



Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

Your February 2012 Reminder

Worship Themes

February 5—5th Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Communion
Mark 1:29-39
Sermon: A Tempting and Lonely Place

February 12—6th Sunday after Epiphany
Mark 1:40-45

February 19—Transfiguration Sunday
Mark 9:2-13
Sermon: Mountain Top Worship & Everyday Living

February 22—Ash Wednesday— 7:00 p.m.
Joel 2:1-12, Psalm 50, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6,
Matthew 6:1-4
Sermon: Playing with Ashes



February 26—1st Sunday in Lent
Mark 1:9-15
Sermon: A Friend in Low Places

Check out our Website
www.occumc.org

Our Staff
Rev. Paul Armstrong
pastor@occumc.org

Administrative Assistant
Irene B
office@occumc.org

Rick E
Treasurer

Linda B
Financial Secretary

Laetitia O
Custodian

Services Available
Nursery Care
Elevator

Checking the Clock

Time, you tyrant.
Why do you rule my life?

No, wait—you are a friend,
enabling me to do, to be,
to remember, to anticipate,
to count hours and days and years,
to fashion a lifetime.

I welcome you at this moment.
I feel your presence
as tender encouragement,
as enabling gift.

Measure out my bright moments,
my split-second fears,
my lingering dreams,
my restless periods of waiting,
waiting, waiting.

Tick off the passing experience of pain,
the sudden changes in my
inner weather,
the seasons of transition in my life.

by Mary Luke Baldwin, SSND



Worship Schedule

8 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
for all ages
10:45 Contemporary /
Blended Worship
10:45 a.m. Children's
Church

Pizza! Come & Get It!!!



Your order will be ready for pick up on February 4 from Noon-1:30 p.m.

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer K.



Thanks for supporting the youth and their mission trips.

Do You Give by EFT?

Please remember, if you give by EFT and change your pledge, you must fill out a new EFT card. Questions, please contact Linda B.



New Care Notes

There are several new Care Notes available for all ages. The Care Notes are located in the Friendship Room. They are made available for you by the Cares & Concerns Committee.

For Kids: *Be the Star that You Are!*

For Teens: *Keeping God as a Friend—Even When it Doesn't Seem Cool*

For Adults:

- Praying When You Feel Spiritually Empty
- Pulling Together as a Family After a Job Loss
- Understanding the Healing Power of Prayer
- A Booklet of Prayers When You're Facing Surgery

If there is a subject of interest to you that you **don't see, please contact the church office at 414-762-4600 or Dona S.**

DivorceCare Class

Are you separated or have you gone through a divorce? Anyone going through (or who has gone through) the process is invited to attend this weekly class. You do not have to go through this process alone! We are looking at starting another class in March. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 414-762-4600 or Heidi G. Possible days/time are Sunday late afternoon/evening or Monday or Tuesday evening. Please let us know your preference.

Confirmation

Mentors are asked to check with their youth on their sermon notes (one per month are due). They are to be having their mentors sign off on their Sermon Notes. Sermon Notes Sheets are found in the Fellowship Room credenza. Mentors are asked to check with them about what they learned from the last class and reading assignments. Dialog with them if they are struggling and encourage all in the faith.

We are preparing for a February 10-13 retreat at Lake Lucerne near Wautoma. We will be studying the life of Jesus on this retreat. Cost is \$90.00. We are looking for some souls to provide some scholarships for this event. Contact Pastor Armstrong if you are willing. We will depart from the church at 5:30 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 10th. We will return by 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Pastor's Notes:

