

Presbyterian News



EDITION

January 2026



January

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR

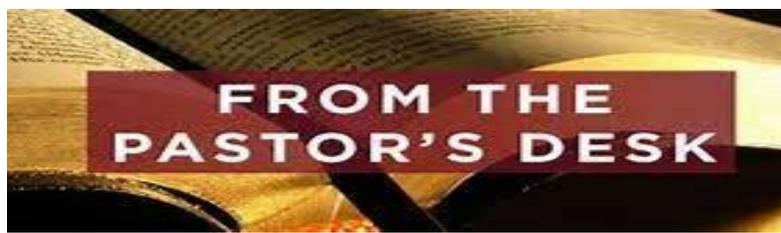


Meet
Our new
website!



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

Stay Connected With Us



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

As we step into a new year together, January invites us to pause, reflect, and look ahead with hope. A new year does not erase the challenges behind us, but it does offer fresh beginnings, new mercies, renewed strength, and new opportunities to grow in faith and service together.

This January is especially energizing as we welcome a new team of leaders who are stepping forward to serving our congregation. Each brings unique gifts, wisdom, and a shared love for this church and our wider community. We give thanks for those who have served faithfully in the past and pray God's blessing upon those who are beginning new terms of leadership. May we support them with encouragement, prayer, and active participation as we move forward together.

The start of the year also opens the door to renewed fellowship and outreach. In the months ahead, we will have opportunities to deepen relationships within our church family and to extend Christ's love beyond our walls in meaningful ways. Whether through worship, small groups, community gatherings, or hands-on service, there is a place for everyone to connect, belong, and make a difference.

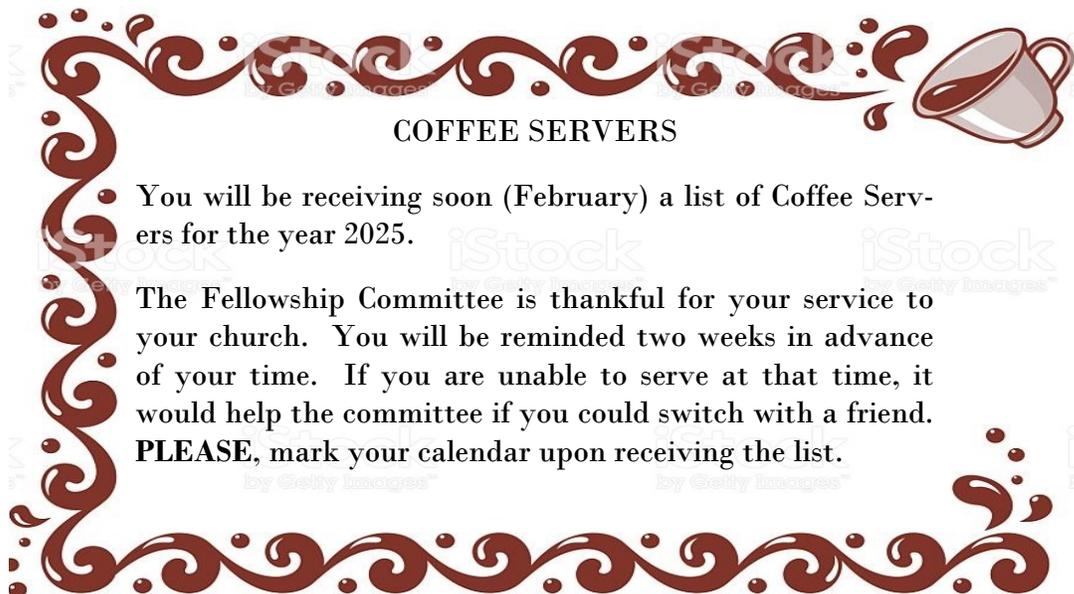
Our new website with a new domain - <https://www.oneidapresbyterianchurch.org/> offers an easy navigation for our members, friends and community to learn more about us and stay connected to all of our ministries and events.

I encourage you to mark your calendar for our **Annual Meeting on January 25th**, a time to celebrate where we have been, to reflect on God's faithfulness, and to look ahead to the vision unfolding before us. Your presence matters, and your voice is an important part of our shared life and ministry.

As we begin this new year, may we remain open to where God is leading us—trusting that even small steps of faith can open doors to new life, deeper community, and joyful service.

With gratitude and hope for the year ahead,

Pastor Mike



COFFEE SERVERS

You will be receiving soon (February) a list of Coffee Servers for the year 2025.

The Fellowship Committee is thankful for your service to your church. You will be reminded two weeks in advance of your time. If you are unable to serve at that time, it would help the committee if you could switch with a friend. **PLEASE**, mark your calendar upon receiving the list.

Personnel Structure Update for the New Year

As we begin the New Year, Session has approved several updates to our personnel structure, including a change to Pastor Mike's role as *Head of Staff*.

Going forward, staff members will report to their **designated Team Chairpersons** rather than to a single Head of Staff. Specifically:

- The **Church Secretary** will be under the supervision of **Leigh Silkowski**.
- The **Sexton** will be under the supervision of **Perry Tooker IV**.

The **Music Staff** will continue to work in close coordination with Pastor Mike but will be under the direct supervision of **Stephanie Gwilt**.

