

JANUARY 2020

Newsletter

News & updates from our church for our community

Life and the Love of God in 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

REMINDERS

[Sign up to host Coffee & Conversation or Sunday Flowers](#)

[Find the recording of Lessons & Carols on YouTube](#)

 [CLICK HERE](#)

I suppose some of you have a list of new year's resolutions, or a list of goals for 2020 and that's great! Resolutions are good things; goals are helpful. Making a commitment to accomplish certain things leads us into the year with optimism. We want to live with confidence and expectancy at what is to come. We work toward things with determination. It is a new year, a new beginning, and we are excited for all that lay ahead!

And yet, we acknowledge the difficulties in life. Life is not perfect. 2020 will undoubtedly include hardships, and in many ways, it will mirror 2019. The routine of life moves forward day-by-day, through satisfaction and frustration, achievement and failure, joy and sorrow. It is a new year, and we face life and its wanderings much as we did last year.

However, the one constant is God's love for us in Jesus. The one thing that never changes is the unconditional, unlimited, and unending love of God for each one of us. The Scripture says Jesus is the same "yesterday, today, and forever." It tells us the "word of the Lord endures forever" and reminds us that "nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In 2020, I hope the knowledge of God's love will enable you to stick to your commitment to accomplish the goals you have set. I pray it will produce in you confidence and optimism as you begin the new year. I hope it will be the bedrock that motivates your work in the world and fuels your determination and excitement. God is with you and He is for you!

And I pray the love of God will sustain you when failures happen, or when your confidence wanes. I pray it will strengthen you in the face of hardship and bolster your resolve when frustration arises. I pray the love of God will remind you that you are more than the summation of your achievements and failures. You are an important, special, valuable, significant, worthwhile person because the God of the universe made you, loves you, and is in life with you the same in 2020 as He was in 2019.

Happy New Year!

Jeff

From Your Moderator

WELCOME TO A NEW DECADE!

Can you believe it? It seems like yesterday that we were all concerned about the pending failure of the turn to a new century and the “ Y2K bug/crash,” but that was 20 years ago! Here we go into a new decade and a new year. Starting fresh.

As I reflect on 2019 and plan for 2020 I think about whether or not I should make some New Years resolutions. It seems that so many people (me included) make resolutions and then somewhere along the way these go by the wayside and there is a feeling of failure. Maybe we make BIG resolutions that are too much to take on...is it a failure in planning?

It may make more sense to think small and mighty. What if we all decided to do small but meaningful things, or say small but important things to and for others? Ideas could be: open a door for someone, say hello to a stranger, smile at someone you pass, let someone else go ahead of you in the grocery line, give your seat up for someone who doesn't have one, pay for the person behind you in the drive thru, carry someone's groceries to their car, shovel the neighbors walk, walk the elderly neighbor's dog, or call an old friend you haven't talked to in a while. They seem like such small, simple gestures, but think about what a loving world we would have if everyone started to concentrate on doing tiny little things. It might catch on and cause a chain reaction. Let's give it try! “It's the little things in life!”

I wish all of you a wonderful, happy, healthy New Year and new decade.

See you in the next decade,

Stacey



2019 Lessons & Carols on YouTube

Click [HERE](#) or search Ozaukee Congregational Church on YouTube to find the 2019 Lessons & Carols from December 8th. Thanks to Sally, Lori, the OCC Choir, and MSO members for a wonderful performance!



From Your 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 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.



The Bake Sale was a Huge Success!

Thank you to everyone who donated and/or purchased items at our annual bake and craft sale held in December. The proceeds will help cover the costs of our Christmas Party, which will be held at Fire Ridge Golf Club on Saturday, January 11. We hope to see you all there!

Joyous Journey

Thanks to all who joined us on December 22 for our OCC Kids' Christmas Pageant! It was a great morning! (Look for it on YouTube soon.) Thank you to Emelia and Eli for their direction and for leading our kids from Sunday to Sunday. We are looking forward to a great 2020!

Sign up in Fellowship Hall!

We still have many openings in January for Coffee & Conversation hosts and Sunday Flowers. Sign up sheets are in Fellowship Hall.

Happenings

Annual Christmas Party

SATURDAY, JAN. 11TH @ 5:30PM

The Board of Membership is again sponsoring OCC's Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, January 11 at Fire Ridge Golf Club in Grafton from 5:30 to 8:30pm.

Social hour begins at 5:30pm and hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served at 6:30pm, followed by door prize drawings (you must be present to win!). A cash bar and valet parking will be available throughout the evening.

This event is open to all adult members and friends of OCC, and there is no cost to attend. Please remember to sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall if you will be joining in the festivities. We look forward to spreading some holiday cheer with all of you!

Women's Fellowship Outing

THURSDAY JAN. 16TH @ NOON

We'll be meeting for lunch at St. Paul Fish Company in Mequon. There are no plans for "formal shopping" beforehand, just lunch in the side room!

