

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

Serving Christ, Serving Our Community

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

*Palm Sunday
Worship Service
March 24
at 10:15 am*

*Maundy
Thursday Service
March 28
at 6:30 pm*

*Easter Sunday
Worship Service
March 31 at 7 am
followed by
Pancake Breakfast
and Egg Hunt.*



From the Pastor:

Happy March Church Family!

I can't believe Easter is almost here and we are in the middle of Lent. Each year, during Lent, I try and do my best to use unique experiences in order to best describe Lent and the message it wants to convey.

To that end, I found a wonderful and creative article about Lent by Don Jones. He puts an interesting and fun "twist" on Lent that I find appealing.

Hopefully, at the very least, it will get your mind "thinking" about Lent! Happy Reading.....

Lent is another word for Spring. I was surprised to learn this fact. Somehow, I got the idea it meant "fasting" or something similar. No one asks me, "What are you giving up for Spring?" It does not make much sense. But if someone asked what I was doing for Spring, I have several answers. It makes me ponder how Lent as an observance factors into these other tasks.

Where I live, we plant beans on good Friday. Corn and squash planting is done close to that same time. But beans are for Good Friday or Holy Week because the risk of frost is mostly past us. The plants would die from the cold. It is also the time of rain which is important for the plants.

Potatoes should be planted around Ash Wednesday. The weather is cooler making the work involved easier. The first leaves will come up later in Lent when it is time to pull dirt over them thereby "hilling" the potatoes. This practice allows for more growth.

Greens, beets, onion, cabbages, and lettuces should be planted after the potatoes. The cooler weather allows these plants to grow more slowly gathering more nutrients and flavor. Plan enough to share with rabbits and other animals you cannot outwit.

These are vegetable crops. Spring flowers are planted during Autumn. Summer and Autumn flowers are planted during Lent.

Spring Life

I also associate Lent with Little League Baseball. My practice as a parent was to help children (mostly boys but some girls) learn to throw and hit a small off-white ball.

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AND THE ANGEL
ANSWERED AND
SAID UNTO THE
WOMEN, FEAR NOT
YE: FOR I KNOW
THAT YE SEEK
JESUS, WHICH WAS
CRUCIFIED.

*He is not here: for
he is risen,*

AS HE SAID. COME,
SEE THE PLACE
WHERE THE LORD
LAY.

MATTHEW 28:5-6



**The next
Board of Elders
meeting will be
Wednesday
March 20th
at 6:30 pm
in the
Conference
Room. Meetings
are open to ALL!**

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Later, I helped other parents learn how to teach these skills. I tell them about hand and eye coordination and quick decision making. Literally, we teach the children to think on their feet.

Lent is about spiritual preparation or exercise. We are training more than our own willpower. In observing Lent, we are training a sense of Christian character into ourselves. How should we respond to adversity? The best way to understand that is working on some form of self-denial. Specialists in addiction recovery know that the brain changes as a person develops ways of avoiding relapse or, to use a church word, backsliding. The adaptation in the brain are often more dense in structure than the previous configurations. This allows the new behavior to remain. You can, so to speak, teach new tricks to the old dog and have them stick.

The 21-days-to-a-new-habit method works on the same principle. Lent is not about developing a new habit. The observance is about reflecting on our past behavior and finding a new way of being in life.

Lent and Repentance

Repentance is life-long. It should not be constant self-loathing. A repentant person changes mind and action in lifeways. Going back to the gardener's time and seasons, consider how unhealthful it is to attempt to produce food outside of the proper life-cycles. As a society, we do that by expecting cheap food out of season. In doing this, we lose most of the value of the food itself. Flavor and nutrition are sacrificed thus harming our physical and perhaps mental health.

Spiritual health comes from proper nutrition and action. There is always a spiritual temptation toward pride. This temptation is about outward appearances. When I introduced my spouse to heirloom tomatoes, she asked if they were all right to eat. Heirloom tomatoes do not have the bright red coloring that looks good on labels. The one's I raised last year were a greenish purple hue. A few weeks later she declared, I had made a convert of her. Spiritual pride or hubris looks good to people who do not know what to look for. Genuine spirituality is healthy to physical, emotional, and mental well-being.

Lent gives us the opportunity to look for that genuineness. More importantly, this season allows us to live out the genuineness we already know we should do.

I will see you at church this Lent season.. I hope it teaches us all something this year!

Brad

Baby Blanket Buddies

Please continue your donations of hand-made baby blankets for Hope Pregnancy Center. They can be knit, crochet, quilted. I hope to make the next donation around Easter. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, just give me a call and we will set up some time to meet. For details see Maggie. Thank you for your support and your prayers.

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CHRISTIAN SISTERS

The Christian Sisters met on February 20th with 9 members and 1 visitor attending. Carolyn gave the lesson on 1 Samuel 28: the witch of Endor.

Sandra Dubcak presented information on the Mutual Aid convention to be held at Ocker on July 13, 2024. We are asked to provide 2 meals for attendees. This was discussed and everyone was asked to think about how we could get this covered.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 19 at 11:30 am. All are invited.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

We continue our study of the book of Matthew on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Bring yourself and your Bible. All are welcome!

