



The Messenger

Osceola Presbyterian Church

1689 Raritan Road, Clark NJ 07066

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

November 7, 2025

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more.

It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity.

It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

-Melody Beattie

Dear Friends:

November is usually the time for the Stewardship campaign, the time we speak of all the ways the church needs money to fund its ministry. But Stewardship is more than that and more than just two months a year. Stewardship is a way of life. It is a year-long, life-long process.

Too often in the faith community we speak words of complaint or criticism. November, the month of Thanksgiving, is a good time to begin our year of speaking words of gratitude and thanksgiving. As the Apostle Paul admonishes us to rejoice in the Lord always, we too will be giving thanks to God for everything in our church life, a time to appreciate and thank each other for all that is done in our church in service for Christ our Lord. We will celebrate what is happening due to our faithfulness to God. We will look at and celebrate the ways we express our faith of and love for God.

Throughout the year we will engage in practices that deepen our faith journey and widen our experiences of the Christ's sacrificial love. We will engage in practices of gratitude.

Beware! If we do this for a year, it just may become a habit, and we will always be overflowing with gratitude to God and to those around you. Thanksgiving will become a lifestyle for us. What a blessing that would be! What a blessing you would be!

I thank God for all of you and the dedication you have for God by serving this faith community.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Bobbie

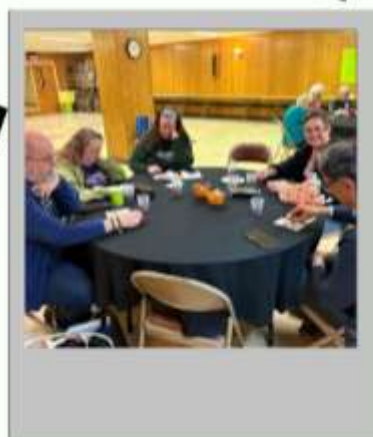
Bingo Has Never Been So Sweet

"G-75. Bingo!" could be heard throughout Fellowship Hall. Congregational Life held Candy Bingo and Pizza Party, its first event this fall on Sunday, October 26th at 11:30 am. About 25 members and friends enjoyed the event, punctuated with several assorted Bingo games. Winners received full size and king size candy bars. Fredy Reyes, Beth Parks, and Kathy Terzo took turns calling the numbers while players remained at the edge of their seats.

Special rounds which earned larger bags of candy included an "O" for Osceola, and an "H" for Halloween. The last round was a full card, and winners received a large bag of candy which included a few full-size candy bars and one giant Kit Kat.

Lunch was generously provided by Mama's Pizza in Roselle and O Sole Mio in Cranford, both on Raritan Road. Jane Santiago, a member of the Congregational Life Commission, was able to contact the pizzerias and procured the donation. This allowed the program to be totally free for all attending.

Congregational Life's next event will take place on Sunday December 28th: Sunday Movie Lunch in December with a Christmas Movie and Potluck lunch. Bring your friends and neighbors to this event along with your favorite potluck dish.





Advent Calendar 2025

Saturday, November 29th

~ "Deck the Halls" ~

2:00 pm - Decorating the church for Christmas
singing and Refreshments

Sunday, November 30th

~ First Sunday of Advent ~

10:00 am Worship – lighting the Candle of "Hope - Expectation"

Saturday, December 6th

~9-11 am Christmas Pancake Breakfast~

Many Baskets TrickY Tray/Ugly Sweater contest

Sunday, December 7th

~ Second Sunday of Advent ~

10:00 am Worship – lighting the Candle of "Peace - Prepare"

Sunday, December 14th

~ Third Sunday of Advent ~

10:00 am Worship – lighting the Candle of "Joy - Rejoice"

2:00 pm – "Carols, Cookies, Community-Christmas Around the World" Musical event
Refreshments with Coffee and Cocoa bars (Tea as well)
Free-will offering taken

Sunday, December 21st

~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~

10:00 am Worship – lighting the Candle of "Love - Receive"

Tuesday, December 24th

~Christmas Eve~

7:00 pm – lighting of the Christ Candle
Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion

Sunday, December 29th

~First Sunday of Christmas~

10:00 am Worship Service, Epiphany Star Sunday
11:30 am- "Christmas Movie and Lunch-Fellowship Hall

A Stewardship Message

“Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.”

This year’s Stewardship Campaign will take place throughout the month of November, the month our country sets aside to be thankful for all the blessings God has bestowed upon us. Our theme is “Like living stones, Christ Builds Us Spiritual House.”

Christ, the Corner Stone, has built this church into a spiritual house. God has chosen each one of us, just as we are, with all our talents and all our blemishes, to be a special group of people, living stones, brought together for a purpose, a building purpose. God brings us together. God gives us a common identity and helps to shape us in the Osceola Presbyterian Church, a Christian community, a group of people who have a God-given love for each other, a special kind of family.

