

To Members and Friends of Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church,

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

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

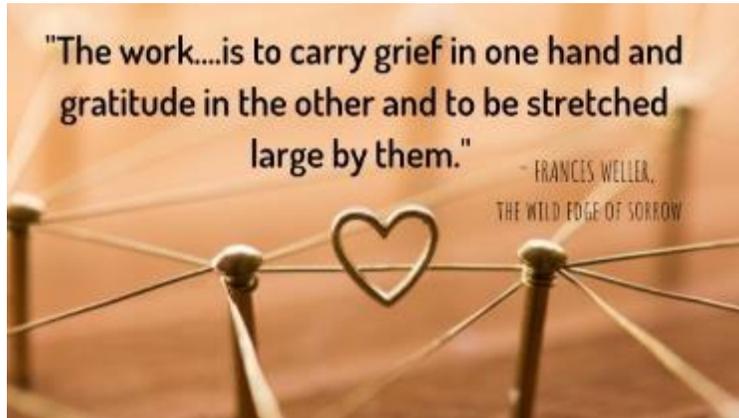
February 28, 2023



**175TH ANNIVERSARY OF OCPC
MARCH 3, 1849 – MARCH 3, 2024**

The Session has begun planning for the 175th Anniversary Celebration of OCPC which will take place in 2024. This is in the early stages of development. We are hoping to put together a video presentation using digital photos and older photographs. If you are interested in helping plan the celebration, please speak with Mark Touhey.

OCPC Anniversary Trivia: Did you know Mare Stewart is related to the founding pastor, the Rev. William Cargen, M.D.



Lent 2

The Road of Our Sorrows

"Grief and Tears: Packing Up Our Memories and Moving On In Life"

MARCH 5
2ND SUNDAY IN LENT
WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
10 AM

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 5: This Sunday, we continue our Lenten Sermon Series on Grief. This week we will be talking about the grief some of us have experienced when we have had to make different types of moves in our lives. Some of these moves have been physical ones from one location to another; others more spiritual, following a calling of the Spirit that has taken us to a new understanding of God and inviting us follow Christ out in the larger community and the world beyond the safety and security of all we have known. Our scripture is Genesis 12:1-4 and John 3:1-17. We will also be celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Our accompanist is Marian Korth. The service will be live-streamed on our church Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OCPCambridgeWI> To be notified of when we go "Live", go to the church Facebook page, click on the "Follow" button and you will be notified when we go "live."

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF: In response to the recent catastrophic earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the Session of OCPC approved a gift of \$500 of our mission money to be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Mark Touhey shared with the Session that he and Judy had hosted an exchange student years ago from Turkey. They have remained in contact with her and have heard from her recently. But she and her family have many acquaintances in the affected area that they are unable to contact. Bud and Bobbi Rumpf also have lived in Turkey when they were teaching. So far, over 40,000 lives have been lost. The devastation is massive. In addition to the financial gift from OCPC, individuals

who wish to make a financial gift to this relief effort, may do so through Presbyterian Church Disaster Assistance Agency listed below or by sending it to OCPC marked for earthquake relief. Thank you.



The scale of the disaster facing Syria and Turkey after the Feb. 6 earthquake is becoming clearer. The 7.8-magnitude quake and its aftershocks have left more than 11,000 people dead and thousands more injured; these numbers will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas through long-standing partners in Syria, in addition to ACT Alliance members in Syria and Turkey, all of whom are already on the ground. PDA will remain active throughout the entire recovery process, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Financial support for relief efforts can be made [online by clicking here](#), or by check made payable to OCPC with “Earthquake Relief” written on the memo line.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE JANUARY 2023

Ten questions you might want to ask about church finances, and ten feeble responses:

1. Finance sent out a letter in November with serious concerns about finances. Did the letter “work?”

It seems to have had a positive effect. We recently have been blessed with generous gifts!

