



The Messenger

Osceola Presbyterian Church

1689 Raritan Road, Clark NJ 07066

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

September 2025

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" -- Psalm 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 love each other, cares and prays for each other. We are glad you are back home.

So, welcome home to everyone.

- Sunday, September 14th, 10 am begins the new program year of the church. During worship we celebrate and dedicate our educational programs.
- Saturday, September 20th is the Mission Commission Clothing Drive Fundraiser to benefit Rise Against Hunger.
- Sunday, September 21st is the Food Pantry 10th Anniversary Celebration. The 10 a.m. worship service will reflect that theme, followed by a celebration luncheon in fellowship Hall.
- Sunday, September 28, 9:00 a.m. Church School classes will begin, and Children's Chats will resume in worship at 10 a.m.
- Sunday, October 5th is World Communion Sunday, and following worship is Rise Against Hunger

We welcome Fabrizio Germano as our Interim Music Director. You are invited to join the choir on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.

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

WELCOME HOME!

-- Bobbie

Clothing Drive-Clean Out For A Cause

We are raising funds for Rise for Hunger, to provide meals for those in need. Fall is a time we usually go through our clothes, our closets and get rid of what we no longer want or no longer fits. This is a good time to pack up all the clothing you can no longer wear and save it for the Church's clothing drive on Saturday, September 20, from 9 a.m.-noon.

We need clothing, bedding, towels, quilts, pillows, curtains, shoes, purses, belts, hats, scarves, belts, backpacks, stuffed animals, and such. 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!

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: aeclothing.net

Sunday School Returns

Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, September 28th. The first week, our "Welcome Back Breakfast," will be held in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. 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 hope all kids in grades 1-High School will come out and learn more about how we can praise God through helping others!



All children are invited to join us at 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 Starts New Year In Service

Osceola's Youth Group will start their new year slightly backwards this year. Our first meeting will be a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 16th, with the young people preparing some of the food for our Food Pantry Anniversary lunch. Normally we begin with a barbecue at the Dietze home, but that has been pushed up to Tuesday, September 30th from 6:00-8:30 pm. It gives us a chance to get better acquainted, along with some fun games and a dip in the hot tub.

Regular meetings are scheduled for October 14th and October 28th 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.

Deacons Seek Donations

The Deacons are sponsoring a Food Pantry collection each month on Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of the month. Although any non-perishable food is always accepted, a monthly suggestion will be provided via the Friday email blast, church announcements, and our Facebook page.

OSCEOLA MISSION COMMISSION

invites you to dine for a cause at

SMASH BURGER

Where: Smashburger
• *Clark Commons Shopping Center*
• *1255 Raritan Rd, Clark, NJ 07066*

 **When: Tuesday, September 9th**
 **Time: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM**

20% of your purchase will go toward supporting Osceola Presbyterian Church's Rise Against Hunger meal-packing mission — **just mention that you're there to support the cause!**

PLEASE JOIN US!

Celebrating 10 Years!

September marks 10 years since Osceola expanded our Food Pantry program. That's 120 months of food distribution! This is a cause of great celebration!

On Sunday, September 21st, we will be observing this milestone with a special 10:00 am worship service that celebrates Osceola's food ministry. Following worship, there will be a Luncheon Program in Fellowship Hall that will include a time for recognizing all our volunteers and donors. Anyone planning to attend the Luncheon, should sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex or by contact Alice Dietze (adietze@verizon.net or 732-574-8956).

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 24th. 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 health supplies.



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 10th ANNIVERSARY TO US – and JOIN US for the CELEBRATION on the 21st!!!

Items we need:

- Canned Fruit
- Jelly
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Cleaning supplies

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 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



Take Me
Out to the
Ballgame



Osceola on The Road



Osceola on The Road



4th Season Of Taste Of The Nation Wraps Up



During Fellowship Hour each Sunday throughout the summer, Osceola held their fourth “Taste of the Nation” event. For each of the 10 weeks, volunteers brought 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 “fact-finder.” We hope to visit even more states (41 down and 9 to go) in our travels next summer!

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!



Sunday, September 14: 10 am Welcome Back Sunday, Dedication of our educational programs.

Saturday, September 20: Clothing Drive benefiting *Raise Against Hunger*.

Sunday, September 21: Food Pantry 10th Anniversary Celebration
A celebration luncheon is in Fellowship Hall after worship.

Sunday, September 28, 9:00 am., *Church School* classes will begin;
Children's Chats resume

Sunday, October 5th is *World Communion Sunday*, following worship is
Rise Against Hunger

Everyone is invited to attend!