

Opening Hymn – *What Gift Can We Bring, UMH #87, vs. 1 & 4*

1-What gift can we bring, what present, what token? What words can convey it, the joy of this day? When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, what song can we offer in honor and praise?

4-This gift we now bring, this present, this token, these words can convey it, the joy of this day! When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, this song we now offer in honor and praise!

Scripture Text – *Philippians 4:1-9*

¹Dear friends, I love you and long to see you. Please keep on being faithful to the Lord. You are my pride and joy. ²Eudodia and Syntyche, you belong to the Lord, so I beg you to stop arguing with each other. ... ⁷Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. ... ⁹You know the teachings I gave you, and you know what you heard me say and saw me do. So follow my example. And God, who gives peace, will be with you.

Closing Hymn - *Grace Alone, FWSH #2162, all verses*

1-Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith, every difference we will make is only by his grace. Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine, every blessing left behind is only by his grace.

-Refrain- Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide. Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go forth in grace alone.

2-Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach, everywhere we share his peace is only by his grace. Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away, every sorrow turned to praise is only by his grace.

-Refrain-

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

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

Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

Order of Worship for October 18, 2020

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Song* – *What Gift Can We Bring, UMH #87, vs. 1 & 4*

Opening Prayer

Scriptures – *Philippians 4:1-9*

Message

Blessing of the Estimates of Giving for 2021

A Prayer for One Voice

The Lord's Prayer*

Our Faith in Action, Announcements, and Offering Prayer

Closing Song* - *Grace Alone, FWSH #2162, all verses*

Sending Out

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 and our families and communities. If you would like to share your comments and/or experiences with prayer, please contact Pastor Wendee.*

Last Wednesday, Pastor Wendee, Judie, and I met on Zoom for our *Anxious For Nothing* bible study. It was the third session of the Max Lucado series that has a study guide book and a five part video to guide us toward feeling calmer in our lives. And as we are living through a global pandemic, unparalleled recognition of racial injustices, and a presidential election year, I believe we have a lot to be justifiably anxious about. This week's session was entitled, "Present your requests to God." As an 8th grade teacher, I can easily draw a parallel between my role with my students to God and Jesus's role to their disciples and followers. Max Lucado points out that, "there are 3 reasons why it's important to be specific with our requests to God: (1) a specific prayer is a serious prayer, (2) a specific prayer opens the door to seeing God at Work, and (3) specific prayers create a lighter load."

Being specific in your requests makes perfect sense to me. I frequently have students who will ask for help, but they do it in a whiny voice and will say something like, "I don't get it, or I need your help, Ms. Ferger!" They are frustrated, tired, and just want someone to take away their problems. They are not serious, in that moment, about learning. They are not open to learning or "seeing God at Work" in their lives. This is when, I ask them, "What do you need help with? Be specific?" My students need to at least identify the problems they are stuck on and figure out what things they do understand, and what they don't understand before I can help them. God works the same way, he needs to know where our problems are before he can help us or enlist those around us to help get us unstuck. He also needs us to identify what we do have, what we do understand, and by voicing the specifics of our needs we often lighten our load by realizing ways we can start to help ourselves or let go of our worries by handing them over to God.

In James 5:13-16, we found "The Prayer of Faith" which says, "¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."

May each of us create prayers that are powerful and effective by lifting up our specific anxieties, worries, and concerns to God! Be specific, and look for God Encounter Moments (GEMS), lighten your load by giving your burdens to God to carry for you.

In Christ, Megan Ferger

Prayer Requests

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

•For our shut-ins: Janice B, Gaye D, Kim D, Jeanne and Dave H, Art and Jean J, Diane P, Eileen S, Dorothy S, Pat and Rod S, Gwen S, and Rick Z

• Prayers for **Rosemary C**, Chris C's mother, who is in the hospital for at least 5 more days with COVID19 pneumonia.

• Prayers for both **Chris C and Jeanne R-C** who are both COVID-19 positive and are recovering at home with what seems to be a mild case.

•For **Lois and Steve D** who are at home recovering from Covid-19. They seem to have a mild case. Prayers for healing.

•For **Ethan, Maddox, and James F** who are all having minor health issues. Prayers for patience as they heal.

•For our **Community Prayer Initiative** in October everyone is asked to pray for our elected officials who serve in Oak Creek and Franklin. This is a difficult election for everyone. May we find a bit of grace to share with those who are running the community's elections. May they know that they are appreciated.