2. So are we good now?

Nope. But we are feeling much more positive. The latest crisis is to replace the manse furnace, which failed at the worst possible time. While we have investment money, none is currently “available” to us. Years ago, Session wisely put limitations on how much investment money Session could spend. The purpose is to protect the principle, only spending the “profit.” In recent years we took some of that “profit” to improve the manse. Then the stock market fell, causing the rest of the “profit” to disappear. Each of our investment funds is now down to its baseline. Session has nowhere to go to get funds without breaking its own rules and withdrawing principle. And no one wants to do that.

3. Haven’t recent gifts solved the problem?

No, not entirely. Thanks to generous gifts, we finished 2022 in the black. We begin the year with the General Fund balance of only \$2,600. And then the manse furnace went out. We are still hurting right now.

4. So what is the solution?

The best solution lies in member giving. Another solution lies in the stock market. A good month or two on Wall Street would produce “profit” above our baselines, freeing up money that Session could withdraw. We can hope for that – but in the meantime we must depend entirely on member giving. Even if members don’t give more than they planned, giving earlier in the year may really help.

5. You make this sound temporary.

There are two separate issues. One is a current financial crisis that is pressing us now, but should prove temporary. Most of the factors that make up our budget are stable – manse income, non-member giving, etc. And we expect the stock market to recover eventually, restoring our ability to use investment income to supplement the budget. The second concern is long term. Declining member giving poses a real threat to our ability to sustain OCPC. Hopefully raising member awareness will help.

6. So did this crisis cause Session to make budget cuts for 2023?

You might think so, but no. It was discussed, and would have been justified. The problem? There is no fat in the budget. Every cut we considered would impact employees financially or detract from the quality of our services. We could not do that. Instead, we created a “faith” budget – acting with a belief that the money would be there somehow.

7. So no cuts whatsoever?

None. As a matter of fact, Finance Committee increased the budget by \$5,000. We increased Scott’s salary by \$800. We gave Ruth a bonus and expanded the hours paid to the cleaning service. We increased the budget to pay more to our musicians. In short, we did everything we could to keep OCPC as it is, or make it better. Perhaps we have a Finance Committee comprised solely of cock-eyed optimists.

8. So is this a balanced budget?

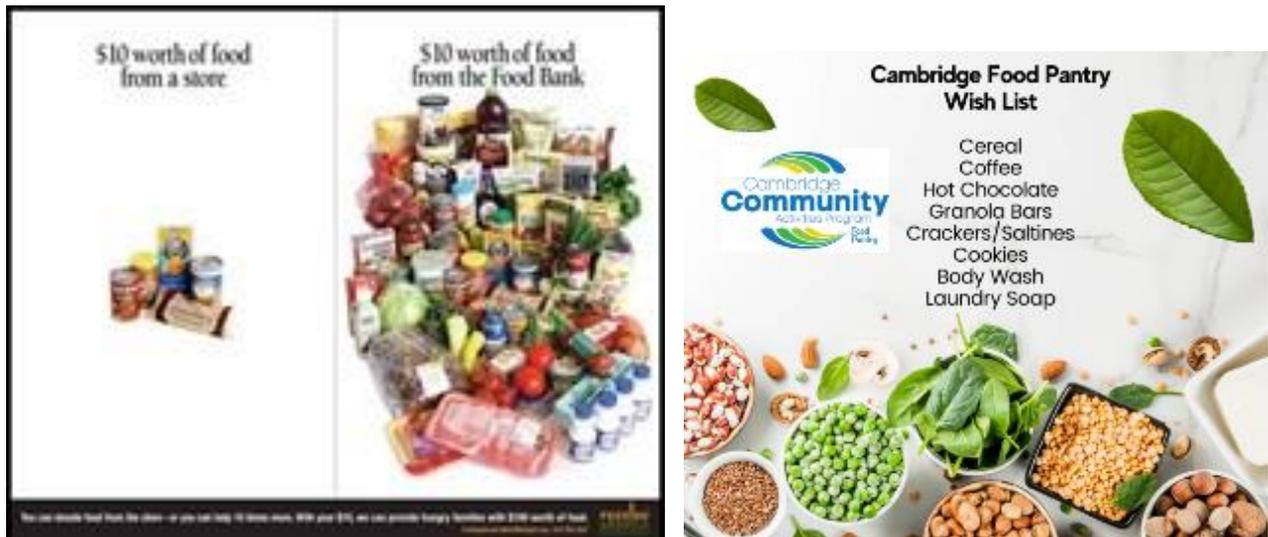
Not even close. The Finance Committee completed the “spending” half of the budget and then transformed into steely-eyed realists when creating the “income” half of the budget. Income projections were based on actual income from 2022. So the budget projects spending \$90,400, but only taking in \$67,700.

