



# OZAUKEE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## June 2017



### June Events

Begin 1 Service  
Sunday, May 28  
9:30



### FATHER'S DAY



Sunday, June 18



### Summer Music

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <u>June 4</u>  | Anderson/Burie<br>Blue Grass Duo                 |
| <u>June 11</u> | Mequmi Kanda &<br>Mom from Japan<br>Accompanying |
| <u>June 18</u> | Michael Wininski's<br>Magical Piano              |
| <u>June 25</u> | Marie Sander,<br>Flute                           |

### ***"What's Your Story?"***



One of the great gifts that some people are blessed with is the gift of storytelling. A good storyteller draws us into a world of wonder, possibility, drama, new insights and understandings. Some stories come out of a fruitful imagination – made up as we go along, and some stories are rooted in real events, places, people, facts. Good

storytellers are good because there is a universality to the stories they tell – their stories have elements in them that we can all relate to.

Jesus was probably the greatest storyteller ever. Mark Twain, Stephen King, Garrison Keillor, George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, August Wilson, William Shakespeare – the list of good storytellers goes on and on and on.

And the wonderful thing about us humans, is that every one of us is a living, breathing, ever evolving story. None of us has exactly the same story – we have some similar elements – but none of us are exactly alike, and that's the richness and the beauty of us – our stories.

And our stories have lots of layers. There's the story of your family of origin, and all the stories of all the generations leading up to that story. There's the story of the family you and I are part of now. There's a story about the business you're in and the people you work with. There's the story of the nation we belong to and how that has evolved and is still evolving. There are stories about the towns we live in now and the towns we all "came from." And there are stories about Ozaukee Congregational Church and how we've gotten to where we are today and where we will be going in the months and years ahead.

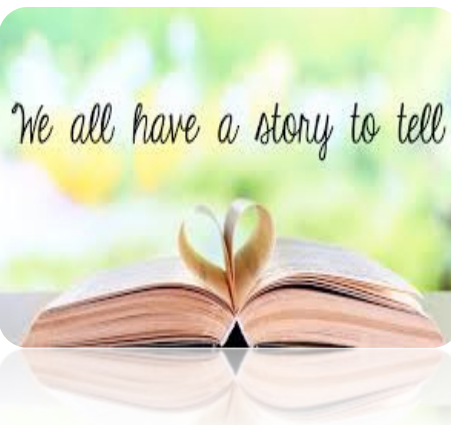
And the most amazing part of all of our stories at all of the various levels is that we are, every one of us, part of the story that God is creating in us and all around us.

God's word, the Bible, is a love story about our God and God's people – us. And in some ways the crux of our faith is being able to see our stories in God's story. God is the larger context and plot in which our stories find themselves. It's pretty amazing to think that this unfolding drama that God continues to create includes all of us.

One of the reasons I love what I do is because I have come to value and appreciate the fact that everybody has a story. And the more clearly we know and understand one another's stories, the better able we are to "love one another, even as He loves us."

I'll look forward to seeing you in church  
on Sunday - (There may be a story or 2)

In Christ's Love,  
Joel



# From Your Moderator

## WCA Meeting Highlights

**Rob** Fredrickson, Rebekah Barsch and I had the privilege to attend the Wisconsin Congregational Association Annual Meeting, April 27 and 28. It was an excellent meeting put on by the WCA board and was graciously hosted by North Shore Congregational Church. Tim Roberts, the senior pastor at Stuart (FL) Congregational Church, provided a dynamic presentation on the state of Christianity, challenges facing the Church and what his thoughts are on how we can spread the word of Jesus. He knows from whence he speaks because he has led a church from being a New England snowbird place of worship to one that is pluralistic and representative of the diverse demographic that exists in the Stuart community. He did this by being adaptive and embracing change. He used the phrase "Bless & Add". At the time of Tim's hiring, Stuart CC only provided traditional services. This he "blessed" for it provided meaningful worship for the membership and, within the context of who they were, the congregation was both vibrant and worshipful. However, he also saw a need to reach out to the greater community. One of the first things he initiated was to provide a contemporary service. A special time was created following the traditional Sunday services at a site on their campus outside of the main chapel. By doing this he was able to "bless" the traditional and "add" the contemporary. On an interesting side note, he discovered that many of the senior congregants, who previously had not been exposed to contemporary worship services, have ended up preferring them over the traditional. By the way the membership at Stuart Congregational Church, has not only evolved into a more diverse demographic, but has also grown from about 1500 to 2000 members as a result.

