



Welcome to those who have worshipped in this place for years.  
Welcome to our first time guests.  
Welcome to all generations, families, single people and couples.  
Welcome to those who have no church home, need strength, have doubt, want to follow Christ or do not believe.

#### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastor - Michael Yeoman 315-761-2721  
Oneidafpcpastor@gmail.com

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Office Secretary - John Merritt 315-527-2939  
Sexton-Jennawade Skellham 315-281-3377  
Treasurer -Frank Kordziel 315-263-1474  
Church Organist—Brian Snyder 315-761-7866  
Choir Director-Barbara Seaton 315-225-9452  
Financial Secretary - Pat Thorpe 315-363-8948  
Clerk of Session -Pat Thorpe 315-363-8948

**304 Broad Street**  
(corner of Broad and Stone)  
**Oneida, NY 13421**

#### **CHURCH OFFICE**

Phone: 315-363-7590

#### **HOURS:**

Monday – Friday  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

#### **GENERAL EMAIL**

oneidafirstpres  
@oneidafirstpres.org

#### **WEB SITE**

oneidafirstpres.org



Love

#### **Our Mission Statement**

The vision of the members of Oneida First Presbyterian Church is to LIVE God's plan for our family, our community and our world. TOGETHER with God's grace and guidance, we will reach out and sow the LOVE of Jesus Christ.



The Church At Worship  
First Presbyterian Church of Oneida  
Sunday, December 21, 2025 10:00 AM  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Pastor Michael L. Yeoman  
WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

† Isaiah 7:10-16

† Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

† Luke 1:39-45

PRELUDE

MORNING GREETINGS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT *“He Came Down”* by John L. Bell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in this season of Advent, drawn by a love that comes from God.

**People:** A love made visible in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Leader: God’s love is not distant or hidden—

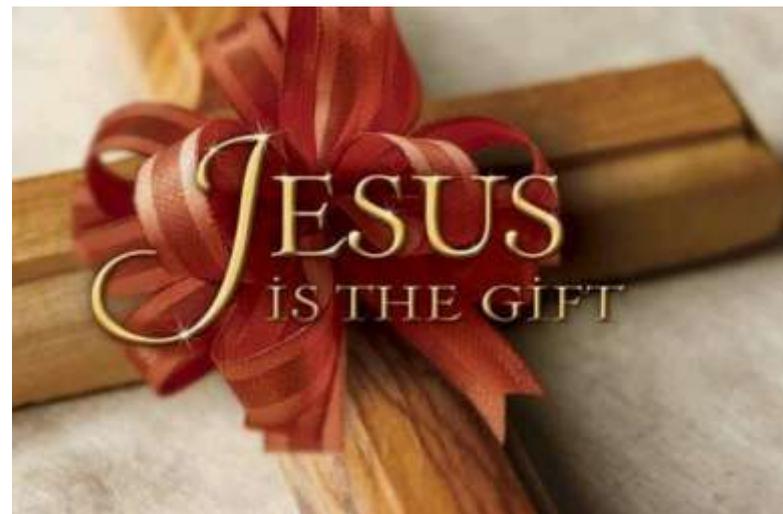
**People:** It is born among us, wrapped in grace and hope.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who so loves the world.

**People:** Let us rejoice in love made flesh.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Pastor Mike and Michelle Yeoman

Emmanuel means “God with us.” What a gift of love: Jesus is God with us! Jesus has experienced the aches and pains of being in a human body.



*Jesus, The Greatest Gift*

*They opened their treasures and presented [Jesus] with gifts.*  
Matthew 2:11

*“What sweeter music can we bring/Than a carol for to sing/The birth of this our heavenly King!” the lines of this seventeenth-century poem “What Sweeter Music” by Robert Herrick were reimagined by modern-day choral composer John Rutter to become an Advent season favorite. Its gentle melody describes a long, cold season of waiting that’s thawed by the spring-time feeling of Jesus’ arrival. The singers bring Him a Christmas carol; the listeners are invited to bring their hearts.*

