

Osceola Presbyterian Church
1689 Raritan Road
Clark, NJ 07066

Summer 2023
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The Messenger

A VERY SPECIAL YEAR!

Did you realize that this year is Osceola's 80th anniversary? To kick off this awesome milestone, Bob and Phyllis Cunningham prepared a fabulous family dinner last month, with just a little help from Adult Ministries!

To continue the momentum of fun and fellowship, we are hoping to have an ice cream social during the summer (date to be determined). And stay tuned for information about an anniversary celebration to be held in October. If you are interested in helping with the planning of either of these events, please contact Carol Riddlestorffer, chair of Adult Ministries, at 908-499-1983.

RISING HEAVENWARD

Spring flew by as our Sunday School students learned about Jesus' appearances following his Resurrection. We observed Ascension Sunday by sending balloon messages "up" to Jesus and celebrated the birthday of the church on Pentecost.



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- June 25 - Rev. Bernadette Amistoso-Morales
- July 2 - Rev. Dr. Chris Belden, Communion
- July 9 - Rev. Dr. Joanne Noel
- July 16 - Rev. Bernadette Amistoso-Morales
- July 23 - Rev. Dr. Joanne Noel
- July 30 - Rev. Bernadette Amistoso-Morales
- August 6 - Rev. Dr. Chris Belden, Communion
- August 13 - Rev. Bobbie Arrowsmith



SESSION NOTES

The Session is thrilled to welcome a newly ordained elder, Judith Rich, who will begin her duties in July.

Session has completed the job description for a part time pastor! The position will be posted on various websites in the next few weeks.

We know that God is already preparing the person He has selected to be our next spiritual leader. We ask you to join the elders in praying for that person, for the search process, and for the necessary finances to continue our ministries here at Osceola

Osceola has a new website! Check it out at osceolapresbyterian-church.com

BIBLE STUDY

Looking for a Bible study? Well, look no further! Please join the Thursday morning group, from 10 am to noon as we explore the book of Proverbs. All are welcome!

TASTE OF THE NATION RETURNS

We'll be visiting states all across the U.S.A. this summer as "Taste of the Nation" returns to Osceola's weekly Fellowship Hours. Each Sunday after worship, volunteers will provide refreshments that represent iconic food from selected states. We had great fun last year and learned a lot about some of our states. Who knows where the road will lead this summer? Anyone interested in helping provide some of the refreshments should speak to Anita Mai or Alice Dietze.

DEACONS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Deacons had their annual picnic on Tuesday June 13th at the home of Fredy and Betsy Reyes. They welcomed new members, Marge Messler, Theone Matz and Linda Dodson. They also thanked Jimmy Dietze, Jim Bradley and Nancy Winter for their service as their term in office ended.

In addition to welcoming new members and thanking the outgoing, the meeting served as their organizational meeting for the coming year. Theone Matz agreed to serve as Deacons Treasurer, Kathy Terzo will be the incoming secretary, and Marge Messler will be the new vice president. Fredy Reyes will remain president for one additional year before he steps down.

Deacons will be serving home communion over the summer. If anyone would like to receive home communion they may contact the church office or Fredy Reyes at 908-347-3259 to make arrangements.



SUNDAY SCHOOL WRAPS UP

On May 21st, the Sunday School sponsored a Noise Offering during worship. The students voted to donate the \$95.55 collected to Osceola's Mission Commission's Rise Against Hunger Project.

The classes made gifts for all the women and men of our church for Mother's Day and Father's Day.



Our final week of Sunday School (until September!!) was on June 11th and we presented Bibles to our students entering 3rd and 6th grades and took time to show some appreciation to our Sunday School staff. We hope everyone has a happy and healthy vacation – and “donut” forget to spend some time with Jesus this summer!



A MISSION MINUTE

The Mission Commission would like to thank the Osceola Church Family for their generosity.

During the spring, the Deacons donated the proceeds from the Easter coin bank collection—\$150.85— to help fund our Rise Against Hunger event this fall. The Sunday School donated another \$95.55 from their Noise Offering to us for Rise Against Hunger.

You supported our Friendly's Fun-Raiser for Rise Against Hunger on Monday, June 12, and we hope to see you again on Tuesday, June 27 for more fellowship in support of this cause.

Rise Against Hunger is a global non-profit that has a vision of ending hunger throughout the world. We've worked with them since 2016, hosting events where you've packed 10,000 meals in a couple of hours.

Watch for more information about our 2023 event!

WORSHIP IN PERSON OR AT HOME

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Osceola's new church membership directory is now available. Copies are available in the Narthex. There is also a sign-up sheet for those who would like to have the directory made available to them digitally.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATE!

Congratulations to Diana Dudash who will be graduating this June from David Brearley High School in Kenilworth. Diana plans to attend Union College in Cranford in the fall with an interest in criminal justice. May God bless her and guide her steps on this journey!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Anyone who has been grocery shopping lately can understand how much our food distributions mean to our families. We've been able to give generous supplies to all our Food Pantry families and some additional "emergency" contacts as well. In addition, we continue to have tables of used clothing and household items from which our families may make selections.



During April, we handed out extra breakfast food items and the May special-of-the-month was a recipe for "Tuna Noodle Casserole" complete with all the ingredients. Thanks to our Deacons' picnic food drive, our families will receive fully packed "picnic baskets" during our June distribution. We'll be collecting cases of bottled water to hand out this summer.

Items we need: cleaning supplies, canned fruit, tomato products, paper products, canned pasta, canned beans, spaghetti sauce and jelly.

Looking ahead: Take advantage of the summer sales and donate school supplies to be used at our August distribution. A box will be available in the Narthex. Surplus items will be used for Operation Christmas Child in the fall.

PASTA PARTY



Osceola's Pasta Party after our Congregational meeting on May 21st was a tremendous hit! Thanks to Phyllis and Bob Cunningham for coming up with the idea and providing delicious pasta and meatballs in homemade gravy (aka sauce). Special thanks to the Adult Ministries Commission and all the volunteers who helped with set-up and clean-up and to all who provided the desserts. No one went home hungry! All of the money collected for the lunch was donated to Osceola's Local Mission Fund.

FINISHING WITH FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP

The Youth Group participated in several projects to help our Food Pantry this spring. They used their keen eyes to help date-check and sort canned goods and they also baked cookies to include in the distribution boxes.

We always have time for fun and games at our meetings at the church, but we really enjoying getting “out and about.” In May we travelled “all the way down Raritan Road” to have pizza at Blaze Pizza, followed by a round of miniature golf at Hyatt Hills.

Our final event for the year, was the crazy barbecue at the Dietze home. We played some “cheesy” games and even got “cold feet,” but everyone was “foaming” by the end of the night. Look for more photos soon on Osceola’s Facebook page. It was an exciting end to our year and we can’t wait for more fun

