Youth Group

CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX CLEMENT-REICHLING



The OCCUMC Youth group is for anyone in grades 6 through 12. You do not need to be a member of any church to join. We meet the 2nd & 3rd Sunday at 5:00 pm in the Youth Room (L5&7) for faith-building discussion, fellowship outings, and service to others. We are always ready to welcome newcomers!

BIBLE BROWSERS

CONTRIBUTED BY OLIVER CLEMENT



Welcome back to all the Bible Browsers, Friends, and Families. Our first meeting took place on September 13th. We will meet every Sunday morning at 10:15 am. (Exceptions: Thanksgiving Sunday, Christmas Sunday, New Year's Sunday, Easter Sunday, and any Sunday the church cannot be opened safely.)

If you wish to join us, please feel free. The lesson is printed each week for the class and also included in our weekly e-mail. We meet downstairs, in the West wing in the Conference Room (L27).

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".

Our Bible Study "class" is shared reading, then responses to questions. Everyone can answer. We have a fun time and start and end with prayers. Everyone learns something in our group. (Even the "leader".)

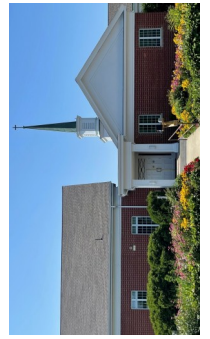
If you would like to ensure you receive the emails from class, please be sure to send your email address to: OliverC_occumc@yahoo.com. Not only will you receive updates from me about the Bible Browsers, but you will also receive prayer requests from both members and friends.

We don't charge membership fees. 😊 Come check us out Sunday!

October 2026

(as of 09/30/26)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00 am Preschool	2 Pastor's Sabbath Day	3
				Pastor at School of Leadership Conference		
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Bible Browsers	5 World Teachers Day	6 9:00 am Preschool 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7 9:00 am Preschool 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	8	9 Pastor's Sabbath Day	10
11 9:00 am Worship with Childrens Sunday School during worship Coffee Bistro following worship 10:15 am Bible Browsers	12 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY 9:30 am GTP Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting	13 9:00 am Preschool 5:30 pm Cathedral Center 6:30 pm Trustees Team Mtg	14 9:00 am Preschool 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	15	16 Pastor's Sabbath Day	17 9:00 am Men's Group
18 9:00 am Worship with Childrens Sunday School during worship 10:00 am Bible Browsers	19 7:00 pm AA Meeting	20 9:00 am Preschool 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	21 9:00 am Preschool 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	22	23 Pastor's Sabbath Day	24
25 9:00 am Worship with Childrens Sunday School during worship Coffee Bistro following worship 10:15 am Bible Browsers	26 7:00 pm AA Meeting	27 9:00 am Preschool 4:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	28 Midwest Mission Trip 9:00 am Preschool 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	29	30 Pastor's Sabbath Day	31 Illustration of pumpkins and leaves



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www.occumc.org
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office@occumc.org

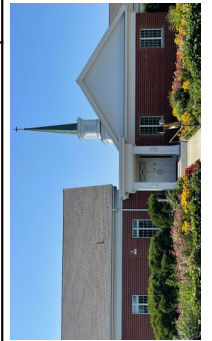
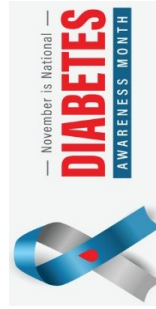
WORSHIP
with us

Sunday Worship 9:00 am
Watch worship live, or anytime, on YouTube @OCCUMCyoutube
Sunday School for all ages every Sunday from September - May

