



Welcome to those who have worshipped in this place for years.  
Welcome to our first time guests.  
Welcome to all generations, families, single people and couples.  
Welcome to those who have no church home, need strength, have doubt, want to follow Christ or do not believe.

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastor - Michael Yeoman 315-761-2721  
Oneidafpcpastor@gmail.com

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Office Secretary - John Merritt 315-527-2939

Sexton-Jennawade Skellham 315-281-3377

Treasurer -Frank Kordziel 315-263-1474

Choir Director - Stephanie Gwilt  
315- 886-6858

Organist - Melinda Phoenix-Heart  
315-247-9201

Financial Secretary - Pat Thorpe 315-363-8948

Clerk of Session -Pat Thorpe 315-363-8948

**304 Broad Street**  
(corner of Broad and Stone)  
**Oneida, NY 13421**

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

Phone: 315-363-7590

#### **HOURS:**

Monday – Friday  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### **GENERAL EMAIL**

oneidafirstpres  
@oneidafirstpres.org

### **WEB SITE**

oneidafirstpres.org



Hope

### **Our Mission Statement**

The vision of the members of Oneida First Presbyterian Church  
is to LIVE God's plan for our family, our community and our  
world. TOGETHER with God's grace and guidance, we will  
reach out and sow the LOVE of Jesus Christ.



## The Church At Worship

First Presbyterian Church of Oneida

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Sunday, December 3, 2023 10:00 AM**

**Pastor Michael L. Yeoman**

**WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP



**Isaiah 64:1-9**



**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**



**Mark 13:24-37**

### SOUNDING OF THE RAM'S HORN

**PRELUDE**      *"Do You Hear What I Hear"*      **Noel Regney & Gloria Shayne**

### MORNING GREETINGS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**INTROIT**      *"We Light the Advent Candles"*      *(Verses 1 and 2)*  
*(based on a German tune)*

### CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: We come from a world of darkness

**People: Into Christ's world of light.**

Leader: We come from a world of weariness

**People: Into God's strength and hope.**

Leader: We come from a slumbering world.

**People: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch  
for the coming of Christ.**

**OPENING HYMN**      *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*      **#5 (verses 1 & 2 only)**



## Christmas Light

*I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. . .*

*So I have to rescue them.*

*Exodus 3:7-8*

To my eyes, the Christmas tree liked to be ablaze in fire! Not because of artificial strings of lights but from real fire. Our family was invited to a friend's altdeutsche Tradition, or the "old German way," a celebration featuring delicious traditional desserts on a tree with real, lit candles. (For safety, the freshly cut tree was lit one night only.)

As I watched the tree appear to burn, I thought of Moses' encounter with God in the burning bush. While tending sheep in the wilderness, Moses was surprised by a flaming bush that was somehow not consumed by the flames. As he approached the bush to investigate, God called to him. The message from the burning bush was not one of judgement but of rescue for the people of Israel. God had seen the plight and misery of His people who were enslaved in Egypt and had "come down to rescue them" (Exodus 3:8).

While God rescued the Israelites from the Egyptians, all of humanity still needed rescue not just from physical suffering but also from the effects that evil and death brought into our world. Hundreds of years later, God responded by sending down the Light, His Son, Jesus (John 1:9-10), sent not "to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).

*(From "Our Daily Bread" December 3rd, 2022)*

## FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry stock is getting low. We are asking for donations of non perishable goods and personal paper products. Many people in the Oneida area live on fixed income and inflation is making it difficult for them to keep basic food staples in their own pantries. You can drop off your donations during Sunday services or drop them off during the week. If you drop them off during the week please call in advance so that John will know you are coming. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.

Please help us feed 176 seniors for Christmas. By purchasing 1 Food Sense package for \$20.50 we can help a senior in our community this Christmas. All donations are needed in by the end of service on Dec. 5, 2023. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with a memo of Christmas Food Sense. Cash is welcomed too, please mark the envelope Christmas Food Sense.

# FOOD\$ENSE

WWW.KARINGKITCHEN.ORG  
December 2023

### FOOD \$ENSE SHOPPERS

Please remember that sites cannot hold any packages after the scheduled pick-up time. If you have a conflict, give your receipt to a friend and they can claim the package for you. If you have any questions, please speak to the site volunteers when you sign up. Thank you. **Items remaining after pick up time are donated.** Payment accepted is SNAP, Cash or Check payable to Karing Kitchen.

