



The Messenger

Osceola Presbyterian Church

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Welcome to the Family

Osceola's Confirmation Class met for the past several months as they prepared assignments, attended worship services, and met with church leaders. The class led the worship service on Confirmation Sunday, April 27th that included the baptism of one member and the commissioning of the entire class by the Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith (aka Pastor Bobbie). It was a wonderful and Spirit-filled service!



Osceola's newest members are Brooklyn Germano, C.J. McCann, and Grace Walton. Check out their bios in this edition. It's been amazing to watch these young people grow in their faith and we can't wait to see how the faith journey continues to unfold. Welcome to the Osceola Church Family!

NEW MEMBERS

Where in the World is Osceola?

As we near the start of Summer and vacations, it's always fun hearing about people's plans for their trips. Whether its "down the shore", Florida, camping, Europe, the mountains, going to visit relatives or just a staycation in the back yard, summer is a time for getting outside and experiencing this beautiful world God has made for us.

We'd like you all to share your experiences with us by taking a photo of you on your trip and sending it to paul.hadsall@gmail.com. If you can wear your Osceola shirt that's a bonus. We will post them in the *Messenger* and we can share in the fun of your visits. If you want to share a short story about your trip that's great too.

For safety we will not post any photo until you confirm that you have returned home. It's really a good idea to never post photos on Facebook or other social media sites when you are not home. Wait till you return and then post away.



Here is a photo of me on the balcony of a hotel in Anaheim California I took when I recently visited our son Joe who lives there. Here's hoping we get some great photos and that you all have traveling mercies during this busy season. Safe travels!



Brooklyn is 14 years old and in the 8th grade at Hillside Avenue School in Cranford. She plays soccer and enjoys hanging with her friends and baking. Besides being athletic, Brooklyn has a great sense of humor and is optimistic.



C.J. is 15 years old and in the 10th grade at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark. He participates in baseball and football and enjoys hanging with his friends and going for walks or bike rides. C.J. is understanding and insightful as well as being athletic.



Grace is 13 years old and is in 8th grade at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in Clark. She participates in gymnastics and soccer and enjoys baking. Grace is smart and responsible in addition to being athletic.

Deacons at Work

Thank you to everyone who donated food items during our Lenten Food Drive. The list of suggested items was inspired by items used during Holy Week and the Food Pantry has received the collection. Keep an eye out for upcoming announcements and posts on our Facebook page about future food collections.



The Deacons also sent large Easter cards signed by our church members to some of our church family who are unable to attend church for various reasons. Several volunteers also delivered food to some of our homebound members as well.

Continue to let the Deacons know of any needs within our congregation and watch for Deacons Sunday on Pentecost, June 8th.

Attention Graduates

If any church members are graduating from high school, college or beyond this year, please share this information with the church office or Alice Dietze by June 1.



Look for the Risen Christ

“As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.” Luke 24: 28 -31b

Just as quickly as the seasons have changed from a snowy cold winter to a wet and warm spring, we have celebrated the Easter resurrection and are now in the post-resurrection season of our church year and our lives.

What does it mean to be post-resurrection? Partly, it means to be living with the certainty of a risen Christ who died on the cross for our sins and has been resurrected so that we may have everlasting life. How do we know this?

Just as the disciples walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus, and spoke with him about everything that had happened, they did not know him. We, too, may have spent many a time letting Jesus know what is going on with our lives, our families, our children, our employment, our unemployment, our hopes, our dreams, our very selves and yet we did not know him. It wasn't until they had invited Jesus to stay with them, broke bread with him, and in the ritual of the communion supper with his blessing, that they recognized him.

As you come to worship our Lord and Savior in this post-resurrection season and break bread with your brothers and sisters in Christ—yes, the ones who abandoned Jesus, the ones who ran away, the ones who were frightened, the ones who stayed locked in the upper room—yes, all these brothers and sisters in Christ, may you begin to recognize the Lord in them.

As you go about your daily life look for the risen Christ in all you meet. He is among us. We need to open our eyes and see.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Bobbie

Holy Listening- Spiritual Direction Opportunities

For over thirty years, even before I was ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament, I have wanted to be a Spiritual Director. Actually for over thirty years, God has called me and pushed me down that path. And I am very grateful to God that I am now a Certified Spiritual Director.

What is spiritual direction? Spiritual Direction invites you to create space for God in your life. This takes time and commitment. Spiritual Direction affords an opportunity for spiritual friendship with a Spiritual Director, and provides the time and structure, wisdom and discipline to create sacred space in your life in which God can act. By creating sacred space, you reserve a part of yourself and prevent your life from completely being filled up, occupied, and preoccupied. When this happens, your life begins to be transformed in ways you had not planned or counted on, "for God works in wondrous and surprising ways." (Henry Nouwen, *Spiritual Direction, WISDOM for the Long Walk of Faith*, pg. xv)

Invitation: You are invited to take this opportunity to experience being in spiritual direction of companionship with me. Working together, through silence, prayer, listening and discussion, you will discern and increase your capacity to live a spiritual life from the heart and create space for God in your life.

Interested or have questions? Talk, Call (908) 276-5300 or email (revarrow@gmail.com) me, Rev. Bobbie Arrowsmith

Save the Date

The Mission Commission is excited to announce this year's Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event scheduled for World Communion Sunday, Oct. 5. We will come back together to pack more than 10,000 meals over the course of a couple of hours. As always, these meals will be sent to hunger-stricken areas of the world that will be fed in both body and spirit because of our work.

Last year was our biggest fundraising year yet and we hope to continue that momentum!