November 2026

(as of 09/30/26)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION SUNDAY	2	3	4	5	6 Pastor's Sabbath Day	7
9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Browsers	7:00 pm AA Meeting	9:00 am Preschool  2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers	7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting			
8 9:00 am Worship with Childrens Sunday School during worship Coffee Bistro following worship 10:15 am Bible Browsers 2:00 pm Tabitha Circle Thank Mtg 5:00 pm Youth Group Mtg	9 9:30 am GTP Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10 5:30 pm Cathedral Center 6:30 pm Trustees Team Mtg	11 9:00 am Preschool  7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath Day	14
15 9:00 am Worship with Childrens Sunday School during worship 10:00 am Bible Browsers 4:15 pm See Spot Play 5:00 pm Youth Group Mtg	16 6:30 pm See Spot Play 7:00 pm AA Meeting	17 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Finance Team Mtg	18 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Marketing Team Mtg 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	19 9:30 am Book Club 10:00 am Sarah Circle	20 Pastor's Sabbath Day	21 GTP Craft Faire 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  Oak Creek Community Cntr Thanksgiving Basket distr 10:00 am - Noon
22 9:00 am Worship with Childrens Sunday School during worship Coffee Bistro following worship 10:15 am Bible Browsers	23 9:00 am Preschool Conference 7:00 pm AA Meeting	24 Preschool Teacher Work Day 2:00 pm Merry Mat Makers 6:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	25 No Preschool Classes 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA Meeting	26 OFFICES CLOSED 	28 Pastor's Sabbath Day	
29 9:00 am Worship with Childrens Sunday School during worship	30 7:00 pm AA Meeting					



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Sunday School for all ages every Sunday from September - May

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office@occumc.org

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

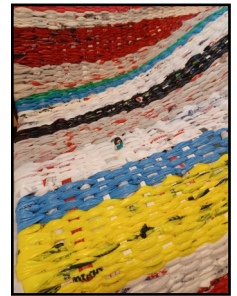
MERRY MAT MAKERS

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.

We appreciate plastic grocery bag donations. Please make sure they are the thicker, colorful ones and are clean, dry and empty of all contents.

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



WORSHIP & THE ARTS

CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON



Pastor is back and the Worship and the Arts Team is ready!! We have our Fall worship series in place and the wheels are in motion to hit the ground running. We thank all those that stepped up to give us meaningful and interesting summer worship services. Time to get back in the PEWS!! See you on Sundays.

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

LAYETTE MISSION PROJECT

CONTRIBUTED BY JOAN KETCHUM

Sometimes all you have to do is ASK! When we are low on receiving blankets, we ask and our Going To Pieces Group delivers a full tote of beautifully packed and washed blankets, and they appear in our basket at the Connection Center! When we say we need sleepers and onesies our congregation goes out and buys them. We are so thankful for all the support you have given us over the years and hope to continue the Layette Mission Project well into the future.



By the end of September we were able to supply Aurora Sinai Hospital, 16th Street Clinic and La Causa Children's Respite Center with a total 72 layettes. The folks receiving them are so happy they have new items to take their baby home in. At La Causa, they are a respite center, so they have changes of clothing for babies and children up to 12 years of age.

For La Causa, we also collect gently used clothing which we launder and pass on to them. We've given them beautiful quilts to use on their cribs and beds or given to guests to take home. If you have some gently used children's clothing we can give them, please bring them to the Collection Center at church. If you would like to make or purchase baby items for our layettes, we use sizes newborn to 9 months in sleepers. Prayers are also welcome.

Any questions or comments, please contact Joan at 414-215-7088 or joanmketchum@gmail.com.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

CONTRIBUTED BY DIANE LINDSAY



There is always a need for someone to receive a little comfort. Do you know of anyone who may be experiencing feelings of anxiety, loneliness, or uncertainty? A prayer shawl may provide comfort and warmth and remind them they are loved. If a prayer shawl is too big, a pocket shawl could provide the same feelings of reassurance. Shawls are available in the basket in Gathering Area.

If you have any questions or suggestions for how this ministry may be more effective, please contact Diane (dianelindsay54@gmail.com) or text/phone (414-510-9342).

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEST MISSION

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT



From October 18th - 23rd, OCCUMC will have six (Bonnie C, Cherie S, Joanne M, Debbie K, Patti W, Jeanne C) of the 12 participants (Cindy S, Mary M, Mary Lou & Rick S, Lisa & Bill K, Diane & Kent K, Mike & Bobbie C, Joan & Dan C) going to the Midwest Mission in Pawnee, IL.

There will be a week of making desks, sorting donated items & other jobs. Please pray for their safe trip. The group will be delivering miscellaneous donations and the onesies from OCCUMC.



We're collecting Onesies for Midwest Mission! The mission team heading to MM on **October 18th** is collecting **0 – 6-month size** onesies (no camouflage patterns) once again this year.

