

The Messenger



OUR CHURCH TURNS 80!

Osceola Presbyterian Church celebrated 80 years of ministry on October 22nd. The theme, “We Are the Church Together,” was demonstrated throughout our celebratory worship service which was led by 15 readers representing our membership, the Chancel Choir, our Sunday School children, and Youth Group members. It was a wonderful opportunity to praise God and offer up thanks for His faithfulness over the past 80 years!

Everyone was invited to continue the celebration in Fellowship Hall. Our elders led us in grace and a hearty luncheon was served. No one went home hungry!! We joined in a rendition of “The Little Brick Church by the Parkway,” answered some Osceola trivia, and tested our knowledge of the decades from the 1940’s to the present. This very special day ended on a sweet note as we all enjoyed the vast array of desserts provided by our volunteer bakers.

God has blessed Osceola with these past 80 years of ministry, mission and fellowship. May He continue to bless our church as we continue to do His will!





A Message from the Mission Commission

Osceola envisioning a world without hunger

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief agency driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Their focus is getting people involved in hands-on work and engaging local volunteers in meal-packing events. During these events, thousands of meals are packed and shipped around the world to areas suffering from chronic hunger.

On World Communion Sunday, October 1st, Osceola members, friends and neighbors came together to pack 10,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger. This marked our sixth meal-packing event and Rise Against Hunger's 25th year. During the event, Fellowship Hall was filled with energy as more than fifty volunteers put on their gloves and hairnets and worked at their different stations. The exciting bang of a gong signaled each 1,000 meals we had packed and each time the bangs seemed to be closer and closer together as we were eager to reach our goal. As we celebrated the tenth gong, signaling our ten-thousandth meal, the Deacons provided a delicious lunch for all volunteers to enjoy. Let us forever give thanks that we do not know hunger the way that so many in the world do.

The Mission Commission is happy to announce that the meals that we packed are headed to the Philippines!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone that participated in this year's event, helped set up, clean up, helped fundraise or helped prepare lunch. **Well done good and faithful servants!**





MONTHLY MISSION GIVING UPDATE

This year, Osceola's Mission Commission implemented a monthly mission giving program to recognize organizations that are sharing the love of Jesus Christ in our community and around the world. We have supported a mix of Christian and secular organizations.

For September, we donated \$100 to Best Friend Dog & Animal Adoption in Union County. It is a non-profit organization that provides medical treatment, food, and shelter to rescued stray and abandoned animals until they are adopted into loving homes. For more information, visit www.bfdaaa.com

In October, we donated \$100 to the American Burn Association. The non-profit organization is dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by burn injury through research, education, care, rehabilitation, and prevention. For more information, visit ameriburn.org

This month, we donated \$200 to Rise Against Hunger, which is working to raise \$25,000 in its 25th anniversary year to help support school gardens in South Africa that can feed up to 700 children. We just finished our sixth meal packing event in partnership with Rise Against Hunger last month. For more information, visit www.riseagainsthunger.org

The Mission Commission continues to seek suggestions of organizations or individuals who are showing the love of Jesus Christ in the world. If you would like to make a recommendation for the monthly mission giving program, please contact a commission member or visit <https://bit.ly/OPCmission>



FOOD PANTRY

Osceola Food Pantry has continued our monthly outdoor distributions, providing much-needed food to our families. We provide "monthly specials" and the special for October was a recipe for "Easy Apple Cobbler" with all the ingredients plus some ice cream. Donated used clothing and household items are also available each month and November's distribution will display a variety of donated new items that may be used by our families for holiday gifts.



FOOD SORTING PARTY - We will be receiving a large food donation soon. There will be a "sorting party" on Saturday, November 18th at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. If you are available, save the date to help check the dates!

The generous support of Osceola's members has allowed the Food Pantry Committee to plan on providing additional "holiday fixin's" to be provided to all of our client families in November and December. Extra holiday boxes will also be prepared for several families from the Jardine Academy and individuals known to our congregation. In addition, turkeys or ShopRite gift cards will be given out with all of our Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets.



To add some special holiday touches, Osceola’s Youth Group will be donating apple and pumpkin pies in November.



