



# 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

Rev. Amy Remaklus, *Pastor*; Andrea Morman, *Secretary*

## December 2024

Dear stewards at Ottawa Presbyterian Church,

Happy new year! Well, liturgical year, that is! December 1 is the first day of Advent, when we start a new calendar year in the Revised Common Lectionary. This year -- year C -- is the final year of the three-year rotation, and we will start with Old Testament lessons from the prophets Jeremiah, Malachi, Zephaniah, Micah, and Isaiah. In the New Testament, we will read of the preparation for and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Gospel of Luke.

During this season of Advent, we are invited to slow down and breathe; to remember the story of the season and the reason for Jesus' life and ministry; to do our work with love; and to listen to the word of God that directs our attention toward Christ's ministry of humility, justice, forgiveness, kindness, and hope.

In light of this season, you and your loved ones are invited to purposeful interaction with God and the Ottawa Presbyterian Church community:

- **Pause, Meditation, & Prayer:** The sanctuary will be open to the public on Mondays from 2-7 p.m. Resources for pause, meditation, and prayer will be available for use.
- **Bible Study:** We will study the prophets and Jesus' resistance starting on Monday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m. and continuing on Mondays at the same time throughout Advent. Please bring your Bible. Our first week's focus is Jeremiah. Read what you can beforehand.
- **Singing:** Join the church choir rehearsals on Mondays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord" (Psalm 95:1).
- **Spiritual Gifts Inventory:** We are meeting in my office on Sundays following worship for conversation, discernment, and a light lunch through December 15. Our small group has been meeting for three weeks, but it's never too late to join us!
- **Giving Back to the Community:** We are hosting the Ottawa Food Pantry on December 9, 10, 16, & 17. The pantry is open to new and old volunteers of all ages!
- **Christmas Joy Offering:** One of three special PC(USA) offerings throughout the year, the Christmas Joy Offering provides an opportunity to support ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families in times of need. You can contribute financially to this mission via the giving boxes located in the sanctuary. Please return your Christmas Joy Offering box on December 22.
- **Children's Christmas Play:** With Ms. Nancy and Ms. Carrie, the children are preparing a Christmas play. They work on it during the Sunday School hour that runs from 9-9:50 a.m. If your child is interested in participating, please join us! The Christmas play will be presented on December 22 at our 10 a.m. worship.

With light and love this Advent season,

Pastor Amy

(419) 890-9145

[amyremaklus@yahoo.com](mailto:amyremaklus@yahoo.com)



## **Prayer Concerns**

Please note: Specific information about those included in our prayers is available during worship, from Pastor Amy, 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 include a prayer of thanks for our congregation and its **PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee)** and the work they have done to bring Rev. Amy Remaklus to serve our congregation on a part-time basis.

And finally, please say a prayer of thanksgiving for the **blessings of this congregation**—as we continue to celebrate and enjoy more than 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](mailto:prayercircle@ottawapresby.org) or [amyremaklus@yahoo.com](mailto:amyremaklus@yahoo.com).

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## **Financial Reports**

### **(Operational Income & Expense Only)**

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](mailto:treasurer@ottawapresby.org)).

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## **Directory Update**

Please contact the office for updated email information for Mike and Nancy K.

The church received a request for assistance from Habitat for Humanity with a house build in 2025. This will be an “Apostle Build” and is being planned in our village of Ottawa. This will be a partnership of twelve or more churches. What is being asked for is a donation, experienced or inexperienced volunteers, and lunches for the volunteers. After speaking with Putnam County Habitat for Humanity, they emphasized that any help, large or small, will be appreciated. Before our church commits to sign a Letter of Intent and Commitment, and a Support Form, some idea of who in our congregation is interested to serve this mission is needed. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and see what task or tasks you are called to help with. Any questions, please speak to Stan Beckman.

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## **Upcoming Happenings**



The church will be open for public restroom use during the Santa parade, which will take place on Sunday, December 1, starting at 2 pm. If you would like to help greet people/supervise the church for this event, please contact Becky Riepenhoff.

The church will be open from 2 to 7 pm on Mondays, in December, for prayer time for the community. Pastor Amy will be available in the building during those times.



If you would like to decorate the sanctuary with a poinsettia for the Christmas season, please sign up on sheet on bulletin board by December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please specify if it is **in Memory or Honor of** someone. Have poinsettias to the church by noon on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.



Senior Citizen’s Christmas Bags are due back to the church on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

A children’s play will be held during worship time on Sunday, December 22. Please come and enjoy our youth as they help to celebrate the Christmas story. After the play there will coffee, milk and COOKIES provided. Please sign up on sheet on bulletin board if you would be willing to bring in 1 dozen cookies.

The **Christmas Eve service** will be held on December 24 with music starting at 8:30pm and worship starting at 9pm.

### HELP WANTED AT FOOD PANTRY

December is one of the months assigned to Ottawa Presbyterian to serve at the Ottawa Food Pantry. The dates will be the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> followed by the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Because of the week that Christmas occurs this year, we will be serving two consecutive weeks.

Please, if you are able, mark your calendars and block off time to serve this mission. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Signup sheets are posted on the bulletin board.

