



The Messenger

Osceola Presbyterian Church

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*“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!” -- Isaiah 55:1a*

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. The apostle Paul tells us that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration.

World Communion Sunday (originally called Worldwide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor.

“The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. Worldwide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed. The Peacemaking Offering, established in 1980, is set in the context of World Communion Sunday to celebrate our common life in the global bonds of Christ’s peace-giving body.

As we receive the bread and cup, we celebrate Christ, our Peace, and are renewed to pass Christ’s peace to those around us and across the world. On World Communion Sunday, October 6th, as we come to the table of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may we renew our commitment to the work of peace as followers of Christ, our Peace, who shows us the way to live as peacemakers in our world.

So it is fitting that we gather to Rise Against Hunger on World Communion Sunday. If people go hungry or have no roof over their heads, there can be no peace. On Sunday, October 6th, we gather after worship in Fellowship Hall to make meals to help feed the world’s hungry. We need as many hands (and feet) as possible that day to make over 10,000 meals. Come and be part of this experience. Come and be part of Christ’s call to feed the hungry. Together we Rise Against Hunger.

Christ’s peace to you, Bobbie

“Many hands make light the work”

“All hands on deck!”

Both well-known and well-worn phrases say the same thing. Many people are needed to get the job done. We have events going up that need many hands to accomplish the work that is needed to be done.

- Rise Against Hunger: held on Sunday, October 6th at 11:30 a.m. We plan on packing and blessing over 10,000 meals. We need many people on the assembly line. The beauty of this mission is that members of all ages can participate. We need packers, we need runners, we need folk to sit at the table and.... Invite your friends to come and help. Experience the joy and laughter from sisters and brothers in Christ gathering to do his work. Join us on Sunday, October 6th, 11:30 a.m.
- The Church Yard Sale: Held Saturday, October 19th, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the church lawn, in the church parking lot and in Fellowship Hall. Hotdogs will be sold. We need people to help set-up two days before the sale, and on Saturday itself. People are needed, both outdoors and inside, to be at the tables to sell items. People are needed in the kitchen. And we need a clean-up crew. This group is very important. Can you work all day or just a few hours at a time. We need you, all of you, for this event to be successful. Again, people of all ages can help.

The Kindness Circle

We're excited to start the Kindness Circle at our church, where we can share God's love through simple acts of kindness. This initiative invites everyone to both give and receive small gestures of care and support. You can get involved by sending a prayer card, delivering flowers or a meal, reading scripture to someone, taking a walk together, washing a car, or helping with gardening, inviting friends to worship. Each act is a chance to spread

God's love and brighten someone's day. If you know someone who could use a little extra kindness or if you'd like to offer your help, please let us know. Our Strategic Task Force team consists of Fredy Reyes, TJ Elgin, Jane Santiago, and Kathy Terzo.

If anyone would like to be part of this team, please let us know. Let's join to make a difference and share God's love with our community! Everyone can help.

Thursday Night Trivia

Patrick, our seminarian, is trying out some exciting new things on Facebook and he has created a weekly trivia game on the Osceola Facebook page. The picture is a card with ten biblical questions on it. It has questions of varying difficulty. Simply answer the questions to the best of your ability and check your answers. Post your score in the comment section. This is planned to take us into November with a new card every week at 7 pm.

A Note from Session

- Session is excited to announce our congregation's participation in Touch Point! You've heard about it in worship, from our Task Force, and from Pastor Bobbie: Every member (and friend) has an opportunity to be a part of this church-growth program!
- The Session is thrilled to welcome our Seminarian, Patrick Lewis, as he completes his Field Education with us!
- Elders are also looking for members to join different commissions: Adult Ministries, Communications, Family and Children's Ministries, Facilities Management, Finance, Human Resources, Missions, Worship and Music. Talk to any of the elders. (a list of Commission Chairs is available in the Narthex). We welcome your energy and new ideas!

Wonderful things are happening at Osceola!

A Note from the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that our 2024-2025 slate is complete! The additional spots have been filled and will be presented at the November meeting of the congregation.

Adult Bible Study Opportunity

We all know the story of the birth of our Lord Jesus, and those who were involved in His story...but have you ever wondered what the shepherds or the innkeeper (or others) were really thinking about what happened that night? "Season's Greetings" is a collection of letters from those "minor characters" and will be the basis of our fall bible study.

Please join us in the Conference Room, every Sunday at 9:00 am, starting October 13. You can pick up the book from Carol Riddlestorffer any Sunday prior to that.

Facilities Management Update

The Commission has numerous projects underway, including these focal points:

- Reviewing and renewing the HVAC maintenance contract
- In the process of upgrading the internet service throughout the building
- Revising Osceola's "Room Use" policy and rates
- Looking at solutions for the bee infestation and fire escape repair

Services Available On Zoom & Facebook

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: www.facebook.com/OsceolaNJ

Meet Patrick



Hello Osceola Church, my name is Patrick Lewis, and I am your new minister-in-training. My family and I will be here with you for the whole school year as I work on growing in my ministry. I was raised Presbyterian, was a teacher and a stay-at-home dad previously, and am currently enrolled at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. My wife, Kathie, and I are originally from Union, but now live in Scotch Plains. Kathie is a Middle School Teacher who enjoys working on Theatrical productions in her free time. We have two daughters, Kristina, a freshman at Temple University, and Shannon, who's in the seventh grade. We can't forget our Bengal cat, Ming-

Na, who has this funny habit of bringing us our shoes in the middle of the night!

