



PRESBYTERIAN TIDBITS

The Newsletter of Ottawa Presbyterian Church

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

9:00am Sunday School/10am Worship ♦ ottawapresby.org

Andrea Morman, *Secretary*

December 2023

Season of Waiting

Hello everyone,

Exciting things are happening at the Ottawa Presbyterian Church in the month of December. Our first event will be caroling and decorating the sanctuary for Christmas on Sunday, December 3rd. We will meet at church at 4pm to start caroling. We will spread the Christmas spirit to a few of our members and maybe through the streets of downtown Ottawa. After caroling, we will have pizza and drinks for everyone to enjoy. The children will decorate the tree in fellowship hall, while the children at heart will decorate the sanctuary and string Christmas lights outside. It will be a jolly good time.

If you are feeling a little humbug and need some laughter, please join us on December 15th at Chas and Beth M's home for the Ottawa Presbyterian Church White Elephant party starting at 7pm.. Bring a dish to share and a **unique** gift to exchange for this event. This will get you in the Christmas spirit.

During worship in the month of December, Ottawa Presbyterian Church will be enjoying the musical talents of our Advent choir. Please join us in hearing their beautiful voices each week. We will also have the advent readings and lighting of the candles. December 24th is still available, so please sign-up soon.

For Christmas Eve, worship will begin at normal time at 10am, and we will not have Sunday school. If you are able to arrive a little early, music will begin at 9:45am for your enjoyment. Amy Remaklus will be preaching on December 24. Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, Music and Worship decided to not have a Christmas Eve evening service. We hope you enjoy this time with your family.

I am sure everyone is making their lists and checking them twice. During this busy time of the year, I hope you enjoy all of the twinkling lights, the smell of gingerbread cookies, and hearing your favorite Christmas songs play on the radio. The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is stressful at times, but we need to remember the meaning of Advent. May this season of waiting for our Savior to be born will bring you and your family hope, peace, joy and love.

Peace,

Kate Gerding



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 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).

An Advent Candle reader(s) is needed for worship service on December 24th. Please signup on sheet on bulletin board.



If you would like to decorate the sanctuary with a poinsettia for the Christmas season, please signup on sheet on bulletin board by December 4th. Please specify if it is in **Memory or Honor of** someone. Have poinsettias to the church by noon on Friday, December 8th.

December is OPC Food Pantry month to help. Volunteers are needed for the Mondays of December 11 & 18 to help pick-up, unload and put away/sort food. Volunteers are needed for the Tuesdays of December 12 & 19 to assist customers with selecting their items. If you are

able to help, please signup on sheets on bulletin board.

Opening Our Doors

The Ottawa Presbyterian Church extended our “Potty Mission” begun last summer by opening the church restrooms during the Ottawa Christmas Parade on November 26th.

We added to the fun by popping popcorn! Bags of popcorn were handed out to people waiting on Main Street for the parade, those waiting in line for Santa in the parking lot and those watching the dancers and singers at the Rex.

People were very appreciative of the popcorn and as usual the restrooms were a welcome perk to this event. There were new signs purchased to point the way to the church!

These signs will be used for future events at the Rex when we can open our church doors to the public.

Choir practice will resume on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm, starting November 30th. All singers, high school age and older are welcome.



Putnam Pet Pals will again this year be having a poinsettia sale fundraiser. The plants are one for \$15 or two for \$25, and can be purchased from Lynne Hirzel.



The available colors are red, white, and pink. The plants will be delivered to the church in early December, unless the purchaser would like to pick up the plant him/herself from Indian Trails Garden Center in Columbus Grove. We truly appreciate any support in this fundraiser!



Senior Citizen’s Christmas Bags are due back to the church on Sunday, December 10th.

**Session will meet Sunday, Dec. 10
at Katrina’s home.**



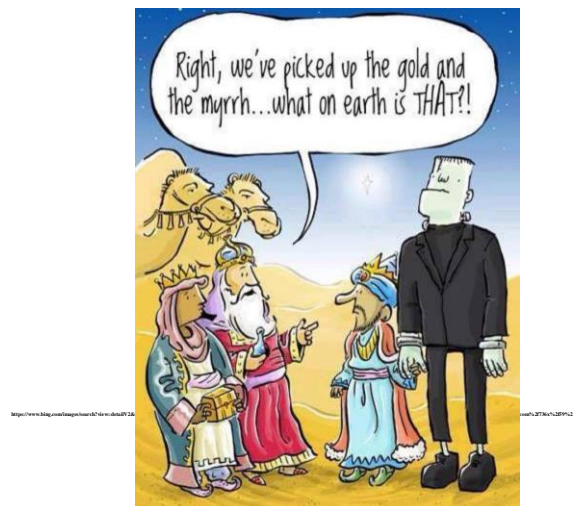
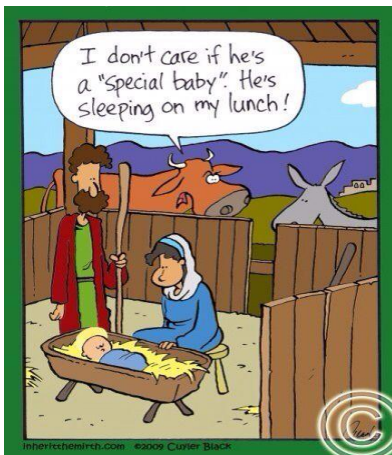
Nancy H. has a new mailing address. It is available in the church office.

