

OZAUKEE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Newsletter

March 2020

Lent: What God Has Done for You

HAPPENINGS

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Congregationalism
Final Session
March 7

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March 15

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March 15

Web & Social Media
Seminar
March 22

Lent is a 40-day period (not including Sundays) running from what is known as Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 26th and Easter Sunday on April 12th, so the entire month of March falls within the Lenten season.

Lent is commonly understood as being a time for reflection and preparation for Easter, one in which people symbolically participate in the suffering of Jesus (specifically His 40 days of fasting in the desert) by giving up something. Many people fast from a particular food (meat on Fridays, for example) or they might give up watching T.V., posting on social media, or engaging in any number of other activities as an act of sacrifice. I do not always participate, but the times I have observed Lent have been positive for me.

However, sometimes the common understanding of Lent is replaced with a sense of obligation or spirituality, such that people's participation in a symbolic sacrifice becomes a demonstration of devotion rather than a means of remembrance. Lent can too easily become a focus on what we are giving up, on the act of our sacrifice, rather than on what Jesus gave up for us. We can too easily focus on our sacrifice for God rather than on God's sacrifice for us.

Remember: Easter is a celebration not of what we do for God but of what God has done for us. Any symbolic sacrifice on our part is only to help us remember, and be grateful for, God's sacrifice for us. In other words, whatever you give up for Lent, be free from the pressure of needing to do something for God. Be free from any sense of duty or obligation. Whatever you do for Lent, allow it to be a reminder of, and an expression of gratitude for, God's sacrifice for you through the death and resurrection of Jesus. "Whatever you do, whether in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Colossians 3:17)

I pray that in March, and throughout this season of Lent, you will experience the joy and freedom that comes from knowing what God has done for you.

See you Sunday!

Jeff

From Your Moderator

Spring, flowers, budding trees, baby birds and Easter will all be here soon! This time of year always reminds me of renewal. I think of Easter as a time of renewal of our faith. The snow subsiding, the flowers starting to poke through the soil, and the baby birds being born are the reminders of the renewal of life around us. We start to think of all that we look forward to in the coming of warmer weather and more outside time.

In addition, OCC also has other types of renewal happening. New members have joined our church, our new 2020 budget has been approved, members have agreed to be nominated to governing boards and a new aesthetics committee is meeting to update our look.

As some of you may know, we have a sewage holding tank for our property that is quite old. We continue to monitor its ability to function properly. The Facilities Board is getting quotes for a replacement for when the time comes, and the Trustees have budgeted to put money away each month to save for that inevitable day.

Other renewal happening in our neighborhood is the reconstruction of Interstate Highway 43 between Silver Spring and Highway 60 to add an additional lane in both directions. These lanes will be added at the interior of the current highway and an on/off interchange will be added at Pioneer Road/Hwy C, just south of our church. We have been in close contact with the project managers to understand the effects on our property. We met with the project's water expert and he assured us that the water runoff from the highway will be the same or less than it is with the current roadway. The roadway will be elevated three feet at Lakefield Road and a five foot barrier wall will be placed near the Lakefield Road portion. We are continuing to keep abreast of the project to monitor anything that could potentially affect our property.

Lots of renewal is happening around us. Like embracing our faith, we can embrace the renewal and celebrate the newness around us.

Stacey



From Your Treasurer

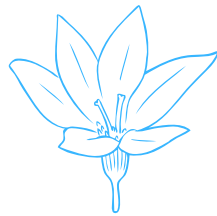
As your OCC treasurer, I have a confession: I have not written a check to support the finances of our congregation for over two years. I have an addiction to “Direct Debit” that electronically pays my pledge monthly from my bank to the Church’s account. Doctor Kay says it is not polite to stare on Sunday when I and the 20 other Direct Debtors pass the collection plate without inserting a check :) To learn how you can become the 21st Direct Debtor, talk to me or pick up one of the cards from the back of the chairs in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning.

Dick Dieffenbach



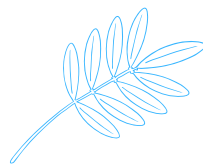
Testimony Sunday

Make plans to join us on March 15th for our next Testimony Sunday when we will hear the story and faith journey of Barb Read!



Easter Flowers

Sign-up sheets for Easter flower donations will be posted in Fellowship Hall between March 1st and March 22nd on the information table located to the left of the piano. The cost for each flowering plant is \$15. Please deposit a check made payable to OCC in the envelope attached to the sign-up sheet at the time of your order. The flowering plants will be on display in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and can be picked up following each service that day.



Sunday Sign-Up

Please consider donating your time and talent as a greeter/usher, Coffee & Conversation host or liturgist for either the 9am or 10:45am service in the coming months. Or, if that's not your cup of tea, there are also numerous dates open to donate flowers for the communion table throughout the remainder of the year. The sign-up sheets for each of these activities can be found in Fellowship Hall on the bulletin boards above the coffee station. Be sure to check them out next time you're enjoying Coffee & Conversation.

Happenings

We Would Be Free: Studies on Congregationalism

LAST SESSION SATURDAY MARCH 7 @ 9:30-11AM

Presented by the Board of Christian Education and led by OCC's own Reverend Leslie R. Shultz.

Come to the final session of the educational sessions that cover the essentials of Congregational History and Polity using the publication "We Would Be Free" by Nancy Smart, and resources from the Congregational Library, Boston. This year we are celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, MA.

The Reverend Leslie R. Shultz Jr. is a retired minister of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. He served the NACCC as a member of the Division for Ministry (Now the Center for Congregational Leadership). Rev. Shultz was a founding member of the original Lay Ministry Training Program committee writing three sections of the program. Rev. Shultz also served seven years as the Historian caring for the archives at the NACCC office in Oak Creek and presenting exhibitions at the annual meetings.

