

YOUTH GROUP

February Calendar Dates

Wednesday nights

Feb 5, Feb 12, Feb 19, Feb 26

Youth Director, Darren Dewitt

Cell: 574-276-3453



Nursery

We offer nursery care for infants through age 3 years old in room 11



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
Education co-chair

The Messenger, February 2020

Monthly Newsletter
of the
Osceola United Methodist Church

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

If you would like to sponsor the news letter, contact the church office.

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Sermon Series

February 2 - Football Sunday

February 9 - Guest Speaker, Bob Stogdill, Healing by the book. James 5:13-20

February 16 - Grace, Discovering God's heart for us—Titus 2:11-14

February 23 - God gives Grace to the humble—James 4:6

We don't have to agree on everything to be kind to one another.



In the Spotlight

The spotlight for February belongs to...

Kathy Noonan is our NEW Daycare Director and for those of you that missed the introduction of Kathy by Pastor Will on Sunday morning, Jan. 19, here is a brief summary of her background.



Kathy comes to us with over 30 years of experience in the childcare field, most recently coming from the PHM school system where she ran the before and after school program at Mary Frank Elementary for over 12 years. She has been part of the Noah's Ark daycare staff for the past 4 years.

Kathy and her husband Dave have been married for over 25 years and have 3 children., Eric, Anna, & Mikalya, all grown. Kathy has a love for Jesus, her family and children, and will make a wonderful addition to the leadership staff here at OUMC!

Stop by and give her a warm welcome as she takes on this new position.

PRAYER RETREAT



Prayer Retreats for 2020

We will be having our Spring Prayer Retreat on Saturday, April 4 and our Fall Prayer Retreat on Saturday October 3. The morning session is from 9-12 and after a pot-luck lunch then the afternoon session from 1-4. You are welcome to come to either session or both. The exact topic of the Spring Prayer Retreat will be shared in the March newsletter.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for these interesting times of learning and discussion about prayer. If you have questions, please call Susan Baldwin at 574-291-8637.

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

The Pastor's Corner

Hello Church Family,

Jesus teaches us to pray. The Gospel writers tell us that our Savior prays. We even get to listen in on a few of His prayers. We find His prayers recorded eleven times in the Gospels. There was something about Jesus' prayers that made his disciples ask, "Jesus teach us to pray". I have a feeling it was because they saw him praying, they saw the power and presence it brought to his ministry. Jesus walked in power and authority. He faced death, even death on a cross, with peace because he prayed in the garden. His prayer life was his ministry, without it he couldn't have accomplished his mission. It is so critical for us to view prayer in the same way.

Often prayer is an afterthought for us, something we turn to as a last resort when there is nothing else we can do. We want to do something, fix the problem, take control of the situation and make it happen. Jesus calmly reminds us our main mission is to know God before we do anything else. One account of Jesus' prayer life points this out to us.

Lazarus and his family were close, personal friends of Jesus. Jesus arrived at the home of his friends after Lazarus had died. He weeps for their grief. Jesus stands with them in their anger. They wish Jesus had been present to prevent Lazarus' death. So Jesus stands outside the tomb of Lazarus and prays. He thanks God for always hearing and answering his prayers. This prayer was for the benefit of those around, so that they would believe, (John 11:41-42). Jesus then calls the one who had died out of his tomb. He calls on the others to untie him and let Lazarus go. I think this is the prayer and work of Jesus even today. And, now is the time to tend to that work.

Many of us have grieved and even been angry at what we see happening in the United Methodist Church. Like the family of Lazarus, we are frustrated by what has and hasn't been done; by what is or isn't happening. We feel as if we are watching the work in our own churches and in the denomination pass away. This month's news of a proposed agreement for the separation of the United Methodist Church (UMC) was shared through major news outlets. Though it is a proposal to be voted upon at General Conference 2020 (more on the proposal below), it feels like an impending end of what has been the UMC. We'll learn all the details in the near future, but for now, we do as we always do...we turn to Jesus and his work.

