



OZAUKEE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH June 2016



June Events



**Begin 1 Service - 9:30
Sunday, May 29**



**Rev. Joel's First Day
in the Pulpit
Sunday, June 19**



**Father's Day
Ugliest Tie Contest
June 19**



**WELCOME PICNIC
for Pastor Joel
and Jan, Sunday,
June 26**



TIME TO SHARE THE OCC STORY

Last Sunday OCC welcomed our latest class of confirmands. Avery Bersell, Mia Keating, Garrett Murray, Adri Nelson, Julia Peksa and Kelly Peterson were duly recognized for their accomplishment of completing their confirmation training under the direction of Reverend Rob Fredrickson. And, as Rob so eloquently stated, this does not mark a completion as much as it should mark a beginning as these six young people assume full membership in our congregation.

That is the good news; the not so pleasant news is that next year I have been told we probably will not have a confirmation class. This is a reflection of what is happening in our membership. We are well represented in the above-fifty demographic but not very well in the under-fifty.

The Long Range Planning Committee identified, as one of the two initiatives it brought to the Church Council, the need to attract families with young children. At the direction of the Council, Nancy Wilkinson headed up an ad hoc committee, which presented its findings at our October council meeting. This was the same meeting that Jim McKenzie announced his retirement. Needless to say, the need to replace our minister took priority. With Joel Fredrikson scheduled to begin his term as our interim minister on June 15, the Council's number one priority will be addressing our need to attract families with young children.

One of the suggestions that Nancy's group made was to return to a 10:00 AM second service. The 10:30 start time made it difficult for parents to make Sunday afternoon activities that tend to start noon and later. So, we have made that change. We are also moving forward with a children's play structure. It is funded and in the planning stages so we should get it installed this year. This will provide a safe and fun area for our current youth as well as project an image that we are a welcoming place for children.

When Karl Schimpf preached he urged us to use this time as an opportunity to encourage new members. Last week June Burkeen and Sue Ann Walczak created a tutorial on what to do while ushering. The main purpose is to welcome any visitors and make sure they are recognized, welcomed and provided relevant information on who we are.

We have a lot to offer and we need to get the message out. We have a beautiful classroom space with incredible decoration, a dynamic Director of Christian Education in Diane Knapp, and Rob Fredrickson who does a terrific job of organizing activities with our Pilgrim Fellowship and college-aged young adults. And our credo is relevant to today's millennials. Taken from OCC's own "What is Congregationalism?" brochure, "Congregationalists are free to draw their own theological conclusions and to share them within an atmosphere of respect for diverse opinions. You might say we believe in diversity, respect, and theological humility." Granted these thoughts might seem a little too radical for some of our more conservative Christian brethren, but I believe it is attractive to a large segment of our society. We just need to get the message out, each and every one of us.

Dan Dedrick,
Moderator



IT'S PLANTING TIME!

When I first moved from Florida to Wisconsin, I was shocked to learn that I shouldn't plant any flowers until Memorial Day because of the possibility of a late frost. How strange? Then I remembered the Old Testament passage in Ecclesiastes 3 about everything having a season, " a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted."

This got me thinking about the seasons here at OCC. Over the last few months, we have journeyed through a season of transition and change. Just ahead lies a season of welcoming a new pastoral leader, Joel Fredrikson, and his wife, Jan.

Finally, we have been able to plant gardens in our yards and the seeds are taking root. Soon flowers will blossom forth and the summer season will surround us with new color and warmth.

But what about our "spiritual gardens?" Over the long winter months, have we allowed the rich soil of our faith to dry up and become hard? Are we reluctant to seek God's new direction for our lives? Individually, are you stuck and unable to move forward in deepening your faith in the living Christ and how He is calling you to serve His people?

Friends, it's planting time! There are lots and lots of seeds to be planted in our spiritual gardens. Seeds of trust, of love, of forgiveness and many more! If you're not sure where to start, consider planting the seed of HOPE.

