

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

Serving Christ, Serving Our Community

MAY 2023

A Message to Graduates and to Their Families:

*"For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning." – T.S. Elliot*

May begins the season of graduation. To me, graduation is a bittersweet time...especially when I think about youth going off the college!

A few years ago, I wrote a message to Ocker's graduates that included our "Wishes" for them — as they graduate. I wanted to present an amended list with a note.

The "note" first — To our graduates: we are so proud of you!

The quote I noted above is so beautiful, isn't it...? For so many this is a season of conclusion but also a season of starting something new...and that is very exciting and scary.

The question, of course, is what are our graduates going to do in this next chapter of their lives...? What type of new beginning are they going to have?

As a church family here at Ocker, we have some specific things we wish for our graduates, no matter what stage of life or school they are graduating from:

Wish One: Understand that the only way to own a life worth having is to give away your own life.

Wish Two: Be radical about grace, relentless about truth, resolute about holiness and dogmatic about vows.

Wish Three: Know how to make a bed and how to make a child laugh and how to write a letter home.

Wish Four: Understand that real leadership is not climbing higher towards power and status, but bending down in prayer and service. Being dead to ladders is what makes you alive to Christ.

Wish Five: Know that the only life living is the scandalous one: scandalous love, offensive mercy, foolish faith.

Wish Six: Always have one friend that feels "on the fringe", that you have to pray hard to love...a friend that makes the neighbors scratch their heads.

Wish Seven: Stubbornly pray for your enemies till you see enemies are illusions and everyone is a friend and somehow grace covers every part of your life like snow covers the mountains.



BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING

WEDNESDAY

MAY 10, 2023

@ 6:30 PM

MEETING IS
OPEN TO ALL



Continued from previous page...

Wish Eight: Always return to your parents...no matter how old you are. Remember, this parenting gig is an experiment in radical grace and the work of every parent is to fully give to their child. And it's the work of every child to fully forgive the parents. Remember your parents made meals and beds and mistakes and memories – *look hard for the good ones.*

Wish Nine: Always come home to your parents...same as wish eight...especially when you lose something...they will help you find it. Remember our Graduate Luncheon on May 21st. After worship in the Fellowship Hall! We can't wait to celebrate you all!

Honored to be your pastor,
Brad Herridge



Baby Blanket Buddies



A new ministry opportunity

One of my favorite activities is to knit. I've been pondering and praying about ways that I could use this to help others and to keep the craft alive. God placed the idea of making baby blankets for Hope Pregnancy Center. Our church provides financial gifts to this organization as well. When a new mother-to-be comes to the organization for assistance, they get to choose a baby blanket.

This ministry will make and/or collect handmade baby Blankets. The blankets can be knit, crocheted, or quilted. They can also be those fleece blankets that are tied together with knots.

The size of a baby blanket is about 26x31 or up to 30x30 give or take.

All are welcome to participate. The group will meet on the first Saturday of each month from about 10-12 in the church fellowship hall to work on the blankets. If you are not able to join us, these blankets can be made at home and brought to me or the church for collection.

As an added benefit - the art of knitting and crocheting has been proven to reduce stress and anxiety.

Don't know how to knit or crochet? Don't let that stop you. We will teach you.

I have some patterns (free) that I have gathered as a place to start.

The first meeting will be on **Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 10 am**. Bring your materials, a pattern if you have one, and let's gather for a time of fun and fellowship as we begin the blankets for hope.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or text me.

Looking forward to working with you and to see what God will do.

Blessings,
Maggie Imhoff
(512) 632 - 0642

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (CEC)
NEWS**

The CEC met on Sunday, April 16, 2023 in the Fellowship Hall after worship service. The meeting was led by Sunday School Superintendent, Tracie Malovets. Tracie also provided lunch for those attending the meeting. Thank you!

The Treasurer's Report noted that the Sunday School has a balance of \$11,599 as of the end of March with a couple of outstanding invoices remaining to pay.

Ocker's 1st Sunday of the month breakfast was discussed with pros and cons of each scenario. It was decided to return to the 1st Sunday of each month rather than the 4 quarters currently being used. In order to still have time for Sunday School instruction, which is so important, **breakfast will begin at 8:30am on the first Sunday of the month**. Everyone will go to their classes at 9am. Children and youth will go to the sanctuary around 9:40 to prepare to sing as they do on first Sundays. It was suggested that the songs be given to the Sunday School teachers the month before so that children can be learning the songs throughout the month leading to the first Sunday. This will give the younger children more time to learn them.

Breakfast should consist of finger type foods: muffins, donuts, fruit, cinnamon rolls, kolaches, etc.

