

Presbyterian News



EDITION

December 2022



DECEMBER

304 Broad Street
Oneida, NY 13421
315-363-7590

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Website:
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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor
Mike Yeoman

Choir Director
Stephanie Gwilt

Organist
Melinda Phoenix-Heart

Church Secretary
John Merritt

Treasurer
Frank Kordziel

Financial Secretary
Pat Thorpe

Clerk of Session
Pat Thorpe

Custodian
Jennawade Skellham





Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

We are officially in the Season of Advent – a season of waiting and preparing. It is a time to devote ourselves to focus on the reason for this season – the birth of our Savior. More importantly, however, it is a time to prepare ourselves for Jesus' second coming.

Waiting is not always easy. Children of God have been patiently waiting for Christ's return for over two-thousand years. If you are like me, patience is a virtue that I am trying to improve upon. Advent helps us to focus on patiently waiting. This year let's use this opportunity to encourage one another to strengthen our faith as we lovingly embrace the gift of Christ Jesus.

Take time to slow down, escape the commercialized stress of the holidays, and find ways to seek out opportunities that will build hope and community, rather than foster greed and selfishness. Reach out to others with gifts of kindness and peace and help others to find the true peace that only Christ can bring.

Our music staff and I, along with our Music and Worship Team, have been working closely together to make Advent and Christmas a Spirit-filled, uplifting, and reflective worship experience for all. The messages this year will focus on the true heart of Christmas and will be centered on the story of Christ's birth. From the prophetic promise of His coming to His miraculous arrival, the traditional advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love will help you prepare for Christmas by getting to the heart of the reason for the season.

We look forward to seeing you at our Sunday morning Advent services at 10:00 a.m., and at our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Michelle and I extend our wishes for a blessed holiday season.

Warmest regards,

Pastor Mike

Potluck Christmas Party

The Fellowship committee will be hosting a Potluck Christmas Party on December 18th after the church service. The Fellowship Committee will be providing finger sandwiches and drinks. What we are asking you to provide are your favorite entrees and/or 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.

**27 SHOEBOXES WHERE
SENT OUT THIS YEAR.
THANK YOU TO EVERY-
ONE 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.



*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 18th 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 2nd. The deadline for ordering is **Sunday, December 4th**, as we will be ordering from a local florist. The cost of the Poinsettias is:*

6 1/2" pot—\$14

7 1/2" pot—\$28

The Master's Touch Chorale will be performing an Advent/Christmas concert at St. John's Episcopal Church, 341 Main St., Oneida at 5:00 PM on Dec.10, 2022. No admission ticket is required. Free will offering accepted.



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

For the month of December 2022

Steve Blair (friend of Ginny Pendleton)	Jean Kowalik
Brody	Val Lowry
Pam Carrigan	Maribeth Matthews
Scott Colvin	Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn's brother)
Peggy Eastman	Sam Messina
Maria Erdo	Tom Panasci
John Ferguson	Dan & Claudia Rayome
Jillian Felt	David Rice
Don Fuller (Stephanie Gwilt's Father)	Doug Rosekrans
Pat Grabow (Chrissy Thompson's Mom)	Judy Sweet
Becky Grasso	Jim Thorpe
Wendy Holtz	Jan Whiting
Joyce Helms	Milicent Vidal
Millie Johnson	Bill Young
Victor Johnson	Nancy (Friend of Chrissy Thompson)
Victor Johnson III	Brittany (Friend of Chrissy Thompson)

Thank you for your prayers. If you know of anyone who is sick, in the hospital, or in need of our prayers, PLEASE call the Church Office, 363-7590.

SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERN

Sally Boczulak (Friend of Pat Thorpe's)

Rose Wright

Megan Roberts (Friend of Carol Miller)

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.

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS 2022 TOTALS:

Total proceeds: **\$7929.50**

Raffle Winners: Quilt: **Kim DeRuby**

Painting: **Trish Pfluke**

Ceramic Tree: **Deb Owens**

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



ELDERS

CLASS OF 2022

Donna Ausman
Kim DeRuby
Carol Miller
Becky Williams

CLASS OF 2023

Paul Mancarella
Nancy Rinehard
Dave Schellhase
Jan Whiting
Cathy Opperman

CLASS OF 2024

Randy Bonville
Frank Kordziel
Lucille Merriman
Michael Merriman
Pat Thorpe

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:

Rita Reiss (Jennawade's Cousin)
Horace Keller

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

The citizens of Ukraine

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

All victims and survivors of gun violence.

All people who feel unloved, alone, and displaced during the holiday season.

MISSION EMPHASIS:

The First Presbyterian Church, Westernville
The Clergy, Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders—
Serving Congregations, and our Authorized Lay Preachers,
Honorably Retired Members, Specialized Ministries, and
Members at Large
First Presbyterian Church, Whitesboro
The Trustees of the Presbytery of Utica

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS: Pray for those who are

stationed in non-combat zones: Stephen Cafalone, 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 currently serving in a combat zone:

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2022

Sue Kordziel
Rose Lockwood
Doug Lockwood
Kathy Nichols
Chrissy Thompson

CLASS OF 2023

CLASS OF 2024

John Merritt
Jennawade Skellham





4th-Communion

6th-Team Meetings

7, 14, 21, 28th- Living Waters Youth Group

13th-Presbyterian Women's lunch in Canastota

18th-Childrens play, Deacons Meeting

22nd-Prayer Vigil

24th-Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm

25th-Short Christmas Service

27th-Session Meeting



Birthdays

Dec. 3 Tillie Coulter
Dec. 5 Dorothy Hotaling
Dec. 7 Julie Sarensky, Kim DeRuby
Dec. 9 Carol Musgrove
Dec. 15 Ashley Reisman
Dec. 16 Joshua Bonville, Zachary Thompson
Dec. 17 Jacob DeRuby, Rachel DeRuby
Dec. 19 Brad Coulter
Dec. 21 Debbie Whiting
Dec. 23 Mary Ann Moshier
Dec. 24 Sarah Wimett
Dec. 26 Paul Mancarella
Dec. 28 Peter Thompson
Dec. 29 Eliza Colvin
Dec. 31 Jenelle Yeoman, Isaac Colvin

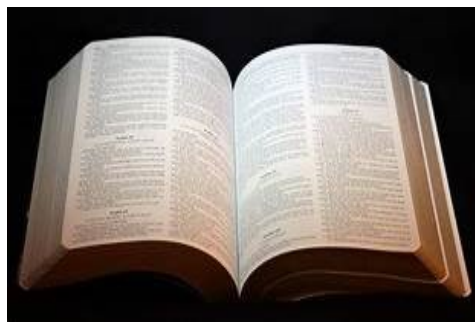
Anniversaries

Dec. 11 Shane and Traci Todd
Dec. 28 Jim and Judy Sweet
Dec. 29 Kevin and Linda Bailey
Dec. 30 O. Perry & Kristin Tooker IV

The Oneida Area Civic Chorale will present “An American Christmas”, a collection of contemporary and traditional Christmas music, on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 4:00 PM in the VVS High School Auditorium in Verona. The Chorale, a 95 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) or Facebook page for additional information.



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. 16th.



Scripture Readers for December

December 4th—Doug Lippert

December 11th - Andy Williams

December 18th - Paul Mancarella

December 24th - Perry Tooker IV



Coffee Servers for December

December 4th – Pam West and Gail Nicolaisen

December 11th — Kristin and Perry Tooker

December 28th — Marilyn and Don Kingsley

December 25th — No Coffee Hour

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
304 Broad Street
Oneida, NY 13421

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY
NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 23RD**