•For our **Break Through Prayer Initiative** (BTPI) efforts. 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.*

•For **race relations in our nation and our local areas** 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 the **people affected by the wildfires out west and hurricanes in the south**, the disruption of lives, the destruction of property, and the loss of life. Please consider sharing a gift with the United Methodist Committee on Relief where 100% of your donation goes directly to the folks affected by these disasters.

•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. Register to vote, request your mail-in ballot, and return your ballot as soon as possible.

<u>Our Staff:</u>		<u>Calendar:</u>	
Preschool Director	Kara P	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>October 18, 2020</u>
Altar Choir Director	Shelly S	9:00 am	Worship – Facebook Live!
Choir Accompanist	Laurie S	<u>Monday</u>	<u>October 19, 2020</u>
Organist	Todd A	9:00 am	Preschool
Administrative Assist.	Aryn A	6:30 pm	Finance Team Meeting
Custodian	Amy P	7:00 pm	AA in South Parking Lot
Pastor	Rev. Wendee Nitz	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>October 20, 2020</u>
<u>Assisting In Worship:</u>		9:00 am	Preschool
Video Taping	Larry G	6:30 pm	Break Through Prayer Gathering Via Zoom
Liturgist	Edith G	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>October 21, 2020</u>
Soloist	Patti W	9:00 am	Preschool
Counters	Edith G & Lynn W	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>October 22, 2020</u>
		9:00 am	Preschool
		<u>Friday</u>	<u>October 23, 2020</u>
		<u>Saturday</u>	<u>October 24, 2020</u>
		<u>Sunday</u>	<u>October 25, 2020</u>
		9:00 am	Worship – Facebook Worship Service Guest Preacher – Allan L

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

• **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.

•**Annual Conference Ingathering:** The Wisconsin Conference Disaster Response Team and Mission Motivation Committee are currently working with Midwest Mission Distribution Center to set up locations throughout Wisconsin for Picking up supplies that have been collected for Ingathering. Please drop off your donations at church between 9 a.m. and noon Mondays through Thursdays or anytime in the blue tub by the Church Office door now through October 27, 2020. Review the [April 2020 brochure](#) from [MMDC](#) to be certain that the kits you are donating are complete and include the requested items. Check out their website at <https://www.wisconsinumc.org/annual-conference>

• The **Salvation Army** is in urgent need of non-perishable food items.

They are asking for the following:

-Canned fish/meat -Pasta, items like canned ravioli -Pasta mixes -Canned fruit -Cereals
If you would like to donate please take the items directly to Salvation Army. Thank you!

•**New Garden Prayer Area Open!** Since we are unable to pray in our Sanctuary, the Blooming Garden Team worked with the Dolores Esch Memorial monies and created a place for us to sit with God outside to the west of the north front door. Please come and pray.

•**UM Women's Salad Luncheon:** The UMW Salad Luncheon was scheduled for **October 24th**. This is usually and enjoyable event open to all women which includes a delicious meal of salads and some fun entertainment. Unfortunately to keep everyone safe **we need to cancel the Salad Luncheon this year**. But we still want to support the mission projects as usual – Sr. & Jr. High Mission, 16th Street Clinic, Salvation Army, Cathedral Center, United Methodist Children's Services and more. **Please consider donating the price a ticket (\$15) or two**. Make your check payable to UMW and mail it to Oak Creek Community UMC Attn: UMW 8675 S. 13th St. Oak Creek, WI 53154.

• **Cathedral Center:** We are signed up for **October 27**. Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 health crisis, we are not able to go to Cathedral Center in person. So instead of requesting food donations as we usually do, we would like to provide the money for Cathedral Center to purchase the meal on those dates. Please write a check out directly to Cathedral Center Inc. Put "Member OCCUMC" in the MEMO line and "snail" mail it to Attention: Ana Treptow - Cathedral Center Inc., 845 Van Buren Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202. <https://cathedralcenter.org>

•**Walking with Jesus Prayer Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, November 22, 2020 – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** Join the Break Through Prayer Initiative Team for this socially-distant-face-masked prayer experience in the church parking lot. Yes, we know that the Packers are playing the Colts starting at noon. Maybe you and your family could watch the beginning of the game and then head over to church to walk this simple path of prayer. We will be praying for our faith-family's future mission and ministry in our world, nation, state, communities, families, and in our personal lives. We will focus our prayers on the front doors - worship, the road sign - inviting, the sun dial – growing over time in the Spirit, the mission trailer – serving others, the parking lot - fellowship, and the swampy area in the backyard – just for fun!