

YOUTH GROUP

January Calendar Dates

Wednesday nights

Jan 8, Jan 15, Jan 22, Jan 29

Youth Director, Darren Dewitt

Cell: 574-276-3453



Nursery

Newborn infants through age 3yrs old Can be in the nursery.



Children's Sunday School classes and times

Age 4 yrs - 5th grade

9:00 am, room 19

Leader: Susan Baldwin

Age 4 yrs—5th grade 10:00 am, room 19

Leaders: Angie Burghduf & Susan Adkins

Kids Church

Age 4 yrs - 5th grade 11:15 am, room 19

Leader: Angie Perkey

Contact: Susan Adkins with questions

Contact our office at 574-679-4435 www.osceolaumc.org
For Prayer Requests, email: prayerministry@osceolaumc.org
431 North Beech Road, Osceola, IN 46561

The Messenger, January 2020

Monthly Newsletter of the Osceola United Methodist Church

Sermon Series

January 5th - Tearing Down or Building up - James 3:7b-10 & Ephesians 4:29

January 12th - Family Words: Hurtful or Life Giving - Colossians 3:8-9 & James 1:19

January 19th - Religion and Politics - 1 Corinthians 1:10-12, 12:31 & 13:4-8

January 26th - In the beginning was the Word - Exodus 20:7, Psalm 19:14, John 1:1 and 14



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In the Spotlight

The spotlight for January belongs to... Our Children's Choir.



The kids sang "Mary Did You Know," at the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve service here at church and were wonderful, especially since they only had a few weeks to practice.

A big THANK YOU to the parents and grandparents for helping your kids learn the song, and getting them to practice.

Anytime we have the children sing, all are welcome to participate.

Osceola, IN 46561
431 N. Beech Road
Osceola United Methodist Church
OUMC

The Pastor's Corner

Hello Church family,

Here we are celebrating a new year! Can you believe we are entering the year 2020?! It seems like a significant number to me. Maybe it's because there are two twenties put together and the last time something like that would have happened was in 1919. It could be because I'm turning 40 this year which is also two twenties put together. There's also the obvious theme of having 20/20 vision.

When most people hear the term 20/20 vision or find out they have 20/20 vision, they understand that to mean that they have perfect vision. I don't mean to burst their bubble, but 20/20 vision does not mean having "perfect vision." When the optometrist says that you have "20/20 vision" he is referring to your visual acuity, which is the clarity or sharpness of your vision. When the doctor tests for 20/20 visual acuity he is testing how well your eyes can see an object at a distance of 20 feet. If you can see the letters clearly, then you are considered to have "normal vision." This number indicates that you can see objects clearly at a distance of 20 feet, compared to other people. Either way it has become the standard for having clarity of vision. I think we all want clarity of vision. No one wants to go through life seeing things incorrectly.

When we think about our church we also want to have clarity in our vision. We want to see things as God sees them, and we also want to be headed in the direction he would have us go. In order to gain clarity on what God is calling us to see, I want to dedicate the month of January to praying for God's 20/20 vision for our church. Will you join us in praying for God to give us a vision for our future? Starting January 12-31st we will have 20 days of focused prayer for 20/20 vision. This doesn't mean we will have perfect vision or see everything in store for us but gaining some clarity for our future is essential for us moving forward into God's plan and purpose. Let's pray together for clarity of vision.

Proverbs 29:18 King James Version (KJV)

(18) Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Praying for God's fresh vision,

Pastor Will



Our Prayer Ministry – Let's learn more about praying

God expects us to take time and learn. Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened while Martha worked (Luke 10:38-42), and the disciples asked Jesus questions so they could learn (Luke 11:1-4). The Prayer Ministry at OUMC offers 2 different ways to learn about prayer.

In the Spring and Fall we have a 'Prayer Retreat'. Please don't let the name scare you off. It is a time for people to get together and learn more about prayer through studying the Bible. We have a handout to follow and one or more books that you can take home for further study. The group meets in Elkhart at a room on the AMBS campus (it is easy to find and right by the parking lot) on a Saturday from 9-4 with a potluck lunch (or come just for half a day). The people who come range from strong prayer warriors to beginners in prayer. They enjoy the time for questions, discussion and fellowship. Soon we will be announcing the 2020 Prayer Retreat dates. The article in the next newsletter will tell about what book we will use and the topic we will be studying for the Spring Prayer Retreat.

The second way the Prayer Ministry helps others learn about prayer is their Thursday meeting at 4 pm in the Parlor at OUMC. For about 30 minutes we read and discuss scriptures on prayer. Currently we are looking at different things biblical people requested in their prayers. The other half hour is spent on listing specific prayer needs of OUMC as Day Care, Finances, a certain meeting, etc. Then we lift up those requests to God for OUMC.

You are welcome to come to the Prayer Retreats and/or the weekly meeting. Both are led by Susan Baldwin and any materials we use are paid for by donations. If you have any questions, please contact Susan at 574-291-8637. A few weeks before a prayer retreat there will be a signup sheet in the narthex at church. Please come join us and learn more about Biblical prayer.

