

# Presbyterian News



EDITION

December 2021



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## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor  
Mike Yeoman

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



## December 5th

Communion

## December 12th

Congregational Meeting  
Deacon's Meeting

## December 14th

Presbyterian Women's Luncheon @ Ebenezers

## December 20th

Session Meeting

## December 24th

Christmas Eve Service

## December 25th

Merry Christmas





## *From the new Pastor*



To our wonderful church family:

It is such a special time of the year for all of us at Oneida First. We have just completed another successful Festival of Christmas. My thanks go out to everyone who had a hand in this in any way. These things just don't come together the week before the festival. It is a year-round labor of love that many individuals take part in. It is that teamwork and dedication that brings us together to begin our Season of Advent.

It is my hope that we can begin our first Season of Advent together with a desire and patience to wait for the birth of baby Jesus with hopeful seeking. It is time to move from our isolations of Covid and to truly find hope where there might only have been sorrow. It is time to experience light emerging through the shadows of all of this

The message of Christmas is for everyone - despite the challenges we have all faced. Even when things seem dark, Jesus appears to us in the form of a tiny baby and says, peace be with you!

We can positively come out of the Advent Season and head into Christmas by preparing our hearts to be more like Christ with truth, love, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience towards everyone. We can come out of the darkness of our world and see God's holy light shining through - a light that we can all share together as one on Christmas Eve.

If it has been awhile since you have been back to Oneida First, consider joining us as we journey through Advent and celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve with joyful music and readings that will bring you peace.

Michelle and I extend our warmest wishes for a happy Advent and Christmas Season and hope to you soon.

*Pastor Mike*

**18 SHOEBOXES WHERE  
SENT OUT THIS YEAR.  
THANK YOU TO EVERY-  
ONE WHO CONTRIBUTED.**



**Offering Envelopes will be located in  
the Sanctuary near the Christmas Tree.  
You can pick them up at any time.**

## Session Notes

A Congregational meeting to approve selection of officers will be held on December 12th, installation and ordination of officers on January 16th and the congregational meeting January 23, 2022.

Elders for Class of 2022 are Donna Ausman, Kim DeRuby, Carol Miller and Becky Williams. For Class of 2023 are Paul Mancarella, Nancy Rinehard, Dave Shellhase and Jan Whiting. For Class of 2024 Randy Bonville, Frank Kordziel, Lucille Merriman and Mike Merriman.

Deacons for Class of 2022 are Sue Kordziel, Doug Lockwood, Rose Lockwood, Kathy Nichols and Chrissy Thompson. For Class of 2024 John Merritt, Jenna Wade Skellham

*The Oneida Area Civic Choral will present "Rejoice", a collection of music celebrating the Christmas Season, on Sunday, December 5th, 2021 at 4:00 PM at St. Agatha's Church in Canastota. The Choral, an 80 voice community chorus under the direction of Mark Buncz, will be accompanied by Heather O'Connell on piano and organ, and joined by a brass quartet. Tickets for the concert are \$10 and are available from choral members. Attendees ages 12 and over will be required to present proof of Covid 19 vaccination or recent negative covid 19 test. Please refer to the OACC website ([www.Oneidachoral.org](http://www.Oneidachoral.org)) or Facebook page for additional information. Choral members from our congregation are:*



**christmas  
music**

*Becky Ewen, Kathy and Brian Gay, Joyce Messinger, and O. Perry Tooker III*

*The Presbyterian Women thank those who made jellies and pickles, served, quilted, sold quilt tickets, 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.*

*Festival total: \$7118.50*

*Haiti Mission: \$500.00*

*Winners: Quilt: Carol Musgrove*

*Painting: Pat Thorpe*

*Santa: Mary Ann Bates*

*Basket: Carol Pestell*



## LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

*For the month of December 2021*

Barb Arnold  
Bill Ausman  
Bryce Bechtel (friend of Zach Thompson)  
Steve Blair (friend of Ginny Pendleton)  
Anthony Bonacci  
Eleanor Breckenridge (Sue Borchardt's mom)  
Bob Butler  
Pam Carrigan  
Scott Colvin  
Glade Cook Jr. (nephew of Warrens)  
Maria Erdo  
John Ferguson  
Jillian Felt  
Pat Grabow (Chrissy Thompson's Mom)  
Becky Grasso  
Sherry Harrison  
Joyce Helms  
Jamie Hubbard  
Wendy Holtz  
Susan Johnson (Nancy James' niece)  
Millie Johnson  
Horace Keller  
Jean Kowalik  
Ester Ladd (Friend of the Church)  
Maribeth Matthews  
Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn's brother)  
Joe Ostrander (Friend of Kristin Tooker)

Tom Panasci  
Mary Patricia  
Dan & Claudia Rayome  
David Rice  
Doug Rosekrans  
Rich Snyder (Jennifer Colvin's neighbor)  
Eugene Sweet (Jim's brother)  
Judy Sweet  
Harold Thompson  
Matthew Thornton (Sue Borchardt's Nephew)  
Betty Thorpe (Jim's aunt)  
Jim Thorpe  
Grace Warren  
Jan Whiting  
Bill VanValkenberg (Friend of the Church)  
Christopher Wuest  
Jerry Karen  
Michelle Angelia  
Anthony  
Heather  
Patrick Vicky  
Anthony (Jerry Fuller's granddaughter's)

**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

Sarah Wimett

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

### CLASS OF 2023

Paul Mancarella  
Nancy Rinehard  
Jan Whiting

## **SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Sarah Wimett

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

Jonathon Eastman  
Janice Lisbon (Friend of the Sweets)  
Janet Turbee (Friend of Pat Thorpe)  
Marjorie Fuller (Stephanie's Grandmother)

## **SPECIAL CONCERNS:**

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

## **MISSION EMPHASIS:**

First Presbyterian Church, Westernville  
The Clergy, Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders -  
Serving Congregations, and our Authorized Lay Pastors,  
Honorably retired Members, Specialized Ministries, and  
Members at Large  
First Presbyterian Church, Whitesboro  
The Trustees of the Presbytery of Utica

## 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, 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:



The Presbyterian Women's Christmas Luncheon will be held Tuesday, December 14th @ Noon. Where? Ebenezer's in Sherrill. This event is open to all women of the church. \$20 per person. Chicken and Biscuits will be served. Please RSVP to Carol Miller or Donna Ausman by December 7th. Please make out all checks to the Presbyterian Women.



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 Wednesday, December 22. Please have your plant here by the morning of Friday, December 24 so that we have time to arrange them for the services. Thank



## *Potluck Desert Christmas Party*

*The Fellowship committee will be hosting a Potluck Desert Christmas Party on December 19th after the church service. The Fellowship Committee will be providing Tea Sandwiches and drinks. What we are asking you to provide are your favorite Christmas deserts and goodies. There will be a sign-up sheet in the auditorium for the next three 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.*



Veterans Last Patrol is connects veteran volunteers to veterans in hospice. This year Operation Holiday Salute is aiming for a lofty goal, their goal is 50,000 holiday cards. You can help by sending cards addressed to "Dear Veteran" or "Dear Hero" to Veteran's Last Patrol, 1408 Venture Blvd., Spartanburg, SC 29306. The deadline is Dec 3, 2021.

More information, see their website at [VeteranLastPatrol. Org](http://VeteranLastPatrol.Org) or call 864-580-8005

## *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 &amp; Kristin Tooker IV</i>



*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.*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

