



PRESBYTERIAN TIDBITS

The Newsletter of Ottawa Presbyterian Church

150 N. Oak St., Ottawa, OH 45875-1810 ♦ (419) 523-3694

8:30 Breakfast/9:00 Worship ♦ ottawapresby.org

Lance Wiesmann, *Pastor* ♦ Andrea Morman, *Secretary*

June 2022



How is it even possible that we're already into June! Weren't we just clearing snow & ice off our cars & sidewalks two weeks ago?

SUNDAY MORNING (06/05) – following worship – the Session is inviting you to join us in Fellowship Hall for another congregational conversation. The one we had last month went very well, and we heard a LOT of people speak about a mix of different topics. It is VERY encouraging to see all of you come together to share ideas and thoughts. Let's keep that going!

As I look forward into June, I have the honor of serving not only this Church, but the entire Presbytery as the elected Elder Commissioner to the 225th PC(USA) General Assembly. My time in Louisville, KY will be from Friday, the 17th until Thursday the 23rd. This means I will *not* be here on Sunday 06/19 or in the office on Thursday 06/23. I'm looking forward to this experience, but I also know it will be a LOT of work (this is not a vacation). I have been assigned to the Polity Committee which is responsible for sifting through all of the proposed changes to the Book of Order and advancing those that we discern God calling us to adopt. When I come back from Louisville, I will still have two more weeks of G.A. to attend (ending on Saturday, July 09th) – but those will be online via Zoom from home or in the Office.

I am delighted to report that the Cataract Surgery on my right eye went phenomenally well. I am blown away by how much clearer I can see out of my right eye! Now I can't wait to get my left eye done!

As a reminder, I am now in the Office (or in the Ottawa Community) on Thursday mornings and afternoons. I am also available for an hour (or 2) after Sunday Worship each week, if you want/need to talk or visit.

Remember, if you need to contact me for any reason, my email address is: wiesmannlance@gmail.com or Pastor@ottawapresby.org. My mobile phone number is: 517-270-4837 and (if I don't answer) you can either text or leave a message. I will return the message/call as quickly as I can.

Peace,
Pastor Lance



Prayer Concerns

Please pray for those with **health concerns** no matter what their stage of life.

Please pray for those **serving in the military**, both at home and overseas, as well as the families who watch and wait for them.

Please pray for those who are either waiting for or who have received **organ transplants** and the families who face difficult decisions.

Please pray for **those facing decisions** in their personal lives, their professional lives, their family lives, or their spiritual lives.

Please pray for all those touched by the **COVID pandemic**—whether through personal illness or loss or through hardships caused by the disease.

Please pray for **Pastor Lance** and his ministry with our congregation. And finally, please say a prayer of thanksgiving for the **blessings of this congregation**—especially as we celebrate 175 years of congregational life here in Ottawa!

Financial Report

Financial reports for the church are available in the hard copy version of this newsletter. If you would like more information, you may also contact our treasurer (treasurer@ottawapresby.org).

Presbytery Meeting

It's a joy to report that "Candidate" **Amy Remaklus** has accepted a part-time position as executive director of the **Toledo Campus Ministry**. She is scheduled for her **Final Assessment on May 25** with **plans to be examined at the September** meeting of Presbytery. With her graduation ceremonies on the weekend of May 21, Amy has achieved many milestones.

The rest of the meeting was not as positive. The primary topic (or emotion?) that stood out through the entire meeting was the long term loss of energy, loss of optimism and a sense of grief that is dominating all congregations in the wake of COVID and its waves of variants. Several pastors recounted experiences of "hitting a wall" in recent weeks, all having to do with the diminished nature of our experiences at this point in the COVID

journey and the difficulty in getting congregation members to re-commit to certain activities or, for that matter, to even think about what those activities should be.

Ironically, there's some good news in all of this depressing stuff for us. In many ways our COVID "hit" has been harder than other congregations as we had a pastoral change at a peak period. That's history. What we have done recently, however, that puts us ahead of other congregations, is have a church-wide meeting on May 1 (with another one scheduled June 5). As we look at these meetings, also, we need to treasure the value of the personal interaction that takes place. Ideas for moving ahead or even chances to vent are important, but the most important element of those gatherings is the chance to simply be together.