Breakfast Rotation Schedule as follows:

May – Provided by CEC – Muffins for Mom	January '24 – RoseAnne's Adult Class
June – CEC – Donuts for Dad	February '24 – Young Adult Class
July – Children/Youth SS Teachers	March '24 – Books of the Bible Class
August – CEC – Back to School	April '24 – Everyone – POT LUCK
September – RoseAnne's Adult Class	May '24 – CEC – Muffins for Mom
October – Young Adult Class (currently Brad's)	June '24 – CEC – Donuts for Dad
November – Books of the Bible Class	July '24 – Children/Youth SS Teachers
December – Children/Youth SS Teachers	August '24 – CEC – Back to School

Graduates Luncheon – May 21, 2023

Our Graduates Luncheon will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2023. The CEC will provide the meal of chicken tenders, gravy, rolls, mashed potatoes and green beans. A graduates cake will also be provided for dessert. Please plan to attend to honor our graduates. The following is a list of graduates. *Please let Tracie or a member of the CEC know if we have missed anyone.*

Kyler Caldwell
Lacey Elkins
Blayne Hoelscher
Bailey Krcha
Ian Ranly
Ella Washam

8th Grade Graduates:

Jaidyn Chervenka
Brayden Gilliam

College Graduates:

Jessica Chervenka

Summer Sunday School Schedule

For the summer, the 6th and 7th graders will go to the Middle School/High School class with Dillion and Jennifer. For the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, Mary and Amanda will continue a rotation to teach these. All other classes will remain the same.

Fall Sunday School Schedule

Bro. Brad will have a **Confirmation Class** in the fall. Those students going into the 7th and 8th grade, in general, will make up the Confirmation Class. If you have questions regarding your child and the Confirmation Class, please do not hesitate to reach out to Bro. Brad or Tracie.

Other Classes are as follows:

Pre-K and K – Judy and Jana Jeske will continue

1st & 2nd Grade – Sandra Dubcak will continue

3rd & 4th – Amanda Parker will continue

5th & 6th – Mary Herridge will continue

7th & 8th – Confirmation Class

High School – Dillion Barbish and Jennifer Chervenka will continue

Young Adults – NEEDS a Facilitator/Teacher – please pray about leading this class

Books of the Bible Class – will continue with rotation of class members

Adult Class – RoseAnn Groseclose will continue

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

This year, VBS will be held on Monday-Wednesday, July 31, August 1 and August 2 from 6-8pm. A light meal will be served each evening. A program will be included in the Sunday morning service of the VBS songs. It is also first Sunday of the month of August, so we will have breakfast. Jennifer is checking on details for a Back to School party. Once that is final, we will let everyone know.

The **Craft Retreat** was held on April 21 & 22. Each class provided a meal and Tracie led the devotional on Friday evening. It was a great turnout and a success. Everyone had fun! Thank you, Sunday School for participating. Thank you to those that helped set up and take down.

The **next CEC meeting** is set for Sunday, September 10, 2023 right after the youth spaghetti meal. Please plan to attend.

FUTURE DATES TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

December 3 – Hanging of the Green

December 17 th – Kid's program

December 24 th – ONLY one service on this Sunday and it will be the evening Christmas Eve Service (time?)

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

FATHER'S DAY FUNDRAISER is Sunday, June 18, 2023 at Flag Hall.

Chairman this year is Ryan Zdroik.

Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets or to be contacted to volunteer.

Worship Service will take place at the Hall that day.

Raffle tickets will be available to sell soon as well.

Prizes are a bit different this year.

They are all GIFT CARDS.

First Prize: \$500 Gift Card Basket

Items will be needed for the Silent Auction.



Operation Christmas Child Why?

This month's newsletter will be different but I encourage you to read it through, you won't regret it. Every month we talk about Operation Christmas Child but someone may not completely understand it. Let us explain. **There is a spiritual and physical aspect to OCC.** This month, we will discuss the physical aspect of OCC. If you missed the April newsletter talking about the spiritual aspect, please look for it on the Ocker website. It is worth reading about.

We pack many items into each shoebox from toys to school supplies to soap to shoes and much more! So why do we pack these items? To better the lives of the children who receives a shoebox. Let's dive in!