**Tim** emphasized that churches need to identify the "elephants in the room" as well as to make sure we clearly state our goals. During a breakout session, Rob, Rebekah and I discussed our "elephant" which we said was how to attract families with young children, which, if you have attended OCC in the last 3 or 4 years should come as no surprise. In our discussion, it was said that, if we didn't succeed in this, we, as a church, faced extinction. Yes, like the dinosaurs we will adapt or else. But then we thought that sounded self-serving. It is not about preserving a church but should be about spreading the Congregationalism approach to living as Christians.

**We** are Congregationalists because we embrace the self-governing concept and a worship environment, which accepts "theological differences within an atmosphere of respect for diverse opinions". This should be central to our goal as a Christian community. The world needs to know more about how we offer a viable alternative to traditional, dogmatic Christianity. After all, it has worked pretty well for over 400 years and has been pivotal in helping shape this great nation of ours. Think this might be over-stated? Think about the influence Congregationalists like John Adams had in the development of our democracy. And how about some of the universities and colleges that our faith founded: Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Williams, Bowdoin, Middlebury, Amherst, Carleton, Lawrence, Beloit, Ripon, and Grinnell to name a few. We have a story to tell and it should be incumbent to anyone who believes this to get the word out. It is not about OCC or even Congregationalism really; it is about reaching out to the greater community we live in and helping people accept Christ into their lives. As we seek how to accomplish this, it will mean we must adapt and embrace change, while continuing to "bless" what we know is already working well for our congregation.

*Dan Dedrick*, Moderator



*Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

This summer it's a juicy Joyous Journey as we explore—and enjoy—the

### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!



What does an orange have to do with our faith in God and Jesus?

What does a lemon have to do with self-control?



What about grapes and gentleness?

And what does a strawberry have to do with LOVE?



OCC kids will be able to tell you by the end of the summer! Join Joyous Journey and David on Sunday mornings this summer (beginning June 4) as we explore—and enjoy!—the Fruit of the Spirit!



## INVITE A FRIEND





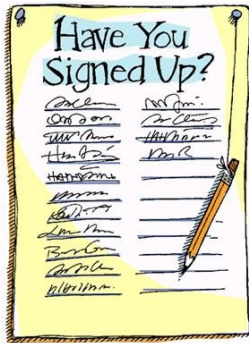
## Women's Fellowship June Outing

Once again Jean Johnson has offered her gorgeous patio to us for a potluck lunch. This has become one of the Women's Fellowship favorite events. Don't forget to put **Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 AM** on your calendar. A signup sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall. Please choose a salad entrée, a side salad, bread or rolls, a beverage or a dessert.

*Hope to see you there!*



## Sunday Sign-Up



We are trying a new format for Sunday sign-up opportunities for the next 7 months (June through December). You will find separate sign-up sheets for greeter/usher, coffee hour host, liturgist and acolyte posted on the whiteboard in

Fellowship Hall. Each sheet includes a brief description detailing what is required to perform that duty. We encourage you to look over your calendars and choose one summer service date and one fall/winter service date to sign up for one or more of these opportunities. Simply write your name(s) in the open slot and mark it down on your personal calendar. Kay will send a reminder to you the week prior to your commitment. Thank you for volunteering your service to our church community!

Mary Campbell and Patti Desrosier  
Board of Deacons



PS: There is urgent need for all service dates in **June**. Please consider helping out this month if you are available.



## Ozaukee Congregational Church April 2017 YTD Financial Summary for OCC operating Account

	4 Months 2017		Actual
	Actual	Budget	2016
Receipts - Pledges	\$107,242	\$121,500	\$116,353
Plate Collections	3,535	6,630	5,624
Total Cash Received	110,777	128,130	121,977
Disbursements	(95,227)	(105,337)	(76,035)
	\$15,550	\$22,793	\$45,942
Net Negative Variance 5/6 2017 (\$7,243)			

Bring a guest (prospective new member) to a service.  
Consider a bequest to OCC in your estate planning.

