



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*

February 2024

Dear church family,

It has been almost a year since we began the search for a new pastor. During this time, the PNC reviewed a total of 31 matches and interviewed four candidates. Of the 31 matches, 23 were in the old system and we thought we were off to a good start. After talking to a few people to interview, we found out that many of the ministers didn't even know their PIF was still out there. Since the new system (August), we have had 9 matches. One of the PDPs that we were recently matched with didn't have any responses to the questions being asked and another PDP was written in another language. With there not being many candidates in the new system, and not great matches, we reached out to Tom Steensma and Matt Meinke for advice. We uploaded a brief "job" description on Maumee Valley Presbytery's website. Per recommendation, we also contacted two ministers in our area to see if they would be interested. One of the ministers was interested in our church and we started the interview process. Unfortunately, the minister didn't want to continue with the process after the second interview.

So where do we go from here? Do we want to wait for a full-time pastor and continue with the search as is? This might take a long time and even longer than we expected with the new system. Do we as a congregation have enough energy to continue without a pastor for another 6 months, a year, two years?

What should we as a congregation consider?

We can change the years of work experience we are requiring. This might open more doors for us if we are more open to a pastor fresh out of seminary. I will say, for some of the people we interviewed, this was a second career choice. They might not have many years of being a pastor, but they have a lot of life experience. If we make this change, we can make connections with seminaries here soon before the semester ends. This will help generate more pastors for us to look at and interview. I guess at this point we need to ask ourselves, is our church looking for experience as a pastor or life experience in our pastor?

We can see if another church would like to search with us for a shared pastor. There are a couple churches in our area that we could partner with for a shared pastor. However, Session has already reached out to a local church and this church shared with us that they would like to find their own full-time pastor. We can reach out to two other churches that are beginning their search. If either of the churches agree to share a pastor with us, this would require both PNCs to merge and we would start the process over in the system with the other church. The benefit is that we could provide a

strong salary to the pastor, and it wouldn't be so straining on our budget for the church. Our pledges this year did increase, but not where they should be for us to have a full-time pastor while keeping up with our building and other expenses. Sharing a pastor would also require us to be a little more flexible with our needs and wants in the pastor. Since the pastor will have two churches to manage, we will need to be accommodating when it comes to worship and church activities. Will the pastor want to live in between our churches or in one of our towns? Is Ottawa Presbyterian Church willing to share a pastor?

We can also change in the system from looking for a full-time pastor to a bi-vocational pastor. This means that the pastor could have another part-time job and be a part-time pastor for our church. This would make it easier on our budget for the church to have a part-time vs. a full-time pastor. We wouldn't be sharing the pastor with another church, but with another job. We will still have to be aware of the pastor's time with the other job. As a church, we have been able to make it through six months without a pastor and individuals have taken on a lot of the responsibilities of operating a church. Are we able to continue doing some of the jobs we have been doing without wearing ourselves out? I am not sure if in our area there are that many people with part-time jobs looking to be a part-time pastor, but we don't know this until we seek this option either inside or outside the CLC system. Are we willing to look at a bi-vocational pastor or even just a part-time pastor?

Our church will have a congregational meeting after our annual meeting on February 4th. The PNC would like to hear as many ideas and thoughts on what our next direction should be in our search. From the time you read this to the time we gather, I ask that everyone reflects, and pray on this. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of the PNC members, and myself for clarification.

We hope to see as many as possible at the congregational meeting. If you would like to submit any questions ahead of time to consider at this meeting, please contact me ahead of Feb. 4th.

May God be with each of us.

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 **servicing 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.

Thanks to your generous donations, the Putnam County Council on Aging was able to provide Christmas gifts to twenty-four area senior citizens. Your donations make a huge impact for these seniors! We received wonderful compliments, smiles and tears of joy when delivering the gifts. We cannot thank you enough for partnering with us for the Senior Christmas Gift Program.

Merry Christmas,
Mary Maas



Pulpit Supply for February

February 4	Amy Remaklus
February 11	Tom Steensma
February 18	Ellen Hugunin
February 25	Jason Armstrong

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 Happenings



A congregational meeting will be held on February 4, for the purpose of reviewing the annual report. After the annual meeting, Pizza will be served before the congregational conversation. All are encouraged to stay.

