

ONALASKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - WINTER 2023

THE CHIMES



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OUR MISSION

Make disciples of Jesus Christ for
the **transformation** of the world

OUR VISION

LOVE all people unconditionally;
PREPARE our hearts, minds &
hands;
SERVE in all the ways we can;
CELEBRATE GOD in all we do!

Spiritual Ponderings from Pastor Krysta

*Loving God of all, renew our hearts and minds.
Reveal your wildest dreams, break through to each of us.
Unite us in your vision, equip us for your work.
Transform us by your song, create our harmony.
May we embrace your future, and be your loving church.
Amen.*

The DreamTable Day in late September brought the Rev. Sue Nilson-Kibbey to OUMC. She is the director of the Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. Sue spent the entire day in one-on-one meetings with me, staff, and key leaders. The day culminated in a listening session with Council leadership and then with anyone interested from the congregation. The larger group learned some interesting statistics about OUMC's mission field (an area 1 mile in radius around the church building), reflected on our trust that prayer absolutely makes a difference, and smaller groups engaged in conversation around four questions. All of this, so Sue can glean the common threads which is the vision God is sending us through the breakthrough prayer.

Sue took copious notes as she listened to the congregational response to our ongoing engagement with the breakthrough prayer (see above) which gives us an intentional focus on God's next steps to move OUMC forward with the Spirit's momentum. Leadership awaits Sue's recommendations from her prayerful connection between what she learned in these conversations and potential next steps to continue the movement of our motivations from our heads further into our hearts. Please continue to FREQUENTLY PRAY the breakthrough prayer in your daily life and LISTEN FOR the God-sized dreams within you individually or for OUMC collectively. Spiritual preparedness is paramount to our openness to what God is up to using us as ambassadors to spread the Good News of Jesus in this world.

See at church or in the community.
Blessings,
Rev. Krysta Deede

STAFF

Rev. Krysta Deede - Lead Pastor

Zoe de Boer - Director of Young People & Mercy Ministries

Jessica Gobel - Director of Children, Intergenerational, & Family Ministries

Gretchen Massenburg - Coordinator of Communication & Administrative Support

Dean Gunnarson - Chancel Choir Director

Zoe de Boer - Praise Team Director & Accompanist

Sandy Koster - Accompanist

Bailey Sommerville - Nursery Staff

Sabbath keeping is mandated in the creation story, the 10 Commandments, and in Jesus' summation of them, LOVE God and LOVE neighbor. Staff members have a weekly day of sabbath. Please honor these days of their spiritual renewal:

Rev. Krysta Deede - Friday Sabbath

Zoe de Boer - Friday Sabbath

Jessica Gobel - Monday Sabbath

Gretchen Massenburg - Friday Sabbath



Remembering Cory Groves

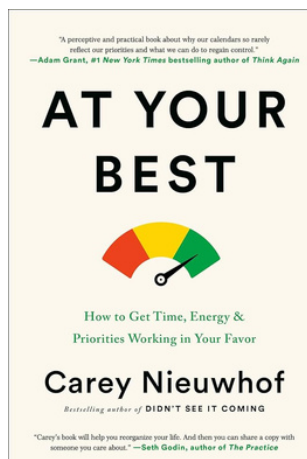
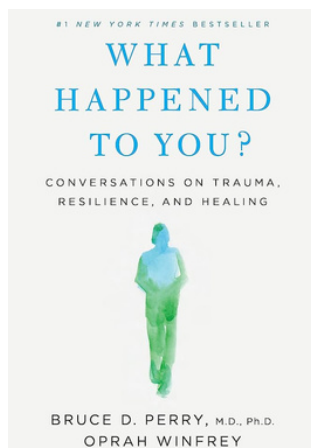
"Playing music is supposed to be fun. It's about heart, it's about feelings, moving people, and something beautiful, and it's not about notes on a page." Such was the lifelong impact of Cory Groves who passed away peacefully at his home on August 30, 2023, surrounded by his loving family and close to the peaceful sounds of the river he loved so much.

As a man of faith, Cory served as our Director of Music at Onalaska United Methodist Church for 21 years.

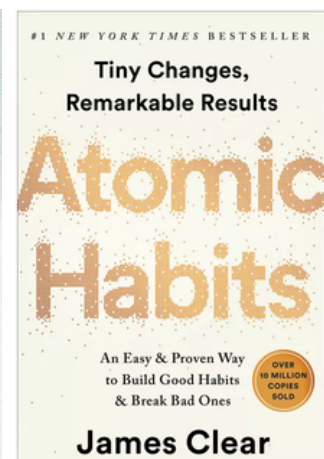
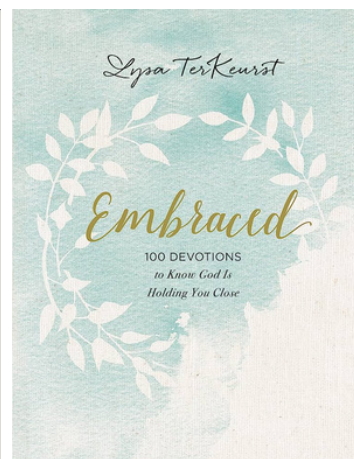
A service and visitation were held at the Onalaska United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 16th with lunch to follow. We are so grateful for all of the ways that Cory touched our lives through his ministry at OUMC and our whole community.