This change is intended to clarify shared leadership, strengthen accountability, and better align our staffing structure with how ministry actually functions in the life of our church. By moving from a single "Head of Staff" model to a team-based structure with pastoral coordination, we encourage collaboration, transparency, and Spirit-led leadership—while ensuring that pastoral care, oversight, and continuity remain strong and effective.

Session also recognizes the importance of clear and faithful processes for addressing staff-related concerns. Scripture teaches us to speak directly to one another when concerns arise (Matthew 18:15–17). When a direct conversation is not possible or appropriate, congregation members are encouraged to bring concerns to the appropriate supervisory team outlined above or to a designated leader, so that matters may be addressed with care, accountability, and grace.

While Pastor Mike will no longer hold the formal title of *Head of Staff*, his pastoral leadership role remains unchanged. He will continue to serve as an overall coordinator, helping ensure that communication, ministry efforts, and leadership across teams remain aligned with the mission and vision of the congregation.

Under this model:

- **Ministry Teams** (such as Worship & Music, Mission, Property, Personnel, etc.) are responsible for their respective areas of ministry.
- Staff supervision is shared through these teams, providing clarity and support.

The **Pastor serves as a coordinating shepherd**, supporting teams, fostering collaboration, and keeping the broader ministry vision before the church.

To support this structure, a new **Personnel Team** has been established. It will consist of:

- **Leigh Silkowski**, Chair
- **Frank Kordziel**, Deacon representative
- **Perry Tooker IV**, Ruling Elder Team Chair
- **Stephanie Gwilt**, Ruling Elder Team Chair

Kristin Tooker, Administrative Clerical Volunteer (appointed by Session)

Session believes these changes will strengthen communication, empower shared leadership, and help our congregation continue to grow faithfully and effectively in the year ahead. We thank you for your prayers, trust, and partnership as we move forward together in ministry.



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

For the month of January 2026

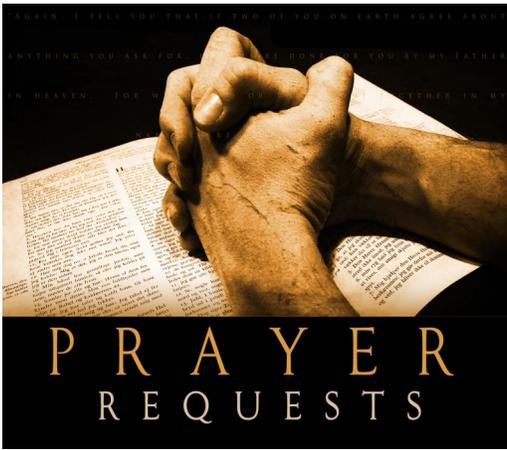
Jude Alexander (Mancarella's great nephew)	Victor Johnson
Fred Bavo (Jennawade's Uncle)	Dawn Kimball
Kevin Bedford	Dan King (Pastor @ New Life Assembly of God)
Brody	
Richard Brown	Jean Kowalik
Marty Canning	Florence LaRock
Elizabeth Coulby	Isaac McGovern
Cora Cramer (Ethel Abbott's sister)	Laurie Mudge
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

Joe Todd	Becky Nichols
Myron Thurston	Tim Berquist
Mike Borchardt	

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 2026

Barb Arnold

Sue Kordziel

Paul Mancarella

Carol Miller

Kathy Nichols

Perry Tooker IV

CLASS OF 2027

Stephanie Gwilt

CLASS OF 2028

Leigh Silkowski

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:

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.

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

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

Those currently serving in a combat zone:

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2026

Becky Ewen

Frank Kordziel

Rachel Mancarella

Kristin Tooker

Michelle Yeoman

CLASS OF 2027



THIS MONTH AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Jan 1st Office Closed-Happy New Year

Jan 4th Communion

Jan 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

Senior Bible Study,
Connection

Jan 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Choir Practice

Jan 11th Team Meetings

Jan 18th Deacons Meeting/Chili Cook
Off

Jan 19th MLK Birthday-Office Closed

Jan 23rd OACC Coffee House

Newsletter Deadline

Jan 25th Annual Meeting

Jan 26th Session Meeting



- Jan. 1 Sharon Warren
Jan. 5 Karen Sarenský
Jan. 8 Beverly Vineall
Jan. 10 Samuel Mastriano
Jan. 15 Donna Laurin
Jan. 18 Jon Musgrove
Jan. 21 Stephanie Thompson,
Jan. 22 Matthew Froass
Jan. 23 Christopher Joslyn Jr.



**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 January

January 4th-Barb Schwartz

January 11th-Perry Tooker IV

January 18th-Frank Kordziel

January 25th-Paul Mancarella

Coffee Servers for January

January 4th- Trish Vrooman & Donna Lauren

January 11th-Ethel Abbott & Sue Kordziel

January 18th-Paul & Chrissy Thompson

January 25th-Fellowship

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

JANUARY CHILI COOK OFF

Jan 18th

BIRTHDAY BASH

February 8th



Music and Worship would like to thank everyone who purchased poinsettias for the sanctuary. You can pick up your poinsettias anytime after the Sunday night service. Your flowers will have your name on them.



**Christmas Caroling with
Our friends from
The Oneida Baptist Church**



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