Last year we sent 216 onesies. We have 50 already. Let's see if we can beat that number this year. Check out the collection area by the Connection Center to see all the cute onesies and keep up on how the count is coming along. Thank you!

YOUTH GROUP

CONTRIBUTED BY CHERYL CLEMENT-REICHLING



The leaves have already begun to turn! October is a perfect time to celebrate the changing of the seasons in God's beautiful creation with a cozy youth retreat to Pine Lake Camp. We'll leave OCCUMC at 9:00 am on 10/17 and return in the evening on 10/18. Youth in grades 6th through 12th are welcome to join us for Fall activities like pumpkin carving and nature walks. Please contact Alex C-R at arc_332@att.net by 10/7 if you have someone interested in going. The cost for this event is \$40 per person.

FUN FOR ALL

CONTRIBUTED BY CHERYL CLEMENT-REICHLING



Please join us for an exciting Trunk or Treat event on **November 1st at 10:00 am** (after worship). Families of children, youth, or the young at heart will choose goodies (individually wrapped), and there will be a prize for the trunk voted best-decorated!

Please **sign up by October 25th** (sheets are on the Connection Counter) so we can block out parking spaces. This event is **open to ALL**.

Contact Cheryl Clement-Reichling cherylreichling@yahoo.com with questions.

NEW MEMBERS



Oak Creek Community UMC is a place where you can see how your Christian faith can change your life, and how, in turn, that can transform the world.

We have five expectations of our members: worship, study, serve, give, and share. These five essential practices are designed to become a part of the rhythm of life on your faith journey toward becoming a deeply committed

Christian. We believe fulfilling these practices will change your life in powerful ways, bringing you meaning and joy.

If you're interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Heidi pastor@occumc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

If you have any questions, reach out to Clinton P, Eric v H, Jim W, Doug C, Dexter P, Dale T, Rich I, Brian v H, or Marty P. Or, just come to our next meeting, we'd love to see you.

JOIN THE CHOIR



Rehearsal takes place in the sanctuary every Wednesday at 7:00 pm. and lasts until about 8:30. We welcome everyone from 9th grade to age 99. We sing all types of music. We welcome singers, percussionists, and other musicians. If you have any questions, please contact Shelly (414-801-1940.) Otherwise, just come on Wednesday. **We'll have music waiting for you!**

TABITHA CIRCLE CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE CLEMENT

All women are invited to Tabitha Circle meetings. We will not meet in October as a number of us will be on the Midwest Mission trip that month. On November 8th at 2:00 pm we will have our Thank Offering program and continue the Women's Retreat planning.

THE CATHEDRAL CENTER CONTRIBUTED BY JOANNE MUELLER

We are serving our last monthly dinner of the year at The Cathedral Center on **October 13th**. **Some of our regular helpers are not available, we need volunteers.** If you would like to volunteer to serve, please contact Joanne M (414-817-2914) or Diane W (414-405-0153). 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 October 13th, please bring it to church Sunday the 11th before worship or Monday the 12th & Tuesday the 13th 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 13th 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.

GOING TO PIECES FIBER ARTISTS CONTRIBUTED BY LOIS DILLON

We hope **Saturday, November 21st** is already on your calendars for the Holiday Craft Fair at Oak Creek Community Center. This is our biggest fundraiser for Going to Pieces, and the funds raised give us the opportunity to contribute to a needed church project. Come and see the beautiful crafts we have made over the summer.



GTP will have a presentation in church October 11th as we celebrate 25 years of ministry to OCCUMC. We are quite proud of the accomplishments of this group. You will be surprised and amazed.

All are welcome to attend our meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month at 9:30 am.

UPDATES

PRESCHOOL CONTRIBUTED BY STEPHANIE PASZKIEWICZ

Preschool 2026–2027 School Year Update

The 2026–2027 preschool year is officially underway! We are excited to welcome our families and begin another wonderful year of learning, growing, and creating memories together.

Enrollment Opportunities

We currently have 18 families enrolled, with only two full-time spots filled at this time. This means we still have room for additional children and would love to continue growing our preschool community! If you know a family who may be looking for a quality preschool, licensed by the State of Wisconsin, please help spread the word and encourage them to learn more about our program. Oak Creek Community Preschool offers 2, 3, or 4-day programs, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 – 11:30 am. Contact Preschool Director Stephanie at occpreschool@gmail.com or 414-762-4600 to set up a tour.



