



FAREWELL

OCUMC Newsletter

June 17, 2021

BE ALERT
AND ALWAYS
KEEP ON PRAYING
FOR ALL THE
LORD'S PEOPLE.

EPHESIANS 6:18, NIV



Pray Chain

To put prayers on the prayer chain, please contact office@oregoncityumc.com

Church Camps!

www.gocamping.org
Scholarships Available

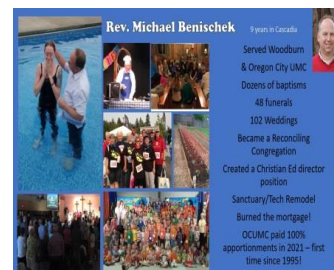
Support OCUMC through Scrip

Buy gift cards for your favorite brands and the ministry of your choice gets a rebate check! Ask Pastor Mike or Christa for details!

Pastor Mike's Farewell Speech; June 2021

It is with a humbled heart that I stand behind this podium. Our family appreciates all of the kind words shared this morning. 8 years ago, we came up from Woodburn, having only served there a year - unsure of the years ahead. My parents were with us that first week, having helped us move. Although my father was having health issues at the time. My first meeting was with Ted and Jim, who shared that this church had struggled. So much that we were one month out from foreclosure. We had no money in the bank, despite what our reports might have said, and a balloon payment of \$650,000 was due. Thank you, Kitsie, for working on that one. On my first Sunday, there was a funeral as a part of the worship service from Mrs. Sanders. And an ambulance was called because Phil tripped out on the front porch. My father was also admitted into the hospital where he learned that he had stage four lung cancer. That Sunday, I got to see him at the hospital, and he shared a room with lo and behold, Phil Snyder. I honestly didn't know what to expect from all of you. Despite all of the troubles and tough times this church had faced, we were met with open arms and gracious hospitality. Look at what you have done in the past eight years.

We've had many a baptisms. New life coming in. They're all special, but I remember one gal who asked for immersion baptism - all the way under. In October. Sandy opened up her pool for the ceremony. Freezing bodies, warm hearts. Or one night when we had a special baptismal service and two whole families, nine people were baptized.



We've had 104 weddings - a few of which were even in our sanctuary! Thank you for letting us be a part of your special day. And we've said goodbye to a few of

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MALLEN, JOE	06/01
PERSON, RACHEL	06/04
EVANS, KATHERINE	06/06
FRICHTL, JULIA	06/08
CRUIKSHANK, ADDIE	06/09
PALMER, TODD	06/09
EMMERSON, HUNNTER	06/20
MALLEN, RACHEL	06/24
OSTRICK-CRONRATH, JENNIFER	06/26
SHAVER, JIM	06/27
DURST, RICK	06/28
DUVALL, SHERRY	06/29
THONSTAD, SHARON	06/29
SHUMAKER, JIM	06/30



our saints. In Oregon City, I've done 48 funerals. Many of whom were here in our first years. We carry all of these saints in our hearts and memories - their story is a part of what makes OCUMC special.

Did you know that we've become a reconciling congregation? What's that, I hear you ask? It means that Love Others Value Everyone aren't just words, but love in action. Where all means all. Whatever challenges and opportunities we have up ahead for inclusion and acceptance, I know this church is up to the task.



Did you know that we support our youth and children? Christa and Laura, then Lesli handled the impossible job of Christian Education. The Mallens wrangled the youth. A hundred plus at VBS for many years, Night in Bethlehem, Kids Night Out, Mission Trips youth Groups. Our nursery has been staffed by loving folk like Heather, Carrie, and Donna. I know my children have been blessed over these years to have been a part of our children and youth program. If you've ever helped with the Children's program, can you give a "Hoppa"

Did you know that we remodeled the sanctuary? From hanging sheets to dark corners of storage you built a sanctuary and stage that looks like a sanctuary! Thanks to everyone who put in the hours to make that happen, from the Ronfelds to the Fouriers, to the Worship Design Team and greater congregation. Even the tech booth got an upgrade. All for the worship of God. God bless Dawn and her communion bread! If you've ever helped in worship, reading scripture, at the camera or stacked a chair or two, can you give a "Hoppa"

Did you know that we have a preschool - before Covid, they added a class as they have met the growing need here in our growing city. Beth, Danielle, Carla have been with us for a lot longer than I have been. Thanks to them and their board. If you've ever been to a program or helped in the preschool, or had kids go through, can you give a "hoppa!"

