

Presbyterian News



EDITION

December 2020



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

e-mail: oneidafirstpres@oneidafirstpres.org

Website:
oneidafirstpres.org

CHURCH STAFF

Temporary Supply Pastor
Kevin Smith

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.

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 315-363-7590.



Christmas Eve Services:

There will be two services this year in hopes of accommodating the expected turn out for the Christmas Eve service this year. Each service will be the same, and will be a candlelight service just like years past.

We are asking those that wish to attend on Christmas Eve to please call the office (315 -363-7590) or email oneidafirstpres@oneidafirstpres.org and make a reservation for either the 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m service. We can seat 73 people per service by following Covid 19 social distancing guide lines. The staff at First Presbyterian is committed to making your Christmas Eve worship as safe as possible.

FROM THE DEACONS:

Due to the current pandemic conditions the Deacons have decided to do a silent fundraiser this year to help replenish the Scholarship Fund. So beginning this Sunday, November 22nd, and running until January 31st, the Deacons are asking the congregation to donate whatever they can to this important fund. We are currently \$215 short of our goal for this year. Many congregation members have had help with their education expenses from this fund over the years. Thank You for your continued support of our fellow church members for helping to continue their education.



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. Thank you.



We would appreciate the loan of your poinsettias again. If you plan to have a memorial poinsettia in church for the Christmas Eve services, please let the church office know the dedication you would like in the bulletin by Friday, December 18th. Please have your plant here by the morning of Tuesday, December 22nd so that we have time to arrange them for the services. Thank you.



Christmas 2020 will be very different. Right now I am wrapping and preparing to ship gifts to my grandchildren. I'm sending each family the Hallmark paper chain in book form. You tear off a chain each day and do a good deed (help a neighbor, send a note to a friend, bring cookies) whatever is suggested on the chain. There will be 25 links in the chain when it is complete.

2020 begs us to draw closer to God. There will be an Advent & Christmas devotion from Presbyterian Today magazine for us to use. By reading the Bible each day, we will be drawing closer to our Lord and emphasizing what is most important today and every day in our lives. If you want, you might draw a chain on your wall calendar each day to remind you of the *real reason* we celebrate this season. God came down to earth as a little baby to save us from our sins. Halleluiah. Merry Christmas.

Don't forget to do the 12 of Christmas to Epiphany January 5, 2021, Pat Thorpe.



To All Committee Chairpersons

Treasurers and to

Whomever Else It Applies

All Annual Reports are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, December 22nd. 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



Some people have asked to receive 12 (1 /month) offering envelopes be mailed instead of the complete box. Toward the end of December, I will be mailing them to people that aren't able to attend worship service on a regular basis. If you would like to receive monthly envelopes, please call me and leave a message. (315-363-8948)

Per capita for 2021 will be \$41.14. Thank you. Pat



**17 SHOEBOXES WERE SENT
OUT THIS YEAR. THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED.**





LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

For the month of April 2020

Alan Baur	Jean Kowalik
Bryce Bechtel (friend of Zach Thompson)	Florence LaRock
Jeffrey Bortle (Sandy Glynn's son)	Sydney Lusher
Eleanor Breckenridge (Sue Borchardt's mom)	Maribeth Matthews
Bob Butler	Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn's brother)
Marty Canning	Dave Meeker Sr.
Richard and Pam Carrigan	Marian Meyers
Glade Cook Jr. (nephew of Warrens)	Larry Moorehouse (Bill Butler)
Nancy DeMassa	Tom Panasci
John Ferguson	Doug Rosekrans
Jillian Felt	Tammy Shephard
Malisa Fuller	Rich Snyder (Jennifer Colvin's neighbor)
Linda Gaut	Harold Thompson
TJ Gaut	Betty Thorpe (Jim's aunt)
Becky Grasso	Grace Warren
Sherry Harrison	Christopher Wuest
Jamie Hubbard	Bill and Dolores Young
Wendy Holtz	Jerry Karen
Millie Johnson	Michelle Angelia
Horace Keller	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 or Jan Whiting, Prayer Chain, 363-4392.

SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

Melinda Phoenix-Heart

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 2020

Frank Kordziel
Doug Lippert
Carol Miller
Dave Schellhase
Becky Williams
Randy Bonville
Carol Wells

CLASS OF 2021

Lucille Merriman
Pat Thorpe

CLASS OF 2022

Blakelynn Fox

SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS:

Melinda Phoenix-Heart

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

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

All people returning to work as we reopen our economy.

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2020

John Merritt
Deborah Owens
Jan Whiting

CLASS OF 2021

Jennawade Skellham

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

MISSION EMPHASIS:

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

CLASS OF 2022

Mike Bartell
Rose Lockwood
Doug Lockwood
Elli Pfluke
Kathy Nichols

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:





The CE Committee has recommended to session that in honor of Don Miller's memory, we support Toys for Tots this Christmas Season. We are awaiting more information from the Marines on how to proceed but that will be our focus this year. Toys for Tots was a program that Don was very passionate about and we want to honor his 77 years of membership in this church by doing all we can to promote this worthwhile program for children!

Birthdays

<i>Dec. 3</i>	<i>Tillie Coulter</i>
<i>Dec. 4</i>	<i>Bob Butler, Neal Schneider</i>
<i>Dec. 5</i>	<i>Dorothy Hotaling</i>
<i>Dec. 7</i>	<i>Julie Sarensky, Kim DeRuby</i>
<i>Dec. 9</i>	<i>Carol Musgrove</i>
<i>Dec. 10</i>	<i>Beth Colway</i>
<i>Dec. 15</i>	<i>Ashley Reisman</i>
<i>Dec. 16</i>	<i>Joshua Bonville, Zachary Thompson</i>
<i>Dec. 17</i>	<i>Jacob DeRuby, Rachel DeRuby</i>
<i>Dec. 19</i>	<i>Brad Coulter</i>
<i>Dec. 21</i>	<i>Debbie Whiting</i>
<i>Dec. 23</i>	<i>Mary Ann Moshier</i>
<i>Dec. 24</i>	<i>Sarah Wimett, Jenny Wattles</i>
<i>Dec. 26</i>	<i>Paul Mancarella, Taylor Schneider</i>
<i>Dec. 28</i>	<i>Peter Thompson</i>
<i>Dec. 29</i>	<i>Reagan McKenzie Fox, Eliza Colvin, Alexandria Brookins</i>
<i>Dec. 31</i>	<i>Jenelle Yeoman, Isaac Colvin, Daniel Dryer, Emeri Dryer</i>

Anniversaries

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



DECEMBER—2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	5
6 10 a.m. Worship Communion	7 7 p.m. Committee Meetings	8	9	10	11 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	12
13 10 a.m. Worship	14 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting	15 11:30 - Presbyterian Women's Luncheon - Ebenezer 7 p.m. Deacons Meeting at Jan Whiting's	16	17	18 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study Noon - Ladies Bible Study luncheon at Jan Whiting's	19
20 10 a.m. Worship Secret room	21 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	22 DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 5 p.m. Cridtmas Eve 7 p.m. Cridtmas Eve Services	25 Merry Xmas OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 10 a.m. Worship	28	29	30	31		

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
304 Broad Street
Oneida, NY 13421

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY
NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 22ND**

