

To Members and Friends of Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church,

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Dane County Mask Mandate is still in effect until November 5. Masks are required for everyone entering the church for worship or other inside gatherings. We also strongly encourage everyone to please get vaccinated!



Painting of St. Francis with the Animals, a collaboration with Willem van Herp and Gilliam van Herp.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AND THEIR HUMAN OWNERS

OCTOBER 10

10 AM

(PARKING LOT WORSHIP)



Sunday and Pastor Scott would like to invite you to join them for a special Blessing of the Animals during our worship this coming Sunday (day of the week not the dog). You are invited to bring your pet or a picture of them or a favorite toy of theirs or some item that represents them. You may also bring a picture of one of your former pets. We will have a special liturgy with a time for blessing of our animals.

What is a “Blessing of the Animals” and why are we offering this special liturgy. St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology, was born in Italy around 1181-1182. “He was known for his respect of all nature, which earned him the title of patron saint of the environment. Francis wrote, ‘All things of creation are children of the Father and thus brothers of man (and woman). God wants us to help animals if they need help. Each being, whether human or creature, has the same right of protection. Ask the beasts and they will teach you the beauty of the earth.’ So, on or around his death date of Oct. 4, many animals around the world are blessed in the name of St. Francis. To bless someone or something is to invoke for them goodness and wellbeing. To bless an animal is to honor the reciprocal relationship shared, and the value that is added to life, for both the human and the animal. It is to affirm that we all are creatures of the Creator, and the human role is that of steward, or care provider, rather than superior or ruler.

Around the world farm animals, work animals, and pets are all blessed with words of grace and gratitude.



St. Francis of Assisi Pet Print By Sue Betanzos

https://www.etsy.com/shop/ArtOfSue?ref=simple-shop-header-name&listing_id=236848828

"The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth and the sea.
They share in the fortunes of human existence
and have a part in human life.
God, who confers gifts on all living things,
has often used the service of animals
or made them reminders of salvation ...
We, therefore, invoke God's blessing on these animals.
As we do so, let us praise the Creator
and thank God for setting us as stewards
over all the creatures of the earth."

—From "Occasional Services: A Service for the Blessing of Animals,"

This Sunday, October 10, we will offer a Blessing of the Animals. There will be a liturgy. Our Scripture will be Genesis 1:20-25 and Psalm 104.

Please bring a lawn chair, or if you need one, we will provide it for you. Our plan is for Karen Brunk to play the portable keyboard which will allow us to have music. We may even try singing as we did last Sunday. Fellowship Time follows. If you are interested in providing refreshments for Fellowship Time, please let Mare Stewart or Pastor Scott know.

SANCTUARY SERMONS WITH PASTOR SCOTT... Many of you remember Pastor Scott offered Meditations in the Meadow throughout 2020. Instead of live-streaming the entire service, he is going to be offering a brief summary of the scripture and his sermon each week from the sanctuary. This will be no more than 10 minutes long. You can join him on Facebook Live between 9:30-10 am. This will be in place of live-streaming the entire service.

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OCPCambridgeWI>

October Worship

10 a.m.

Parking Lot

While the weather allows, we will be returning to worship in the parking lot through the end of October. Each Sunday, we will invite you to bring your own lawn chairs as we gather outside. This will allow us to spread out and not have to wear masks. Please dress for the weather. If the weather does not allow for us to gather outside, we will move indoors and masks will be required.

October 17 – Parking Lot Worship

October 24 – Parking Lot Worship

October 31 – Parking Lot Worship

FELLOWSHIP RETURNS

We are once again having some fellowship time following worship. As long as the weather is agreeable, we are serving outside, providing foods that can be individually shared safely. If you are interested in providing fellowship refreshments, please let Mare Stewart or Pastor Scott know.

OCPC FINANCIAL UPDATE

We have now endured eighteen months of this pandemic, impacting so many aspects of our lives, including church worship. The good news is that last year our church finances held strong. Giving continued even when services did not. We finished the year 2020 roughly down \$1,800 in anticipated income – a great success by just about any measure. Thank you!

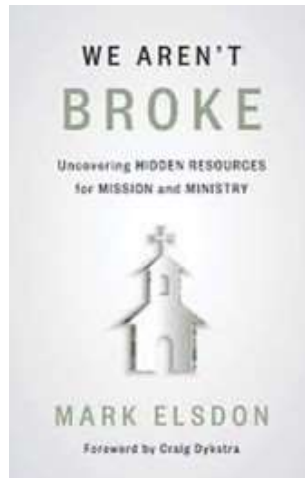
We began 2021 in a similar fashion – strong giving continued. However, while other aspects of income remain strong – rental income, non-member giving, investment income – in recent months member giving has fallen off. Recent projections show that our member giving may fall \$6,000 below expectations – a significant drop-off.

