



OZAUKEE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

November 2016



November Events



Sunday, November 6



Gospel-Spiritual
Sing-Along

Sunday, November 13
7:00



Thanksgiving Service
Thursday, Nov. 24
10:00



Sunday, Nov. 27
First Sunday of Advent
(No 8:30 Service)



Celebrate life

What a Wonderful Team



CELEBRATE LIFE

In every organization, there is a reciprocal relationship between the people who work in that organization and the "clients" or "customers" who are part of the organization. In a school building, the staff affects and influences the lives of the kids, and the kids affect and influence the lives of the staff – it is a partnership.

The same is true of the Church. Here at OCC, God has brought together a wonderful team of staff people to minister with you. (I'm talking about the folks who were already here when I arrived among you in June.) You are blessed to have such a wonderful group of people serving here and they are blessed to have such a supportive and dedicated Family to serve.

The Apostle Paul often talks about "the varieties of gifts" within the church, "but it is the same Spirit working in us and among us." That definitely is true here. And God has called together very distinct personalities, with different backgrounds, different faith journeys, different perspectives, and different sensibilities. And in the wonder and mystery of God's grace, they form a magnificent team serving Christ and all God's people in this place at this time.

Over the years, I've been in and around a lot of different church staff configurations and I must say, this is indeed a wonderful team that the Lord has brought together.

And as the Congregation, you are an integral part of the team that God has formed in this place. Without people in the Church volunteering to serve, the Church would cease to exist. So, as a staff, we are blessed and grateful for all of you who so faithfully and joyously fulfill all of the volunteer spots that exist to help keep the Church strong. Thank you and bless you for all you do.

As we all continue to navigate this transitional time, it's my hope and prayer that we will continue to pray for one another, support one another, encourage one another, and challenge one another. The Spirit of God is definitely moving in the midst of this congregation right now and we all need to discern together where the Lord is leading us.

I am blessed and excited to be able to walk with you at this point in your journey. And I am incredibly grateful to be a part of such a marvelous team. You are all continually in my prayers and I give thanks for each and every one of you.

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

In Christ's Love,
Joel



Our Church
Team

From Your Moderator

TILLING THE SOIL

On Sunday October 9, we had a Congregational meeting to provide the results of the survey conducted by the Senior Minister Search Committee this past spring, to explain the interim process and to solicit people to serve on a Transitional Steering Committee.

Senior Minister Search Committee Chair Tim Nolan and his committee did a great job capturing the results and presenting them in a manner that provided the congregation a good overview. My takeaways were that most people are optimistic about OCC's future, although there is some concern given the situation we are in. Most people like the music and order of service and most believe that one of our biggest challenges is the need to grow the church especially in the direction of adding families with young children. One thing that was interesting but not surprising is that we have a fair amount of divergence within our church, which should not be viewed as a negative, but rather as a positive. As it is written in the brochure co-authored by the Reverends Jim McKenzie and Rob Fredrickson entitled, "What is Congregationalism":

"Congregationalists are free to draw their own theological conclusions and to share them within an atmosphere of respect for diverse opinions."

Regarding the interim process, Pastor Joel explained that studies have shown that churches that utilize this approach after the loss of a long term and beloved minister like Reverend Jim, have a much greater percentage of success in managing the transition from the past to the future senior minister. Regarding his own situation and in response to a number of suggestions that he could be the next senior minister, Pastor Joel explained that it is not in accordance with the covenant (contract) he has with OCC. Also, Joel referenced wisdom, backed by statistical evidence, that this is not best for the long-term health of the church. His job as he sees it is to facilitate the transition, involving as much as possible the church membership, so that we take advantage of the opportunity God has presented us and use it to make us not only better prepared for our next chapter, but also to become a church which is more aware of who we are and who we want to be. Rebekah Barsch put it best when she said Joel's role is to "prepare the soil" in a manner so that when we call our next minister, our chances for a "successful harvest" are greatly enhanced.

Joel has begun a Bible study, which is being run in 6 one-hour sessions, to facilitate discussion relevant to our situation, using stories from the Bible to stimulate thought and provide guidance. The purpose is to provide better self-awareness of who we are through the sharing of ideas, beliefs and thoughts of the participants. We have had two sessions so far and so far, so good. The thought process is to offer more opportunities for this program at times convenient to those of you who are still working fulltime.