9. So the budget projects a deficit of \$22,700 for 2023?

Yes, odd as it seems. We want people to see exactly how serious the situation is. Member giving remains the key variable to the future of the church.

10. Why make an issue of this now? Why not wait to discuss this at the annual meeting, as we have in the past?

Session has already approved the budget, and the congregation deserves to know the details. We have moved the annual meeting to summer, yet people need to understand the situation now.



FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST: Soup (variety of canned soup), Corned Beef Hash, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, other canned meals and pastas, Crackers (Saltines, Ritz, etc.), Baked Beans, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Pancake Syrup, Shampoo and Conditioner, Men’s and Women’s Deodorant, Razors, Bath Soap, Laundry Soap, Toothpaste. 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 <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/nutrition/food-pantry/> or by mail to P.O. Box 54, Cambridge WI 53523. Thank you!

February 21, 2023



ASHES-TO-GO: FEBRUARY 22 FROM 7:30-9 AM Pastor Scott will be joining Pastor Jennifer Jelinek from Grace Lutheran Church and other area clergy for “Ashes-to-Go.” We will be downtown Cambridge outside of the Cambridge Market and the Gallery offering a blessing, prayer and the imposition of Ashes to mark the beginning of Lent. This has become an annual Ash Wednesday Cambridge tradition. We invite you to join us as we begin the season of Lent.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROMAN LETO on setting a new personal best record in the 50 yard free-style at the state swim meet this past Friday. Great job, Roman! You can read about it the local Cambridge Hometown Newspaper.



*“As Jesus knew, going into the barren and uncomfortable places isn’t about proving how holy we are, or how tough, or how brave. It’s about letting God draw us into the place where we don’t know everything, don’t **have** to know everything, indeed may be emptied of nearly everything we think we know.” @Jan Richardson*

—from [Lent 1: Discernment and Dessert in the Desert](#)
The Painted Prayerbook, February 2008

During the Six Sundays in Lent, we will be exploring the topic of Grief in its many forms. The shortest verse in all of scripture is simply these two words: “Jesus wept”. Jesus, a human being, like any of us, wept openly at the death of his friend, Lazarus. The Prophet Isaiah writes: “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows”. We think of grief that follows us throughout life after the death of loved one. Yet, many of us also carry with us grief over many other losses and drastic changes in our lives. Each Sunday, we will reflect together in our Scriptures, liturgy, prayers, music and hymns as we acknowledge our grief, walking with Christ, who is our companion, never leaving us in our tears, our sorrows, and showing us the way the time when all our mourning will turn to dancing in the joy of Easter!

FEBRUARY 26
1ST SUNDAY IN LENT
WORSHIP
10 AM

THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26: This Sunday, we begin our Lenten journey in the wilderness and the challenges Jesus faced, even as we explore the ones we all face in life that have caused us much sorrow and grief. Our scripture is Matthew 4:1-11 and Psalm 32. Our accompanist is Angie Williams. The service will be live-streamed on our church Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OCPCambridgeWI> To be notified of when we go “Live”, go to the church Facebook page, click on the “Follow” button and you will be notified when we go “live.”



