

# OSL Newsletter

## SPRING UPDATE

What's been going on at OSL lately? We're so glad you asked! This triannual newsletter will get you up to speed. It's hard to communicate constantly all the ways God is at work through our church. This newsletter will aim to provide updates and overviews on some of the specific ministries at OSL. Whether you're just looking for more information, or looking for ways to get involved, you'll find it here.

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES UPDATE

Social Ministries at OSL was designed to help local children and families with unforeseen specific needs. Over the years we have established a great relationship with the Social Workers at East Hartford Youth Service (EHYS) and Langford Elementary School in East Hartford. EHYS advocates for youth state wide and provides therapeutic counseling, positive youth development programs and outreach services to help meet the needs of East Hartford's youth and their families. Langford Elementary is one of the several elementary schools in East Hartford. Below are our recurring annual donation events:

Easter Living Cross - Purchased Gifts for Families Served by EHYS – Clothing, Toys, Small Gifts for children, Food, Gas, Wal-Mart/Target Gift Cards for Parents or Guardians

Easter and Thanksgiving Food Baskets (Boxes) for Local Families, Families of students at Langford, and families of Bridge clients.

Backpack and School Supplies Drive – The majority of the Backpacks go to families of EHYS. If needed by the Bridge families or Langford students, we try to pass some along to those families.

Christmas Gift Giving Tree - Purchased Gifts for Families Served by EHYS: Clothing, Toys, Small Gifts for children, Food, Gas, Wal-Mart/Target Gift Cards for Parent or Guardian

Outside of these annual drives we have had requests for shoes, boots, underwear, socks, school uniforms, books, winter coats, blankets, and food. We have been able to help families that have experienced house fires, loss of income, and children who have been displaced due to unforeseen family situations, etc.

***Thank you to everyone who has donated through purchasing gifts, needed items, and monetary donations to help Our Savior's Social Ministry Program be a huge success in helping local families.*** Joan Craig takes care of all things involving Social Ministries, so reach out to her with questions or if you'd like to get involved.



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Check out what's going on with all our educational areas
- Find ways you can get involved in media or on worship team
- New ways to connect!! See page 4!!

## SENIOR YOUTH

It's been a great year so far for the Senior Youth. We started our weekly Bible study between services with a study on Spiritual Disciplines, then did a Lenten Study on Peter. Next up we'll be studying Colossians 1:15–20, which is also the theme for The Gathering.

Speaking of **The Gathering**... we're so excited!!! We've got 19 youth and 5 adult leaders traveling to Houston, Texas for 5 days this summer. We'll be learning, praying, serving, and fellowshiping with youth from all over the world!

We've been doing a lot of fundraisers at church and we're so appreciative of everyone who has donated time or money or prayed for us. Thanks to your donations for our tag sale we were able to raise \$350 in March, and we raised almost \$700 at the Easter Breakfast. Also, a special thank you to Rob Colton, who takes care of the can and bottle donations for us. Keep 'em coming!

If you'd like to know more about The Gathering or our trip check out the page on the Church Website: [oursaviorct.org/gathering2022](https://oursaviorct.org/gathering2022)

*“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.”*

*Psalm 127: 3*

## JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH

### FAITHQUEST

In FaithQuest, we continue to work through the New Testament. We completed our study of Jesus and His ministry. Now we are moving onto the Holy Spirit and the Early Church and Apostles. Our volunteers have created a wide variety of crafts and projects to reinforce the lessons ranging from Resurrection Eggs and Transfiguration Clouds to Holy Spirit crowns. We also did a service project for The Bridge by personalizing Easter Card invitations for their clients.



The Jr. Youth group meets every Sunday in the community room between worship services. All middle schoolers are a part of it. We are studying the life of Moses throughout this year and are learning how God is unchanging in HIS love and mercy, both in Old testament and New Testament times. We are focusing on how to answer questions raised by young people questioning God's justice and His action of killing non-Israel people. There will be a Bible Quiz after we finish 20 chapters of the book Exodus.

The group also learns about persecution stories around the world and how people of God stand firm for the truth and the Gospel. We read real life incidents from the journal “Voice of Martyrs”.

**Upcoming Movie Night - Friday, May 20.** This is an OUT-REACH event, a great opportunity for the youth to share about Jesus to their friends. So please encourage your children to be a part of it. There will be lot of games, fun activities as well. Please uphold this in your personal and family prayers, so we can have a great harvest for the LORD.

There are so many exciting things lined up for the Jr. Youth in the coming days and so your prayers are greatly appreciated as we raise the next generation for the LORD.