Staff Reading Recommendations

Krysta's books:



Zoe's books:



LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION FROM GRETCHEN MASSENBURG

“Better late than never,” as they say. I meant to write this within the first month of my employment at OUMC, but I had many tasks and distractions getting in my way. Anyway, I began my position as the Coordinator of Communications and Administrative Support (longest title I’ve ever held!) for Onalaska UMC on February 13, 2023. Being on board as part of the staff here has truly been a delight. In the past seven months I have gotten to know most of you through visits to the office, emails, and phone calls. I must commend you all for the warm welcome I received and the many friendships I have already established here at OUMC. Working with Pastor Krysta, Zoe, and Jessica couldn’t be any more comfortable or supportive and I appreciate theirs and everyone else’s patience as I transitioned into the office position.

A little bit about me and my family. We reside in La Crescent, Minnesota and have been long time members of the La Crescent UMC. I grew up in the Lutheran church, attended an Evangelical Free church for a while, and then became a United Methodist! I have worked for seven area churches over the years: Lutheran, Congregational, and United Methodist. I grew up on French Island where my dad worked for the FAA at the La Crosse Airport. I attended Summit Elementary and Logan High Schools. I hold two associate degrees, one in Paralegal Studies from WTC, and the other in Veterinary Technology from Globe University. Due to family logistics and finances, I have not actually worked in either of those fields professionally, but I am so appreciative of the knowledge I gained through them, it has come in handy from time to time in my life. My husband Israel (Izzy) is a welder for Chart Industries in La Crosse and a musician. By the age of 14 he was out on the road playing bass guitar for a disco/funk band called Jakki. They had a Billboard hit called Sun, Sun, Sun back in the 70s. Izzy is hoping to retire from Chart by his next birthday in May and then focus solely on his music projects.

I have three children: My son Anson is a math teacher and head soccer coach for St. Louis Park High School in the Twin Cities. He is married to Sara, a fitness/nutrition instructor, and together they have my only grandchild Ruby Grace who will be 3 in March. They also own my grand dog Norman (Heinz 57). My daughter Emily works for the U of MN-Twin Cities at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. She works with international graduate students by helping them adjust to life in America, taking them on educational trips, and organizing special events. She and her long-time boyfriend Zach own a home in Richfield, MN and together they own my grand dog Sully (Great Pyrenees and English Sheepdog). And finally, my youngest daughter Isabella (Bella) graduated from La Crescent/Hokah High School and will be 20 this November. She is attending WTC (undecided major) with a leaning toward interior design. She still lives at home with her crazy parents and our orange tabby cat Annie.

I am looking forward to more working years here at OUMC and getting to know everyone better and better each day. Thank you for hiring and welcoming me as you have, I am blessed. I hope to be a blessing to you and will always do my best in moving OUMC forward.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON SUNDAY?

8:30 AM CLASSIC WORSHIP

9:45 AM FELLOWSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

ONALASKA UMC | 212 4TH AVE N



SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

All Saints Day Celebration - Sunday, November 5, 2023

All Saint's Day is a day of remembrance of both those we've lost in our church family and also in our lives beyond this place. It is a day for naming that loss, and the holes left in our hearts by those who have gone before us, whether it was last month, last year, or many seasons ago. The grief remains.

Maybe, we have not been able to grieve yet, still numb from the loss; or remain with the question, "Why God?" creating a dislocation in our connection with you; or maybe feeling alienated from family or friends who just don't get our pain. Our wounds feel fresh.

When we gather for All Saints' Day, we get to bring whatever we are feeling, and all of what we are feeling to lay it at the foot of the cross. Jesus says, "Come to me all of you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Together, we will cry, we will pray, we will comfort, we will heal, and we will find peace. This service is an excellent opportunity to invite someone to join you who might be going through grief, loss, or loneliness of any kind.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service - Wednesday, November 2nd at 6:30 pm

Children's Pageant Sunday - Sunday, December 10th at both services

Cantata Sunday - Sunday, December 17th at both services

Longest Night Worship - Thursday, December 21 at 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Worship Services - Sunday, December 24 at 9:30am, 5:00pm, and 7:00pm

Sunday, December 31 - only *one* service at 9:30am

****Poinsettia orders due December 3 - Contact office@onalaskaumc.org or 608-783-3380 to order****

WORSHIP



Generous: The Beauty in Giving Series Began in October

We get lots of messages about what is important, what the “good life” is, and everything we need to do – and have – to achieve it. Still, so many of us remain unsatisfied, chasing after the next thing in search of fulfillment. But there is good news for us! God desires for us to have lives of contentment, freedom from worry, and joy in abundance. And Jesus shows us the way there. As we learn how to find our contentment in God, we will also discover the beauty in giving. Our lives will be evidence that the good life is the generous life – a life through which the grace of God flows into the world.

