



STEWARDSHIP

This is Tom Donegan writing. You know me. I am not a theologian but here I am writing the cover page of a newsletter for our church. Yes, the subject this month is Stewardship, and yes, I am the church's treasurer, so at least that part makes sense.

Those of you that have known me for a long time may remember my parents, Walt and Jane. Walt was cool, calm and collected. Jane was not. She was, shall we say, blunt. I will show both of those sides by the time I'm done writing this.

First, the blunt. Ever since Stuart retired in June, attendance and giving have dropped considerably, more than a typical summer would experience. We are currently okay financially and can pay all our bills. This is because we have a ridiculously low payroll every two weeks. We are missing a Pastor and some important staffers. If the current situation becomes the normal pattern of things, we have some major changes to make around here. And I for one don't want this to be the normal pattern of things.

We "simply can not do it alone" is a lyric from the musical "Chicago" and it is true. The 75 or so of us that regularly attend service, and are working behind the scenes in leadership roles and committees have to break with political correctness and light some fires under more of our non attending members. We need to ask them to come to church again. We need to ask them to volunteer again. We need to ask them to financially commit again.

It is commonly accepted that the worst thing you can say to someone who hasn't been attending is "where have you been?" So let's not do that. Let's make personal contact and tell them they are missed. If they have had an issue here in the past, perhaps you can help them through it, or refer them to someone else who can.

If I haven't convinced you, I will try to tie this all to theology by stealing from a writer named Jack Wellham. He feels that when Christ came across Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, and said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' he was not telling them to lead Christian lives. Being Christian, Wellham writes, is so generic almost anyone can claim to be one. To be a Christ-follower is much different because He may lead us into some very difficult places and circumstances.

I don't think Christ is asking the members of our congregation to leave our jobs or our families. I don't think He requires radical changes of lifestyle. He wants us to get off our duffs. He wants us to keep First Presbyterian Church of Oneida vibrant and alive in this community because our church does Christ-follower things. That should continue. And if it continues because of us, then we are also doing Christ-follower things. Please pray about this when pledging to this church this year.

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CHURCH STAFF

Choir Director / Organist
Melinda Feldmann

Church Secretary
Linda Hurd

Treasurer
Tom Donegan

Financial Secretary
Pat Thorpe

Clerk of Session
Pat Thorpe

Custodian
George Mendoza

Presbyterian FOUNDATION



YOU WANT TO GIVE.

WE CAN HELP.

We are called by Christ and empowered by the Spirit to be God's hands and feet on earth. Our gifts can feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and abused, clothe the naked, fight injustices, befriend the friendless, and encourage patience, kindness, and peace.

There are many ways to make a gift for ministry, including:

- ❑ bequests
- ❑ donor-advised funds
- ❑ endowment funds
- ❑ life income plans
- ❑ gifts of non-traditional assets.



We're here to help. For more than 200 years, the Presbyterian Foundation has been raising, stewarding, and distributing funds for mission and ministry.

To learn more about how the Foundation can assist you with planned giving or other stewardship goals, please contact your Ministry Relations Officer at PresbyterianFoundation.org.

FROM THE SESSION - FYI

ENCOURAGING NEWS: Some excellent candidate applications have been received for the four First Presbyterian staff positions that need to be filled. At present 11 PIFs (Pastor Information Forms) have been received for our interim pastor position. Some excellent applications have also been received for the Director of Christian Education, Organist and church secretary (Linda Hurd is retiring at the end of the year).

These times of transition are an opportunity for us as a congregation to rally in unified support of volunteers, committees, search committees and worship leaders. So often during challenging times, our faith, cooperation and determination is tested. Let us prayerfully rejoice in these opportunities by supporting one another as we follow Christ's example of Agape (self sacrificing) love.



OPERATION SHOEBOX

This is a great family project that soon becomes a part of your Christmas traditions. Look at the brochures on the Stone Street table for ideas on what to pack and what not to pack. The first ingredient to pack in your box is **PRAYER**.

Place a rubber band around your shoe box and lid. This year we have an anonymous donor who will pay shipping for the boxes. If you decide that you still wish to pay postage, it is \$7, put it in the box, and put a sticky note on the outside of the box saying the postage is inside.

The boxes can be dropped off at the church office any morning. We will dedicate them on Sunday, November 19. You can track where your box goes at www.samarianspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box-iframe/.

If you have questions you can talk to Pat Thorpe.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Youth Ministry Fall News

Information for the 2018-19 Church School Year

September 16th was kick off the new "Church School" year!! Thinking of the quote, "Without Change, there would be no Butterflies," we have decided to recreate our programs for the upcoming school year. Instead of the traditional "Sunday School" for all model, the education of our youth will look like this:

6 months of age through and including Kindergarten: There is no class during the 9-10 am hour; however there will be a 15 minute Bible story each week in the Nursery.