### COVID/ FLU/ RSV Safety Policy in Place

Welcome to Food \$en\$e. Safety is #1 for operation. Masks & social distancing are still recommended	unless proof of vaccine is provided, while placing and receiving orders. Failure to abide by these	guidelines will mean no service. Ordering and Pick up will be by appt only.
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### Projected list (Main Unit) December—\$20.50 (Please note the price & list is subject to change)

Breaded Chicken Strips, 25 oz	Medium Eggs, 1 dozen	Home-style Waffles, 9.8 oz.
Breakfast Sausage, 6.4 oz.	Buttermilk Pancake Mix, 32 oz	Mandarin Oranges, 11 oz.
Hickory Smoked Bacon, 12 oz.	Orange Juice, 32 oz.	Fresh Produce
Ground Chicken, 1 lb.	Frozen Strawberries, 16 oz.	Fresh Produce

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Almighty God, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is our hope. As we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Help us walk in hope during the weeks of Advent as we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.*

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Preparing for Christ's coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Merciful God, always with us, always coming, we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.*

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

*“Glory Be to the Father”*

#579

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

### CHILDREN'S TIME

### WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

### ANTHEM

*“O Come to Set Us Free”*

by Mary MacDonald

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

### OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 64:1-9

The Word of the Lord

OT Page 652

Thanks be to God

PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

OT Page 511

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

NEW TESTAMENT

Mark 13:24-37

NT Page 47

The Gospel of Jesus

Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Starting at the End”

Pastor Mike

\*HYMN

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

#9

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed

Traditional Version

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison)

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen*

OFFERTORY

"Away in a Manger"

James R. Murray

\*DOXOLOGY

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS**

Jude Alexander (Mancarella’s great nephew)

Dan King (Pastor @ New Life Assembly of God)

Donna Ausman

Jean Kowalik

Abby Bartell

Doug Lippert

Kevin Bedford

Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn’s brother)

Brody

Megan Murrin

Richard Brown

Michelle Newman

Tom Burleson(Cathy Opperman’s Brother-in-law)

Becky Nichols

Pam Carrigan

Karen Nichols (Friend of Donna Ausman)

Timothy Carver (Jen Bailey’s Father)

Michael O’Bryan (Mike’s Brother in law)

Elizabeth Coulby

Mike Oot

Fran Dowd (Jim Sweet’s sister)

Audrey Opperman (Cathy’s Mother-in-law)

Peggy Eastman

Tom Panasci

John Ferguson

Jenelle Patchin (Mike’s daughter)

Robert Feldman (Melinda’s Father)

Dan & Claudia Rayome

Jillian Felt

Megan Roberts (Young mother with cancer)

Andy Froass

Doug Rosekrans

Don Fuller (Stephanie Gwilt’s Father)

Judy Sweet

Pat Grabow (Chrissy Thompson’s Mom)

Louise Thompson

Becky Grasso

Jan Whiting

Alison Hilgenberg (Phyllis Little’s Daugther)

Milicent Vidal

Wendy Holtz

Nancy (Friend of Chrissy Thompson)

Joyce Helms

Brittany (Friend of Chrissy Thompson)

Millie Johnson

Pete Johnson

Victor Johnson

Victor Johnson III

**SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS**

Nancy Rinehart

Chris Drake

Kristen Healey

If you have a prayer need, there are cards in the pews. Fill it out and hand it to an usher. If you know of anyone who is sick, in the hospital, or in need of our prayers, PLEASE call the Church Office, 363-7590. Please let us know also when they are healed and can be taken off the prayer list.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:**

**ELDERS**

**CLASS OF 2023**

Paul Mancarella  
Jan Whiting  
Cathy Opperman  
Sharon Warren  
Becky Williams

**CLASS OF 2024**

Randy Bonville  
Frank Kordziel  
Lucille Merriman  
Michael Merriman  
Pat Thorpe

**SPECIAL CONCERNS:**

All first responders, nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals.

All victims and survivors of gun violence.

The Citizens of Ukraine

Pray for those who are serving overseas and our Police/Fire Safety personnel.

Isreal and all victims of terrorism

**PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS:** Pray for those who are stationed in non-combat zones:  
Jack Sharkey, Mark Sia, Nicholas Young, Philip Messina, Ryan Geer, John Goodwill, Errol Crossman, Corey Reed, Michael McMahon, Andrew Fargo, Jim Jennings, Michelle Ludwig, Peter Thompson, Dylan McClelland

Those serving in combat zones:



**MISSION EMPHASIS:**  
First Presbyterian Church, Westernville

**DEACONS**

**CLASS OF 2023**

Sue Kordziel  
Rose Lockwood  
Doug Lockwood  
Kathy Nichols  
Chrissy Thompson

**CLASS OF 2024**

John Merritt  
Jennawade Skellham

**CLASS OF 2025**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you

*All: And also with you.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

*All: We lift them to the Lord.*

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

*All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy..... (continued) You spoke through prophets calling us to turn from our willful ways to new obedience and righteousness. You sent your only Son to be the way to eternal life.....