*Rutter’s arrangement was commissioned to correspond with a church reading on the wise men who brought Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These mysterious mage traveled a great distance to meet baby Jesus with the express purpose of worshipping Him (Matthew 2:1-2). When they finally found Him, they “were overjoyed,” bowed down in reverence, and “opened their treasures” at His feet (vv. 10-11). Warned in a dream, they left without informing wicked King Herod (v.12).*

*The Christmas season shouldn’t focus on material gifts-but it’s certainly about giving and receiving gifts. God gave His Son to heal a broken world. If we’ve never given Him our hearts, today’s a wonderful day to do so. If He already reigns there, let’s offer a carol of peace and joy as we think about His arrival all those years ago in Bethlehem-and wait for His return.*

*From “Our Daily Bread”, December 25, 2025*

## FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry stock is getting low. We are asking for donations of non perishable goods and personal paper products. Many people in the Oneida area live on fixed income and inflation is making it difficult for them to keep basic food staples in their own pantries. You can drop off your donations during Sunday services or drop them off during the week. If you drop them off during the week please call in advance so that John will know you are coming. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.



*Our flowers this morning are in memory of Barrie White from Lou White and family.*



[HTTPS://WWW.ONEIDAPRESBYTERIANCHURCH.ORG/](https://www.oneidapresbyterianchurch.org/)

**Stay Connected With Us**

Jesus witnessed the desperation and deprivation of humans. He still chose to see God's light in everyone he met, and he treated them with love and compassion. We light the candles of hope, peace and joy. Today we also light the candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation..

### CONGREGATION RESPONSE

*O God who is Love, help us to be loving and kind this holiday season. Give us hearts full of patience and generosity. Give us eyes to see those who are hurting around us and the courage to respond to them. Fill us with your unconditional love, so that we cannot help but share it. In the name of Emmanuel we pray, Amen.*

CHORAL RESPONSE      *"We Light the Advent Candles"*      by Gracia Grindal

OPENING HYMN      *"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"*      #38

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Loving God as the day of Christ's coming draws near, we pause in this holy season to receive again your promise of love. Open our hearts to the story we are about to hear— a story of faithfulness, courage, and love made known in unexpected ways. Prepare us to welcome Christ, not only in the manger, but in our lives, our homes, and our world. Shape us by your love, that we may live as people ready to receive your gift and eager to share it with others. We pray in hope and trust, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in the mercy and love of God, let us come before God with honest hearts, confessing the ways we fall short of loving as Christ loves us.

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Loving God, you have loved us with a love beyond measure, yet we confess that we do not always live as people of love. We turn inward instead of outward. We withhold compassion when you call us to give. We choose fear over trust. Forgive us, O God. Renew our hearts by your grace, and teach us again the way of love revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Hear the good news: The angels said, "I bring you good news of great joy for all the people." For all the people— including us. Through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our fears are lifted, and our hearts are set free to rejoice. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven ALL: Thanks be to God!*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

*"Glory Be to the Father"*

**#579**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

**ANTHEM** " *Dancing Into the Promise*" by John Carter and Mary Kay Beall

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

<b>OLD TESTAMENT</b>	<b>Isaiah 7:10-16</b> The Word of the Lord	<b>OT Page 598</b> <i>Thanks be to God</i>
<b>PSALM</b>	<b>Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19</b> The Word of the Lord	<b>OT Page 511</b> <i>Thanks be to God</i>
<b>GOSPEL</b>	<b>Luke 1:39-45</b> The Gospel of Jesus	<b>NT Page 53</b> <i>Thanks be to God</i>

**INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS PAGENT**

**WELCOME**

**PART I MARY AND JOSEPH**

**CAROL**      **The First Noel – Vs 1 and 4**      **#56**

**Verse 1**

*The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*



Ushers for December

**Dec 21st**

**Janet Sarensky**

**Michelle Yeoman**

**Perry Tooker**

**Kristin Tooker**

**Dec 24th**

**Frank Sarensky**

**Janet Sarensky**

**Julie Sarensky**

**Karen Sarensky**



*BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK*

Sun-Debbie Whiting

Tue-Mary Ann Moshier

Wed-Sarah Wimett

Fri-Paul Mancarella

**The Per Capita for  
2025 is \$46**



*These Days for October, November and December are in and can be found in the Narthex, Sanctuary and Hall way outside the Boardroom.*