OCTOBER 22 | THE FLOW OF GRACE | EPHESIANS 3:5-12

Just as God’s grace flows from Christ to the church, we are called to be conduits of grace to bless the world.

OCTOBER 29 | ABUNDANCE IN COMMUNITY: SHARING WHAT YOU HAVE | JOHN 6:1-14

Though we may, at times, face scarcity, Jesus receives what we offer, blesses it and provides for us and through us.



3 POWERFUL GIFTS - The Church and its Sacraments Series

We all know we should go to church. Most of us have been baptized. And we’ve likely all taken the bread and juice or wine of Holy Communion. But why do these things matter? Why did Jesus constitute and command us to participate in them? What power do they have to change our lives? In this three-part series we will rediscover how the Holy Spirit works in and through the Church and the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion to bless us, shape us, and help us to experience God’s grace.

NOVEMBER 5 | THE POWER OF HOLY COMMUNION | All Saints Day Celebration, Offering our Intention to Give Pledge Cards
1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 6:35, 6:51-58b

NOVEMBER 12 | THE PURPOSE AND POWER OF THE CHURCH | Offering our Intention to Give Pledge Cards
Matthew 16:13-18, 18:15-20

NOVEMBER 19 | THE PURPOSE AND POWER OF BAPTISM | Celebration / Harvest Sunday
Luke 3:3, 3:21-22, Matthew 28:18-20a

Hanging of the Greens will be happening on Wednesday, November 29th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. as part of our Worship on Wednesdays! Join us as we share in a pizza dinner (homemade from Topper’s!) and get our beautiful worship space ready for the Christmas season! There will be jobs for everyone, and every ability level. Please come & bring your families.



The Gift of Being Present

An Advent/Christmas Worship Series

December 10 | Being Present with Joy

The words of the prophet Isaiah offer a prophetic vision that Jesus will also claim in his ministry. Likewise, we are called to claim the gift of being fully present with all people—those who mourn, those who grieve, those who have suffered indignity and oppression. Mary's Magnificat is prophetic as well. She claims the overturning of injustice even before it has come to pass. Joy is not the equivalent of happiness, but rather the deep conviction

that we are called to be present in the work of bringing about "great things"—a better world for those who need it most.

December 17 | Being Present with Love

The faith narrative is careful to show us a lineage from King David to Jesus. It is no ordinary lineage, it is one that began in the shepherding of sheep, of leading and delivering the people in search of a home. Mary's womb becomes part of that lineage of love, offering the world the gift of God's presence "in the flesh." As we enter the story of the birth of Love Among Us, we are invited to be present in love with those that need it most.

November 26 | Being Present with Hope

Our spiritual ancestors cried out in the midst of their political occupations: "Save us!" The idea of a Messiah went hand-in-hand with the need for God to help them in their distress. The Roman occupation of Jesus' time and of the early Christian community is expressed with a sense of waiting, watching, and anticipation of restoration to freedom. All this points to the presence of hope, essential to survival in difficult times. Let us be present with hope to those who need it most.

December 24 | Christmas Eve: Being Present with Light

It is the night we celebrate the opening of the most precious gift of presence we know—the birth of the Christ Child, the Light of the World. As we light our candles, we open our hearts to becoming part of the gift of light in the world. Like the choice the shepherds faced, will we live in the shadows of fear, or will we dare to run to the manger to know and believe the Good News of new possibility for all who need it most?

December 3 | Being Present with Peace

Preparing the way for new beginnings, fresh starts, a clear path, is a classic theme in the faith narrative and in our own lives. Life can contain many 2 chapters. The Good News is that the Holy One is continually making a way for do-overs. In this we can find peace, even when life doesn't feel so peaceful. This week we focus on what it means to be a gift of non-anxious presence for those who need it most.

December 31 | Sunday after Christmas: Being Present with Assurance

The overwhelming message of the Christmas story is the assurance that we, too, are children of the Holy One. In this, our very presence is a gift if we will only allow the Spirit to move in and through us. Every day of our ordinary lives, we can show up—be present—and proclaim the assurance of hope, peace, joy, and love to those who need it most.

WORSHIP

Please Join Us to Celebrate the Legacy of Cory Groves in Finishing His Final Cantata "Heaven and Earth Rejoice."