### PLEASE HAVE A SEAT

When the weather is suitable, take a stroll in Ottawa Memorial Park to the new pickleball courts. There, you will find a bench furnished with a donation from Ottawa Presbyterian Church. The Village of Ottawa has been a good neighbor and we are thankful for the use of the Ottawa Memorial Park for our outdoor worship services.

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*New signup sheets for 2025 for flowers and liturgists, will be provided this month on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you are willing to help out.*

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## Community Happenings



**GINGERBREAD Gala**

**DECEMBER 19, 2024**  
10:00-11:30 a.m.

A Dream Venue  
103 East Main Street  
Pandora

To register, please call the:  
Putnam County Council on Aging  
419-523-4121 or 1-877-796-1760  
Serving Putnam County Seniors' age 60 or better



**Creating Christmas Cookies & Cards Workshop**

With  
The Putnam County Council on Aging  
& The Ottawa Senior Center

**DECEMBER 10, 2024**  
**AT 10:00 - 11:30**

Ottawa Senior Center  
1035 East Third  
Ottawa

Registration Deadline is December 2, 2024

**Putnam County Council on Aging**  
Serving Putnam County Seniors age 60 and better  
419-523-4121 or 1-877-796-1760



## MINGLE JINGLE & BE MERRY

**December 17, 2024**  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Fogle Center**  
815 East Mathias Street  
Leipsic

*Registration is required by December 3, 2024*



**Putnam County Council on Aging**  
419-523-4121 or 1-877-796-1760

*Serving Putnam County Seniors age 60 and better.*

## Wrapping With Santa's Helpers

**December 4, 2024 AND December 6, 2024**  
10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

*For Putnam County Seniors age 60 and better*

Gifts must be in a box no larger than 24 x 24 inches.  
Limit of 10 gifts wrapped per Senior.  
Senior must stay while the packages are being wrapped.

**Call to save your time slot:**

**Putnam County Council on Aging**  
1425 E. Fourth Street  
Ottawa  
419-523-4121 or 1-877-796-1760





***We are in search of a new Nursery worker. The Job description is listed below. If you know anyone who is interested, please contact Victoria Otto at 419-230-7292 or Rev. Amy at 419-890-9145.***

**Title: Child Care Provider - Nursery**

**Purpose:** To provide adequate and safe child care for infants through Kindergarten aged children during worship services and other times as needed. This is a paid ministry position.

**Accountability:** Pastor, and Christian Education Session Chair Member

**Responsibilities:**

- Nursery Care will come in appropriate attire for the day.
- Prepare the room for care time. For example: make toys accessible, check the changing table for supplies and linens.
- If there are any planned activities, have materials prepared before children enter the room.
- Greet the children and parents. Label any personal items with child's name.

Introduce yourself to new parents and to children as they enter the room.

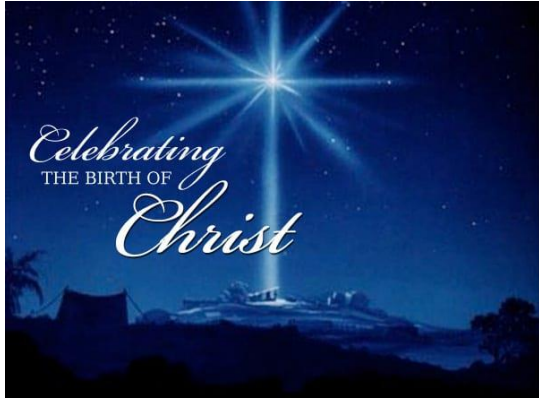
- Have the parents sign their child in, and make sure to have a way to contact them.
- Maintain control in a loving and pleasant manner.
- Set aside toys that have been in a child's mouth and wash the toy before another friend plays with the toy.
- Notify the Nursery Committee chairperson or Pastor if repairs or replacements are needed.
- Report any supplies that are needed before next Sunday.
- Children are to stay inside the room. Parents will come to the door at the end of the care time and sign them out.
- Notify parents if unusual situations arose and have affected the children.
- Return the room to order, putting away toys, cleaning the table or chairs if necessary, and making sure children's belongings are taken by the parents.
- Sanitize toys and make sure anything that needs washed gets to the Christian Education Session Chair Member.

**Relationships:** Parents, Pastor, Custodian, and Christian Education Session Chair Member.

**Evaluation:** Performance reviews will be conducted annually by the Personnel Committee and/or the Pastor as head of staff.

**Compensation** – The childcare provider will be paid \$40 each Sunday upon receipt of a time sheet submitted to the Church Treasurer. The expected service time will be from 9:45 am until approximately 11:15. The childcare provider shall be responsible for staying in the nursery with all children under care until they are retrieved by their parent or guardian and the nursery is cleaned up.

**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](http://ottawapresby.org)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ELDERS IN CHARGE</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>
December 1	Mike K.	TBD
December 8	Becky R.(Communion)	Poinsettias
December 15	Victoria O.	Poinsettias
December 22	Kate G .	Poinsettias
December 29	Stan B.	Poinsettias

#### **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 -  
Christian Education – Victoria Otto  
Clerk of Session - Karl Hirzel  
Building/Operations – Mike Kaufman

#### **Session:**

Class of 2024: **Stan Beckman, Victoria Otto**  
Class of 2025: **Katelyn Gerding, Becky Riepenhoff**  
Class of 2026: **Lynne Hirzel, Mike Kaufman**