

OCKER BRETHERN CHURCH

**Board of Elders
will meet
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 4
at 6:30 pm.**



**Annual
Congregational
Meeting**

OCTOBER 22

From the Pastor....

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your love and compassion during my Dad's illness and subsequent passing. We had a good three months from his diagnosis and move to my house, to his peaceful passing last week. Ocker allowed me to keep working while caring for my dad at home...thank you! These last three months have been so hard, but I am so glad that we were able to be a safe and loving place for dad to move from this life to his next.

The funeral will be on 9/30 in San Antonio at Trinity Baptist Church @ 2 PM.

These past few weeks, as my dad was getting worse and slowly dying, I have been thinking a lot about forgiveness.

As Christians, we are commanded to forgive and forgive often. But true forgiveness seems to be the one action that is hardest to complete.

Although I don't completely agree with him, Lew B. Smedes has written the most honest and complete book on forgiveness (other than the Bible) entitled, *Forgive and Forget*. In it, he notes that forgiveness is a process one goes through, as opposed to an instant decision. He details four stages of true forgiveness that one must go through:

Stage 1: Hurt...when somebody causes you pain so deep and unfair that you cannot forget it, you are pushed into the first stage of the crisis of forgiving...hurt.

Stage 2: Hate....you cannot shake the memory of how much you were hurt, and you cannot wish your enemy well. You sometimes want the person who hurt you to suffer as much as you are suffering.

Stage 3: Healing....your perspective changes (over time, if you allow it) and you are given the divine ability to see the person who hurt you in a new light. Your memory is healed, you turn back to the flow of pain and are free again.

Stage 4: Coming together...you invite the person who healed you back into your life. If he/she comes honestly, you both can move toward a new life and relationship together.

We're on the Web!

www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org

Twitter: @ockerchurch

&

Facebook!

....continued on next page

OCTOBER 2023

.....continued From the Pastor.

I think Smedes is on to something with these stages of forgiveness...which stage are you in right now? Who sinned against you...and what stage of forgiveness are you in? Are you stuck in hate? Or still at hurt? So many of us can't get out of the first or second stage with so many people we know...and I think that is sad, don't you?

This month, I am going to try to move through some of my stages of forgiveness...would you do the same thing with me?

Brad



Sunday School News:

The CEC met on Sunday, August 27, after the youth fundraiser meal. Sunday School Classes were discussed since the new year began the first Sunday in August. Due to the number of children in the 3rd & 4th grades and the 5th & 6th grades, it was decided to dissolve one of the small classes to have a better balance in the classrooms. Children's classes are now:

Up to Kindergarten - Judy Jeske and Jana Jeske
1st, 2nd, & 3rd grades - Sandra Dubcak
4th, 5th & 6th grades - Amanda Parker and Mary Herridge

It was also discussed to have the 6th graders be the Greeters and Ushers for offering on First Sundays.

Confirmation students will participate in Sunday Morning services, under Bro. Brad's direction, to do Scripture Reading, Prayer and/or Welcome.

First Sunday music will continue with kids singing. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 am so that Sunday School may start on time at 9 am. Children will be dismissed at 9:40 am to make their way to the Sanctuary for rehearsal.

The Sunday School Christmas program was discussed. Chelsey Pierce has graciously agreed to direct the Sunday School program and Amanda Parker will assist. The youth will perform a skit. Each Sunday School Class is also asked to participate in some way. Activities can include, but are not limited to: singing, reading a poem or Christmas story, skits, etc.

Chelsey will be notifying us with rehearsal dates and any additional information.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 1 First Sunday Breakfast provided by:
The Mayberry Class

November 5 First Sunday Breakfast provided by:
Adults - Books of the Bible Class

December 3 First Sunday Breakfast provided by:
Children and Youth Sunday School Teachers

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 17. Lunch and gift exchange will follow.

The next C.E.C. meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 12 after church service.



CHRISTIAN SISTERS NEWS:

Christian Sisters met Tuesday, September 19 in the Youth Building. We discussed the upcoming events: at the Harvest Supper the Christian sister will have a Country Store. We are asking anyone who would like to donate baked items, craft items, canned items, or plants to sell. We would appreciate any of these donated items. We will be selling Rada Cutlery and Danny Duzits too.