In 2020 and 2021, OUMC music director Cory Groves attempted to direct his final cantata with the OUMC Choir, singers from the First Lutheran Church, Journey Lutheran, St. Pat's Catholic, the CRGC, and others around the area from many different backgrounds and churches, as well an orchestra made up of some of the best talent in the area. Covid had another idea and these performances were canceled; the one in 2021 with a pared-back choir and orchestra being canceled weeks before the final performance. Around the same time, Cory was diagnosed with cancer. In the subsequent years, Cory fought the good fight but in early September, his family and friends, OUMC, the Onalaska School District, and the larger community within which he led and made music for so many years lost a kind, gentle, and talented man.

It is our desire that we can honor this wonderful man and talented musician by completing his last cantata, "Heaven and Earth Rejoice." To do this, we are calling everyone and anyone in the community of musicians from within and without who know Cory, have performed with or under Cory, or who know of his legacy, or who just want to sing to join with us and this talented orchestra and put on Cory's final cantata for the last time. OUMC is producing this final cantata as remembrance of and homage to the memory of this great friend.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact director Dean Gunnarson at dealog7@gmail.com or just show up to the Onalaska United Methodist Church at 212-4th Ave N in Onalaska. I am also hoping that many of my former choir members and musician friends from CRGC or BEFC or anywhere that I have taught or made music will join us and we can get the "band" (i.e. choir) together once again for old time sake. As we are bringing this to the public's attention at such a late date, we know and hope that singers will be joining and adding to the group all along the way. Please come and join us as we perform Cory's final cantata.

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 25 - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 1 - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 15 - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 22 - NO CHOIR REHEARSAL or TBD

THURSDAY, November 30 - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6 - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Monday, December 11, 2023 - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13 - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 16 - 8:30 a.m.

****ORCHESTRA DRESS REHEARSAL**

Saturday, December 16 - 9:15 a.m.

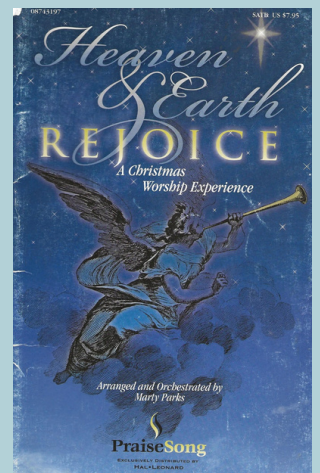
****CHOIR DRESS REHEARSAL (w/ orchestra)**

Sunday, December 17 - 8:30 a.m.

****CANTATA PERFORMANCE #1**

Sunday, December 17 - 11:00 a.m.

****CANTATA PERFORMANCE #2**



CHANCEL CHOIR for Sunday Worship

If you have any musical inclination or like to sing, you are invited to join us. Choir rehearsals will be on Wednesdays in the sanctuary from 6:30-7:45 p.m. each week. The choir will sing for first service at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday.

If you are interested or have questions, contact the director Dean Gunnarson at onaumc.music@gmail.com or just show up!

CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY



UM STUDENT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2023

WHAT IS UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY?

United Methodist Student Day was the original Special Sunday founded by United Methodist Church Sunday Schools who collected offerings to help advance education for their children. The fund was originally established in 1872 as the Children's Fund. Today, United Methodist Student Day Sunday has the same purpose, calling upon the denomination to support their students as they prepare for life by adding knowledge to their faith.

Every year, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry awards an average of \$5.5 million in financial aid to United Methodist students. The offering taken on United Methodist Student Day is one opportunity to support these scholarships. Every dollar – **yes 100%** – received goes towards supporting and educating a new generation of principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. Supporting this Special Sunday is truly an investment in our future.

Currently, there are over 70 scholarships available for undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral United Methodist students. Financial support for all General Board of Higher Education and Ministry scholarships come from five primary sources: 63% from endowments; 22% from wills and annuities; 13% from United Methodist Special Sundays and 1% from online gifts and fiduciary income. All donations received empower and encourage our students that we are investing in them and our future. We are blessed to support thousands of students through scholarships, but we would like to do more. Our funds are limited, and every awards cycle we end up with a large pool of qualified candidates who we are unable to help because there was no money left to give. You can help us change that!

Ready to Partner in the mission of OUMC?

Next Step is a casual gathering where you can learn about the history of Onalaska UMC, hear from our pastor about the beliefs and traditions of the United Methodist Church, and get to know the church a bit better.

You will also get to meet Stephen Ministers, connect with other worshippers and learn about opportunities to get connected!

After you've met our pastor and learned about the church, there is a short break to offer an opportunity to decide if you want to take that next step and join Onalaska UMC. New Members are welcomed at a service of worship based on their availability.

Next Step will occur quarterly. Plan to attend on **Sunday, October 22 at 9:45pm in the Gathering area**. The first gathering in 2024 is set for January 28. If childcare is needed, please contact the church office.

Onalaska UMC in the news!

