

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH



From the Pastor....

The Past and Future is Now!

Happy New Year Ocker! 2022 is behind us and the future is bright!

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everybody who helped make 2022 possible here at Ocker.

Ocker is made up of so many talented and devoted volunteers who donate so much of themselves to the kingdom. Throughout the year, so many people come together to create "church"and I wanted to say how thankful I am to each of those people!

Did you know that January takes its name from the old (and of course false) Roman god Janus?

According to the Romans, Janus was a god of beginnings, endings, transitions and time.

Christians, of course, don't think there is a specific god of time and transition; instead, we believe in the great God who creates, keeps and transcends time. We believe in a God who sets the seasons and the time for that season. *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."* (Ecclesiastes 3)

And so, in keeping with scripture...this time of year...Christians look back on the year that we just had and we look forward toward the year to come. In other words, we take a moment to ponder the past, and another moment to focus on the future.

I wonder, how do you ponder the past and focus on the future during this time of year?

Personally, I try to take time the week after Christmas and into the New Year for self-reflection. I try to consider the sort of person I've been, and the sort of person I'd like to be. Have I been as kingdom centered and Jesus focused as I could have been? Have I been as kind and considerate of others as I could have been? Have I sought first to understand before trying to be understood? Have I lived the Micah 6:8 life as well as my Lord expects?

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Did you know Ocker has an automated TEXT PRAYER CHAIN for immediate prayer needs? If you would like to receive Prayer Chain Texts, please email: ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com and put PRAYER CHAIN TEXT in the subject line.

Brad sends out a Weekly E-mail with updates on weekly activities and prayer requests. If you do not currently get the email and would like to, please email: ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com and put WEEKLY EMAIL in the subject line.



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And then I ask myself — What sort of person do I want to be in the new year? And what do I need to change about myself to make that a reality?

Sometimes my self-reflection works, and I am able to add and subtract things in my life...sometimes it doesn't. Most of the time I start this exercise and, like most of my resolutions, I don't finish well.

But today I have high hopes! I will let you know what my self-reflection reveals about who I am as 2023 moves on...BUT...

For now...I thought I would close with a "time" concept about God that C.S. Lewis penned. I thought it was interesting and might be relevant to our discussion.

Writer C.S. Lewis compares God's ability to control time to an author's control of time in a book. God doesn't move from page to page, day to day, the way we do. God moves outside of time. For God, there is no yesterday or tomorrow. For God, there is only always now!

If C.S. Lewis is right, then God never says, "I will love tomorrow." Or, "I will help tomorrow." For God, the time to help, grow, love, reflect is now. It is always now.

Happy New Year...Here is to 2023, where I pray we can join God in the now!

Brad

Membership dues to the Unity of the Brethren are \$40 per member and can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday. Please note "Unity Dues" on your envelope or check.

Cemetery Dues are \$2 and can be given to Sharon Marek.

•*Christian Sisters News*•

Christian Sisters will have their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 11:30 am in the Youth Building. All are invited and will be welcomed to share a potluck lunch before the meeting. Plans for the new year will be discussed.

Christian Sisters dues of \$12 should be given to Lanelle Lesikar this month.

The 2023 Ocker Board of Elders will be installed on Sunday January 8, 2022 during Worship Service.

The first Board of Elders meeting for 2022 will be Wednesday, JAN 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm. Meetings are open and ALL are invited to attend.

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2023 Elders are:

John Paul Chervenka
Kelly Stephens
Jerry Dillard
Karen Tomlin
Ryan Zdroik
Barnard Koenig
Darrell Glaser
David Sebek
James Naivar

***New Members**

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Thank you outgoing members:

Ryan Sebek
Dillon Barbisch
John Dillard

for your invaluable service to the congregation of Ocker Brethren Church.

State-Wide Activities for 2023 held at the Hus Encampment/

January 7-8: Youth Retreat (6th grade and up)

Saturday, March 4: State Children's Rally (ages 3- 11) Forms due February 12.

March 25-26: Youth Retreat (ages 12-21) Forms due March 5.

Saturday, April 1: Adult Volleyball Fellowship (ages 21 & up)

June 3-4: Youth Volleyball Retreat (ages 12-21) Forms due May 15.