Questions, please contact:  
Dick Dieffenbach, Treasurer

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I extend my grateful thanks to the OCC congregation. Your generous and everlasting support of our choir has made my position as its leader one of great joy! We have continued to grow from a rather "motley crew" of about 8 people in 1982 to our present FAR less "motley" bunch. It is you who have encouraged us along the way, have allowed us to augment with orchestral instruments, have seemingly approved of our anthem selections, and you have blessed us in countless ways. The song, "How Lucky Can One Girl Be?" comes to my mind as another choir season has ended. I thank you with my heart and soul, Sally Prodoeh!!!



**JUNE THROUGH AUGUST**  
The office will be open for business **Tuesday 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. Have a super summer!

Kay

## Youth Ministry Happenings

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

### “IRREGULAR” SUMMER WEDNESDAYS

In the summer months, no two Wednesdays are quite alike! Here's what's planned for June:

- 7<sup>th</sup> → Seniors' Brunch (for graduating 12<sup>th</sup> graders), 11am at Chuck's Place in Thiensville
- 14<sup>th</sup> → Campfire behind OCC, 8-9pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> → Hosanna Mission Trip
- 28<sup>th</sup> → Mini-golf at Paradise in West Bend, 3-4:30pm

### BOOK SORTING: MON., JUNE 12

With school out for summer, we'll leave the Cedarburg area at 1pm. After a couple hours of sorting, and a Kopp's stop for custard, we'll be back about 4:30. *As of this writing, one spot remains open in Rob's car. Call or text him to claim it: 414-688-8991.*

### HOSANNA MISSION TRIP: JUNE 17-24

## Mission Trip



Twelve youth and six adults from OCC will join forces with a similarly sized group from North Shore Congregational. This year, we'll be journeying to Richwood,

WV to do flood relief work. Please pray for the team's safe travels, fruitful service, and meaningful adventures—and look for slides and stories of the trip during worship on July 30.

### WCA CAMP: JULY 9-15

Twenty OCC kids are already signed up, along with about three dozen from other Congregational churches around the state. And OCC will be very well represented among the camp staffers, too. If you're finishing up grades 3-12, and have not yet registered for camp, there's still a bit of time! You can learn all about camp, register, and pay—all online. Your starting point is [wiscongregational.net/camp](http://wiscongregational.net/camp).



## Outreach Opportunities

Questions? Want to sign up? Contact Rob at [rcf474@gmail.com](mailto:rcf474@gmail.com) or 414-688-8991.

### REV. ELVIS SA DO AT OCC JUNE 11

After an unexpected delay in the visa process, the way is finally clear for our brother from Myanmar to return to OCC's pulpit on June 11. Don't miss worship that day, 9:30!

### READ WITH ME: JULY 25 & AUG. 15

We need to be at Next Door in Milwaukee shortly before 9:00, so the carpool will leave OCC at 8:20. The kids will visit the library in four half-hour groupings. We'll read aloud with them, one on one, and help them pick out books to take home. We'll finish at 11:00, and should be back at OCC about 11:30. There are only 5-6 spots available for each of the two dates, so don't delay. Sign up with Rob today!

### HOPE HOUSE: SAT., JUNE 17

The carpool leaves OCC at 9:20 sharp, returning about 12:40. We sort, stock, and serve as "personal shoppers" in the food pantry. During the summer months, our ranks get a little thinner, so we could use some extra helping hands for **June 17, July 15,** and/or **August 19**. Contact Rob to sign up!

### FAMILY SHARING: MON., JUNE 26

We start gathering at Family Sharing about 5:15. By 5:30, we've been given our instructions, and we're diving into work projects! We wrap up at 7:00. Contact Rob to sign up **June 26, July 24,** and/or **August 28**.

### MEXICO MISSION TRIP: CHRISTMAS BREAK!

Money for airfare will be due early next month, so decision time is basically now. High school and college students, and able-bodied adults, are encouraged to pursue this adventure. Questions? Talk to Rob!



### BENEVOLENCE BOX UPDATE

During the month of June, please consider leaving new flip-flops, new or gently used towels, and bottles of sunblock in the wooden Benevolence Box in Fellowship Hall. Many kids in southeastern Wisconsin lack these seasonal basics, and we aim to help brighten their summer! Please also continue to bring in plastic Sendik's bags, paper handle bags, and empty laundry jugs. These no-cost items are very valuable at Hope House and Family Sharing!