Did you know that we have great leaders in this church? Thank you to all who have served in many different capacities in the leadership of OCUMC. I've had four Church Council chairs, Jim, Jane, Jay and Sandra. Mary in Finance, Kitsie as treasurer. Ted and Rynn as lay leaders, Great reps to Annual Conference Sheila, Don, Marian, John. If you've ever served on a committee or a team, Can you give a "hoppa!" You have ten seconds; tell your neighbor what teams you've been on.

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The church secretary will be away on vacation next week, June 21-25.

The office will be closed for the week. Please contact Pastor Mike, if you have any questions or concerns during this time.

****Next Newsletter – July 1st ****



www.facebook.com/groups/OCUMC/

Did you know that this church likes food? We feed a lot of people through Hope. Thanks to Sharon and her team. If you've ever helped with Hope, can you give a Hoppa! We can't wait to have Wednesday night dinners again. Carol and Cat cooked for many a year, then volunteers like Kathy or the Mission Possible team and many others. If you've ever cooked a Wednesday night dinner or have ever eaten one, give a "hoppa!"



Did you know that we care about people here at OCUMC? From the Guatemalan group, to our studies, to opening our doors to outside groups, to the quilters and line dancers and yoga, Blood drives to groups using our kitchen. Our men's group that gets together. The ladies who get together even more and their retreats and activities - thanks Susan and others. We have a group called Mission Possible. I have no idea how it started, wasn't me or church council - just a group that got together and said, let's do the impossible and away they went doing great things. "Pastor Mike, are they a committee of the church?" "I don't know, but don't stop them." I know the danger of mentioning names in these kinds of speeches, because we will leave people out - but we Thank you. From our band in worship to those in the garden and everywhere in between, If you've volunteered anywhere at OCUMC, can I get a "Hoppa"?



Did you know that we burned the mortgage? We bless the work and sacrifice that you did to make that happen; so that our offering dollars can go to people in need, support our ministries. Thank you to our mortgage holder I'm excited that the next pastor will not have the burden of debt. If you helped bring the Wallers to Oregon City - if you remember that campaign, can I get a "Hoppa"

Did you know that we're a part of the United Methodist Church? And we take a portion of our offering and support the mission and ministry of the global church. We call those apportionments. When I got here, we took our apportionment payment down to zero - we just couldn't do it. Some may remember that a few of our previous pastor's salaries were paid by the Conference just so we could squeak by. But over the years, we've increased our payout bit by bit, percentage point by percentage point. And this year, this year - despite Covid, we've paid 100% of our apportionments for the first time since 1995! Can I get an Amen? If you're going to pay them next year, can I get a "Hoppa?" Ok, we'll see where we are.

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Make a sunflower, which turns its head to follow the sun.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Yellow marker
- Scissors
- Yarn (black and brown)



What you do:

1. Color the entire plate yellow.
2. Around the edge, cut out an odd number of triangles. Evenly space the cuts to form flower petals.
3. Poke a hole in the plate's center. String black yarn through the hole and over one triangle cut. Tie a knot at the back of the plate.
4. Continue looping yarn through the hole and over the remaining cuts. Secure the end. The flower should look like a wagon wheel with black spokes.
5. Tie the brown yarn to a black "spoke." Weave the brown yarn over and under the spokes in a circle. Continue until the sunflower has a large center. Then tie the end.
6. Display your craft as a reminder to follow the Son, Jesus!

