

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

Serving Christ, Serving Our Community

NOVEMBER 2024

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING

Wednesday,
November 13th
@ 6:30 pm

Board Meetings
are open to all.

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HANGING OF THE GREENS

DECEMBER 1
(FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT)



From the Pastor....

Happy November
Ocker!

As many of you know, Ocker always holds its annual church business meeting at the end of October. In this meeting, we approve a budget, appoint church officers, elect Elders and hear reports by our various missions and ministries.

It is my responsibility to provide the church with a Pastor's Report at the meeting. The report includes the following: Average attendance, Baptisms, Births, Deaths, Marriages, New Members, Confirmation graduates and an update on a few ministries.

I have included that report below.

However, before you read the report, please know that I believe it reflects a healthy church dedicated to being the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

Happy Reading!

Brad

Pastor's Report October 27, 2024

Senior Adult Fellowship: The Senior Adults meet twice a month on Thursdays to fellowship, play games and have lunch. Over the years, this ministry has proven to be a source of grace and peace for so many seniors. In 2024, this group grew substantially as other members of the community started attending. I think this is one of the most important ministries we

have at Ocker — Thank you seniors!

Average Weekly Worship Attendance: 111 (105 in 2023)

Baptisms:

5/19 Kinley Caldwell
Lucy Herridge
Taylor Knox
Dalton Krcha
Brayden Gilliam
Maycee Phillips
Maecie Sebek
Kash Stephens
Parker Buck

07/07 Halstyn Dillard
10/06 Oaklyn Zdroik

Confirmed and received into membership on 5/19: Creed Pierce

Kinley Caldwell
Taylor Knox
Lucy Herridge
Maycee Phillips
Maecie Sebek
Parker Buck
Brayden Gilliam
Kash Stephens
Dalton Krcha

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.....FROM THE PASTOR(Cont.)

Others received into membership:

09/11 - Jason & Amanda Bedrich (daughter Kylie)

10/20 - Brent & Brittney Harper (children Cameron & Brooklyn)

Births:

2/14 - Halstyn Dillard

Marriages:

6/30 - Isaiah & Jacelyn (Chervenka) Coleman

Deaths:

12/05 - James Wentrcek

I am so unbelievable grateful to be your pastor.

Brad



Sanctuary Choir News

The Sanctuary Choir will sing during the worship service November 24. We will practice that morning at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

ALSO...

We will sing two specials for Christmas on Sunday, December 15 during the morning worship service. Therefore, we will practice at 6:15 PM in the sanctuary on the following Wednesdays, December 4 and 11. If you enjoy singing, please join us!

Should you have any questions, please contact Kim Dillard, Director.



SUNDAY SCHOOL/CEC NEWS

The Christian Education Committee (CEC) met on Sunday, October 6, 2024 immediately after worship. Several items were discussed:

- **1st Sunday Fellowship Breakfasts**
 - November 2024 – Books of the Bible Class
 - December 2024 – Potluck, everyone
 - January 2025 – Standard Bible Class (Roseanne's)
 - February 2025 – Bible Application Class (Jennifer's)
 - March 2025 – Books of the Bible Class
 - April 2025 – Potluck, everyone
 - May 2025 – Muffins for Mom
 - June 2025 – Donuts with Dads
 - July 2025 – Potluck, everyone
 - August 2025 – CEC Provided – Back to School
- **Men's Class** – discussion of whether we need a Men's Sunday School Class. We do have one gentleman volunteer to teach but would like to have a co-teacher to assist with scheduling from time to time. Please let Tracie Malovets know if you know of someone or if you would like to assist with this Men's Sunday School Class.
- **The Christmas Program and Dates** were discussed. There has not been a volunteer come forward, as of the date of this meeting, to set up the tree and do some decorating prior to the Hanging of the Greens Service. If no one comes forward, we plan to stay and hope others will also stay on Sunday, November 24 after service to do this decorating and preparation prior to the service.
 - November 16 – Packing of the OCC boxes
 - November 17 – Dedication of the OCC boxes scheduled for delivery
 - November 24 – Date set aside to put up Christmas Tree and Decorate
 - December 1 – Hanging of the Greens Service
 - December 8 or 15 – The choir will sing
 - December 22 – Children's Program with lunch and gift exchange immediately following worship. There will also be a special visitor at this program.
- **Valentine's Banquet 2025** – discussion of whether to make this an annual event. The 2024 banquet was such a great successful. There was a consensus of the group to host the Valentine's Banquet every other year.
- **2025 Ocker Craft Retreats and Dates** were discussed and are set as follows:
 - January 10 & 11 – Hosted by BYF
 - April 11 & 12 – Hosted by Sunday School
 - July 18 & 19 – Hosted by OCC – Operation Christmas Child
 - October 17 & 18 – Hosted by Christian Sisters
- **The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2025** immediately following worship services. All meetings are open. Please join us to discuss the Sunday School classes and activities.