Internet/Social Media Seminar

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 @ NOON

Have you ever wondered how the internet works? Do you need help with email? Do you want to learn the value of social media for you and for our church? Would you like to get on Facebook, Twitter, or even just be able to access the church website?

Then join us on Sunday, March 22nd at noon in the sanctuary for an Internet and Social Media Seminar! Bring your phone, tablet, laptop or any other device with which you want help. New OCC member Sajan Parikh will present on the inner workings of the internet and several others will be on hand to give individual help. Sign up in Fellowship Hall!

Midweek Bible Study

TUESDAYS @ 7-8:15PM IN THE YOUTH ROOM AND WEDNESDAYS @ 10:30-11:45AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

We'll soon wrap up our exploration of the New Testament letter of James. Then, it's on to a new area of focus in the Bible (TBA). Newcomers always welcome!

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

Pie Sunday

SATURDAY, MARCH 15



Get ready for one of the tastiest Sundays of the year when the Board of Deacons hosts OCC's annual Pi(e) Sunday on March 15th following both services! Simply bring a pie of your choice to Fellowship Hall prior to the 9am or the 10:45am service and then stop back in after service to sample your favorites (along with some homemade ice cream) during Coffee & Conversation. Hope to see all of you there!

Women's Fellowship Outing

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

The March meeting of the OCC Women's Fellowship will be lunch at Pandl's restaurant in Whitefish Bay on Thursday, March 19th at 11:30am. A sign-up sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall to indicate whether or not you wish to carpool to the restaurant. Those carpooling should meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond in Mequon at 11:00 am. A reservation will be made early in the week of March 19th, so please sign up by that time and let us know if you are bringing a friend. We hope that you will join us as we share in good fellowship while doing one of our favorite things: EATING!

Sheepshead

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 @ 7-9PM

Extra-special news: March 20 will be an evening of teaching and learning Sheepshead! Experienced players from within the OCC ranks will be on hand to help beginners and new players get the hang of the game. Advance sign-up is very important, especially this time. Contact Rob well in advance to sign up!

Youth Ministry

GRADES 6-12 (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

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

MP3 Youth Group

EVERY SUNDAY IN MARCH @ 9-10AM
IN THE YOUTH ROOM

We'll continue exploring the New Testament letter of James.

WCA Youth Spring Retreat

FRIDAY APRIL 17 TO SATURDAY
APRIL 18 @ OCC

Watch for details, including sign-up info, expected very soon!

Confirmation Class

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 @ 4:30-6PM IN
THE YOUTH ROOM

This month: "Personal Spirituality"

Project due: "Timeline of Your Life"

Also bring: Your confirmation folder, including all the handouts from last time!

Don't forget: Confirmation Sunday is May 17 :)

Hosanna Mission Trip Update

JUNE 20-26

As of this writing, Rob has commitments from nine individuals for the June 20-26 trip—while others are still hoping to make it, depending on summer job situations. Please assume that we have only three more spots available! First come, first served! Questions? Talk with Rob.

WCA Camp Info Online Now!

JULY 12-18

Details, fees, forms, etc....It's all now up and accessible at wiscongregational.net/camp. Senior High Co-Directors Rachel Siebenaller and Becca Penno, Junior High Director Bo Wilkinson, Mini-Kamp Director Cindy Bacon Hammer, Administrator Tonia Wallner, Camp Minister Rob Fredrickson, plus an all-star team of counselors, kitchen crew, and nurses all look forward to seeing YOU at Mt. Morris. That's Sunday, July 12, 3pm through Saturday, July 18, noon.

Register before May 1st to save a cool \$100!

Agape Table

Free dinner & conversation for congregational collegians

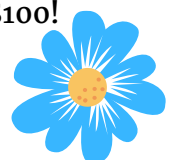
6pm at the Memorial Union in Madison:

- Wednesday, March 11
- Wednesday, April 22

6pm at Ma Fischer's on Farwell:

- Wednesday, March 25

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



Outreach Opportunities

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

Volunteer Teams: Contact Rob well in advance to sign up.

DATE	TIME	WHAT?	MAX. #
Monday, March 2	3:30-5:30pm	Book Sorting at Next Door Clean and sort donated books for their children's library and "Books for Kids" program.	10
Friday, March 13	2:00-5:30pm	MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary Meal at Hephatha Lutheran Church (17th & Locust)	10
Saturday, March 14	9:00-11:am	Soles for Jesus Sort and organize donated shoes to be sent to Africa for people who have no other footwear.	10
Saturday, March 21	9:20-12:40pm	Hope House Food Pantry Be a "personal shopper" in the pantry with folks in need of food assistance.	10
Monday, March 23	5:15-7:00pm	Family Sharing Sometimes we help in the pantry, sometimes in the resale shop; projects galore!	10

Souper Sunday Raises \$654

February 2 was a truly delicious Sunday! Many thanks to everyone who brought soup or chili to share, all who made cash donations, youth group members who served/scooped, and everyone who helped with set-up and clean-up! All the cash donations will help us continue to sponsor Wondimu Aseffa—our 13-year-old Compassion International buddy in Ethiopia.

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, all types & sizes (Guest House & MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary)
- **Urgent:** Big & tall men's & women's coats (MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary)
- **Urgent:** Men's hats & gloves (Guest House)
- **New:** Shoes (Soles for Jesus); can be worn, but not worn out/through; no flip-flops or high heels.

Bags of Love

DUE BY SUNDAY MARCH 8



Did you take one or more of our "Bags of Love" recently? Be sure to fill the bag(s) at the grocery store, and then bring the bag(s) back to the sanctuary on or before Sunday, March 8. About half the bags will go to the Nehemiah Project in Milwaukee, with the other half going to Advocates of Ozaukee County.



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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