



# OZAUKEE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

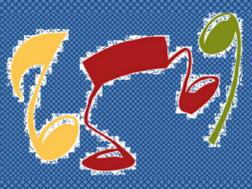
## JULY 2018

### July Events

Summer Sounds in  
Cedar Creek Park  
Friday, July 20  
6:30



- July 1: David Prodoehl  
double bass  
Tina Davis - piano
- July 8: Margaret Butler  
oboe  
Dan Dance - piano
- July 15: Guitar Sunday  
Joel and Rob
- July 22: Ed Wrathall  
soloist  
Dan Dance - piano
- July 29: Johnny Padilla  
saxophone  
Jordan Rattner  
guitar  
Dan Dance - piano



### Travelling Light



Jan and I are in the process of trying to “downsize.” Some of you have been there, and others of you are there right now. What do we need to keep and what is it we are willing to part with?

In 2005, we moved from Mapleton, MN (where we had been for 16 years) to Ottawa, KS. We shed some of our “stuff” then, but not enough. Then in June of 2016, we moved from Ottawa, KS (after almost 12 years) to Grafton, WI. And once again, we lightened our load quite a bit, but still not nearly enough. And as we anticipate another move, we once again find ourselves sorting and discussing and reminiscing and trying to determine what to keep and what to let go of.

It’s amazing how much “stuff” we are able to accumulate. And the baggage we carry with us from place to place can be material things and also spiritual/emotional/psychological baggage as well. How much do you and I really need to live a meaningful and fulfilling life? How much do we allow our possessions to define who we are? And is there baggage that we tend to haul around with us, throughout our days, that we need to let go of?

Jesus advised his disciples to travel light, when he sent them out to minister to others. It seems the more “stuff” we have, the more easily our stuff takes up our time, attention, and energy. The less “stuff” we have, the better able we are to focus ourselves on what matters the most. It is tough when we live in such a consumer driven culture to avoid being “seduced” by the siren-call of more. And the more things we have, the less focused we are able to be on the “things” that matter most (like faith, love, relationships, service, meaningful work, learning, etc. etc.)

It’s my hope and prayer that all of us could take some inventory of our lives (and our basements, attics, and storage spaces) and try and figure out what we need to keep and what we can let go of. Experts call it cleansing and it’s something that all of us need to do from time to time. Travel light.

I’ll look forward to seeing you in church on Sunday.

In Christ’s Love,  
Joel



# From Your Moderator

Dear Friends,

The warm winds of summer give us the opportunity to open the windows and let in some fresh approaches, new ideas, and renewed commitment to grow closer in our relationship with God. And that has me thinking deeply about the future of Ozaukee Congregational Church. Our pastoral search committee, led by Tim Nolan, is thrilled to recommend a new senior minister, Jeff Larson, to lead us forward after Joel finishes his wonderful interim assignment at the end of August. (Please see Tim's article about Jeff and his family.) As for our beloved Joel, we will find an opportunity in August to celebrate with him and Jan and thank them for their love and grace—stay tuned for details.

Regarding our future, I hope you will respond to the request of the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC), under the leadership of Dan Dedrick, to answer the question "Why does OCC exist? What is our primary purpose?" That topic is front and center in the discussions of the LRPC, and we would like all members to share your thinking on our mission as a church—an elevator story of sorts that we can use to talk with others in our community about what we offer. I love our covenant and believe it continues to stand the test of time. I view the covenant as a promise we make to God and each other of how we will live together as a church family. What the Long-Range Planning Committee is searching for is our congregation's highest statement about why we believe OCC exists.

Working together to align around our highest purpose as a church will enable us to develop our strategy to move forward with our new senior minister, and to make decisions that will help us grow and thrive for (at least) another 35 years. Please join me in a prayer of gratitude for the gift of our time with Joel and Jan, and in anticipation of the Larson family making their way to Wisconsin.

