

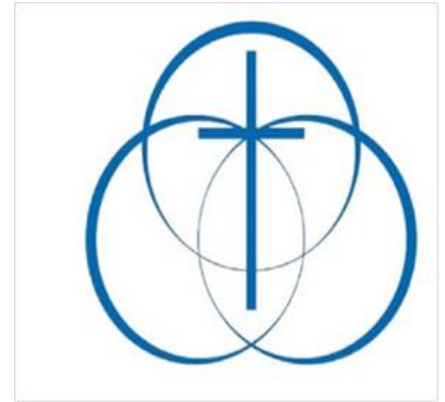
Oneco Hope News

Oneco Hope Global Methodist Church

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September 2023



Greetings and God bless you.

Every week, in the Apostles' Creed, we declare, "I believe... in the forgiveness of sins."

Of course, this is speaking of God's forgiveness of us – and we know this forgiveness is total, forever, and complete. But what about our forgiveness of others? I have found it quite easy to partially forgive. And I do so without even realizing it. But our Lord commands me to forgive just as Christ has forgiven me. The story below beautifully illustrates this truth. By His Spirit, may God help us to forgive as completely as He has forgiven us. In his book Free of Charge, author Miroslav Volf shares a personal story about the power of grace and forgiveness. He writes,

"I was one then, and my five-year-old brother, Daniel, had slipped through the large gate in the courtyard where we had an apartment. He went to the nearby small military base—just two blocks away—to play with "his" soldiers. On earlier walks through the neighborhood, he had found some friends there—soldiers in training, bored and in need of diversion even if it came from an energetic five-year-old.

On that fateful day in 1957, one of them put him on a horse-drawn bread wagon. As they were passing through the gate on a bumpy cobblestone road, Daniel leaned sideways, and his head got stuck between the post and the wagon. The horses kept going. He died on the way to hospital—a son lost to parents who adored him and an older brother that I would never know.

Aunt Milica should have watched him. But she didn't. She let him slip out, she didn't look for him, and he was killed. But my parents never told me that she was partly responsible. They forgave her ...

The pain of that terrible loss still lingers on, but bitterness and resentment against those responsible are gone. It was healed at the foot of the cross as my mother gazed on the Son who was killed and reflected about the God who forgave. Aunt Milica was forgiven, and there was no more talk of her guilt, not even talk of her having been guilty. As far as I was concerned, she was innocent."

God bless you, forgiven and forgiving ones!

Pastor Gene



Upcoming Calendar Events

- Oneco Hope Men's Dinner
9/13/23 @ 5:00PM-
Fellowship Hall
- Administrative Council
Meeting 9/18/2023 @
7:00PM-Fellowship Hall

Dear Family,

Summer is gone, the kids are back in school and God is still on the throne. It is so easy to get caught up in all the busyness of life and forget what is most important. We have a creator who calls us. He invites us to be in relationship with Him. He calls us to worship and pray together, to bear one another's burdens, and to be disciplined so we can disciple others. He is faithful and we can trust Him in all things. How do we love Him? How do we become more like Him? How do we know His word and His promises? I know participating in small groups has strengthened my spiritual walk. It's an exciting time in our church as we are Oneco Hope Global Methodist. Small groups are important to our Mission and our Vision as a church. Meeting on Sunday mornings for worship is wonderful and so important in our walk but don't stop there!

Small Group Ministries

Sunday School – 10:15 every Sunday morning in the Hebrews Classroom

Monday Morning Prayer Hour – Beginning Monday Sept. 11, 10:30-11:30am in the Hebrews Classroom.

Wesleyan Discipleship – Beginning Weds. Sept. 6, 9-11am in the Fellowship Hall

Zoom Prayer Hour – Wednesday Evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm, call the office for information.

Home Bible Study Groups – Beginning in Sept. we will offer Bible studies of 8-12 people in homes.

If you are interested in helping begin a home Bible study contact Pastor Gene, 386-546-2733.

Schedule time in your week to meet together with your brothers and sisters in Christ. I can't tell you how blessed you will be and how much you will grow spiritually by joining a small group. As your Lay Leader, I urge you to give one or more of these small groups a try. God will be glorified and you will be blessed as we gather together, as the body of Christ, in His name.

If you have any questions or any concerns, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

God bless,

Janet Saver, 941-812-5352



Many heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generous donations of school supplies for our students at Oneco Elementary!

Our Mission

To make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

Our Vision

A church that looks, acts, and thinks like Jesus.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME / TITLE	TELEPHONE
Dr. Gene Maddox, Pastor	386-546-2733
Janet Saver, Lay Leader	941-812-5352
Carolyn Boyle, Lay Visitation/Prayer	941-751-3907
Greg Rohr, Music Worship	941-321-4413
Church Office (Mon.-Tues.-Thurs.)	941-755-5943

Birthdays

03	Connie Kubilis
06	Jared Lombardi
11	Quinn Bensen
15	William Goodchild
19	Ray Colson
21	Morris Tennier
24	Evelyn Keller
25	Jane Parks
28	Jan Frantz
28	Gene Albritton
30	Michael Van DeRoer

Anniversaries

10	Sherly & Dan Salisbury
12	Julie & Gary Clark