

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

Serving Christ, Serving Our Community

OCTOBER 2026



BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING

Wednesday,
October 7, 2026
6:30 pm

Upstairs Conference
Room. Meetings
are open
to all.

A word from the Pastor...

We are quickly moving from summer to fall...when the calendar turns to October, I starting thinking about Thanksgiving....and "gratefulness." This will be our second Thanksgiving without Grant...and, frankly, it has been hard to be in a "Thankful mood."

The other day, I searched my database for sermons that I have written about "Thankfulness" and this one came up. I wrote this about a year after my mom died. It makes me think of Grant and the life we had. This is so hard to write...but, this season...I am going to try and be so thankful that my mom and my son had such a profound experience at the end of her life....Thank you Lord.

Anyway...here is my sermon...

I think parenting is the hardest, best, most rewarding job on the planet...I really do. I take great joy in being a parent and have such deep love for my children it hurts...I also believe it is a huge responsibility. Now, I am not as far along as some of you, in my parenting...but, as of now, I if I had a list of the top five most difficult things I, as a parent of two children am dealing with. I am sure it will change as they get older.

5. Getting them to respond with something other than "fine" when I ask them how their day at school went.

4. Dropping and picking my pre-teen off at events way past my bed time.

3. Regulating their sugar consumption. Not because I am worried about diabetes or unhealthy weight gain, even though I should be worried about that but because I have a deathly fear of their sugar high and I have bad



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dreams about them hollering and screaming like wild banshees on Easter afternoon after all of their candy has been eaten..and when I want to take a nap.

2. The argument, every night, that occurs when it is bed time.

And the number one hardest thing for me as a parent right now is getting my children to say “thank you.”

I remember, it was hard for my parents. I know it wasn't because I was not thankful when I received something...a compliment or a gift. Because I was thankful. But, for some reason, getting children to say thank you, unprompted, is difficult. If you are a really good parent, you can just look at your child and they know when to say thank you. All my mom had to do was give me a look. I am not that good. I still have to say, “What do you tell so and so.” And then they will catch on and say thank you.

I try to put myself in their shoes and remember way back there in the good ole days... Sometimes, I felt like all my parents wanted me to say was yes ma'am, no ma'am and thank you...and that would have been great with them. I remember responding to my mom one time after she scolded me for not saying thank you, “Why don't I just get a tape and record me saying thank you on it and you can just play it whenever you want.” Well, that didn't go over so well with her. I thought it was smart...I think my mom had another word for it.

That is unreasonable isn't it...to just always be thankful. That just isn't real life...because in real life bad things happen...car wrecks, sickness, disease, poverty, divorce, hate...they all swirl around us and for us to be thankful in those situations, well, that is just asking for us to be in-authentic with each other and ourselves.

But there it is, in the Bible, in black and white...Paul tells the church in Thessalonica to pray without ceasing and to be thankful or give thanks in every situation. Surely that is just something Paul was saying to encourage gratefulness and prayer...surely he didn't mean to never stop praying...we have to live our lives don't we? And surely Paul didn't mean for us to give thanks in every situation, after all bad things happen to us all the time.

I used to think that way...I really did. I used to interpret this passage as more of a suggestion...or as something to work towards but never really achieve.

Until a wise seminary professor challenged me to pray what he called the Jesus prayer over and over again. The Jesus prayer goes like this: Lord Jesus, Son of God, Have mercy on me a sinner.

Pray that, and only that 250 times today...Tomorrow, he said, pray it 500 times...and do that for three days, then the last two days, pray it 750 times a day. I thought that sounded Catholic and silly...one prayer over and over.



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But I played along. The first day wasn't difficult, I rushed through it. The second day was harder..500 times...I ended up connecting with certain phrases and other later. By the end of the week, I didn't even have to remind myself to pray...I woke up praying the prayer in my mind and heart...I went to the grocery store and I was praying without knowing as I walked down the aisle. By the end of the week, I was constantly praying. I stopped of course, and the prayer slowly left my spirit...but what if we all lived life constantly praying? What if we found our own way to be in constant prayer as we lived life? How different would the world be?

IF that is possible, then there also must be a way to be thankful in every situation...not, of course, for every situation but in every situation. Even, especially, the hard ones.

