

Presbyterian News



EDITION

April 2021



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

e-mail: oneidafirstpres@oneidafirstpres.org

Website:
oneidafirstpres.org

CHURCH STAFF

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



First Presbyterian Church of Oneida Guidelines for Church Services

Entry – All Entries can now be used to access the church.

Masks – Masks must be worn into and out of the church. While sitting in the pew for service the mask is optional.

Singing - Masks are required when singing.

Distancing – Worshipers are to be six feet apart. There will be a bulletin on the pew where you can sit. The pew in front of and behind you should be empty. Families may sit together, however the worshipers to the left and right of the family need to be six feet apart. When entering and exiting please try to stay six feet apart.

Collection plates – Collection plates will be at all entry and exit points.

Hand Sanitizer – There will be hand sanitizer at all entry and exit points. There are also individual bottles in the pews.

Communion – The first Sunday of every month. Communion elements will be provided at the entrances to the sanctuary.

Drinking Fountain – The drinking fountain will be covered and unavailable until further notice.

Coffee Servers – Coffee hour is suspended until further notice. Please keep your cards handy in case restrictions are lifted later in the year.

Nursery – Nursery services are available. Parents must accompany their children while they are in the nursery.

Live Streaming – You can still watch the service on FB live. The IT committee is currently working on a way to broadcast services for live streaming. We will update the progress of that in the future.

The staff of First Presbyterian Church of Oneida welcome you back to worship. We will do all that we can to make your worship as stress free as possible. If you have any questions concerning these guidelines feel free to email the office oneidafirstpres@oneidafirstpres.org, or call 315-363-



Our union with Jesus and His love transcends words. Our words are insufficient. Jesus used words and action in everyday life, of course, but in times of prayer He withdrew into solitude. Jesus is the Word. God doesn't disapprove of our busy and active lives. He never says in Scripture to stop what we're doing and forget all about work. In fact, the Word of God tells us just the opposite:

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

— 2 Thessalonians 3:10

It's our anxiety He addressed:

Let not your heart be troubled... Peace I give you, not as the world gives. — John 14:1, John 14:27, paraphrased

In the familiar account of Jesus and His disciples having dinner at the home of His friend Lazarus and Lazarus's two sisters, Mary and Martha, a conflict arose. Mary forgot all about dinner and sat mesmerized by what Jesus was talking about. She sat enraptured, listening to His every word while Martha anxiously labored preparing food. Finally she burst into the room where Jesus was teaching and spouted out what amounted to, "Jesus, tell my sister to come help me. Here I am stuck with all the work while she does nothing."

Jesus, in His sweet way, responded with, "Martha, Martha, you're worried and upset about many things." He told her that Mary had made a good decision when she chose to be still and sit at His feet to learn about God. He told Martha that few things in this life are actually necessary, but there was really only one thing that mattered and what Mary learned could never be taken away from her.

The practical side of me can't help wonder if they ate at all that night. Did Martha take off her apron and sit down to listen too? Did her brother Lazarus get up and stir the soup?

Did the bread burn in the oven? Maybe Jesus Himself set the table. Maybe they stayed up all night nibbling on burnt bread and cold soup while Jesus taught.

The words that remain with us like fire are His words to Martha: "Martha, Martha . . ."

It was not her busy activity Jesus addressed, but her anxiety. She was nervous and upset, and Jesus discerned that she was anxious about more than just the dinner.

"Many things," He said.

The early believers learned that sitting in silence and stillness was "the better part" that brought them inner peace and a deeper awareness of the mystery of God. Mary may have been familiar with Psalm 46,

Be still, and know that I am God.

Martha wanted to make sure they had a nice meal. After all, more than likely this was a special event.

Martha anxiously worked to get a meal together to feed the Lord.

Mary was sitting silently, being fed by the Lord. Jesus said that what she gained by sitting silently and listening calmly could not be taken away from her.

If we can sit still in the Lord's presence like Mary did, then something that can never be taken away from us happens to us too.

Stress is stolen property. Stress doesn't belong to you.