Please also mark your calendars for the following events:

Friendly's

We will be hosting a series of fundraisers in partnership with Friendly's on Raritan Road in Clark again this year, starting on Tuesday, May 20. We will have additional nights in June and July. We hope you will join us for nights of fundraising and fellowship!

Clothing Drive Fundraiser

While you're doing your "spring cleaning," keep us in mind. On Saturday, Sept. 20, a donation truck from A&E Clothing Corp. will be coming to the church to collect donated clothing items. The company will donate money back to us in support of Rise Against Hunger for each bag donated. (Please note: **We cannot accept donated items early** – we don't have space to store them)

Looking Back

Lent and Easter have been busy seasons at Osceola!

Our weekly Wednesday evening Lenten Soup and Services were a wonderful time of fellowship over soup and bread, followed by reflections on “The Seven Last Words of Christ.” We observed Maundy Thursday sharing in the Lord’s Supper and focusing on Jesus’ final words. Good Friday’s Spirituality Center offered attendees an opportunity to pray and meditate of Jesus’ sacrificial love.

Our Easter celebrations began early as our youth led our Easter Sunrise Service on the church’s front steps. All who attended decorated the church’s sidewalk with messages declaring the good news of Jesus’ resurrection and then we moved on to Fellowship Hall for breakfast! Throughout the day, there were many sightings of a miniature Jesus!

The celebration continued at our 10 Resurrection Service when we “unburied” the Alleluia banner and rejoiced in our Risen Savior with an inspirational message from Pastor Bobbie and Holy Communion! A special “thank you” to our Deacons who provided the beautiful Easter flowers!



Food Pantry Update

The March Food Pantry distribution had lots of special items to help our families enjoy a wonderful Easter. We added some extra items to our basic boxes and included lots of “holiday fixin’s” in a special Easter bag. Each family also received a bag of egg treats and card from our Youth Group and an Easter craft from our Sunday School children. Additionally, every family received a \$25 ShopRite gift card. Besides our list of families who receive monthly distributions, 5 additional boxes and gift cards were prepared for families at the Jardine Academy. Our April distribution included a variety of breakfast foods.

Thanks to our generous congregation (and a great response to the Deacons’ Lenten Food Drive) and large donations recently from the National Honor Society of ALJ, First Pres. Church of Cranford, and St. Agnes’ Knights of Columbus, we have been able to help spread hope and joy to many this Easter season! Soon we will begin collecting items for the summer months.

Items we need:

cleaning supplies	laundry detergent	canned fruit
pasta sauce	canned pasta	jelly

Looking ahead:

Summer items: ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, pickles, relish, barbecue sauce, salad dressing, Suddenly Salad, olives, cases of bottled water

Collecting for Veterans

During the month of May, the Mission Commission will be collecting items for residents of the Lyons VA Medical Center. We are looking for:

- Men's Underwear - up to size 3XL
- Men's T-shirts - up to 4XL
- Socks
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Slippers - size 13
- Sneakers - size 9.5, 10, 10.5, 11, 13.5
- Bibles

There will be a box in the Narthex to collect these donations until Sunday, June 1.

Youth Ministries Update

Sunday School

Our Sunday School children have studied the events of Holy Week and participated in the “palm procession” during Palm Sunday worship. The kids also made an Easter craft for our Food Pantry families and to include in the Deacons’ Easter cards. After a week off for Easter, the classes will be learning of Jesus’ activities from his resurrection until his ascension. They will also be preparing special gifts to be distributed to our congregation for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.



Youth Group

Osceola’s Youth Group made Easter cards and treats for our Food Pantry families. Some of our youth led Osceola’s Sunrise Service that included a choral reading of “I Believe in the Resurrection.” They also provided some muscle helping to haul out items for our bulk pick-up.

Our fun and fellowship continue as we have meetings planned for April 29th, May 13th and May 27th. One of our meetings will be a miniature golf outing. Our end-of-year gathering is just around the corner!



OPC website now has on-line giving for donations

OPC embraces “tech” of the 21st century!

The 21st century is the current century in the Gregorian calendar, it began on January 1, 2001 and will end December 31, 2100.

The term "21st century" may refer to 21st century skills, which are a set of skills that are considered important in the modern world.



These skills include:



- **Flexibility:** The ability to adapt plans when needed
- **Leadership:** The ability to motivate a team to achieve a goal
- **Initiative:** The ability to start projects and plans on one's own
- **Productivity:** The ability to remain efficient in a world of distractions
- **Social skills:** The ability to meet & network with others for mutual benefit

Let's use those skills to build up Osceola Presbyterian Church! Remember, go to our website <https://www.osceolapresbyterianchurch.com/> for on-line giving via credit card or Google Pay.



Give

BY MAIL

Osceola Presbyterian Church
1689 Raritan Road
Clark, NJ 07066

- Every gift counts!
- Your contribution matters!

Thank you!

YOUR TIME

Share your talents with us!
Use your skills to help others!

- Sing the choir or play an instrument.
 - Lead a Bible study or a devotion.
 - Help with planning or maintenance.
 - Send card, visit shut-ins with the Deacons.
 - Mission events like [Rise Against Hunger](#).
-

DONATIONS

Provide for the [Food Pantry](#).

- Needed non-perishable food items
- Volunteer with sorting and monthly food distribution

Support Our Outreach

- [Friendly's FUNraising](#)
- [Clothing Drive](#)
- [Yard Sale](#)

Check [Facebook](#) or call office to plan a drop-off.

ONLINE

Online giving is available using credit card and Google Pay.

Donate

Thank you!