Should old things pass away, Jesus is still in prayer for us, as He sits at the right hand of the Father. We are his children, His friends, and this is His church. His work remains in front of us, and it shall persist without pause. May I suggest instead of worrying, trying to fix things, giving up on our church, or complaining that we join together in prayer. Jesus will lead us into the future and we can walk in His authority, power, and peace if we will commune with Him in prayer. He is calling His church to come alive and walk out of our grave clothes just like Lazarus. I'm choosing to view this as a resurrection moment for the United Methodist Church. It's a time for us to hear our savior calling and walk into the marvelous light of His future.

While we focus on the mission at hand, it is quite possible that our denomination, as it once was, will pass. We don't yet know how we as a church will need to respond, or if we must respond at all. But Jesus is certainly not done with Methodists yet. He's always in prayer. He'll call us to life in one form or another. He'll command that we untie the church from that which has held us in death and to go ... go forward into living His abundant life, in love of God and neighbor. This is a Lazarus moment, Church. Jesus isn't done with us yet, He's calling us forth to life.

May you hear His call to prayer and life today.

Pastor Will


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. Hand- bells 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)

WWW.OSCEOLAUMC.ORG


Promise Keepers Breakfast: Every other Wed of the month at the **Curve 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.



mark your calendar!

The Baugo Bay Gospel Singers will be singing at Hubbard Hill, on March 8th at 6:00pm. **Hubbard Hill** is located at 28070 C. R. 24, Elkhart **Stop by and have a listen!**




The Trustee's would like to thank everyone who uses the church and cleans up after themselves. Because our lovely building is used by many everyday it is appreciated when you pickup after your events, meetings, practices, etc... it makes a big difference.

Thank you!



Join us along with others from Cornerstone Vineyard church on Saturday evening, **March 21st from 5:30-9:00**, here at the church for a Marriage Seminar. The evening will begin with a lovely meal in the fellowship hall, followed by a video and message in the sanctuary. The cost is \$20 per couple. There will also be a signup sheet in the Narthex. Come for a night that is sure to give Hope and Strength to your marriage.



Who's Ready for Camp

February is a perfect time to begin thinking about Summer camp. for the kids. Check out the United Methodist Camps website at Impact2818.org

Elementary Camp—Lakewood
 Middle School Camp—Adventure
 Senior High Camp—Epworth Forrest

Although there are many camp dates to choose from, if you'd like your elementary kids to go with Pastor Will, he will be on the leadership team at Camp Lakewood during the week of July 12-17. If you have camp questions you can contact Susan Adkins in the church office at 679-4435. OUMC also has scholarships available for campers with varying levels of assistance. Camp is a life changing experience, an opportunity for God to meet with our students in powerful ways. **Please consider sending your kids to camp.**



Young at Hearts Luncheon

Seniors, If you've got the winter blahs, or just want to go out for Lunch, join our Senior group on Wed., Feb 5th, at 11:30, at Jade Gardens for Chinese food and hot tea.

Jade Gardens is located at 1308 S. Nappanee St., St. Rd. 19 in Elkhart.

For information or reservations, contact Pat Eller at 574-522-4796, or see her at church on Sunday. Reservations need to be made by Sunday, Feb. 3rd

Christian Book Club

Sunday, Feb 16th @ 4:00pm
OUMC Church Parlor
Contact Toby Green with questions at phone:
574-360-7677

Our selection for this month is, *The Writer's Desk*, by Rachel Hauck.
Join us for discussion of the intriguing novel.



Upcoming Reading List

March: The Prayer Box,
by Lisa Wingate

April: Tristan's Gap, by Nancy Rue

May: The Mountains Echoed, by
Khaled Hossenei

June: Selection of new titles for next 12 mo.



Euchre Night

February 23, 2020

5:30pm-7:30pm

Everyone welcome

Bring a snack to share.

Play cards, eat food,

have fun!!! See you there!



Food Pantry

We served 25 families - 79 individuals in the month of January.

Thank you for your continued support to this vital ministry and making a difference in the lives of our neighbors.



Women's Breakfast Bunch

Wednesday,
February 26, at 9:00 am
Macadoo's

2108 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka.

We always enjoy each others company at our monthly breakfast. Hope you can join us this month for conversation, devotions, and breakfast.
Call Linda Trader at 256-9567 if you need further information.

Hope to see you there!!