The planning is in the works for meals at the Christian Sisters sponsored Craft Retreat on October 20 & 21.

Christian Sisters NEXT meeting will be Tuesday, October 17 at 11:30 am. All are welcome to come join us.



**HARVEST SUPPER
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11
6:30 PM**

Invite your friends and neighbors to
Ocker's Annual Harvest Supper!
This POTLUCK meal is a great gathering
for friendship and fellowship.



The Pastor's Book Club
The Book Club will meet Sunday
October 15
at 6:30 pm to discuss:
Demon Copperhead
By: Barbara Kingslover



**REALLY BAD GIRLS
OF THE BIBLE**

Every Wednesday in the Sunday School
Building/Faith Hall 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
This is a stand alone class which means you
can miss a class, or several but continue in the
conversation of the current verses. Each class
builds on the previous to grow in wisdom and
faith. Please call Maggie (512)632-0642 if you
have any questions.



CHOIR NEWS

The Sactuary Choir will present the Call
to Worship and a Special hymn once
per month. Tentative Sundays we will
sing are October 22 and November 26.
Practice will take place in the Fellowship
Hall at 10 am on the dates we sing. If
you enjoy singing please come join us.
Let's make a joyful noise for the Lord!
See Kim Dillard for questions.



UPCOMING DATES:

- November 11 – Operation Christmas Child
Packing Party
- November 12 – C.E.C. Meeting after church
- December 3 – Hanging of the Green
- December 9 – Kids Christmas Camp
- December 10 – Choir Specials
- December 17 – Sunday School Christmas
Program, Lunch and gift exchange
- December 24 – Evening Christmas Eve
Service (NO Morning Service)



Operation Christmas Child

Visit The Christmas Tree!!



THE OCKER OCC PACKING PARTY IS NOVEMBER 11TH! ONLY ONE MONTH AWAY!! We're very excited and are preparing for a great day of packing boxes that'll be shipped somewhere around the world. Each box will be filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and more! Every box will impact the lives of children. Our goal as a church is to pack as many boxes as possible, however, we are still missing important items.

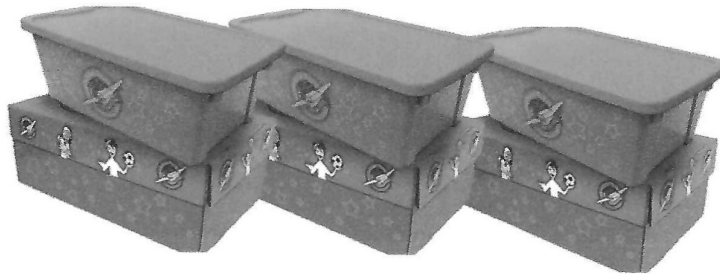
To collect the needed items, we are asking you to **visit the OCC Christmas tree and pull off an ornament**. On the back of each ornament is an item (or two) that's still needed. Either look for an item you wish to donate or pull a random ornament for a surprise item. **There are lots of ornaments so grab more than one! The goal is to have all ornaments taken by November!**

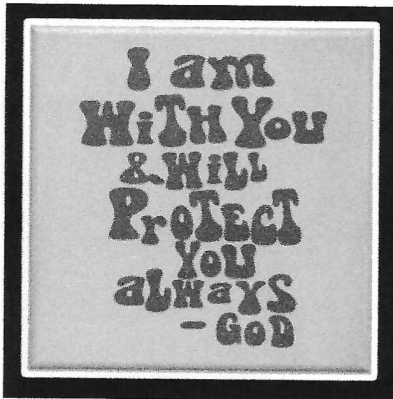
The OCC Christmas tree is located under the OCC bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

DON'T FORGET! OCC has an Amazon Wishlist! Check it out at

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2KDHI8VR04611/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4?encoding=UTF8&type=giftlist Access this link through:

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





State Youth Retreat Hus Encampment

Several of our youth attended the September 16-17 retreat at the Hus Encampment. Scripture study focused on the sufficiency of God's grace and our

submission to Him. In spite of storms and no power for several hours, we were able to enjoy a fun weekend of fellowship, games, and water activities. Donations were also collected for Foster Love of Bell County, benefiting children displaced through CPS.

