

Ozaukee Congregational Church

FAITH-FOCUSED, FREE-THINKING



1142 Lakefield Road

Grafton, WI 53024

www.occhurch.org

Ozaukee Congregational Church

We are a faithful, welcoming church family whose dedicated members sincerely care about each other. We celebrate our Christian faith together and strive to put it into practice through our church and in our daily lives. We are committed to making our community a better place and to giving respectful acceptance to everyone.

Our services are relaxed, engaging and lean more toward traditional than contemporary. A recent survey of our members shows a willingness to embrace change and a desire for new energy, youth and diversity in our congregation.

We have a wonderful interim minister and a tremendous full time associate minister to guide us through this time of transition. Our approximately 200 members believe this is a turning point in the 33 year history of Ozaukee Congregational Church and we are excited about the search for a new minister. An effective leader and preacher will find a great opportunity to join us on our faith journey and to build programs and membership. This church holds much promise and our committed, loving and supportive congregation is ready to follow a new spiritual leader.

In a 2016 survey of the congregation, we asked:

WHICH PART OF OCC WOULD YOU NOT WANT TO CHANGE?

“The feeling of a worshipful extended family.”

“Faith is put into practice, not just talked about.”

“Free thinking and faith focused. The absence of any particular dogma to which everyone must adhere.”



Our History

In August of 1983, a committed group of Congregationalists wanted to find a church closer to their homes and decided to start a new church. They had nothing but the people and the commitment to begin the church. Within 18 days, using a borrowed pulpit and supplies, 37 people gathered to worship at the Cedarburg American Legion Post.

By 1984, they found a new home at a neglected, former Lutheran church built in 1891, and by Christmas Eve, 135 people celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. Since that initial service there have been three senior ministers and three interim ministers, including the service of the current interim minister. During the past 33 years the church has been blessed to have several long term ministers to guide and grow the church and to currently have a full time associate minister who works with our youth groups, benevolence, and outreach. Ozaukee Congregational Church continues to have an enthusiastic, dedicated congregation that is united in moving forward with a positive and energized attitude.

Our Beliefs

As a Congregational church we are free thinking and faith focused. We describe ourselves as “the Lord’s free people,” but we do not believe we are the Lord’s only people. The congregation is generally open-minded, well educated and independent in our individual beliefs. One member described our philosophy this way, “I can worship and serve God and no one tells me what I have to believe. I feel my theology is not questioned, nor do I question the theology of others.”

To become a member of Ozaukee Congregational Church, an individual or family will meet with the minister. Following their meeting and during a Sunday service the prospective new member(s) will stand before the congregation to recite our church covenant with current members:

“We covenant together of our own free will, to love God and to enjoy Him forever, to walk in His ways, known and to be made known, and to study the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, to live and work together in unity and peace, and to care for those whom God has given us to love.”

We feel that church membership is an important statement of commitment and responsibility, but we also welcome and encourage the participation of non-members both in worship services and our youth programs. We’ve come together from a variety of religious backgrounds (including Congregational, Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist and Catholic.) We are inclusive, opening our communion table and the sacraments of marriage and baptism to all who feel moved to participate.

Our political views are as diverse as our theological views, and as Christians we embrace our differences. We are willing to discuss different ideas. We do not as a church adopt a specific political viewpoint, thus reserving the right of individuals to have their own opinions and political affiliations.

Our Programs

MUSIC AT OCC

Our music program is an important and inspirational component of church life and worship services. The quality of music is outstanding. An excellent choir director and talented organist lead a volunteer choir during worship every Sunday and for special services. Musicians from the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra accompany our choir for services of music and scripture during both Advent and Lent. In the summer, the choir goes on hiatus while guest musicians and soloists provide unique music on Sundays. A recent survey confirmed that members enjoy our current music program and many believe that going forward OCC should continue to include a combination of contemporary and traditional music styles.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The majority of OCC members believe children are vitally important to our congregation. We recognize that bringing more families with children into our congregation is crucial for maintaining a spiritual energy and vitality at OCC. Our programs for children and youth include a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth and involvement in the life of the church.

NURSERY CARE *Infants through age 3*

The nursery is a safe, cheerful space where children may learn about God, play with age appropriate toys, do puzzles, sing songs or enjoy having stories read to them by paid staff and volunteers while their parents/caregivers enjoy our worship service.