ATTENTION Care Team committee:

Those of you that receive your monthly reports (not emailed) can find them in the mail box, in a folder, marked Care Team reports. This is located in the hallway between the men & women's restroom. I recently cleaned out years worth of reports that were never picked up.

Contact Doris Speicher if you have questions at 229-3745
You can also contact the church office with questions at 679-4435



Continued from page 2

A group of diverse representatives worked confidentially over a period of time, to develop a proposal of separation. Here are a few key facts and some links:

Article explaining proposal

<https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/united-methodist-traditionalists-centrists-progressives-bishops-sign-agreement-aimed-at-separation-13133654?fbclid=IwAR0JvtB0k8BLhfpavZDB8kZsGNNpXZbwe1fi-QvsKAT3zFqxQMRfYzWZj4A>

Frequently Asked Questions:

https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-united-methodist-mediation-team-13133711?fbclid=IwAR2IQtrZT9xD70OTLCN_Ig4NFW5z4L9uEa47L2Kv_pj5vz2t3TGO9_jBG7k

UM News interviews protocol developers in Jan. 13 live event

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyK6ZGAWVQw>

The proposal is just that. It has to be voted upon by delegates of the General Conference in May of 2020.

What makes this proposal distinct among numerous others, is that it is the product of an intentional and prayerful formal mediation process including representatives from almost all sides of the debate -- traditionalists, moderates, and progressives.

The protocol outlines a division of the church into at least two denominations -- the continuing United Methodist Church and a new traditionalist Methodist denomination.

As one friend aptly put it, the protocol constitutes possible terms of the property, custody, and support settlement in the United Methodist "divorce".

At this moment it looks to be the most likely plan to receive broad legislative support.

General Conference is still five months away, so many other things could happen.

So we do not yet have all the implications of this plan, nor do we know if it will come to pass.



Pray without ceasing." 1Thessalonians 5:14

This verse is part of Paul's benediction, verses 12-28 and I strongly encourage each of you to take 5 minutes and read the entire passage, it is full of wonderful instruction for today's world.

There has been much discussion in the news and around the church about the UMC's General Conference in May. Much of that discussion has concerned a proposal, among several, on the inclusion of LGBTQ+ in the clergy and a split of the United Methodist Church as we know it today. I am not going to address that issue today but what I do want to talk about is prayer and the upcoming conference.

This year's conference is in Minneapolis, MN from May 5th to the 15th and February 5th marks 90 days before it starts. Part of the preparation for the conference involves prayer by the delegates and others. What if the Osceola church prayed for the conference, the delegates, and the work before them? We know that prayer makes a difference. We know that God wants to hear our prayers and that they do not fall on deaf ears.

So here is what I am going to do, I am going to be in daily prayer from February 5th through the end of the conference, that is **100** days. Will you join me? A commitment of 500 minutes, just 5 minutes each day. Pray as the Spirit moves you whether it is for the whole conference, the Bishops, the delegates, traveling mercies, wisdom, for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, patience, pray for love, pray for God's will to be done! Five minutes, the time for the morning coffee to brew or tea to steep, or a commercial break on the TV or radio.

500 MINUTES in 100 DAYS!

By: Al Bishop

Ad Council Chairperson's Thoughts – UMC split?



Have you ever gone thru the 'hurry up then wait' process? Well, we, at OUMC, are doing that same thing now, and we are in the WAIT part of the process. I would like to see us patiently wait here at OUMC and work together as a church. We have great people here, a very good Pastor and in the black financially. All good things. So, we need to patiently wait for things to happen at the General Conference that meets 5/5-15/2020. Then things will probably need to happen at our Annual Conference in Indiana both in 6/2020 and 6/2021. That means a year and a half of waiting. During that time we should be serving Jesus and God (as usual) and serving others (as we normally do). Secondly people in Ad Council are asking for us to pray that God's will be done in the UMC during these conferences.

So, what is all the stress about? In a nutshell this is what is going on. Different groups in the United Methodist Church (UMC) denomination understand the Bible differently and therefore want to do things different ways related to homosexuality. This has been going on since the 1970s. The General Conference (this has worldwide representation) had a special meeting in 2/2019 and voted to stay with the traditional view. This has not been accepted by all churches in our denomination. The result is the UMC is being hurt and we are not focusing on creating disciples for Christ, which is our mission.

