

To Members and Friends of Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church,



The Church Offices and Building are Closed!

Ruth and Pastor Scott will be working remotely.

If you need them, they may be reached at

Ruth: 608-577-5815 office@ocpchurch.com

Pastor Scott: 608-417-0231 psscottmw@icloud.com

If you do need to enter the church, please let one of us know in advance.

Thank you!

NO WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13!

After a week of moving into their new home, and now preparing to take Sam back to Lawrence University later this week, Pastor Scott is going to take one of his Sundays off. Staci also has the Sunday off. **Our next outdoor worship service is scheduled for Sunday, September 20.** Our hope is to continue outdoor worship through the end of October.



**OUR NEXT OUT DOOR WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
9 AM**

Join us Sunday, September 20 at 9 a.m. for outdoor worship with Communion. You are invited to bring your own form of bread (crackers, pastry, pretzels) and a beverage (juice, wine, coffee, tea, water).

Due to the virus and health code restrictions, the Session asks that you wear a mask, bring your own lawn chair (we can provide a chair if you need one), and sit six feet apart. Families may sit together. There will be no bulletin. You may download and print the bulletin from your home or open it on your electronic device. There will be a basket for your offering. Hand Sanitizer will also be available.

If you feel sick or have been exposed to someone who has had the virus, please stay home!

Why reservations to attend worship? Due to the Dane County COVID Restrictions, gatherings are limited in number. We are also asked to record the people in attendance. If someone who does attend contracts the virus, the public health department use our record for tracing of those who also may have been exposed to the virus.

We will also be broadcasting on FM 104.3, so if you feel more comfortable and safer remaining in your vehicle, we invite you to do so. Please park near the water tower. You should be able to see Pastor Scott in the Peace Garden, and hear him over the radio! We will also be live-streaming the service on Facebook and then on YouTube.

PASTOR SCOTT IS INTERESTED IN BEGINNING A BOOK/BIBLE STUDY via Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 7-8 pm. This would be a four-week session around a particular topic or book. Our first gathering would be **September 22** and conclude on October 13. If you are interested, please let Pastor Scott know (pastor@ocpchurch.com)

MATTHEW 25:31-46



“WHAT IS A MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATION?”

Pastor Scott began exploring how we at OCPC might participate in this new ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA). What is a Matthew 25 church? Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

How the vision unites all Presbyterians: By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, you can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We recognize Christ’s urgent call to be a church of action, where God’s love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.

Become a Matthew 25 Church!

Where to begin? There are already PC(USA) congregations that identify themselves as Matthew 25 churches. We aim to help multiply this loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship by partnering with mid councils and congregations to help them embrace one or more of these three focuses:

1. Building congregational vitality by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.
2. Dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
3. Eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

There are already PC(USA) congregations that identify themselves as Matthew 25 churches. Here in the Madison area of John Knox Presbytery, we have three congregations who have already pledged to be a “Matthew 25” church: First Presbyterian in Oregon, Union Pres in Monroe, and Westminster in Madison.

Pastor Stacy Cavanaugh and the congregation at Union in prayerfully deciding to participate in this new mission, asked themselves “Are we doing enough in our community?” After studying and reflecting together on the “Matthew 25” Mission Study, they felt called to do more. They chose to focus on “Building congregational vitality by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.” To that end, they read the book “Neighborhood Church,” and now ask themselves when making any decision, “How will this impact our neighbors and community?”

Pastor Kathleen Owen and the members at First Presbyterian in Oregon feel like it has helped them connect what they are doing in ministry and mission locally with the denomination as a whole. One of the things they have undertaken to address how they as a congregation can work to help dismantle structural racism which still exists in our churches today.” To that end, they are engaging in a Bible Study of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous “Letter from the Birmingham Jail.”

The people of First Presbyterian Church are accepting the challenge to work to dismantle structural racism in their congregation and the larger Church.

Pastor Scott Anderson and the members of Westminster in choosing to become a Matthew 25 congregation are focusing on “Eradicating systemic poverty.”

