

Presbyterian News



EDITION

February 2026



February

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

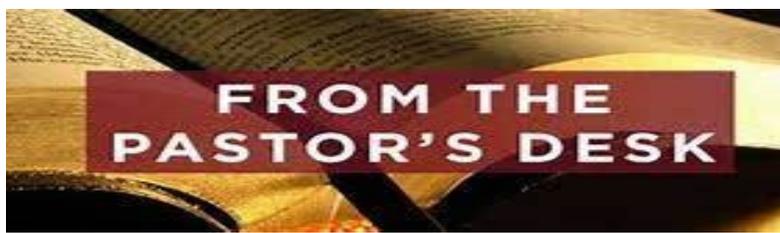


STAY CONNECTED WITH US

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS

HTTPS://

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



Beloved in Christ,

As we enter the month of February, our attention turns toward the holy season of Lent. Lent is a journey — a pilgrimage of the heart — in which we slow down long enough to hear again the tender voice of God calling us to repentance, renewal, and deeper discipleship. It is a season marked by honesty about our mortality and humility about our need for grace, yet it is also a season that leads to hope, life, and resurrection.

This year we will begin our Lenten observance on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, with worship at 7:00 PM featuring the Imposition of Ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. In the sign of the ashes, we acknowledge the truth that we are dust, and to dust we shall return; in the gift of Communion, we receive the promise that God in Jesus Christ enters even the dust with mercy, love, and redeeming power. I hope you will join us in what is always one of the most meaningful services of the year.

But even as Lent invites us into introspection, prayer, and spiritual discipline, our life together continues to reflect the joy and fellowship of Christian community.

This February, our Fellowship Team will host its annual Birthday Bash on February 15th, a lighthearted gathering in which we celebrate the gift of one another and the simple joy of belonging. A week later, on February 22nd, we will begin our Lenten Lunches, a warm and welcoming table where warm soup is shared, stories mingle, and friendships deepen.

Likewise, our Outreach Team will begin hosting Free Community Dinners beginning Thursday, February 12th. These dinners are a beautiful expression of what it means to be the church in our neighborhood — extending hospitality to friend and stranger alike, easing burdens where we are able, and offering a place of welcome in the name of Christ and an opportunity to pray together. What a wonderful opportunity to serve our community in a wide variety of ways!

Taken together, these ministries embody the fullness of the Gospel: a church that prays, a church that gathers, and a church that serves. Lent teaches us that repentance is not merely about sorrow for sin, but a turning of our lives toward God and toward neighbor. It is, in a very real sense, an invitation to become more fully the Body of Christ for the sake of the world.

May this season be for us a time of honest reflection, renewed faith, and deepening joy. And may God grant us the courage to walk the Lenten road with humility, hope, and love.

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Mike

COMMUNITY DINNER

HOT SOUP AND SANDWICHES



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH 5:00 – 6:30

PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF

ONEIDA

304 BROAD STREET

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SEE PAUL MANCARELLA, KATHY NICHOLS OR PASTOR MIKE

BIRTHDAY BASH

You are invited to the Birthday Bash on Sunday, February 15th. The Birthday Bash gives us the opportunity to get together and 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!!



Baby bottles filled with change –

that's The Baby Bottle Campaign



It's a simple idea that provides thousands of dollars to save lives.

Each year the money raised from the Campaign helps support those facing unplanned pregnancies and their babies through the ministry of Willow Network.

It's easy. Pick up a baby bottle from the table in the auditorium. The bottles will be available beginning in February. Fill it up with change (or dollars too!) and bring it back to the church. All must be returned to the church by March 1st



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

For the month of February 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
Emeri Dryer (Maggie's grand daughter)	Michelle Newman
Peggy Eastman	Becky Nichols
John Ferguson	Michael O'Bryan (Mike's Brother in law)
Robert Feldmann (Melinda's Father)	Mike Oot
Linda Felix	Tom Panasci
Jillian Felt	Dan & Claudia Rayome
Andy Froass	Dave Scribner
Don Fuller (Stephanie Gwilt's Father)	Debbie Shaw
Pat Grabow (Chrissy Thompson's Mom)	Debrah Skellham
Becky Grasso	Brian Stites
Wendy Holtz	Millicent Vidal
Jim Hotaling	Stacey Weimer (Friend of John Merritt)
	Jan Whiting

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.

