

To Members and Friends of Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church,

April 24, 2018

**A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION** will take place on Sunday, April 29 immediately Following Worship for the purpose of electing Deacon Joe Leto to fill the vacant position on the current board.



**OCPC LIBRARY READING PROGRAM MOVIE OUTING:** Thank you to Cathy Thiltgen for organizing the annual reading program for our children. Each year, following the program, Cathy plans a movie and pizza outing for the students and their parents. Thank you, Cathy, for all you do with our children's library and encouraging our youth to read!

**FROSTY FREEZE ANYONE?** On Sunday, May 20 following worship, the Sunday School Children, Youth and their teachers will venture over to Fort Atkinson to Frosty Freeze. You are welcome to join them! P.S. While Pastor Scott has been to Fort many times to visit family and for cross country meets, he has never stopped at Frosty Freeze!

**BOOK STUDY AT OCPC...** Eight of us enjoyed our first Book Group Discussion. We agreed to continue our discussion of John Irving's novel - A Prayer for Owen Meany. We will meet again on May 20 at noon for discussion and lunch. Even if you didn't attend, you are still welcome to join us.

**CAMBRIDGE POSTAL CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE...** Help The Cambridge Food Pantry on Saturday, May 12th by filling a bag with food and putting it out by your mail boxes for the mail carriers/volunteers to collect. The food will be brought to the Food Pantry to be sorted and put on shelves. Have bags of food out by mail box by 8:00 a.m. **The Cambridge Food Pantry can use the following items:** Hamburger Helper, Ramen Noodles, Canned Ravioli, Ketchup, Mayo, Sugar, Crackers, Tuna, Hearty Soups, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Jams and Jelly, Adult large bladder control briefs, Paper Towel, Toilet Tissue.

### **RECLAIMING JESUS: A CONFESSION OF FAITH IN A TIME OF CRISIS:**

Prior to Easter, for our Affirmation of Faith, we used the Declaration of Barmen. Written in 1934, it “was a call to resistance against the theological claims of the Nazi state which pressured the Church and its leaders to adopt the Nazi ‘Führer Principle’ as the organizing principle of church government.” Many in the Church embraced these principles that glorified Adolf Hitler as a ‘German prophet’ and preached that racial consciousness was a source of revelation alongside the Bible. In response to Hitler and the Nazi state, “some church leaders gathered at Barmen to write and adopt a declaration drafted by Reformed theologian Karl Barth and Lutheran theologian Hans Asmussen, which expressly repudiated the claim that other powers apart from Christ could be sources of God's revelation.”

In a similar way, a group of Church leaders here in the United States gathered on Ash Wednesday to address growing concerns around a variety of moral and social justice issues facing our nation today. Similar to the Declaration of Barmen, these religious leaders (see signers below) drafted a new declaration called – “Reclaiming Jesus - A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis” <http://www.reclaimingjesus.org/> We will be exploring there confession during worship as our Affirmation of Faith. Each section has two parts. It begins with a “We Believe” and then follows with a “Therefore We Reject”. While this Declaration is not a part of the PCUSA’s Book of Confession, it does, like the Declaration of Barmen, offer us much to think and reflect on as followers of Jesus Christ. I would invite you to read through their Confession of Faith at <http://www.reclaimingjesus.org/>. If you would like a printed copy of the Confession, please speak with Pastor Scott. He can make arrangements for you to have a printed version. As a side note, the entire Book of Confessions is found online at:

[https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/boc2014.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/boc2014.pdf) A related article about this new Confession can be found at: <https://sojo.net/about-us/news/reclaiming-jesus-church-elders-release-confession-faith-time-crisis>

### **Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in A Time of Crisis ([ReclaimingJesus.org](http://www.ReclaimingJesus.org))**

