

# OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

*Serving Christ, Serving Our Community*

**BOARD OF  
ELDERS  
MEETING**

**Wednesday,  
September 13.**

**6:30 pm**



The Board of Elders have called a **Special Congregational Meeting** following worship service on Sunday, **September 24** to vote on Referendum Motions from the Unity Convention and Elect a Synodical Representative. Please plan to attend.

## From the Pastor:

Every three or four years I copy and paste my favorite "quotes" in the newsletter in hopes that one or two might inspire or encourage somebody in the Ocker community.

Occasionally, when I need extra comfort or inspiration, I will spend a few moments with each quote and let its truth sink into my heart and life. With my dad's illness and all of the "events" surrounding end of life care, I found myself returning to my quote page a lot over the past couple of months.

And I figured, if I am reading these quotes and finding some encouragement, I bet somebody in our community will too.

So...here are some of my favorite "quotes" from theologians, presidents, authors and regular people that help me in challenging times...I hope it helps you too.

Here we go....

***"Security is not the avoidance of bad circumstances, but the presence of God in the midst of everything."***

~Christina Gibson

***"Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid."***

~Frederick Buechner

***"One life on this earth is all that we get, whether it is enough or not enough, and the obvious conclusion would seem to be that at the very least we are fools if we do not live it as fully and bravely and beautifully as we can."***

~Frederick Buechner

***"Compassion is sometimes the fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live inside somebody else's skin. It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too."***

~Frederick Buechner

***"Our life is full of brokenness - broken relationships, broken promises, broken expectations. How can we live with that brokenness without becoming bitter and resentful except by returning again and again to God's faithful presence in our lives."***

~Henri Nouwen

***"Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all. Amen, and come Lord Jesus."***

~Frederick Buechner

***"Go where your best prayers take you."***

~Frederick Buechner

***"The real joy of life is in its play. Play is anything we do for the joy and love of doing it. It is the real living of life." ~Walter Rauschenbusch***

***"Joy is a mystery because it can happen anywhere, anytime, even under the most unpromising circumstances, even in the midst of suffering, with tears in its eyes...." ~Frederick Buechner***

***"Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace." ~Frederick Buechner***

***"What we hunger for perhaps more than anything else is to be known in our full humanness, and yet that is often just what we also fear more than anything else. It is important to tell at least from time to time the secret of who we truly and fully are . . . because otherwise we run the risk of losing track of who we truly and fully are and little by little come to accept instead the highly edited version which we put forth in hope that the world will find it more acceptable than the real thing. It is important to tell our secrets too because it makes it easier . . . for other people to tell us a secret or two of their own . . ." ~Frederick Buechner***

***"Of the Seven Deadly Sins, anger is possibly the most fun. To lick your wounds, to smack your lips over grievances long past, to roll over your tongue the prospect of bitter confrontations still to come, to savor to the last toothsome morsel both the pain you are given and the pain you are giving back--in many ways it is a feast fit for a king. The chief drawback is that what you are wolfing down is yourself. The skeleton at the feast is you." ~Frederick Buechner***

***"You are accepted. You are accepted, accepted by that which is greater than you, and the name of which you do not know. Do not ask for the name now; perhaps you will find it later. Do not try to do anything now; perhaps later you will do much. Do not seek for anything; do not perform anything; do not intend anything. Simply accept the fact that you are accepted! If that happens to us, we experience grace." ~ Paul Tillich***

***"The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you." ~Frederick Buechner***

***"Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly." ~Gk Chesterson***

***"Sometimes we are too busy living a life to have a life worth living." ~Julia Cameron***

***"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." ~TS Elliot***

***"The world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love." ~Coffin***

***"You can safely assume that you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do." ~Anne Lamont***

***"It is not enough to limit your love to your own nation, to your own race, to your own group. You must respond with love even to those outside of it, respond with love to those who hate you. This concept enables people to live together not as nations, but as the human race." ~Clarence Jordan***

***"Do not be too moral. You may cheat yourself out of too much life. Aim above morality. Be not simply good; be good for something." ~Henry David Thoreau***

I hope you have a great September...I will see you at church on Sunday. The weather is finally breaking...Fall is coming. God is already here...I will save a seat for you.

Brad

### *Baby Blanket Buddies*

Baby Blanket Buddies is alive and well. **We will no longer meet regularly.** I will be glad to meet with you if you have questions or want to craft together.

