

Dear friends and family of OCUMC:

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.**

When that Dutch hymn was written back in 1626, it was tongue-in-cheek as the Dutch reformers were not allowed to worship or gather together by their Spanish King. The hymn resonated with the faithful because of a longing to gather as a congregation but they were denied - and it may resonate with us today as we long for a return to "normalcy."

"We Gather Together" is the theme of this year's pledge campaign - maybe a little tongue-in-cheek as well. But what we do as a church WE DO TOGETHER - even in a pandemic.

We have Gathered Together in technology. It's been a difficult year, no doubt about that. We've had to change and adapt. The hardest part has been distancing ourselves from one another while working to stay connected. We've learned that one of the things we value most about OCUMC is that we are a community of believers who value each other's company. We truly Love Others and Value Everyone. We pray the pandemic will end and that we can safely return to worship in our sanctuary together soon.

We have also Gathered Together in our missions. Our Hope food pantry continues to feed hundreds each month. The garden's harvest was stellar. Our Mission Possible team reaches out in new and creative ways. You can't keep the ladies from visiting houses throughout the summer. Our Conference responds to needs around the world and at home as wildfires make their devastating impact. The work of Christ continues.

We have Gathered Together in our prayers. Our prayer chain has been active this season; and many of you have called in/emailed your prayer requests. Lifting each other up in prayer has been a lifesaver for some.

We have Gathered Together in our building. Our staff has continued to be active in their ministry areas. At a time when most churches have laid off staff, we have had the opportunity to keep ours employed. Our building has also been utilized to hold many blood drives and emergency services.

We have Gathered Together to preach Christ and help those in their faith walk. In 2020, life still happens. Our ministry still continues as people joyfully get married, sadly laid to rest, as children are born and baptized. Easter baskets get delivered and backpacks get blessed. We've adapted to our quarantined life and Christ is still present.

The hymn ends with a triumphal hope along with a prayer of deliverance that might speak to us today, 400 years later.

**We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,  
And pray that Thou still our Defender will be.  
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

We also Gather Together in our support of Oregon City United Methodist Church and its ministries. Please consider making a financial pledge to support your church in 2021. If you need a pledge card, please call the office. Please return your card by Sunday, October 25th as we will create our yearly budget based on these pledges.

Faithfully yours,

The Finance Team



### October Birthdays

BENISCHEK, STEPHANIE	10/03
BENSON, PETER	10/04
SCHLOSSER, NANCY	10/05
CRAWFORD, MICHAEL	10/08
CRUIKSHANK, THOMAS	10/12
WENINGER, GAIL	10/14
CRUIKSHANK, RUBY	10/15
HEMPHILL, KARLA	10/16
RUSSELL, LESTER (DEKE)	10/17
BUTTOLPH, VERN	10/19
CRUIKSHANK, MICHELLE	10/19
BENSON, JEREMY	10/22
BENSON, NATHAN	10/22
QUEVEDO, SONIA	10/23
BEASLEY, DENISE	10/26

Mark your calendars for this year's OCUMC Charge Conference. This is where we finalize budgets, choose leadership, celebrate and look ahead. More info will be shared as the date gets closer.

### OC Lunch Lady

The following donations are needed:

- Bread
- Fruit (i.e. Apples)
- Oreo Cookies
- Ziploc Bags



The Lunch Lady is also looking for a "little library" type kiosk to put lunches in on rainy days. Please contact Chris Larson 503-655-4080 for more information.

If you have items for the OC lunch lady you can drop them off at the church office.

## MISSION POSSIBLE

### Current opportunities to help our community at large

First, we want to thank you for your continued generosity for the mission work we are continuing to provide for our community. All of us have been very aware of the tragic fires and the devastation that faces many people who have either lost everything or received damage to their homes and property.

In response to that we are working in concert with Love, INC to provide cleaning supplies that are needed for those who are returning to homes that need thorough cleaning from the ash, smoke etc. We will be collecting supplies and/or monies through the month of October. You may mark your checks Fire Victims or you may leave cleaning supplies at the church.

Items needed include:

- Mops
- Brooms
- Dustpans
- paper towels
- garbage bags
- window cleaners
- bathroom cleaners and so on



Thank you so much for all the help you provide to those in need.

Mission Possible Team





Thanks to the dozens of folks who joined us for our Communion in the Park! It was great to see everyone at this one-time event. We received special permission from our District Superintendent to host this, and we thank all of you for wearing masks and kept social distance from each other. Thanks to the worship design team for the altar and elements. God be with you till we meet again!