Oktoberfest ecumenical worship service uniting in faith and fellowship

Tate Weise Oct 1, 2023 Updated 15 hrs ago



LA CROSSE, Wisc. (WXOW) - As Oktoberfest came to an end the ecumenical worship service brought together individuals of diverse faiths to celebrate unity, peace, and the spirit of togetherness.

Every year the current festmaster and frau choose the location of the Oktoberfest ecumenical service. This year's service was held at the Onalaska United Methodist Church.

This event sought to promote understanding, goodwill, and friendship among different denominations, aligning itself with the essence of Oktoberfest, which celebrates the community and camaraderie of the Coulee region.

The service was given by Krysta Deede, head pastor of Onalaska United Methodist Church, and she said that all were welcome to the special event.

"It's really important to show our ecumenical desire to be in fellowship with all people regardless of denomination and to open our doors to a culture that's so very important to the La Crosse area and to just join in and understand a little bit more about culture and the witness that the Oktoberfest family offers to our community."

She goes on to say that this event reminds us that festivals like Oktoberfest can serve as platforms to foster connections among people from all walks of life and promote harmony in our communities.

A NOTE ABOUT RUMMAGE

To all our wonderful volunteers for our (hopefully) new, yearly rummage sale, Thank You! Whether you were intake, a sorter, pricing, set-up, clean-up, tidying up, folding clothes, cashier, bagger, online goddess, mover of many heavy items, organizer, hauler of garbage, greeter, floater, or even a shopper! - we rocked it as a group. Many compliments were sent our way and it was because you were all willing to be put in wherever and some worked double shifts as well. Don't think you weren't appreciated. So from Jessica, Tom and Jacqui, thank you for making this a big success.

CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY



(Left) La Crosse hosted the La Crosse Indigenous Peoples Day celebration on October 8th. The event featured a ceremony at City Hall, the raising of the Ho-Chunk Nation flag, and celebrations all day at Riverside Park.

(Middle) Onalaska UMC raised \$991.02 to help fight hunger in the Coulee Region, and had a team of 20 people take part in the Coulee Region Hunger Walk 5k!

(Below) OUMC's Reconciling Team hosted a booth at La Crosse's PRIDE in the Park event back in September.



CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY



Clockwise from top left; Members of 2022 Oktoberfest family at Fest Ecumenical service; A full sanctuary for the Fest Ecumenical service; A happy rummage sale volunteer; The narthex FULL of rummage items!; Our DreamTable host, Rev. Sue Nelson-Kibbey; Some of our littles at the UW-L Planetarium, Westward Road Gospel concert



CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY

ONALASKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S

Merry Craftmas

Holiday Craft Fair & Bake Sale

Merry Craftmas will showcase the artistic and baking talents of members of the Onalaska United Methodist Church, Onalaska and surrounding communities, and beyond!

We hope to have vendors of homemade arts and crafts, specialty bakers, Christmas cards and ornaments, home goods, fashion accessories, and more.

Stop by for some last-minute holiday shopping!

December 2, 2023

9 am - 2 pm | 212 4th Ave N. in Onalaska



We are looking for both **vendors** and **bakers** for Merry Craftmas! If you are interested in a) hosting a vendor table and selling your goods, or b) baking and donating your goods to the bake sale, please contact Zoe at youth@onalaskaumc.org!

At Merry Craftmas, one of our booths will be a **gift wrapping** station! You are invited to bring any holiday gifts that you would like wrapped, as well as any goods you purchase at Merry Craftmas that you would like wrapped for the holidays, for a free-will donation. All proceeds raised will be donated to the youth programs and mission trips at Onalaska UMC. In addition, if you LOVE to wrap presents and would like to volunteer at the station for part of the day, please reach out to Zoe at youth@onalaskaumc.org.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Moms of Faith

Onalaska
United
Methodist
Church



Moms
supporting
moms.

Looking for a faith filled group of moms? Need new playmates or activities for your little(s)? Come join us for fun, play, good conversation and usually coffee :)



mama
mama
mama
mama



Interested in joining?
"Like" our Facebook page, Moms of Faith or contact Becca Hegge at 608-345-5592

WHOOOOO'S IN THE NURSERY?



BAILEY & KATE



THANKS FOR BEING IN THE
NURSERY EACH WEEK TO TAKE
CARE OF OUR LITTLEST FRIENDS!

Our nursery is available during both services on Sunday mornings for any children who need a little extra attention, distraction, or loving! Nursery is located on the right hand side of the hallway past the church office.

December 10 ~ during worship

KIDS

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Parts for all ages! Practices
begin in November. Watch for
more details!

Check out what's up in Wow Peeps!

Grades 1-4
Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30p

Dive into a devotion
Get your hands messy
Investigate your faith
Learn to serve
Move your feet
Be dramatic
Eat snacks!

contact Jessica!
kidmin@onalasaumc.org



FAMILY MINISTRY



ONALASKA UMC TRUNK-OR-TREAT

OCTOBER 31 • 4:30PM TO 6:30PM

SIGN UP TODAY TO SERVE DURING THE
EVENT OR TO CREATE A TRUNK!