One thing that I find amazing about my family is that while Kathie and I met later in life, we had countless opportunities to meet but never did. Our entire life we were around the corner waiting for each other. We attended the same high school, graduated the same year, yet we never met. I knew her friends, she knew mine, yet we never met. It gets crazier because we were both born in Elizabeth, five days apart and lived one street away. Yet, we never met. We both played at the same playground at Warinanco Park, yet we never met. She was there my entire life, yet we never met. It's almost like we were always around the corner from each other, waiting for the right moment.

Then, years later, in a whirlwind of life changes, we finally met. It's funny how life works— when we came together, everything just clicked. We waited a lifetime for a love that came in a second. In the start of our union, I am reminded of Isaiah 60: 22. "The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the Lord; in its time I will do this swiftly." I believe in God's perfect timing. The Lord kept us apart until the exact moment God knew we were ready. Things that seem impossible can happen in an instant. Meeting Kathie was that moment for me—like a missing piece that suddenly made everything fall into place. My family and I are really looking forward to this year with all of you!

Food Pantry Needs

Items we need:

Canned fruit	Jelly	Paper towels
Cleaning supplies	Canned Pasta	Paper products
Hygiene Products	Pasta Sauce	Tomato Products

Looking ahead for the holidays:

Stuffing mix	Gravy	Canned Pumpkin
Instant Potatoes	Muffin mix	Sweet Potatoes/Yams

A Note From Worship & Music

Everyone was able to reconnect after the summer when Osceola enjoyed a “Welcome Home” breakfast on September 8. We also welcomed back the full Chancel Choir and blessed our Christian Education staff on September 22.

Lots of special things are happening at our church, including these special services.

- **October 6** – World Communion Sunday with Holy Communion using ethnic breads
- **October 20** – service includes a Noise Offering by the Sunday School
- **October 27** – service includes the baptism of Logan James Riddlestorffer
- **November 3** – Holy Communion and observation of All Saints Day



Thanks For Making Our Clothing Drive A Success

On Saturday, September 28, Osceola’s Mission Commission held a clothing drive to raise money for Rise Against Hunger. Congregation members and community members brought over 100 bags of clothes to the church. Volunteers helped to load a donation truck from A&E Clothing Corp. on a rainy afternoon. The company will donate money back to us in support of Rise Against Hunger for each bag donated.



It's not too early to think about Christmas!

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 are collecting items (and boxes) now and the children will be packing boxes by November 3 and 10.



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 (bar soap, 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

Sunday School Is Back



Sunday School classes began on September 22 with a “welcome back” breakfast. During worship, we began our Children’s Chats again and had a blessing of our Christian Education staff. We are indeed blessed to have our children and youth returning and our volunteers are great!

This year the classes will be focused on John 3: 17 and we will be looking at Biblical examples of how God saves His people.



As usual, our Sunday School classes participate in some mission projects throughout the year. The students will host the first of three Noise Offerings on Sunday, October 20 during worship. The loose change they collect from our congregation will be used to offset a “building project” here at Osceola that has been chosen by the children.

Throughout the month of October, we will be collecting items to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes will be filled by the classes on the first two weeks of November and then head out to the collection center. This is always a favorite activity of the year and last year the Sunday School classes filled 129 boxes! Look for the Operation Christmas Child article on the previous page if you would like to help in some way.

Youth Group Starts New Year

Osceola's Youth Group held their first meeting at the Dietze's house, enjoying a barbecue, sharing summer adventures, and discussing plans for the coming year. The barbecue always includes some fun games and a dip in the hot tub too.

Meetings for October will be held on Tuesday, October 1st, October 15th and October 29th. All these meetings will be held in the Youth Room from 7:00-8:30 pm and will include games, spiritual lessons, and some mission work. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us – bring a friend!



Food Pantry Celebrates Milestone



We did it!!! We just hit 100,000 pounds!!! That's not the accumulated weight of our membership – it's how much food Osceola's expanded Food Pantry has distributed over the past 9 years. That's 50 tons and amazing!! We shared the big news during worship – complete with a drum roll and trumpet fanfare!! Our total is 100,974 pounds! In addition, we have given out \$17,840 in gift cards over the 9 years.

The Lord has blessed our Food Pantry's efforts, and we have a supportive congregation that has made this remarkable milestone possible! God bless!!

We eat so they can eat

On Sunday, September 22, following the worship service, the Mission Commission will be hosting a lunch called "We eat so they can eat". Steve Reiss from Rise Against Hunger joined us to share more information about how meal-packing events like ours are transforming lives across the globe. Thank you to Pastosa Cranford, Bistro 1051, Ciao Bello and Tarantellas, as well as our own congregation members, for providing the food for this event. We also had the opportunity to taste the meals that we will be packing on Sunday, Oct. 6.





OPEN
GIANT



YARD



SALE



OCTOBER 19:

9 am to 3 pm

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 Carol Riddlestorffer (Clerk)
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...	Carol Riddlestorffer (Clerk)
Are interested in learning more about Osceola...	Any of the Elders
Are interested in becoming a member of Osceola...	Pastor Bobbie Arrowsmith or Carol Riddlestorffer
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...	Carol Riddlestorffer
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 or plan congregational gatherings	Beth Parks, Carol Riddlestorffer Jane Santiago
Have a musical talent to share....	Dawn Stegner
Are interested in working with any of the Commissions...	Commission Chair