



# The Messenger

Osceola Presbyterian Church

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*"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!" -- Isaiah 55:1a*

Dear Friends:

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. The apostle Paul tells us that we are to "discern the body" when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration.

World Communion Sunday (originally called Worldwide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor.

"The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. Worldwide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed. The Peacemaking Offering, established in 1980, is set in the context of World Communion Sunday to celebrate our common life in the global bonds of Christ's peace-giving body.

As we receive the bread and cup, we celebrate Christ, our Peace, and are renewed to pass Christ's peace to those around us and across the world. On World Communion Sunday, October 5th, as we come to the table of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may we renew our commitment to the work of peace as followers of Christ, our Peace, who shows us the way to live as peacemakers in our world.

So it is fitting that we gather to Rise Against Hunger on World Communion Sunday. If people go hungry or have no roof over their heads, there can be no peace. On Sunday, October 6th, we gather after worship in Fellowship Hall to make meals to help feed the world's hungry. We need as many hands (and feet) as possible that day to make over 10,000 meals. Come and be part of this experience. Come and be part of Christ's call to feed the hungry. Together we Rise Against Hunger.

*Christ's peace to you,*

*Bobbie*

## Clothing Drive-Clean Out For A Cause



On Saturday, September 20, we held a clothing drive to raise funds for Rise for Hunger, to provide meals for those in need. This year, we collected 187 bags of used clothing, shoes and stuffed animals and received a check for \$375.60. Thank you to everyone who donated and everyone who helped load the truck!

### *A & E Used Clothing Corporation*

“Where are the clothes we are donating going? Are they being used for rags?” These are the two most asked questions when doing a clothing drive fundraiser. The answers are very simple – the clothes go to thrift shops in the United States and overseas. NO, they are not being used for rags.

Our Mission Commission is working with A & E Corporation, an American used clothing distributor that collects unwanted clothing and other items and resells them in bulk in the U.S. and to other developing countries. By providing such services to non-profit and profit organizations they create jobs for people in the U.S. and abroad helping local communities and economies in emerging countries as well as helping our country become a greener, cleaner place. Their mission consists of providing a good quality of new or used clothing to developing countries. To learn more, go to their website: [aeclimbing.net](http://aeclimbing.net)

## Rise Against Hunger – Our 8th Meal-Packaging Event

Get your hairnets ready! Immediately following the worship service on World Communion Sunday, October 6, 2025, Osceola will once again join hands to fight hunger around the world through Rise Against Hunger, an international relief agency whose vision is “a world without hunger.” Through these events, volunteers of all ages pack more than 10,000 nutritious meals by hand for communities facing chronic hunger.

Over the past seven events, our church family and friends have come together to pack tens of thousands of meals for children and families in countries such as Sri Lanka, Madagascar and Haiti. Together we not only provide food but also share the love of Jesus Christ with people — living out our call to be Christ’s hands in the world.



Thank you to everyone who has supported fundraising for the cost of food supplies and shipping by donating to the Mission Commission’s Clothing Drive, coming out to our Friendly’s fundraisers, and more. Your generosity and enthusiasm make this truly an Osceola project.

Let’s come together once more to pack another 10,000 meals and share Christ’s love with our brothers and sisters across the globe!



## Deacons Begin A New Year Of Service

The Deacons at Osceola are excited to begin another year of serving our church family – and we want you to know we're here to help! No need is too small, and no ask is too big. Need help raking leaves? We've got you. Looking for a ride to a church event? Just let us know. Feeling overwhelmed or just need someone to talk to? We're here to listen. If you, or someone you know, could use a hand (or if you'd like to receive Home Communion) we'd love to hear from you. Your current Osceola Deacons are:

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



Stick around after worship every Sunday to catch up, laugh, and share some delicious treats with your church family! After the success of our Taste of the Nation summer series, the Deacons are keeping the fun going with monthly Fellowship Hour themes, and October is all about apples! If you love to bake (or shop!), we'd love your help. Think apple cider, apple doughnuts, apple slices with caramel, and maybe even a pie or cake. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex soon for anyone who'd like to bring something apple-themed to share.

Let's make this fall season warm, welcoming, and full of flavor – see you after service!

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 October, the suggested item is rice (boxed or bagged). Why rice? It's not just a pantry staple, it's also the key ingredient we'll be working with during our Rise Against Hunger event on Sunday, October 5, where we pack meals to help fight hunger one grain at a time.



# Operation Christmas Child

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](mailto: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 (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 or soap
- War-related items (toy guns, military figures, knives)
- Breakable items
- Aerosol cans

## "Many hands make light the work." "All hands on deck!"

*Both well-known and well-worn phrases say the same thing. Many people are needed to get the job done. We have events going up that need many hands to accomplish the work that is needed to be done.*

- **Rise Against Hunger:** held on **Sunday, October 5th at 11:30 a.m.** We plan on packing and blessing over 10,000 meals. We need many people on the assembly line. the beauty of this mission is that members of all ages can participate. We need packers, we need runners, we need folk to sit at the table and.... Invite your friends to come and help. Experience the joy and laughter from sisters and brothers in Christ gathering to do his work. **Join us on Sunday, October 5th, 11:30 a.m.**
  - **The Church Yard Sale:** Held Saturday, October 11th, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the church lawn, in the church parking lot and in Fellowship Hall. We need people to help set-up Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the day before the sale. On Saturday itself, people are needed, both outdoors and inside, to be at the tables to sell items. There will be a bake sale so people are needed to make baked goods. And we need a clean-up crew. This group is very important. Can you work all day or just a few hours at a time? We need you, all of you, for this event to be successful. Again, people of all ages can help. Call Fredy Reyes @ (908) 347-3259; Kathy Terzo @ (908) 472-6305; Pastor Bobbie @ (215) 630-3705.
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## Bible Study Survey

The Christian Formation Commission is trying to determine any interest in forming a Bible Study class soon. If you are interested, complete the survey that appears on the Friday email blast or is in the Narthex, or speak to Pastor Bobbie or Alice Dietze. Let us know whatever days and times work best for you.