The next youth retreat will be November 4-5. Information is available at www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org. Retreats are for 6th grade and up. Registration forms are due no later than Sunday, October 15.

Youth Bible Study on Wednesday Nights

Youth meet every Wednesday from 6-8. Dinner provided.

Wednesday, October 11, we will host games for the Harvest Supper: ring toss, fish pond, face paint, etc.

Wednesday, October 25 will be family game night.

YOUTH SPAGHETTI MEAL FUND-RAISER ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

The BYF is providing the meal for the congregational meeting on October 22, after worship. A free-will offering will be collected. Each BYF member is asked to bring a dessert.

Looking Ahead to Christmas Events:

Saturday, December 9- Children's Christmas Camp

Sunday, December 17- Sunday School Program

If you have questions or concerns contact
254-913-1244; jennchervenka@gmail.com.

Pumpkin Painting Party

All ages are invited to join us on Sunday, October 15 after worship. We will have a hotdog luncheon in the fellowship hall, and then decorate pumpkins in the faith hall.

Pumpkins, paint, and miscellaneous decorations will be provided.

Sunday,
October 15,
after worship



COLLECTING CANDY FOR TRUNK OR TREAT AT ROGERS ELEMENTARY

Ocker Church is sponsoring a trunk for the trunk or treat on Sat. Oct. 14 at Rogers Elementary.

Please bring individually wrapped candy donations no later than Sunday, October 8.

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Christian Sisters Hospitality Coordinator:
Deanna Naivar
Phone: 254.931.5720

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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS
 ~~~~  
 ~~~~ 2 – Cheyenne Doscocil  
 ~~~~ 3 – Sandra Dubcak  
 ~~~~ 4 – Amanda Parker  
 ~~~~ 7 – David Sebek  
 ~~~~ 9 – Kole Stephens  
 ~~~~ Ellie Cummings  
 ~~~~ Renee Wilfert  
 ~~~~ 10 – Jacelyn Chervenka  
 ~~~~ 14 – Penny Coots  
 ~~~~ 15 – Raeley Sebek  
 ~~~~ 16 – Emersyn English  
 ~~~~ Darrell Glaser  
 ~~~~ 17 – Ryan Sebek  
 ~~~~ 20 – Emil Bethke  
 ~~~~ 21 – Bill McGuire  
 ~~~~ 23 – Jacob Chervenka  
 ~~~~ 26 – Mark Wilfert  
 ~~~~ 27 – Kinley Caldwell  
 ~~~~ 30 – Jaidyn Chervenka  
 ~~~~ Taylor Hutchins  
 ~~~~ 31 – Darlene Pechal  
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*October Anniversaries*  
 2 – Eugene & Dorothy Haisler  
 24 – Ryan & Stacie Sebek



**ANNUAL  
 CONGREGTIONAL MEETING  
 SUNDAY – OCTOBER 22**

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation of Ocker Brethren Church will be held following Worship on Sunday, October 22. The BFY is sponsoring a Spaghetti Meal. All members are strongly encouraged to attend because many important decisions affecting the Church are made (budget, election of Board of Elders, etc.). Visitors are welcome to attend.



SU. DAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEL. DAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SAT. DAY



2023

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
First Sunday Fellowship 8:30 am Worship 10:15 am			<b>YOUTH BIBLE STUDY</b> <b>6-8 PM</b>  BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING 6:30 PM  <i>Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm</i>	<b>Senior Adult Fellowship</b> <b>9 am – 1 pm</b>		
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am  BOOK CLUB 6:30 pm			<b>HARVEST SUPPER</b>  <b>6:30 PM</b>			
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am <i>PUMPKIN PARTY</i> after church  PASTORS BOOK CLUB 6:30 PM		Christian Sisters Meeting 11:30 am	<b>YOUTH BIBLE STUDY</b> <b>6-8 PM</b>  <i>Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm</i>	<b>Senior Adult Fellowship</b> <b>9 am – 1 pm</b>	Quarterly Craft Retreat sponsored by CHRISTIAN SISTERS	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am BYF Spaghetti Meal CONGREGATIONAL MEETING			<b>FAMILY GAME NIGHT</b> <b>6- 8 pm</b>			
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am						