Summer Camp Dates for 2023 (online registration opens soon!)

Hus School (ages 16 & older): June 4-16

Discovery (ages 14-15): June 18-23

Pioneer (ages 12-13): June 25-30

Encounter (ages 7-9): July 9-12

Alpha (ages 10-11) July 16-20

**Final Days of
Winter Warmth
Drive**

**Bring blankets,
coats, jackets,
sweaters, socks etc.
for those in need.**

**Collection ends on
January 22.**

Ocker Activities:

Every Wednesday youth 6-8pm. Family game night is the 4th Wednesday. Dinner provided Wednesday nights.

Friday, January 20 -Saturday, January 21: Youth Sponsored Craft Retreat- Jenn will send out texts/reminds for signups for the meals. Set up will be the Wednesday night before the retreat.

Sunday, January 22: Youth Soup Meal Fund-raiser. Jenn will send a sign-up genius link. Be prepared to stay through the meal, cleanup, and then we will have our BYF meeting and set dates/activities for the year.

SUPPORT THE YOUTH & ENJOY LUNCH

after worship on

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Chili, stews, soups, and all the fixin's.

Free will offering to benefit the youth activities.





Operation Christmas Child

A Little Piece of Ocker in the World

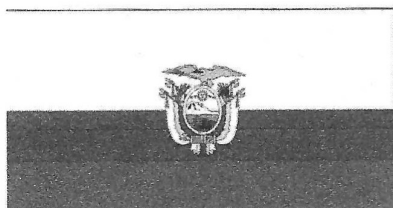
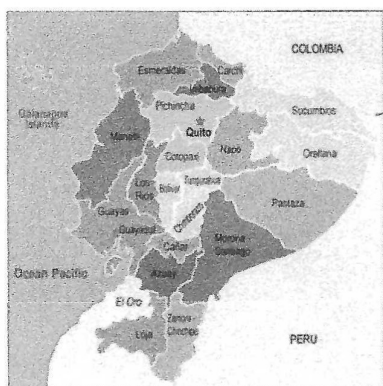
In November, the church packed 344 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Each box had a tracking labeled placed so we can see where the boxes ended up in the world. We are excited to announce that a little piece of Ocker was shipped to both Ecuador and Colombia.

Ecuador is located along the west coast of South America. Located right on the equator, Ecuador has a diverse landscape of jungle, mountains, and the wildlife-rich Galápagos Islands. However, Ecuador is a developing country with lots of poverty. Currently, about 40% of children live in poverty within the country. Colombia, Ecuador's large northeastern neighbor, has a mix landscape of forests, savannas, and mountains. Colombia is estimated to have about 20% of the child population living in poverty.

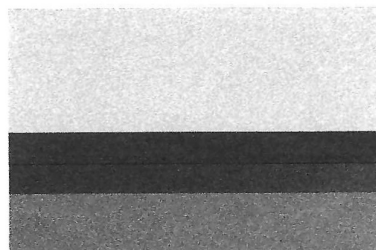
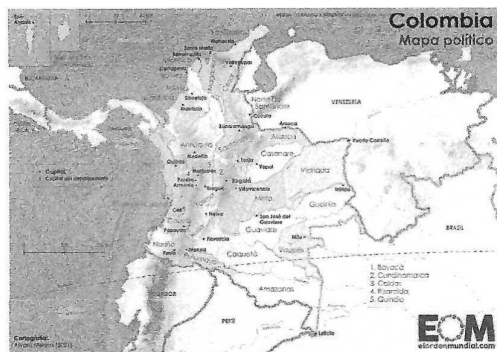
This little country church of ours was able to make an impact on 301 lives. A little piece of Ocker is now in both Ecuador and Colombia helping children in need. **AND WE ARE NOT STOPPING THERE!** This year we will continue to collect items for OCC shoeboxes because we know that God uses this little church to make **BIG DIFFERENCES!**

This January, OCC challenges you to give a little piece of yourself by donating an item each week that best represents you! Crazy for animals, donate toy animals! Love to teach, donate school supplies! Can't leave the house without your hat, donate hats. Just in love with the color green, well we love color theme boxes. This month, show who you are by collecting one item each week that best resembles you! We are excited to see you in the collection box!