JOYOUS JOURNEY *Preschool through 5th grade*

“Joyous Journey” is our Sunday school program combining art, drama and story telling to teach children about Christ’s life, the Bible, our church’s mission and about each other. Our staff prepares the curriculum and volunteers often assist the Joyous Journey children. Typically, they begin Sunday lessons in the sanctuary and move to classrooms following a children’s sermon.

The kids piled up on the new playset during our annual church picnic.



YOUTH *6th grade through high school*

Our Youth are truly leaders within OCC's overall approach to outreach. They spearhead our sponsorship of a child through Compassion International, take part in the CROP Walk and participate in World Vision's 30 hour Famine. They also volunteer at Hope House Food Pantry and Next Door Foundation in Milwaukee. Many youth have also taken mission trips to Appalachia and Mexico and attended a week-long church camp in northern Wisconsin.

On Sundays, they gather for "Ministry, Praise, Prayer & Proclamation" (MP3). Reverend Rob Fredrickson and a team of terrific adult volunteers facilitate the lessons designed to be both high energy and reflective to engage their young hearts and young minds.

On Wednesday afternoons, Rev. Rob Fredrickson provides the opportunity to connect with our youth and members by heading to a casual spot in Downtown Cedarburg. Anyone is invited to drop in and bring their friends for conversation.

On Wednesday nights, twice a month, our youth gathers for Pilgrim Fellowship at OCC. There are snacks, devotions, zany games and thought provoking discussions — both topical and biblical.



OCC youth and volunteer staff look forward to attending WCA Camp every summer. It's the highlight of the year!

CONFIRMATION *8th grade*

The Rite of Confirmation consists of eight 90-minute class sessions, four community service projects and four church involvement activities. The confirmation year culminates with each student writing a unique, seven sentence personal credo statement and having the opportunity to 'Own the covenant' to join OCC as a full-fledged member. (Sometimes 7th graders are included, depending upon class size.)

The membership of OCC is a community of individuals and families committed to caring for and about each other—celebrating joys, sharing burdens, simply being there. We join together for potluck dinners, a church picnic and an annual Christmas party. Among the many regular opportunities for fellowship, there are Women’s Fellowship outings every month.



Community Outreach and Benevolence

OCC is committed to a strategic benevolence and mission program, emphasizing a dual focus on financial support and volunteerism. Our associate minister brings significant passion and experience to lead our mission work, organizing an annual domestic mission trip and a biannual international mission trip for youth and adults.

An active Board of Benevolence organizes several monthly volunteer activities coordinated with cash and in-kind donations for nonprofit organizations in Ozaukee county and Milwaukee. We serve meals to the homeless, stock food pantries, sort donated books and work with underprivileged children. Each Christmas season we ring bells for the Salvation Army, provide gifts for women and children served by the local domestic violence shelter, and distribute special holiday offerings dedicated as benevolence funds.

Far from home, we have a long partnership of financial support for the Congregational Church of Myanmar, the Happy Life Children's Home in Kenya, and Mission Mazahua in Mexico.

Organizational Structure & Governance

True to our denominational character, OCC is self-governing. Congregational is, after all, our middle name. Recognizing that God is our ultimate authority, we operate as an organization under a Constitution written, adopted, and occasionally amended by the congregation itself. We set and manage our own budget, call our own ministers, and make all major decisions regarding the properties and activities of our church. At an annual meeting- and at other congregational meetings called to decide specific issues- we make church decisions on matters identified in the constitution.

The congregation's Moderator serves a two-year term and is "the principal Executive Officer of the church." Other officers include the Treasurer and the Clerk/Historian.

Management of the church's affairs is accomplished by seven Boards: Deacons, Trustees, Youth and Christian Education, Benevolences, Christian Stewardship, Facility Management, and Membership and Events.

Board members are elected at the annual meeting for three-year terms. A Long Range Planning Committee, a Nominating Committee, and other groups empaneled for special purposes oversee particular areas of church life.

The Moderator, the chairs of the Boards and various non-voting members, including the other church officers and the ministers, comprise the Church Council. The Council is the "Executive Committee" responsible for overall church operations. They work closely with our minister who is vital in coordinating day-to-day church activities.