We are still collecting handmade baby blankets for Hope Pregnancy. We have 5 so far and hope to collect a few more. The first set of blankets are planned to be delivered in November.

If you don't know how to knit or crochet, contact Maggie and we will set up some time to teach you

Other ways you can support this ministry

Your prayers - for the mothers and their babies, for the staff at Hope Pregnancy Center, for others to come and make blankets

Make your blankets at home and then deliver to Maggie prior to Nov 1. The first round of blankets will be delivered the first week in November..

If you have any questions, please call Maggie @ 512-632-0642

Thank you for your support and your prayers.

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

#### **September 20**

Budget Committee  
Meeting 6:30 pm

#### **September 24**

Special  
Congregational  
Meeting  
immediately  
following worship.

#### **September 27**

Second Budget  
Committee  
Meeting 6:30 pm  
(if needed)

#### **October 11**

Harvest Supper  
6:30 pm

#### **October 22**

Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting

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## **CHRISTIAN SISTERS**

Christian Sisters met and shared lunch on August 15. Carolyn Groseclose gave the devotional on Priscilla and Aquila. Plans for meal schedule for the upcoming craft retreat in October that Christian Sisters will sponsor were discussed and tabled until the September Meeting. The next meeting will be on September 19 at 11:30 am . All are welcome to join.

Deanna Naivar is now the Hospitality designee for the Christian Sisters.  
Her contact number is: (254)931-5720

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## **Really Bad Girls of the Bible**

It's almost here! Please join us again Sept 6 @ 6:30 to learn about some "Really Bad Girls" of the Bible and what they can teach us about our lives today. Come and learn about The Witch of Endor in 1 Samuel or Jael, in Judges. Be prepared for a lively discussion on these women and many more. Contact Maggie for details. (512)632-0642. Looking forward to seeing you there!



# Operation Christmas Child

## Let IT Rain!



Rain can come in many forms varying from light drizzles that last for five minutes to large scary thunderstorms that last through a whole night. When it rains, I can't help but think about how it is a symbol of our lives. Some days it feels like a drizzle, might have a few moments of uncertainty but then it's over quickly. Sometimes, we go through a long scary thunderstorm, and we just don't know when it will end. But I know that no matter what type of rain I am going through, God is working for the best. Rain provides life to the Earth. It fills our lakes, rivers, and aquifers. Rain grows our crops and cools the atmosphere. The same is for our personal storms. It can be hard to go through at the time, but when God brings us out of our storms, we are renewed. I personally like to think about Moss who spent 40 days on the ark while it stormed. He was faithful through it all. After the 40 days, Moss was gifted a rainbow, a promise from God, and a renewed Earth. So, "weather" you are currently going through or will eventually go through a storm, draw near to God. Embrace the storm through prayer and remembering to rely on God and know he is at work. God will bring his goodness in the end.

*"The same God who brought the sunshine ·Is the same one who brings the rain ·Yeah, the same God ·Who made the sunshine ·Is the same one who knows my name*

*So let it rain, let it pour ·Lord, I need You more and more ·Let it rain, rain down on me ·Every day ·whatever You want ·Not my will but Yours, Lord ·Let it rain, rain down on me"*

*—Let It Rain (Is There Anybody) Song by David Crowder*

As we continue to pray for Texas to receive rain, Operation Christmas Child would like to reflect on the goodness God brings after a storm. For the month of September, OCC is asking for donations of

**hygiene items!** Each box receives one bar of soap, toothbrush, washcloth, and comb/hairbrush. **We are in great need of each of these items.** In addition, we also collect hygiene items such as hair accessories, deodorant, socks, shoes, bandanas, and lip balm (Please no liquid items). Operation Christmas Child would like to challenge you to bring in at least one hygiene item each week of September. When placing the items into the donation box, we ask that you take a minute to think about storms within your life and how God has brought you through and reflect on the blessing he brings.

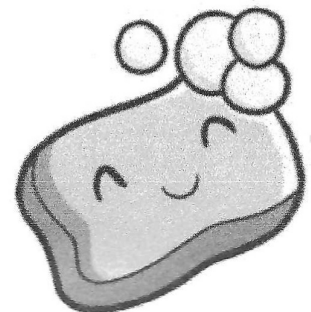
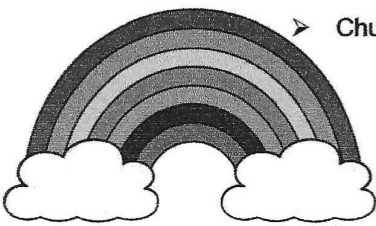
### **\*Important Note!**

**Mark your calendars. We have just two months left before the packing party!! That's right, two months!!!! The Packing Party is on November 11<sup>th</sup>!**

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

- The online newsletter located on the church website
- Church Facebook page





# Children's & Youth Ministries

## **CHILDREN'S EVENTS**

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays are family game night for all ages. Come play games and enjoy dinner and fellowship.