Those of us in our church book club know that there is a way of living out there that requires the soul to engage in each and every situation with thankfulness. Because something happens when we enter into a bad situation with a heart of thanksgiving...it makes the situation a little less evil...a little less hard...a little less difficult to endure.

I thought I would apply this "be thankful in every situation" command by Paul in one of the most difficult days of my life to date. The night my mother died. As many of you know, near the end of her life, my mom was eaten up with cancer and in terrible pain. We had called hospice in and we were waiting for her to pass...as sad as that sounds. It was a hard time...sickness and death loomed over the house like a thick fog and sadness covered us all like a wet blanket.

But, as my mother was passing, I tried to be mindful to give thanks...and I looked around the room. What could I be thankful for as my mother's life is slipping away. But, I looked deeper, and I saw my brother holding my mother's hand and gently patting her shoulder...My brother who has had three open heart surgeries and whom my mom has cared for since his birth was able to return the favor and care for her at her death...and suddenly, I was thankful for that. I saw my son recite the Lord's prayer as she was passing and I was beyond thankful that my son could whisper words of biblical comfort to my mother and that his words were going to be the last thing she heard on this earth...and as she passed I had this strange mix of total sadness and unending gratefulness and that helped so much.

What if we, just for this season, started looking and searching for things to be grateful for...if we did that I think it would produce grateful hearts...and maybe, before we knew it, we would be giving thanks in every situation and, I'm just guessing here, I bet the world would look a lot different to us.

I hope you can find something to be grateful for this season. I pray the Lord lets something bubble up to the surface of you soul. If you do...would you please tell me...I think I need to hear about it this year...I think it would help me.

Blessings,
Brad



Come Crochet with Maggie on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 4:30 pm. (No class on October 14th because of Harvest Supper.)

If you don't know how to crochet but want to learn, we will teach you. Bring your WIPs (work in progress) if you have one.

If crochet is new to you, we have crochet hooks and yarn to practice with. I have collected free patterns that we can use and share.

Our first ministry activity will be to make small items that can be put in the OCC Shoeboxes as tokens of God's love.



RIB SALE

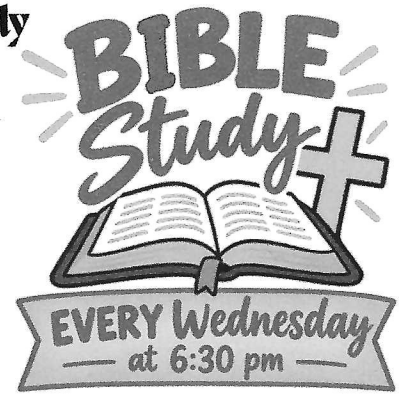
276 racks were sold the day of the sale. Additional racks were sold at a later. Expenses were minimal as the Ribs were donated. NET Profit from the rib sale is \$13,575.

Maggie's Bible Study

We just finished a short study and have circled back to Isaiah.

Ryan Z did an awesome job leading us through the previous study. Anyone is welcome to join us. We always have room for one more.

We meet every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm. (No class on October 14 because of Harvest Supper). Come and join the study as we see what God is saying to us through this prophet.



SUNDAY SCHOOL / C.E.C. NEWS

Sunday School has classes for everyone. If you aren't coming to Sunday School, consider this your official invitation to get plugged in! Talk to one of our officers: Tracie Malovets, Lisa Sebek, Dianne Psencik or Lynne Cassens for more information.

Join us for First Sunday Fellowship each 1st Sunday of the month at 8:30 am for breakfast. October breakfast will be provided by John Brinkley's and Rose Ann Grosecloses's Classes.

Christian Sisters News

The Christian Sisters met on September 15th with about 25 members and guests present. Janet Hoelscher presented a very informative "Silver and Distracted" program on driving changes and challenges as we grow older. A potluck lunch followed a short business meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20th at 11:30 am. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to join us.



Invite your friends and family and join us on Wednesday, October 14th at 6:30 pm!
We share a potluck meal so all are asked to bring a dish and/or dessert.
It's a great night to enjoy some great food and fellowship.