Grades 1-5: *There is no class during the 9-10 am hour: however, there will be Children's Church, weekly during church service (except for Communion Sundays/ special events). We will be using curriculum from the website sermons4kids.com.*

Grades 6-12: *There will be Sunday School during the 9-10 am hour before church. There will also be Teen Church, once per month, for students 6-12th grade.*

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 2019 - Volunteer training - any NEW volunteers, contact Kristin Tooker for more information.

We are actively pursuing a new Director of Youth Ministry. We have ads in various publications and we hope to have this position filled very soon.

Try Online Giving!



Visit our church website and read and follow the tutorial that is placed there. Or you can go directly to our giving page (see address below).

www.presbyterianmissionexchange.org



The Festival is right around the corner and many people are already working hard to fill the many rooms with wonderful items to sell and enjoy!

The new shop called Cottage 304 has taken over the Dorcas room and filled it with all kinds of supplies to make Floral, decorative and Holiday items...if you stop by and we are busy up there come sit and chat...don't let the mess scare you!!

Several women have been making jams and jellies and wonderful canned goods too (see Ginny Drake). We could use more if that is what you like to do, as some have decided not to contribute again this year; we thank them for their past help.

Another new booth, that we are really excited about, is being organized by Becky Williams and Kim DeRuby, it is cookies sold by the pound, and will be a huge success, there will be more on that coming soon...as will requests for candy (Chrissy and Stephanie Thompson, and of course Ethel Abbott), baked goods (Cathy Opperman), anything you can sew or knit (Laura Reckentine), your gently used jewelry (Becky Ewen), retro and antiques for Chuck Pendleton, and for donations to the Cottage, please see Carol Miller.

Jennawade Skellham, has offered to do some decorating for us in the auditorium, and we will have a group, as always, to put up the center tree, and will try and do that on a Sunday when we can get the young men to help.

God Bless our kitchen crew again for all they do, Frank and Janet Sarensky, Pam West, Phyllis Little and Donna Ausman, along with many, many helpers.

As always anything you can do to help is appreciated....special thank you to Rachel Mancarella for agreeing to do the ticket sales for the beautiful quilt by Laura Reckentine, Sue Kordziel, and Betty Wesseldine, and the painting by Tom Donegan. Our great advertising volunteer is Ginny Pendleton again this year!!

As you can see this is a great opportunity to help your church family with a wonderful community outreach and also a great way to work side by side with your church family and new friends. Please pray for the success of this Festival and for the unity it helps support for us all.

If you have any questions please contact one of the PW coordinators: Nancy Rinehard 315-368-7939, or Barb Arnold 315-363-6875.

Thank you all!



SECOND HAND ROSE

Second Hand Rose takes consignments on women's and children's clothing and small household items in new to nearly new condition. Hours are Wed. -Sat. 11 AM - 3 PM. Consignments are taken from 11 -2 each day. Phone: 366-9900

The shop is accepting Fall and Winter women's and children's clothing. We are always accepting household items and your kind donations. Support this small shop and mission.

Tell your friends!

News on Second Hand Rose

We have reopened after a much needed 2 week rest. Although we were working on the Festival during that time too. We held a very successful Bag Sale on the 8th and then we began to do the annual switch of clothing. As we clear out what we can not use, it is donated to Nancy James and her daughter Lori, who pick it up, 20 bags at last count, and then they sort and take it to a church up north for their rummage sale. This is just another outreach for the shop and our church.

We then sort and hang some wonderful fall and winter items, many that have been donated. Then we clean and prepare the shop for the fall and winter consignments that began coming in on September 12.

We thank everyone who helps to make all this work possible and we look forward to serving the community and our church with this wonderful mission and outreach.

Stop by soon and offer to work just 4 hours a week or month as it is a huge help. Also donate or put your items on consignment, we appreciate it all.

See you soon!

