



# December

## HAPPY 100TH

## BIRTHDAY!!!!

## DOROTHY

## HOTALING

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

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Website:  
[oneidafirstpres.org](http://oneidafirstpres.org)

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor  
Mike Yeoman

Church Secretary  
John Merritt

Church Organist  
Brian Snyder

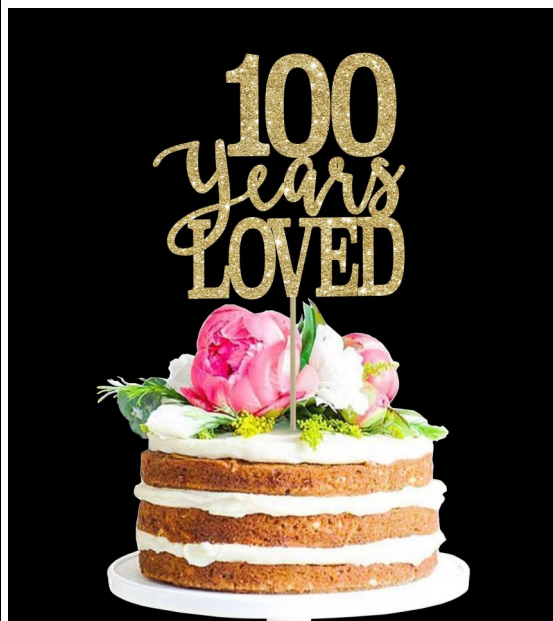
Choir Director  
Barbara Seaton

Treasurer  
Frank Kordziel

Financial Secretary  
Pat Thorpe

Clerk of Session  
Pat Thorpe

Custodian  
Jennawade Skellham





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you read this letter we will be in the season of Advent. December 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of the Christian year. It is a new year that we can anticipate together and jointly discern where God is leading us to in the year ahead. As such, let us look to Advent with hopeful anticipation of what is to come as we ponder and embrace the themes of hope, peace, love, and joy.

May this be a personal invitation to you to join us each Sunday in December, as we light a new candle on the Advent wreath and journey to Bethlehem together. May the weekly themes of Advent help us to reflect how we individually and collectively are called to be Christ's disciples amidst a dark and weary world.

**Week 1: Hope** — No matter what comes or does not come in our lives, hope assures us that we are not alone. It is Emmanuel (*God with us*), that will set the path for us to live out our purpose as brothers and sisters in Christ with the confidence that God still has great plans for us. My question to you is do we want God's plan or our own?

**Week 2: Peace** — In a world filled with conflict and division the only true peace can be found through Christ. That peace allows us to trust in God's promises for our lives and the life of this church. My question to you is do we trust the Prince of Peace enough to follow his path?

**Week 3: Joy** — Pagan Christmas celebrations cause us to look for joy in all the wrong places, and yet, that type of joy is short-lived and ultimately disappointing. This Advent, instead of looking for those quick fixed moments of joy, let's look to the one whom the angel said will cause great joy for all the people. My question to you is can we differentiate between the true joy and the temporal joy this season. Are we as a church committed to pursuing joy by forming a deeper relationship with Christ and allowing Him to help us be a beacon of joy in this community?

**Week 4: Love** — It's not the Hallmark Christmas movies, or that piece of jewelry that symbolizes love. Christmas is all about the greatest gift of love that God gave humankind. John 3:16 teaches, "**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**" Our Savior taught us by example to love everyone. He also taught us to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. My question is do we want to imitate this kind of love, or go on clinging to petty differences of the past that will only forge deeper divisions in God's church?

My prayer is that during this Advent and Christmas season God will help us answer these important questions. May this time of anticipation fill us with hope, peace, joy, and love so that we live every day as children of God delighting in His light and unconditional love.

Blessings to all,

*Pastor Mike*



**Tis the season....of music and festivities and celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus; and what better way to do that than by lifting voices in song!**

OFPC Choir Director Barb Seaton is inviting anyone and everyone to join the "No Commitment Choir" to present a beautiful and simple Christmas anthem during the service on December 22. There are no auditions, no age limits, and all abilities are welcome.

There will be three short (10 minutes) optional rehearsals on Sundays December 1, 8, & 15 immediately following the morning service in the choir room--come to one or more to learn the tune. Adults, Seniors, Teens, Children--all are welcome!

There will be music available for those who read, and just the words for those who don't. Please talk to Barb for more information. ♪ ♪ ♪

*Faith & Fellowship  
Advent Bible Study  
For Seniors*

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

The weeks leading up to Christmas can be stressful if you let it be that way, but we invite you to join us for a *free* 4-week Seniors' Bible Study that helps us slow down the pace as we study the wonder-filled stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem and the visit from the Magi.

