



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
Church Organist—Brian Snyder 315-761-7866
Choir Director-Barbara Seaton 315-225-9452
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



Peace

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

December 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pastor Michael L. Yeoman

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

† Malachi 3:1-4

† Philippians 1:3-11

† Luke 3:1-6

PRELUDE *“Célébrons la Naissance”*

MORNING GREETINGS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT *“Prepare the Way of the Lord”* (Taizé)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES LITURGY **Cindy and Randy Bonville**

Pastor: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God’s coming salvation. “For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fuller’s soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness”

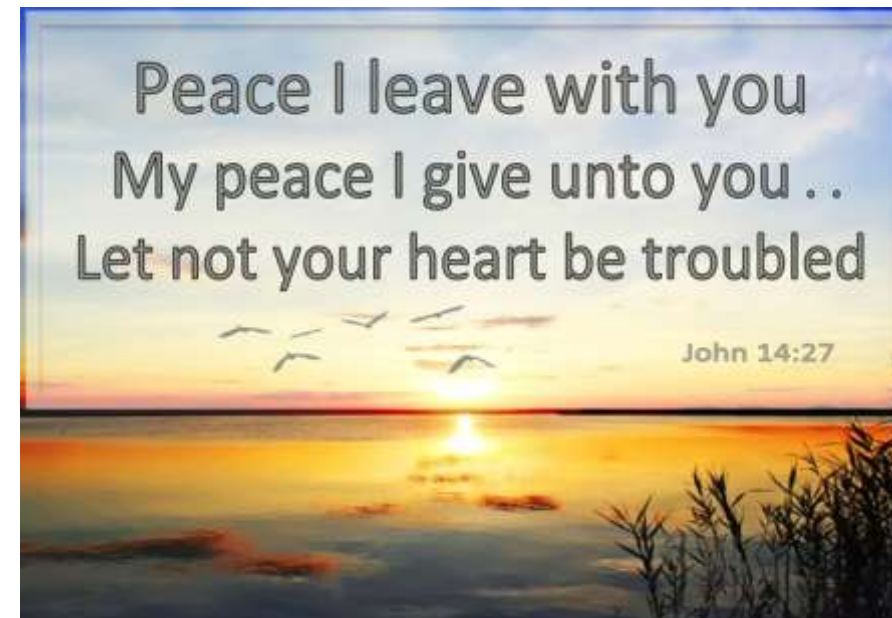
(Malachi 3:2b-3).

Congregation: *In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God’s peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God’s grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God’s love throughout the earth.*

Candle Lighters: We light the candle of hope. Today we also light the candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our church, our communities, and throughout the earth until God’s kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

ADVENT CHORUS *“Christ Be Our Light”* By **Bernadett Farrell**
arr. Joel Raney

*OPENING HYMN *“People Look East”* #12



The One Who Brings Peace

To shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1:79

Why does Zechariah's song end with the word peace? Zechariah’s song takes the reader through the story of God’s people: from Abraham, the exodus, the monarchy, the prophetic tradition, and to the hope for a new promise fulfilled first in John the Baptist and ultimately through Christ. The hope of this song reminds hearers and readers that they are part of the fulfilment of God’s promises and God’s redemptive acts of grace and mercy.

The passage ends with the word peace, leaving the reader in a place of hope that the one who made these promises long ago will guide us into peace. The God of the covenant will give light to those who have been in darkness, illuminating the path that leads toward peace. Our peace comes from the one who is faithful: our Savior, Jesus Christ.

From “These Days”, December 4th, 2024



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



Our Daily Bread for September, October, and November is now available in the Sanctuary, Narthex and Hallway outside the Boardroom.

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.



Prayer shawls

Prayer shawls are available for anyone who needs a little extra comforting and support. They are stitched by church members. They are on the stage in the auditorium.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give. Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today we would be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. Let us come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry. Come to us now, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Scripture reminds us that repentance is part of our preparation to meet Christ. Let us therefore confess our sins together, trusting in his mercy and love.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Grace, you blow the breath of life into our lungs, you have formed us in your image. And yet we acknowledge that sometimes we are not who you would have us be. You challenge us to embrace the refining fire of your love, to meet you on the threshing floor of life, to be washed as with fuller's soap. But in our heart of hearts we would rather keep those things that would be removed in such an encounter. Through your Grace, life-giving God, accept us as we are, Unrefined, unwashed, the chaff mixed in with the grain. And help us to move into a new way of being. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Listen! For this is Good News! God's Grace is wider than our wildest imaginings. God's Grace embraces us as we are and where we are and draws us out to be the people we were created to be. In his name I declare that our sins are forgiven!
ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

“Glory Be to the Father”

#579

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHILDREN’S TIME

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

“Will We Know Him?”

by Don Besig and Nancy Price

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT **Malachi 3:1-4** **OT 838**
The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

EPISTLE **Philippians 1:3-11** **NT 185**
The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL **Luke 3:1-6** **NT 56**
The Gospel of Jesus **Thanks be to God**

SERMON **“Fostering Peace”** **Pastor Mike**

***HYMN** **“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”** **#753 (purple)**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From a Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD



Ushers for December
8th
TBD



**The Per Capita for
2025 is \$46.04**



These Days for October, November, and 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.