Riley Creek UM Church invites all to 52nd Carol Sing on Dec. 3

Riley Creek United Methodist Church invites the community to its 52nd annual Christmas Carol Sing on Sunday, December 3, at 7 p.m. The historic rural church at the bend of Riley Creek will be decorated for the season for the event. The program will give everyone the opportunity to sing traditional carols together, as well as listen to readings from Scripture about Jesus' birth, special performances by the Pandora United Methodist Church Choir, Ottawa Saints Peter and Paul Choir and a candle-lighting ceremony. Since 1972, this special service in a little church built by pioneers has provided an uplifting way to get into the Christmas spirit.

The church is located southeast of Ottawa and northwest of Pandora at the intersection of Putnam County Roads M and 7-L (7102 County Road M, Ottawa OH 45875), across from Putnam National Lima & Stone Co. Weekly Sunday morning worship is at 11:15 AM. Marcella Ciccotelli is pastor.

Riley Creek United Methodist Church
7102 Road M
Ottawa, OH 45875
Contact person for Carol Sing: Marcella Ciccotelli, 419-204-0734





We are excited to share with each of you that we are in our second year of offering Bible education to public school students during the school day through LifeWise Academy Ottawa-Glandorf.

Your prayers have been instrumental in the launch of this Bible education program for our local students. Your prayers have been a guiding light, helping us navigate challenges and celebrate God's victories as we strive to share the wisdom and teachings of the Bible to our OG students. At the end of the 2022/2023 school year, we had 84 students enrolled in LifeWise Ottawa Glandorf and classes were offered to 1st-5th grades at Ottawa and 1st-6th grades at Glandorf. For the 2023/2024 school year, LifeWise Ottawa-Glandorf offers the program to K-8 grade students and we have 140 students enrolled and we are optimistic this number will continue to increase. With the generous donations received from our local churches, individuals/families, and local businesses we have been able to purchase essential learning materials & supplies, sustain our weekly operations, organize meaningful events, and create a nurturing environment for our LifeWise OG students.

Ottawa students are attending LifeWise classes at the Putnam County YMCA and the Putnam County ESC with plans to have a modular classroom on the south side of the Putnam County YMCA property by late winter/early spring. Our Glandorf students have recently moved into a classroom located at the Buckeye Storage office along S.R. 224 due to increased enrollment. Our OG Character Academy capital campaign fundraiser launched in September and we are actively seeking donations to this fund. Funds raised for OG Character Academy will allow us to reach our goal to construct a building for classes for LifeWise Glandorf students at our property located at 147 Church Street in Glandorf.

Our dedicated teachers and volunteers are playing an essential role in the success of our program by creating a positive and nurturing atmosphere for our students. Through their involvement, they are becoming role models and mentors to our students. It is a complete joy to see a community come together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others and your support is making a Kingdom impact by sowing seeds of hope, encouragement, compassion, honesty, courage, kindness, and love within our LifeWise OG students, families, and community. If your church/congregation would like to hear more about our LifeWise program, we would love the opportunity to present a LifeWise update at your church. We also invite your church staff to come visit one of our LifeWise classes; contact me for information about the class times/locations so we can arrange your visit.


You can call or email me if you would like to receive more information about ways you can be involved with LifeWise:

- I am interested in learning more about teaching, volunteering in the classroom, or driving bus.
- I am interested in donating to LifeWise Academy Ottawa Glandorf for daily program operations.
 - Mail to: LifeWise Academy Ottawa Glandorf, P.O. Box 492, Ottawa, OH 45875.
 - Donate online on our website
- I would like to contribute funds for providing Bibles to LifeWise students upon their request.
- I would like to be added to your contact list to receive monthly LifeWise OG newsletters.
- I am interested in donating to OG Character Academy for the capital campaign.
 - Mail to: OG Character Academy, 147 Church Street, Ottawa, OH 45875.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you and we thank you again for your support of LifeWise Academy Ottawa-Glandorf. May God's grace continue to shine upon our LifeWise students, teachers, volunteers, bus drivers, board members, and our community.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