Life is tough and without hope in Christ, it can be overwhelming. If you are struggling with failing health or addictive behavior in a close friend or escalating tension and anger in your family, planting some seeds of HOPE will help regenerate you and your spiritual garden.

A few seeds of HOPE, that planted in rich soil (your heart), nurtured with regular watering (daily prayer), fertilizer (weekly worship), and weeding (reading scripture-- recommend Psalm 23) will soon blossom into flowers of encouragement and plants of renewed energy.

Just in case you need some assistance with your spiritual gardening, please contact me (bjordan46@hotmail.com or home 262-242-2675) so we can talk about what your spiritual garden might look like. Happy Planting!

Pastor Barbara Jordan



It's been a great year with Joyous Journey. I'd like to thank all of the amazing kids and their parents for a wonderful year. After the truly amazing youth service the congregation can see

why it's a blessing to work with the children of the church. A big thank you to Pastor Rob and the volunteers who made it a special day. Thank you also to BOCE for all of their dedication and hard work!

Starting June 5 Summer Sunday School for K4-5th Grade



Be on the lookout for info on upcoming event: Almost Anything Goes Sports in June!

Come for a splash, Come for a plunge, Come for some Sunday Afternoon fun! *Date to be determined.*



Check out our BIG Thank-U Poster hanging on the Christian Ed Board. The list consists of any 2015-16 volunteers for the Joyous Journey program and Nursery. If you recognize any of the names posted make sure to tell these *V.I.P.*'s that their effort makes a *B.I.G. difference!* They have dedicated their precious time to help mold our children's future.

Sign Up to teach Summer Sunday School...it's super fun! See our sign-up sheet on the Sunday School/Children's Christian Education Board.

Nursery Care - Please Sign Up to help
The Nursery will continue to offer care throughout the summer, so please sign up to help when you are able.



Happy Summer Vacation!
Diane Knapp



JUNE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Please save Thursday, June 23rd for our Annual Luncheon on the beautiful patio of Jean Johnson. Once again we will gather at 11:30 and share our

salad, beverage and dessert contributions. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to indicate what you will be bringing. Then hope for sunshine and a perfect day!!! Call Jean at 242-5069 or Sally Prodoehl at 242-4945 if you have questions.

WELCOME PICNIC JUNE 26TH

Plan to join the Board of Membership and Events for fun, fellowship and friendship at the welcome picnic for our interim minister, Joel Fredrikson and his wife, Jan following the service on Sunday, June 26th. Brats, hot dogs, chips and beverages are provided by the Board. Those attending are asked to contribute a dessert, hot dish or salad. The sign-up sheet is located on the table to the right of the white board in Fellowship Hall. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, June 19th. If you cannot be at services to sign up and would like to attend, contact Mary Campbell at 262-339-8984 indicating your name, how many are attending, and what type of dish you would like to contribute. Save the date and come and celebrate OCC's next chapter! Family and friends are welcome!



Mary Campbell, Chair
Board of Membership and Events



JUNE THROUGH AUGUST

The office will be open for business Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 4:30. Emails are forwarded to my home and I have access to the answering machine wherever I am, SO. . . I will always be checking up on you! If you need anything, please let me know.

Kay

SUMMER SUNDAY SIGN-UP:

Stay involved with OCC during the summer by signing up to serve the church in the following capacity: greeter/usher, liturgist, coffee hour host, nursery helper, acolyte. Check out the sign-up white board located in Fellowship Hall for open slots which are indicated by the brightly colored sticky notes. Remove the note, write in your name on the white board and take the sticky note home with you as a reminder. Contact the sign-up coordinator, Mary Campbell (marycampbell@wi.rr.com or 262-339-8984) if you have questions as to what each duty entails. This is a great way for youth and adult members to donate your time and talents to the church!



Thank you to everyone who helped on Saturday, May 21 for our spring work day.

OCC is looking to improve our courtyard planting beds. In particular, we are hoping to engage a Boy Scout who would like to complete his Eagle Scout rank. Please contact Dan Dedrick at dedrick83@gmail.com or Lori Read at lrgardn@wi.rr.com if you know of a candidate.



