

Osceola Presbyterian Church
1689 Raritan Road
Clark, NJ 07066

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The Messenger

ANSWERED PRAYERS



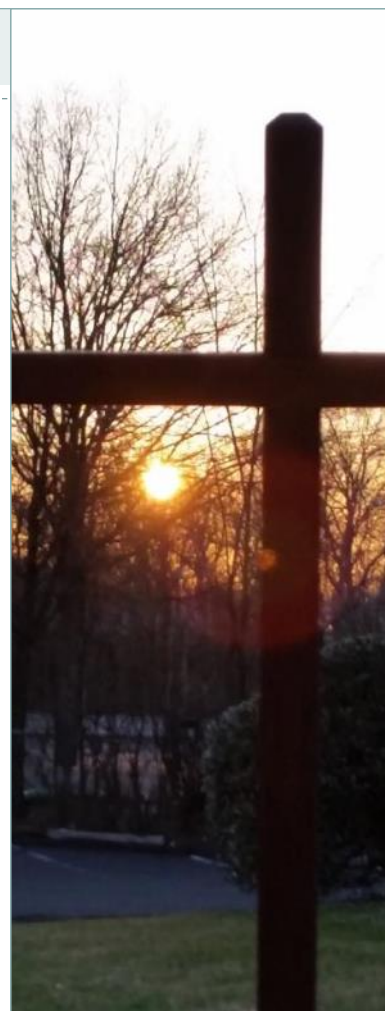
After six years without a permanent pastor, Osceola is pleased to announce that a covenant is established with Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith. Bobbie officially started January 1st 2024 as our new part-time pastor. She first appeared in OPC's pulpit on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 2023 as guest preacher!

Bobbie is a "Jersey girl." Born in Trenton, N.J., she lived in Ewing Township until she moved to Newtown, PA for her first call to the Newtown Presbyterian Church.

Bobbie is a Certified Christian Educator with the P.C.U.S.A and two years ago received certification in Spiritual Direction from the Oasis ministry. She retired in 2022 after 30 years of ministry serving churches in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, most recently Connecticut Farms.

Bobbie has two daughters, two son-in-laws, and three grandchildren. She enjoys quilting, reading, music of all kinds, museums, walking, swimming, needlework, being with family and friends and laughing—a lot.

Join us in praying for Pastor Bobbie: May she be a source of encouragement, support, and inspiration to each member of our congregation. Grant her strength, courage, and perseverance to lead us in worship, teach us Your ways, and walk alongside us. Provide wisdom to guide our steps in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



BRUNCH WITH PASTOR BOBBIE

We are thrilled to have Pastor Bobbie serving Osceola Presbyterian Church as our part-time pastor and a "Brunch with Pastor Bobbie" is planned to celebrate. We will meet in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, January 28th and have a chance to welcome Pastor Bobbie to our church family and get to know her a little better.

Let us know what you would like to bring to the potluck brunch by signing up on the sheet in the Narthex or speak to Carol Riddlestorffer or Alice Dietze. Save the date and join us!

FOOD PANTRY RISES TO THE OCCASION

November and December are two of the busiest months for Osceola Food Pantry! We are blessed to receive donations from community groups as well as our church congregation.

Thanks to Clark's Cub Scout Pack 145, Daunno Realty, St. Agnes Knights of Columbus and the Deacons' Reverse Advent Calendar project, a steady



supply of food came in and we held a "sorting party" to organize the donations.

Lots of extra items are included in our November and December distributions. All of our families received their basic boxes, a bag of holiday "fixin's," and a \$25 ShopRite gift card. Thanksgiving pies were given out in November, thanks to Osceola's Youth Group. In December, the families also received a church 2024 calendar, a bowl of holiday treats with homemade cards (courtesy of our Youth Group), a Nativity ornament (courtesy of our Sunday School), and a tin of Christmas cookies (courtesy of Osceola's bakers). For both months, the families were invited to select new items of donated items collected throughout the year and an assortment of Christmas items. Additionally, 22 children from our families also received Christmas gifts from the Deacons' Angel Tree projects.

Thanks to a special donation of small appliances (made by someone through our social media contacts), each family was able to select a brand new appliance in December. A few frozen turkeys and hams were also distributed. Additionally, we provided food and gift cards each month to 6 other families whose names were provided through church contacts and three more "emergency" boxes.

Special thanks to Osceola's talented bakers that enabled us to add a very special and sweet holiday touch to our Christmas distribution.

Looking ahead, items needed:

Canned fruit	Canned pasta	Jelly
Cleaning products	Paper products	Soup
Pasta sauce	Tomato products	Pasta
Cereal	Canned vegetables	Snacks

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOCUSES ON MISSION



In the last Messenger, we mentioned that the Sunday School classes were preparing to fill the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Well, mission accomplished! A total of 129 boxes were filled, ready to spread joy to children all over the world! (Check out Osceola's Facebook page from November 24, 2023 for more photos.)