So let's be sure to gather once again in June, and enjoy the informal time together. We've known the feelings that were shared at the Presbytery meeting. While it was very comforting to know that we aren't alone, it's even more comforting to know that we are finding our way forward to a better place.



Our Summer Worship Schedule begins Sunday, May 29th. Breakfast will begin at 8:30 am. Worship will begin at 9 am. Summer schedule will continue until Labor Day in September.

OPW Happenings

The OPW will meet at Henry's Restaurant on Saturday, June 11, at 9 am for breakfast! Hope to see you there! Please sign up at church or call/text Nancy K. at 419-231-1084.



Next Session meeting will be Thurs. June 16 at 7 pm.



The month of June is our church's month to "host" the Ottawa Food Pantry at Trinity United Methodist Church. Volunteers are needed for the Mondays of June 13 & June 27 from 9:30 – 11:30 am to help pick-up, unload and put away/sort food and the Tuesdays of June 14 & June 28 from 9:30 am – 2 pm to assist customers with selecting their items. Please sign-up on bulletin board if you are able to help. THANKS!

Community Events

The Friends of the Putnam County District Library will be holding their Annual Used Book and Attic Treasures Sale plus DVD's, videos, records and electronics on Tuesday, June 7 and Wednesday, June 8 from 9AM to 7PM. The Sale will be at the Ottawa Elementary Gym at 123 Putnam Parkway. Note the location change. All book donations may be dropped off at the school Saturday, June 4 or Monday, June 5 from 9AM-4PM.



Council on Aging Offers Program to Address Safety in Older Adults Homes

The Aging in Place Home Assessment Program focuses on safety, accessibility, and fall prevention in the home. A Certified Aging in Place Specialist will complete a home assessment to identify ways to help you live safely and comfortably in your home. Putnam County residents, age 60 and better are eligible for the program. There is no cost for the home assessment, but donations are accepted. For more information or to schedule a home assessment, please call the Putnam County Council on Aging at 419-523-4121.

Telephone Reassurance/ Friendly Visitor Program



Putnam County Council on Aging is offering a Telephone Reassurance and Friendly Visitor Program. Seniors who are interested in receiving a phone call or friendly visit can sign up or be referred by a caregiver, family member or service provider. Eligibility requirements include being a Putnam County resident, age 60 or better, isolated or homebound

and an application must be completed. For more information contact: Putnam County Council on Aging at 419-523-4121 or 1-877-796-1760.

Putnam County Shred-A-Thon to Support Elder Abuse Awareness Day



In support of Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the Putnam County Council on Aging, Crime Victim Services – Elder Victim Ministry, Hilty Home, Ottawa Police Department and the Area Agency on Aging 3 are partnering to raise awareness about elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation in our community. Unfortunately, elder abuse is widespread and occurs in every demographic and can happen to anyone – a family member, a neighbor, even you. Every year an estimated 1 in 10 older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. And that's only part of the picture: Experts believe that elder abuse is significantly under-reported. Research suggests that only 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse come to the attention of authorities.

The good news is that we can prevent and address the issue of elder abuse by taking steps to raise awareness and by providing resources and information. This is why the above-mentioned organizations are coming together in support of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, to focus on the rapidly increasing crime of financial exploitation, by hosting the Putnam County Shred-A-Thon. **This free community event will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2022 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Putnam County Council on Aging, 1425 E. 4th St., Ottawa.** Community members are invited to drive-thru and dispose of any personal documents, check stubs, credit card offers, receipts, or any other paper materials that might contain personal information. All materials will be shredded by Wilton Keck Recycling. For more information on the Putnam County Shred-A-Thon, please call the Council on Aging at 419-523-4121.