Girlfriends & God will be meeting on Monday October 12 at 3:30 pm to decorate for Harvest Supper. All are welcome to come help.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

We will have a meal prior to the meeting. More information about the meal will be provided by the weekly e-mail and during Sunday Morning announcements. The Congregational meeting is an important meeting in the life of Ocker. We vote in Elders, approve the Budget and hear reports from each of our ministry groups within the Church. The 2027 Proposed Budget is located on the table near the Entry. If you have not attended before or have questions about how meetings are conducted, grab a set of **Constitution and By-Laws of Ocker Brethren Church** that are located on the bureau in the back of the Sanctuary, or ask a current Elder.

Three new Elders will be elected. Review Article XII in the Ocker By-Laws for more information. Some have asked how Elders are nominated: *Elder nominations are made from the floor and/or a nominating committee. Anyone nominated, who would not accept the official eto which he is nominated should reply to that effect immediately or before the balloting begins. If a member is nominated who is not present at the meeting, the person who nominated him must give assurance that the nominee was contacted and that he would accept the office, if elected. (Article XI, Section 4 - Ocker By-Laws)*



NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK

NOVEMBER 16 - 23, 2026

OCKER PACKING PARTY

NOVEMBER 14 @ 10 am

Ocker will be a Drop-Off Hub again this year! We have committed to 2 hours per day Monday, November 16th through Monday November 23rd. Sign-up sheets will be posted in October for volunteering. We would like 4 people per day.

We didn't have a formal Packing Party last year and we know it was missed, so... we ARE this year! YAY!! It will be Saturday, November 14th. We are accepting donations for our shoe boxes and will have pamphlets and boxes soon. Take a box and fill it! Or, take a pamphlet and purchase multiples of any item.

Here is a great list of much needed items:

Pencil Packs
12 count color pencils
Coloring books
Sharpeners
Markers
Pens
Scissors
Glue Sticks
6" rulers
Wash cloths
Hair Picks
Wide tooth combs
Hair ties/Head bands
Undergarments

Don't forget those "WOW" items:

Soccer Ball and Pump
Musical Instruments (harmonica, recorder)
Small baby dolls
Barbies
Trucks and cars
Fishing Kits
Sewing Kits
Lego boxes

Please remember - while we would love a large number of filled boxes, we also want them to be good quality. New items, or unused items are preferred.

Youth Information for October

Wednesday Night Bible Study
October 7 & 21
6-8pm

Wednesday Family Night
October 28
6-8pm

Youth will host the children's
games for Harvest Supper on
Wednesday, October 14.

State Youth Retreat
November 14-15
Forms Due Wed. Oct. 28

FALL FAMILY FUN

FREE ADMISSION • ALL AGES WELCOME

OCTOBER
17

3:00 PM
TO
7:00 PM

HUS ENCAMPMENT
3635 CR 225
CALDWELL, TX, 77836

WHAT TO EXPECT

FOOTBALL
WATCHING

DINNER
5:30 PM

BOUNCE
HOUSES

FAMILY
GAMES & CRAFTS

CHILDREN UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT

FOR MORE INFO:
JENN 254-913-1244
JORDAN 281-770-0463

Retreat and Camp Dates 2027

Youth Retreat: Jan. 8-9

Youth Retreat: March 12-14

State Kid's Rally: March 13

Hus (10th & up): June 6-11

Encounter (1st-3rd): June 13-16

Discovery (8-9th): June 20-25

Pioneer (6th-7th): June 27-July 2

Alpha (4th-5th): July 11-15

Jennifer Chervenka
UNITY OF THE BRETHREN
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH &
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



9494 BIG ELM CREEK RD.
ROGERS, TX 76569
jennchervenka@gmail.com
(254) 913-1244

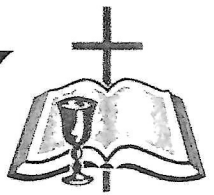
www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org

www.brethrenunity.org

State BYF Retreats



MUTUAL AID SOCIETY OF THE UNITY OF THE BRETHREN



"A Tradition Worth Preserving."

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RUTH ANN WUENSCHKE, Treasurer
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(512) 844-8520 / james.marek@cnbt.bank
SANDRA STEPAN, Board Member
(512) 468-2396 / sandrainaustin@yahoo.com

Are You a Member of Mutual Aid?

Why Should I Be A Member? (It's not just insurance!)