Susan Baldwin

Prayer Ministry team member



MEET THE STAFF

Senior Pastor
Will Deeds
willdeeds@osceolaumc.org

Visitation Pastor:
Rev. Leroy Wise
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Noah's Ark Childcare
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Custodian:
Mike & Amy Wilfret,

Maintenance:
James Trader

Worship & Choir
Accompanist:
Lynn Lambert

Choir & Handbell
Director:
Jim Gramza

Visual Communications:
Neil Bakshi
Sound Tech
Bryan Fox
techteam@osceolaumc.org

The Parable of the



Talent Fundraiser:

Over the past few months, we have seen numerous ways that individuals have used their talents to support the work of the church as part of the Talent fundraiser. Thank you to all Talent participants and to all of you who have supported their initiatives. This is a reminder to everyone who is participating in the Talent fundraiser that the envelopes need to be returned to the church by the last Sunday in January (Jan 28th).

Please remember to indicate where you would like to see the growth applied – the General Fund, the Mission Fund, or the Parking Lot fund. We would also appreciate if you could include a note that explained how you chose to use your talents to grow the \$50 seed money as we would like to share some of these stories in an upcoming newsletter.



Mens Group:

MEN'S GROUP All men of the church are invited to join in fellowship each week where we meet for a meal and discuss a chapter in the devotional book, "God's Man" by Don Aycock. The devotional book covers 52 topics that are relevant for Christian men today. We meet every other Tuesday at 11:30 am at OC Café for lunch, and the alternating weeks we meet on Wednesday mornings at 6:00 am at Bravo's Café. Contact Jim Trader for more information. What a great way to start the new year!



Uganda Trip:

On January 12 at 10:10 in the Reception Room, Kent Biller and David Fox will be describing their trip to Uganda in October using pictures and some short videos. The purpose of this trip was to conduct a Christian Leadership conference to around 200 individuals. Come and hear how the trip was both sobering and inspiring!

Thank You

The Mission Committee would like to thank the church congregation for your

kindness and generosity with the Mitten Tree Project.

Christmas morning 32 Moran students, their siblings and families were smiling because of your generosity. You went above and beyond to help those in our community that are struggling this Christmas season.

Thank you for being the light of Christ!



The New Testament Like You Never Knew:



Exploring the Context, Purpose, and Meaning of the Story of God. Authors Michael Bird and N.J. Wright.

This is a DVD study of the New Testament beginning January 19, 2020, taught by Doris Speicher.

Please come join the class that meets in the Reception Room at 10:15, following the first service.

All are welcome!

This should be an enlightening study.



WOW!! Seems like summer was just ending and here we are at the beginning of a brand new year. An opportunity to make changes, to begin anew, with new attitudes. The Apostle Paul in his letter to the church at Ephesus wrote these words in Chapter 4:23-24 "23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Many have the routine of making "New Year's Resolutions" and the majority of those resolutions go away for the most part by the end of January and nearly every one of them are gone by the end of February. As far as myself I made an oxymoron of a resolution years ago to never again make resolutions, I think it is the only one I have ever kept, but in making it, I broke it. Oh well I tried.

Now along with putting on the new self, Paul continues in verse 25 "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.", This goes along with Pastor Will's sermon series this past fall about knowing our neighbors. Are we speaking truthfully to them? Are we sharing the "Good News"? Now maybe that would be a good (great?) resolution for the new year. Or make a new commitment to challenge yourself to engage in Bible studies, maybe serving in an area you have never served before.

Going forward into this new year, I pray that each of us continues to move closer to the Lord, thanking Him for the many blessings He pours out, and the salvation we have received.

Al Bishop

Ad Council Chairperson's Thoughts



I figured I should write about a few things that have happened in 2019 and what may happen in 2020 related to our church. God is always on the move and things do happen and change. It's interesting to see His hand in OUMC events.

As a church we did quite well changing our Sunday service start times in May and adding in a Discipleship/Fellowship time between services. Many thanks go out to all of you for making the adjustments and even helping with new things as teaching kids or bringing food for the fellowship time.

It appears that we also stayed 'in the black' this year financially. Since I am writing this article in December, I'm not positive of the final year end report that comes out in January, but we have done better throughout this year as compared to recent years. Each of you who contributed to the finances of OUMC deserve a big 'Thank You!' Whether you pledged money or just contributed to our financial needs it went to meeting our general budget.

We have also had people working on the Talent Fund Raiser. From what I can tell people have come up with really neat ways to raise money for OUMC for the general fund, missions or repaving the parking lot. A special appreciation goes to those who did a fund raiser and to those who purchased their products. It will be interesting in early 2020 to find out how much we collectively raised.

