



OZAUKEE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

April 2019



Lenten Lessons and Carols

Sunday, April 7 @ 9:30



HOLY WEEK



April 14 – April 21

Palm Sunday
9:30 a.m. Service

Easter Egg Hunt (for all ages) - 10:45 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service
12:00 Noon

Easter Celebration Service
9:30 a.m.



From the Pastor

Welcome to spring! After the coldest winter in 20 years, we have finally shed most of the snow and arrived at the most welcome change in season. I was glad to see winter come but I am also glad to see it go. The warmth, the sunlight, the grass being revealed and the sidewalks now free of ice are reminders that we have survived, and spring is on the way!

Winter is good. It puts within us a sense of solidarity with those around us that summer can't duplicate. It gives us an opportunity to help one another that summer can't provide. There's something good about greeting your neighbor across the street on multiple days at 6 o'clock in the morning because you're both out shoveling your driveway. There's something good about your next-door neighbor seeing you with your snow-blower and wondering if you might be able to do her driveway as well. Maybe part of the reason God gives us winter is so we are forced into moments of helping those around us that we would not otherwise realize.

It feels good to shovel the walk. You earn a sense of satisfaction in helping the neighbors. Your relationship with people is strengthened through the difficulty of winter. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, when you face trials of many kinds," says the book of James, and I think winter qualifies. We find the good in it. We take advantage of the opportunities it provides. We rejoice in the middle of it. We see God at work through us and others in it.

But, we'll see God at work in spring too and we're glad that it is here.

See you Sunday!

Jeff



Who Is My Neighbor?

From Your Moderator

Dear Friends,

It has been an honor to serve as your moderator for the past year. As I reflect on the past 12 months, I can't help but be grateful as the recipient of incredibly good timing. 😊

In this past year, our church said goodbye to our beloved interim minister, Joel Fredrikson and his wife Jan, and welcomed Jeff Larson, along with Chandra, Anders, Adeline, and AJ. With gratitude to the Search Committee under the leadership of Tim Nolan, it quickly became evident that God had sent us one of His very best. We are growing as a congregation, in numbers and in faith; we continue to be active and generous in our local community and beyond; and the energy and atmosphere on Sunday mornings is vibrant.

I want to thank Jeff, Rob, and the whole staff for a wonderful year. I also was witness to the thoughtful and committed leadership of the members of the Church Council, who guided us throughout the year with wisdom, caring and humor.



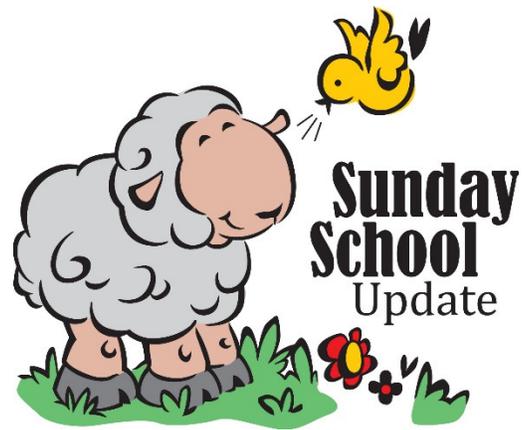
I hope you will all be able to attend the Annual Meeting following the 9:30 service on **Sunday, April 28th**, when we will elect a new slate of lay leaders to guide us forward.

With gratitude,
Rebekah



Cheerful Givers

Did you know that you can support the church financially outside of the normal pledge and plate giving? With a planned gift to the OCC Endowment Fund, your will, bequest, memorial, or living trust adds to the fund principal for long-term financial appreciation.
The Board of Trustees



Joyous Journey and the nursery at OCC are carrying on well thanks to the many people that have been and will be involved! As we continue to look for the right person to head up our Children's ministry on Sunday morning, we are thankful for the many volunteers who are helping make Sunday morning a positive experience for our kids. Currently, we are studying the miracles of Jesus and learning that God is at work in our lives as well.



Please note that Palm Sunday, April 14th, is our Easter egg hunt and the children and youth will gather together that Sunday in preparation.

On Easter Sunday, April 21st, there will be no Joyous Journey or MP3, but we will have childcare

for kids aged kindergarten and younger at both the 9:00am and 10:30am services.

We are grateful for our kids and their families and all the people who work with Joyous Journey and nursery care!

