

F.H. & L.

Faith, Hope and Love, and the Greatest of These is Love

A Mini-Newsletter From Your Family at Oakhurst United Methodist Church



Rebuild the City

“The Joy of the LORD is Your Strength”

OAKHURST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS, LOVING LIFE

**Our Mission is to make disciples, nurture disciples,
and spread the Kingdom of Christ.**

Rev. Dr. Tim Ehrlich, Co-Pastor
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Rev. Nathan Carlson, Co-Pastor
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A Letter from Rev. Nathan W. Carlson, Co-Pastor

This past year presented some unique challenges to all of us. The COVID-19 virus has impacted our world, community, and congregation in significant ways. Who would have suspected at this time last year that it would have been over six months since we gathered together to worship in our sacred spaces? Many congregations found the adaptive challenge of responding to this new landscape to be overwhelming. While we have experienced hardships and losses of our own, your commitment and faithfulness during this time has resulted in our ability to maintain and enhance our worship offerings. Enabled by your faithful support, Oakhurst UMC has found new ways to faithfully express the Gospel and spread the kingdom during these difficult times. When challenges arose, you stepped up. Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to the mission and ministry we share together! There is a popular Christian saying that says, "we don't know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds tomorrow." While we are not yet fully meeting and participating in the mission and ministry of Christ in person, we see signs of hope everywhere that one day soon we will be again.

With our eye on this future, Oakhurst UMC's church leadership has begun to plan for what our ministry and mission will look like in this new world once we return from our time "in exile." You have already begun to hear from our church leaders about our hopes and dreams for what 2021 might hold, and you will continue to hear from them in the coming weeks. The leaders of this congregation understand some of the challenges that await us. In longing to return to what existed before COVID-19, we understand that there will be adaptive challenges we must make. We know that we will not return to things as they were before, but we will need to rebuild our life together and our witness in the community one step at a time. It is during this planning phase, which we are in right now, that we come to you with our annual stewardship focus.

During this stewardship campaign, we will focus on this idea that we are preparing for our spiritual lives and our witness to the Gospel to return from exile to our sacred spaces. Upon our return to regular gatherings, there will be much that needs "rebuilt." Just as the Israelites who returned from Babylon to find their temple, their walls, and their city in disrepair, so too we will return to a building that needs attention in the form of roofs, air conditioners, and new technology so that we can continue on the new paths we have started down as a result of this time apart. In addition to this, we will want to explore fresh ways of practicing familiar rituals - expanding and reimagining our children's and youth ministry, enhancing and expanding our adult Sunday School and small groups, meeting the missional needs of a changed community around us. We also desire to restore and ramp up some of the meaningful missional opportunities our congregation has participated in before - feeding the homeless, missions to Cuba, building a school in Kenya, and supporting our missionaries heading to Sierra Leone. This will require us to think clearly, reimagine, and reevaluate our commitments to the ministry and mission of Christ here at Oakhurst UMC as we "Rebuild The City." In all of this, we know that the joy of the Lord we have continued to experience and lean on in exile "is our strength."

We invite you with this first stewardship letter to begin praying, evaluating, and dreaming with us about what our old, yet new, life will be like when we return. Now is the time for us to join together in committing to our future.

In Christ,





OCTOBER IS... UMW WORLD THANK OFFERING—A month of giving, an attitude of gratitude.

The World Thank Offering is one of United Methodist Women's five channels of undesignated Mission Giving. Traditionally, this offering is collected during a special service of program during the fall season.

This channel of Mission Giving is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission and advocacy in the United States and around the world.

The World Thank Offering, giving freely and abundantly in response to God's goodness has been the way of life for United Methodist Women for almost 150 years.

Things to do this week:

- ◇ Have family members who bless your life? Add a coin for each family member.
- ◇ How many pairs of shoes do you own? Add a coin for each pair.

DRIVE-THROUGH "TOUCHLESS" FOOD DRIVE

Oakhurst United Methodist Church

Saturday, October 17, 2020





Riddle Me This!

1. What must be broken before you can use it? **Answer:** An egg
2. I am tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old. What am I? **Answer:** A candle
3. What is full of holes but still holds water? **Answer:** A sponge
4. What question can you never answer yes to? **Answer:** Are you asleep yet?
5. What is always in front of you but can't be seen? **Answer:** The future
6. There is a one-story house in which everything is yellow. Yellow walls, yellow doors, yellow furniture. What color are the stairs? **Answer:** There aren't any—it is a one-story house.
7. What can you break, even if you never pick it up or touch it? **Answer:** A promise
8. A man who was outside in the rain without an umbrella or hat did not get a single hair on his head wet. Why? **Answer:** He was bald.
9. What gets wet while drying? **Answer:** A towel
10. What can you keep after giving to someone? **Answer:** Your word
11. I shave every day, but my beard stays the same. What am I? **Answer:** A barber
12. You see a boat filled with people, yet there is not a single person on board. How is that possible? **Answer:** All the people on the boat are married.
13. You walk into a room that contains a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle, and a fireplace. What would you light first? **Answer:** The match
14. A man dies of old age on his 25 birthday. How is this possible? **Answer:** He was born on February 29.
15. I have branches, but no fruit, trunk, or leaves. What am I? **Answer:** A bank
16. What can't talk but will reply when spoken to? **Answer:** An echo
17. The more of this there is, the less you see. What is it? **Answer:** Darkness



MISSION SPOTLIGHT... Pack a Sack:

Pack a Sack is asking for donations of Fruit Cups, Juice, Canned Foods, etc. Donations can be placed in the Red Cart by the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Please contact Mary Champney at 727-204-1370.

When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.

— Maya Angelou

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