1. The Society provides survivors of deceased members financial help in a time of need.
2. The Society provides loans at a lower rate of interest to the denomination for building of churches, fellowship halls, educational buildings, etc.
3. The Society supports our youth and the future of the Unity through donations to the Unity Youth Coordinator as well as the Society's college scholarship program.
4. The Society has always adhered strictly to the teachings, doctrines, and beliefs of the Unity of the Brethren Church.

**We would like for YOU to become a part of this
great effort in our Church!**

How Much Will It Cost Me?

Membership Dues are billed annually. Age below is age at entry and your rate **stays the same for life**. This amount includes a \$4.00 administrative fee which increases infrequently to cover costs.

Age 16 thru 19	\$19.00
Age 20 thru 24	\$20.50
Age 25 thru 29	\$22.00
Age 30 thru 34	\$24.25
Age 35 thru 39	\$26.50
Age 40 thru 44	\$30.25
Age 45 thru 49	\$33.25
Age 50 thru 54	\$41.50
Age 55 thru 60	\$49.00
Age 61 & up	\$100.00 per year

How Do I Join?

Contact your Local Secretary, Sandra Dubcak, at 254-985-2374 today!
She will get you the application form to complete and return to her.
Or contact Natalie Outlaw, General & Jr Dept Secretary, at 979-589-2012.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens and So Fulfill the Law of Christ Gal. 6:2

Serving the Unity for over 100 Years!

Ocker Brethren Church

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Temple, TX 76501

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PASTOR:

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Phone: (254)716-2578
E-mail: bradherridge@gmail.com

Board of Elders President:

John Brinkley
Phone: (254)721-3196
E-mail: wphalia@yahoo.com

Sunday School Supt.:

Tracie Malovets
Phone: (254)780-8969
E-mail: tmalovets@gmail.com

Youth Director:

Jennifer Chervenka
Phone: (254)913-1244
E-mail: jenn.chervenka@gmail.com

Church Secretary:

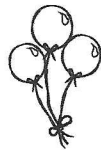
Stacie Sebek
Phone: (254)718-5608
E-mail: ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

Christian Sisters

Hospitality Coordinator:

Deanna Naivar
Phone: (254)931-5720
E-mail: busybaker10@gmail.com

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- 2 - Cheyenne Daskocil
- 3 - Sandra Dubcak
Ava Stanolis
- 4 - Brent Harper
Amanda Parker
- 7 - David Sebek
- 9 - Kole Stephens
Renee Wilfert
- 10 - Jacelyn Coleman
- 14 - Rene Green
- 16 - Emersyn English
Darrell Glaser
- 17 - Ryan Sebek
- 20 - Emil Bethke
- 23 - Jacob Chervenka
- 26 - Mark Wilfert
- 27 - Kinley Caldwell
- 30 - Jaidyn Chervenka
Taylor Hutchins
- 31 - Darlene Pechal
Rhett Tawney

October Anniversaries



- 10 - Jason & Amanda Bedrich
- 24 - Ryan & Stacie Sebek

LOOKING AHEAD:

October 14, 2026
Harvest Supper

October 18, 2026
Annual
Congregational
Meeting

December 13, 2026
Sunday School
Christmas Program &
Gift Exchange

December 20, 2026
Choir Cantata.



**Sanctuary
Choir News**

The Sanctuary Choir rehearsals for the Christmas musical are in full swing! COME JOIN US!

We will also sing during the worship service on the 4th Sunday of each month.

If you enjoy singing and making a joyful noise unto the Lord, please join us at 6:15 PM every Wednesday. Questions may be addressed to Kim Dillard, Sanctuary Choir Director.



OCTOBER 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 8:30 am First Sunday Fellowship 10:15 am Worship	5	6	7 Youth Bible Study 6 - 8 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:15 pm BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm	1 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm	2	3
11 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship SEMINARY CLASS 12 - 2 PM	12 <i>Gratitude & God 3:30 pm</i>	13	14 <i>Hawaiian Supper 6:30 pm</i>	15 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm	16	17
18 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP	19	20 Christian Sisters 11:30 am	21 Youth Bible Study 6 - 8 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm	22	23	24
25 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	26	27	28 <i>Devoted with Prayers & so pm</i> Choir Rehearsal 6:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm FAMILY GAME NIGHT 6 - 8 PM	29 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm	30	31