With heartfelt thanks, Dwight Schroeder, LifeWise Ottawa-Glandorf Program Director
419-615-8436, dwightschroeder@lifewiseacademy.org



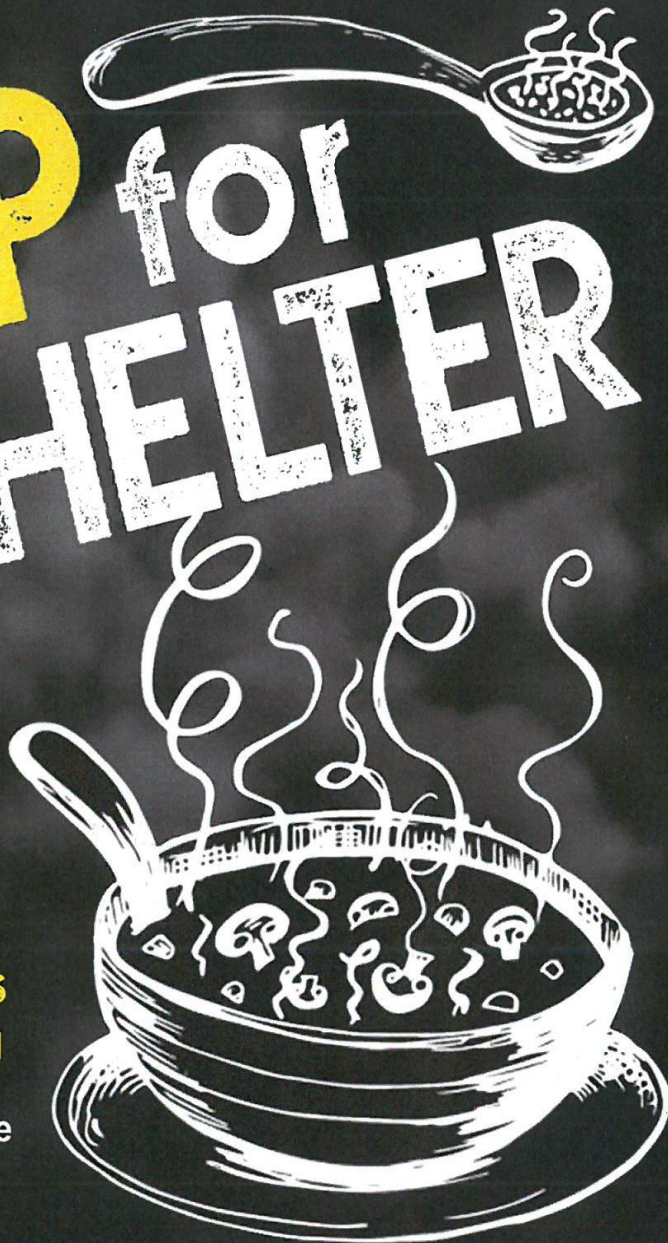
SOUP for SHELTER

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 1
4-7:30 p.m.

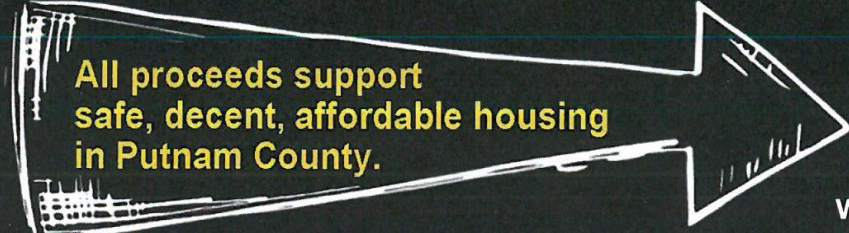
Schroeder Center for the Arts
162 W. Main Street, Ottawa

Sample a variety of soups and vote
for your favorite. Breads and
desserts will also be provided.

Adult ticketholders have their
choice of a hand-crafted bowl made
by local high school and college
students and regional artists.



\$25 per person
\$5 for children under 13
(doesn't include hand-made bowl)



All proceeds support
safe, decent, affordable housing
in Putnam County.



Putnam County
Habitat
for Humanity®

www.putnamohhabitat.org

OTTAWA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
150 N. OAK ST.
OTTAWA, OH 45875-1810
419-523-3694



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Presbyterian Tidbits is published once a month by:

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

Our website is ottawapresby.org

DATE	ELDERS IN CHARGE	FLOWERS
December 3	Stan B.	TBD
December 10	Katrina R.	Poinsettias
December 17	Kate G. (Communion)	Poinsettias
December 24	Becky R.	Poinsettias

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**