

The Messenger

SUPPORTING FRESH START



Osceola's Deacons recently completed their collection of personal care items for Operation Fresh Start, a Union County program that aids homeless and displaced persons in Elizabeth and area towns. The collection included shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, shaving needs, and many other items.

"When I contacted the agency and told them how much we collected they told me that was amazing, but they didn't have enough space for all of it," said president of deacons, Fredy Reyes, "We are holding on to the collection until when they need it later in April."

Deacons are very thankful for all the donations made by church members and the community. In addition, a large collection of "travel" products was donated by L'oreal through the efforts of Osceola member Liz Coffey-Dawe.



SESSION NOTES

Session is working on a job description for a part time pastor. Once that is complete, the job will be posted on various websites. 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, and for the search process.

Bids for repair of the retaining wall (on the manse property) and the driveway are being sought by the Facilities Management Commission. Work should be completed later this spring or early summer.

Osceola has a new website!
Check it out at OsceolaPresbyterianChurch.com

MONTHLY MISSION GIVING

Over the past couple of years, the Mission Commission has focused on making donations to other organizations who are doing the work of God during the seasons of Lent and Advent. We wanted to spread the giving out over the full year in 2023.



In March, the commission donated \$100 to The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration, which was nominated by a member of the congregation. AFTD's mission is to improve the quality of life of people affected by frontotemporal degeneration and drive research to a cure. The organization works to advance research, awareness, support, education and advocacy.

Frontotemporal degeneration refers to a group of disorders caused by progressive nerve cell loss in the brain's frontal lobes (the areas behind your forehead) or its temporal lobes (the regions behind your ears). This can lead to deterioration in behavior, personality and/or difficulty with producing or comprehending language.

The Mission Commission plans to continue to make financial donations to organizations that are doing God's work at the end of each month. We would like input from the congregation: where do you see organizations doing God's work? Let us know - we've placed a box for nominations in the Narthex, and there's a link to an online nomination form in the Friday Email Blast. You can also speak with a member of the Mission Commission: Liz Coffey-Dawe, Jimmy Dietze, Linda Dodson, Samantha Dodson, Paul Hadsall, Kristi Morin or Andi Twombly.

A WORD FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has completed their work for this year and will present the slate of incoming officers at the May 21st congregational meeting. The service of Ordination and Installation will be held on Sunday, June 4th. We still need one more member to serve on next year's Nominating committee. If you're interested, please let Carol Riddlestorffer know.

A huge thanks to this year's committee for their excellent work: Fredy Reyes, TJ Elgin, Kathy Terzo, Kristi Alexander Morin, Gladys Krasse, and Shirley Augenstein.

PASTA FAMILY DINNER

Did you realize that this year is Osceola's 80th anniversary?? To commemorate this awesome milestone, Adult Ministries is partnering with Bob and Phyllis Cunningham to have a Family Dinner on May 21st (following the congregational meeting).

This will be a wonderful time of fellowship, and we hope all of you can attend! If anyone would like to contribute a dessert, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or call Carol Riddlestorffer at 908-499-1983.

We are excited about planning more church family gatherings! Stay tuned!



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

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 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, 8 additional boxes and gift cards were prepared for names supplied by our Deacons. Thanks to our generous congregation and large donations recently from the National Honor Society of ALJ, First Pres. Church of Cranford, St. Agnes’ Knights of Columbus, and the Clark Deutscher Club, we have been able to help spread hope and joy to many this Easter season!

Our April distribution will include special breakfast items and we will begin collecting items for the summer months.

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

Looking ahead:

Summer items: ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, pickles, relish, barbecue sauce, salad dressing, suddenly salad, olives, and cases of bottled water

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 30 – Deacons’ Sunday – Fredy Reyes, preaching

May 7 – Rev. Dr. Chris Belden, with Communion

May 14 – Mother’s Day - Rev. Bobbie Arrowsmith

May 21 – Rev. Jeremy Campbell, followed by Congregational Meeting

May 28 - Rev. Bernadette Amistoso-Morales

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>

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Congregation and Corporation of Osceola Presbyterian Church are called to meet on Sunday, May 21st, 2023, at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary for the purpose of receiving the report of the Nominating Committee, and to provide an update to the congregation.

By Order of the Session

LEARNING ABOUT EASTER

Our Sunday School classes focused on the importance of Lent and the events of Holy Week as we prepared for Easter. The students prepared a special Easter cross craft for our Easter Food Pantry distribution. Throughout Lent, the children collected specific food items for our Food Pantry as well.

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.

Osceola's Youth Group spent their latest meetings focusing on Lenten themes and preparing for Easter. That included making "Resurrection Rolls" and baking cookies for our Food Pantry families. The youth prepared Easter egg treat bags and handmade Easter cards for Osceola Food Pantry's families.

Upcoming Youth Group dates will be April 25, May 9 and May 23. Our end-of-year gathering is coming up soon!



(Left) The kids "chopped to it" and made chicken vegetable soup for one of our Lenten Suppers - yum!

(Below) For the first time in years (due to the pandemic), the kids were able to go bowling and we all had a "striking" time!



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.

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 “I AM” statements of Jesus.

Our Easter celebrations began early as we had our first Easter Sunrise Service since 2019! Our service on the church’s front steps included a choral reading by Youth Group members and alumni. 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! A special “thank you” to our Deacons who provided the beautiful Easter flowers





Used Bicycle & Sewing Machine Collection

SPONSORED BY FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

SATURDAY JUNE 17TH 9AM-12PM

We're collecting adult & kids' bikes and sewing machines to send to Togo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Belize and Guatemala. Help us put unused bikes and sewing machines to good use in the developing world.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
524 SOUTH STREET
NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ 07974**

A donation of \$20 per item is requested to help offset shipping costs overseas.

All material and monetary donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided on site.

Bikes should be rust free. No children's trikes, but bikes with flat tires in need of some repair are accepted. Portable sewing machines should be in working condition.

For more info contact:

Casey (908) 244-7444
caseyjwalsh@hotmail.com

To read more about our cause visit:

P4P.org

