



The Messenger

Osceola Presbyterian Church

1689 Raritan Road, Clark NJ 07066

☎ 908-276-5300 ✉ pastorosceola@gmail.com

September 2024

*“I was glad when they said to me,
‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’”*

Psalms 122:1

Welcome home!

We all love to hear that phrase said to us when we have been away for whatever reason. It makes us feel warm all over to know that family and friends have missed us and are very glad to see us. We here at Connecticut Farms church think of ourselves as family. The family of God, who loves each other, cares and prays for each other. We are glad you are back home.

Summer is winding down and our church programs are winding up. So, welcome home to everyone. We have so much to welcome you home to. Welcome Home Sunday is on September 8th, and the worship service begins at 10 a.m.

We begin a new program year of the church starting on September 8th, 9 am with a WELCOME BACK CELEBRATION BRUNCH! This brunch is for the whole church. The breakfast will take place in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. It is an opportunity to meet everyone, catch up with everyone, hear about the new program year, Youth Group activities, and get to know the officers of the church. Following the breakfast, we will go into the sanctuary for worship of God.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 28th, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., for our fundraiser Clothing drive to benefit Rise Against Hunger. (See flyers enclosed). Also look for the enclosed flyer about the Yard sale, Saturday, October 19, 9 a.m.

There are many ways of becoming involved in our congregation and in God's work. Keep track with the Messenger, the Friday email blasts, the Bulletin boards, Facebook, and flyers posted.

Welcome home!

Bobbie

Mission Commission Updates

The Mission Commission has continued to organize fundraising and fellowship opportunities to support our upcoming Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event on World Communion Sunday, October 6th. On that day, we will come together once again to pack another 10,000 meals to support communities in need across the globe.

The final in the series of Friendly's fundraisers took place on Wednesday, August 21st. We're still waiting for the final total from this event, but we received \$270 already from individuals who were not able to attend. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the fundraiser. We love to see so many of you enjoying your time out with one another and supporting such a great cause.

We would like to encourage everyone to continue to visit Friendly's on Raritan Road as a "Thank You" to them for continuing to support our congregation.



Mark your calendars!

"We eat so they can eat"

On Sunday, September 22nd following the worship service, the Mission Commission will be hosting a lunch called "We eat so they can eat". Steve Reiss from Rise Against Hunger will be joining us to share more information about how meal-packing events like ours are transforming lives across the globe. We hope you will join us to learn more about Rise Against Hunger's mission and to reflect on the blessing of having access to food and nourishment. This will also be an opportunity for members and friends to pre-register to participate in the meal-packing event on October 6th.

Clothing Drive Fundraiser

Do you have items in your house that you no longer need? On Saturday, September 28th, a donation truck from A&E Clothing Corp. will be coming to the church to collect donated items. The company will donate money back to us in support of Rise Against Hunger for each bag donated.

We're looking for

- Clothing for men, women and children
- Shoes and clothing accessories like belts, hats, scarves, handbags, gloves etc.
- Stuffed animals and small toys (2 ft. or less)
- Soft household items like towels, blankets, bed sheets, pillows, quilts, comforters and curtains

Please do not use boxes and do not bring furniture, household appliances, lamps, artwork, etc. Save that for our Yard Sale.

Please put acceptable items in large (13 Gallon) trash bags which have been tied closed. Please do not overfill bags. If you can't lift it...neither can we! The collection will be on Saturday, September 28, from 11 am to 2 pm ONLY. Please do not bring items on any other day or time!

Celebrating 9 Years

September marks nine years since Osceola expanded our Food Pantry program. That's 108 months of food distributions! We continue to provide food for those in need and are averaging 23 families per month, as well as "emergency boxes" for those who reach out to the church. We're tallying up our numbers and hope to make a big announcement during worship on September 8th. Stay tuned!

The summer has been a busy time for our Food Pantry. In July, our families all received cases of bottled water and other assorted beverages in addition to our basic boxes. Our congregation collected school supplies throughout the summer, and these were blessed during our worship on August 25th. Every school-aged child received a bag of school supplies and a Walmart gift card to help them prepare for the school year. Our families without school-aged children received an assortment of cleaning supplies.



Osceola Food Pantry has added a box for food donations to the church parking lot (straight down the driveway, next to the shed). We hope this will conveniently allow members of the community to drop off their non-perishable food donations. Of course, we continue to accept donations inside the church! All donations are appreciated!!