Sun. Oct. 15- Fall Party

Sat. Dec. 9- Children's Christmas Camp

## **YOUTH EVENTS (6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE-AGE 21)**

Join the remind by texting @ockerb to 81010.

**Sunday, August 27 is the last day to register for the Fall Retreat at the Hus Encampment.**

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 : YOUTH RETREAT AT HUS ENCAMPMENT**

(bus leaves at 7:30am, returns at 2pm) Anyone ages 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up are welcome to come. BYF covers the registration fee and participants pay for shirts IF REGISTRATIONS ARE TURNED IN BY AUG 27 deadline. Remember, you can arrive late if needed. Many youth have school activities and come at lunch.

We will have water activities at the retreat. We will also be collecting coloring books, journals, pens, markers, backpacks and duffle style bags for children displaced through CPS as our retreat service project.

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22: SPAGHETTI MEAL FUNDRAISER AFTER WORSHIP:**

We will host the spaghetti meal after worship in conjunction with the annual congregational meeting. Your part will be to BRING A DESSERT and help with set up at 8:30am. We will also clean up after the meal.

\*\*\*Fundraisers cover Wednesday night meals and activities as well as retreat fees, service projects, socials, etc. It is important that we have everyone participate, so please mark your calendars.

### **Other Activities on the calendar:**

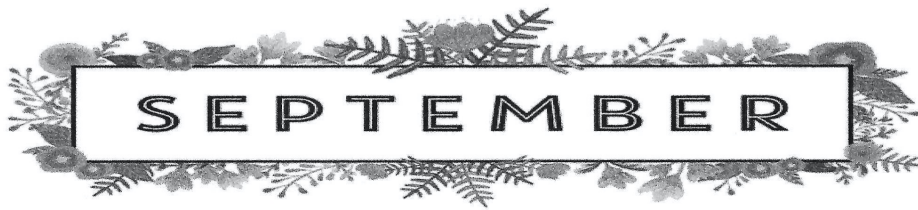
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6-8: Dinner, Fellowship, Bible Study

Sunday, October 15: Fall Party- TBA

Sat. Nov. 4 -Sun. Nov.5 : Youth Retreat at Hus Encampment. Forms due October 22.

Sat. Jan. 6-Sun. Jan. 7: Youth Retreat at Hus Encampment

The youth are collecting backpacks and duffle style bags as a service project for displaced children through CPS. These will be collected through Wednesday, September 13.



# S E P T E M B E R

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

					1	2
<b>3</b> First Sunday Fellowship 8:30 am Worship w / Noisy Offering 10:15 am	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm  Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm
<b>10</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Christian Sisters 11:30 am	<b>20</b> Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm Budget Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm
<b>24</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am Called Congregational Meeting following Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Family Game Night 6 pm Budget Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Synodical Committee Meeting @ HUS

# SUNDAY SCHOOL & CEC NEWS

The CEC last met on April 16 and will meet again Sunday, August 27 after the fundraiser meal. All Sunday School classes kicked off the first Sunday in August to coincide with the beginning of the school year. There are several children, youth and adult classes. They are as follows:

Up to Pre-K and K	Jana & Judy Jeske
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Sandra Dubcak
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Amanda Parker
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Mary Herridge
Confirmation	Bro. Brad Herridge
High School	Taylor Brinkley

Adult Mayberry Jennifer Chervenka

The Mayberry Series is out of print but Jennifer is researching and has Class curriculum prepared for each Sunday in the interim

Adult Standard RoseAnne Groseclose

Adult Books of the Bible Student Led (currently studying the Book of Numbers)

If you are not currently an active member in a Sunday School class, we hope you will join one of our classes with us. If you have any questions, please contact one of our CEC officers: Tracie Malovets, Superintendent; Dianne Psencik; Lynn Cassens; or Lisa Sebek.