Sheepshead

FRIDAY, JAN. 10TH @ 7-9PM

Want to join in the action? Contact Rob to sign up!

Midweek Bible Study

TUESDAYS @ 7-8:15PM IN THE YOUTH ROOM

WEDNESDAYS @ 10:30-11:45AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Dec 31 & Jan 1 Holiday hiatus

Jan 7-8 James 1:1-18

Jan 14-15 James 1:19-2:13

Jan 21-22 James 2:14-26

Jan 28-29 James 3

Feb 4-5 James 4

Feb 11-12 James 5

To receive text reminders and alerts on Midweek Bible Study, just text @midweekb to 81010.

Interview with an Atheist

SUNDAY, JAN. 19TH @ 9 & 10:45AM

Make plans to be here on Sunday, January 19th, when we will have the opportunity to discuss life, faith, and unbelief with our friend Sajan Parikh. This is a great opportunity for us to learn about a perspective that is, in many ways, unfamiliar to us, and for us to represent God's love to someone unfamiliar with the church. You will not want to miss this!

Budget Discussion

SUNDAY, JAN. 26TH FOLLOWING THE 10:45AM SERVICE

Our annual budget discussion will happen Sunday, January 26 following the 10:45am service. We look forward to sharing with you the plan for the coming year!

Youth Ministry

GRADES 6-12 (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Hosanna Mission Trip
Saturday, June 20 - Friday, June 26

WCA Camp
Sunday, July 12 - Saturday, July 18

MP3 Youth Group

SUNDAYS @ 9-10AM IN THE
YOUTH ROOM

Jan. 5 → Revelation 21:1-5 + communion
Jan. 12, 19, & 26 → Discussing James 1
Feb. 2 → Continuing with James + communion

Confirmation Class

SUNDAYS, JAN. 19TH @ 4:30-
6PM IN THE YOUTH ROOM

- This month:** “Congregationalism, Way Back Then & Now”
- Project due:** Paper on what’s unique about Congregationalism
- Also bring:** Your Confirmation folder, including all the handouts from last time!
- Don't forget:** You want >3 community service events & >3 church involvement activities.

Tri-Youth Service Project: Soles for Jesus

FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 24TH
TIME TBA

Uniting 6th-12th graders from OCC, Tosa, and North Shore! Our mission: to sort donated shoes at the Soles for Jesus headquarters on 87th St. near Brown Deer Rd. The shoes will go to folks in Africa who desperately need them. Stay tuned for further details and sign up instructions! Meantime, check out solesforjesus.org.

Agape Table

FREE DINNER & CONVERSATION
FOR CONGREGATIONAL
COLLEGIANS

6pm at Ma Fischer's on Farwell:

- Wednesday, January 29
- Wednesday, March 25

6pm at the Memorial Union in Madison:

- Wednesday, February 12
- Wednesday, April 22

If you, or someone you love, would like to be in the “GroupMe” loop on this, please make sure to let Rob know.

To receive text reminders and alerts regarding youth ministry activities, just text @youthocc to 81010.

Outreach Opportunities

Adults & youth welcome, but spots are limited. Contact Rob well in advance to sign up for any of these teams:

Hope House Food Pantry
Saturday, January 18th @ 9:20am-12:40pm

Book Sorting at Next Door
Monday, January 6th @ 3:30-5:30pm

Family Sharing Pantry & Resale
Monday, January 27th @ 5:15-7pm

Benevolence Box Wish List

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

- Plastic Sendik's bags (Hope House)
- Paper handle bags (Family Sharing)
- Empty laundry jugs (Family Sharing)
- Toiletries (Guest House & MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary)

Many thanks to all who...

- ...rang bells for the Salvation Army this season!
- ...volunteered at the Hope House food pantry in 2019!
- ...helped out at Family Sharing in 2019!
- ...cleaned and sorted donated books at Next Door in 2019!
- ...purchased toys and other gifts for Advocates this season!
- ...donated to our holiday Benevolence offerings in 2019!



Souper Sunday

FEBRUARY 2ND

It's the most delicious Sunday of the entire year! Bring a "caldron" of your finest soup or chili—or, just come and feast. No ticket to buy, and no admission fee. All cash donations will help us continue to sponsor Wondimu Aseffa—our 13-year-old Compassion International buddy in Ethiopia.

Will you bring a "caldron" to share? Please let Rob know ASAP!

Bags of Love

FEBRUARY 9TH

We'll kick off our annual grocery effort on the Sunday before Valentine's Day. Bags will be due back in the sanctuary by March 8, and will then be divided between Nehemiah Project and Advocates.



OCC Council Members

As we move forward in our journey, let us remember to ...

“covenant together, of our own free will, to love God and to enjoy God forever, to walk in God’s ways, known and to be made known, to study the life and the teachings of Jesus Christ, to live and work together in unity and peace, and to care for those whom God has given us to love.”

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