



The Messenger

Osceola Presbyterian Church

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May 2024

*“Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
Blow through the wilderness,
Calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
Stir from placidness,
Wind, wind on the sea.”*

~SPIRIT~ From the Presbyterian Hymnal

This wonderful hymn speaks of the work of God through the Holy Spirit from the beginning of creation to today. In many and diverse ways, God has spoken and still speaks to us.

The coming of the Holy Spirit as a fulfillment of Jesus’ promise is perhaps the most important event in the life of the early church. It stands as proof to all the world (“the Jews from every nation” Acts 2:5) that God Almighty, the God of the patriarchs and matriarchs of Israel, the God of the kings and prophets of Judah, the one who created all that is, is at work among this small band of people.

This same God, who breathed the creative breath of life over the face of the deep, has again breathed the breath of creation into the church. This same God continues to breathe the breath of life into the world today, into this congregation and into each one of us. The Holy Spirit is alive and well!

Pentecost reminds us that God is a God who keeps promises and is a living God. As we celebrate Pentecost, May 19, the birthday of the church, let us rejoice that we worship a God who loves us and is active in the world and in our lives.

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Bobbie

Session Notes

The Elders and Deacons met together for an evening of food and fellowship on Monday, May 13. We shared our stories about how we came to be members of Osceola, and our hopes for the future.

Session met following the meal, and discussed these items:

- Facilities Management is working with a company that will pay the church a fee each month to have a traffic monitoring camera installed on our roof. They are also in contact with a company to have a clothing donation bin placed in our back parking lot (probably in the fall)
- Open Heavens Ministry will no longer be sharing space at Osceola
- Worship and Music revised and updated OPC's Wedding Policy and Wedding and Funeral Fee Schedules; all were approved by Session.
- The Nominating Committee slate of officers for 2024 through 2027 was approved. New officers will be ordained and installed during the worship service on June 23.
- It was noted that nominations for the Auditing Committee and next year's Nominating Committee are not approved at this time; they will be approved at the November Congregational meeting. (Just an FYI: we still need one person to serve on the Auditing Committee; please see Carol Riddlestorffer if you are interested.)
- The Mission Commission will host a pot-luck luncheon on Sunday, September 22 with a speaker from Rise Against Hunger, in preparation for that event to be held on October 6. Watch for more information from the Mission Commission!
- The Chairs of Human Resources and Pastor Bobbie met with our Office Administrator, Nancy Iaria, to review and update her job responsibilities. There will now be a central calendar in the Church Office with all activities. If you have an event you would like added, please let Nancy know, and she will include it in the calendar.

Congregational Meeting

The congregation and corporation of Osceola Presbyterian Church are called to meet on Sunday, May 19, at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary for the purpose of receiving the report of the Nominating Committee, and to provide an update to the congregation.

By Order of the Session

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee completed their work; the slate of new officers will be presented at the Congregational meeting. Thanks to the members of the committee -- Shirley Augenstein, Beth Parks, Fredy Reyes, and Rosa Tamayo -- for their diligent work. And sincere thanks to those who have heard God's call to serve as a Deacon or an Elder.

Adult Ministry

The last day of the Sunday morning Adult Bible Study will coincide with the last day of Sunday School (June 9). The group will discuss if we will meet during the summer. We are always ready to welcome new members to our class! So we will keep you updated on our meeting dates.

Sunday School

This spring our Sunday School students learned about Jesus' appearances following his Resurrection and his Ascension and will be moving on to the events of Pentecost and beyond.

The classes made gifts for all the women and men of our church for Mother's Day and Father's Day. They also chopped vegetables and prepared dressing to accompany a recipe and its ingredients for one of our Food Pantry distributions.



The Sunday School classes are sponsoring a Noise Offering during worship on Sunday, May 19th. The students voted to donate this offering to Osceola's Mission Commission's Rise Against Hunger Project.

Our final week of Sunday School (until September!!) will be on June 9 and we will also present Bibles to our students entering 3rd and 6th grades and show some appreciation to our Sunday School staff. The year of growing in faith has gone by quickly!



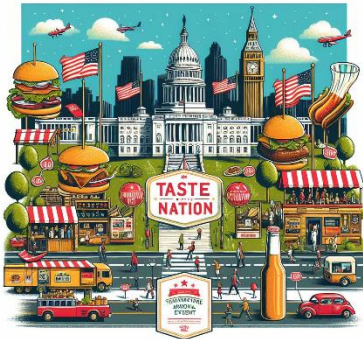
YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group focused on how the Resurrection affects us and the youth prepared “Resurrection rolls” – a yummy way to enjoy the lesson. The kids also participated in a puzzle scavenger hunt. After a great deal of searching, our “New Life” butterfly puzzles were missing two pieces – which miraculously appeared a couple of weeks later!



The youth assisted our Food Pantry as they used their keen eyes to help date-check and sort canned goods.

Our next meeting will be an outing on May 21 when we stop for pizza before a round of miniature golf. Our final event of the year, the crazy barbecue at the Dietze home, is tentatively scheduled for June 11.



TASTE OF THE NATION

We’ll be “visiting” states across the U.S.A. this summer as “Taste of the Nation” returns to Osceola’s weekly Fellowship Hours beginning June 30. Each Sunday after worship, volunteers will provide refreshments that represent iconic food from selected states. We had great fun last year and learned a lot about some of our states. Who knows where the road will lead this summer? Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex in a couple of weeks!

ATTENTION GRADUATES

If any church members are graduating high school, college or beyond this year, please share this information with the church office or Alice Dietze by June 2.



FOOD PANTRY

Anyone who has been grocery shopping lately can understand how much our food distributions mean to our families. We've been able to give generous supplies to all our Food Pantry families and some additional "emergency" contacts as well. In addition, we continue to have tables of used clothing and household items from which our families may make selections.

The April special-of-the-month was a recipe for "Bean Salad" complete with all the ingredients, including chopped vegetables and dressing prepared by our Sunday School kids. Our May distribution will include some cleaning products.

We have been blessed with several large donations recently. A young man worked with the American Legion to hold a food collection donated to Osceola (see photo). Several truckloads of food have been donated by the National Honor Society at Clark's Arthur L. Johnson High School (thanks, Fredy for the deliveries and to the Youth Group for sorting). The Deacons' collected \$300 from the coin banks for our Food Pantry and their picnic food drive continues throughout May in preparation for our June distribution.



Watch for a food donation box to appear soon in our parking lot. This will enable members of our community to "drop off" food anytime. Maybe they'll "drop in" sometime to visit too!

Items we need:

Picnic items: Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Pickles, Relish, Barbecue Sauce, salad dressing, Suddenly Salad, Olives, Cases of bottled water

Others: Cleaning supplies, Laundry detergent, Canned Fruit, Paper Products, Canned Pasta, Jelly

FUNraising at *Friendly's*

**The Osceola Mission Commission is hosting a
“FUNraising” Event
at the Clark Friendly’s
1463 Raritan Rd.
MONDAY MAY 20TH
12 NOON – 9:00pm**

**20% of all sales will be donated to our
Rise Against Hunger Project
WHEN YOU MENTION THE FUNDRAISER
TO YOUR SERVER OR SHOW THIS FLYER**

PLEASE JOIN US !!

