

Opening Hymn – #92- For the Beauty of the Earth, verses 1, 4, & 5

1-For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

4-For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild; Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

5-For thy church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above, offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Scripture Text –

Ruth 1:16b-17

¹⁶ Ruth answered, “Please don’t tell me to leave you and return home! I will go where you go, I will live where you live; your people will be my people, your God will be my God. ¹⁷ I will die where you die and be buried beside you. May the LORD punish me if we are ever separated, even by death!”^[a]

Ruth 2:10-12

¹⁰ Ruth bowed down to the ground and said, “You know I come from another country. Why are you so good to me?”

¹¹ Boaz answered, “I’ve heard how you’ve helped your mother-in-law ever since your husband died. You even left your own father and mother to come and live in a foreign land among people you don’t know. ¹² I pray that the LORD God of Israel will reward you for what you have done. And now that you have come to him for protection, I pray that he will bless you.”

Ruth 4:16-22

¹⁶ Naomi loved the boy and took good care of him. ¹⁷ The neighborhood women named him Obed, but they called him “Naomi’s Boy.”

When Obed grew up he had a son named Jesse, who later became the father of King David. ¹⁸⁻

²² Here is a list of the ancestors of David: Jesse, Obed, Boaz, Salmon, Nahshon, Amminadab, Ram, Hezron, and Perez.

Holy Bible: Contemporary English Version (CEV)

Closing Hymn - #399 – Take My Life, and Let It Be, all verses

1-Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

2-Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose.

3-Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Resources: Led By Love, Lavon Bayler, The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing Hymnal, Contemporary English Bible, and www.thetextthisweek.com

**Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church
Order of Worship for September 6, 2020**

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Song – #92- *For the Beauty of the Earth, verses 1, 4, & 5*

Opening Prayer

Scripture – Ruth 1:16b-17, 2:10-22, & Ruth 4:16-22

Message - *Focus on the Prophetic Voice of Ruth*

A Prayer for One Voice

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing God’s Grace through Communion

Our Faith in Action, Announcements, and Offering Prayer

Closing Song - #399 – *Take My Life, and Let It Be all verses*

Sending Out

Song lyrics and scripture text found on back page.

No matter where you are on your journey, ALL are welcome here.

Mission Statement: Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church is a Christian fellowship whose mission is to: worship God, love and serve all people, grow in faith and invite others to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

New Faith Witness Space – What is prayer?

This space is designed to help us express our thoughts and understandings of what prayer is and what it does for us, our families, our communities, and our world. If you would like to share your comments and/or experiences with prayer, please contact Pastor Wendee.

When you hear the word PRAYER, what do you think of first? Is it one of the following: I never remember to pray, therefore, I feel guilty that I don't pray. I never feel I pray for the correct things, situations, people, therefore, why bother? I never get anything out of prayer, therefore, time in prayer seems like a waist of time. I don't know how to pray, so I don't pray. I love to pray and I feel connected to God through prayer. Author Terry Teykl shares that "most people, to some degree, suffer from some kind of perception problem when it comes to prayer."

In my life, I have grown over the years in my prayer life. Pray is a life-long process of learning and experiencing pray in many ways. I grow in prayer when I open myself to new experiences of prayer. It is a calling for me as a pastor to help people know that God is always connecting with us even if we do not sense God's presence. This feeling and understanding of God reaching out to each of us first, lightens my heart when I think I am not praying right. It really is about God's love toward us and we get to respond to God the best way we know how to do so.

Enjoy prayer! Live prayer! Set time aside for prayer! I believe that you will be blessed and that you will bless God and others. Have fun praying for there is no one way or right way to pray. All of prayer is a gift of grace from and for God!

Blessings, Pastor Wendee

Resource: *How to Pray After You've Kicked the Dog*, by Terry Teykl, pg. 12.