The Friends of the Putnam County District Library are sponsoring a Chicken BBQ Dinner from 11AM to 1PM on Sunday, June 12 at the Ottawa Library location, 136 Putnam Parkway. Presale tickets only for \$10.00 are available by calling 419 538 6592 or email - klokuley@woh.rr.com. Proceeds will benefit all Putnam County District Libraries.

Lifewise Academy to O-G Schools

 The Lifewise Academy for OG schools is currently accepting applications for a Director and Teaching positions. Interested and qualified candidates can find all the details and application process for these positions in the text below or it can be found at this Facebook link [\(20+\) Facebook](#). 

This committee of people have been working hard on bringing a Lifewise Academy to O-G Schools. Lifewise Academy uses Release Time Religious Instruction(RTRI) which is a federal law allowing Lifewise Academy to teach kids biblical education during school hours as long as it is off school property and each student has parental permission. Click here to learn more. <https://www.lifewiseacademy.org/>

We have gotten a lot done in a short time which we give God the glory for but we have a lot to do yet and trust He will provide.

One of which is to hire a Director to help finish program implementation and launch, and oversee/manage the OG Lifewise Academy which entails working with the OG School District, scheduling teachers for class time and ensuring efficient program operation. This is very likely to be a part time position depending on the size of the enrollment and/or if we add any classes. We are currently looking at providing instruction for the 1st grade – 5th grade. This search will conclude on June 12th and we will begin interviews.

If you have a heart for kids and want to see that they get good biblical instruction and have a quality background in leadership, especially in education, go to this link and fill out an application which has some questions that will vet your beliefs and standards as well as check your qualifications. We would love for you to do so.

Go here: <https://www.lifewiseacademy.org/directorapplication>

If you are someone who wants to be a Teacher and have a direct positive impact on kids and want to see that they get good biblical instruction and you have abilities in teaching and are interested in doing so then please go to this link below and fill out an application which has some questions that will vet your beliefs and standards as well as check your qualifications. We would love for you to do so. This is a ministry and will change kid's lives forever.

For this go here: <https://www.lifewiseacademy.org/teacherapplication>

Two last things. One, we are a non-profit and our budget will reflect that so we will need some volunteers to help escort the kids from one building to another to ensure their safety and keep them together to reach the Lifewise Academy location swiftly. If you would like to help in either this capacity or help to further our current efforts down the road by possibly being on our committee then please go to the Community Interest List(CIL) <https://www.lifewiseacademy.org/.../ottawa-glandorf-local> and put in your name and info and click Volunteer or email me at giesken25@gmail.com and I will forward your info to the right person.

As always, anyone involved in any capacity of this education ministry, including these 3 positions, will need to have a clean background check to ensure the safety of the children. This is non-negotiable.

Two, we also are beginning a fundraising phase to help sustain this program. Here is a link if you so intend to do that. Please prayerfully consider a donation for this well-run program. We will have a lot of supplies as well as wages even though some will be donating their time.

Please go to: <https://standfortruth.force.com/.../s/new-lifewise-donation> and put in: OH - Putnam - Ottawa-Glandorf Local In the area where it says Fund 1: Search your location.

To conclude: if you are a praying person, please please please add us to your own prayer list or your bible study or your church group.

We will be eternally grateful!!!

- Kelly Theisen

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Presbyterian Tidbits is published once a month by:

Ottawa Presbyterian Church, part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Andrea Morman, secretary, is usually here Wednesday & Thursday.

Our website is ottawapresby.org

Breakfast – 8:30 am/Worship – 9:00 am

The **Prayer Circle** is a group willing to confidentially pray for your joys and concerns.

Please contact prayercircle@ottawapresby.org.

DATE	ELDERS IN CHARGE	FLOWERS
June 5	Karl H.	Hirzel
June 12	Katrina R.	Baransy
June 19	Carrie J.	Kaufman
June 26	Nancy K.	TBD

Session:

Class of 2022: **Karl Hirzel, Nancy Kaufman**

Class of 2023: **Wayne Badder, Carrie Johnson**

Class of 2024: **Stan Beckman, Katrina Riepenhoff**