A number of proposals are going to be brought up at the next General Conference (normally meets every four years) in May 2020. The latest proposal, Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation, is what has been reported in the local and national news. (Now, remember, it could easily be changed before the final General Conference vote.) It says we will split into 2 or more denominations and each annual conference (as ours in IN) could vote if they want to leave the post-split denomination to join a new one (currently the only one working on making a new denomination are the traditionalists). Then, if an individual church does not like what its Annual Conference chose, that local church can have a membership vote to join another Methodist denomination and take their assets and liabilities with them.

What makes the Protocol unique is the worldwide mediation team of 16 people represented many different groups and spent much time in prayer to complete all the compromises needed to finish the Protocol. They also considered financial concerns in becoming 2 or more denominations. The other proposals are from groups or areas within the UMC.

Now, that is a whole lot of 'ifs' and a lot of waiting to see what each Conference does. My suggestion is we give this problem to God through prayer, continue to serve Him as we do at OUMC and just keep track of what is going on without stressing out about it. If you are interested in knowing more about the current proposal please contact me and I can give you a printed copy (along with a FAQ sheet and press release, etc.) or how to find it on the internet.

The question of 'what can I do about this?' has come up. The delegates to the General Conference in May have already been chosen by our Annual Conference, both lay and clergy delegates. Our lay delegate at the Indiana Annual Conference is Al Bishop, and Pastor Will votes as well. So, we need to go back to God, through prayer, to have all of this happen as He wants it to. God is an awesome God who knows what is going on and we can trust Him even when things don't make sense to us. Let's enjoy worshipping and serving God here at OUMC. We can wait until the General and Annual Conferences do what they are going to do and still continue with what we do.

Susan Baldwin



OUMC Mission Dollars at Work 2019

The Mission committee would like to give a huge thank you to our church congregation for your generous donations to Missions! Your contributions made it possible to assist the following Ministries/Agencies:

Broadway Christian Parish \$500, Dismas House \$500, The Upper Room Ministries (SBUMC Addition Recovery) \$500, Habitat of Saint Joseph County \$500, Susanna's Kitchen \$500, Ken and Debbie Vance (Missionaries) \$500, Hannah's House \$500, Miller's Vet \$500, Campus Ministry – Fort Wayne IUPUI \$500, Bashor Childrens Home \$500, Henderson Settlement \$500

Our Food Pantry assisted 186 (601 individuals) food insecure families this past year. Our Backpack Blessings ministry provided weekend food for 55 in need for Moran Elementary students last school year and we are currently packing for 45 students this school year.

Food Pantry Expense for 2019	\$5,274.98
Backpack Blessing Expense for 2019	\$2,106.88

Thank you again for being the light of Christ,

Quilts of Valor

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. The movement was originally started by Catherine Roberts of Seaford, DE in 2003 but has now spread across the United States and even has an international presence.

Each quilt also represents a three-part message from the givers to those receiving:

- First, we HONOR you for your service. We honor you for leaving all you hold dear and to stand in harm's way in a time of crisis, protecting us from the effects of war.
- Secondly, we know that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE. The cost of freedom is the dedication of lives of men and women like you, and this quilt is meant to say thank you for your sacrifice.
- Third, this quilt is meant to offer COMFORT to you, and to remind you that although your family and friends cannot be with you at all times, you are forever in our thoughts and our hearts.

On January 20, 2020, The Quilts of Valor, foundation honored 2 of our church members who served their country. Bus Kelter, U.S. Navy during WWII, 1945-1946 & Korea, 1950,-1952. Gene Cocanower U.S. Army 1960-1962

It was a lovely presentation and so deserving. We thank you for your service.

For more information on the Quilts of Valor foundation, go to <https://www.qovf.org/>



ONLINE GIVING INFORMATION



Osceola United Methodist Church

We have a new way of giving! Just scan this code on your smart phone and it will instantly link you to our online giving system. Please consider scheduling a recurring contribution today. It's very convenient. You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis. You may also visit our website at www.osceolaumc.org and click on the Online Giving button on the lower left side of the page or contact our bookkeeper, Jennifer Witmer, at 679.4435 to set up online giving contributions.



MEET THE STAFF

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