## Worship & Music Calendar

Watch for these special up-coming events at Osceola!

- October 5 – World Communion Sunday, 10:00 am worship
- October 19 – Noise Offering during 10:00 am worship
- November 2 – Communion and All Saints' Day at 10:00 am worship
- November 26 (Wednesday) – Thanksgiving Eve service, 7:00 pm
- November 30 (Saturday) – Deck the Hall event, 2:00 pm
- December 14 (Sunday) – our 2nd Carols, Cookies & Community event, 2:00 pm



## Sunday School Begins New Year

Sunday School classes began on September 28th with a “welcome back” breakfast. During worship, we began our Children’s Chats again and had a blessing of our Christian Education staff on the 14th. We are indeed blessed to have our children and youth returning and our volunteers are great!

Our theme for the year will be “Serving God by Serving Others” focusing on Galatians 5: 13 as we learn of examples in Scripture and participate in special mission projects. We will also be looking at Biblical examples of people serving God by serving others.



As usual, our Sunday School classes participate in several mission projects throughout the year. The students will host the first of three Noise Offerings on Sunday, October 19th during worship. The loose change they collect from our congregation will be used to offset a “building project” here at Osceola that has been chosen by the children.

Throughout the month of October, we will be collecting items to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes will be filled by the classes on the first 2 weeks of November and then head out to the collection center. This is always a favorite activity of the year and last year the Sunday School classes filled 126 boxes! Look for the Operation Christmas Child article in this issue if you would like to help in some way.



## The Youth Group Is Cooking!



Osceola's Youth Group had a busy first meeting in September. The youth prepared 6 pans of baked ziti for the luncheon to celebrate our Food Pantry's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They did a great job and the results were delicious!

The next meeting was held at the Dietze's house, enjoying a barbecue, sharing summer adventures, playing some fun games, and discussing plans for the coming year.

Meetings for October will be held on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and October 28<sup>th</sup>. These meetings will be held in the Youth Room from 7:00-8:30 pm and will include games, spiritual lessons, and some mission work. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us – bring a friend!





## Celebrating 10 Years of Service



September was an exciting month for Osceola Food Pantry! We celebrated the 10th anniversary of our expanded program on Sunday, September 21, 2025. It all began with a very special worship service when we praised God for his grace in supporting our food ministry.

Following worship, a Luncheon Program was held in Fellowship Hall. Our Youth Group prepared a baked ziti lunch and numerous volunteers prepared special dishes that were from recipes given out to our Food Pantry families over the past ten years. The program included a slide show depicting the accomplishments of our program and we revealed some amazing new totals. In the past year alone, the Food Pantry distributed a new record of 13,469 pounds as well as giving \$1,640 in gift cards. Even greater than that, our ten-year total is now 114,443 pounds of food and \$19,460 in gift cards! Praise God!!

Our Luncheon Program gave us an opportunity to recognize numerous community groups and individuals who have supported our Food Pantry. We also made sure to show our appreciation to our congregation for their amazing support and to some special “golden” volunteers. Our Food Pantry families shared in the celebration as they received “party treats” (including ice cream, cake, soda, popcorn, pretzels, and brownie mix) in their September special bags. It was a wonderful afternoon and more photos will appear soon on Osceola’s Facebook page.

All the success of the past ten years has truly been, with God’s help, a church-wide effort! Well done, good and faithful servants!



## Behind the Keyboard

Osceola has been blessed to have Fabrizio Germano agree to provide our worship music throughout the remainder of the year while Dawn Stegner is on her leave of absence.



Fabrizio has already been a part of our Osceola family as he attends worship regularly with his wife, Liz Coffey-Dawe, and their two daughters Francesca and Brooklyn. He also filled in musically during Dawn's last maternity leave.

Fabrizio was born and raised in Alba, Italy and eventually moved to France where he met Liz. The family relocated to the U.S. in 2015 and has been involved at Osceola since. Currently, Fabrizio works for a U.S. branch of a wine company, but he has an extensive musical background.

He began piano lessons at the age of 13 and studied at a school of music. In Europe, he managed a church choir and founded a men's chorus that researched the songs of the region. Fabrizio also taught piano lessons for many years and sang in a semi-professional choir.

It's obvious that music is an integral part of Fabrizio's life and we are delighted that he is sharing his talent, joy and enthusiasm with us in worship!

## Food Pantry Needs

Items we need:

Canned fruit  
Cleaning supplies  
Rice

Jelly  
Canned Pasta  
Pasta Sauce

Paper towels  
Paper products  
Tomato Products

Looking ahead for the holidays:

Stuffing mix  
Instant Potatoes

Gravy  
Muffin mix

Canned Pumpkin  
Sweet Potatoes/Yams