Thank you to Ann Febock and Renee and Randy Johnson for providing the delicious Jambalaya and Gumbo for our Mardi Gras Fellowship Time this past Sunday. The King Cake was delicious! It came from Eilis Grace Homemade Bakery out of McFarland! Look for their bakery goods at local farm markets!

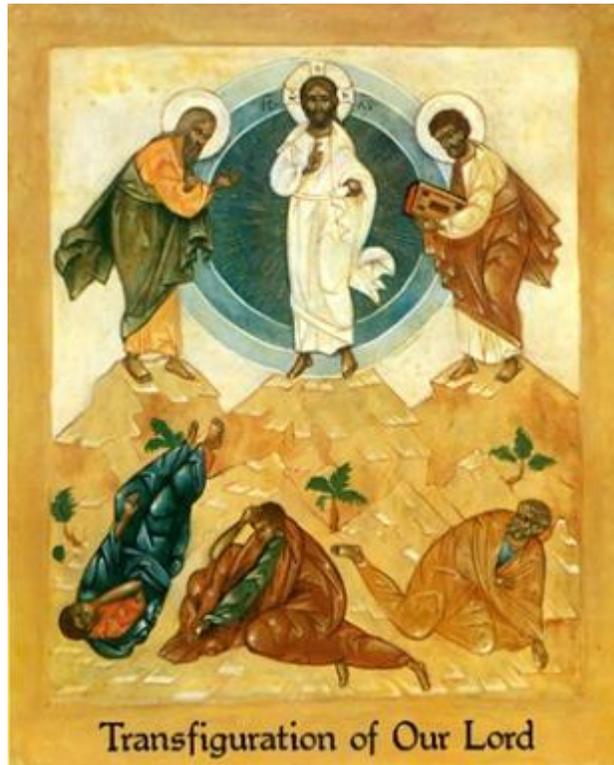


February 14, 2023



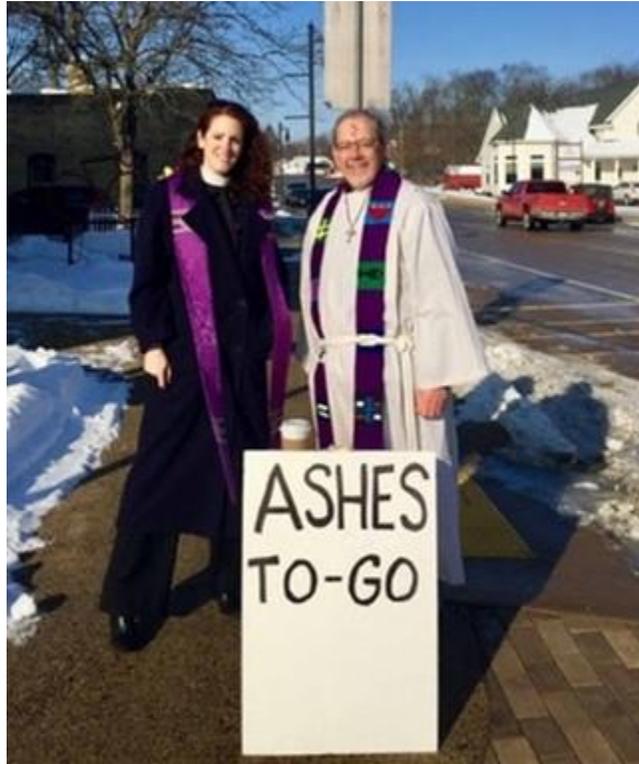
“Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.” Matthew 17:1-9

FEBRUARY 19
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
WORSHIP
10 AM



THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19: This Sunday, we journey up the mountain, joining Peter, James, and John in witnessing perhaps one of the most mysterious events in the Bible, the Transfiguration of Jesus. We will also be celebrating Mardi Gras during Fellowship with some delicious New Orleans foods prepared by Anne Febock and Renee Johnson. We will also have a King Cake for dessert!