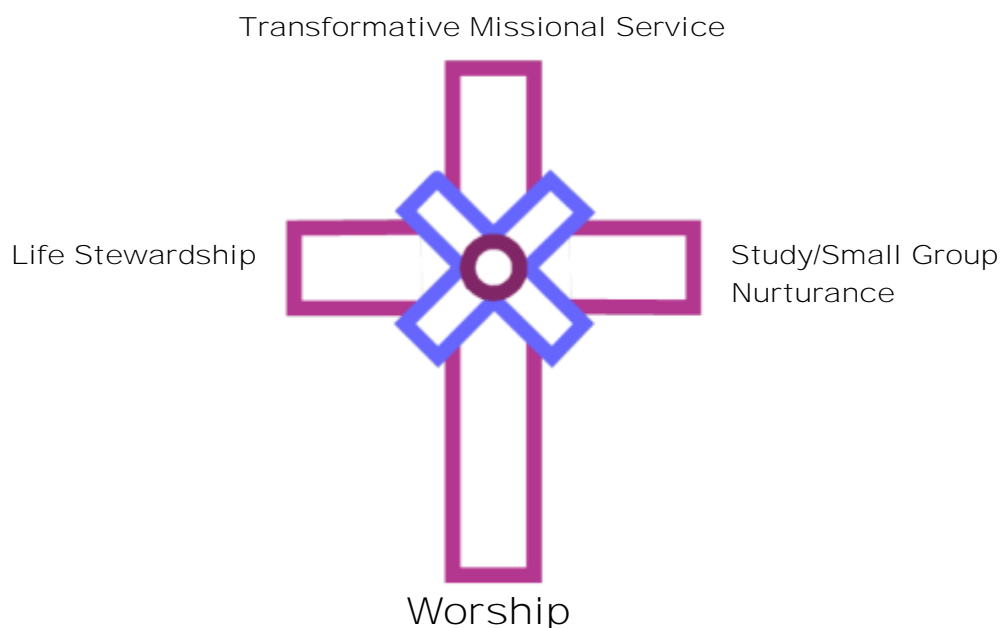
Ah, February- the month of lovers. At church the love of God is at the heart of who we are and what we do. It was out of love that God creates and out of love that Christ came to us. Our response to the love of God is the dedication of our lives back to God. How do we do that? By worship, study of Scripture and Christian life, the transforming of our personal lives (stewardship) and the outreach through missional service and witness. Our focus at Oak Creek UMC is the creating of disciples who are matured to missional serve God. On Sunday, January 15th I presented **this model for reflection and creative play in contemplating our church's mission.** (see below) It uses the arms of the cross to imagine the areas of focus and the missional outcome.

Worship is the foundational act of the Christian. We are called to worship God both personally every day and in community on Sundays. We need the nurturance of small groups and Bible studies. In small groups we can share the love and grace and of God as well as learn, grow, and fellowship. Life Stewardship is the personal act (with support and encouragement from others) of bringing our lives into conformity with Christian living. It is putting away the habits and sins that take us from holy loving and living. Lastly at the head, is the goal of having people of God involved in Transformative Missional Service. It is transformative when we make a difference and change others, **not merely doing service out of our own neediness or desire to be accepted.** Jesus' command to his disciples at his ascension was that they go and make disciples of all nations by baptizing them and teaching them the commands of Christ and love of God. (Matthew 28:16-20).

I invite you to think about this model and how it applies to your life. Are you regularly worshipping? Are you in a small group where you are being nurtured (Sunday School class, choirs, parenting groups, etc)? Are you working on changing your life to make it more Christ like? And finally, **how are you in service to the world in Christ's name?** I also challenge every group in the church to undertake one mission – from singing to shut-ins, to serving food to the needy, to helping sponsor needy youth to attend mission trips or camps, or where the Spirit of God calls you. You are always welcome to talk to me for ideas.

I hope the month of February is a time of loving joy for you and a discovery of a depth of faith beyond your prior understanding. Blessings!

Pastor Armstrong





Small Groups

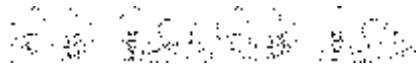
Sarah Circle

In 2011 we collected, laundered, packaged and delivered a total of 66 layettes; and because we were blessed with so many beautiful quilts and knitted or crocheted blankets, we were able to give an additional 45 blankets. We gifted 14 newly baptized little ones with our baptismal prayer blankets.