Prayer Requests

You are invited to pray for the following emailed prayer requests:

- For **race relations in our nation** so that we build a society where all people are loved and valued and the vision of equitable policies and systems address our nation's past harms to People of Color.
- For Please pray for our five **Kenosha congregations**, three of which meet in the same building which is next to the courthouse and now behind a security fence that was placed around the entire block. Pray for them as they discern ways to partner in the fight for social justice in the Kenosha Community and as they care for the community grieving in many ways.
- For our nation as we move toward the upcoming **presidential election**. May we find ways to name our common ground and our differences and work together to build a better society that affirms all people's rights.

- For those **immigrants and asylum seekers** who seek a better life away from their country of origin. May they find safety, compassion, and hope in new lands.

- For those suffering from **natural disasters** including: Hurricane Laura and the wildfires in California and other western states.

- For all who are suffering from the **Covid-19 pandemic**. Most of us now know of someone who has, has recovered, or died because of Covid-19. We continue to pray for the Monette and the Bindrich families as they grieve the death of Walt and Jerry, respectively. We give thanks for all who are helping share God's hope, care, and compassion during this health crisis. May we discover a vaccine quickly and, when that discovery happens, may we distribute the vaccine to the most vulnerable first.

- **For those who are hungry**. Because we no longer operate a food pantry here at OCCUMC, we encourage you to drop off non-perishable food items at the Salvation Army website <https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/>

- For our **Community Prayer Initiative** in September everyone is asked to pray for our education systems and the people who service our communities by helping others learn including: administrative staff, teachers, students, families, support staff (bus drivers, crossing guards, tutors, extra curricular activities leaders, etc.), and school board members. There are so many questions, hopes, and concerns about the upcoming school year. May we know that everyone is doing their best to keep everyone safe and learning.

- For our **Break Through Prayer Initiative** (BTPI) efforts. Everyone is welcome to join in one of two prayer gatherings on Tuesday evenings, at 6:30 p.m. One group meets on Zoom and the other group participates in a Prayer Walk at OCCUMC member's and friend's homes. Please contact Pastor Wendee if you are interested in joining one of these gatherings. We pray that you are praying the following prayer everyday at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.: *Creator God, we humbly ask what your plan is for us at Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church. Please, direct our path to your vision for us in our community. Amen.* We are searching for and collecting stories about how you have been and our faith-family has been blessed by GEMs – God Encounter Moments. When we recognized God working in our daily lives, we understand how God is directing us into a life-giving future.

- For the **My Church Can Improve** (MCCI) process here at OCCUMC. Like our scripture text from Ezekiel 37:1-14 last Sunday, OCCUMC is praying for new life into our faith-family through discovering God's new vision for our community. The MCCI Implementation Team and the 2020 congregational Survey Task Force met last week to continue our progress in discerning a new life-giving fruitful ministry here at OCCUMC. Please continue to pray for God's GEMs (God Encounter Moments) that we will truly know the way forward. Thank you!

- For our **shut-ins: Janice B, Gaye D, Kim D, Jeanne and Dave H, Art and Jean J, Diane P, Eileen S – who is back home after a hospital visit following a fall with no broken bones, Dorothy S, Pat and Rod S, Gwen S, and Rick Z.**

Our Staff:		Calendar:	
Preschool Director	Kara P	Sunday	September 6, 2020
Altar Choir Director	Shelly S	9:00 am	Worship – Facebook Live!
Choir Accompanist	Laurie S	Monday	September 7, 2020
Organist	Todd A		Church Office closed Memorial Day
Administrative Assist.	Aryn A	7:00 pm	AA in South Parking Lot
Custodian	Amy P	Tuesday	September 8, 2020
Pastor	Rev. Wendee Nitz	6:30 pm	Break Through Prayer Gathering on Zoom & Prayer Walk
Assisting In Worship:		Wednesday	September 9, 2020
Video Taping	Larry G & Megan F	Thursday	September 10, 2020
Liturgist	Edith G	Friday	September 11, 2020
Soloist	Shelly S	Saturday	September 12, 2020
Counters	Lisa B & Amber Y	9 to 11:00 am	Visitation for Jerry Bindrich
		11:00 am	Memorial Service at Max Sass & Son Mission Hill Chapel, at 8910 W. Drexel Avenue, Franklin.
		All Day	UMC WI Annual Conference Special Meeting via Zoom
		Sunday	September 13, 2020 – Rally Day
			Celebration via video
		9:00 am	Worship – Facebook Live!
		1:00 pm	Tabitha via Zoom