The religious leaders write: WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED for the soul of our nation, but also for our churches and the integrity of our faith. The present crisis calls us to go deeper— deeper into our relationship to God; deeper into our relationships with each other, especially across racial, ethnic, and national lines; deeper into our relationships with the most vulnerable, who are at greatest risk. The church is always subject to temptations to power, to cultural conformity, and to racial, class, and gender divides, as Galatians 3:28 teaches us. But our answer is to be “in Christ,” and to “not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern

what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable, and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2) The best response to our political, material, cultural, racial, or national idolatries is the First Commandment: “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3). Jesus summarizes the Greatest Commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, and your mind. This is the first commandment. And the second is like unto it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:38). As to loving our neighbors, we would add “no exceptions.” We commend this letter to pastors, local churches, and young people who are watching and waiting to see what the churches will say and do at such a time as this. Our urgent need, in a time of moral and political crisis, is to recover the power of confessing our faith. Lament, repent, and then repair. If Jesus is Lord, there is always space for grace. We believe it is time to speak and to act in faith and conscience, not because of politics, but because we are disciples of Jesus Christ—to whom be all authority, honor, and glory. It is time for a fresh confession of faith. Jesus is Lord. He is the light in our darkness. “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

Signers: Bishop Carroll A. Baltimore, President and CEO, Global Alliance Interfaith Network; Rev. Dr. Peter Borgdorff, Executive Director Emeritus, Christian Reformed Church in North America; Dr. Amos Brown, Chair, Social Justice Commission, National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.; Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann, Professor Emeritus, Columbia Theological Seminary; Dr. Tony Campolo, Co-Founder, Red Letter Christians; Dr. Iva Carruthers, General Secretary, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference; The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church; Rev. Dr. James Forbes, President and Founder, Healing the Nations Foundation and Preaching Professor at Union Theological Seminary; Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, General Secretary Emeritus, Reformed Church in America; Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, Senior Pastor, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA; Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm, former General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Rev. Dr. Joel C. Hunter, Faith Community Organizer and Chairman, Community Resource Network; Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyan Church; Bishop Vashti McKenzie, 117th Elected and Consecrated Bishop, AME Church; Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Co-Convener National African American Clergy Network; Dr. John Perkins, Chair Emeritus and Founding Member, Christian Community Development Association; Bishop Lawrence Reddick, CEO, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; Fr. Richard Rohr, Founder, Center for Action and Contemplation; Dr. Ron Sider, President Emeritus, Evangelicals for Social Action; Rev. Jim Wallis, President and Founder, Sojourners; Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, Director, NCC Truth and Racial Justice Initiative; Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Co-Convener, National African American Clergy Network; President, Skinner Leadership Institute; Bishop Will Willimon, Bishop, The United Methodist Church, retired, Professor of the Practice of Ministry, Duke Divinity School

April 17, 2018



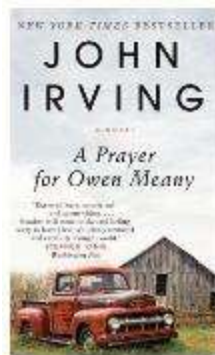
**(PASTOR SCOTT'S PALM TREE. IT ISN'T REAL, JUST LIKE SPRING ISN'T REAL THIS YEAR!)**

When will Spring ever be sprung? Winter just doesn't seem to want to leave Wisconsin this year. **Last Sunday's worship service and after church activities cancelled, they have been rescheduled for this week, April 22.** The weather forecast is for sun and warmer Spring-like temps, but then again, it could be another trick by Old Man Winter and Mother Nature?

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING...** Thank you to everyone who contributed to this special mission offering. We raised \$280.00 which supports mission work through the Presbyterian Church (USA) here and around the world.

**OCPC LIBRARY READING PROGRAM MOVIE OUTING:** Children reaching their goal in the Annual Reading Program, along with teachers and parents and our pastor, are welcome to attend the **movie outing on Saturday, April 21.** Plan to meet in the church parking lot for carpooling. We are planning to go to Market Square in Madison. Kids and adults will have a choice: The Greatest Showman, Jumanji, or Coco. Hopefully, the show times will not be too spread out. We will get them on Tuesday. Time to meet will be determined by Tuesday night. Contact Cathy Thiltgen for further details – 608-719-9345. Please pray for warmer weather! Cathy is also planning on pizza at a Pizza Pit located near the theatre.

