



The Messenger

Osceola Presbyterian Church

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*“Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord.
Abide with Him always and feed on his Word...
Take time to be holy, the world rushes on,
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone...”
(From the hymn Take Time to Be Holy)*

Music is a way to praise God, and our favorite hymns often reflect our theology and beliefs. As you know, this summer I will be preaching on your favorite hymns. At times, we use hymns as a way of praying. This hymn reminds me that it is important to take time to be with God in prayer and the reading of scripture.

“Prayer is none other than an expanding of our heart in the presence of God.” - John Calvin

Prayer means calling upon God whose spirit is always with us. In prayer we approach God with reverence, confidence and humility. Prayer involves addressing God in praise, confession, thanksgiving, supplication, and listening for God's word within our hearts. Prayer is at the heart of worship of God.

Through prayer we grow in a personal relationship with God. Prayer brings us into communion with God. The more our lives are rooted in prayer, the more we sense how wonderful God is in grace, purity, majesty and love. Prayer means offering our lives completely to God, submitting ourselves to God's will, and waiting faithfully for God's grace. Through prayer God frees us from anxiety, equips us for service and deepens our faith.

This summer I offer you a Summer Spiritual Wellness Challenge. It is all about taking time to rest, mediate and pray. I have entitled it, PRAYER-DRAWING CLOSER TO GO. This week's devotions and prayers will be included in the Friday email and will also be available each Sunday on the table in the Narthex. This summer take time to rest, meditate, and pray—“take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord.”

*The Peace of Christ be with you,
Bobbie*

Mission Commission Updates

The Mission Commission has continued to organize fundraising and fellowship opportunities to support our upcoming Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event on World Communion Sunday, October 6th. On that day, we will come together once again to pack another 10,000 meals to support communities in need across the globe.

The second in the series of Friendly's fundraisers took place on Wednesday, June 19th. More than \$300 was raised that night, making more than \$700 total raised so far in the series. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the fundraiser. We love to see so many of you enjoying your time out with one another and supporting such a great cause. The final Friendly's fundraiser will take place in August, so keep a close eye on the announcements and Friday email blast.

We would also like to encourage everyone to continue to visit Friendly's on Raritan Road as a "Thank You" to them for continuing to support our congregation.



The Commission has also developed and distributed letters to local businesses in Clark and Cranford requesting donations in support of Rise Against Hunger. We will continue to pray that our neighbors are able to support our mission.

Mark your calendars!

"We eat so they can eat"

On Sunday, September 22nd following the worship service, the Mission Commission will be hosting a Potluck Lunch called "We eat so they can eat". Steve Reiss from Rise Against Hunger will be joining us to share more information about how meal-packing events like ours are transforming lives across the globe. We hope you will join us to learn more about Rise Against Hunger's mission and to reflect on the blessing of having access to food and nourishment. This will also be an opportunity for members and friends to pre-register to participate in the meal-packing event on October 6th.

Clothing Drive Fundraiser

Do you have items in your house that you no longer need? On Saturday, September 28th, a donation truck from A&E Clothing Corp. will be coming to the church to collect donated items. The company will donate money back to us in support of Rise Against Hunger for each bag donated. More information coming soon, but please see the list of accepted items below:

- Clothing for men, women and children
- Shoes
- Clothing accessories: belts, hats, scarves, handbags, gloves etc.
- Stuffed animals and small toys (2 ft. or less)
- Soft household items like towels, blankets, bed sheets, pillows, quilts, comforters and curtains

A Special Thank You to Nancy Iaria

The words "thank you," are said so frequently, they seem to have little meaning to us. A waitress gives you a cup of coffee. "Thanks." "Let me get the door for you." "Oh, thanks." So when someone says, "Thank you so very much for all you do for us," it is received with a grateful heart. But do we really appreciate the deep gratitude that goes with that "thank you." Those two little words seem so inadequate for the gratefulness we feel, yet we do not have any other words to use.



That is how I feel right now - at a loss of words - except to say, thank you so very much, Nancy Iaria, for you many years of service to Osceola Presbyterian Church as our church secretary. For those who may not know it, last month, Nancy decided to step down as secretary. She has decided to continue to serve God and this congregation as a volunteer. We are so very grateful to you, Nancy, not only for your years as secretary, but also that you are joining the rank of volunteer. Nancy, please accept our heartfelt "thank you" for your many years of service and dedication to Osceola church. By serving the church, you are serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. God bless you always.

Pastor Bobbie

School Supplies Needed

Each summer, Osceola's congregation usually takes advantage of "Back to School" sales and collects an assortment of school supplies for two of our mission projects. Some of the supplies are distributed to the children of our Food Pantry families in August and the remainder are used to fill shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child in November.



Sunday School Update

(Sunday) School's out for summer, but we want to thank the kids for making and distributing gifts to the men of our congregation on Father's Day! We also want to express our gratitude to our Sunday School staff – Alice Dietze, Liz Coffey-Dawe, Andi Twombly, Jen Walton, and Nancy Winter. We wish everyone a safe and restful summer and hope to "See you in



Youth Group Update

The Youth Group's final event for the year was the annual crazy barbecue at the Dietze home. The evening is filled with loads of fun (and messy) games, good food, and great fellowship. Look for more photos on Osceola's Facebook page. It was an exciting end to our year, and we can't wait for more fun and fellowship in September!



Food Pantry Update

Osceola Food Pantry has been blessed with a steady supply of food donations from our congregation and the community. Thanks to our Deacons' picnic food drive, our families all received fully packed "picnic baskets" during our June distribution. In addition to our "basic" boxes, our July distribution will hand out cases of bottled water and other summer beverages. All donations are greatly appreciated by us – and especially by our grateful families!

Items we need: Canned Fruit; Tomato products; Paper Products; Canned Pasta; Spaghetti Sauce and Jelly



Taste of the Nation

We've started our annual tour of the nation during Sunday's Fellowship Hour as each week we enjoy food iconic to a specific state. We started off with California and then headed to the east coast to visit Maine. Thanks to all who have volunteered to bring some "stately" food and we still have a few openings for anyone who would like to sign-up. Join in the fun as we "hit the road" each week and learn some interesting state facts along the way!