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. ♪ ♪ ♪



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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

"Noël Noël"

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

"Watchmen Tell Us of the Night"

#20

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

"Pat-a-pan and Touro-louro-louro!"



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



Potluck Christmas Party

The Fellowship committee will be hosting a Potluck Christmas Party on December 15th 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.



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.

LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 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 | Jean Kowalik |
| Ed Cieslak (Friend of John Merritt) | Florence LaRock |
| Pam Corrington | Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn's brother) |
| Timothy Carver (Jen Bailey's Father) | Susan Mudge |
| Elizabeth Coulby | Michelle Newman |
| Cora Cramer (Ethel Abbott's sister) | Becky Nichols |
| Fran Dowd (Jim Sweet's sister) | Michael O'Bryan (Mike's Brother in law) |
| Peggy Eastman | Mike Oot |
| John Ferguson | Audrey Opperman (Cathy's Mother-in-law) |
| Robert Feldmann (Melinda's Father) | Tom Panasci |
| Jillian Felt | Elli Pfluke |
| Andy Froass | Dan & Claudia Rayome |
| Don Fuller (Stephanie Gwilt's Father) | Debbie Shaw |
| Pat Grabow (Chrissy Thompson's Mom) | Brian Stites |
| Becky Grasso | Sue |
| Mary Gwilt (Dan's mother) | Judy Sweet |
| | Millicent Vidal |
| | Jan Whiting |

SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| Steve Hicks (Kristin Tooker's brother) | |
| Aimee Dryer | Jayden Emerson |

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.

*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 27th through December 18th 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

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!

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.

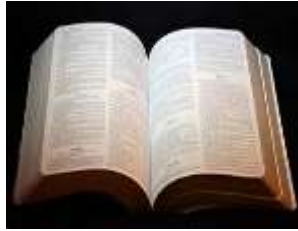


Quiet bags are available in the Sanctuary under the information table. If you take one please return the clip board in the bag when you leave the church.

Thank you!



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.



Collection Assistants for December

December 8th-Frank Kordziel

December 15th-Paul Mancarella

December 22nd-Lucille Merriman

December 29th-Perry Tooker IV

Scripture Readers for December

December 8th-Frank Kordziel

December 15th-Pat Thorpe

December 22nd-Paul Mancarella

December 29th-Lou White

Coffee Servers for December

December 8th-Frank & Sue Kordziel

December 15th-Bill & Donna Ausman

December 22nd-Deb Whiting & John Merritt

December 29th-Kathy Nichols & Cathy Opperman

Projection Team for December

December 8th-Tish Vrooman

December 15th-Dan Gwilt

December 22nd-Trish Vrooman

December 29th-Dan Gwilt



LIFE at ONEIDA

Week of Dec 8th-Dec 15th

Sunday, December 8th
10 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Deacons Meeting

Monday, December 9th
6:30 p.m. Activ8Her Bs (JWCC)

Tuesday, December 10th
10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women

Wednesday, December 11th
3:00 p.m. The Connection
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts

Thursday, December 12th
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, December 13th

Saturday, December 14th

Sunday, December 15th
10 a.m. Worship
Christmas Pageant
11:15 a.m. Xmas Pot Luck Dinner
Secret Room





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.

To my church family:

Thank you for celebrating my birthday,- - the choir, the big sign, the cake, the card with all the signatures, and even the front page of the news letter,- - it was all so special! I really appreciate all your planning, hard work, love and hugs.

Bless each one of you.

Dorothy



FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:

ELDERS

CLASS OF 2024

Randy Bonville
Frank Kordziel
Lucille Merriman
Pat Thorpe

CLASS OF 2025

CLASS OF 2026

Paul Mancarella
Perry Tooker IV

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

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.

Israel and all victims of terrorism

All victims of recent Hurricanes.

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 McMahan, Andrew Fargo, Jim Jennings, Michelle Ludwig, Peter Thompson, Dylan McClelland, Sean Fuller Jr.

Those serving in combat zones:



MISSION EMPHASIS:

The Synod of the Northeast



Upcoming Blood Drives For December

Tuesday, December 10th: Sherill Community Activity Center
Sherrill, NY.
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 12th: Charles Miller American Legion
Canastota, NY.
12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

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

All Annual Reports are due in the Church Office by Tuesday, December 31st. 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.

If you know of anyone who needs to be added to the **Deacon's military service list** please let Jennawade know, or call into the office so that we can keep our list updated. The Deacons routinely send out cards and packages to our military friends.



On Dec 15th we will be having an Intergenerational 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.

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.