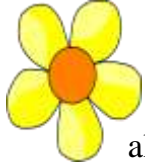




PRESBYTERIAN TIDBITS

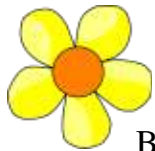
The Newsletter of Ottawa Presbyterian Church
150 N. Oak St., Ottawa, OH 45875-1810 ♦ (419) 523-3694
9:00am Worship/10:15am Sunday School ♦ ottawapresby.org
Lance Wiesmann, *Pastor* ♦ Andrea Morman, *Secretary*

April 2023



Ahhhh... the season of renewal and new life! And, while it's still the early days of Spring, (one of the perils of living in the upper Midwest), the promise is still there. We all know there are still slight chances of snow in April here. The GOOD news? Even if it DOES snow, it won't stick around very long anymore!

Now that we're back on Daylight Savings Time, the days are getting longer, the temps are beginning to rise a bit, and as the rain continues to fall (hopefully only in manageable amounts), we look forward to green grass, budding trees, flowers beginning to bloom and crops being planted in the fields.



Once we get past Holy Week, each of us has the unique opportunity to participate in the Maumee Valley Presbytery Spring Retreat (April 23 afternoon, ending on April 25 at about Noon). The retreat is at the Lial Renewal Center up in Whitehouse, OH. It is a BEAUTIFUL campus operated by the Sisters of Notre Dame. If you are interested, I strongly suggest you give it a try. I really enjoy these retreats, and I almost always learn something new.

As a reminder, I am 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 note: Specific information about those included in our prayers is available during worship, from Pastor Lance, in our office, or from our Session members. However, specific names will not be posted on this web version of the newsletter.

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 **Pastor Lance** and his ministry here. Likewise, pray for our congregation and its **PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee)** as we look to our future.

And finally, please say a prayer of thanksgiving for the **blessings of this congregation**—especially as we celebrate over 175 years of congregational life here in Ottawa!

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

Please contact prayercircle@ottawapresby.org.

Financial Reports

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).

Upcoming Lent Happenings



On April 2, we will enjoy the variety of breakfast foods on Palm Sunday. The Breakfast carry in will start at 9 am, followed by the Egg Hunt for the children. Worship will begin at 10 am. No Sunday School this morning. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board for whatever you would like to bring in.

We will gather on Maundy Thursday, April 6, for a simple meal of soup and salad starting at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. A worship service will start at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. The Prayer Vigil will start at 9 pm. This spiritual



opportunity is for us to reflect on the power of prayer as followers of Jesus Christ, and to include in our prayer time the requests that have been shared. If you would appreciate a quiet time during the Vigil, and can provide an hour and half of your time, there is a sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board for your choice of time slot. You may choose to come to the sanctuary or pray at home during your chosen time. The Vigil will end at noon on Good Friday.



On April 7, the Good Friday worship service will begin at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

On Easter Morning, the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection worship service will begin at 9 am. Sunday

School will not meet that day.

Anyone wanting to decorate the sanctuary with flowers for Easter Sunday, is asked to sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board by April 4th. Please have the flowers to the church by noon on Saturday, April 8th.



Community Events

Mini Spring Bazaar

Sponsored by the Ottawa Senior Citizens Center
1035 E. Third St.

Ottawa, Ohio 45875

Thursday March 30, 2023

10 – 2 pm

Lunch 11:00 – 1:00

Menu includes

Homemade Cheesy Potato Soup

Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup

Bar-be-que Pulled Pork Sandwich Platter

Beef Sandwich Platter

Assorted Desserts

Call 419-523-5593 for carryout orders

Check out our crafts and gift items made by the members of our center.

BBQ Chicken Dinner, for the benefit of Boy Scout Troop 224, will be held on Sunday, April 16, from 11 am – 1 pm. Carryout only and drive – thou pick up at the Boy Scout House. Cost is \$10. For tickets see any Ottawa Boy Scout.

February 21 Presbytery Meeting

The February Presbytery meeting was virtual rather than in-person, which is the “new normal” for February meetings. Three topics stood out from the meeting.

* ChatGPT in worship. ChatGPT and AI (Artificial Intelligence) are hot topics everywhere these days. Rev. Doug Holmes led the worship service and caught everyone off guard when he explained that he used ChatGPT to both write a sermon and to create new words for a familiar hymn tune based on the familiar story of Jonah and the Whale. The sermon was very effective and reminded me of lots of sermons on that same selection over the years. However, ChatGPT and similar tools can only repeat word sequences that have already been downloaded into its vast memory. There is no original thought, no room for inspiration. Rev. Holmes reminded us that we need to remember our intellect is a God-given gift that must be used with wisdom and good purpose. We need to actively use that intellect to create new ideas and new ways of serving, rather than passively parroting words of the past without investing ourselves in those words. There is a place for Artificial Intelligence, but that place must be controlled by our active intelligence, with God’s guidance.

