



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



When they saw the star they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2:10

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, January 4, 2026 10:00 AM  
**Epiphany Sunday**  
 Pastor Michael L. Yeoman

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

† Isaiah 60:1–6

† Ephesians 3:1–12

† Matthew 2:1–12

PRELUDE "Kings of Orient" By Lindell Leatherman

MORNING GREETINGS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT "Epiphany Song" by H Kenn Carmichael

CALL TO WORSHIP

**We gather today drawn by a light not of our own making. A light that shines in the darkness and cannot be overcome. We come as seekers, like the Magi of old, trusting that God still guides those who long for truth. We come with questions and hopes, with joys and burdens, with hearts ready to be interrupted by grace.**

**The star still leads. Christ is still being revealed. The journey of faith continues here.**

**So come, let us worship the One who is the Light of the world**

OPENING HYMN "We Three Kings of Orient Are" #66



*Watered With Grace*

*Their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.*

*Jeremiah 31:12b*

*I love spring in New England. After hibernating all winter, I can't wait to be outside digging and planting in my gardens. My favorite flower bed is the one I plant from seed. As I water the soil each day, I'm filled with anticipation of what will soon grow. The minute those small green shoots break through, I'm overcome with wonder. Each and every day thereafter is filled with growth, progress, and deep beauty.*

*That's the life God offers us in Jeremiah 31. When we plant our hearts in soil of faith, God showers us with extravagant grace. Like a perfectly watered garden, our lives become filled with wonder, growth and beauty. As we thrive under the Supreme Gardener's care, we blossom, glorifying God with our lives.*

*From "These Days", January 3rd, 2026*

## 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.



### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Guiding God, you set a star in the heavens to lead seekers to Christ, and you still place your light before us today. Draw us from where we are to where you would have us be. Interrupt our comfortable paths and give us courage to follow when you call. Open our eyes to see your presence in unexpected places, our hearts to trust when the way is unclear, and our lives to reflect the light of your love. Lead us this day to Jesus— the Light of the world— that in worship and in witness we may rejoice in his grace, and share his hope with all people. We pray in his holy name. Amen.*

### **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Friends, the light of Christ shines in the darkness, revealing both God’s glory and our need for grace. When we follow the light, we see clearly— our longing for God, and the ways we have wandered from the path. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)**

Gracious and guiding God, you set a star before us, yet we confess that we often choose our own way. You call us to follow your light, but we are drawn by lesser lights— the glow of comfort, the lure of success, the ease of familiar paths.

You interrupt our lives with grace, but we resist when your call disrupts our plans. We pass by the neighbor in need, we ignore the nudge of your Spirit, we cling to what is safe instead of trusting your leading.

Forgive us, O God. Turn us again toward your light. Free us from fear and pride, and set our feet once more on the path of Christ, that we may follow him with joy and faithfulness. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

### **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. In Jesus Christ, God has come near, not to condemn the world, but to save it. Friends, in Christ we are forgiven, restored, and made new. Follow the light— for in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### **\*GLORIA PATRI**

*“Glory Be to the Father”*

**#579**



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

**Stay Connected With Us**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

**ANTHEM** *"Hymn of Promise"* **by Natalie Sleeth**  
**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**OLD TESTAMENT** **Isaiah 60:1–6** **OT Page 649**  
The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

**EPISTLE** **Ephesians 3:1–12** **OT Page 181**  
The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

**GOSPEL** **Matthew 2:1–12** **NT Page 1**  
The Gospel of Jesus *Thanks be to God*

**SERMON** *"Following the Star"* **Pastor Mike**

**\*HYMN** *"As with Gladness Men of Old"* **#63**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *"The Apostles' Creed"* **(Ecumenical Version)**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**



Ushers for January

**Jan 4th**

**Jan 11th**

**Jan 18th**

**Jan 25th**

The Per Capita for  
2026 is \$46



*These Days for January, February, and March 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, January 5th; Oneida Public Library

Oneida, NY

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 6th; Oneida Health

Oneida, NY

10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

American Legion Post 230 Sherrill

Sherrill, NY

12:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

**St. Agatha's Church**

Canastota, NY

1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 8th; First Presbyterian Church

Cazenovia, NY

1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

### To All Team/Committee Chairpersons

### Treasurers and to

### Whomever 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen*

## OFFERTORY

*"Brightest and Best"*

arr. Lynn Trapp

## \*DOXOLOGY

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you

*All: And also with you.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

*All: We lift them to the Lord.*

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

*All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy..... (continued) You spoke through prophets calling us to turn from our willful ways to new obedience and righteousness. You sent your only Son to be the way to eternal life.....

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name.

*All: "Sanctus"*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

Pastor: You are holy, O God of majesty and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt... (continued) ,, Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Pastor: Praise to you, Lord Jesus

**All: *Dying you destroyed our death.  
Rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus come in glory.***

Pastor: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the Living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ’s body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord Jesus on the night of his arrest took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

The body of Christ broken for you. **(The bread is taken by all.)**

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

The blood of Christ - The cup of salvation. **(The juice is consumed at this time)**

Every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord until he comes in glory.

