

## OSUMC Missions October 2017 Newsletter

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Jesus— Matt 25:35-45*

OSUMC donated over \$2000 each for UMCOR hurricane relief and DACA renewal!

### **Racial Justice**

Mission: To build relationships across race, culture, and ethnicity through community engagement. OSUMC is an active and compassionate partner in ongoing community efforts for interracial understanding, justice, and reconciliation. Recent activity includes:

- Several members of the congregation enjoyed participating this summer in the First Friday East Athens Community events spearheaded by Broderick Flanigan.
- Athens 4 Everyone/Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement includes OSUMC representatives at meetings seeking to address discrimination in downtown Athens bars, respond thoughtfully to Charlottesville tragedy and similar incidents, as well as activities to end the "School to Prison Pipeline"
- Missions is providing financial support for Minority Owned Businesses through Broderick Flanigan, local business owner, artist, community educator, organizer and activist who has been an active member of our Racial Justice Task Force. This gift is in support of his business plan to incorporate as an LLC with the mission of promoting the growth of minority owned business in Athens. The congregation will have opportunities to become involved in the future.

Immigration Justice includes activities that build relationships and offer safety and security, and reduce uncertainty and fear in the undocumented immigrant community.

- The Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition is born! We meet on the 4th Mondays of each month. Oconee Street UMC is coordinating this effort to bring together a coalition of communities of faith 1) to bear witness to inhumane immigration policies and practices that detain Athens-area immigrants without due process and tear families apart, 2) to contribute funds for legal assistance and other needs to undocumented immigrants, and 3) to provide friendship and support to families in crisis due to detention and deportation.
- We provide ongoing support for legal services for immigrants in crisis through Athens Latino Center for Education and Services/Latin American Association's legal aid clinic with OSUMC representation and financial backing.
- Joel attended the 2nd **National United Methodist Immigration Task Force** Meeting in Chicago, and will serve as a member of Southeast Jurisdiction Immigration Task Force charged with helping to plan and organize UM church response, cultivating leadership in our Conference and beyond in areas of immigrant justice.

**Interfaith Hospitality Network:** OSUMC needs a new coordinator or pair of co-coordinators! Thank you Cyd Wells for coordinating for many years. Is this *your* calling?

**International Mission Trip:** Planning for Spring/Summer 2018. May include youth, and focus on medical and construction needs. Contact Hope Cook [hope.cook@gmail.com](mailto:hope.cook@gmail.com)

**Have other ideas for how we can individually and corporately love our neighbors?? Be in touch:** [jsiebentritt@gmail.com](mailto:jsiebentritt@gmail.com) Joel Siebentritt, Chair, Mission Committee