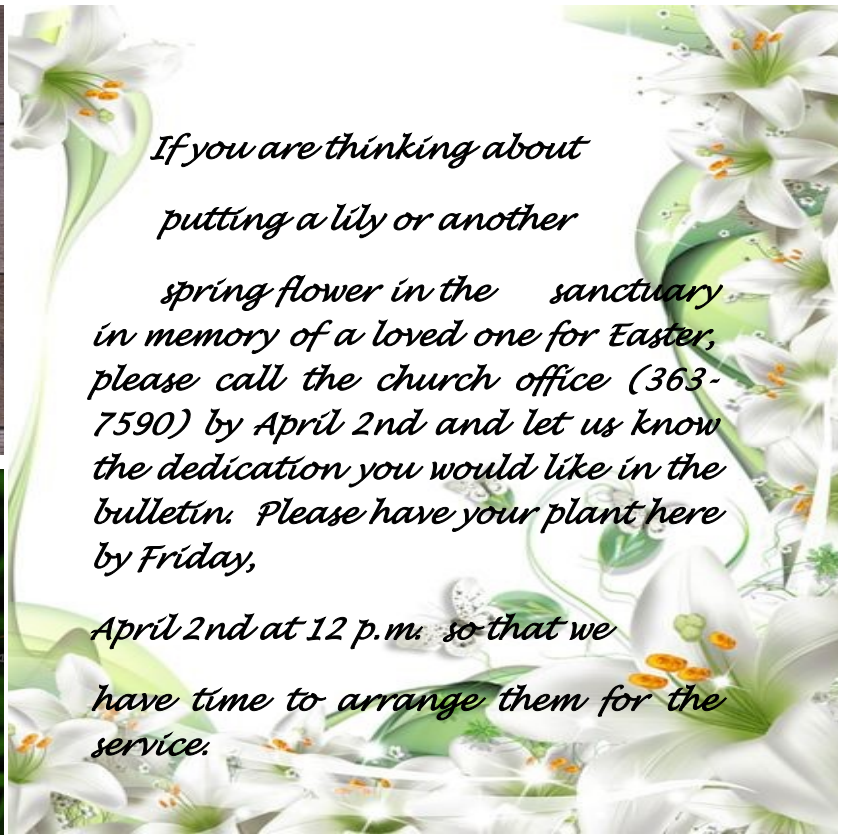
If stress were a gift from God, it would bring you joy.

Does stress bring you joy?

Everywhere we turn, people harp about the stress in their lives. Stress crushes what's lovely in us. We lose who we are and why we're on earth for such a time as this. Try increasing your daily sessions of Quiet Prayer to give the Lord Jesus the freedom to touch you deeply. He will show by His Spirit the one thing that's necessary, the thing that can never be taken from you.

ANNUAL LOVE TREE CELEBRATING THE EASTER SEASON

This year the Mission and Outreach Committee will be supporting Karing Kitchen as there is a very large need for Easter food baskets in the community. Your donation will help support those in need, and families who reach out for support. You can make a cash donation in a pew envelope marked "Love Tree" or you can make a check out to the Deacons that will be passed on to Karing Kitchen with the express help of filling the Easter Baskets. Any questions, please call the church office at 315-363-7590.



If you are thinking about putting a lily or another spring flower in the sanctuary in memory of a loved one for Easter, please call the church office (363-7590) by April 2nd and let us know the dedication you would like in the bulletin. Please have your plant here by Friday,

April 2nd at 12 p.m. so that we have time to arrange them for the service.



PRAYER MISSION APRIL

Karing Kitchen



Volunteers from numerous Churches, Youth Groups, and other Civic Organizations help serve lunch, from 11:30am - 1pm, with a coffee hour at 10:30 am at this locally based soup kitchen. Every day of the last full working week of each month a hot lunch is served to members of the community at no cost. Take outs are available as well.

Karing Kitchen, however, is not just a lunch. At Karing Kitchen we offer an environment where anyone can come as they are and feel comfortable, have someone to talk to, a shoulder to cry on, and someone who cares for them. Karing Kitchen is about "providing a nutritious hot meal, ensuring food security and advocating for a person's rights and responsibilities."

HELP FOR THE COLVINS:

AS MANY OF YOU HAVE RECENTLY HEARD, SCOTT COLVIN IS FACING A VERY TOUGH MEDICAL FIGHT. HE WILL HAVE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO ROCHESTER TO CONTINUE THIS FIGHT. SESSION HAS APPROVED FOR THERE TO BE A COLLECTION TAKEN UP BY THE CONGREGATION TO HELP THE COLVINS WITH THE EXPENSES NEEDED TO BE WITH SCOTT IN ROCHESTER AS THEY CONFRONT THIS TOGETHER AS A FAMILY.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE MONEY TO HELP THE COLVINS, YOU CAN DO SO BY MARKING ANY PEW ENVELOPE "COLVIN FAMILY RELIEF". YOU CAN ALSO MAIL DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE, 304 BROAD STREET, ONEIDA NY, 13421