This is the time of year we review God’s blessings bestowed upon us and the Osceola Presbyterian Church. It is time to make a commitment of a financial pledge and/or of time to the church and thereby to the work and ministries of Jesus Christ. With your generous support Osceola can continue to do Christ's ministry and grow Christ's church. We thank God for all of you and your dedication to God and to this faith community.

Come join us on Sunday, November 23rd for Stewardship Dedication Sunday.

What is Per Capita?

Each year, our congregation is assessed a fee to cover administrative fees for Presbytery and for the Presbyterian Church (USA). We forward the funds that our congregation members can give the church. The assessment is \$38 per member. If you haven’t already, you may use the envelope provided in your envelope box or use a pew envelope and note “Per Capita” on the memo line.

Per Capita giving makes it possible for:

- Presbyterians to discern and live out God’s call in their lives
- Churches to connect with individuals seeking a call to ministry
- Staff support for General Assembly committees and commissions
- Management and coordination of General Assembly gatherings
- Presbytery and synod leaders to gather for training and discernment
- Counsel and support for churches in crisis (misconduct, legal matters)
- Presbyteries to address matters of inclusion, participation, and representation at all levels of church leadership and decision-making
- The denomination to build connections with ecumenical partners around the world
- Presbyteries and pastors to receive support on immigration issues
- Presbyterian history to be catalogues, preserved, and utilized by future generations

Presbytery also uses some of its funds to support the work of member churches. When our expanded Food Pantry was starting its ministry, we received a grant from Presbytery to support that effort.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Pancake Breakfast and Many Baskets Tricky Tray and Ugly Sweater

Pancakes, bacon and sausage, oh my! Get ready! Our Christmas Pancake Breakfast/Many Baskets Tricky Tray and Ugly Sweater Contest is just around the corner on Saturday, December 6, from 9 AM to 11 AM. The event will be held in Fellowship Hall and be open to the public. Tickets will be needed. Advance ticket prices are Adults: \$10, Child (under 10): \$5, Under 3: Free. For tickets, call: (908) 276-5300 or Email: pastorosceola@gmail.com



Carols, Cookies & Community – Christmas Around the World

Save the date and come to Osceola's new music program, "Carols, Cookies & Community," at 2 pm in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 14. The program will include a variety of music presentations and a carol sing-along followed by cookies and other holiday treats. You won't need a ticket, but there will be a free will offering. Bring some friends to share the Christmas spirit! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for cookie donations for the event.



Deck the Halls

Everyone is invited to help us "Deck the Halls" on Saturday, November 29. 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!"



2025 Advent Journal: "Songs of Blessing"

The birth of the Christ child is God's blessing to the world. This Advent season we will be singing our own songs of blessing and praise, as we look at some favorite Christmas hymns that speak of hope, peace, joy and love. Each week during Advent a different carol will be highlighted in the worship services. The Advent Devotional Journal will also center on familiar and not-so-familiar carols and songs. As we sing these carols of hope, peace, joy and love found in this tiny babe, may they speak to us words of comfort and forgiveness.





RISE
AGAINST
HUNGER



Osceola Helps Fight Hunger

After the worship service on World Communion Sunday, October 6, Osceola once again joined 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 packed more than 10,000 nutritious meals by hand for communities facing chronic hunger. Our congregation was joined by members of Linden Presbyterian Church and volunteers from Sewa, a Hindu faith-based, humanitarian, nonprofit service organization.

Over the past eight 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.

Carols, Cookies & Community – “Christmas Around the World”



Save the date and come to Osceola’s second annual music program, “Carols, Cookies & Community,” at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 14th. The program will include a variety of music presentations and a carol sing-along followed by cookies and other holiday treats. You won’t need a ticket but there will be a freewill offering, and we hope you will bring some friends to share the Christmas spirit! The program will not be shown on Zoom or Facebook, so we hope you plan to be there!

This year’s theme is “Christmas Around the World.” If you have a tradition from your cultural background and would like to share it, please speak to Fredy Reyes or Alice Dietze. You may either share your brief tradition by presenting it in person at the program or it may be written and read by another presenter.

We also need donations of cookies (any kind will do, but it would be wonderful if we had some treats from other countries as well!) There will be a sign-up sheet for cookie donations.

Serving God By Serving Others

This fall, our Sunday School children have been focused on Galatians 5: 13 and ways to serve God by serving others. One week our students made some apple treats for our church's Fellowship Hour.



