



# The Messenger

Osceola Presbyterian Church

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January 9, 2026

*"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work.*

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end..."*

*"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches.*

*I am the root and the descendant of David, the Bright Morning Star."*

*(Revelation 22: 12-13, 16)*

Dear Friends:

"Arise, shine, for your light has come..." Isaiah 60:1a

December 21st is known as the Winter Solstice – the shortest day of the year. Traditions abound on this day – one is the waiting in long night with unlit candles, to welcome the dawn, the new light. As the sun comes up they light candles and fires and celebrate the new day, new beginnings. A new day has dawned.

The prophet Isaiah tells us to rise for the Light of God has come into our world. A new day has dawned. God's glory is upon us. God still shines the light of the divine presence amid our darkness. The bright morning star shines in fullness and freedom for us in our world. By the incarnation of Christ, we believe that light has dawned into our darkness; hope has come to our hopelessness.

Jesus is the Light of the world, that Bright Morning Star, so all one who follow him receive his light. But also, he is the light that greets us at the end of our lives, at the end of the world as we know it – the Second coming. Jesus announces he is coming soon. He is the Morning Star, the everlasting light through all eternity.

Go into the new year, 2026 with joy, hope, peace and love, for the Light of the world is in the world.

*In Christ:*

*Bobbie*

**FUNraising at**



**The Osceola Mission Commission is  
hosting a “FUNraising” Event  
at the Clark Friendly’s**

**1463 Raritan Rd.**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026**

**12 NOON – 8:00pm**

**20% of all sales will be donated to our  
Mission Ministries to Fight Hunger**

**WHEN YOU MENTION THE FUNDRAISER  
TO YOUR SERVER OR SHOW THIS FLYER**

**P L E A S E   J O I N   U S !**



## Deacons Serve With Open Hearts and Helping Hands

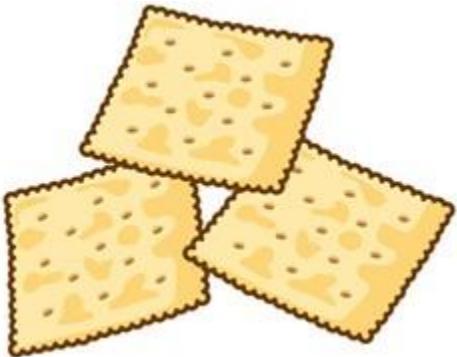
As winter settles in, your Osceola Deacons are here with open hearts and helping hands. We're grateful to serve our church family and want you to know that you are never alone. Whether it's help with a simple task, a ride to a church event, a listening ear, or Home Communion, we are glad to walk alongside you. No need is too small, and no request is too much. If you or someone you know could use a little extra care this season, please reach out. It would be our joy to serve. Your current Osceola Deacons are:

- Jimmy Dietze
- Linda Dodson
- Brooklyn Germano
- Theone Matz
- Jane Santiago
- Brady Walton

Come join us after worship each Sunday for Fellowship Hour – a time to warm our hands, hearts, and friendships. Our January theme is Cozy Comforts, so imagine all your cold-weather favorites: warm muffins, hearty dips, and steamy mugs of something warm. If it feels like a hug in food form, it belongs on the table! Whether you love to bake, cook, or pick up a favorite treat, we'd be grateful for your help. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex for anyone who'd like to share a comforting dish and help make our fellowship time extra warm and welcoming this month.



The Deacons continue to sponsor a Food Pantry collection each month on each Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of the month. While all non-perishable food items are always welcome, we'll also be sharing a suggested item each month to help focus our efforts. Keep an eye on the Friday email blast, church announcements, and our Facebook page for updates! For the month of January, the suggested item is crackers.



## Sunday School Update

Osceola's Sunday School classes learned more about Advent and the birth of our Savior throughout December. The classes prepared Christmas 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 28<sup>th</sup> or January 4<sup>th</sup> but will resume January 11<sup>th</sup>. Lessons will span from Epiphany, complete our study of Old Testament figures who served God by serving others, 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 8th. This "Super Bowl" event will be a "Super Fruit Bowl" as the students will collect canned fruit for Osceola Food Pantry 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.

## Youth Group Christmas Fun

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 of the "reason for the season" as we have fun spreading some holiday joy!

The Youth Group plans to kick off 2026 with a post-Christmas party at the Dietze's that will include lots of games, snacks and a winter dip in the hot tub! We're also looking forward to a Lock-in sometime in February. Everyone is looking forward to an exciting (and exhausting) night!



## Food Pantry Update

Our December distribution includes lots of special touches. All our families received their basic boxes, a bag of holiday "fixin's," and a \$25 ShopRite gift card. The families also received a church 2026 Osceola 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). The families were invited to select new items of donated items collected throughout the year and an assortment of Christmas items. Additionally, 13 children from our families received Christmas gifts from the Angel Tree project. Thanks to a special donation from Linden Presbyterian Church, each family was able to make 4 selections from an assortment of new toys and games. Additionally, we provided food, frozen turkeys and Angel Tree gifts to families at the Jardine Academy.

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	Crackers
Pasta sauce	Tomato products	

## Carols, Cookies & Community – “Christmas Around the World”

Despite a postponement due to snowy weather, Osceola’s second annual Carols, Cookies & Community event was a joyful day of music, fellowship, hot beverage bars and cookies! Our “Christmas Around the World” theme allowed us to share the many ways people celebrate Christ’s birth and even learn a thing or two. Hope everyone will join us again next December!



## WHOM SHALL I CALL?

If you...	Contact:
Are/or a family member is sick and in need of a pastoral visit	Pastor Bobbie Arrowsmith
Or a family member would like to receive Home Communion...	Jimmy Dietze, Jr.; Pastor Bobbie
Know of someone in need of a visit or a meal...	Deacons/ Jimmy Dietze, Jr.
Need a ride to a doctor's appointment or event....	Deacons/ Jimmy Dietze, Jr.
Have a concern about anything in the building or church property...	Bob Cunningham
Have a concern you want brought to Session...	Paul Hadsall (Clerk)
Are interested in learning more about Osceola...	Any of the Elders
Are interested in becoming a member of Osceola...	Pastor Bobbie Arrowsmith
Are interested in serving as a Worship Assistant or an Usher...	Jim Dietze, Sr.
Would like to help with Fellowship Hour...	Deacons / Jane Santiago
Are interested in helping with the Food Pantry...	Alice Dietze
Are interested in serving as an Elder or a Deacon...	Liz Coffey-Dawe
Have pictures or information to share with the congregation...	Paul Hadsall, Beth Parks
Would like to teach or help with Sunday School...	Alice Dietze
Would like to get involved with a Bible Study...	Alice Dietze
Would like to plan congregational gatherings...	Fredy Reyes
Have a musical talent to share....	Jim Dietze, Sr., Fabrizio Germano
Are interested in working with any of the Commissions...	Commission Chair

10/2025