NOVEMBER 2024

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

The Congregational Meeting of Ocker Brethren Church was held following worship on Sunday, October 27, 2024. A quorum was present. Reports were given by the Pastor, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Cemetery Committee, Sunday School Superintendent, Christian Sisters, BYF, Cradle Roll and Mutual Aide. Reports are available on the cabinet in the back of the Sanctuary.

Delegates to the 2025 Unity of the Brethren Convention elected are Dillon Barbisch and Ryan Zdroik with RoseAnn Groseclose (alternate).

Election of Board of Elders took place as well. Outgoing Elders are Bernard Koenig, Ryan Zdroik and Karen Tomlin. Ocker THANKS YOU ALL for your dedication and service to the church these last 3 years. Elected New Board of Elder Members are Amanda Parker, John Paul Chervenka and John Brinkley.

The 2024 Budget presented by Darrell Glaser was approved unanimously by the Congregation. The Board of Elders would like to thank the Budget Committee for it's diligence and time in preparing the budget. Committee members were Chairman Darrell Glaser, Janet Hoelscher, Lynn Cassens, and Jordan Barbisch.

Christian Sisters

The Christian sisters met on October 15 with 10 members present. Lunch was enjoyed by all. Sharon Marek gave a lesson on the story of Queen Esther and Mordecai, and how they saved the Jews in Persia from extinction.

Plans were finalized for the crafting retreat that was on October 18 & 19. Possible future fund-raising options were discussed.

Carolyn Groseclose reported that the Unity has a new missionary to Guatemala. Her name is Ashley Dusek and she is from the Wall Brethren Church.

We decided not meet again until Tuesday January 21 2025.

YOUTH NEWS:

Youth Bible Study

Nov 6

Nov 13

Nov 20

6 - 8 pm

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**NO
FAMILY
GAME
Night in
November.**

Ocker Brethren Church

Annual Children's Christmas Program

In preparation for Ocker's Christmas Program, CEC will be hosting a series of practices for children Pre K-5th grade.

Sunday Dec.1~Assign parts *Parents be on the lookout for paperwork*

Wednesday Dec.4~ Rehearsal 5:30-7:00 *Dinner provided*

Wednesday Dec.11~ Rehearsal 5:30-7:00 *Dinner provided*

Sunday Dec.15~ Rehearsal *During Sunday School*

Sunday Dec.22~ Program & Meal/Gift Exchange

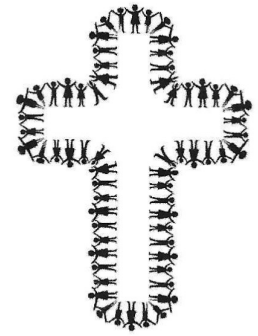
Please be at the church at 9:00 for a run through



If you have any questions please contact Chelsey Pierce (254) 718-2847



Operation Christmas Child



One Box + Love = Eternity!

Can you believe it? This is the month! The Ocker Brethren Operation Christmas Child Packing Party is **November 16 at 9 am!!!** Soon each box will be packed full of many essential school and hygiene items along with many fun filled toys and adorable stuff animals. We will then track each box to see where the boxes are sent around the world. The children who receive the boxes are taught about Jesus, his sacrifice on the cross for our sins, and how much he loves each of us. Many children learn about Christ and accept him into their hearts. Ocker knows that one shoebox filled with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and other items is temporary, but the outcome can be ever lasting life for a child who learns the love of God. I am very excited for **November 16th at 9 am!!!**

We look forward to seeing **YOU** there!