In 2020 people have pledged money to 5 different areas within OUMC. The largest is the General Fund and that total is up from last year. We also have people pledging to Missions and the Backpack Blessings (that is where backpacks with food are given twice a month to certain school kids to help them eat over the weekend.) Some people have pledged to help the Building Fund (which is for capital expenses) and Camp Scholarships for kids to go to church camps in the summer. The General Fund covers things from salaries to church building maintenance; and from education materials to the copier and stamps. When you give financially you are helping OUMC do so many things for people in and outside our church. Thanks for being a part of what we do and, for some of you, planning to do more next year.

Of course, I could write about a lot of other things, but I've run out of room. Let's look forward to a new year and serving others in many different ways.

Susan Baldwin
Ad Council Chairperson

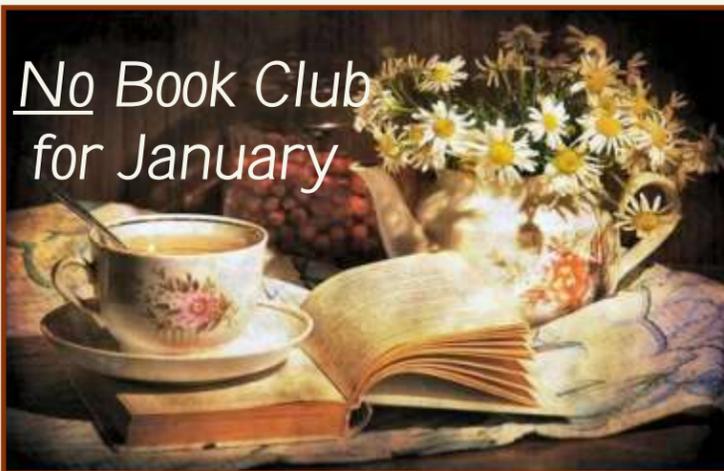


Young at Heart

Seniors, because of the New Year's holiday, we will be meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 for our monthly luncheon. Plan on joining Pat Eller and the gang at the Curve Café, 3407 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, at 11:30am.

For more information or reservations, please contact Pat by Monday, January 6, at 574-522-47796, or email her at peller72@hotmail.com, or see her at church on Sunday.

No Book Club for January



Upcoming Reading List

February: The Writing Desk, by Rachel Hauck

March: The Prayer Box, by Lisa Wingate

April: Tristan's Gap, by Nancy Rue

May: The Mountains Echoed, by Kaled Hossenei



Euchre Night
January 26, 2020
5:30pm-7:30pm
Everyone welcome
Bring a snack to share.
Play cards, eat food, have fun!!!



December Food Pantry

We served 57 families in the month of December.

Thank you for making a difference in the life of our neighbors.



Women's Breakfast Bunch

Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 9:00 am
Macadoo's
2108 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka.

Join us for a morning of fellowship, devotions, and a delicious breakfast. If you haven't been able to come to one of these monthly breakfasts, we hope you will be able to this time.

Call Linda Trader at 574-256-9567 for more information or if you have questions.

Hope to see you there!!



Mark your calendar for Saturday Jan 11, at 9am Taking down the greens. The more helpers the quicker we can get this job done. Hope you can come out and help us. Thank you!!!

Ongoing Events

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service Includes kids bible study 10:10am Fellowship Children's Sunday School Adult Studies 11:15a.m. Modern Worship Service includes Kids Church	9:30 a.m. Tai Chi (YR)	9:00 a.m. Tuesday a.m. Bible Study (P) 6:00 p.m. Modern Worship Band Practice (S) 6:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (YR) 8:00 p.m.	9:30 a.m. Tai Chi in the (YR) 6:15 p.m. Handbells rehearsal (S) (Sept-May) 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal (S) (Sept-May)	4:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting (P) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop Meeting in the (FH) 6:00 p.m. Thursday Evening Bible Study (P) 8:00 p.m. BBGS practice ev/oth wk (S)		9:00 a.m. BBGS practice ev/oth wk (S)

W W O S C E O L A U M C O R G

Promise Keepers Breakfast: Every other Wed of the month at Bravo Café at 6 a.m.
Real Services Senior Lunch: Monday - Friday at 10 a.m. in the reception room
Promise Keeper's Lunch: Every other Tuesday of the month at O.C. Café at 11:30 a.m.
Women's Breakfast Bunch: Last Wednesday of every month Macadoo's Restaurant at 9 a.m.
Young at Hearts Senior Luncheon - first Wednesday of the month at an area restaurant at 11:30
Caring Hands Meets the 3rd Friday of each month (Parlor) 9am -12pm, breaks for summer
Christian Book Club Once a month 2nd Sunday of each month (off site & times, TBA)
Euchre Meets the 4th Sunday of each month at 5:30-7:30

Consult the church website calendar or church bulletin for further information.

The OUMC Staff would like to thank everyone for thinking of us during the Christmas season. Your delicious goodies, Christmas cards and other gifts were so thoughtful.

We hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season.

Blessings to you this year!

Peace, Love, and Joy,

Pastor Will Deeds, Pastor Leroy Wise, Secretary, Susan Adkins, and Bookkeeper, Jen Witmer