Join us each Wednesday beginning November 27<sup>th</sup> through December 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM

Janeth P. Whiting Community Center  
211 Stone Street, Oneida, NY

*An outreach of the First Presbyterian Church of Oneida*

**Register:**  
[oneida1stpres@gmail.com](mailto:oneida1stpres@gmail.com)



**16 SHOEBOXES WERE SENT OUT THIS YEAR. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED, AND THANK YOU TO THE PERSON WHO PAID FOR THE SHIPPING. AND THANKS TO PAT FOR COORDINATING THIS EVERY YEAR.**



## LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

*For the month of December 2024*

Jude Alexander (Mancarella's great nephew)	Wendy Holtz
Abby Bartell	Millie Johnson
Kevin Bedford	Victor Johnson
Brody	Dan King (Pastor @ New Life Assembly of God)
Richard Brown	
Marty Canning	
Ed Cieslak (Friend of John Merritt)	Jean Kowalik
Pam Corrington	Florence LaRock
Timothy Carver (Jen Bailey's Father)	Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn's brother)
Elizabeth Coulby	Susan Mudge
Cora Cramer (Ethel Abbott's sister)	Michelle Newman
Fran Dowd (Jim Sweet's sister)	Becky Nichols
Peggy Eastman	Michael O'Bryan (Mike's Brother in law)
John Ferguson	Mike Oot
Robert Feldmann (Melinda's Father)	Audrey Opperman (Cathy's Mother-in-law)
Jillian Felt	Tom Panasci
Andy Froass	Elli Pfluke
Don Fuller (Stephanie Gwilt's Father)	Dan & Claudia Rayome
Pat Grabow (Chrissy Thompson's Mom)	Debbie Shaw
Becky Grasso	Brian Stites
Mary Gwilt (Dan's mother)	Sue
	Judy Sweet
	Millicent Vidal
	Jan Whiting

**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 CONCERNS

Steve Hicks (Kristin Tooker's brother)

Aimee Dryer

Paul Mancarella

Jayden Emerson

Laurie Whitten (Friend of John)

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.



## ELDERS

### CLASS OF 2024

Randy Bonville  
Frank Kordziel  
Lucille Merriman  
Pat Thorpe

### CLASS OF 2025

### CLASS OF 2026

Paul Mancarella  
Perry Tooker IV

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

### **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.

Israel and all victims and survivors of terrorism

All students teachers and school employees returning to classrooms this fall.

### **MISSION EMPHASIS:**

Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PC(USA)

The Synod of the Northeast

The Clergy, Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders-Serving Congregations, and our Authorized Lay leaders, Honorably Retired Members and Members at Large

PCUSA Board of Pensions

The Trustees of the Presbytery of Utica

## DEACONS

### CLASS OF 2024

Cindy Bonville  
Sue Kordziel  
Rachel Mancarella  
John Merritt  
Kathy Nichols  
Janet Sarensky  
Jennawade  
Skellham  
Sharon Warren  
Michelle Yeoman

### CLASS OF 2025

Kristin Tooker

### CLASS OF 2026

### **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:



## THIS MONTH AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Dec 1st Communion, Team Meetings

Dec 3rd, 10th, 17th

Senior Bible Study

Connection

Dec 7th Restoration Fellowship

Dec 8th Deacons Meeting

Dec 9th, 23rd-Activ8 Her Women's BS

Dec 10th Presbyterian Women

Dec 15 Xmas Pageant, Xmas Pot

Luck Dinner, Secret Room

Dec 17th Session Meeting

Dec 22nd no Commitment Choir

Dec 23rd Newsletter Deadline

Dec 24th Xmas Eve Service

Dec 25th Merry Xmas Office Closed

Dec 29th Xmas Carol Sing-a-long

Dec 31st New Year's Eve



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. 30 O. Perry & Kristin Tooker IV

**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**

## Scripture Readers for December

December 1st- Barb Schwartz

December 8th-Frank Kordziel

December 15th-Pat Thorpe

December 22nd-Paul mancarella

December 29th-Lou White

## Coffee Servers for December

December 1st-Marilyn & Don Kingsley

December 8th-Frank & Sue Kordziel

December 15th-Bill & Donna Ausman

December 22nd-Deb Whiting & John Merritt

December 29th Kathy Nichols & Cathy Opperman



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. 6th.

### **FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS 2024 TOTALS:**

*The Presbyterian Women thank those who made jellies and pickles, served, quilted, sold quilt tickets, cut out wood items, knitted, crocheted, painted, colored, baked, made candy, collected antiques and other*

*collectibles, advertised, helped in the kitchen, trimmed the church and trees, and cleaned up.*

Total proceeds: **\$7,250.30**

Raffle Winners: Quilt winners: **Carolee Niles, Barb Arnold**

Painting: **Michelle Yeoman**

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



The secret room will be returning this year and we will need your help to make it special for kids who would like to give for Xmas. The shopping day for the Secret Room will be Dec. 15th after service. Here is how you can help out.

Donate gently used items appropriate for kids to shop for family/friends

You can leave items to donate in the board room and we will make sure they get into the secret room.

Any volunteers wishing to help may contact Kristin Tooker



On Dec 15th we will be having an Inter-generational Christmas Pageant. All ages welcome to participate.

Please meet after church on December 8th in the Sanctuary for more information.

Minimal rehearsal will be necessary. We will plan to meet at 9am on Dec 15th for the last preparation.

If you have children or family members who are interested in participating, please text Kristin Tooker @ 3155751729.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
304 Broad Street  
Oneida, NY 13421

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

