



The Messenger

Osceola Presbyterian Church

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*“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.” (Psalm 24:1-2)*

April is upon us. We are in love with spring and the beauty of the earth. The earth is the Lord’s: the earth, the world that the Lord created belongs solely to God. In the creation accounts, we find that God declared all of creation “good,” and that humans were to till the earth and care for it. The Lord charged humanity to be good stewards of the earth.

Yet somehow we humans have decided that the earth and all that is in it, belongs to us, to do as we please. At least that is how we have lived our lives over the ages. We have plundered the earth; polluting the waters, the soil, and the very air we breathe. As the apostle Paul states in Romans, all of creation groans with pain for the redemption. (8:19-24)

But hope abounds. Today we are more aware of the consequence of our actions. We, as individuals and as a congregation, can be more proactive in being good stewards of the earth, this earth that was entrusted to us and rightly belongs to God.

So human solutions to global climate change are:

- Invest in clean and efficient sources of energy.
- Make our personal and congregational lives more energy efficient: drive less, turn out the lights, use energy efficient light bulbs, conserve electricity while heating and cooling buildings, perform energy audits of homes and churches.
- Buy locally produced food whenever possible to decrease the number of miles that food travels to get to the table.
- Pass legislation aimed at reducing our national dependence on carbon-based energy and participate in global solutions aimed to reduce worldwide carbon emission.
- Recycle, recycle, recycle!

In some small way we each can do our part to help preserve this dear earth for the future generations.

In Christ’s love, Bobbie

Looking Back

Lent and Easter have been busy seasons at Osceola

Our weekly Wednesday evening Lenten Soup and Services were a wonderful time of fellowship over soup and bread, followed by reflections on “The Witnesses of Holy Week.” We observed Maundy Thursday gathered around tables much as the disciples did in the Upper Room and shared in the Lord’s Supper. Good Friday’s Spirituality Center offered attendees an opportunity to pray and meditate of Jesus’ sacrificial love.

Our Easter celebrations began early as our youth led our Easter Sunrise Service on the church’s front steps. All who attended decorated the church’s sidewalk with messages declaring the good news of Jesus’ resurrection and then we moved on to Fellowship Hall for breakfast! The celebration continued at our 10:00 Resurrection Service when we “unburied” the Alleluia banner and rejoiced in our Risen Savior with an inspirational message from Pastor Bobbie and Holy Communion! A special “thank you” to our Deacons who provided the beautiful Easter flowers!



Youth Activities

Sunday School



Our Sunday School children have studied the events of Holy Week and participated in the “palm procession” during Palm Sunday worship. After a week off for Easter, the classes will be learning of Jesus’ activities from his resurrection until his ascension. They will also be preparing special gifts to be distributed to our congregation for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.

Youth Group

Osceola’s Youth Group had a “ball” when we went on a bowling outing this month. Some of our youth led Osceola’s Sunrise Service that included a choral reading of “The Three Gifts of Jesus.” They also helped re-rake the mulch in the parking lot that was pushed aside when the lot was snowplowed.

Our fun and fellowship continue as we have meetings planned for April 23rd, May 7th and May 21st. One of our meetings will be a miniature golf outing. Our end-of-year fathering is just around the corner!



News & Notes

Food Pantry



The March Food Pantry distribution had lots of special items to help our families enjoy a wonderful Easter. We added some extra items to our basic boxes and included lots of “holiday fixin’s” in a special Easter bag. Each family also received a bag of egg treats and a card from our Youth Group and an Easter craft from our Sunday School children. Additionally, every family received a \$25 ShopRite gift card.

Besides our list of families who receive monthly distributions, five additional boxes and gift cards were prepared for names supplied by our Deacons and we gave out several “emergency” boxes. A Westfield Girl Scout troop also donated “birthday boxes” in observation of the birthday of the Girl Scouts.

Thanks to our generous congregation and large donations recently from the National Honor Society of ALJ, First Pres. Church of Cranford, and St. Agnes’ Knights of Columbus, we have been able to help spread hope and joy to many this Easter season! Our April distribution is coming up and soon we will begin collecting items for the summer months.

Items we need: cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, canned fruit, paper products, canned pasta and jelly.

Looking ahead - Summer items: ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, pickles, relish, barbecue sauce, salad dressing, Suddenly Salad, olives, and cases of bottled water.

Attention Graduates

If any church members are graduating high school, college or beyond this year, please share this information with the church office or Alice Dietze by the first week of June.

Congregational Meeting

Osceola’s next Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19th after worship service to elect church officers.

Online Worship

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:

<http://www.facebook.com/OsceolaNJ>