You continue to share your gifts of creating and shopping and we appreciate all that you do for our programs. In February, if there are enough items, we will put together our first layettes for 2012. We need: Onesies and sleepers in size 3-6 mos. and receiving blankets (purchased or home sewn.)

We welcome blankets and quilts for baptismal prayer blankets. Our stock is getting low so if you would like to create a blanket for this project, please mark it "baptism blanket" and put it in our bassinet on the table in the friendship room.

Thank you for all your support with our mission projects!



Tabitha Circle

Tabitha Circle is going on our annual trip to see the Muskego High School Musical on February 24, at 7:00pm. **This year's show is *Aida* – a love story set in Ancient Egypt. Alex I is in this year's cast! Contact Bonnie for more information.**



Make a Difference—Volunteer for Hospice!

AseraCare Hospice is seeking companion volunteers to join the team of individuals making a **difference in patients' lives**. **Volunteers can provide companionship, a listening ear or a gentle touch** to our terminally ill patients and their family members. Free training is provided.

We like for volunteers to give at least two hours of support each week, but you dictate the amount of time you have to give. Any time that you spend with a patient contributes to his or her quality of life and provides much needed support to the family.

For more information, please contact Megan Nachreiner, Volunteer Coordinator at 414-607-1782 or megan.nachreiner@aseracare.com. Visit us at www.aseracare.com/join-team/hospice-volunteers.aspx

Small Groups

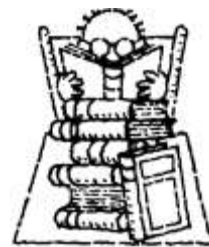
OCCUMC

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All discussions take place at 9:00 a.m. on the respective Saturday mornings at Panera Bread.

March 3, 2012

The Reading Promise, Alice Ozma



**BOOK
GROUP**

We are always looking for more participants in our book group. Do you have a special book that you would like to share and discuss? Let us know and we can add your selection to the 2012 schedule.

For more information contact Mary Ann B

The Reading Promise—The promise shared between this father and daughter was quite simple. The father would read aloud to his daughter at least ten minutes every day. He must get the reading in before midnight. It could—if necessary, be done over the phone. But for the most part, it was a commitment to share quality time with one another and with books, each and every day. Of course, at the very, very beginning, neither could have predicted that this hundred-day challenge would become several thousand nights long! (*Becky's Book Reviews*)

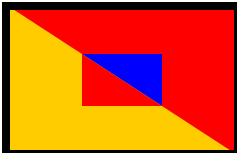


Parents with Young Children (PWYC)

(The current age of children of the families who attend regularly range from birth to approximately 8 years old.)

Join us the *First Saturday of Each Month* for a potluck and playdate: Some months we meet at members' homes or a park and other months we meet at church. When we meet at church, please come to the lower parking lot entrance as that is the only door we unlock during our gatherings. If you have questions, please contact Jane E. These potlucks are a great way to connect with others, make friends and relax in a supportive atmosphere. Think of it as YOUR 'support group' with parents in similar situations as your own.





Opportunities

OCCUMC

414-762-4600
414-762-9551 fax

Help Wanted

The Worship Committee's "Worship & the Arts" is looking for creative, imaginative, & insightful people interested in enriching our worship experience by adorning our sanctuary with decorations & symbols (visual and sensory). Please contact Lois D or Terese Z for more info.



What Does it Mean to be A Missional Church?

Reggie McNeal has defined the missional movement among churches that want to become more oriented toward the culture and community around them. Join us for several in-depth conversations about our spiritual purpose and missional vitality. Together we will embrace the missional model and wrestle with these tough questions: Can you move from an internal to an external focus? Are you willing to develop the spiritual life of people? Can you engage with leadership from the community?

Saturday, February 11

United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay
8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

UMC Metro District Conference will be held
3:45—5:00 p.m.

An Evening with Reggie McNeal
7:00—8:30 p.m.—dessert & fellowship

Brochures are in the Friendship Room. More information is available at www.umcwf.org or 414-964-2424.