Our accompanist is Marian Korth. The service will be live-streamed on our church Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OCPCambridgeWI> To be notified of when we go “Live”, go to the church Facebook page, click on the “Follow” button and you will be notified when we go “live.”



ASHES-TO-GO: FEBRUARY 22 FROM 7:30-9 AM Pastor Scott will be joining Pastor Jennifer Jelinek from Grace Lutheran Church and other area clergy for “Ashes-to-Go”. We will be downtown Cambridge outside of the Cambridge Market and the Gallery offering a blessing, prayer and the imposition of Ashes to mark the beginning of Lent. This has become an annual Ash Wednesday Cambridge tradition. We invite you to join us as we begin the season of Lent.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SHARED IN THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING! Last Sunday, we collected \$159 and 32 food items.

February 7, 2023



**PRES HOUSE CAMPUS MINISTRY
“BREAK WITH A PURPOSE”
JANUARY 14-21**

OVER WINTER BREAK, 9 students from Pres House, including Sam Marrese-Wheeler, along with Associate Pres House Campus Pastor, Nii Addo Abrahams, traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Working with the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Agency located in San Juan in local Presbyterian congregations, this group helped with hurricane rebuilding projects and learning about the lives of the people impacted by the numerous hurricanes. OCPC has long supported “Break with a Purpose” and other Pres House ministries. This year, we supported Sam’s trip with a financial gift making it possible for him to participate. He will join us this Sunday, February 12 during worship to share about their experience.



FEBRUARY 12
6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
WORSHIP
10 AM

THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12: This Sunday, we gather for worship for a mission celebration. First, during worship, we will hear about Sam Marrese-Wheeler’s recent mission work trip with the Pres House group to San Juan, Puerto Rico through the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Agency to help with hurricane rebuilding. We are also lifting up the issue of hunger in our nation through our Annual Souper Bowl of Caring. (See

information below). We will be receiving a special offering of canned food items or financial gifts for our local food pantry as a part of worship. Our liturgy will reflect the theme of “Lord, when did we see you, and not help you? And Jesus, said, when you did not do it to the least of these among you, you did it to me.”

Our musician for Sunday is Sam Marrese-Wheeler. The service will be live-streamed on our church Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OCPCambridgeWI> To be notified of when we go “Live”, go to the church Facebook page, click on the “Follow” button and you will be notified when we go “live.”



“I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME...” This Sunday, February 12, as a part of our worship and fellowship time, we will participating in the national “Souper Bowl of Caring” event. Congregations and other community groups including the NFL join together to address food insecurity and hunger in our nation, local communities and even in local faith communities. Participating churches like ours, are challenging members to bring canned soup or other non-perishable food items with them to worship. You may also make a financial donation to the local food pantry. We will total up both the number of food items donated and financial gifts made to the local food pantry and report it to the national “Souper Bowl of Caring” organization.

We will then celebrate together over warm bowls of soup provide by Mike and Cheryl Stitz! They have been graciously making soup for our Souper Bowl of Caring Event for many years. Thank you, Mike and Cheryl!



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING is dedicated to tackling all of the issues that exist in your communities, including poverty, hunger and homelessness.

Did you know?

We are #tacklinghunger now! 1 in 6 American children are food insecure.

An estimated 111 million people watch the Big Game while 48 million Americans struggle with hunger. What if each person watching the game gave just one dollar to feed their neighbor in need? Don't sit on the sidelines.