With hope and excitement,

Rebekah



## Joyous Journey Schedule

### Calendar of Family Activities

- **JULY:** Summer Splash Party
- **AUGUST:** Family Zoo Outing
- **SEPTEMBER:** Church Picnic/Sunday School Kick-off Game Day
- **OCTOBER/NOVEMBER:** Autumn Fest Movie & Pizza Party
- **DECEMBER:** Gingerbread House Craft Day, Christmas Joy activity, Movie & Pizza Party, Christmas Pageant
- **JANUARY:** Ice Skating Party
- **FEBRUARY/MARCH:** Project Linus Community Service Activity, Movie/Pizza Party
- **MARCH/APRIL:** Easter Egg Hunt,
- **APRIL:** Earth Day Environmental Awareness activity, Movie & Pizza Party
- **MAY:** Youth Sunday



**DON'T FORGET. . .SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL,** for ages Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

For more information or to find out how to get involved contact Leona at:

[ChildrensMinistry.OCCChurch@gmail.com](mailto:ChildrensMinistry.OCCChurch@gmail.com)

**summer  
sounds**  
MUSIC SERIES  
CEDAR CREEK PARK

Membership and Events will provide an event at the Cedarburg Summer Sounds in Cedar Creek park Friday July 20th at 6:30 pm. This is an outdoor event with live music. We will have a reserved area for OCC

with a tent and coolers. Bring your chairs and an appetizer or dessert to share. There is no fee! **Bring your friends!**

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**From the Trustees:**

The trustees of the church are responsible for the management of the church's finances, investments, leases, and property. 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 Endowment Fund principal is protected, but the interest, dividends, and capital appreciation may be used by the church to support operations, missions, and outreach. It is a fantastic way to leave your legacy and provide long-lasting financial support.

So, have you included the OCC Endowment Fund in your estate planning? If not, it is our request that you do so. This is one of those things that always seems to be "I'll get to that someday." And we are always surprised at how quickly the years pass by. Please take a day this week and make it the "someday." Until you do, nothing changes.

Do know that we are grateful for your support, and we look forward to the day when our endowment fund proceeds can bridge the gap of our ongoing operational funding needs or support external outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves.

**Pastoral Search Complete!**

I, and the rest of the Pastoral Search Committee, are thrilled to announce that our search is complete, and we are presenting a candidate to the membership for confirmation.



During the weekend of July 27, 28 & 29, we will be introducing Jeffrey Larson, and his wife Chandra, to the congregation. Jeff and Chandra are the parents of three beautiful young children, and currently live in the Dallas-Fort

Worth, Texas area. Jeff has been in the ministry for more than 20 years, and is originally from Canada. Chandra is also familiar with real winter weather, as she grew up in Iowa. He most recently served as an associate minister at a Southern Baptist church in Frisco, TX, but left that position when he grew increasingly uncomfortable with the doctrine he was expected to preach. He has since been looking for a calling more suitable, and was thrilled to learn of our "Faith Focused, Free Thinking" philosophy. Jeff and Chandra spent a weekend in our area earlier in June, including interviewing with the Search Committee and attending a Sunday service at our church. We feel very fortunate that they have agreed to pack up their family and move to Wisconsin. During the weekend they will be here at the end of July, we will be scheduling several "get to know you" events, hopefully allowing everyone the opportunity to get to know Jeff and Chandra. As per our tradition, the weekend will culminate Sunday morning, when Jeff will preach the sermon during our 9:30 a.m. service. That service will be immediately followed by a congregational meeting, where the assembled members of the church will vote on whether to call Jeffrey Larson as the next Senior Minister of Ozaukee Congregational Church. More information will be coming on the schedule of events for that weekend and on Jeff's qualifications. We then expect Jeff to be on board as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, with his first Sunday in the pulpit being Reunion Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. After meeting Jeff and Chandra, we hope that all of you will be as overjoyed as the Search Committee is. These are exciting times in the life of Ozaukee Congregational Church!

Tim Nolan, Chair,  
OCC Pastoral Search Committee.

## Youth Ministry Happenings

All activities are for those completing grades 5-12 unless otherwise noted.

