



December

304 Broad Street
Oneida, NY 13421
315-363-7590

e-mail: oneidafirstpres@oneidafirstpres.org

Website:
oneidafirstpres.org

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor
Mike Yeoman

Church Secretary
John Merritt

Church Organist
Brian Snyder

Choir Director
Barbara Seaton

Treasurer
Frank Kordziel

Financial Secretary
Pat Thorpe

Clerk of Session
Pat Thorpe

Custodian
Jennawade Skellham

You're Invited to a Magical Evening!
CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight
SERVICE
Wednesday December 24, 7:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church of Oneida
304 Broad St., Oneida

Join us for a heartwarming night filled with peace, hope, and joy! Let the soft glow of candlelight, uplifting carols, and a message of love guide you into the spirit of the season.

For more details, call 315-363-7590

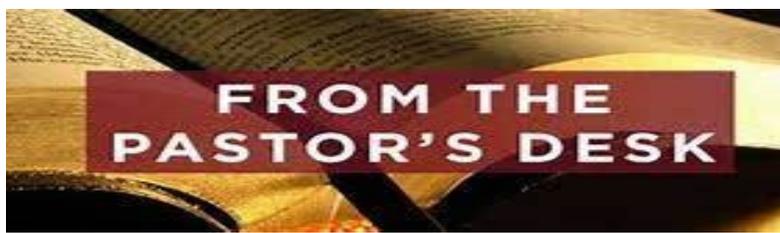
JOIN US FOR AN EARLY AFTERNOON OF

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ONEIDA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025
START AT CHURCH STEPS AND CAROL THROUGH LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD
11:15 - 12:15

HOT CHOCOLATE SERVED IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER CAROLING



Beloved Friends in Christ,

As we enter the beautiful season of Advent and prepare our hearts for Christmas, I am reminded once again that this is a sacred time—set apart for wonder, reflection, and renewal. December is full of lights and lists, gatherings and preparations, and sometimes more noise than our spirits can hold. But into this very season, God offers us four steady gifts: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

These are not just words we place on banners or candles we light at the front of the sanctuary. They are promises from God, meant to shape us, guide us, and steady us amidst the rush of our days.

Hope reminds us that God is not done with us or this world.

Peace centers us when life feels hurried or uncertain.

Joy awakens gratitude even in seasons of challenge.

Love draws us deeper into community, service, and grace.

My prayer for you, this Advent is simple: Slow down. Breathe deeply. Let Christ meet you in the quiet places. Don't rush past the wonder of what we celebrate—that the God of heaven chose to draw near, to walk among us, to enter our fragile world so that we might know the fullness of God's heart.

I also want to encourage you to be active participants in the life of our church this month. December is one of the richest seasons of worship, fellowship, outreach, and celebration. Your presence matters—not just for what you receive, but for the warmth, friendship, and blessing you bring to others. Whether it's worship on Sunday, Community Caroling, Handbell ringing, No Commitment Choir, our no rehearsal Christmas Pageant, the ever-popular Potluck Dinner, our beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service or moments of service and prayer, there is a place for you to shine Christ's light.

Let this month be more than a countdown to Christmas morning. Let it be a journey—step by step, candle by candle—toward the manger where hope is born again.

Michelle and I pray that the love of Christ surrounds each of you now and always and that this month is joy-filled with Advent and Christmas blessings for you and yours.

With gratitude and love,

Pastor Mike

**The Case For Christmas –
A FREE Senior Bible Study**

Evidence for the Identity of Jesus – By Lee Strobel

In this Four-Week Bible Study we will invite you to look behind the familiar traditions of the season, challenge you to examine the true evidence for yourself and consider why the Christmas story really matters. All community members are welcome!

November 19th, December 3rd December 10th, December 17th
1:00 PM

Janeth P. Whiting Community Center
An Outreach of the First Presbyterian Church of Oneida
211 Stone Street Oneida
315-363-7590



Let's have some fun! Be Part of the Story — Our Intergenerational Christmas Pageant!

Step into Bethlehem and help bring the Christmas story to life!

We need *Marys, Josephs, angels, shepherds, wise folks, animals, and narrators* — no rehearsals, just joyful participation for all ages! **Only Narrators speak!!!**

Sunday, December 21st during worship and before the Festive Potluck Christmas Luncheon
Come early, pick up a costume and brief script and just have fun. — everyone is welcome!

Let's celebrate the birth of Christ together with laughter, song, and wonder!

PLEASE SEE PASTOR MIKE AND LET HIM KNOW HE CAN COUNT ON YOUR HELP AND PARTICIPATION

Thank You Veterans!!!!!!





LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

For the month of December 2025

Jude Alexander (Mancarella's great nephew)	Beal Hyland
Fred Bavo (Jennawade's Uncle)	Victor Johnson
Kevin Bedford	Dan King (Pastor @ New Life Assembly of God)
Brody	
Richard Brown	Jean Kowalik
Marty Canning	Florence LaRock
Elizabeth Coulby	Isaac McGovern
Cora Cramer (Ethel Abbott's sister)	Laurie Mudge
Fran Dowd (Jim Sweet's sister)	Michelle Newman
Emeri Dryer (Maggie's grand daughter)	Becky Nichols
Peggy Eastman	Michael O'Bryan (Mike's Brother in law)
John Ferguson	Mike Oot
Robert Feldmann (Melinda's Father)	Tom Panasci
Linda Felix	Dan & Claudia Rayome
Jillian Felt	Dave Scribner
Andy Froass	Debbie Shaw
Don Fuller (Stephanie Gwilt's Father)	Debrah Skellham
Pat Grabow (Chrissy Thompson's Mom)	Brian Stites
Becky Grasso	Millicent Vidal
Wendy Holtz	Jan Whiting
Jim Hotaling	