**Bible Quiz: Psalms 119:9 (NIV)** How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

There is no better way to help our children stay in the right path than encouraging them to learn and trust in God's Word. OS� had a Bible Quiz for elementary school age children and this will be a yearly event. Please encourage kids to be a part of it this year. The Youth also had a quiz competition on the book of Judges and OS� youth (Jr and Sr) participated.



*Some of the youth who will be attending The Gathering this summer in Texas.*

## OSPCC UPDATE

*Joy comes, tears fall  
I'm learning there is beauty in it all  
It's not hard to find it, you just have to look  
Oh, God is good*

This song by Francesca Battistelli has become my favorite. With the past 2 years we all have had, it has sometimes been hard to see the good. It was sometimes very easy to let the tears fall, forgetting to see the beauty in each day.

As I reflect, I see God's hand. He has continued to bring families who need care for their little ones to us. He has continued to bring qualified, caring teachers. He has provided financial support and stability so we could make much needed improvements to our center. We have been able to forego wearing masks, weekly testing and daily temperature checks. We have been able to hold family events once again, starting with an OSPCC Family Movie Night, visiting with the SW Fire Department, and will soon be inviting our moms to attend our Annual Mother's Day Tea.

I am so thankful for the joy filled days at OSPCC. It is wonderful hearing the laughter, the singing (with Mr. Chuck Burns), and the voices of our little ones in the halls. God is good!

Blessings from our OSPCC family to the OSL family!

Heidi Leitzke, Director

## MEDIA MINISTRY

*...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)*

Media is a powerful and exciting way to reach more people for the Lord. OSL is live-streaming the worship services through Facebook and we have stories about families coming to know about our church watching the livestream.

### **Volunteers Needed:**

We need volunteers to run the livestream for both services. It is pretty simple and you can do it even from the pew while attending the worship with your family. We need volunteers for projectionist as well. Please consider serving in these roles.

## OSL OUTREACH

*Matthew 28:19 (NIV)*

*19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations*

Taking the gospel to the unreached is every believer's God given commission. We are focusing on Indian families and other ethnic communities as well to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. We as OSL community went for Christmas caroling to many Hindu families and had the opportunity to share the great news of the Savior's birth and to pray for them as well. If you know any Indian family, please prayerfully share about God with them. If you need any help in knowing their culture, religious beliefs etc., please contact Johniel.

## WORSHIP TEAM

I am honored to continue to serve as leader of the OSL Worship Team. In 2022 we are looking forward to introducing many new praise songs to the congregation. This expanded repertoire will provide fresh songs for all seasons of the church year and continue to build on our understanding of who Christ is and what He has done through song. Additionally, we are continuing to improve our technological capabilities as a worship team. We have recently modernized our soundboard, and we are developing our knowledge and expertise around this new piece of equipment to enhance the overall worship experience.

The Worship Team is always looking for new members who have a passion for praising our Lord! If you are interested in joining us or learning more, please contact Andrew Brady ([andrew.brady.142@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.brady.142@gmail.com)). I am also very interested in any feedback you may have for the worship team; reach out if you have anything to share!

## CHURCH ENGAGEMENT—A NEW WAY TO CONNECT!

OSL had been using Realm to serve our staff in our administrative needs for a while, and now we would like to share some exciting opportunities to support the way you are involved. Not only will this improve work life for our ministry staff, but it will also make it easier for our church family to connect with each other, keep up with what's going on and grow as a connected community of believers.

**Let's Connect!** Stay connected to our church wherever you go by downloading the free Connect - Our Church Community app for iPhone and Android devices. Use it to communicate with your groups, RSVP to events, update profile information, and more. It makes it easier for us to connect throughout the week and know what's happening. To download the app on your phone or tablet search "Realm Connect" in your devices app store or you can find links to download it on the church website at [oursaviorct.org/realmconnect](http://oursaviorct.org/realmconnect)



**Once you are invited to join, check over your profile.** "Everyone member in our church has a unique profile. Your profile contains everything you want people in our church to know about you. Your profile also enables you to join a small group, RSVP to events, track your giving, update your contact information, change family details, add birthdays, set notification preferences, or replace that outdated family photo."

**When will this roll out?** In the next couple of weeks we will begin to send invites to groups of church members to log in and create a password for their profile. Watch your email for an invite and then **Connect!**

## WANT MORE??

For all the latest information about what's happening at OSL make sure you're on the weekly email list. These emails come out Sunday evening and have important info on events and service opportunities. If you're not receiving these emails, please contact the church office.

Need more info about something you read here and don't know how to get in touch with that person? Check the church website! It has contact info for the leaders of the ministries in this newsletter as well as other info about some other great ministries we have: **[oursaviorct.org](http://oursaviorct.org)**