Westminster is located on Nakoma Ave. in Madison. While situated in a more affluent neighborhood, they are located near Thoreau and Cherokee schools, both of which have a high percentage of underserved students living in poverty and facing food scarcity. Westminster, partnering with other Allied-Dunn Neighbor Churches, including Glenwood Moravian, where Staci serves, has turned their fellowship hall into collection and food distribution site, which is especially needed during the pandemic.

They see the effects of poverty not only on the students, but their families, and our schools. In response, they are working collectively to meet the daily needs of students, but also working to change the economic and political structures that continue to oppress people in the growing economic disparities.

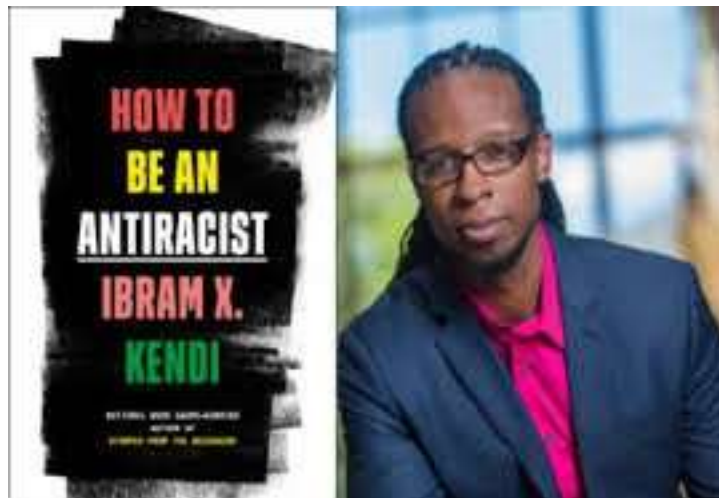
So what about us? How might we serve “The Least of These” through one or all three of these areas of ministry of justice and mercy here in the Cambridge area?



FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: Each Sunday when we gather for outdoor worship, the Session voted to take up a special collection for the food pantry. We will place the red bin in the parking lot. You may bring your non-perishable food items to donate to place in the bin. If you wish to make a financial donation, please make checks out to OCPC, noting it is for the food pantry.

SHOE COLLECTION FOR THE HOMELESS: Thank you to everyone who is donating shoes! With Fall and Winter not far away, please consider donating any cold weather shoes or boots you may have and no longer use. Our collection of gently worn shoes and boots will be donated to a homeless shelter in Madison. Elder Mike Stitz will have a special bin outside of the parking lot entrance. You may bring men's or women's shoes and place in the bin.

THE MARRESE-WHEELER'S HAVE MOVED! Our new address is 6401 Hidden Farm Road, McFarland 53558.



PASTOR SCOTT IS PARTICIPATING in a Presbyterian Church Peace Fellowship National Book Study. We are reading Ibram X. Kendi's book: "How To Be An Antiracist."

Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America--but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In *How to be an Antiracist*, Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it. In this book, Kendi weaves together an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science, bringing it all together with an engaging personal narrative of his own awakening to antiracism. *How to Be an Antiracist* is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a truly just and equitable society. ([goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/45081632-how-to-be-an-antiracist))

UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: It would seem that there is a real need for good news this summer – so here is a triple dose of good news!

The church financial picture is so much better than one would expect! Despite the fact that we are not holding regular indoor services, nor taking up a weekly collection, we are actually ahead of the budget on the year! While we have saved some money – no organist, no air conditioning bill, etc. the real key has been increased giving! Thank you so much to all of you who have continued to support the church in these difficult times!

Next, our investments took a serious hit in March when the stock market collapsed, down over \$60,000 at one point, but gradually our portfolio has come back. We currently have recovered all of our losses, and are in the black for the year. We really appreciate the work our investment company does for us!

And more good news. With the help of Mike Stitz we carpeted the front steps at a cost of \$1,200. And we replaced two of our three furnaces. The furnaces were installed by Jack Taylor in 1983, so we really got our money's worth! The replacement and installation cost \$7,400. Both the carpet and furnaces were paid for using Memorial Fund money. We did no fund raising, and took no money from the General Fund. That is great news!