Circuit 35 News

The January meeting has been postponed to February 4, 9:00 at South Milwaukee UMC, 1327 Marshall Avenue. Circuit 35 is composed of 10 United Methodists churches in southern Milwaukee County. The circuit group includes both clergy and laity. If you have questions about the circuit, please talk with you circuit representatives, Pastor Paul, Doug C or Connie Z. The circuit is looking for suggestions for a family (inter-generational) fun event. Any suggestions would be welcomed. Please pass them on to your circuit representatives.

Cross-Cultural Workshops

Tuesdays, March 6, 13 & 20

Who is my neighbor? What would the reign of God look like in our community? We begin the dialogue by exploring our own being—looking at our culture and values, looking at our surroundings and our neighbor's culture and values. This intercultural understanding gives us a tool to open our lives as well as our faith community to sharing the table.

Circuit 35 is hosting the workshops at Greenfield Christ Church.



A Perfect Gift of Love Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Upcoming weekends

February 17-19 in Oshkosh

April 12-14 in IL (all clergy weekend)

Refresh your relationship. Take a new look at your marriage, priorities and lifestyle. Learn simple, effective communication techniques. Enhance the love that you share. Rediscover your hopes and dreams.

Want to attend? Need more information? Contact Ron & Sharon M at 262-554-0369 or w1marriage@sbcglobal.net

Cruising Through Winter



INTERFAITH

Come aboard the *SS Interfaith* (currently docked at the St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care, 2801 E Morgan Ave.) on Thursday, February 9th, 6-9 p.m. Join us for this great FUNdraising "cruise" where you'll be transported to a tropical paradise filled with food, fun and great island adventures. Cast your nets for a little deep sea fishing, check out the action on the lido deck, sample the scrumptious cuisine, and discover what's hidden in

our buried treasure chest. Contact your friendly SMOC Interfaith travel agent at 414-762-1998 to book your passport to FUN! \$25: Individual VIP Cruise Package or \$250:

Elite Level "Sponsorship" Tour for 8.



E-mail Etiquette - Part 2

So many of us use e-mail - personally and at work. Here are some additional hints on wise use of this form of communication:

6. Answer swiftly.

People send an e-mail because they wish to receive a quick response. If they did not want a quick response they would send a letter. Therefore, each e-mail should be replied to within at least 24 hours, and preferably within the same day. If the email is complicated, just send an email back saying that you have received it and that you will get back to them. This will put your friend/co-worker/customer mind at rest and usually they will be very patient!

7. Do not attach unnecessary files.

By sending large attachments you can annoy your recipients and even bring down their e-mail system. Wherever possible try to compress attachments and only send attachments when they are productive. Moreover, you need to have a good virus scanner in place since your customers will not be very happy if you send them documents full of viruses!

8. Use proper structure & layout.

Since reading from a screen is more difficult than reading from paper, the structure and lay out is very important for e-mail messages. Use short paragraphs and blank lines between each paragraph. When making points, number them or mark each point as separate to keep the overview.

9. Do not overuse the high priority option.

We all know the story of the boy who cried wolf. If you overuse the high priority option, it will lose its function when you really need it. Moreover, even if a mail has high priority, your message will come across as slightly aggressive if you flag it as 'high priority'.

10. Do not write in CAPITALS.

IF YOU WRITE IN CAPITALS IT SEEMS AS IF YOU ARE SHOUTING. This can be highly annoying and might trigger an unwanted response in the form of a flame mail. Therefore, try not to send any email text in capitals.

Disciples III

Disciples III classes for February:

Feb. 14—Module 21 & 22;
Refreshments: Dorothy D. &
Mary Ellen O.

Feb. 28—Module 23 & 24;
Refreshments: Arlene W.



Address Updates Needed

Help us keep up to date! As your sons & daughters go off to college, enter the military or move away from home, please send us their new address. Thank you!