• **In response to God's love, if you would like to support the ministries and mission here at OCCUMC and beyond there are three ways you can give:**

- 1-**Electronic Funds Transfer**, contact Bonnie C at finance@occumc.org
- 2-**Mail** your offering to OCCUMC 8675 South 13th Street, Oak Creek, WI 53154.
- 3-**Online** using the Donate button on our church website at www.occumc.org

• **Technology Needs:** By now you have heard that in-person worship will be suspended for the rest of the year. We are following the recommendation of the Bishop to keep everyone safe. We would like to make our online service better and give Larry & Edith some help. If you would like to be on the team looking into how to do that, please contact Wendee.

• **Upper Room:** The September/October Upper Room devotionals will be in the basket on the bench by the front office door for anyone who is interested. Feel free to pick one up!

Phone: (414) 762-4600 / Email: office@occumc.org or pastor@occumc.org
 Website: <http://www.occumc.org> / Newsletter Editor: office@occumc.org
 Find us on Facebook! [facebook.com/occumc](https://www.facebook.com/occumc)
 8675 South 13th Street, Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

Our Faith in Action, Announcements, and Opportunities to Service and Share God's Love:

• **All Sunday School Classes this Fall will be on Zoom:** Early in August, the Christian Education Team (CET) met to discuss the results of the congregational 2020-2021 Sunday school survey. The CET decided to move Sunday school for all classes on-line via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning except for November 28, December 20 & 27, and April 4. The first day of Sunday school will be on September 13. During worship we will offer a blessing for all who are involved in the OCCUMC Sunday school program this coming year. We will also share Bibles with our third graders: **Teagan B, Landon M, Jeremy S, and Jake R.** Any questions/comments, please call Jennifer K at 414-364-6420 or email at tyky00@yahoo.com or Pastor Wendee at 414-762-4600 or at pastor@occumc.org.

- **A Faith Heart: A Daily Guide for Joyful Living,** Weekly Zoom class on Wednesday afternoons, at 2 p.m. Join us on September 2, 9, 16, & 20, October 7 & 14, and November 4 & 11. Cost for class and the book is \$10.00
- **Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World,** Weekly Zoom class on Wednesday evenings, at 7 p.m. Join us on August 30, September 2, 16, & 30, October 7 & 14, November 4. Cost for the class and the study guide is \$15.00

• **Hurricane Laura: Join the response.** UMCOR is providing funding to meet immediate needs and will continue to work with conferences in the days and months to come. During this time, you can help, too, by giving to U.S. Disaster Response. 100% of your gift directly supports UMCOR and its partners in the work of alleviating human suffering and advancing hope and healing. Click on the following to donate to UMCOR:
https://www.umcmission.org/umcor?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTldFMElXVmlaamszT0RBeCIsInQiOiJDREtwMXVsdUtuXC9RTTdvdjZGdEQyTkxVbkF0TENnVE9UUzA5a2wzRWZZdzRUyIA2TzVRUHRSZVNnRIFPMVpFd2ZEOEFNVUtNTlJzZU0wakdXOFJKVWMxWHA4RWdQMlIOWmV4dU1gamxGclQzMINpamg2bGx4N1NCOVZ0ZXNIR3YifQ%3D%3D

• **Tabitha Circle:** Sunday, September 13 at 1:00pm via Zoom. Contact Bonnie C at cc32drc@tds.net or 262-895-2644 if you would like to join us for devotion & discussion.

• **Girl Scouts Robot Building:** Bring a friend, make some new ones, and build a robot with Girl Scouts-It's all free! Join us on Monday, September 14 from 5:30-6:30pm, for a virtual online party! Get more information and RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/RBP-OCSM-0914> **Girl Scouts Animal Dance Party:** Bring a friend, make new ones, and get wild on the dance floor with Girl Scouts-It's all free! Join us Tuesday, September 22 from 6-7pm, for a virtual online party! Get more information and RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/ADP-OCSM-0922>