

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

Serving Christ, Serving Our Community

AUGUST 2024

Ever heard of the *Flying Wallendas*? I think I have talked about them before, but their story is so profound and has a lot of truths for us to consider today.

Karl Wallenda had been performing stunts since he was six years old in Germany. He was trained to walk on a high wire, cycle across a tightrope, and balance as part of a seven-man pyramid. For him, it seemed, nothing was impossible.

Wallenda formed a group in 1922, after training with another performer while in his teens. He enlisted his sister, a girlfriend, and a friend of his from school, all of whom had circus training, to join him in creating their traveling balancing act.

The group toured Europe for several years, performing tightrope walking, high wire bicycling, and perfecting a seven-person act in which the group sat on a stacked pyramid of chairs, while high in the air.

He got married, had a family and trained his kids, nieces and nephews to go into the family business. They started performing all over the world....they became known as the flying Wallendas. They were a site to see, I mean a real site to see...and they did it all without a net.

But they become known for their most daring stunt... perfecting a seven-person act in which the group sat on a stacked pyramid of chairs, while high in the air on a tightrope. It was heralded the world over as the most daring stunt ever...without a net. It was incredible...can you imagine...one person sitting on a chair that is balanced on a two inch tightrope strung 300 feet off the ground...that person has a ten foot bar that is holding three other chairs where three family members are sitting and the middle person has a five feet bar where two other family members are sitting on a chair and they have a small bar where one other family member is sitting on a chair...simply astonishing.

Eventually, they were noticed by John Ringling, who hired them almost immediately to perform at the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. A few years later, they debuted at Madison Square Garden in New York City to a standing ovation.

However, as impressive as the acts were, they were dangerous as well.

Then, on March 22, 1978, the world watched in horror as Karl Wallenda and some other family members fell to their death. Karl attempted to walk across a high wire strung between the two towers of the Condado Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the 73-year-old Wallenda lost his balance, teetering on the wire for 30 heart-stopping seconds before plummeting 10 stories.

Board of Elders Meeting

Wednesday
AUGUST 14

6:30 pm

Meetings are always
open to all.

....Continued from previous page.

Karl Wallenda's death might not have been so highly publicized had it not been for his reputation and the fact that it was broadcast live on television. It was certainly a sad day for the Wallenda family.

Life is a tightrope, isn't it? You have lived long enough by now to know that life is hard...especially the Christian life...living the life of a disciple of Christ in our world today is like walking a tight rope without a net.

What Jesus calls us all to do is almost impossible. You are called to love radically...everybody. People who are different than you, love them. People who annoy you, love them...people who are mean to you, accept them. People who are strange and odd, love them. You are called to forgive wholeheartedly...everybody who hurts or wrongs you...no matter how many times they do it.

And that is hard for anybody...everybody. We see people (good, Christian people) falling off the tight rope all the time...hating, holding grudges.

That is why we have church...that is why we have this place called Ocker Brethren Church...Ocker is our net...it is the place that catches us when we fall. The place where we can go and get some more love...more mercy, or faith... more peace when ours has fallen.

The church, your church, is God's safety net for Christians. Karl died because he didn't have a safety net...I wonder, if we didn't have Ocker, would what would happen to us?

I will see you on Sunday – I think it is going to be a great day!

Brad

***** SUNDAY SCHOOL / CEC NEWS *****

The CEC met in June to finalize fall Sunday School classes and some VBS information.

Fall Sunday School Classes:

Adult Classes will remain the same:

RoseAnne – Standard Publishing Bible Study Rotation (SS wing)

Jennifer – Life Application studies (in the round table room)

Books of the Bible Class – rotating teachers – (Faith Hall)

Current study is the Book of Joshua and then on to Judges

There has been a discussion of starting a **Men's Class** in September/October. Please let us know if you have an interest in a Men's Sunday School Class or any other suggestions.

Children & Youth Classes: will begin in August with the start of Back to School

Nursery – Carolyn Groseclose (Nursery at back of Sanctuary)

Pre K & K – Jana & Judy Jeske (SS wing)

1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grades – Sandra Dubcak (SS wing)

4th, 5th & 6th Grades – Amanda Parker (SS wing)

7th Grade & up – BYF Group (Youth Building)

Be Blessed and Be H-A-P-P-Y!



Operation Christmas Child Summer Drive!



It is hard to believe, but school is just around the corner! Operation Christmas Child is continuing the **Summer SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE!** The supplies we place into a box are used to enhance the education of each child. Through the month of **August, we will be collecting school supplies** such as pencils, erasers, crayons, color pencils, scissors, rulers, glue sticks, spiral notebooks, and more! Please no liquid-based items. We are also collecting small pencil boxes/bags and tote bags for the children to carry their supplies to school. We hope to supply each child with the most school items possible to help them continue their education. So, when school shopping begins, keep Operation Christmas Child in mind and pick up a few extra school supplies. **Please read below for additional OCC Updates:**

- **DON'T FORGET! OCC has an Amazon Wishlist!** Can't make it to the store but still want to donate items? Wondering what items are still needed for this year? Want to buy in bulk? We have you covered. Check it out at:

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

- The online newsletter located on the church website
- Church Facebook page
- Or Scan here!!