* Great information was provided about different ways of reaching out to those who most need the things a church can offer. One phrase used was “**Reaching Beyond the Stained Glass Barrier.**” Just two days prior to this meeting, I had learned about plans to offer Bible School here this June during the Thursday evening activities at the Rex just beyond our own doors

*The ideas presented at Presbytery were great; likewise, the ideas and energy of our own members in reaching beyond our walls on those Thursday evenings very much reflected the goal of the day’s presentations.

*As a follow-up to last summer’s General Assembly, Presbyteries everywhere will be voting on thirty-three amendments to our church policies this summer. Many of the changes are very minor, others need more discussion. At this Presbytery meeting, those present were allowed to designate which amendments need more detailed discussion before voting on the entire set at the May meeting.

The next Presbytery meeting will be held **in person on May 16** in Bowling Green at 3 pm.



**Session will meet Sunday,
April 16 after worship.**

OPW Winter Report

OPW met on a Saturday morning in Fellowship Hall in each of the months of February and March. Nancy Kaufman presented the devotion in February and Andee Parker provided the March devotion. While meetings in recent years generally involved a full breakfast, the recent meetings provided coffee and tea...and maybe a donut or two.

Meeting dates for 2023—February 4, March 11, June 10, September 9, and November 11. A calendar-based planning list was also created for each meeting.

Committees for 2023:

- * **Bulletin Board**—Vickie Barteck and Nancy Kaufman
- * **Council on Aging Christmas Project**—Dee Beckman
- * **Historians**--Nancy Kaufman and Lynne Hirzel
- * **Fellowship**—Nancy Kaufman and Carrie Johnson
- * **Kitchen Supplies**—Jane and Charlie Doepker
- * **Library**—TBD
- * **PCD Library Christmas Tree**—Andee Parker
- * **Phone Calling**—Janice Gordon and Gillian Holzhauser-Graber
- * **Quarter Auction**—Jane Doepker and Nancy Kaufman
- * **Roses**—moving to Sunshine Committee
- * **Special Dinners**—Andee Parker
- * **World Day of Prayers**—Beth Myers

World Day of Prayer—The annual service was held here on March 3 at 10:30 am and featured a worship service prepared by the women of Taiwan during the 2020 lockdown. While only five members could be present on the day of the service, many people helped out. Special thanks to Zane Badder who baked cookies that were greatly enjoyed by the Badder family dog (at least for a while), and to Wayne who came to the rescue. As we often hear, “it takes a village.” Next year, the service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church. We will host the World Day of Prayer service again in 2028.

Palm Sunday (April 2)—Carry-in breakfast at 9 am, followed by an Easter Egg hunt, and then Worship at 10 am. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. There is no Sunday School that day.

Easter Eggs – Andee Parker, Marge Roberts, and Linda Voorhees will meet on 3/24 and after as needed to fill the plastic eggs. Other volunteers are welcome.

OPW & Fellowship Committee—Many of our church activities involve both OPW and the Fellowship Committee. It seems wise to merge the two entities or at least redefine responsibilities. Currently, the Session’s Fellowship Chairperson also attends OPW meetings so that the OPW president and Fellowship chair can easily communicate and work together. In general, OPW will most likely continue to be heavily involved with church meals—especially meals after worship and funeral meals. This will continue to evolve.

Next Meeting—**June 10**, tentatively at Henry’s, with the time to be announced. Beth Myers will offer the devotions.

OTTAWA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Our website is ottawapresby.org

DATE	ELDERS IN CHARGE	FLOWERS
April 2	Stan B. & Carrie J.	Palms
April 9	Becky R.	Easter
April 16	Wayne B.	Easter Memories
April 23	Carrie J.	Myers
April 30	Kate G.	TBD

2023 Committees Chairs and officers:

Treasurer - Beth Myers
Financial Secretary - Lynne Hirzel
Worship and Music – Kate Gerding
Fellowship - Carrie Johnson
Mission and Evangelism - Stan Beckman
Stewardship - Wayne Badder
Presbytery Rep - Beth Myers
Young People Group - Katrina Riepenhoff
Christian Education - Katrina Riepenhoff
Clerk of Session - Karl Hirzel
Building/Operations – Becky Riepenhoff
OPW - Nancy Kaufman

Session:

Class of 2023: **Wayne Badder, Carrie Johnson**
Class of 2024: **Stan Beckman, Katrina Riepenhoff**
Class of 2025: **Katelyn Gerding, Becky Riepenhoff**