*Our Daily Bread for December, January, and February is now available in the Sanctuary, Narthex and Hallway outside the Boardroom.*

## Upcoming Blood Drives For October



American  
Red Cross

Monday, December 22nd; 50 Forward Mohawk Valley  
Verona Beach, NY  
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 23rd; Cazenovia Public Library  
Cazenovia, NY  
1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

### **Friday, December 26th; St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

Oneida, NY  
12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

### To All Team/Committee Chairpersons Treasurers and to Whoever Else It Applies

All Annual Reports are due in the Church Office by Wednesday,  
December 31st. If you would like to get them in earlier, that would  
be a big help to John. If you are a Treasurer and waiting for a bank  
statement, the deadline does not apply to you.  
But please get them in as soon as possible.



*Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat. Will you please put a penny in an old man's hat? Or will you put several pennies toward a Christmas collection your elders are taking for our hardworking and always appreciated staff? If you would like to contribute, there are envelopes in the pews. Hand the envelope to any active elder with your donation and be assured it will make its way by Christmas Day.*

### **Verse 4**

*This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.*

### **PART II THE ANIMALS**

**CAROL** "Away in a Manger" – Verses 1 and 3

#25

### **Verse 1**

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

### **Verse 3**

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.*

### **PART III THE ANGELS**

**CAROL** Hark the Herald Angels Sing – Verses 1 and 2

#31

### **Verse 1**

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

## Verse 2

*Christ, by highest Heav'n adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time, behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.*

## PART IV THE SHEPHERDS

**CAROL** "What Child is This?" Verses 1 & 3

#53

### Verse 1

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?*

### Chorus:

*This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

### Verse 3

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.[Chorus]*

## Part V: Wise Persons and Star

**CAROL** "We Three Kings of Orient Are" – Verses 1 & 5

#66



Just a reminder from the deacons

The first Sunday of the month is the loose change collection. If you have any loose change laying around the house bring it in and put it in the collection plate. That change will go to help feeding local families and stocking local food pantries.

17 SHOEBOXES WERE SENT OUT THIS YEAR. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED, AND THANKS TO PAT FOR COORDINATING THIS EVERY YEAR.



If you know of anyone who needs to be added to the Deacon's military service list please let Jennawade know, or call into the office so that we can keep our list updated. The Deacons routinely send out cards and packages to our military friends.

### Verse 1

*We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.*

*Refrain:*

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

### Verse 5

*Glorious now behold Him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Sounds through the earth and skies.*

*Refrain:*

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

### Part VI: Conclusion

#### CAROL

*"Joy to the World" Verses 1 and 4*

#40

#### Verse 1

*Joy to the world; the Lord is come;  
Let Earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing. (x3)*

#### Verse 4

*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love. (x3)*





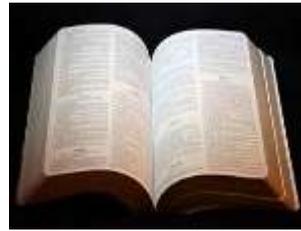
Collection Assistants for December/January

December 21st-Stephanie Gwilt

December 28th-Sue Kordziel

January 4th-Paul Mancarella

January 11th-Kathy Nichols



Scripture Readers for December

December 21st-Frank Kordziel

December 24th-Jenelle Patchin

December 28th-Frank Kordziel & Paul Mancarella

January 4th-Barb Schwartz



Coffee Servers for December/January

December 21st-Bill & Donna Ausman

Dec 28th- No Coffee Service

January 4th-Tish Vrooman & Donna Laurin

January 11th-Ethel Abbott & Sue Kordziel



Projection Team for December/January

December 21st-Dan Gwilt

December 28th-Paul Mancarella

January 4th-Trish Vrooman

January 11th-Dan Gwilt

**LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS**

Jude Alexander (Mancarella's great nephew)  
Fred Bavo (Jennawade's Uncle)  
Kevin Bedford  
Brody  
Richard Brown  
Marty Canning  
Elizabeth Coulby  
Cora Cramer (Ethel Abbott's sister)  
Fran Dowd (Jim Sweet's sister)  
Emeri Dryer (Maggie's grand daughter)  
Peggy Eastman  
John Ferguson  
Robert Feldmann (Melinda's Father)  
Linda Felix  
Jillian Felt  
Andy Froass  
Don Fuller (Stephanie Gwilt's Father)  
Pat Grabow (Chrissy Thompson's Mom)  
Becky Grasso  
Wendy Holtz  
Jim Hotaling