Osceola's Sunday School classes learned more about Advent and the birth of our Savior throughout December. The classes prepared Nativity ornaments to be included in the December Food Pantry's boxes and held a "birthday party" for Jesus as we finished out our year's activities.

No classes were held on December 24th or December 31st but resumed on January 7th. Lessons will span from Epiphany, complete our study of Moses, and then focus on the beginning of Jesus's ministry.

The Sunday School classes will be sponsoring a "Noise Offering" during worship on Sunday, February 11th. This "Souper Bowl" event will include a collection of canned soup (or other canned goods) in addition to the loose change offering. The recipient of the monetary offering will be chosen by the students soon and announced to the congregation.

A NOTE FROM SESSION

The Session of Osceola held its first meeting of the new year with our new Pastor, Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith, moderating! It was a productive meeting, and we anticipate exciting things to happen in 2024!

Our congregation will have the opportunity to get a little better acquainted with Pastor Bobbie at a brunch following worship on Sunday, January 28th. Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex, or contact Carol Riddlestorffer or Alice Dietze for additional information.

It's Annual Report time again! All Commission Chairs need to submit their reports by email to the Office Administrator by February 1st, so she can compile/collate the report.

Treasurers are asked to submit their reports to the Auditing Committee as soon as possible to allow them time to review and submit their report. The 2023 Annual Report of Osceola Presbyterian Church will be received at the Congregational meeting in February.



Lent will begin soon with Ash Wednesday on February 14. "Soups on!" as we return to our Wednesday evening Lenten Soup and Services beginning February 21. Join us as we journey through the meaningful season of Lent.

Wednesday, February 14 – 7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Service led by Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith

Wednesday evenings, February 21, 28, March 6, 13 and 20 – led by Elder Alice Dietze

6:15 pm – Soup Supper

7:00 pm – Lenten Program

Thursday, March 28 – 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Service - led by the Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith

ARE YOU BEING CALLED?

Interested in serving the Lord in a new way?

...Perhaps as an Elder or a Deacon, or a member of the Budget Committee, Nominating Committee, or Auditing Committee?

The Nominating Committee (Carol Riddlestorffer, Beth Parks, Fredy Reyes, Rosa Tamayo, Ginny Oxley) will begin its work in February. Please prayerfully consider how you can serve the Lord at Osceola in the coming year.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

Adult Ministries is currently leading a bible study on the Book of Proverbs, which will be completed by the end of January. We will then and move on to our next study, on the book of James.

Our group meets in the Conference Room on Sunday mornings, during the Sunday School hour from 9:00-9:50 am. We also include a time of sharing and of prayer.

Please join us!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Osceola members were invited to share Christmas greetings with our church families by displaying cards on the Narthex bulletin board. Here's a list of those sending their good wishes.

Kristi Morin and her daughter, Stephannie

Paul Hadsall

Nancy & Jay Winter

Jimmy Dietze, Jr.

Rick Clinton (Gladys' son)

Jim & Alice Dietze

The Walton Family – Jen, Jordan, Brady, Grace & Finn

Kathy Terzo

Carol, Jim and Ursula Riddlestorffer

Donna Pace

Sue Grau

Tim & Lee Pretz

YOUTH GROUP CELEBRATES & SERVES



Our Youth Group members delivered Osceola's filled shoe boxes to the Operation Christmas Child drop-off site and also helped to pack and count boxes while there.

As we prepared for Christmas, our youth made special treat bowls and homemade Christmas cards to be included in the December food boxes for Osceola Food Pantry. Of course, all the candy was checked out for quality purposes!

The Youth Group's annual Christmas Mystery Event was back on the road this year as the youth were divided into teams, solved clues to determine destinations, and visited various sites in and around Clark. Their stops allowed them to sing Christmas carols to church members and others to obtain "nutritional fortification." We also caroled over the phone to some members who live a little farther away. The evening always ends with a stop to a Nativity scene where a prayer is offered along with singing "O Come All Ye Faithful." It's a wonderful chance to remind us all of the "reason for the season" as we have fun spreading some holiday joy! (Check out more photos on Osceola's Facebook page, December 22, 2023.)

The Youth Group kicked off 2024 with a post-Christmas party at the Dietze's that included lots of games, snacks and penguin visits!

The next regular Youth Group meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 23 from 7-8:30 pm. We're also looking forward to a Lock-in from Friday, Feb. 2 through Saturday morning, Feb. 3. Everyone is looking forward to an exciting (and exhausting) night!