**COMMUNION ANTHEM “Let Us Break Bread Together” by Melva Wilson  
Costen**

**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

**DEACONS**

**CLASS OF 2026**

Becky Ewen  
Frank Kordziel  
Rachel Mancarella  
Kristin Tooker  
Michelle Yeoman

**CLASS OF 2027**

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:**

The Family of Andy Walters

**SPECIAL CONCERNS:**

All first responders, nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals.

All victims and survivors of gun violence.

The Citizens of Ukraine

Pray for those who are serving overseas and our Police/Fire Safety personnel.

Israel and all victims of terrorism

**PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS:** Pray for those who are stationed in non-combat zones:

Jason Murphy, Jack Sharkey, Nicholas Young, Philip Messina, Ryan Geer, John Goodwill, Errol Crossman, Corey Reed, Andrew Fargo, Jim Jennings, Peter Thompson, Dylan McClelland, Sean Fuller Jr.

Those serving in combat zones:



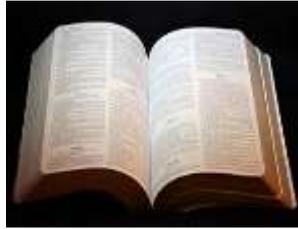
**MISSION EMPHASIS:**

General Assembly of the PC(USA)



Collection Assistants for January

January 4th-Paul Mancarella  
January 11th-Kathy Nichols  
January 18th-Leigh Silkowski  
January 25th-Perry Tooker IV



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-Tish Vrooman & Donna Laurin  
January 11th-Ethel Abbott & Sue Kordziel  
January 18th-Paul and Chrissy Thompson  
January 25th-Barb & Jack Arnold



Projection Team for January

January 4th-Trish Vrooman  
January 11th-Dan Gwilt  
January 18th-Paul Mancarella  
January 25th-Trish Vrooman

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Guiding God, we thank you for meeting us at this table, for revealing your grace in broken bread and shared cup. As the star once led the Magi to Christ, so now send us forth, nourished by this holy meal, to follow the light you place before us.

Strengthen us for the journey ahead— to walk new paths of faith, to welcome interruptions as invitations from you, and to bear the light of Christ into a world still longing for hope.

May this meal shape the way we live, the way we love, and the way we serve, until all are drawn to your light and rejoice in the grace of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**      *“Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love”*      #62

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      *“Go Now in Peace”* (Nancy Price and Don Besig)

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.*

*God will go with you each hour of ev’ry day.*

*Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.*

*Know he will guide you in all you do.*

*Go now in love, and show you believe.*

*Reach out to others, so all the world can see.*

*God will be there watching from above.*

*Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

*Amen! Amen! Amen!*

**POSTLUDE**      *“We Three Kings”*      arr.      **Marianne Kim**

*Thank you for worshipping with us today! Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the auditorium.*



## 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**

### ***Souper Bowl of Caring***

*Don't forget the special offering on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8th. It is collected by the youth after the worship service at the exit locations.*

*This Souper Bowl donation will go to the local food pantries to help feed the poor. If you want to contribute to the Souper Bowl and you won't be here on February 9th, you can put your donation in a yellow envelope (found in the pews) and put Souper Bowl on the outside.*



## ***LIFE at ONEIDA FIRST PRESBYTERIAN***

*Week of Jan 4th-Jan 11th*

Sunday, January 4th  
10 a.m. Worship  
Communion

Monday, January 5th

Tuesday, January 6th  
2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds  
Sensibly (JWCC)

Wednesday, January 7th  
1:00 p.m. Seniors Bible Study  
4:00 p.m. Connection

Thursday, January 8th  
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, January 9th

Saturday, January 10th

Sunday, January 11th  
10 a.m. Worship  
Team Meetings





*BIRTHDAY BASH*

You are invited to the Birthday Bash on Sunday, February 8th. The Birthday Bash gives us the opportunity to get together an celebrate everyone's birthday on one day. Please join us that day for cake, coffee and fellowship. There will be a sign up sheet in the auditorium for our wonderful dessert chefs!!



*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.*

**2026 ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2026 Annual meeting will be held on January the 25th.

There will be refreshments available for the meeting, which will take place in the auditorium following the service. Coffee, Tea, and water will be available.

We hope to see you there.



*FLOWER MEMORIALS*

**There is a calendar hanging on the bulletin board to the right of Mike's office.** If you would like to donate a flower arrangement on Sunday morning in memory of a loved one, please write your name on the date you would like to do it. Then call John in the office 363-7590 by the Tuesday before that Sunday so that he can print the memorial in the bulletin.



**COFFEE SERVERS**

You will be receiving soon (February) a list of Coffee Servers for the year 2026.

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.

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.



## *Prayer shawls*

***Prayer shawls are available for anyone who needs a little extra comforting and support. They are stitched by church members.***

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.

## LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

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	

## SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

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.