OR EMAIL [JESSICA KIDMIN@ONALASKAUMC.ORG](mailto:jessica.kidmin@onalaskaumc.org)

ONALASKA UMC KIDZ

SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:45-10:45A

AGES 3 - GRADE 5

MOVE THROUGH THE BIBLE
STORY BY STORY

email Jessica:
kidmin@onalaskaumc.org
to register

YOUTH MINISTRY



Worship on Wednesdays:
Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm
DOVES - Grades 5-8
Confirmation - Grade 8
SOAR - Grades 9-12

Contact youth@onalaskaumc.org or scan the QR code to register your children for our youth programs!



Top: Our Doves (grades 5-8) in their new "Dove Club"; Middle: 2 of our high schoolers at the Fields of Faith event at Onalaska HS; members of both Doves & SOAR cooking meals for the Place of Grace; Bottom: SOAR guys working on an activity during W.o.W.; Pet blessing

YOUTH MINISTRY



January 19-21, 2024 Winter Youth Retreat

Winter Youth Retreat is a chance for youth to connect in community at camp while enjoying all of the winter activities (both indoor and outdoor) that camp can offer. Join us for sledding, broomball, indoor large group games, camp-style worship and faith exploration and so much more. This retreat is open to 6th-12th grade youth and their adult chaperones.

Questions about this retreat can be directed to: Natalie Albrecht at nalbrecht@wisconsinumc.org or Nina Monacelli at lakelucerneoffice@wisconsinumc.org

Click here to register: <https://wiumcamps.campbrainregistration.com/>

Our youth, grades 6-12, will have the opportunity to attend a winter retreat at Lake Lucerne Camp, one of the UMC camps in Wisconsin! The camp will run January 19-21st. The cost is \$140/student, and please contact Zoe at youth@onalaskaumc.org if you would like to attend, but finances are a barrier. We would love for you to attend and bring friends! Contact Zoe if you are interested, or register yourself by visiting the following website: **wiumcamps.campbrainregistration.com**

Description	Rate
Youth	\$140
Adult Chaperone	\$70



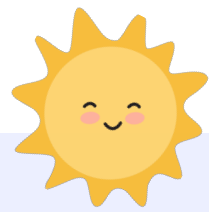
All of our youth will be participating in Onalaska's Season of Lights Holiday Parade, on Sunday, December 3rd. Stay tuned for more information about float building & ways to get ready for the parade! We had a great turnout last year. Let's show up again.

Everyone in the OUMC community is welcome.

For the month of November, OUMC will be having an **envelope wall** as a fundraiser for the 2024 youth mission trip and Mission Guatemala. On a wall in the lobby there will be envelopes with different dollar amounts written on them. If you feel called to donate that amount of money, please take the envelope, insert the money into the envelope (cash or check, please!), and place in the offering plates. All of the money raised will be split evenly between the two mission trips. There will also be envelopes available if you want to donate a dollar amount that is not printed on an envelope.



SMALL GROUPS



Adult Education

History & Mystery of the Bible - The History and Mystery of the Bible Class will resume on September 10th at 9:45 am. We will have more news about location and course of study soon. If you have not been part of the class before but enjoy a good Bible study, give us a try. If you have questions, please contact Margret Awtrey (cmawtrey2@gmail.com)

Generous Study with Pastor Krysta

9:45am Sunday October 22, 29, November 5

The Generous series is all about growing in generosity and stewardship. Growing in these areas flows from a mindset of abundance, rather than scarcity. It flows from finding contentment in God, and finding freedom from the chase after material possessions the world often tells us we need. As we grow in these ways, not only do we learn to see how blessed we are, but we are also opened up to become blessings to our churches, community, and world through generosity.



Advent Study with Pastor Krysta

6pm Sunday November 26, December 3, 10, 17

3pm Monday November 27, December 4, 11, 18

As we focus on what it means to be truly "present" to God, to ourselves, to each other, and to the world, Dr. Oden's book is a wonderful look at the history, theology, and practice of "Christian mindfulness." Many of us have heard of "mindfulness" and it has become such a known practice in the last two decades. But many people think it is only associated with Buddhism. Dr. Oden shows us how prayerful attentiveness ("mindfulness") is a long part of our tradition, including the practices of Jesus. And she helps us see how being more attentive in our daily lives can have a personal and communal effect for the good.



Sunshine Girls

This group meets the 2nd Monday of the Month from September to May at 5:30 pm.

Depending on weather, Sunshine Girls meets outside at the picnic table, Fellowship Hall, or in the Heritage Room.