So what is the Memorial Fund? Money is given to the church in memory of someone who has passed away. Some of the money is designated for specific causes. Undesignated funds can be used as Session sees fit. As a church, we have not done a good job of spending Memorial Funds – recently the total had climbed to over \$20,000, and some has not been spent for a decade. People give this money with the expectation that it will be spent, not held on to for years. So it is good to have projects like the front step carpeting and new furnaces to allow us to use Memorial Funds appropriately! In recent years the Memorial Fund has purchased a new computer, contributed to the paving of the parking lot, purchased new coffee carafes, and paid for the new technology in the sanctuary.

Currently, the Memorial Fund still has almost \$4,500 available, including money designated for basement improvement. If you have a project that would be appropriately funded by Memorial Funds, please share your ideas with Session members.

Dick Trailer and Mark Touhey, Finance Committee



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR, WEAR A MASK CAMPAIGN by the Wisconsin Council of Churches... We are launching our new campaign "Love Your Neighbor, Wear a Mask." Face coverings help protect you from spreading disease if you are asymptomatic or do not realize you are sick.



#loveyourneighborwearamask #covid19

“MEDITATION IN THE MEADOW”

PASTOR SCOTT HAS TAKEN A BREAK from His Meditation in the Meadow. He hopes to revisit these meditations in the coming weeks.



NEW! Donate to our church, Presbyterian Church of Oakland-Cambridge, using the app, **Give+**. Search for “GivePlus Church” in your app store (Vanco Payment Solutions). Once it’s installed, find us using our zip code (53523), and set up one-time or recurring payments, OR go directly to our donor page by using the QR Code below, or the link on our webpage, www.ocpchurch.com . Thank you! (You may also mail in your offering and pledge: **OCPC 313 E. Main Street, Cambridge, WI 53523.**)



175TH ANNIVERSARY – March 3 marked the 171st anniversary of the founding of Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church. The Session has discussed seeing if there is any interest from some members in serving as planning committee for a possible 175th Anniversary Celebration? If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Scott.

AGING AND SENIOR CARE RESOURCES [Caring.com](https://www.caring.com) is a leading senior care resource for family caregivers seeking information and support as they care for aging parents, spouses and other loved ones. They have been featured by AARP, The Administration for Community Living, The National Legal Resource Center, and Forbes, as well as referenced by many governmental agencies and organizations across the Internet. The following is a link to their Senior Care and Assisted Living Guide for communities in Wisconsin: (<https://www.caring.com/senior-living/assisted-living/wisconsin>)

CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY & RESOURCE CENTER: The items most needed at the Cambridge Food Pantry at this time are: Cereal, Microwavable Mac & Cheese, Pop Tarts, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Flour, Tuna, Diapers sizes 5 & 6, Shampoo and Conditioner, Poise Pads, Women’s Large Depends, Toilet Tissue and Paper Towel. Donation bins are located outside both the middle school and high school buildings and monetary donations are gladly accepted via the Food Pantry website or by mail to P.O. Box 54, Cambridge WI 53523. Thank you!

MILESTONES

Birthdays

- Angela WurtzSeptember 9
- Cashton WurtzSeptember 9
- Jodi KelterSeptember 13
- Kodi PorterSeptember 13
- Angela Stitz-KennedySeptember 22
- Luke MandliSeptember 25

Anniversaries

- Mark Touhey &
Judy SchroederSeptember 9
- John & Shelly KennedySeptember 11
- Randy & Renee Johnson ...September 15
- Stan & Kay LundSeptember 16
- Jeremy & Abby PorterSeptember 25
- Bill & Patty StrohbuschSeptember 27

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Betsy (friend & caretaker of Ken Bilstad) Cards can be sent c/o Ken at 230 Bilstad Rd.

Judy Brandt

Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strohbusch)

Teagan Mae Groves, Pastor Scott’s great-niece

Ron Guthery (father of Michelle Wagner)

Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret Hawkins)

Linda Johnson (mother of Rady Johnson)

Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy Pearson)

Nancy Kristiansen

Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)

Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)

John “Jack” Swank and his family (birth father of Renee Roland Johnson)

The family of Pastor Scott on the death of his mother, and other 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.

STANDING DATES – These are regularly scheduled events

- All office hours and events canceled until further notice!

TELEPHONE/FAX: 608-423-3001 EMAIL: Office@OCPChurch.com or Pastor@OCPChurch.com

WEB: www.OCPChurch.com

 Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church