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name.

*All: “Sanctus”*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

Pastor: You are holy, O God of majesty and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt... (continued) Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Pastor: Praise to you, Lord Jesus

*All: Dying you destroyed our death.  
Rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus come in glory.*

Pastor: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the Living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ’s body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.



**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord Jesus on the night of his arrest took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

The body of Christ broken for you. **(The bread is taken by all.)**

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

The blood of Christ - The cup of salvation. **(The juice is consumed at this time)**

Every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord until he comes in glory.

**COMMUNION ANTHEM**     *“Lord of Feasting and of Hunger”*     arr. Carl Schal

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of great expectations, God of Christmas promise, God of child-like hope, we have eaten and drunk from your table. May this banquet fill us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come would give us the hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen

**\*CLOSING HYMN**     *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*     #8

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**     *“Soon and Very Soon (an excerpt)”*     arr. Jack Schrader

**POSTLUDE**



*Thank you for worshipping with us today! Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the auditorium.*

**Prayer shawl s**

***Prayer shawls are available for anyone who needs a little extra comforting and support. They are stitched by church members and come with a card bearing a line of scripture. They are on the stage in the auditorium.***

**FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS 2023 TOTALS:**

Total proceeds: **\$8,562.91**  
Raffle Winners: Quilt: **Jerry DeRuby**  
Painting: **Mary Walker**  
Penguin: **Norma Luce**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED SET UP, WORK, COOK, AND TAKE DOWN AFTER THE FESTIVAL!**

***Potluck Christmas Party***

*The Fellowship committee will be hosting a Potluck Christmas Party on December 17th after the church service. The Fellowship Committee will be providing a Spiral Ham and drinks. What we are asking you to provide are your favorite entrees, side dishes and desserts. There will be a sign-up sheet in the auditorium for the next few weeks. This is a time of year for families, and what could be better than sharing a meal with your church family. Not to mention we have the best cooks in town.*



*Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat. Will you please put a penny in an old man’s hat? Or will you put several pennies toward a Christmas collection your elders are taking for our hardworking and always appreciated staff? If you would like to contribute, there are envelopes in the pews. Hand the envelope to any active elder with your donation and be assured it will make its way by Christmas Day.*  
*Thank you.*



**The Oneida Area Civic  
Chorale will present  
"Wonder and Joy", a  
collection of Christmas  
and Hannukah music**

**expressing the wonder and joy of the season, on Sunday,  
December 3, 2023 at 4:00 PM in the Oneida High School  
Auditorium in Oneida, New York. The Chorale, a 108 voice  
community chorus under the direction of Mark Bunce, will be  
accompanied by Heather O'Connell on piano and joined by  
guest musicians. Tickets for the concert are \$10 and are  
available from Chorale members, at the door, and on the  
Chorale Website through EventBrite. Please refer to the OACC  
website ([www.Oneidachorale.org](http://www.Oneidachorale.org)) or Facebook page for  
additional information.**



*These Days for October, November, December are  
in and can be found in the Narthex, Sanctuary  
and Hall way outside the Boardroom.*



*Our Daily Bread for December, January, and  
February is now available in the Sanctuary,  
Narthex and Hallway outside the Boardroom.*



## Upcoming Blood Drives for October

Thursday, December 7th; First Presbyterian Church  
Cazenovia, NY  
1:00 p.m.-6:00p.m.

**Friday, December 8th; St. Paul's United Methodist Church**  
Oneida, NY  
12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.