**CAMBRIDGE TREE PROJECT** will be hosting four Saturday Tree Sales on April 21, 28, May 5 and 12. See their website ([www.CambridgeTreeProject.org](http://www.CambridgeTreeProject.org)) for pictures, descriptions and prices of many of the more than 600 trees and shrubs from which you can choose. Quantities are limited. Reserve your trees now.



**BOOK STUDY AT OCPC... JOIN US THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 22 AT 12 NOON AS WE BEGIN OUR BOOK DISCUSSION OF "A Prayer for Owen Meany" by John Irving.** Irving writes: "I am doomed to remember a boy with a wrecked voice—not because of his voice, or because he was the smallest person I ever knew, or even because he was the instrument of my mother's death, but because he is the reason I believe in God; I am a Christian because

of Owen Meany." In the summer of 1953, two eleven-year-old boys—best friends—are playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire. One of the boys hits a foul ball that kills the other boy's mother. The boy who hits the ball doesn't believe in accidents; Owen Meany believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen after that 1953 foul ball is extraordinary. (Good Reads)

We will also share in a meal of pizza and salad. **Please let Pastor Scott or Ruth Poole know if you will be attending.**

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Though he's portrayed as an instrument of God, Owen Meany causes the death of John's mother. What other deaths was Owen indirectly involved with? Do you find Owen's close relationship with death to support or undermine his miraculous purpose?
2. Owen speaks and writes in capital letters, emphasizing the potency of his strange voice. At the academy, he is even referred to as the Voice. Why is Owen's voice so important? What other occasions can you think of in which Owen's voice played an especially meaningful role?
3. Reverend Merrill always speaks of faith in tandem with doubt. Do you believe that one can exist without the other or that one strengthens the other? Was your opinion about Merrill's views on faith and doubt affected by the revelation of his relationship to John Wheelwright?
4. Merrill experiences a bogus miracle and resurgence of faith when John stages his mother's dressmaker dummy outside the church. Later, John's involvement in Owen's rescue of the Vietnamese children spurs John's own faith: "I am a Christian because of Owen Meany," he says. Do you think the genuineness of Owen's miracle makes the birth of John's faith more valid than the faith engendered by Merrill's bogus miracle?
5. The Meanys claim that, like Jesus, Owen was the product of a virgin birth. Owen dislikes the Catholic Church for turning away his parents, but Owen himself makes the Meanys leave the Christmas Pageant. Name other instances when Owen's feelings toward his family seem conflicted. Do you think Owen ever considers himself Christlike?
6. An observer necessary to the Christmas Pageant but seldom an active participant, John plays Joseph to Owen's baby Jesus. John refers to himself on other occasions as "just a Joseph." Do you see John's role as Joseph-like throughout the story? Are there other biblical characters with whom you identify John?
7. Did Irving's references to the armless Indian and the pawless armadillo prepare you for Owen's sacrifice? What other clues did Irving give about Owen's final heroic scene?
8. Throughout the novel, John gives hints to the forthcoming action, adding, "As you shall see." Did you find this to be an effective way to keep you reading and engaged in the story?

9. Owen Meany taught John that "Any good book is always in motion--from the general to the specific, from the particular to the whole and back again." Do you think Irving followed his own recipe for a good book? Supply examples in support of your position.

10. Given John's dislike of Gravesend Academy, which expelled Owen, did you find it interesting that John later taught at an academy in Toronto? In what other ways does John, as an adult, embrace issues or events that he was indifferent or hostile to as an adolescent?

11. John assists Owen in rescuing the children, but John always plays the supporting part in Owen's adventures. Based on the scenes in Toronto in the 1980s, do you think John ever escaped his support-ing role? How do you think John's retained virginity reflects on his sense of self?

12. Did your feelings about the U. S. involvement in Vietnam change after reading Irving's portrayal of the peace movement, the draft dodgers, and Owen's involvement in the army? Were you surprised by Owen's efforts to get to Vietnam?