We will once again be asking Osceola’s famous bakers to donate Christmas cookies for December. If you are willing to bake at least 4 dozen Christmas cookies (or donate some bought specialty cookies) by December 10, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or contact Alice Dietze (732-574-8956 or adietze@verizon.net). Help by “baking spirits bright!”



Each of the children of our Food Pantry families will also receive a Christmas present in December, courtesy of the Osceola Deacons’ Angel Tree project. Look for the tree in the Narthex at the end of November.



By the end of November, the Deacons will be sponsoring a Reverse Advent Calendar project to benefit Osceola Food Pantry. Place a food item into a box each day of Advent and bring the box to church on December 25 (or somewhere around that date). A list of suggested items is available from the church as well as some boxes, but any box or container may be used. Contact a Deacon if you need a box picked up. All are welcome to participate!

November and December are particularly busy months for our Food Pantry, but the spirit of giving is strong and brings “tidings of great joy!” Praise God!!

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED:

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|--------------|--------|-------------------|
| canned fruit | rice | canned pasta |
| pasta sauce | jelly | tomato products |
| canned beans | cereal | macaroni & cheese |

LOOKING AHEAD – HOLIDAY ITEMS:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| mashed potatoes | gravy | canned pumpkin | cranberry sauce |
| sweet potatoes/yams | chicken broth | olives | juice |
| cake mix | icing tubs | muffin mix | baking products (flour, sugar) |



FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 5 – Rev. Dr. Chris Belden, All Saints' Day with Communion

November 12 – Rev. Bernadette Amistoso-Morales

November 19 – Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith, Stewardship Sunday (Congregational Meeting following)

November 22 – Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00 pm, Elder Alice Dietze

November 26 – Rev. Bernadette Amistoso-Morales

December 3 – 1st Sunday of Advent – Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith, with Communion

Worshippers may attend services in person or on Zoom. For the Zoom app use Meeting ID: 835 0070 8532 (Password: OPC) or watch later via Osceola's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OsceolaNJ



THANKSGIVING EVE

Osceola will be having a Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 23rd at 7:00 pm, led by elder Alice Dietze. If you are not heading “over the river and through the woods,” come out and join us as we offer thanks to God for his bountiful goodness.



Everyone is invited to help us “Deck the Halls” on Saturday, December 2nd. We will meet at the church at 2:00 pm to decorate the Sanctuary and hallways for Advent and Christmas. Carols and refreshments will be available. Many hands make light “fa-la-la-labor!”



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School began the year with a “Welcome Back Breakfast” and an introduction to this year’s Sunday School theme – John 3: 16-17. As we learn of God’s love for all His children, we have been focusing on the life of Moses and how God used Him to help His chosen people.

The Sunday School classes sponsored a Noise Offering on October 15th. The children chose Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to receive the \$104.68 collected during the loose change offering. Thanks to everyone who supported this mission effort!

Our children are very important to us at Osceola. Our classes discussed the importance of our church in their lives and drew pictures depicting their thoughts. These were shared with the congregation during our Anniversary Worship Service and the kids also led a Prayer of Thanks.

The classes will be busy in the coming weeks filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. These boxes will be sent to children all over the world. Each box is a way to show God’s love and help spread the Good News of the Gospel. Watch for the boxes to be blessed during worship on November 12th!

November will also be a focus on offering prayers of thanks to God. Advent is coming soon (always a favorite time of the year) and we look forward to learning about the birth of Jesus – the most wonderful gift of all!



YOUTH GROUP

Osceola’s Youth Group kicked off the year with a barbecue at the Dietze home. We welcomed back our youth and a new member during our evening of food, games, and a dip in the hot tub. There’s “S’more” fun ahead!

During our October meetings, we discussed the importance of worshipping God and came up a list of words to convey their thoughts. These words were added to large posters which the kids painted and decorated and the posters served as decorations at our Anniversary luncheon. The youth also led the benediction at the service with our traditional Youth Group blessing circle.

The youth made chocolate-covered pretzels that will be sold to raise money to purchase Thanksgiving pies for our Food Pantry families. Of course, we all test-tasted the product to make sure they were “safe to eat!”

Meetings in November will be held on November 7, November 14 (when we transport the filled OCC shoe boxes to the drop-off site and assist there), and November 28 (getting ready for Advent). Any youth in grades 6-12 who are interested in joining us should contact Alice Dietze (732-574-8956 or adietze@verizon.net).