### Irregular Summer Wednesdays

During the summer months, no two Wednesdays are quite alike, so we call them "irregular!" All activities are for kids completing grades 5-12 unless otherwise noted. Here's the July line-up...

July 2: Since the 4<sup>th</sup> of July falls on a Wednesday, we'll make this an irregular Monday! Come watch the CHS JV baseball team host Port, 5:30.

July 11: WCA Camp

July 18: Bowling at Circle B, 4 – approx. 5:30

July 25: Campfire behind OCC, 9-10pm

Aug. 1: Mini-Golf at Paradise Golf & Recreation in West Bend, 3 – approx... 4:30

### WCA Camp (grades 3-12): July 8-14

Seventeen kids from OCC, along with kids from other Congregational churches around the state, will gather at Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center, Sunday, July 8 through Saturday, July 14. And the 21-person camp staff will include nine OCC'ers. May the camp week be filled with faith and friendships, and may it be truly transformative for everyone involved.

### Congratulations, Graduates!

The whole congregation joins this year's graduating high school seniors and their families in celebrating their accomplishments!

Chloe Barsch	Shannon Brophy
Sarah Peksa	Robert Peterson
Angela Rehfeldt	Paula Scherer

And, we also rejoice with those who recently graduated from college!

Collin Murray	Jeremy Price
Lauren Rehfeldt	Kev Scherer
Bo Wilkinson	Dibet Wilkinson

### Volunteer Opportunities

Summer is a great time to volunteer in the community—and that goes for youth as well as adults! Contact Rob if you're interested in any of these opportunities:

#### Hope House food pantry

Third Saturday morning (July 21, Aug. 18)

#### Family Sharing

Fourth Monday evening (July 23, Aug. 27)

#### Read with Me at Next Door

Tuesday morning, July 31

## Outreach Opportunities

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

### "Pennies for Portal" – It's on!!!

Two large, transparent water bottles will be in Fellowship Hall all summer long—one for the guys' team; one for the ladies' team. Anyone can put in any U.S. currency into either bottle.

- Coins count as positive points; one cent = one point.
- Bills count as *negative* points; one dollar = -100 points.

At the end of August, the final tally will be taken. The losing team (guys or ladies) will be in charge of hosting a special coffee hour, with the winning team not lifting a finger! And ALL the money from both bottles will then go to Portal, Inc.—an amazing organization helping people with special needs in our area.

### Hope House food pantry: July 21, Aug 18

Contact Rob if you'd like to lend a hand in the pantry on any "third Saturday morning" of the month. The carpool leaves OCC at 9:20, returning about 12:40.

### Family Sharing: July 23, August 27

On the "fourth Monday" of the month, a team of OCC volunteers helps out at Family Sharing. Sometimes we sort food; sometimes we stock shelves in the pantry; sometimes we work with resale shop merchandise or displays. We gather at 5:15 at Family Sharing, and we wrap up at 7:00. Contact Rob to sign up!

### Benevolence Box Wish List

- Toiletries, incl. small sizes (Guest House)
- Plastic Sendik's bags (Hope House)
- Paper handle bags (Family Sharing)
- Empty laundry jugs (Family Sharing)

### Thank you, Jay & Peggy!

We thank Jay & Peggy Stutz for graciously hosting a visiting missionary at their home recently. They welcomed Rev. Elvis Sa Do, founder and leader of the Congregational Church of Myanmar, on June 9-10. Brother Sa Do preach at OCC on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Follow the Money

Transparency is good—especially when it comes to OCC's Benevolence funds. Here are the most recent disbursements from the 2018 Benevolence budget:

- \$750 to Balance, Inc.
- \$750 to the Greater Cedarburg Foundation
- \$750 to Mel's Charities
- \$1,000 The Congregational Church of Myanmar (Grace Children's Ministry program)
- \$750 World Vision, for Guatemala volcano relief

We thank those who, on an individual basis, made donations in support of Grace Children's Ministry when Rev. Elvis Sa Do was here on June 10. Those additional donations totaled \$2,550!