Midweek Bible Study

Your choice of two time-slots:

Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m. or Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

We'll meet on all four Tuesdays and all four Wednesdays of April. Both time slots are facilitated by Rev. Rob Fredrickson. We meet in the Youth Room on Tuesday evenings; on Wednesdays we meet in Fellowship Hall. It's free and open to all! In the coming weeks, we'll explore different types of Psalms, and also look at the "broad strokes" history and composition of the Old Testament.



All activities are for those completing grades 6-12 unless otherwise noted.

Sunday morning MP3 schedule

MP3 meets on Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30 in the Youth Room. The Sunday Funnies, This Week in Christian History, the Word of the Day, the Quote of the Day, a song or two, and an exploration of the day's Bible passage...it's all part of MP3!

March 31	Unlikely All-Stars: Centurion
April 7*	Unlikely All-Stars: Prostitute
April 14	Palm Sunday + Egg Hunt!
April 21	Easter (no MP3)
April 28	Unlikely All-Stars: Children
May 5*	Unlikely All-Stars: Zacchaeus
May 12	Unlikely All-Stars: Widow

(* = communion Sunday)

Wednesday PF meetings

Pilgrim Fellowship, a.k.a. "PF," meets every-other Wednesday evening, 7-8:30 in the Youth Room, for snack, devotions, prayer, games, videos, and discussion.

Upcoming PF meetings:

April 10 & 24
May 8 & 22

Sign up soon for WCA Camp!

Camp will run from 3pm on Sunday, July 7 through noon on Saturday, July 13. Remember, WCA Camp is for current 3rd-12th graders, and it takes place at beautiful Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center (near Wautoma). Many OCC kids attend, and many OCC adults serve on the camp staff. Online registration should be up literally any day now! The digital portal for all things camp-related is wiscongregational.net/youth and you can conveniently register and pay right on the site.

Agape Table (young adult fellowship)

On the first Monday of the month, Rob and Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith (North Shore Congregational) venture toward campus to share a meal and some casual conversation with some of our college students and other young adults. Here's what's coming up:

Monday, April 1, 6pm
at the Memorial Union in Madison

Monday, May 6, 6pm
at Ma Fischer's on Farwell in Milwaukee

If you, or someone you love, may be interested, talk with Rob and let him know the best cell number for texting purposes.

Questions? Want to sign up to serve?
Contact Rob: rcf474@gmail.com or 414-688-8991.

Hope House food pantry: third Saturday...

...morning of each month, 9:20-12:40. Contact Rob to sign up for **April 20, May 18**, or beyond! (And no...it's NOT too early to sign up for summer!)

Family Sharing: Monday evening, April 22

We meet at Family Sharing at 5:15, get the key info on our work projects, break into teams, and spring into action! We wrap up at 7:00. Contact Rob well in advance if you'd like to help on **April 22**.

POSTAL DRIVE: MAY 18

The annual food drive through the USPS mail carriers will culminate with a massive food-sorting effort at Family Sharing on Saturday afternoon, May 18. If you can lend a hand, even if only for an hour, please let Rob know ASAP!

Easter Offering for Friedens/Hope House

Your Benevolence Board has designated the **Hope House food pantry**, one of four Friedens pantries in Milwaukee, as the recipient of this year's Easter Offering. OCC has been engaged at Hope House for nearly a decade now, sending a team of volunteers there on the third Saturday morning of each month. Our volunteers know first-hand that the pantry is run with compassion, excellent stewardship of resources, and the utmost concern for human dignity. We urge you to give generously. Please look for the special Easter Offering envelope in your worship bulletin on April 7, 14, and 21.

Green Eggs & Ham Bruncheon: May 5

Bring a platter or bowl of an appetizer or finger food to share. Or, just bring your appetite...and a free-will donation for **Next Door** in Milwaukee. (And, for what it's worth, it's Cinco de Mayo!) *If you'll bring something to share, please sign up on the sheet outside the office.*

UPDATED: Benevolence Box Wish List

The wooden box in Fellowship Hall stands ready to receive your donations of...

- Toiletries (Guest House & Family Sharing)
- Plastic Sendik's bags (Hope House)
- Paper handle bags (Family Sharing)
- Empty laundry jugs (Family Sharing)
- **Rain ponchos** (MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary)
- **Umbrellas** (MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary)
- **Spring-weight jackets** (MacCanon Brown Sanctuary)