Operation Christmas Child (OCC) will have a new Director for 2025. Carolyn Groseclose will take over for Tracie Malovets and Erin Brinkley who are stepping down at this time. **We are still in need of an assistant for the program.** If it is on your heart to participate and help lead this program for our church, please let Tracie or Carolyn know of your interest. OCC is a program through Samaritan's Purse and Franklin Graham where shoe boxes are packed and sent to children in other countries at Christmas time. All boxes are packed based on the needs and donations from our congregation and others.

As a part of **OCC**, the July craft retreat is held as a fundraiser for this program. July 19 & 20, we had 52 ladies crafting and our church folks providing the meals and assisting with the 2-day event. It was a great success. Thank you so much for your contributions and assistance to this program. A special shout out to Jennifer for organizing everything and Chelsey & Carolyn for assisting on Friday to see that all was ready and in order and that all the food was prepped. We could not have done it with you.

THE GREAT Jungle JOURNEY

OCKER VBS 2024

Monday, August 5-Wednesday, August 7

5:30pm- 8:00pm

Children ages 3 & up

****NEW** FAMILY DINNER FROM 5:30-6:15 each night. Doors open at 5pm.**

We invite your family to have dinner with us each night. Fellowship hall doors will open at 5:00pm and the meal will be served at 5:30pm. Children will be dismissed at 6:15 to the Faith Hall for opening worship and celebration, before beginning their rotations to Bible Story, Crafts, and Games. VBS ends at 8:00pm each night, and children can be picked up in the fellowship hall.

We will be collecting school supplies and non-perishable food items for our offering each night. No advance registration required.

DONATIONS AND HELP NEEDED!

Vacation Bible School Decorating will be from 1pm-8pm on Wednesday, July 31 with final touch ups after worship on Sunday, August 4.

Finger Food Desserts (Cookies, Brownies, Cupcakes, Rice Krispie Treats, etc. are needed each night. Please let Dianne Psencik know if you will be bringing desserts so that we make sure we have enough.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
RESUMES IN AUGUST.**

Youth 6th grade and up. 6-8pm. Dinner provided.

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AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Travis Glaser
• Candice Henderson
- 2 – Emily Doney
- Jason Parker
- 4 – Hayden English
- 6 – Ryder Kleypas
• Cory Pierce
- 8 – Jaylea Elkins
- 9 – David Coufal
• Jean Coufal
- Ian Ranley
- 10 – Sara Wolf
- 11 – Ray Coots
- 12 – Trevor Coots
• Andrew English
- Matthew Wilfer
- 13 – Gabbey Dillard
- 15 – Marcia Snyder
• Emma Ranley
- 16 – Cil Krcha
- 18 – Landon Kleypas
- 19 – Grace Tawney
- 20 – Chris Tucker
• John Brinkley
- 21 – Karley Stephens
- 23 – Janet Hoelscher
- 24 – Jeannette Glaser
- 28 – Laela Sebek
- 29 – Stephanie Phillips
- 31 – Shirley Marek

August Anniversaries

- 6 - John & Kim Dillard
- 12 - Jordan & Emily Sebek
- 26 - Barton & Tammy Pierce

CHRISTIAN SISTERS NEWS

Christian Sisters provided goody bags, desserts and served meals and drinks for the Mutual Aid Convention on July 13. The next meeting will be August 20 at 11:30 am.



AND SUNDAY LOOKS LIKE A LOVELY DAY TO FORSAKE NOT THE ASSEMBLING OF YOURSELVES TOGETHER.

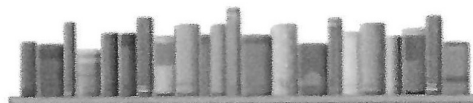
**The Pastor's Book Club
"We Were The Lucky Ones"**

By Georgia Hunter

Book Club will meet in the Upstairs

Conference Room

Sunday, August 25 6:30 pm





Back to School



August

2024

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				1 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm	2	3
4 First Sunday Fellowship. 8:30 am Worship 10:15 am VBS DECORATING	5	6	7	8	9	10
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL						
11 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	12	13	14 Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 pm Youth Bible Study 6-8 pm	15 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm	16	17
18 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	19	20 Christian Sisters 11:30 am	21 Youth Bible Study 6-8 pm	22	23	24
25 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am BOOK CLUB 6:30 PM	26	27	28 FAMILY GAME NIGHT 6-8 PM	29 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm	30	31