Thank You for Supporting Our Supply Drive!

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated to our preschool supply drive. Your generosity has made a tremendous difference and has helped us gather the startup materials we need to begin our lessons and activities with the children. We truly appreciate the support of our preschool families and community!

Our Large Motor Room Is Growing!

We are also excited to begin building up our large motor room! We have already moved in our teeter-totter, slide, scooters, and bikes, and the children have been absolutely loving the new space. The large motor room gives children an opportunity to release some energy while developing important gross motor skills, coordination, balance, and body awareness. It also provides a wonderful change of environment and allows the children to step away from the classroom for a short period of time and experience a different space. We look forward to continuing to add to the room and watching it become an exciting part of our preschool program!



Mark Your Calendars — November Fundraiser!

Sunday, November 1st 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Cousins on Ryan Road

20% of sales during that time will be donated back to our preschool! Invite your family and friends, and come enjoy some Cousins while supporting our preschool.

We are so excited for the year ahead and all the learning, fun, and growth it will bring. Thank you to everyone who has supported our preschool and helped us continue to grow along the way!

SARAH CIRCLE CONTRIBUTED BY DIANE LINDSAY

On September 17th, Leah Kostos, a dietician and nutritionist from Hunger Task Force, talked to us about the many ways they work in the community to provide food assistance (through food pantries, stockbox, food share, mobile market) and nutrition education. She talked about their warehouse, school garden and farm as well as opportunities for volunteering. She discussed healthspan (the period where one's life is healthy or free from a life threatening disease) and lifespan, and shared ways to improve healthspan. Did you know that on average, the American lifespan is 79 years and healthspan is 62? Leah taught us how to use a stress ball to increase hand strength and mobility. She gave us all a starter kit to use next spring to grow our own flowers and/or vegetables.



All women are invited to our upcoming meetings: October 15th - regular meeting; November 19th - World Thank Offering; December 17th - Christmas gathering.

FAITH

ANNUAL GATHERING

CONTRIBUTED BY DIANE LINDSAY

The South East District Annual Gathering was held on Saturday, September 12th. Three of our members attended the gathering held at Markesan UMC. The meeting began with registration and refreshments, followed by a time of singing.

The keynote presentation, given by South East District Superintendent, Rev Dr In-Sun Lee, focused on her calling, her journey so far, and how it has led her to where she is right now. Her husband, a pastor as well, joined her in singing a song in Korean, Portuguese and English.



After a short business meeting and an excellent lunch, we returned to the sanctuary for ceremonies and awards. Four of our members (Joan L, Diane L, Janet P and Dona S) were recognized for their participation in the 2026 UWF Reading Program. OCCUMC members Eileen S and Jean B were remembered at the Memorial Service that followed.

We shared communion before we headed home, with a stop at the Siepert cottage in Green Lake, relaxing for a short time by the lake.

UPCOMING MESSAGE SERIES

Releasing God's Blessings: Our 2026 Stewardship Series – October 4th - 18th



We often think of blessings as things we receive. While it is true that God, by grace, freely gives us all that we have, we are not just passive recipients of God's blessings! Just as God blesses us through people in our lives, so does God promise to bless others *through* us. When we live from a place of gratitude for God's gifts and trust in God's provision, we can be agents of God's blessing in our world.



Embracing an Adverbial Faith (Sermon topics listed below)

(big words that basically mean let's live our faith, not just talk about it)

In May 2025, the bishops of The United Methodist Church released a vision statement designed to help the whole church live into its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. They built the statement around three movements: loving, serving, and leading. Then they deepened the call by naming the Spirit that inspires and empowers these actions.

We are not called just to love, but to love boldly. We are not called just to serve, but to serve joyfully. We are not seeking those who will merely lead, but those who will lead courageously. The adverbs bring a spark to the statement.

Oct. 25th: Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ

Nov. 1st: Disciples Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Nov. 8th: Love Boldly

Nov. 15th: Serve Joyfully

Nov. 22nd: Lead Courageously

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;
 - ⇒ Friday, August 21st from 10:30-11:30 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

October - November '26

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



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.