First Sunday breakfast continues. Breakfast should consist of finger type foods: muffins, donuts, fruit, cinnamon rolls, kolaches, etc. On first Sunday, we have breakfast at 8:30am which still allows time for Sunday School Bible instruction on these Sundays. The children and youth also sing on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays. They will be dismissed at 9:40 to go to the sanctuary for practice for singing during the church service.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Breakfast Schedule (8:30am start time)

September 3 RoseAnne's Adult Class

October 1 Mayberry Adult Class

November 5 Books of the Bible Class

December 3 Children's/Youth Sunday School Teachers & Classes

The next Ocker Craft Retreat is scheduled for October 20 & 21 and will be hosted by the Christian Sisters organization. If you are a member of Christian Sisters, please reach out to see how you can help.

Fall and Christmas activities will be discussed at the CEC meeting on August 27 and the details will be forthcoming in the next church newsletter. Please join us for our meeting if you desire or reach out to one of our officers for questions or comments.

## SYNODICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Lisa Sebek

The Synodical Committee was scheduled to meet on April 22, but was then rescheduled for May 20. I was unable to attend the meeting due to being out of state for our grandsons' high school graduation. So, I apologize for no report for that particular meeting. As the appointed Ocker representative, I believe it is important to keep the Board of Elders and our church family in the loop for the activities of the Unity of the Brethren.

With that being said, the bi-annual Unity Convention was held July 20-22 at Camp Allen in Navasota. I did attend the convention along with the church appointed delegates Jordan Barbisch and Taylor Brinkley. Other Ocker congregational members in attendance were David Sebek, RoseAnne Groseclose, Eugene Haisler, Carolyn Groseclose and Bro. Brad.

Camp Allen is a very nice location and has been selected as the next convention site for 2025.

I served on the Motions & By-Laws Committee. Other committees submitted changes to this committee to consider and put in front of the convention. There will be several referendums that will be put in front of the Ocker congregation (as well as all of the Unity churches) at a special called meeting in September. Please watch for the called meeting date announcement with additional information from the church office.

The first Synodical Committee meeting for the next 2-year cycle is scheduled for September 30 and will be held at the Hus Encampment. All referendums will need to be voted on and turned in to the Unity prior to that date. The Unity Convention has also requested that all new Synodical Committee representatives be voted on and appointed by that first meeting.

I have been the Ocker representative for the past two years. Thank you for allowing me this privilege and honor to serve you at the Unity level. I ask that you prayerfully consider who your next representative will be as we vote this individual at the called meeting. There are, typically, two (2) Synodical Committee meetings throughout each year and then the Unity Convention to attend. If you have any questions about the Synodical Committee, please feel free to contact me or Bro. Brad.

Thank you, again, for the honor and privilege of serving you in this capacity. A full report from the Unity Convention will be given to the congregation at the annual congregational meeting scheduled for October.





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**Christian Sisters**  
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Deanna Naivar  
**Phone:** 254.931.5720

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Dianne Psencik
- Ashlyn Zdroik
- Micah Wilfert
- 6 – Foster Koslovsky
- Hagen Tucker
- 7 – Larry Pechal
- 12 – Kirk Hutchins
- 13 – Sandra McAdams
- 14 – Julia Paddenburg
- 15 – Asher Weathersbee
- 16 – Cash Hoelscher
- 18 – Gene Sousa
- 19 – Taylor Brinkley
- 20 – Leland Jungmann
- Connor Sebek
- 21 – Ely Stork
- 22 – Lucy Herridge
- 24 – Creed Pierce
- Cristi Jungmann
- 26 – Deanna Naivar
- 27 – Jennifer Chervenka
- Brody Malovets
- Kathy Harrison
- 28 – Tammy Pierce
- Blayne Hoelscher
- 29 – Katelyn Erskine

*September Anniversaries*

- 4 – Donald & Wynona Williams
- 7 – Robert & Kelly Stephens
- 10 – David & Jean Coufal
- 10 – Wayne & Celestia Hoelscher
- 22 – Ralph & Marcia Snyder
- 26 – Stan & Shelly Stanolis
- 27 – Michael & Frances Harper



**CHOIR NEWS**

Beginning this month! The Sanctuary Choir will present the Call to Worship and a Special hymn once per month. Tentative Sundays we will sing are Septmber24, October 22 and November 26. Practice will take place in the Fellowship Hall at 10 am on the date(s) we sing. If you enjoy singing, please join us! The MORE the better! Contact Kim Dillard for more information.