We do not meet on Family Game Night.

Maggie

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EASTER SUNDAY

JOIN US!

Worship Service will be at 7 am on Sunday, March 31 followed by a Pancake Breakfast and children's egg hunt. Invite your friends and neighbors.



DID YOU KNOW?

Ocker Brethren Church has a website that includes lots of valuable information.

ockerbrethrenchurch.org

For instance, the church calendar is there.. go to the CONTACT tab then click CALENDAR. Known events are added when scheduled, monthly events are added when the newsletter is done.

Or you can have the actual Google calendar link sent to you so you can add the church calendar to your personal calendar info. Send a request with subject GOOGLE CALENDAR to Stacie at ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com so she can get you connected.

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Children's Rally & Youth Retreat at Hus Encampment

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEB 25. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Forms available at www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org. Transportation arrangements will be made once all forms are received.

The youth retreat (6th grade and up) runs Friday, March 15-Sunday, March 17. The children's rally (ages 3 – those in 5th grade) is a one-day event on Saturday, March 16.

Details and the forms can be found on the website above. Please see Jennifer if you have questions.

SUMMER CAMP 2024 www.huscamp.org

Staff applications are open, and we need counselors to serve at all camps. Pray about serving and sign up!

Camper applications are also open. The registration closes on May 15. Late fees and full cost of camp will be your responsibility if you do not register your child(ren) by the deadline.

The coupon code for Ocker kiddos is OCKER. You must use this code when registering if you would like for the church to cover your child's camp fee (less a \$50 deposit).

Encounter (ages 7-9) : June 9-12
Alpha (ages 10-11): July 21-25
Pioneer (ages 12-13): June 23-28
Discovery (ages 14-15): June 16-21
Hus School (ages 16 & up): July 7-19

* Hus School will have one week focusing on classes and training and the second week will be mission opportunities. Please let Jenn or Jordan know if you need more information for any of the camps.

*The Lord is
risen indeed!*

Luke 24:34



WANTED CANDY FOR THE EGG HUNT

Please bring individually wrapped candies for the stuffing of Easter eggs. Candy needs to be dropped in the donation box in the fellowship hall no later than Sunday, March 24.

Eggs will be stuffed on Wed. March 27 in conjunction with Family Game Night.

Wednesday Nights at Ocker 6-8pm; Dinner Provided

February 28- Family Game Night

March 6- Youth Bible Study

March 13- Youth Bible Study

March 20- Youth Bible Study

March 27- Family Game Night &
Easter egg stuffing

Jennifer Chervenka
254-913-1244
jennchervenka@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL/CEC NEWS

The Sunday School officers and members of the CEC would like to thank all that participated in the Valentine's Banquet from selling tickets, advertising, decorating, putting together and attending. It turned out great with a total of 118 guests. The evening included a wonderful meal by Hechno of Texas, a Not So Newlywed game led by Bro. Brad and then our old Pastor, Bro. Ron Winsman and his lovely bride, Dee, was the guest speaker. Childcare was provided by members of our BYF. Thank you, Joanna and Jaidyn. Again, thank you all for your participation. Please let any member of the CEC know your thoughts.

The CEC had its regular meeting on Sunday, February 11, 2024 to finalize plans for the Valentine's Banquet. Childcare was provided so that Moms and Dads could have a special night out.

Please mark your calendar for the following activities:

Maunder Thursday Service – Thursday, March 28 at 6:30pm

Easter Service – March 31 at 7am – followed by breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt.

April Craft Retreat – April 19 & 20

Graduates Luncheon – May 5

Mother's Day – May 12

Confirmation Sunday – May 19

VBS 2024 – Pencil in August 5, 6 & 7

Easter Service – Sunday, March 31 - Candy donations or monetary donations are needed to fill eggs. Please bring candy and place in the tote located in the Fellowship Foyer or see Jennifer with any cash donations. Egg stuffing will be held on Wednesday, March 27 at Game Night.

Our Easter Service starts at 7am and is followed by a wonderful pancake breakfast and then an Easter Egg hunt for the kiddos. It is a great time shared by all. Please join us.

April Craft Retreat – April 19 & 20. This is a Friday and Saturday and is hosted by the Sunday School. We ask that each adult Sunday School class take a meal. Those meals are one of the following: Friday night dinner, Saturday lunch, or Saturday dinner. There will need to be volunteers from your class at your meal for food preparation, set out and clean up. Desserts will also need to be provided. For questions or assistance with this retreat, please see Tracie, Dianne, Lisa or Lynn. The Confirmation class has graciously volunteered to set up for the retreat. Thank you Bro. Brad and the Confirmation Class.