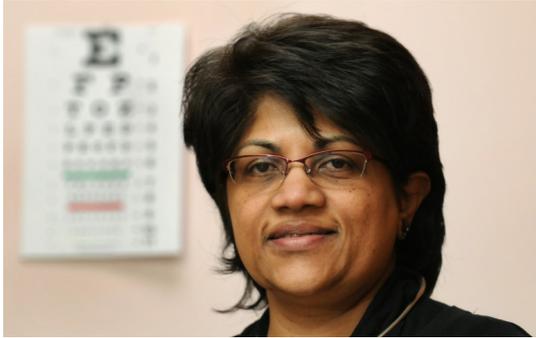


LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

For the month of October, 2018

Abby Bartell	Dawn Kimball (Donna Ausman's sister)
Alan Baur	Jean Kowalik
Bryce Bechtel (friend of Zach Thompson)	Florence LaRock
Darlene Burke	Eloise Latino
Bob Butler	Mary Lauber (Cathy Opperman's mother)
Loyal and Marty Canning	Maribeth Matthews
Annarose Catello (Cindy Bonville's mom)	Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn's brother)
Terry Clark (friend of Melissa Smith)	Dave Meeker Sr.
Glade Cook Jr. (nephew of Warrens)	Marian Meyers
Nancy DeMassa	Jeanne Miller
Mary Lou DeRuby	Tom Panasci
Jeannine Fariel	Janice Pendleton
Fran Fedrizzi (friend of Deb Whiting)	Rich Snyder (Jennifer Colvin's neighbor)
John Ferguson	Harold Thompson
Jillian Felt	Betty Thorpe (Jim's aunt)
Becky Grasso	Beverly Vineall
Phyllis Harvey	Christopher Wuest
Michael Hayes (friend of Melissa Smith)	Bill and Dolores Young
Sarah Hrim (Georgia Fox's sister)	Michelle
Jamie Hubbard	Nathan
Vic and Millie Johnson	Sharon
Horace Keller	

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.



PRAYER MISSION OCTOBER

The Mary Rose Clinic, Oneida Free Medical Health for the Uninsured, exists to provide primary healthcare services to low-income, uninsured adults within Madison County and the surrounding areas. We believe high quality healthcare is a basic human right regardless of socioeconomic status. The Mary Rose Clinic was co-created by Dr. Martyn and The Gorman Foundation and is administered by Community Action Partnership of Madison County. For further information please visit their website <http://www.maryrosecenter.org/index.php>



SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS:

Dan and Gail Lehman, Nate Lombardi, Frieda Phoenix (friend of Nancy James)

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:

Phillip LaGoy (friend of Deb Whiting), DeLoryce Prior (Michelle Yeoman's and Becky Ewen's mom), Tom Bell, David Eastman, Pat Heller

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

- Refugees, Christian martyrs and others at risk from ISIS.
- Please pray for the search committee as they search for an interim pastor.

MISSION EMPHASIS:

First Presbyterian Church, Utica



Pray for those who are serving overseas; Colin Whitcombe; the U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan, and our Police/Fire Safety personnel.

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS: Pray for those who are stationed in non-combat zones: Mark Sia, Zane Mechalke, Peter Thompson, Harley Whitmeyer, Howard Bantle, Nicholas Young, Philip Messina, Ryan Geer, Matthew Winchell, John Goodwill, Jeff Carpenter, Errol Crossman, Corey Reed, Michael McMahan, Andrew Fargo, Jim Jennings, Nate Borchardt.



Birthdays

- Oct. 3 *Matt Jennings*
Oct. 9 *Doug Lippert*
Oct. 11 *Maribeth Matthews*
Traci Todd
Oct. 12 *Mike Oot*
Oct. 15 *Bob Heller*
Oct. 16 *Jim Hotaling*
Oct. 17 *Don Kingsley*
Oct. 23 *Shannon DuChene*
Caroline Hood
Amanda Burdick
Khloe Musgrove
Oct. 25 *Jessica Fox*
Oct. 29 *Timothy Butler*
Oct. 30 *Matthew Bonville*
Oct. 31 *Carmen Joslyn, Sara Vrooman*

Anniversaries

- Oct. 5 *Kim and Jerry DeRuby*
Oct. 12 *Frank and Janet Sarensky*

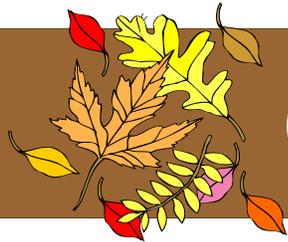
Congratulations to
Melinda and Michael
Phoenix-Heart
who were married
on September 2nd, 2018.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER
NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER 17th**





OCTOBER 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>6:30 p.m. Missions / Outreach 7 p.m. Committee</i>	2	3	4 <i>3 p.m. The Connection</i>	5 <i>11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study</i>	6
7 <i>9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>3 p.m. The Connection</i>	12 <i>11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study</i>	13
14 <i>9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Crop Walk</i>	15 <i>6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting</i>	16 <i>10 a.m. Presbyterian Women's meeting</i>	17 <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	18 <i>3 p.m. The Connection</i>	19 <i>11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study</i>	20
21 <i>9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship</i>	22 <i>7 p.m. Session</i>	23	24	25 <i>3 p.m. The Connection</i>	26 <i>11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study</i>	27
28 <i>9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship</i>	29	30	31			