

Presbyterian News



EDITION

January 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



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.



From Pastor Kevin

Here we are saying goodbye to 2020 and saying hello to 2021. The saying that comes to mind is one I heard many years ago and have no idea who said it. The saying is, "Everyone hates change but everyone loves progress." Writing to the Church of Philippi Paul states in Philippians 1:6, "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." 2020 has been a year of ups and downs for most people. We have had so many changes in life. Some that were bad but many that were good. I would encourage you to take some time over the next week and make a list. Write down some

of the things that have been "started" in you over the past 12 months. Think about new interests. Think about things that you maybe did not have time for in the past but made time for in 2020. Think about new additions to your family. Doing this will give you a great understanding and a great appreciation for the previous year. This will also give you great anticipation for the upcoming year. What were some attributes that were refined in you because of 2020? God has started many new works in us over the past year and He is going to be faithful to complete it.

God is a great God. He has done great things in my life. As I entered 2020, I committed to 4-6 months to be with you as a body of believers. Then the world was turned upside down with COVID-19. We adjusted and reacted, and God held us in the palm of His hand. We have been led by Him and protected by Him through this year. Over the past year God has stretched me in many ways and I know my style has stretched many of you. I pray that you were able to see the hand of God in your life and through this year. The search committee has been working to find a new permanent pastor and the search is moving ahead. However, at this time, I have informed the session that the Lord is moving me on to new things. I have really enjoyed my time with you over the past 12 months; however, I have been praying and fasting and the Lord has confirmed to me that it is time for me to move on. My last Sunday will be the 10th of January.

Saying all this, I told the session I would be willing to continue to do the "Wednesday Word of Encouragement" sessions on Facebook Live. They have agreed and I will continue with those for the time being. Also, I encourage you to go to my website, www.bridgetohopeministries.org and sign up for my newsletter on the bottom of the front page. I send out a ministry update and devotions once a month to whoever signs up. Also, it has a link to my Facebook page for the ministry. Click on that and like the Facebook Page and I am going to start posting other services that I will be doing for you to watch. This is not a substitution for church, however, if you would like "more" than please feel free to engage. I say this because I want to stay connected with you. The last year has not allowed me to get as close to the body as I normally would through a transition ministry because of the restrictions but I have got to know many of you.

Most importantly I pray that you will become all that God has for you. I think of what it states in Micah 6:8. The Lord pleads with Israel to, "He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?" He started a good work in the First Presbyterian Church in Oneida many years ago and He is going to be faithful to continue to build His Church through the hands and feet of all those who are willing. Are you willing? Will you let Him use you? Will you let Him complete the work through you in the days, weeks, and years to come? Will you love mercy? Will you do justly? Will you walk humbly with the Lord? As we choose to do what Micah 6:8 states, God will do what He promises in Philippians 1:6. Let Him finish His work in and through you!

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

From the Nominating Committee:

The nominating committee (John Merritt -Deacon, Pat Thorpe -session and Cindy Bonville, Jerry DeRuby and Kim Paul from the congregation at large) will present a slate of officers for the class of 2023. On Sunday January 24, 2021 the members nominated will be presented before worship service at a congregational meeting. They will be installed during the worship service that same day. After worship we will have the congregational/corporation meeting to be held in the sanctuary because of covid.

Elders for class of 2021- Randy Bonville, Doug Lippert, Mike Merriman, Carol Wells and Becky Williams. Elder for class of 2022- Eli Pfluke and for class of 2023 – Paul Mancarella, Nancy Rinehard and Jan Whiting.

Deacons for class of 2021- Cindy Bonville, Chrissy Thompson, and John Merritt. No deacons for class of 2023.

Please mark this date on your calendar to attend.

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 \$100 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.



On behalf of the staff, thank you very much for your Christmas gifts

Kevin Smith

Pat Thorpe

Stephanie Gwilt

John Merritt

Jennawade Skellham

Melinda Phoenix-Heart

Frank Kordziel



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

For the month of January 2021

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	Marian Meyers
Richard and Pam Carrigan	Larry Moorehouse (Bill Butler)
Glade Cook Jr. (nephew of Warrens)	Tom Panasci
John Ferguson	Doug Rosekrans
Jillian Felt	Rich Snyder (Jennifer Colvin's neighbor)
Malisa Fuller	Harold Thompson
Linda 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

Sue Labarre

Dorothy Hotaling

Alex Stepanski

Sal Rumore

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:

Sue LaBarre, Dorothy Hotaling

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:

John F Black Jr. Betsy Anderson Blake Lamb Jr.

Nancy DeMassa Dave Meeker Sr.

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:

Local Food Pantries

The Moderator, Presbytery Leader-slanted Clerk, and Staff of
Presbytery of Utica

2021 Micah Grant Recipients

PC(USA) Foundation and Presbyterian Investment & Loan
Program

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2020

John Merritt
Deborah Owens
Jan Whiting

CLASS OF 2021

Jennawade Skellham

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:





Birthdays

<i>Jan. 1</i>	<i>Sharon Warren</i>
<i>Jan. 3</i>	<i>Courtney Schneider</i>
<i>Jan. 5</i>	<i>Karen Sarensky</i>
<i>Jan. 8</i>	<i>Beverly Vineall</i>
<i>Jan. 10</i>	<i>Samuel Mastriano</i>
<i>Jan. 13</i>	<i>Claire Fox</i>
<i>Jan. 14</i>	<i>Donna Stewart</i>
<i>Jan. 15</i>	<i>Donna Laurin, Heather Carroll</i>
<i>Jan. 16</i>	<i>Bronte Hilgenberg</i>
<i>Jan. 18</i>	<i>Jon Musgrove</i>
<i>Jan. 21</i>	<i>Stephanie Thompson,</i> <i>Heidi Schneider</i>
<i>Jan. 22</i>	<i>Matthew Froass</i>
<i>Jan. 23</i>	<i>Dolores Young, Christopher</i> <i>Joslyn Jr.</i>
<i>Jan. 27</i>	<i>Linda Bailey, Leif Nicolaisen</i>
<i>Jan. 29</i>	<i>Kristen Talbot</i>

Anniversaries

<i>Jan. 4</i>	<i>Bob and Linda Butler</i>
<i>Jan. 13</i>	<i>Steve and Bev Orzechowski</i>
<i>Jan. 14</i>	<i>Doug Rosekrans & Joyce Helms</i>

The Staff of First Presbyterian Church Oneida would like to wish all congregation members a safe and healthy New Year!

We also would like to thank everyone for their support during this trying time. You are all greatly appreciated!!

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Oneida, NY will be held immediately after worship on **January 24th**. At the annual meeting we will review and celebrate all of our service to God in the past year, go over financial reports and the budget for the coming year. Please mark your calendar!



JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	
3 10 a.m. Worship Communion	4 7 p.m. Committee Meetings	5	6	7	8 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	9
10 10 a.m. Worship	11 7 p.m. Deacons Meeting	12 10 am Presbyterian Women's Meeting	13	14	15 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	16
17 10 a.m. Worship	18 7 p.m. Session Meeting	19	20	21	22 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23
24/31 10 a.m. Worship Election and Installation Officers(24) 11:30 a.m. Annual Business Meeting(24)	25	26	27	28	29 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	30

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
304 Broad Street
Oneida, NY 13421

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