This year we will be studying the Book of Luke by Adam Hamilton. Pastor Bruce leads our study for the first half, and we have discussions, and joys and concerns the second half. We take a free will offering for service projects and/or donations. In the past we have bought material and made tie fleece blankets for the women's shelter, we have made Christmas decorations for the Church, we have given to The St. Nicholas fund at church, and also provided Festival Gift Cards around Thanksgiving for those who need them. As a group we have helped at the Community Dinners and donated items and money to the Coulee Region Animal Shelter, Food Pantry, and other community groups!

If you have any questions, please give Peg Benz a call @608-781-6033.

Workin' On It

Are you a handy human? Do you enjoy working with your hands and getting projects done?

The Workin' On It small group may be for you. Every Thursday morning from 9-11 a.m., this group meets at OUMC to get jobs, big and small, done around the church. Every single person makes a difference. No RSVP required! Just show up :)

SMALL GROUPS

MISSION STITCHERS

Our mission is to provide quilted items for our church family and local community members. In using our gifts and talents, we will grow spiritually in fellowship with others in our church and the community. Other related projects that involve sewing may occur.

We meet the **1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 1-4 pm** in the last room to the right off the Fellowship Hall (downstairs).

All are welcome whether you quilt or not, so please consider joining us if you like to sew and want to share your gifts with others in the church. If you do not know how to quilt, we will teach you what you need to know. As one of us what to bring. If you are not interested in quilting, we do have other tasks that need to be done. If you do other handwork such as **embroidery, crocheting, or knitting**, you are welcome to work with us on your projects as well. We look forward to seeing you!

Reasons to give a quilt:

Life-threatening event such as terminal illness, heart failure, ALS, cancer

Life-changing event such as the loss of a child or spouse, loss of independence, dialysis, significant surgery

STEPHEN MINISTRY

An informational meeting will be held Sunday November 12th following second service in the Heritage Room. The next Stephen Ministry training class will start in January of 2024.

If you want more information on Stephen Ministry and the upcoming training class please attend or contact Becky Barnes 608-386-9723 or Melissa de Boer 608-779-0997.

OUMC GAME DAY SQUAD

The mission of Game Day Squad is that not a single game, concert, or event passes without our youth looking out and seeing OUMC members cheering them on!

Here's how Game Day Squad works:

1. Zoe has been compiling a list of all of our youth's sporting events, choir and band concerts, etc.
2. If you feel called to be in the cheering squad of a certain sport/event, reach out to Zoe and she will get you a list of the season's events
3. You do NOT have to be a family member or friend of a member of our youth program to be on Game Day Squad! You can be someone who, for example, loves to watch soccer, so you can sign up to support our students' soccer teams!
4. Once you sign up, you will receive an "OUMC Game Day Squad" button to wear to all of the events!

Contact youth@onalaskaumc.org to get involved!



(Above) Game Day Squad at the Central v Onalaska Men's Soccer Game!; (Below left) West Salem Marching Band in the Mapleleaf Parade; (Below right) Warriors twirling team in the Kornfest Parade



OUTREACH

thank you,
dear friends...

FOR SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY DINNER

We have exciting news!

Starting in November, our Community Dinner will be served both inside and as a drive-thru meal. We're missing the **community** of the community dinner. Nothing will change about the drive-thru option, but starting on November 14th, you will have the option to come inside and share your meal with others in our Fellowship Hall.

This being said, we can't do it alone...



Upcoming dinner dates for 2023:

November 14, 2023 (5-6:00 pm)

December 12, 2023 (5-6:00 pm)

Volunteer Opportunities

We are always looking for volunteers to add to our Community Dinner team! Please consider joining us if you:

- Feel called to share a favorite recipe with us to make one month
- Want to help cook/prepare the meal
- Want to head to Hunger Task Force & the grocery store for the month's groceries
- Feel called to serve meals to others
- Want to help clean up after the monthly meal
- Have ideas on how we can better our ministry!

With any interest, please reach out to Zoe, Director of Mercy Ministries, at youth@onalaskaumc.org. She is excited to hear from you!



To sign up to volunteer or make soup for the November 2023 dinner!

Mission Guatemala Fundraising Opportunity

January 15th, 2023

4:00-9:00 p.m. at Pizza Ranch!

A group of volunteers from OUMC will work that evening as guest attendants, picking up dishes and cleaning tables. We would also take this time to interact with the guests and spread the word about our mission trip. In doing this our group will receive 10% of sales for the night between 4pm and 9pm. We will also keep 100% of all cash tips and donations generated that night. We will have 2 shifts, 4-6:30 pm and 6:30-9 pm. We need YOU, our congregation, to come and have Pizza Ranch for dinner that night!

soup-a-thon



November 14, 2023's OUMC Community Dinner will be our

2nd annual Soup-a-Thon!

If you or someone you know LOVES to make soup, we would love to have you add to our offerings that evening.

All soups, stews, and chilis are welcome.