Victor Johnson  
Dawn Kimball  
Dan King (Pastor @ New Life Assembly of God)  
  
Jean Kowalik  
Florence LaRock  
Isaac McGovern  
Laurie Mudge  
Michelle Newman  
Becky Nichols  
Michael O'Bryan (Mike's Brother in law)  
Mike Oot  
Tom Panasci  
Dan & Claudia Rayome  
Dave Scribner  
Debbie Shaw  
Debrah Skellham  
Brian Stites  
Millicent Vidal  
Jan Whiting

**SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS**

Joe Todd  
Myron Thurston  
Mike Borchardt

Becky Nichols  
Tim Berquist

If you have a prayer need, there are cards in the pews. Fill it out and hand it to an usher. If you know of anyone who is sick, in the hospital, or in need of our prayers, PLEASE call the Church Office, 363-7590. Please let us know also when they are healed and can be taken off the prayer list.

## UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

January Chili cook-off

Date to be determined

February—Birthday Bash

February 8th— Fellowship will provide Coffee, Tea and soft drinks

**If anyone is in need of a pastoral visit or knows of a congregation member who would like a visit, please let Pastor Mike know. (315) 761-2721**



**PRAYER MISSION DECEMBER** – The Salvation Army Red Kettles have been an American tradition since 1891, helping raise financial support for critical Salvation

Army programs and services year round. This campaign allows you to host your own Red Kettle - online. Over the years, the Red Kettle Campaign has grown into one of the most recognizable and important charitable campaigns in the United States – providing toys for kids, coats for the homeless, food for the hungry and countless social service programs year-round. You become a vital part of our Christmas efforts when you help those in need by hosting an Online Red Kettle and filling it with donations from family, friends and colleagues.



## **LIFE at ONEIDA FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

*Week of Dec 21st-Dec 28th*

Sunday, December 21st  
10 a.m. Worship  
11:15 a.m. Pot Luck Dinner  
Secret Santa Shop

Monday, December 22nd  
6:30 p.m. Session  
Activ8HER (JWCC)

Tuesday, December 23rd

Wednesday, December 24th  
7:00 p.m. Xmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25th  
Office Closed—Merry Christmas!!!

Friday, December 26th

Saturday, December 27th

Sunday, December 28th  
10 a.m. Worship (Hymn Along)



*Our poinsettias are given most lovingly in praise of God and in  
memory of:*

In loving memory of Edward Merriman  
from Lucille and Michael.

In loving memory of Rick Tianello  
from Lucille and Michael Merriman.

In loving memory of Ruth and Theron Whipple by the family.

In loving memory of Herb, Betty and Larry Merrell by the  
family.

In loving memory of Paul, Margaret and Eleanor Thorpe by the  
family.

*Our poinsettias are given most lovingly in praise of God and  
in memory of:*

In loving memory of Bradley and Lois Abbott  
By Ethel Abbott

In Loving memory of Sharon Hotaling  
By the Hotaling Family

In loving memory of Frank and Gladys Merrell  
from their children and grandchildren.

In loving memory of Lonnie Fox,  
Edward and Gloria Sarensky  
By John Merritt and Linda Fox and family.

In loving memory of Joseph, Jane, Arch, and Helene  
Merritt from The Merritt family.

In loving memory of Larry and Joyce Yeoman from the  
Yeoman and Patchin family

In loving memory of Richard and DeLoryce Prior from  
the Yeoman and Patchin families and Ewen families

Laura Reckentine by Lucille and Michael Merriman

In loving memory of Bob and Betty Sweezy by Jack and  
Barbara Arnold

In loving memory of Charles and Gertrude Arnold by Jack and  
Barbara Arnold