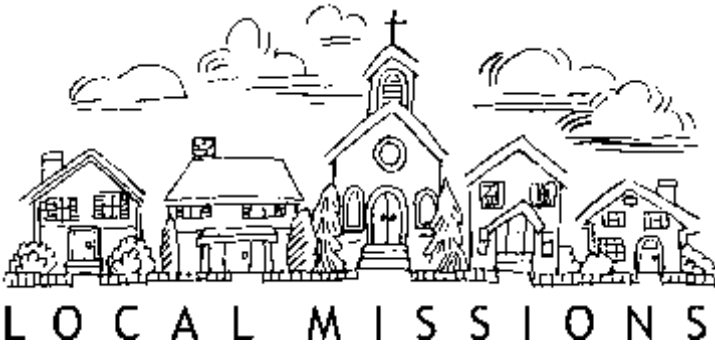
ABBA
ADONAI
ADVOCATE
ALMIGHTY
ALPHAANDOMEGA
ANCIENTOFDAYS
AVENGER
COUNSELOR
CREATOR
DELIVERER
EAGLE

ELBETHEL
ELOHIM
ELOLAM
ELROI
ELSHADDAI
FATHER
FOUNDATION
GOD
IMMANUEL
JEHOVAH

JUDGE
KING
KURIOS
LORD
MEDIATOR
POTTER
PRINCEOFPEACE
REFINER
ROCK
SAVIOR

SHEPHERD
SHIELD
SPIRIT
STRENGTH
SUNOFRIGHTEOUSNESS
TEACHER
THEOS
TRINITY
TRUTH
YAHWEH

Mission News



Youth Mission

Please Donate Your Used Cell Phones

Our Sr. and Jr. High Youth are doing this fundraiser to help raise money for their mission trips. This is an easy way for you to participate by donating your inactive cell phones. The phones will raise much needed funds and 100% of the proceeds goes directly to our youth. Just bring your cell phones to church with their batteries. No chargers or accessories are needed. There is a box in the narthex. Please help make our fundraiser a success. Ask friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers to donate their used cell phones. Every phone helps!



Huggies Diapers Needed

The Salvation Army has requested that the diapers we donate to them be on Huggies brand. After many complaints of diaper rash from other brands, the decision to use only Huggies was made. Thank you for your continued help with this mission project. Any questions, please call Jean J.



Loose Change



Please continue to support the Loose Change Youth Fundraiser. Thank you!

Food Needed!

Now more than ever, your donations to the food pantry will help someone who needs a helping hand. Drop your dry goods items in the wire shopping basket marked "Food Pantry Donations", and your fresh produce in the wicker basket located in Friendship room outside of the sanctuary.

Be sure to check the expiration date on the items you donate! **We can't use expired items.**

Fresh produce can also be placed in the kitchenette refrigerator next to Doyle Hall. Please mark it "Food Pantry".

If you or someone you know in the church family who would benefit from the kindness of our dedicated committees or may need a few groceries from our food pantry, please call the church office (762-4600).

Aluminum cans wanted !!

The Jr. & Sr. Hi Youth have an ongoing fundraiser collecting aluminum cans to help defray cost for their mission trips.

Please put your cans by the garage door.

Thank you for your cans!

Use of Church Building

Please be sure to notify the church office if you need to make use of the building so we can have you complete a facility use form and put the event on the calendar.

Calendar

Green Sunday School

Are you interested in exploring the connection between your faith and caring for God's creation? Would you like to embrace a spiritually and environmentally sustainable lifestyle? If so, join the God's Green Earth group in a new Sunday School class at 9:30 AM.

Following Jesus is good for the planet; or should be, at least. This is the radical, yet solidly biblical premise of the Blessed Earth film series, a transformational new DVD curriculum for groups by Matthew Sleeth, MD. **We'll be using this two-part DVD series** to discuss a different topic each week over the course of twelve weeks.

Part 1 – Hope for Creation reminds us of our God-given commission to “tend and protect the planet.”

Part 2—Hope for Humanity examines how God's original command to “tend and protect the planet” extends into the actions and activities of our everyday lives.



Please email Chris S if interested.

Let's Step Up Our Recycling!

Please help the God's Green Earth Group step up our recycling. We've launched several more exciting programs to add to our popular battery recycling program.