June 5 Laura Snyder & Jenny Snyder Kozoroz

June 12 Johnny Padilla and Clay Schaub

June 19 OCC Choir

June 26 Margaret Butler



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Did You Know???

(from your Board of Trustees)

????Did you know you can elect a cost free monthly withdrawal for your 2016 Pledge? For more information, please contact the Church Office at 262-377-3938, or email Dick Dieffenbach at dick@dieffenbach.com

JUNE 1 FINALE FOR CHILL-N-CHAT & PF

The final Chill-n-Chat of the school year is set for Wednesday, June 1, 3:00-4:30 at the Chocolate Factory. That evening, we'll have our final Pilgrim Fellowship ("PF") meeting of the year, 7:00-8:30 in Fellowship Hall. If you're in grades 6-12, don't miss this "finale" day of the youth ministry year!

CONGRATULATIONS, CONFIRMANDS!

OCC is thrilled to welcome into full-fledged membership the Confirmation Class of 2016:

Avery Bersell	Mia Keating
Garrett Murray	Adri Nelson
Julia Peksa	Kelly Peterson

A TERRIFIC YOUTH SUNDAY

A huge "thank you!" to all the Joyous Journey children and MP3 youth who teamed up to lead a terrific Youth Sunday service on May 22. The worship hour focused on the power of prayer, and featured the musical, dramatic, and oratorical talents of many OCC kids.

IRREGULAR SUMMER WEDNESDAYS

START JUNE 15

During the summer, no two Wednesdays are quite alike! Here's a preview of what's coming up for the first few Wednesdays of our summer season:

- June 15: Mini-golf at Paradise (West Bend), 1:30-3
- June 22: Hosanna Mission Trip
- June 29: Bowling at Circle B, 4-5:30
- July 6: Disc Golf at Lime Kiln, 1:30-3
- July 13: WCA Camp

WCA CAMP: JULY 10-16

So many kids consider WCA Camp to be the absolute greatest week of the entire summer! Again this year, we'll be at beautiful Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center (near Wautoma). Campers range from third grade through twelfth grade. Many campers, and many staffers, are from OCC. It's not too late to sign up! All the info and forms can be downloaded at wiscongregational.net/youth. Contact Rob with any questions.



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

REV. ELVIS SA DO AT OCC JUNE 5

Our dear friend and Myanmar missionary is scheduled to be here on Sunday, June 5. Don't miss worship that day—9:30!

BENEVOLENCE BOX WISH LIST

For the first half of the summer, the wooden box in Fellowship Hall is the place for...

- New or gently used children's books
- Toiletries/personal care items (hotel sizes are great!)
- Red plastic Sendik's bags
- The new heavier-duty Walgreen's bags
- Paper handle bags from any store
- Empty plastic laundry detergent jugs

CAN YOU HELP AT HOPE HOUSE?

OCC volunteers help out in the food pantry at Hope House on the third Saturday morning of each month. More helping hands are needed for our summer dates: June 18, July 16, and August 20.

FAMILY SHARING NIGHTS

OCC volunteers help out at Family Sharing on the fourth Monday evening of the month, 5:30-7:00. Advance sign up is important, as the Family Sharing staff have to plan projects based on our number of volunteers. So, if you can lend a hand on June 27, July 25, or August 29, be sure to contact Rob!

READ WITH ME: AUGUST 2

Spend the morning of Tuesday, August 2 reading with joyful, playful young kids in Next Door's children's library. We're looking for fourteen volunteers—*adults and youth* are welcome!

"BRUNCHEON" RAISES \$555

The May 1 Dr. Seuss-themed "Green Eggs & Ham Bruncheon" featured appetizers and finger-food made by OCC members, with a free-will offering going to support Next Door's early childhood programs. That offering totaled \$555! Many thanks to all who prepared and donated platters of tasty items, and to all who contributed to the offering!



Who Is My Neighbor?