THE COLVINS ARE VERY THANKFUL OF ALL THE HELP THAT THE CONGREGATION CAN GIVE AT THIS TIME



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

For the month of April 2021

Bill Ausman	Jean Kowalik
Alan Baur	Florence LaRock
Bryce Bechtel (friend of Zach Thompson)	Sydney Lusher
Steve Blair (friend of Ginny Pendleton)	Maribeth Matthews
Jeffrey Bortle (Sandy Glynn's son)	Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn's brother)
Anthony Bonacci	Marian Meyers
Eleanor Breckenridge (Sue Borchardt's mom)	Larry Moorehouse (Bill Butler)
Bob Butler	Tom Panasci
Marty Canning	Mary Patricia
Richard and Pam Carrigan	Doug Rosekrans
Scott Colvin	Sally Smith
Glade Cook Jr. (nephew of Warrens)	Rich Snyder (Jennifer Colvin's neighbor)
Jonathon Eastman	Eugene Sweet (Jim's brother)
John Ferguson	Harold Thompson
Jillian Felt	Betty Thorpe (Jim's aunt)
Linda Gaut	Grace Warren
Becky Grasso	Christopher Wuest
Sherry Harrison	Bill Young
Jamie Hubbard	Jerry Karen
Wendy Holtz	Michelle Angelia
Millie Johnson	Heather
Horace Keller	Patrick Vicky

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 or Jan Whiting, Prayer Chain, 363-4392.

SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERN

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 or Jan Whiting, Prayer Chain, 363-4392. Please let us know also when they are healed and can be taken off the prayer list.



ELDERS

CLASS OF 2021

Becky Williams
Randy Bonville
Doug Lippert
Carol Wells
Lucille Merriman
Mike Merriman
Pat Thorpe

CLASS OF 2022

Blakelynn Fox
Eli Pfluke

SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS:

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:

Dolores Young, Russ Eastman, Donna Lighthall, Don Meyers

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

All first responders and health care providers who are on the front line during this global pandemic.

The Pastor Nominating Committee: Jenn Colvin,
Kim DeRuby, Paul Mancarella, Lucille Merriman,
Jan Whiting and Andy Williams

MISSION EMPHASIS:

First Presbyterian Church, Holland Patent
Seminary Students
Micah Committee, of the Presbytery of Utica

CLASS OF 2023

Paul Mancarella
Nancy Rinehard
Jan Whiting

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2021

John Merritt
Jennawade
Skellham
Cindy Bonville
Chrissy Thompson

CLASS OF 2022

Rose Lockwood
Doug Lockwood
Kathy Nichols

CLASS OF 2023

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS: Pray for those who are stationed in non-combat zones: Sebastian Powers, Stephen Cafalone, Kiernan Masner, Jack Sharkey, Mark Sia, Zane Mechalke, Peter Thompson, Howard Bantle, Nicholas Young, Philip Messina, Ryan Geer, John Goodwill, Jeff Carpenter, Errol Crossman, Corey Reed, Michael McMahon, Andrew Fargo, Jim Jennings, Nate Borchardt, Michelle Ludwig, Colin Whitcombe

Those currently serving in a combat zone:





Birthdays

Apr. 2 Aimee Dryer
Apr. 4 Linda Shay
Apr. 6 Sheri Moyer
Apr. 8 Matthew Bruno
Apr. 11 Paul Thompson
Apr. 13 Steven Fountain
Apr. 14 Mitch Erion
Apr. 15 Lucille Merriman, Ginny Pendleton
Apr. 18 Patrick Fountain, Horace Keller
Apr. 21 Phyllis Little, Rob Archer
Apr. 22 Andy Froass, Paige Pendleton, Rhys Williams, Robert Paul, Ryan Paul
Apr. 30 Peter Shay

Anniversaries

Apr. 7 Roger and Sharon Warren
Apr. 11 Bill and Lori Butler

Second Hand Rose

Our Second Hand Rose Consignment Shop will be opening Wednesday April 14th. Our hours will be Wed -Sat 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. We will be taking Spring - Summer women's clothing, housewares, decorative items, and shoes in pristine condition. Social distancing and masks are mandatory.

Second Hand Rose has proven to be a needed mission and well accepted by our community. The ladies of our church are very blessed to have the manse as their shop and we are thankful for the Property and Maintenance Committee for helping us to maintain it so well. Our FPC items are available to those in need from emergency situations such as floods, fire, and other natural disasters. We have set an example of our church family working together to help those not as fortunate as ourselves.

However, we need volunteers to continue this valuable work. Volunteering to work at SHR is a part time gig, and you can fit your volunteer hours into your schedule as you see fit. Are you ready to answer God's call? Please call Nancy Rinehard (315-368-7939) if you wish to volunteer.



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 10 a.m. Worship on Facebook Live	6 7 p.m. Committee Meeting only if chairs feel it is needed	7	8	9 <u>Maundy Thursday</u>	10 <u>Good Friday</u>	11
12 <u>Easter</u> 10 a.m. Worship on Facebook Live	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 10 a.m. Worship on Facebook Live	20	21 7 p.m. Deacon Meeting	22	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24	25
26 10 a.m. Worship on Facebook Live	27 7 p.m. Session Meeting	28	29	30		

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
304 Broad Street
Oneida, NY 13421

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY
NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 23rd**