13. John's reactions to and obsession with the Iran-Contra affair of the 1980s reflect his position as neither a true Canadian nor a true American. Do you think that non-Americans have a clearer vision of the machinations and deceptions within American politics? What did John's focus on American politics tell you about his adult character?

14. Irving frequently foreshadows tragedy; for example, hailstones hit John's mother on the head during her wedding day, providing a glimpse of her later death by a baseball. What other events does Irving foreshadow?

15. Several reviews call *A Prayer for Owen Meany* "Dickensian," and Irving himself incorporates scenes from Dickens in the story. In what ways does Irving's writing remind you of Dickens? What other writers would you compare Irving to?  
(Questions issued by publisher.)

April 10, 2018

## **EASTER AT OCPC**





**PASTOR SCOTT WILL BE SERVING AS A LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**

**TEACHER** – (Political Science, US History, and AP Psychology) at McFarland High School through the end of April if not until the end of the school year. He is covering for a teacher whose mother is dying. Please hold the teacher and her family in your prayers. While he will be here on Sunday mornings, his week day presence will be in the late afternoon. If you need pastoral care, please let Ruth know in the church office. He will be available to make hospital calls and for emergencies.

April 4, 2018



**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY – APRIL 8...** Join us for a humorous Sunday filled with jokes, puns, funny hymns (all appropriate!). Get your jokes and puns ready! In the meantime, here is a link to an article in the Christian Century about humor in worship. <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/critical-essay/when-easter-sunday-falls-april-fools-day>.

March 27, 2018





**LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE:**



**March 29** – Maundy Thursday Communion at 7:00 p.m.



**March 30** – Good Friday Cambridge Area Cross Walk, 12 Noon, Veterans' Park

**April 1** – Easter Sunday (No fooling!)



**8:00 a.m.** – Sunrise Communion Service at Lake Ripley Cemetery. (Dress for the weather.) Continental Breakfast at church between the services.



10:00a.m. – Easter Worship with Communion

**April 8** – Holy Humor Sunday: Join us for a humorous Sunday filled with jokes, puns, funny hymns (all appropriate!). Get your jokes and puns ready! In the meantime, here is a link to an article in the Christian Century about April Fools’ Day falling on Easter.

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/critical-essay/when-easter-sunday-falls-april-fools-day>

**EASTER FLOWERS –**

Thank you to everyone who gave flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. The following people dedicated their flowers as listed here.

GIVEN BY:

- Nancy & Jan Kristiansen
- Melanie & Michael Rumpf
- Melanie & Michael Rumpf
- Renee Roland Johnson
- Renee Roland Johnson
- Renee Roland Johnson
- Al & Cheryl Bettenhausen
- Stan & Kay Lund
- Sylvia & Larry Jensen
- Monty & Judy Pearson
- Monty & Judy Pearson
- Trent, Kari, Tyce & Tara Bettenhausen
- Virgil & Kris Runge
- Virgil & Kris Runge
- Nancy Erdman
- Joe Leto Family
- Joe Leto Family
- Jim & Mardy Schilleman
- Julie Anderson

TO THE GLORY AND HONOR OF GOD, AND:

- In memory of brothers, sister lost last year
- In memory of Elizabeth Gates
- In memory of Don Rumpf
- In celebration of Life
- In memory of those who have gone before us
- In memory of our parents and our sisters
- In memory of our loved ones and friends who are in heaven
- In memory of our parents
- In memory of our parents
- In celebration of Children of the World!
- In celebration of LIFE
- In memory of all loved ones in heaven
- In memory of Corinne Hommen
- In memory of Bill Erdman
- In celebration of Venna Mae Ulrich’s Birth
- In celebration of Emmeline Barbra Luther’s Birth
- In memory of our parents
- In memory of Carol Floyd

**OUT OF THE OFFICE...** Our church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3. It will reopen sometime on Wednesday when Ruth returns.

**OUR CHURCH CALENDAR:**

(If you are able to volunteer to fill an opening, please call the church 608-423-3001. Thank you!)