Soups can be delivered fresh or frozen, in any container of your choosing. Soups need to be delivered to OUMC by **NOON on November 14th.**

The dinner will be served from **5-6:00 pm** both **in person** and as a **drive-thru**. Volunteers are always welcome.

Ongoing Collections

1st & 3rd Weeks: Food Pantry

The Onalaska Food Basket serves the regional communities of Onalaska, Holmen, West Salem, Galesville, French Island, and Trempealeau. OUMC remains a top supporting faith community to help The Food Basket achieve their mission to "share Christ's love by providing food to people in need." On the 1st & 3rd Sunday's we're each encouraged to bring food items. Shopping carts are at both entrances to receive your donations. Items in need may shift over time but in general soups, canned meat, cereal, pasta, sauce, toilet paper, personal hygiene items and basic items are in great demand.

2nd & 4th Weeks: Common Thread

Apportionment is the term used to describe the amount that each United Methodist congregation is asked to contribute to the wider United Methodist Church in support of our missions and ministries around the world. In other words, it is A Portion Meant for Others. We sometimes call Apportionments the term Connectional Giving because it is an outward and visible sign of the connection within the UMC. The "Thread Spool" is placed out to receive your contributions on the 2nd & 4th Sundays.



OUTREACH



We have NEW Onalaska UMC apparel available! We have three different designs, and a variety of shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies. To shop our three different designs, please visit these **three** websites:

www.bonfire.com/onalaska-umc/

www.bonfire.com/johnwesteyonalaskaumc/

www.bonfire.com/all-means-all-onalaska-umc/

This apparel sale IS a fundraiser, so Onalaska UMC gets a small percentage of each sale.

On November 20th, we remember and honor transgender people from around the world whose lives have been lost to anti-trans violence.



FINANCE

A note from Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation: *I started preaching when I was just 18 years old. I was invited by my home pastor to preach, despite my age, because he knew I had a call to the ordained ministry. By the time I was 20, I had preached a whopping three sermons. With my call and this vast amount of experience behind me, I was invited to serve a small, rural congregation in Southeastern Wisconsin as their supply pastor – which basically meant I would visit the members in their homes and preach every Sunday. And so, in November of my junior year of college, I began to preach every Sunday for a congregation of 52 people. As I remember my first year there, I have fond memories of a group of faithful people who had to listen to, probably the worst sermons ever given.*

Despite my inexperience, the congregation was very supportive – often offering a tip or an encouraging word. Particularly, I remember one gentleman who came up to me to give me a pat on the back one Sunday morning. After a particularly difficult sermon he said that he truly enjoyed my messages. A little surprised, I responded by simply saying, “Really?” He continued by saying, “Oh yes. You know, you stand up every Sunday and try to tell us about God’s love and grace. But what I really like is the fact that, in the whole year you’ve been preaching, you’ve never mentioned money once.”

Considering that comment, I suppose it could be seen as a bit ironic that my ministry as a part of the Foundation is helping congregations and pastors learn how to comfortably talk about money in relation to our faith (maybe even excitedly). What I’ve discovered, however, is that talking about stewardship is about focusing love and grace. It is about helping people realize all the ways we are blessed by God, that God has given to us abundantly. God has given us so much, in fact, that we have enough to give generously in love for others.

I encourage you to speak about stewardship boldly. Talk about how you have experienced God’s love, grace, and abundance. Share how generosity has transformed your life. Talk about the blessings others have experienced in your church that are made possible by your community’s generosity.

OUMC invests funds in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation which consistently brings double-digit returns. We are grateful for their partnership to best steward some of the long-term resources entrusted to our congregation.

Debt Retirement Update by Paul Sampson

My name is Paul Sampson. I have been a member of OUMC for 40 years. I am currently the Stewardship chair. As long as I have been a member, and as long as any of us can recall, we’ve had long term debt or a church mortgage. We have an opportunity now in the fourth quarter of 2023 to retire that remaining balance of \$64,000.

We have exciting news! Along with the SCRIP committee headed by Mary Koblitz, the annual rummage sale, held in September, Finance, and Memorials, we believe we have \$25,000 to start our campaign to pay down the debt.

We know that God is listening because 10% of that balance has already been raised. We are asking the congregation to do what we did last year with the Heat Up/Clean Up campaign. We had a failed boiler, a dishwasher that needed replacement, and plumbing that had been an issue for many years. We raised that \$45,000 and completed those projects.

We look to you to help us this year to finally end the debt that we’ve had to budget for for many, many years. We would like to use that money elsewhere and we know that we can. We thank you for your support of the Onalaska United Methodist Church.

To make a first-time contribution or a special gift beyond your 2023 pledge, make checks payable to OUMC and mark debt retirement in the memo line or choose the fund called debt retirement in our online portals. If you have any questions, connect with Paul Sampson or Pastor Krysta.