Did you know that we had our 175th anniversary as a church? We had a party. Many of the former pastors and/or spouses and members came back. We'll celebrate 200 years in 19 years, God willing, I hope to be invited back to help you celebrate. If you hope to celebrate with us in 19 years, can I get a "Hoppa"?

Did you know that you have an awesome staff here at OCUMC? Heather and Carrie in the nursery, Donna back in the day? Cat has been the longest custodian that I've had since we've been here. Before her were Chelsea, Jacob, and Diane. Lesli at the helm of Christian Ed - although she's recently stepped down. Turn to your neighbor and ask, "Have you thought about applying for that job?" Rick is celebrating his 33rd year at OCUMC. Thank you Rick and your music team for your dedication to our music program. Christa in the office, the one who helps keep the rest of us on task and gelled together. She not only keeps the office running, but helps put programs together, keeps me in the loop with what's really going on around here, and even holds ladders - God bless that line in her job description, "and other duties as assigned." If you want to say thank you to our staff, how about a round of applause?



And finally, did you know that I couldn't do anything here, without the support of my family. My children, Christian Gabriel and Samantha who have learned great spiritual truths from you all, how to serve and volunteer, and life skills like how to stack chairs. My wife, Stephanie who sang in the choir, rang bells, song leader. Cook and volunteer. Who did not want to a key to the place or official role, but I couldn't have done anything without her, and we would not have come to Oregon without her prompting. Thank you to my family. I love you. I know this party says a lot, so if you want to say thank you to my family, how about another round of applause.

Thank you Melissa, Staff Parish team and friends who put on this shindig. Now, I still have 2-3 weeks left, we're going to live worship this next Sunday - sign up on our website. But know that we leave you with heavy hearts, full spirits, bountiful blessings, and joyous memories. This church is wonderful - because of who you are, and what you continue to be. I may have been the pastor, but you did all the work. May God continue to bless this congregation in the years ahead. God is good. All the time. All the time. God is good. And the family of God said, AMEN!

IN-PERSON WORSHIP!

Beginning June 20th

our services will be live-streamed with a live worshipping body

Please note the following restrictions:

- We have 40 spots available per Sunday
- No Sunday School or Nursery - children sit with their families
- No Food/Drinks provided - BYOC (bring your own coffee)
- Masks are required indoors - no matter your vaccination status
- Social Distancing will in effect - seats will be spaced out in family groups
- No live singing - congregational songs will be shown via video
- No passing of the plate - offertory box is available
- Chatting and continued conversations may be conducted outside the building
- No bulletins - feel free and take a newsletter from the foyer

But joy and happiness and gladness are always welcome! We trust that as we ease out of this pandemic, these restrictions will become less and less. We know that worship will not feel exactly the same in this transition period, but we trust that the Spirit will be alive and well in our sacred space again!

Thank you for your continued patience as we have protected our congregation as best we could in this never-to-be-forgotten year. Thank you to everyone who watched our online services. Thank you to our Worship Design team for their creative sparks and technical support to keep services going. And thank you to you - for your continued dedication to the mission and ministry of OCUMC!



To reserve a spot in an upcoming worship service, please visit our website

www.oregoncityumc.com

OC Lunch Lady

GRAB-N-GO LUNCHES

OC Lunch Lady has been providing free lunches each day in front of her house for anyone in need. This is a very local project that could really use our help. Later this month OCUMC Mission Possible Team will be providing approximately 50 lunches.

Lunch items needed:

- Bread
- Chunky peanut butter
- Jam (raspberry or strawberry preferred)
- Individual chip bags
- Apples, Bananas or Grapes
- Fruit Cups
- Granola Bars
- Cookies
- Ziploc bags
- Brown lunch bags



If you wish to donate lunch items you can drop them off at the church office or if you would prefer to donate financially please mark your donation OC Lunch Lady. If you have questions you can contact Jane Myers 503-656-0117 or Chris Larson 503-655-4080.

Thank You