

Presbyterian News



EDITION

February 2021



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

FEBRUARY



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 315-363-7590.



Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

— Luke 12:7

Never take for granted My intimate nearness. Marvel at the wonder of My continual Presence with you. Even the most ardent human lover cannot be with you always. Nor can another person know the intimacies of your heart, mind, and spirit. I know everything about you — even the number of hairs on your head. You don't need to work at revealing yourself to Me.

Many people spend a lifetime or a small fortune searching for someone who understands them. Yet I am freely available to all who call upon My Name, who open their hearts to receive Me as Savior. This simple act of faith is the beginning of a lifelong love story.

I, the Lover of your soul, understand you perfectly and love you eternally.

What does God's "ultimate nearness" mean? Do you take His Presence for granted? How?

What comfort does God's loving knowledge — even the number of hairs on your head — provide?

We are not only fully known and understood but also eternally loved. What assurances does this give?

Read more: Psalm 145:18 NKJV; John 1:12; Romans 10:13

Finding Him

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. — Hebrews 3:1

I am renewing your mind. When your thoughts flow freely, they tend to move toward problems. Your focus gets snagged on a given problem, circling round and round it in attempts to gain mastery. Your energy is drained away from other matters through this negative focus. Worst of all, you lose sight of Me.

A renewed mind is Presence- focused.

Train your mind to seek Me in every moment, every situation. Sometimes you can find Me in your surroundings: a lilting birdsong, a loved one's smile, golden sunlight. At other times, you must draw inward to find Me. I am always present in your spirit.

Seek My Face, speak to Me, and I will light up your mind.
Do your thoughts "tend to move toward problems"? Why?

How have you seen the truth that "a renewed mind is Presence-focused" in your own life?

God is always present with us. When do you feel God most near?

Read more: Psalm 105:4; Romans 12:2



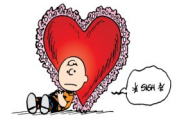
Souper Bowl of Caring

Don't forget the special offering on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th. This year's Souper Bowl donation will go to the deacon's Food Sense Ministry to help feed the poor in our community. If you want to contribute to the Souper Bowl and you won't be here on February 7th, you can put your donation in a yellow envelope (found in the pews) and put Souper Bowl on the outside.



FROM SESSION:

ASH WEDNESDAY AND MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR.



PRAYER MISSION FEBRUARY

Care Net supports more than 1100 affiliate pregnancy centers across North America. Our affiliate pregnancy centers are faith-based organizations with deep roots in their communities. Each center empowers women and men facing unplanned pregnancies with practical help, emotional support, and information about their pregnancy options.

Care Net empowers life-affirming choices by providing accurate information in a compassionate environment through our affiliated pregnancy centers and the Pregnancy Decision Line. With those who have already experienced the loss of abortion, we share hope and the redemptive power of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Care Net firmly believes that prayer is the life-blood of our ministry. Please lift our work and the work of our local centers up in prayer. As a non-profit organization, Care Net relies on the generosity of individual supporters to carry out our mission. Care Net centers are reliant on volunteers to carry out their important work and provide needed services to their local communities.

Learn more about how you can help by visiting <https://www.care-net.org/howtohelp/>



The First Presbyterian Church of Oneida is very appreciative of the officers who have just finished their service; **Carol Miller, Dave Schellhase, Bill Butler, and Deb Owens** Thank you all for your unique talents that you have brought to leading this church through the years!



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

For the month of February 2021

Alan Baur
Bryce Bechtel (friend of Zach Thompson)
Jeffrey Bortle (Sandy Glynn's son)
Eleanor Breckenridge (Sue Borchardt's mom)
Bob Butler
Marty Canning
Richard and Pam Carrigan
Glade Cook Jr. (nephew of Warrens)
John Ferguson
Jillian Felt
Malisa Fuller
Linda Gaut
Becky Grasso
Sherry Harrison
Jamie Hubbard
Wendy Holtz
Millie Johnson
Horace Keller

Jean Kowalik
Florence LaRock
Sydney Lusher
Maribeth Matthews
Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn's brother)
Marian Meyers
Larry Moorehouse (Bill Butler)
Tom Panasci
Doug Rosekrans
Rich Snyder (Jennifer Colvin's neighbor)
Harold Thompson
Betty Thorpe (Jim's aunt)
Grace Warren
Christopher Wuest
Bill and Dolores Young
Jerry Karen
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 or Jan Whiting, Prayer Chain, 363-4392.

SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

Milicent Vidal

Susan Meraz

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:

Milicent Vidal Susan Meraz

CLASS OF 2023

Paul Mancarella
Nancy Rinehard
Jan Whiting

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.

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

MISSION EMPHASIS:

Augusta - Vernon Center Presbyterian Church, Augusta
First Presbyterian Church, Boonville
The Presbyterian Homes & Services, New Hartford
First Presbyterian Church, Cherry Valley

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:





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



FEBRUARY



2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Committee Meetings Week</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study</i>	6
7 <i>10 a.m. Worship Communion</i>	8	9	10 <i>10 am Presbyterian Women's Meeting</i>	11	12 <i>11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study</i>	13
<i>Souper Bowl of Caring Birthday Bash</i>				18 <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	19 <i>11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study</i>	20
14 <i>10 a.m. Worship</i>	15 <i>7 p.m. Deacons Meeting OFFICE CLOSED</i>	16	17	25	26 <i>11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study</i>	27
21 <i>10 a.m. Worship</i>	22 <i>7 p.m. Session Meeting</i>	23	24			
28 <i>10 a.m. Worship</i>						

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
304 Broad Street
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH
NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 19TH**