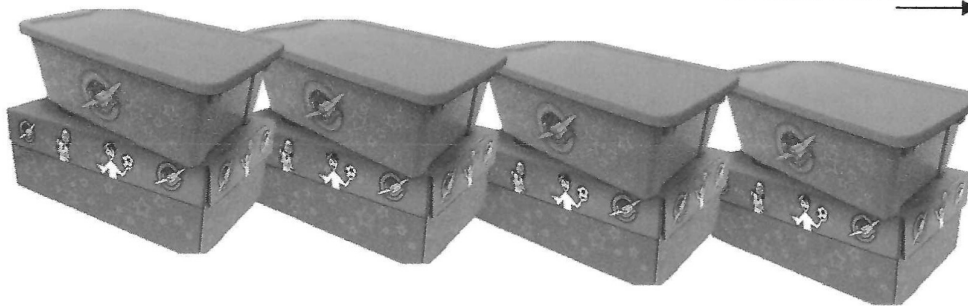
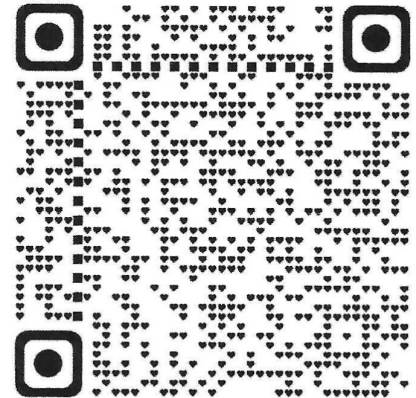
We are still missing important items that each box must have. Please look at the list below and consider donating as many items within the list as possible. We are **accepting item donations and monetary gifts.** Please speak with Tracie Malovets or Erin Brinkley if you have any questions. Place all items into the collection boxes under the OCC bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

| Items | Amount Needed |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Notebooks (any kind) | 150 |
| Coloring Books | 50 |
| Tennis Balls (or any sports balls) | 275 |
| Toothbrushes | 250 |
| Stuffed Animals | 250 |
| Small toys | As many as possible |

Amazon Wish List can be found below:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2KDHI8VR04611/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4?encoding=UTF8&ty=pe=giflist

Or Scan here!!



Packing Party November 16th 9am!!!

Ocker Brethren Church

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Wednesday Dec.4~ Rehearsal *5:30-7:00 Dinner provided*

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Sunday Dec.22~ Program & Meal/Gift Exchange

Please be at the church at 9:00 for a run through



If you have any questions please contact Chelsey Pierce (254) 718-2847



MUTUAL AID SOCIETY OF THE UNITY OF THE BRETHREN



"A Tradition Worth Preserving."

REV. JOSEPH J. POLASEK, President
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DANIEL VOJTEK, Vice President
cdvojtek@yahoo.com
NATALIE OUTLAW, General & Jr Secretary
(979) 589-2012 / natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com



RUTH ANN WUENSCHKE, Treasurer
ruthannwuensche@gmail.com
ANN SEBESTA, Board Member
sebestaa2015@outlook.com
JAMES MAREK, Board Member

Are You a Member of Mutual Aid?

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

1. The Society provides survivors of deceased members financial help in a time of need (death benefit of \$1,500).
2. The Society provides loans at a lower rate of interest to the denomination for building of churches, fellowship halls, educational buildings, etc.
3. The Society supports numerous benevolent and charitable enterprises, and stands ready to support other programs developed and implemented by the Synodical Committee.
4. The Society has always adhered strictly to the teachings, doctrines, and beliefs of the Unity of the Brethren Church.

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

How Much Will It Cost Me?

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

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Age 16 to 20 | \$19.00 |
| Age 20 to 25 | \$20.50 |
| Age 25 to 30 | \$22.00 |
| Age 30 to 35 | \$24.25 |
| Age 35 to 40 | \$26.50 |
| Age 40 to 45 | \$30.25 |
| Age 45 to 50 | \$34.00 |
| Age 50 to 55 | \$41.50 |
| Age 55 to 60 | \$49.00 |

How Do I Join?