Dan Dedrick,
Moderator



Joyous Journey invites you this month to travel with Abraham!



- Play Star Jeopardy! Collect as many stars as you can as we learn the story of Abraham and Sarah and how their life was led and transformed by a great faith.
- Reach for the Stars! God promised Abraham as many descendants as there were stars in the sky. We will be making "star" ornaments to remind us of the power of God's promises.
- Test Your Faith! Abraham was able to show an amazing trust in God. Fun trust games will reveal our ability to trust. How strong is our faith in God?
- Share our faith! Part of having faith is being willing to share it with others. We will be working on a special gift for others. Don't miss out!



An Old-fashioned **Gospel-Spiritual Sing-Along!**



Led by vocalist **Laura Snyder**
and pianist **Michael Wininsky**

Sunday evening, **November 13**
7pm, in OCC's sanctuary

*Bring a friend or two!
The more, the merrier!*



**NOVEMBER
OCC WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP**
Holiday Market -
American Club in
Kohler, WI
Friday, November 18

Delight in the holiday tradition of the Annual Holiday Market at the American Club in Kohler. Browse and shop vendors from across the Midwest as they present holiday decorations, clothing, and accessories for women and children, handmade toys, sweets, and other food items. This event offers unique decorations for your home, as well as wonderful gifts to make the holidays special.

Location: Conference Level of the American Club.

Admission: \$6.00.

Lunch: Blackwolf Run Restaurant/Kohler We'll leave from the church parking lot promptly at 9 a.m. Please sign up as soon as possible on the sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Questions/Concerns? Contact Sue Ann Walczak (262-442-8365) or Sally Prodoehl (262-242-4945).



**BOARD OF MEMBERSHIP
AND EVENTS:
Upcoming Winter Events:**

- December 4th and 11th: Holiday Craft and Bake Sale. Baked goods and crafts available for sale in Fellowship Hall following the 10 AM service. Proceeds from the sales are utilized to fund the OCC Annual Christmas Party. Contributions of baked goods needed for both services. Watch for a sign-up sheet to be posted in early November. Also, if you are a crafter and are willing to donate items for sale, please contact Sonja Coster or Mary Campbell.



- January 14th: Save the date for the OCC Annual Christmas Party. Location and time TBD. Watch for a sign-up sheet in mid-December.



CAMPAIGN

Watch for your 2017 stewardship envelope! In order to get back to our 2015 level of giving, we'll need everyone's consideration. If you are one of a number of givers who did not formerly pledge this year, please complete a non-binding pledge card for 2017.

**MacCanon Brown Homeless
Sanctuary Meal Program**

On October 7, seventeen people from Ozaukee Congregational Church prepared and/or helped serve food for over one hundred people at the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary meal program. The program, located at Locust and 18th Street in Milwaukee, is held each Friday afternoon. Thanks to all who participated in this much-needed ministry: Abby Gventer, Mia Keating, Julia Peska, Cindy Helm, Pat Hillman, Jean Johnson, Pat Johnson, Sue Lundsten, Mimi Mead, Jan Fredrickson, Carolyn Herem, Ginny Klatt, Donna Parshalle, Betty Ollerman, Nancy McGiveran, Rob Fredrickson, Beulah Erickson.



Dear friends,

Allow me to convey my surprise and my deep appreciation for the outpouring of love on Sunday, October 2, in recognition of my 50th birthday on October 3. The singing at the start of worship; the balloons; the cookies; the "Warning: Senior Moment in Progress" coffee mug; the various other little "age-related" gifts; and the fifty gift cards, donated by many of you, to places like Starbucks, Fiddlehead's, Chocolate Factory, and Sal's—it was all quite overwhelming and humbling.

Thank you, one and all! While I hesitate to identify anyone in particular in what appears to have been a vast web of secrecy, my investigation into this covert operation has turned up evidence suggesting that the lead conspirators included Patti Desrosier, Karen Gventer, Leona Nelson, and Sue Ann Walczak. Special thanks to them...not just for the birthday festivities, but for the many, many ways they each go above and beyond the call of duty to serve OCC and the wider community.

I certainly feel blessed to be a part of OCC—such a wonderful, faithful, caring, and supportive bunch of people. I'll never forget my birthday "L" (Roman numeral). If we're all still around as I approach birthday "C," I'll be on the lookout for signs of another shadowy conspiracy!