Signup sheets are on the bulletin board for anyone willing to volunteer to be a liturgist, help with coffee, or provide flowers on Sundays for the 2024 year. **Liturgists are needed for February.**

On February 25, Soup and Silliness family fun will be held after worship. A signup sheet is posted for those who would like to volunteer to bring soup for lunch. Families can bring games to play after the soup lunch.



The church directory will be updated this month. Please get any changes, (email, phone, address, baby, etc.) to the church office ASAP. Thanks!

**27th Annual
Putnam County Hospice Benefit**

Hearts of Hospice

Casino Themed Event this year!	Ottawa K of C Hall 10760 County Road H Ottawa, Ohio 45875
Saturday February 17	Activities Include BLACKJACK CRAPS POKER ROULETTE SILENT AUCTIONS LIVE AUCTION & MORE
Doors open at 5:00pm & Dinner at 6:00pm	
Prizes will be awarded for BEST DRESSED! For tickets or to donate, please call 419-529-4449 Cash or Check accepted as payment	

Save the Date:
Next Community Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 2, here at OPC.



Habitat for Humanity® Tool & Purse



**Thurs., Feb. 15 at American Legion Post #63
218 W. Main Street, Ottawa**

- **Doors open at 5 PM**
- **Games begin at 6 PM**

Food, including sandwiches, sides and desserts, will be available to purchase. Ticketholders may also purchase chances to win locally-sourced baskets and other prizes.

- **Tickets are \$35 each***
- **Tables for 8 may be reserved in advance for \$280.** Table-holders may decorate their table for a chance to win a prize

Tickets are on sale at putnamohhabitat.org or by mailing a check with the number of tickets needed to: Putnam County Habitat for Humanity, 150 N. Oak Street, Ottawa 45875. Tickets may also be purchased at the office Monday-Thursday, 9 AM to 1 PM



SCAN FOR TICKETS!

(please call 419-523-9621 in advance.) A limited number may be available at the door. All proceeds from the evening will support PCHFH's new home and critical home repair programs.

**Attendees must be 18 years of age or older.*

TOOL & PURSE BRANDS INCLUDE:
 Craftsman • Dewalt • Shop Vac
 Milwaukee Tools • Kate Spade
 Fossil • Michael Kors

RAFFLE ITEMS INCLUDE PRODUCTS FROM:
 Sauder Village • Phantasm Design
 Knueven Creamery
 Rubato Coffee Lab
 5/3 Bank & Toledo Mud Hens
 Sycamore Lake Wine Co.
 Hirzel Canning
 Shirley's Popcorn
 MelMarle Skincare

**FOOD! GAMES!
RAFFLES! 50/50!**

Total ECLIPSE



APRIL 7-8, 2024

SUN. APRIL 7

Events by the University of Virginia Astronomy Club

- Educational Fun for the Whole Family!
- Astronomy Presentations
- Arts and Crafts
- Solar Telescope Demonstration
- Guided Nature Hikes
- Campfires, Family Games and MORE!

MON. APRIL 8 ECLIPSE DAY

Enjoy This Once in a Lifetime Event at Kirkmont Center!

- Food Trucks
- Eclipse Arts and Crafts
- UVA Astronomy Club Experts
- Model Rocket Demonstration
- **TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE!**

Space is limited!
More Info @

WWW.KIRKMONTCENTER.ORG



FAMILY CABENTS
AND
PRIMITIVE CAMPSITES
AVAILABLE!

*All Events Weather Dependent and Subject to Change

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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
February 4	Stan B.	TBD
February 11	Kate G. (Communion)	TBD
February 18	Katrina R.	TBD
February 25	Becky R.	TBD

2024 Committees Chairs and officers:

Treasurer - Beth Myers
Financial Secretary - Lynne Hirzel
Worship and Music – Lynne Hirzel
Fellowship/OPW Rep. – Becky Riepenhoff
Mission and Outreach - Stan Beckman
Stewardship & Communication – Kate Gerding
Presbytery Rep - Beth Myers
Young People Group - Katrina Riepenhoff
Christian Education - Katrina Riepenhoff
Clerk of Session - Karl Hirzel
Building/Operations – Mike Kaufman

Session:

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

Class of 2025: **Katelyn Gerding, Becky Riepenhoff**

Class of 2026: **Lynne Hirzel, Mike Kaufman**