Staff and Facilities

Our church facility consists of three separate buildings - a wonderful sanctuary and a parsonage, both built in the 1890s, and a parish house built in 1988. The sanctuary has a restored antique pipe organ and choir loft and seats approximately 150 people. The parish house contains our fellowship hall, kitchen, offices and Sunday School classrooms. There are also a children's play area and an open field behind the building. The parish house and the sanctuary are connected by a covered walkway. The large parsonage is frame construction, in very good repair, and next door to both the sanctuary and the parish house.

The Senior Minister and the Associate Minister are the only full time paid positions within the church. Part time staff positions include an office manager, office assistant, music director, organist, Children's Ministry Director, nursery caregivers, custodian, & parish nurse.

Financial Data

We are financially sound and carry no mortgage. Detailed financial information is available upon request.

Church Associations

WISCONSIN CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Our congregation feels it is important for our minister to be committed to Christian outreach, with an emphasis on local needs. Ozaukee Congregational shares in fellowship through the Wisconsin Congregational Ministerial Association, the Wisconsin Congregational Association and the National Association of Congregational Churches. We encourage our minister to be involved with the national association and/or local conference. Our relationships with churches of other denominations in the community are very friendly.

Important Attributes of Our Minister

Our congregation hopes to find a minister who will be a strong spiritual leader with significant knowledge of Christianity. We are looking for someone who can deliver an interesting, compelling, inspiring and even humorous message while preaching; a person who is approachable, friendly and understands and embraces Congregationalism. Our church wants a minister who is motivated to join with us in growing the congregation, particularly reaching out to young families with children. Our minister will serve as a role model who leads the members and staff by example and who will support us with pastoral counseling.

Salary and Benefits

We offer a generous and competitive package of salary, incentives, and benefits. Terms negotiable and appropriate to skills and experience.

In a 2016 survey of the congregation, we asked which skills and personality traits were most important in a new pastor.

Thoughtful and inspiring preaching

Ability to attract young families

Pastoral care

Approachable and friendly

Empathetic and good listener

Strong spiritual leader

Our Extended Community

Ozaukee County, Milwaukee and the surrounding areas host an amazing amount of activities, beautiful nature areas and an abundance of fun for all ages. Ozaukee Congregational Church is situated in the midst of this exciting area, 20 miles north of Milwaukee in the Town of Grafton. Our suburban area of about 46,000 people in the towns of Cedarburg, Grafton, Mequon and Port Washington is just minutes away from Lake Michigan.

Local public school districts rate among the top in statewide testing and college readiness. Several institutions of higher learning are within 25 miles of the church including University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Marquette University.

Friendly people and quiet neighborhoods with affordable, quality housing are readily available. The business climate is healthy and diverse, ranging from manufacturing and technology to artisans and small shops. The community also offers beautiful parks and seasonal festivals.

Professional sports teams in Milwaukee include Brewers baseball, Bucks basketball, Wave soccer, and Admirals hockey, as well as the Green Bay Packers to the north. Nearby recreational sports facilities are plentiful and open to the public.

Culturally Milwaukee is home to a symphony, ballet and an opera company, plus a variety of theaters and performance venues. Downtown Milwaukee features several world-renowned museums, such as the Milwaukee Art Museum and Discovery World. Summers are filled with lakefront festivals celebrating ethnic diversity and outdoor concerts including Summerfest.

The gardens were in full bloom outside Fellowship Hall.



In a 2016 survey of the congregation, we asked:

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT OCC?

“A sense of God’s presence not only in the building but also shared through the people.”

“The friendly, non-dogmatic, almost intellectual ‘think for yourself’ philosophy of the church.”

“Our respectful acceptance of everyone, without exception.”

The Pastoral Search Committee is committed to recruiting a new senior minister who will be a strong spiritual leader to our congregation, who is approachable, friendly, and a thoughtful and inspiring preacher. To a person, each member of the search committee has a deep love for our unique church family, and is looking forward to this process.

We welcome your inquiry and we encourage you to contact us at your earliest convenience. We’ll be happy to share with you some of the energy and warmth that makes Ozaukee Congregational Church so special.

May Christ’s love guide and bless you,

The Pastoral Search Committee

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