Contact your Local Secretary Sandra Dubcak today! She will get you the application form to complete and return to her. **Or** contact Natalie Outlaw, General Secretary, at (979) 589-2012 or natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com.

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

Serving the Unity for over 100 Years!

NOVEMBER 2024

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Board of Elders
President:
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Sunday School Supt.
Tracie Malovets
Phone:254-760-8969
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tmalovets@gmail.com

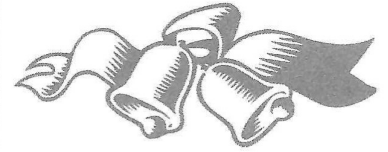
Youth Director:
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Phone: 254-913-1244
Email:
jennchervenka@gmail.com

Church Secretary:
Stacie Sebek
Phone:
254-718-5608
ockerbrethrenchurch@
gmail.com

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- ~1 – Jessica Chervenka
- ~2 – Tracey Elkins
- ~3 – Kara Hoelscher
- ~10 – James Stepan
- ~12 – Adam Trojan
- ~13 – Camryn Harper
- ~14 – Parker Buck
- ~16 – Lanelle Lesikar
- ~17 – Kenneth Jeske
- ~19 – Holden Tucker
- ~21 – Eugene Haisler
John Paul Chevenka
- ~22 – Richard Lesikar
- ~26 – Donald Williams
- ~28 – Tessa Koslovsky
- ~27 – Cayslee Pierce
- ~29 – Max Jordan



November Anniversaries

- 5 – Andrew & Desirae English
Allen & Melody Hill
- 14 – Larry & Darlene Pechel
- 18 – Wayne & Maggie Imhoff
- 21 – Chris & Taryn Tucker
- 26 – David & Lisa Sebek
- 30 – Matt & Mandy Sebek

Ocker Craft Retreats:

Please let Dianne Psencik or Lisa Sebek know if you are interested in the Ocker Craft Retreats. These retreats began about 12 years ago and have been a great fundraising resource for the entities that host them. There is quite a bit of planning and organization each quarter. However, the retreat averages \$2,500 to the hosting organization which provides around \$10,000 annually to church organizations. The retreats are a great outreach and we have had several join the church since beginning these retreats. Preparations include: a mailout announcing the retreat to our mailing list, receiving RSVP's and retreat fees, set up of Faith Hall, take down and cleanup afterwards to include vacuuming and taking out the trash; planning and preparation of meals to include some dish washing, door prizes for the 3 meal times and a devotional that is always included at these retreats. Meals provided are: Friday evening, Saturday morning Kolaches, Saturday noon meal and Saturday evening meal. The ladies (and sometimes men) love the craft retreats and the meals we provide to them.

Current Hosting Entities for 2025 are:

January 10 & 11 – BYF (Youth Group)

April 11& 12 – Sunday School

July 18 & 19 – Operation Christmas Child (funds most of the shipping fee for each box)

October 17 & 18 – Christian Sisters

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 2024

| | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
|--|---|----|---|---|----|--|--|
| 3 First Sunday Fellowship 8:30 am Worship 10:15 am | 4 | 5 | 6 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6-8 PM <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 6:30 pm | 7 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm | 8 | 9 | |
| 10 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am | 11 | 12 | 13 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6-8 PM <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 6:30 pm | 14 | 15 | 16 Operation Christmas Child Packing Party! 9 am | |
| 17 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am | 18 | 19 | 20 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6-8 PM <i>Matthew Bible Study</i> 6:30 pm | 21 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm | 22 | 23 | |
| 24 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am Church Christmas Decorating after Worship | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| 31 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am | <p>Looking ahead:</p> <p>12/1 First Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens Book Club 6:30 pm</p> <p>12/8 Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>12/15 Third Sunday of Advent Choir Specials</p> <p>12/22 Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday School Program & Gift Exchange</p> <p>12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 pm</p> | | | | | | |