- **Sunday, April 29 –**  
    **10:00 a.m.** Worship and Sunday School  
        Liturgist: Randy Johnson  
        Ushers/Greeters: Larry & Sylvia Jensen  
        Fellowship Hosts: Cheryl Stitz  
    **11:00 a.m.** Meeting of the Congregation
- **Sunday, May 6 –**  
    **10:00 a.m.** Worship with Communion  
        Communion Servers: Joe Leto  
        Liturgist: Judy Schroeder  
        Ushers/Greeters: The Letos  
        Fellowship Hosts: Cheryl & Al Bettenhausen
- **Wednesday, May 9**  
    **7:30-9:30 a.m.** Grace Lutheran Church will be offering a free hot breakfast for all Cambridge High School students the second Wednesday of each month. This is open to all high school students. Come socialize with your friends while getting a free hot yummy breakfast before school starts.  
    **6:30 p.m.** Session
- **Sunday, May 13 – Mother’s Day**  
    **10:00 a.m.** Worship and Sunday School  
        Liturgist: Grace Leto  
        Ushers/Greeters: Al & Trent Bettenhausen  
        No fellowship coffee hour – Happy Mother’s Day!
- **Tuesday, May 15 –** John Knox Presbytery meeting at Christ PC, Oelwein, IA
- **Sunday, May 20 – Pentecost**  
    **10:00 a.m.** Worship and Sunday School- Wear red for Pentecost!  
        Recognition of Sunday School Children and Teachers  
        Liturgist: Mare Stewart  
        Ushers/Greeters: Ann & Dale Febock  
        Fellowship Hosts: Jenine & Jack Spack  
    **11:00 a.m.** Frosty Freeze!  
    **11:00 a.m.** Deacons  
    **12 Noon** Book Study Group meets

- **Sunday, May 27** – Memorial Day Weekend
  - 10:00 a.m.** Worship
  - Liturgist: Melanie Rumpf
  - Ushers/Greeters: Judy Pearson & Jo Kubina
  - No fellowship coffee hour – Memorial Day Weekend

**MILESTONES**

**Birthdays**

Al Bettenhausen ..... April 26  
 Marilyn Schuster ..... April 27  
 Lori Peterson ..... April 30  
 Jerry Mandli ..... May 2  
 Karin Mandli ..... May 3  
 Ken Bilstad ..... May 4  
 Sandra Schimelpfenig ..... May 7  
 Sam Yeadon-Stark ..... May 10  
 Bob Spore ..... May 11  
 Paul Anderson ..... May 19

Randy Johnson ..... May 20  
 Jack Spack ..... May 21  
 Andy Rumpf ..... May 25

**Anniversaries**

Richard & Mary Trailer ..... May 11  
 Paul & Julie Anderson ..... May 19  
 Jerry & Cathy Thiltgen ..... May 20  
 Michael & Melanie Rumpf ..... May 31

**PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —**

Sandy Berge (sister of Charleen Janus)  
 Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strobusch)  
 Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret)  
 Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy & Monty Pearson)  
 Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)  
 Richard Nye (son-in-law of Ann & Dale Febock, Tara’s husband, deployed to Iraq)  
 Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)  
 Mary Trailer  
 Rose Ann West  
 Betty Willmore  
 Jim Willmore  
 Phillip Yeadon

Families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

TELEPHONE/FAX: 608-423-3001 EMAIL: [Office@OCPChurch.com](mailto:Office@OCPChurch.com) or [Pastor@OCPChurch.com](mailto:Pastor@OCPChurch.com)

WEB: [www.OCPChurch.com](http://www.OCPChurch.com)



Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

**STANDING DATES – These are regularly scheduled events**

- Pastoral Office Hours – Generally 9:00 a.m. to Noon Tuesdays
- Business Office Hours – 8:00 a.m. to Noon Monday through Thursday
- Sundays – 10:00 a.m. Worship;  
    Communion first Sunday of each month  
    Sunday School 10:00 a.m. from September through May  
    Fellowship & Refreshment following worship service each week.
- Monday and Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. – OA
- Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. – AA
- Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at noon – Community Activities Program Senior Meal