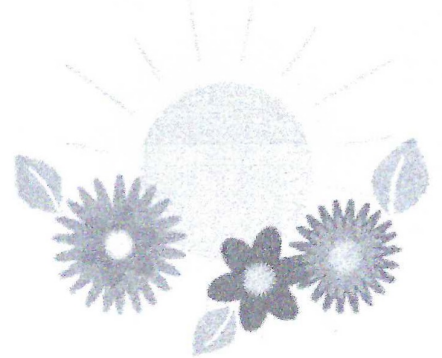
Graduates Luncheon – will be held on Sunday May 5. Chicken tenders, gravy, rolls, green beans and mashed potatoes will be provided by the Sunday along with a cake for dessert. If you have a graduate from 8th grade, High School or College, please let one of the Sunday School officers know. We do not want to miss anyone. (Tracie, Dianne, Lisa, Lynn)

The CEC's next meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, May 5 after the Graduates Luncheon. Please feel free to attend.



Operation Christmas Child Feeling Fresh

March is the beginning of SPING! Spring brings fresh starts. Rains come to wash the ground. Trees gain new leaves. Flowers emerge and fill the air with sweet fragrances. Spring is all around.



This month, Operation Christmas Child is focused on feeling fresh for spring by **collecting hygiene items!** We will be collecting **NON-**

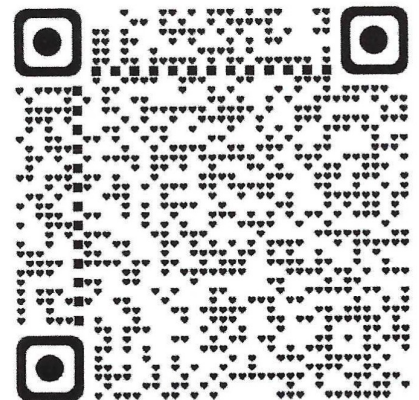
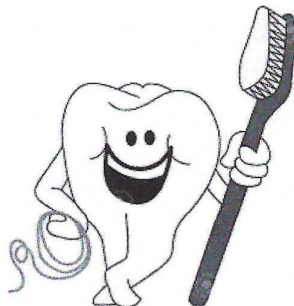
LIQUID hygiene products such as bars of soap, toothbrushes, lip balm, hairbrushes/combs, etc. We will also be collecting hair accessories, bandanas, socks, and flip-flops. Our goal is for every child who receives a box from Ocker will be provided with each of these items. The next time you go to the store, just think “If I pick up one package of soap today, I will be providing basic hygiene to about 10 children”. Operation Christmas Child would like to challenge you to bring in at least one hygiene item each week of March. When placing the items into the donation box, we ask that you take a minute to think about the amazing impact each item will have on children in the world.

*The collection box is located under the OCC bulletin board in the fellowship hall just before the hallway leading to the Sunday school rooms.

The **Amazon Wishlist** can be access through:

- The Ocker Brethren Church website under Ministries
- Ocker Brethren Church Facebook page

Or Scan here!! →



Ocker Brethren Church
17454 State Hwy 53
Temple, TX 76501

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 806
Rogers, TX 76569

Phone 254.985.2240

E-mail
ockerbrethrenchurch@
gmail.com

Pastor:
Dr. Brad Herridge

Phone:
254..716.2578

Email:
bradherridge@gmail.com

Board of Elders
President: Bernard Keoing
Phone: (254)913-6275
Email:
bernardkoenig764@gmail.com

Youth Director:
Jennifer Chervenka
Phone: 254.913.1244
Email:
jennchervenka@gmail.com

Sunday School Supt.
Tracie Malovets
Phone:
254.760.8696
Email:
tmalovets@gmail.com

Church
Secretary/Treasurer:
Stacie Sebek
Phone:
254.718.5608
Email:
ockerbrethrenchurch@
gmail.com

Christian Sisters
Hospitality Coordinator:
Deanna Naivar
Phone: 254.931.5720

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MARCH BIRTHDAYS
 ~ 4 – Jaxon Sebek
 ~ 6 – Joanna Chervenka
 ~ 7 – John Dillard
 Ed Klinkovsky
 ~ 8 – Sharon Jungmann
 ~ 10 – Kash Stephens
 ~ 12 – Randy Lesikar
 Bernard Koenig
 ~ 20 – Joseph Doney
 Carsyn Sebek
 ~ 21 – Ronald Jungmann
 ~ 24 – Tatum Dillard
 ~ 25 – Karen Tomlin
 Taryn Tucker
 ~ 28 – Mariah Malovets

March Anniversaries
 5 – Leland & Sharon Jungmann
 7 – Johnny & Tina Adams
 20 – Scott & Amy Cummings



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 First Sunday Fellowship 9 am Worship 10:15 am	4	5	6 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6-8 PM <i>Matthew Bible Study</i> 6:30 pm	7 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm	8	9
10 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	11	12	13 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6-8 PM <i>Matthew Bible Study</i> 6:30 pm	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	18	19 Christian Sisters Meeting 11:30 am	20 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6-8 PM <i>Matthew Bible Study</i> 6:30 pm	21 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY! Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	25	26	27 FAMILY GAME NIGHT 6 PM with <i>Easter</i> <i>Egg Stuffing Party!</i>	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 6:30 PM	29	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY! WORSHIP 7 AM Followed by Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt						

MARCH 2024