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



Ecuador



Colombia

Stand with us

as we stand ready to...

- † Comfort our fellow Brethren during a time of grief
- † Help our sister congregations fulfill their dreams
- † Continue our work and our heritage through our Unity
- † Ensure our future through the support of our Youth

If you would like to be a part of this great effort in our church join now!

Several membership options are available to Brethren of all ages:

- † Junior Membership (ages 0 to 15)
- † Adult Membership (ages 16 to 60)
- † Lifetime Membership (ages 0 to 59)
- † Over 60 Membership (ages over 60)

How to Join:

Contact Sandra Dubcak from your congregation
OR

Contact Natalie Outlaw, Mutual Aid Society General Secretary, at (979) 589-2012 or natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

MUTUAL AID SOCIETY
of The Unity of The Brethren

Serving the Unity for over 100 years!

More information in Pamphlet in Church ENTRY -

JANUARY 2023

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Temple, TX 76501

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Rogers, TX 76569

Phone 254.985.2240

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ockerbrethrenchurch@
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Pastor:

Dr. Brad Herridge

Phone:

254-716-2578

Email:

bradherridge@gmail.com

Board of Elders

President:

Phone:

Email:

Sunday School Supt.

Tracie Malovets

Phone:

254-760-8969

Email:

tmalovets@gmail.com

Youth Director:

Jennifer Chervenka

Phone: 254-913-1244

Email:

jennchervenka@gmail.com

Church Secretary:

Stacie Sebek

Phone:

254-718-5608

ockerbrethrenchurch@
gmail.com

We're on the Web!

www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org

Twitter: @ockerchurch

&

Facebook!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 – Matt Phillips
Ron McAdams
6 – Doyle McAdams
9 – T.K. Cummings
10 – Desirae English
Tyler Stork
11 – Brittini Krcha
12 – Robin Brinkley
Maxx Kleypas
Celestia Hoelscher
14 – Matthew Sebek
18 – Edward Greene
James Wentrcek
20 – Phyliss Lesikar
Gentry Ashby
22 – Emma Harrison
24 – Shelly Stanolis
25 – Houston Tucker
27 – James Naivar
28 – Justin Dillard
31 – Porter Phillips



January Anniversaries

- 21 – Emil & Karen Bethke
27 – Richard & Emily Doney
29 – Max & Kathy Jordan

Parables Bible Study

lead by Maggie Imhoff will
resume on January 11.
It will continue for 5 weeks
with a break on
January 25 for
Family Game Night.

** SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Wow!... I can't believe we are saying
goodbye to 2022 and hello to 2023!

I want to give a big shout out to Chelsey
Pierce (and her helpers) for all the
wonderful work on the children's
Christmas Program! I don't know about
you but I look forward to our little ones
portraying the beautiful Christmas story of
the birth of our Savior! They did an
amazing performance! I also want to thank
Jennifer and Dillon and the Youth for the
fun skit of "Ocker Part 2". There were lots
of good laughs and reminders of the reason
we celebrate the season.

***There will be no fellowship breakfast
in January.**

***C.E.C. Meeting JANUARY 8 following
worship. Please plan to attend.**

Let's make 2023 a year that we share the
Good News about Jesus with everyone!

Tracie Malovets, Sunday School Supt.

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH CRAFTING RETREAT DATES FOR 2023

JANUARY 20 -21

APRIL 21-22

JULY 21-22

OCTOBER 20-21

If you wish to be placed on the email notification list
for these retreats, please request to be added by
emailing: ockerchurch@hotmail.com

JANUARY

2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 No Sunday School Worship 10:15 am	2	3	4 Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm	5 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm	6	7
8 Sunday School 9 am. Worship 10:15 am Board of Elder Installation During Worship C.E.C. Meeting following Worship Book Club @ 6:30 pm	9	10	11 Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 pm <i>Parables Bible Study 6:30 pm</i>	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	16	17 Christian Sisters 11:30 am	18 Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm <i>Parables Bible Study 6:30 pm</i>	19 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm	20 Quarterly Craft Retreat	
22 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am YOUTH SOUP MEAL FUNDRAISER following Worship	23	24	25 Family Game Night 6 – 8 PM	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	30	31				