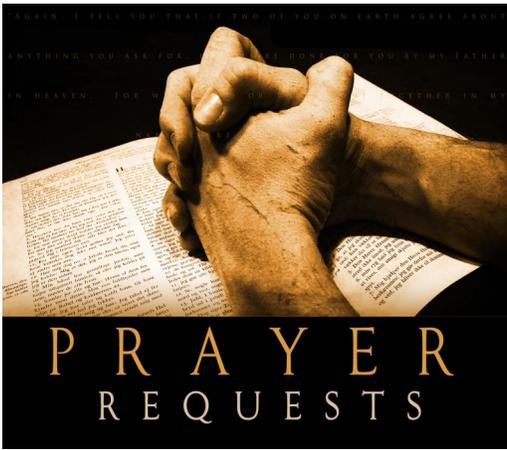
SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

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:

Bob Heller

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.

DEACONS

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

CLASS OF 2026

Becky Ewen
Frank Kordziel
Rachel Mancarella
Kristin Tooker
Michelle Yeoman

CLASS OF 2027

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:



THIS MONTH AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Feb 1st Communion

Feb 2nd Session Meeting

Feb 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

Senior Bible Study,

Variety

Connection

Feb 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Choir Practice

Feb 8th Team Meetings

Feb 12th Community Dinner

Feb 15th Deacons Meeting

Birthday Bash

Feb 16th Office Closed Presidents

Day

Feb 18th Ash Wednesday

Feb 20th Newsletter Deadline

Feb 22nd Lenten Lunch

Feb 24th Session Meeting



Feb. 2 Perry Tooker IV, Jennawade
Skellham

Feb. 5 Perry Tooker III, Cindy Morey

Feb. 6 Alexander Mastriano

Feb. 9 Dylan Bartell

Feb. 17 Kristin Tooker

Feb. 25 Debbie Todd



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 February

February 1st-Barb Seaton

February 8th-Frank Kordziel

February 15th-Pat Thorpe

February 22nd-Perry Tooker IV

Coffee Servers for February

February 1st- Nat & Melissa Smith

February 8th-Fellowship

February 15th-Fellowship

February 22nd-Ethel Abbott & Janet Sarensky

Chairpersons for 2026 Teams

Christian Education	Sue Kordziel	
Fellowship (Co-Chairs)	Barb Arnold	Carol Miller
Finance and Stewardship	Paul Mancarella	
Missions	Kathy Nichols	
Music and Worship	Stephanie Gwilt	
Nominating	Perry Tooker IV	
Technology	Paul Mancarella	
Personnel	Leigh Silkowski	
Property and Maintenance	Perry Tooker IV	
Outreach (Co-Chairs)	Paul Mancarella	Kathy Nichols

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

FEBRUARY 15TH—BIRTHDAY BASH

Please sign up and bring your favorite dessert to share with the congregation.

Fellowship will provide Coffee, Tea and soft drinks

FEBRUARY 22ND—LENTEN LUNCH

There is a sign up sheet in the auditorium. Please sign up to bring a Soup (to serve 12 to 16 people), bread, or cookies.

MARCH 1ST—LENTEN LUNCH

There is a sign up sheet in the auditorium. Please sign up to bring a Soup (to serve 12 to 16 people), bread, or cookies.

MARCH 8TH—LENTEN LUNCH

There is a sign up sheet in the auditorium. Please sign up to bring a Soup (to serve 12 to 16 people), bread, or cookies.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH
NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 20TH**