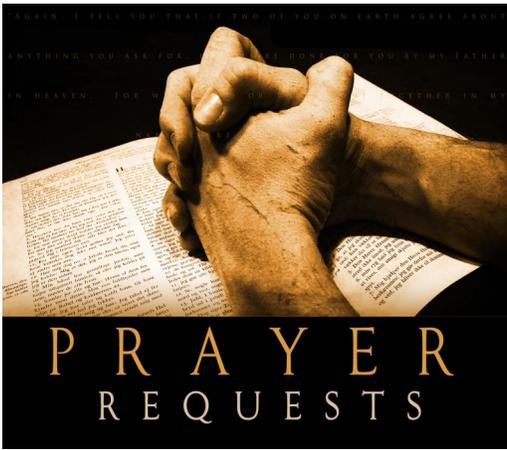
Thank you for your prayers. If you know of anyone who is sick, in the hospital, or in need of our prayers, PLEASE call the Church Office, 363-7590.

SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

Dawn Kimball (Donna Ausman's sister)

Peggy Walters

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.



ELDERS

CLASS OF 2025

CLASS OF 2026

Randy Bonville
 Frank Kordziel
 Lucille Merriman
 Pat Thorpe

Barb Arnold
 Sue Kordziel
 Paul Mancarella
 Carol Miller
 Kathy Nichols
 Perry Tooker IV

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:

Elli Pfluke Laura Reckentine

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

The citizens of Ukraine
 Pray for those who are serving overseas and our Police/Fire
 Safety personnel.
 All victims and survivors of gun violence.

CLASS OF 2027

CLASS OF 2028

Stephanie Gwilt

Leigh Silkowski

MISSION EMPHASIS:

First Presbyterian Church, Rome
 Weaving Home Ministries in Old Forge (Rev. Naomi Kelly)
 The Coordinating Council of the Presbytery of Utica
 Three Steeples United Church, Paris

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2025

CLASS OF 2026

Sue Kordziel
 John Merritt
 Kathy Nichols
 Jennawade Skellham

Becky Ewen
 Frank Kordziel
 Rachel Mancarella
 Kristin Tooker
 Michelle Yeoman

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS: Pray for those who are
 stationed in non-combat zones: Stephen Cafalone, Jack Sharkey,
 Nicholas Young, Philip Messina, Ryan Geer,
 John Goodwill, Errol Crossman, Corey Reed, Michael McMahon,
 Andrew Fargo, Jim Jennings, Peter Thompson,
 Dylan McClelland

CLASS OF 2027

Those currently serving in a combat zone:



THIS MONTH AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Dec 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

Senior Bible Study,
Variety (JWCC),
Connection

Dec 4th, 11th, 18th Choir Practice

Bell Choir Practice

Dec 7th Communion

Dec 8th, 22nd Activ8 Her BS (JWCC)

Dec 14th Team Meetings

Dec 15th Deacons Meeting

Dec 21st Christmas Pageant

Pot Luck Dinner

Dec 22nd Session Meeting

Dec 23rd Newsletter Deadline

Dec 25th Xmas Office Closed



Dec. 3 Tillie Coulter

Dec. 5 Dorothy Hotaling

Dec. 7 Julie Sarensky

Dec. 9 Carol Musgrove

Dec. 15 Ashley Reisman

Dec. 16 Joshua Bonville,
Zachary Thompson

Dec. 19 Brad Coulter

Dec. 21 Debbie Whiting

Dec. 23 Mary Ann Moshier

Dec. 24 Sarah Wimett

Dec. 26 Paul Mancarella

Dec. 28 Peter Thompson

Dec. 29 Eliza Colvin

Dec. 31 Jenelle Yeoman, Isaac Colvin

Anniversaries

Dec. 11 Shane and Traci Todd

Dec. 30 O. Perry & Kristin Tooker IV

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



Scripture Readers for December

December 7th-Barb Schwartz

December 14th-Barb Seaton

December 21st-Frank Kordziel

December 28th-Pat Thorpe

Coffee Servers for December

December 7th-Marilyn and Don Kingsley

December 14th-Frank & Sue Kordziel

December 21st-Bill & Donna Ausman

December 28th-No Coffee Service

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

DECEMBER 21ST CHRISTMAS POT LUCK

Fellowship will provide a Spiral Ham
Coffee, Tea, and Juice

JANUARY CHILI COOK OFF

Date to be determined

Potluck Christmas Party

The Fellowship committee will be hosting a Potluck Christmas Party on December 15th after the church service. The Fellowship Committee will be providing a Spiral Ham and drinks. What we are asking you to provide are your favorite entrees, side dishes and desserts. There will be a sign-up sheet in the auditorium for the next few weeks. This is a time of year for families, and what could be better than sharing a meal with your church family. Not to mention we have the best cooks in town.



Tis the season....of music and festivities and celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus; and what better way to do that than by lifting voices in song!

OFPC Choir Director Barb Seaton is inviting anyone and everyone to join the "No Commitment Choir" to present a beautiful and simple Christmas anthem during the service on December 14th. There are no auditions, no age limits, and all abilities are welcome.

There will be three short (10 minutes) optional rehearsals each Sunday immediately following the morning service in the choir room--come to one or more to learn the tune. Adults, Seniors, Teens, Children--all are welcome!

There will be music available for those who read, and just the words for those who don't. Please talk to Barb for more information. ♪ ♪ ♪

**17 SHOEBOXES WERE SENT OUT
THIS YEAR. THANK YOU TO**

EVERYONE WHO

**CONTRIBUTED, AND THANKS TO
PAT FOR COORDINATING THIS
EVERY YEAR.**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
304 Broad Street
Oneida, NY 13421**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY
NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 23RD**