With great gratitude,

Rob

Youth Ministry Happenings

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

SUNDAY MP3 PROGRAM

Praise • Prayer • Proclamation

Nov. 6, 13, & 20, 10-11a in Fellowship Hall
(No MP3 on the 27th)

CHILL-N-CHAT LOCATIONS

Casual conversation + trivia

Wednesdays, 3-4:30

Nov. 2 Chocolate Factory

Nov. 9 Sal's Pizza

Nov. 16 Chocolate Factory

Nov. 23 *No Chill-n-Chat*

Nov. 30 Sal's Pizza



PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP ("PF")

Snax, devotions, discussions, & games

Two Wednesdays per month, 7-8:30p
in Fellowship Hall

Nov. 2 & 16 • Dec. 7 & 21



WCA FALL YOUTH RETREAT AT OCC: NOV. 4-5

OCC will host the WCA Fall

Youth Retreat on Fri.-Sat., Nov. 4-5. Youth and counselors from around the state will meet at OCC for games, worship, discussions, and other activities. Special thanks to **Patti Desrosier** and **Becky Fetterolf**, who are our dynamic duo on breakfast preparation!

BOOK SORTING: MON., NOV. 14

As of this writing, two of the four seats in Rob's car remain open. Call or text him at 414-688-8991 to reserve your spot! As always, he'll pick up kids at CHS/CPAC at 2:45. We'll be on-site at Next Door ~3:30-5:30. After a Kopp's stop for dinner, we'll get you home ~7:00.

THREE CHEERS FOR OUR YOUTH!

The young people of OCC do far more in the community than many realize. For example, **Abby Gventer**, **Dylan Mentzer**, **Willie Moran**, and **Robert Peterson** contributed their youthful energy and muscle power at Family Sharing on September 26. Abby, plus **Mia Keating** and **Julia Peksa**, helped serve dinner for over 100 with the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary on October 7. Abby, along with **Sarah Peksa** and **Jimmy Radtke**, sorted donated books at Next Door on October 10. And **Sam Strohl**, along with Abby, was part of the food sorting team at Family Sharing on October 24.

utreach opportunities

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

BELL RINGING SIGN-UPS BEGIN

Again this holiday season, OCC will take the lead for the Grafton-Shopko site in the Salvation Army's "Red Kettle Campaign." Sign up in coffee hour to ring for a two-hour shift, or contact **Peggy Anderson** at 262-613-3333.



ADULT-SIZED "WINTER WEAR"

Through November 27, the wooden Benevolence Box in Fellowship Hall is the place for your donations of new or gently used adult-sized winter wear—coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. These items will be donated to **Hope House** in Milwaukee and **Family Sharing** in Grafton. (Even during this winter wear drive, you can continue to leave "always needed" items like toiletries, plastic Sendik's bags, paper handle bags, and empty laundry jugs in or around the Benevolence Box.)

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ADVOCATES

Continuing an OCC holiday tradition, we'll aim to provide a wide range of toys and other Christmas gifts for the women and children at Advocates of Ozaukee County. Look for the wish lists in Fellowship Hall, and sign up to buy one or more specific gifts. Please be sure to return those gifts to Fellowship Hall, *unwrapped*, no later than Sunday, **Dec. 4**.

HOPE HOUSE: NOV. 19

Contact Rob to sign up to help in the food pantry on that Saturday morning. The carpool leaves OCC at 9:20 sharp, returning about 12:40. You can also sign up for Dec. 17 if you like!

FAMILY SHARING: NOV. 28

Rob is taking sign-ups for the November 28 team. That evening, we'll volunteer at Family Sharing from 5:30 till 7:00. (Looking ahead, we'll take a break in December, as the fourth Monday is the day after Christmas.) Meanwhile, your Benevolence Board has designated Family Sharing as the recipient organization of this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**. Please look for the special envelopes in the worship bulletins on Nov. 13, 20, and 24 (Thanksgiving Day). 100% of everything given in those envelopes will go to Family Sharing.



FUNDS RAISED FOR UNICEF

Our October 23 "Treats for Eats" event was a success, raising \$424.00 for UNICEF. Many thanks to all who prepared and brought desserts to share, and to all who made monetary donations in the plexiglass box. 100% of the money raised is being sent to UNICEF to help provide nutritious "eats" for kids in need around the world.