Osceola's Sunday School families presented a feast of ethnic breads during worship on World Communion Sunday and the children led a blessing of the breads. After worship, our volunteers during Rise Against Hunger snacked on the breads and toppings. Later in October, the Sunday School classes sponsored a Noise Offering on October 19th. The children chose to donate the offering to offset the recent repairs to our church's boiler. Our students announced the offering and reminded everyone that we don't want to be bundled up during worship this winter! Thanks to everyone who supported the Noise Offering – a generous \$280.39 was collected!

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 16th!

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 Start New Year

The Youth Group finally had their kick-off barbecue at the Dietze home. We enjoyed good food and some fun games (including rebuilding a cut-up pumpkin – not too easy!!) but, alas, no dunk in the hot tub. After repairs, we'll try again next time!!



In October, the youth made chocolate-covered pretzels to raise funds to purchase Thanksgiving pies for the Food Pantry and had some Halloween fun.



Meetings in November will be held on November 11th and November 19th (when we transport the filled OCC shoe boxes to the drop-off site and assist there). During this month of thanks, we are thankful for our youth!

Last Call For Operation Christmas Child



There's still time to donate items for Operation Christmas Child as our Sunday School children will be filling shoe boxes once again to send to children around the world, spreading some joy and the Gospel.

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 church 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
- War-related items (toy guns, military figures, knives)
- Breakable items
- Aerosol cans

Food Pantry Update

Osceola Food Pantry has continued our monthly distributions, providing much-needed food to our families. We provide “monthly specials” and the special for October was a recipe for “Corn Casserole” with all the ingredients. Donated used clothing and household items are also available each month and November’s distribution will display a variety of donated new items and Christmas items that may be used by our families for holiday gifts.



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 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 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 14th, 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’s Angel Tree project. Look for the tree in the Narthex in later in November.



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:

canned fruit	pasta sauce	canned pasta
jelly	tomato products	cooking oil

LOOKING AHEAD – HOLIDAY ITEMS:

instant potatoes	chicken broth	baking products (flour, sugar)
stuffing mix	juice	
canned pumpkin	muffin mix	dessert mixes (pudding and jello)
canned yams	gravy	

We also accept donations of frozen turkeys

Thanksgiving Eve

Osceola will be having Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 26th at 7:00 pm. The service will be led by elder Alice Dietze with the message "Praying Hands." 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.

Pancake Breakfast

The M & M Committee will be holding a Christmas pancake breakfast and mini tricky tray event on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 AM to noon. The final seating for breakfast will be at 10:30. Tickets are \$10 for adults and five dollars for anyone 10 and under and paid in advance \$12 for adults and seven dollars for under 10 at the door. Volunteers are needed to help set up, cook, run the trick tray, and clean up. Signups will be available in the Narthex in the coming weeks. We are also accepting donations if anyone would like to donate any new items costing no more than \$50-\$60 to the tricky tray. See Fredy Reyes or Liz Coffey Dawe for additional information.

Osceola Church
1689 Raritan Rd, Clark, NJ
Christmas Pancake Breakfast
& Mini Tricky Tray
December 6th: 9:00 to noon

Advanced Tickets:
Adults \$10
Ten and under \$5



Winners will be called
beginning at 10:30

*Gluten Free
pancakes will be
available*

Ugly Sweater Contest!
Call 908-276-5300 for reservations



WHOM SHALL I CALL?

If you...	Contact:
Are/or a family member is sick and in need of a pastoral visit	Pastor Bobbie Arrowsmith
Or a family member would like to receive Home Communion...	Jimmy Dietze, Jr.; Pastor Bobbie
Know of someone in need of a visit or a meal...	Deacons/ Jimmy Dietze, Jr.
Need a ride to a doctor's appointment or event....	Deacons/ Jimmy Dietze, Jr.
Have a concern about anything in the building or church property...	Bob Cunningham
Have a concern you want brought to Session...	Paul Hadsall (Clerk)
Are interested in learning more about Osceola...	Any of the Elders
Are interested in becoming a member of Osceola...	Pastor Bobbie Arrowsmith
Are interested in serving as a Worship Assistant or an Usher...	Jim Dietze, Sr.
Would like to help with Fellowship Hour...	Deacons / Jane Santiago
Are interested in helping with the Food Pantry...	Alice Dietze
Are interested in serving as an Elder or a Deacon...	Liz Coffey-Dawe
Have pictures or information to share with the congregation...	Paul Hadsall, Beth Parks
Would like to teach or help with Sunday School...	Alice Dietze
Would like to get involved with a Bible Study...	Alice Dietze
Would like to plan congregational gatherings...	Fredy Reyes
Have a musical talent to share....	Jim Dietze, Sr., Fabrizio Germano
Are interested in working with any of the Commissions...	Commission Chair

10/2025