### Ushers for December

December 3rd-Frank Kordziel

Sue Kordziel

Paul Thompson

Chrissy Thompson

December 10th-Paul Mancarella

Rachel Mancarella

December 17th-Janet Sarensky

Jack Arnold

Barb Arnold

December 24th-Janet Sarensky

December 31st-Paul Thompson

Chrissy Thompson

Janet Sarensky



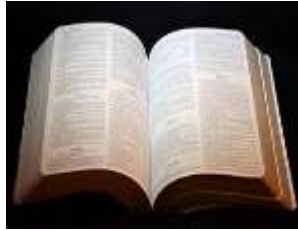
Sun-Tillie Coulter

Tue-Dorothy Hotaling

Thu-Julie Sarensky  
Kim DeRuby

Sat- Carol Musgrove





#### Collection Assistants for December

December 3rd-Randy Bonville

December 10th-Kim DeRuby

December 17th-Frank Kordziel

December 24th-TBD

#### Scripture Readers for December

December 3rd-Pat Thorpe

December 10th-Ian Farwell

December 17th-Frank Kordziel

December 24th-Pastor Mike

#### Coffee Servers for December

December 3rd-Marilyn and Don Kingsley

December 10th-Frank and Sue Kordziel

December 17th-Paul Mancarella and Jerry Fuller

December 24th-No Coffee Service

#### Projection Team for December

December 3rd-Trish Vrooman

December 10th-Ian Farwell

December 17th-Dan Gwilt

December 24th-Trish Vrooman



## ***LIFE at ONEIDA FIRST PRESBYTERIAN***

Calendar for *Dec 3rd-Dec 10th*

Sunday, December 3rd  
10 a.m. Worship  
Communion  
11:15 a.m. Team Meetings

Monday, December 4th

Tuesday, December 5th

Wednesday, December 6th  
1 p.m. Senior Bible Study  
3 p.m. Connection  
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts  
Living Waters Youth Group

Thursday, November 7th

Friday, December 8th

Saturday, December 9th

Sunday, December 10th  
10 a.m. Worship





18 SHOEBOXES WHERE  
SENT OUT THIS YEAR.  
THANK YOU TO  
EVERYONE WHO  
CONTRIBUTED.



### *Christmas Joy Offering*

December is upon us and this month is designated for our Christmas Joy Offering. The Presbyterian Church (USA) rejoices in the birth of Jesus Christ in many ways. One way for the church to celebrate this great joy to the world is by supporting the causes funded by the Christmas Joy Offering. 50% of the gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial need. 50% of the gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

### To All Team/Committee Chairpersons Treasurers and to Whomever Else It Applies

All Annual Reports are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, December 29th. If you would like to get them in earlier, that would be a big help to John. If you are a Treasurer and waiting for a bank statement, the deadline does not apply to you. But please get them in as soon as possible.



*As a way to beautify the Sanctuary, the Music and Worship team will be ordering Poinsettias for the Christmas season. They will be on the alter on Sunday December 17th and Christmas Eve December 24th. If you would like to have a Poinsettia in memory of someone, please do the following: put your money in an envelope labeled **Poinsettia fund**, with your name and the name(s) for the dedication in the Sunday morning collection plate or mail it to the church office by December 8th. The deadline for ordering is **Friday, December 8th**, as we will be ordering from a local florist. The cost of the Poinsettias is:*

*6 1/2" pot—\$15*

**The Per Capita for  
2023 is \$45**

## Prayer Shawls/Stuffed Animals

The Deacons need help from all knitters, crocheters, sewers and stuffed animal donations.

The number of prayer shawls and stuffed animals are getting very very low. If you knit, crochet or sew and would like to help us increase our supply, we would love to have your help.

When you finish your shawls or have a new stuffed animal to donate please put them in the boardroom and label them "Deacon Prayer Shawl/animal donation."

Each Communion Sunday what has been donated is blessed before adding to our supply.



The Toys for Tots boxes are back this year! They can be found in the Auditorium. We will be collecting toys for the next few weeks. We do not have a pick up date yet, but it would be appreciated if you could get your toys in by Friday Dec. 15th.

**If anyone is need of a pastoral visit or knows of a congregation member who would like a visit, please let Pastor Mike know. (315) 761-2721**



The Presbyterian Women's Christmas Luncheon will be  
Tuesday, December 12th @ 12:00 p.m.  
@ Ebenezer's in Sherrill

There will be 3 choices for lunch, Chicken & Biscuits will be one of them.  
Please call Carol Miller (315-762-4224) or Barb Arnold (315-363-6875) by  
December 7th to reserve your place.



Offering Envelopes will be located in the Sanctuary near the Christmas Tree. There are extra envelopes for anyone that would like them. There is a file card in the extra boxes. Please put your name and the number of the box and place in the offering plate.



**PRAYER MISSION DECEMBER** – The Salvation Army Red Kettles have been an American tradition since 1891, helping raise financial support for critical Salvation Army programs and services year round. This campaign allows you to host your own Red Kettle - online. Over the years, the Red Kettle Campaign has grown into one of the most recognizable and important charitable campaigns in the United States – providing toys for kids, coats for the homeless, food for the hungry and countless social service programs year-round. You become a vital part of our Christmas efforts when you help those in need by hosting an Online Red Kettle and filling it with donations from family, friends and colleagues.