Does this represent a financial crisis? Not really – not in the short run. We will cover the deficit by withdrawing money from our investment income. And it may represent a

coincidence – a number of members who have forgotten to keep up with their pledge. At the worst, we will continue on. Overall, our financial picture is strong.

However, a larger deficit could possibly lead to budget cuts, a difficulty when we already have a “bare bones” budget. Or perhaps Session would feel the need to reconsider expensive improvements tentatively planned for 2022, including possibly painting the sanctuary, upgrading our video capabilities, improving the manse, replacing our signage, etc. A serious deficit would lead to very difficult decisions next year.

So if you have the ability to contribute, please do. Every little bit helps. If you find yourself unable to contribute to the church at this time, we certainly understand. And please remember, there are many ways in which you can support your church besides dollars!



OCPC Book Read for October

“We Aren’t Broke: Uncovering Hidden Resources for Mission and Ministry”

Rev. Mark Elsdon, who has been co-pastor at Pres House with his spouse, Rev. Erica Liu, has written a new book. The Session has decided to read this together. We are inviting others to join us. If you are interested in ordering a copy, please let Pastor Scott know or you can order your own copy online at: <https://www.amazon.com/We-Arent-Broke-Uncovering-Resources/dp/0802878989> . The cost is \$18.99

About Mark’s book:

“Many Christian churches and related institutions in the United States are struggling or, in some cases, facing imminent crisis, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendance is down. Funding is harder to come by. People are no longer drawn to traditional church services and programming in the ways that they once were. Often, we feel broke and powerless to do much about it. We settle for doing more with less: Less money. Fewer people. Fewer churches.

But if we reexamine our perceived limits and our assumptions about how resources are supposed to be used, then something remarkable and beautiful comes into view: we aren’t broke at all but have enormous resources at our disposal. Church and missional organizations nationwide own billions of dollars of prime property and investment assets,

which, when combined with social enterprise and new expressions of mission, can be put to work for innovation and transformation. And these resources are often available to us right now.

This book is an invitation to envision a different way of putting God’s gifts to work in the world. It draws upon a remarkable story of rebirth at a Presbyterian affiliated campus ministry center at the University of Wisconsin, along with profiles of other creative social enterprises, to describe how church property and investment assets can be put to work for innovation, transformation, and financial sustainability. Theologically rooted but practically minded, it provides guidance and tools for church and nonprofit leaders, entrepreneurs, and investors of all kinds who are seeking new ways to fund and participate in God’s work in the world.”

VOLUNTEER(S) REQUESTED – The family of Evelyn Reiner is looking for a person, or people, who would volunteer to visit her and read the E-News and/or bulletin once or twice a month. If you are interested, please let Pastor Scott know.

OCPC HAS A MISSION FUND. The Session is looking for mission opportunities who might need our support. If you have a suggestion, please send it to pastor@ocpchurch.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING THE CHURCH... We need help cleaning the church. Currently the building is not used much, so twice-a-month cleanings may be sufficient. We are looking for volunteers to help us out. There will be a clip board for signing up in the Fellowship hall.

Please help us out as you are able!



FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST: Canned Meats, Rice, Cookies/Sweets, Cereal, Egg Noodles, Pasta Sauce, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Cleaning Supplies, Feminine Products, Shampoo and conditioner. Donation bin is located outside of the lower level middle school/food pantry entrance and monetary donations are gladly accepted via the Food Pantry website or by mail to P.O. Box 54, Cambridge WI 53523. Thank you!

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>)

DONATE ONLINE 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.**)



MILESTONES

Birthdays

- Eva Wurtz..... October 5
- Trent Bettenhausen October 12
- Kelly Homann..... October 13
- Lindsey Vanderbilt October 13
- Scott Marrese-Wheeler October 21
- Linda Johnson October 21

- Abby Porter October 23
- Kay Lund..... October 26
- Sue Bettenhausen..... October 27
- Maggie Porter October 29

Anniversaries

None

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Doreen Drennan (Alden Estates, Room 419; 1130 Collins Rd.; Jefferson, WI 53549)

Judy Pearson

Jan & Nancy Kristiansen

Jack & Jenine Spack

The people and refugees of Afghanistan

The families of the military members who were killed in Afghanistan

The men, women and children of Afghanistan who were killed in this war.

The people impacted by Hurricane Ida

The people of Haiti following the earthquake

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

- Pastoral Office Hours – Generally 9:00 a.m. to Noon Wednesdays
- Business Office Hours – 8:00 a.m. to Noon Monday through Thursday
- Sundays – 10:00 a.m. Worship;
Communion first Sunday of each month
- Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. – AA

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WEB: www.OCPChurch.com

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