Thank you for your amazing support! Please continue to pray for this wonderful mission of our church. We are truly feeding our brothers and sisters as we serve the Lord. HAPPY 9th ANNIVERSARY TO US!!!



Items we need:

- Pancake mix
- Pancake Syrup
- Breakfast bars
- Crackers
- Canned Fruit
- Tomato products
- Paper Products
- Cleaning supplies
- Canned Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Jelly

It's not too early to think about Christmas!

The Sunday School children will be filling shoe boxes once again to send to children around the world, spreading some joy and the Gospel. The boxes must be delivered in mid-November to our collection site so we will begin collecting items (and boxes) now and the children will be packing boxes by early November.



Below is a list of items that we collect and a list of items not to include. You may purchase and donate any of these items and bring them to in-person worship or contact Alice Dietze (adietze@verizon.net or 732-574-8956) to have the items picked up. To make it even easier, you may instead make a monetary donation in either of these two ways:

- ✓ Write a check for \$10 per box to cover shipping made payable to "Samaritan's Purse" with "Operation Christmas Child" on the memo line and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church
- ✓ Write a check to "Osceola Presbyterian Church" with "Shoebox items" on the memo line to be used to purchase items to fill the shoeboxes. Checks may be placed in the offering plate or given to Alice Dietze. We have shoppers ready!

ITEMS NEEDED:

- EMPTY SHOEBOXES!!!!!!
- Small toys (balls, stuffed animals, dolls, cars, puzzles, etc.)
- School supplies (we have already received generous donations of school supplies, but these are the items most requested)
- Hygiene items (bar soap, toothbrushes, combs, washcloths, hair accessories)
- Small clothing items (socks, gloves or mittens, hats, scarves, tee shirts, flip-flops)
- Useful items for older children (sewing kits, fishing supplies, small tools, flashlights and batteries)

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Liquids or lotions
- Food items or candy
- Toothpaste
- War-related items (toy guns, military figures, knives)
- Breakable items
- Aerosol cans

Taste of the Nation

During Fellowship Hour each Sunday throughout the summer, Osceola held their third “Taste of the Nation” event. For each of the 10 weeks, volunteers brought in food iconic to specific states. We learned a lot about these states and learned more about the travels of our fellow church members. A BIG THANK YOU to all who shared in the fun by preparing food and to our resident “factfinder.” We hope to visit even more states (31 down and 19 to go) in our travels next summer!



Sunday School Returns

Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, September 22nd. The first week, our “Welcome Back Breakfast,” will be held in Jr./Sr. High classroom at 9:00 am. Our theme for the year will expand on John 3: 16-17 as we learn of God’s love through the Scripture and special mission projects. We hope all kids in grades 1-High School will come out and learn more about God and His love for us all!



All children are invited to join us in Sunday School each Sunday from 9:00-9:50 am. Registration forms may be obtained from the Sunday School teachers or by contacting Alice Dietze (732-574-8956 or adietze@verizon.net). Forms may also be obtained on Osceola’s website.

Youth Group Kick-Off

Osceola’s Youth Group will kick-off a new year on Tuesday, September 17th. There will be a barbecue at the Dietze home from 6:00-8:30 pm that will include a time to get acquainted, some fun games and a dip in the hot tub.



Regular meetings are scheduled for October 1st, October 15th and October 29th from 7:00-8:30 pm at the church.

Any youth in grades 6-12 is welcome to join us. Please contact Alice Dietze (732-574-8956 or adietze@verizon.net) for more information.

Clothing Drive

Saturday, September 28, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Osceola Presbyterian Church Parking Lot
1689 Raritan Road, Clark, NJ 07066
to Benefit Rise Against Hunger

This is a list of items we accept:

- **Clothing for men, women and children.**
- **Shoes (please put in a separate bag)**
- **Clothing accessories: belts, hats, scarves, handbags, gloves etc.**
- **Soft household items like towels, blankets, bed sheets, pillows, quilts, comforters and curtains**
- **small toys (2 ft. or less).**
- **Stuffed animals**





OPEN
GIANT



YARD



SALE



OCTOBER 19:

9 am to 3 pm

**CONTACT FREDY REYES TO
ARRANGE A PICK UP OR A
GOOD TIME TO DROP AT
THE CHURCH**

Clothes are NOT being accepted