

Presbyterian News



EDITION

August 2021



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

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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 will be open for your convenience.

Masks – Masks are to be worn if you have not been fully vaccinated.

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 – Communion will resume in September.

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

Coffee Servers – Coffee hour will resume on July 11th.

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.

HEPA filters - There are 4 filters located in the Sanctuary that filter and exchange the air every minute.

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 315-363-7590.



When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty [El Shaddai] . . . I have made you a father of many nations I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.”

— Genesis 17:1, Genesis 17:5-6

And may God Almighty [El Shaddai] grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you.

— Genesis 43:14

Because of your father’s God [the el], who helps you, because of the Almighty [Shaddai], who blesses you with blessings of the heavens above, blessings of the deep that lies below, blessings of the breast and womb.

— Genesis 49:25

*But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.” **Can a mother** forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne?*

Though she may forget, I will never forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands.

— Isaiah 49:14-16

*But I have stilled and quieted my soul; **like a weaned child with its mother**, like a weaned child is my soul within me O Israel, put your hope in the Lord.*

— Psalm 131:2-3

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, **as a hen gathers her chicks** under her wings, but you were not willing.*

— Matthew 23:37

In somewhat the same way as God is bigger than any and all of the names we can name Him, He is also bigger than the images our minds conjure of a single gender. Scripture, in showing us facets of who God is, sometimes portrays God in terms we associate with the feminine gender.

The Hebrew name *El Shaddai* comes as close to capturing this aspect of God as does any of His names. The traditional translations of Scripture have consistently rendered this name “Almighty.” But to appreciate its full flavor, it will be helpful to examine its Hebrew roots.¹

El is a shortened form of *Elohim*. It sets forth the might, the strength, and the excellence of God. Shad is the Hebrew word for “breast.” Shaddai pictures God’s fullness or bounty, His tenderness, His generosity, His desire to nurture us and make us fruitful. In one name, God’s attributes of might and tenderness are brought together!

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, El Shaddai appeared to him and said, “I have made you a father” (Genesis 17:5). Speaking in strictly human terms, it takes a woman to go to a man and say, “I’m going to make you a father!” Sometimes this announcement comes as a shock.

Often the shocking aspect of this news is mingled with a great deal of joy and thanksgiving, along with some apprehension. Certainly all of these emotions were present as El Shaddai’s announcement was received.

You will be very fruitful — nations and kings will come from you. — Genesis 17:6, paraphrase

It was Elohim Shaddai who gave birth to the nation of Israel. The prophet Isaiah described the birthing process thus:

Like a woman in childbirth I cry out, I gasp and pant.

— Isaiah 42:14

Jacob is full of anxiety as he is about to send his beloved son Benjamin off to Egypt in response to the whimsical demand of the ruler who dispensed food.

May [El Shaddai] grant you mercy before the man," he cries. — Genesis 43:14

Later, as Jacob is pronouncing God's blessing on his son Joseph, he says,

Because of the El and the Shaddai, may you have blessings of the breast and the womb. — Genesis 49:25, paraphrase

Isaiah, in describing the love of God, says it is greater than that of a nursing mother. A unique bonding occurs as the mother holds her child close to her breast. She is the source of all the infant needs for nourishment as she holds the child close to the warmth of her body, within the sound of her heartbeat and secure in the safety of her arms.

A further dimension to this picture is added by the psalmist in Psalm 131. The psalmist feels like a weaned child.

"Why am I being deprived of what, from my point of view, seems so good and so right?" he may have been asking himself. "This is what I need, God. Why can't I have it?" Have you ever asked God these sorts of questions?

God, who, like a mother, knows that the growing child must move beyond breast milk, still holds the child close enough to hear the divine heartbeat, allowing the child the warmth and security of being held tightly in divine arms.

Children's questions may still be unanswered. But their souls are stilled and quieted "like a weaned child with its mother" (Psalm 131:2), because they know, without any doubt, who is holding them!

El Shaddai, almighty, tender God, hold us close to Your heart today.

This ancient name shows God simultaneously mighty and tender. Imagine God's firm, loving hand on your back right now, leading you with intention and ultimate goodwill. Lean into God's strength and kindness. How does that make you feel?

COFFEE/FELLOWSHIP HOUR HAS RETURNED!!!!!!!!!!

Don't forget to go to the auditorium after today's service for some refreshments and fellowship. There will be cookies, tea, water and lemonade.



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

For the month of May 2021

Bob Arnold	Jean Kowalik
Bill Ausman	Florence LaRock
Bryce Bechtel (friend of Zach Thompson)	Maribeth Matthews
Jeffrey Bortle (Sandy Glynn's son)	Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn's brother)
Anthony Bonacci	Marian Meyers
Eleanor Breckenridge (Sue Borchardt's mom)	Leif Nicolaisen
Bob Butler	Tom Panasci
Marty Canning	Mary Patricia
Pam Carrigan	Doug Rosekrans
Scott Colvin	Rich Snyder (Jennifer Colvin's neighbor)
Glade Cook Jr. (nephew of Warrens)	Eugene Sweet (Jim's brother)
Jonathon Eastman	Judy Sweet
John Ferguson	Harold Thompson
Jillian Felt	Betty Thorpe (Jim's aunt)
Becky Grasso	Grace Warren
Sherry Harrison	Jan Whiting
Jamie Hubbard	Christopher Wuest
Wendy Holtz	Bill Young
Millie Johnson	Jerry Karen
Horace Keller	Michelle Angelia
	Heather
	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.

SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERN

Susan Johnson (Nancy Jame's niece)	Bob Phoenix (Friend of Nancy James)
Holly Griffith (Friend of Nancy James)	Mike Merriman
Frank Kordziel	

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 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:
Stanley Bell

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:

College Chaplain Ministry: Hamilton College, Rev. Jeffery McArn

Westminster-Moriah-Olivet Presbyterian Church, Utica

Church of Christ Uniting, Richfield Springs

Personnel Workgroup of the Presbytery of Utica

The Synod of the Northeast

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: Stephen Cafalone, Jack Sharkey, Mark Sia, Zane Mechalke, Peter Thompson, Howard Bantle, Nicholas Young, Philip Messina, Ryan Geer, John Goodwill, Errol Crossman, Corey Reed, Michael McMahon, Andrew Fargo, Jim Jennings, Nate Borchardt, Michelle Ludwig, Colin Whitcombe

Those currently serving in a combat zone:





PRAYER MISSION AUGUST - HOSPICE

The goal is to provide comfort care for persons facing the end of life.

The medical and staff members seek to bring symptoms of the illness under control. The care is most frequently administered in the patient's home but with the addition of the Siegenthaler Center, this hospice now has four units for more intensive care in a setting which is modern, bright, and attractive. There is a kitchen for residents to meet with their families and make or warm up a dinner prepared elsewhere. There are also lounge and recreational areas and various nursing care facilities.

In-home clients receive a visit from a nurse every two weeks with more frequent attention as necessary or requested. Other services are provided as requested, e.g. counseling for patient or family, and a visit from the chaplain. The patient is "captain of the ship" which means they receive the kind of care they desire as opposed to being in a less personal and medically driven environment.





2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 a.m. Worship	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10 a.m. Worship	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 10 a.m. Worship	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 10 a.m. Worship	23	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25	26	27	28
29 10 a.m. Worship	30	31				

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
304 Broad Street
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER
NEWSLETTER IS AUGUST 24th**