School supplies is essential for educating a child, no matter what country they live in. In many developing countries, a child can not attend school if they do not have the appropriate supplies due to being "unprepared". Proper school supplies are necessary when it comes to adequately education, especially in basic skills like reading and math. The lack of materials deter parents from sending their children. If a child is not able to learn due to lack of supplies, the parents could believe their children would be more useful working at home or in crop fields. Many children are forced to share even one pencil between two or more students (I have personally witnessed this at a school in Zambia). Having the proper supplies, a child feels more prepared, focused, and engaged in school. This creates an enthusiasm for learning. For each shoebox, Ocker packs spiral notebooks, pencils, markers/canyons, erasers, and pencil sharpens. We also pack coloring books for younger children, scissors, packs of paper, pens, glue sticks, etc.

Hygiene is vital for the health and wellness of children. It prevents spread of disease and illness, improve health, and yes save lives. Thousands of children of all ages die each day from easily preventable disease that spread due to lack of hygiene. In developing countries, items that we take advantage of like soap is difficult to obtain because of long distances to the nearest store or just lack of funds. To aid in this fight, Ocker packs each shoebox with bars of soap, washcloths, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, and even deodorant. When visiting a hotel, I personally collect the mini bars of soap to add as extra soap for the boxes.

Each box is also packed with a stuffed animal for comfort, shoes and clothing items like socks, shirts, bandana, hats etc. for protection. We include helpful items such as fishing kits, sewing kits with fabrics, bags, hair accessories, flashlight, sunglasses, water bottles, and books. Lastly each box is overfilled with toys to bring joy, fuel imagination, and just provide pure fun. Toys include balls, play-doh, dolls, marbles, cars, air plays, yo-yos, jump ropes, bouncy balls, bracelets, stickers, and so so much more.

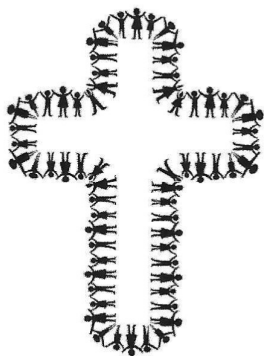
The OCC shoeboxes are filled with these items to **enhance the lives of children.** One shoebox provides opportunity for school, brings health and wellness, brings fun, and aid for everyday life.

So this month Ocker OCC wants **you to be inspired to enhance the lives of children around the world.**

We encourage you to bring in any type of donations for the OCC shoeboxes: toys, hygiene items, school supplies, shoes, clothes, etc. When you place an item into the donation box, think about a child somewhere within the world and what a shoebox will do for them in their lives. **Think about how one shoebox has to potential to change countless lives.** *“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God” 2 Corinthians 9:11.*

***Please place all donations into the OCC box located under the OCC bulletin board in the**

fellowship hall or give to Erin Brinkley or Tracie Malovets. Please no liquid or food items!



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We're on the Web!
www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org
Twitter: @ockerchurch
&
Facebook!

- MAY BIRTHDAYS
- 7 - Kade Sebek
 - 10 - Lynne Cassens
Lacie Elkins
 - 12 - Linda Vasek
 - 16 - Kalan Caldwell
Barton Pierce
Karsen Stephens
 - 17 - Allen Hill
 - 20 - Carolyn Groseclose
Mickey Tomlin
 - 23 - Robert Stephens
 - 24 - Camden English
 - 25 - Nell McAdams
 - 27 - Elisa Ranly
Mandy Sebek
Lisa Sebek
 - 28 - Ralph Snyder
 - 29 - Daniel Lesikar

May Anniversaries

- 7 - David & Kindra Koslovsky
- 13 - Matt & Stephanie Phillips
- 17 - Cameron & Cheyenne Deskocil
- 21 - Doug & Karen Hutchins
- 23 - Landon & Kaci Kleypas
Brad & Mary Herridge
- 25 - Quintin & Kara Hoelscher
- 28 - Brody & Mariah Malovets
- 31 - John & Robin Brinkley



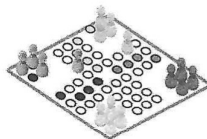
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, July 31 ° Tuesday, August 1 ° Wednesday, August 2
6 - 8 pm each day.

Program: Sunday morning, August 6.



Youth Bible Study and Fellowship
At Jenn's House - Wednesdays 6 - 8 pm
(except for Family Game Night)



Family Game Night
Wednesday, May 24th
at 6 pm



2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 6:30 pm	4 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm	5	6 Baby Blanket Buddies 10 am – Noon
7 Muffins With Mom First Sunday Fellowship 8:30 am Worship 10:15 am	8	9	10 Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 pm Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 6:30 pm	11	12	13
14 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>	15	16 Christian Sisters 11:30 am	17 Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 6:30 pm	18 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm	19	20
21 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am GRADUATES LUNCHEON	22	23	24 Family Game Night 6 PM	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	29	30	31 Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 6:30 pm			