Nike Reuse-a-Shoe -- This program collects used athletic shoes, disassembles them, and turns them into Nike Grind which is used in track surfaces, playground surfaces, interlocking gym flooring tiles, and other new products. ATHLETIC SHOES ONLY!! No dress shoes, sandals, boots, or flip-flops. No shoes containing metal.

Aveda Cap Recycling -- The program accepts caps that are rigid plastic. This includes caps that twist on with a threaded neck such as caps on shampoo, water, soda, milk and other beverage bottles and pharmaceutical lids, flip top caps on tubes and food product bottles (such as ketchup and mayonnaise), laundry detergents and some jar lids such as peanut butter.

Toothpaste Tubes & Toothbrushes through TerraCycle -- Accepts any brand used toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes and plastic toothbrush packaging, excluding cardboard. These are “upcycled” into new products such as toothbrush holders, coin purses, and duffle bags. Two cents per item is donated on behalf of OCCUMC to the Earth's Birthday Project, an organization dedicated to educating children about the Earth, its beauty, resources and conservation.

Juice Pouches through TerraCycle -- The program accepts any brand of empty juice pouches such as Capri Sun and Honest Kids. Materials are “upcycled” into new products such backpacks and tote bags. Two cents per item also goes to the Earth's Birthday Project.

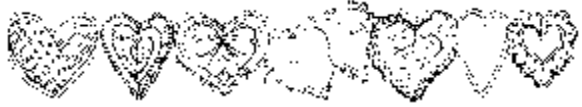
All items can be placed in the labeled containers in the Friendship Room.

God's Green Earth is a group concerned with caring for God's Creation.
If you're interested in joining us email Chris S.



Thanks and More!

Dear OCCUMC,
Thank you all so much for the great care package. It's a great surprise to get something in the mail at school. God has helped me through my first semester of college, and I know He'll be there at my side the rest of the way through.
God Bless & Happy Holidays
Nina S



Many thanks for the cards, calls and prayers we received after the death of **Lee's brother, Jack.**

Thanks,
Lee & Eileen S

Dear Friends,
I arrived in Lima last night at 10:30. Some friends met me at the airport and I got to my apartment about midnight. It was a long day but all went well. For those that have been to Peru, you will know what I mean when I say I got the Green Light in customs. It was a good day.

Today I opened the suitcases that I had stored here and it was like Christmas again. I didn't realize how much I had stored here.

The weather is beautiful here, about 75 degrees today. I guess it was hotter last week.
Thanks again to everyone for their support and prayers as I continue my work in Peru.

Gracia Y Paz,
Judy B
Individual Volunteer



Newsletter Sponsors
If you would like to sponsor the newsletter, please contact the church office.

Milestones

February Birthdays



Broderick M	2/2	Marcus W	2/15
Kahler C	2/3	Katie S	2/16
Rachel H	2/3	John S	2/16
Margaret J	2/3	Andy G	2/17
Autumn M	2/3	Michelle P	2/18
Joan K	2/6	Phillip B	2/19
Carl S	2/6	Nicole O	2/21
Johanna S	2/6	Kathleen F	2/22
David S	2/6	Jenny E	2/23
Heather L	2/7	Kayla K	2/23
Megan F	2/9	Ben S	2/24
Gay D	2/10	Andrew S	2/25
Hannah B	2/11	Bonnie R	2/26
Debbie S	2/11	Kaitlin B	2/27
Ana S	2/12	Michelle Mcl	2/27
Larry G	2/13	Cho Cho M	2/28
Dorothy D	2/14		
Russ P	2/14		

Baptism

Congratulations to:
Arianna Claire B, daughter of Andrew B &
Heather P, who was baptized on January
15th.



Change of Address

Eleanor P
Greenfield, WI 53228

Sandra G
Panora, IA 50216

Carol Z
Whitewater, WI 53190

Office Hours

The church office is open Monday—
Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Church Website!

www.occumc.org



YOUR **FEBRUARY** 2012 REMINDER
Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church
8675 S. 13th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154

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Oak Creek, WI

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February 2012



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