Since 1999, OCPC has raised over \$2,700 and 963 food items for our local food pantry as a part of the national Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Started by the youth of the Springfield Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina as a way to raise awareness of food scarcity facing far too many people in our nation on a day when Americans consume the second most amount of food (Thanksgiving being the first). The Souper Bowl of Caring has grown into a national event on Super Bowl Sunday. **We invite you to donate to this cause with either a financial gift or food items on Sunday, February 12. All donations are shared with our local food pantry. Thank you!**



THANK YOU TO MARTI FROM NITARDY! This past Sunday, Marti Daniels from Nitardy Funeral Home was our guest. After worship, he joined us during fellowship for an educational presentation about funeral planning and the changes we are seeing in funeral services and meals being served following a service. We also talked about some of the changes we as a congregation need to make to our fellowship space that would be helpful if people would like to have a visitation at the church prior to the service and the options our families have for a catered meals at other venues and the limits we have here at OCPC. He will join us this Sunday, February 12 during worship to share about their experience.

January 31, 2023



**FEBRUARY 5
5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
10 AM**

THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5: This Sunday, we are pleased to welcome to our worship, Marti Daniels from the Nitardy Funeral Home. Marti is a licensed Funeral Director who has worked with Pastor Scott in serving families in our church and community over the years. In recent conversations with OCPC members regarding future funeral services at OCPC and their own planning, we have invited Marti to join us for worship and presentation/discussion during fellowship. If your future plans are to have your own services at OCPC, this would be a helpful worship and presentation to attend. Communion will be celebrated.

Our accompanist is Marian Korth. The service will be live-streamed on our church Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OCPCambridgeWI> To be notified of when we go "Live", go to the church Facebook page, click on the "Follow" button and you will be notified when we go "live."



**FEBRUARY 5
NITARDY FUNERAL HOME PRESENTATION
10 AM WORSHIP/EDUCATION/FELLOWSHIP**

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, we will be joined by Marti Daniels, Funeral Director at Nitardy Funeral Home for a presentation and discussion on funeral service planning. He will be joining Pastor Scott in discussing things you might wish to think about in preplanning your funeral arrangements with your family and with the church. We will also be discussing what we are able to offer as a congregation when it comes to visitation, a funeral service, music, and meals. As we have aged and declined in membership, we have some different limitations and challenges on what we are able to do in assisting our families at this difficult time. Working together with a funeral home like Nitardy, and planning ahead, can help us make those difficult times less stressful when the time arises in our lives.

Trivia Question: Did you know the last funeral we actually served at OCPC was in 2016?



FEBRUARY 12
WORSHIP WITH SAM MARRESE-WHEELER
10 AM

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, Sam Marrese-Wheeler will be our guest in worship. He will be sharing with us about his recent mission work trip with the Pres House “Break With A Purpose” group that traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Their work was in partnership with the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Agency which continues to help rebuild people’s homes and lives following a number of hurricanes that caused devastation to the island over the past years. Sam will share pictures, stories, and play his guitar for us.

WHILE THE PACKERS DID NOT MAKE IT TO THE SUPER BOWL THIS YEAR, Packer fans (and fans of all other NFL teams - including Lions, Vikings and Bears, O My!) can once again have something to cheer about as we participate together in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 12! **This year, we will once again be able to host a soup luncheon provided by Mike and Cheryl Stitz following worship!**

THANK YOU to everyone who dropped off their Piggly Wiggly receipts for us. The total submitted for the last 6 months earned us \$185 in local mission funds! Please continue to collect those receipts for this ongoing mission project.

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, **Vanco Mobile**. Search for “Vanco Mobile” 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

- Bill Strohbusch March 3
- Grace Leto..... March 6
- Michael Porter March 6
- Mark Olson March 11
- Charlotte Rumpf March 11
- Mark Touhey..... March 16
- David Homann March 24

- Michele Kennedy March 27
- Jim Schilleman March 28

Anniversaries

- Scott & Staci Marrese-Wheeler.. March 5
- Joe & Jodi Kelter March 22

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Julie Anderson
Linda Johnson
Jan & Nancy Kristiansen
Mardi Schilleman
Marilyn Schuster
Jenine Spack

The families of Lorin Fulton, Evelyn Reiner, Caleb Wipperfurth (CHS graduate who died of cancer), Jim Schilleman, Donald Hawkins and 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

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