



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*

January 2025

Dear friends,

At the start of a new year, **I pause to reflect on the previous year's adventures and mishaps so that I may utilize what I've learned and experienced in my next season of life.** I invite you to pause and reflect on your last year. Maybe you'll reflect on your overall life satisfaction: What went well, and what didn't go so well this past year? Perhaps you'll consider your personal growth, relationships, career, finances, or health and wellness: What new skills or knowledge did you acquire this past year? Which relationships brought you the most joy? What are the biggest lessons you've learned that you want to carry into your next life circumstance? In any event, no matter your reflections, **I pray that your past year will guide your intentions and goals for 2025, and that in this new season, you will be emboldened in your service of justice, firm in your faith, and unwavering in your love for your siblings in Christ.**



As we start our new year together, I want to draw your attention to a few things coming up in the life of the Ottawa Presbyterian Church community:

- **Pause, Meditation, & Prayer CONTINUES:** The sanctuary will be open to the public on Mondays from 4-7 p.m. I will be in the office as well, and I look forward to connecting with you in whatever way makes sense.
- **Bible Study CONTINUES:** We will continue our study of Jesus' resistance on Monday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your Bible. Our next focus is Matthew 21:12-13 and Mark 11:15-18. In addition, we will utilize teachings from Austin Channing Brown, if you'd like to do a little research on her beforehand.
- **Our next congregational meeting and conversation will take place following worship on January 26.** This time, while set aside to reflect on 2024 and to plan for 2025, will not be as structured as our last two congregational conversations. Instead, you are invited to reflect on your role as a member of this congregation (from the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Book of Order) and how that plays out in our ministry together. **The attached reflection questions will not be discussed,** but I hope they will guide your planning and participation in 2025. **On the 26th, we will put our ideas and plans for 2025 on paper in Fellowship Hall. You will receive instructions at the congregational meeting.**
- **YOUTH meeting:** On January 12, all youth and their family members are invited to stay after worship to discuss youth dreams and aspirations for 2025. This conversation will assist us in our planning event on January 26. A pizza lunch will be provided. Please notify Pastor Amy of food allergies.

With light and love,

Pastor Amy

(419) 890-9145

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 or amyremaklus@yahoo.com.



Marsha and Junior Geckle would like to thank OPC for the two Senior Christmas gift bags they received. They said “Thanks so much for the gifts and the amazing items. The thoughtfulness is really appreciated.”

To Ottawa Presbyterian Women: Thank you so very much for your wonderful Christmas package! I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Bless you! Kathy Brinkman

Dear Presbyterian Ladies,
I cannot thank you enough for partnering with the Council on Aging for the Senior Christmas Gift Program. Your generosity means everything to us and the seniors we serve. Sincerely, Mary Maas,
Putnam County Council on Aging

Happy New Year! A big thanks for the Christmas gift from you all. It is very appreciated. Thanks so much! - Andrea

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).

The church directory will be updated in the next month. Please get any changes, (email, address, baby, phone, etc) to the church office ASAP. If you would like to be taken out of the directory, please let me know.



www.mymiscarriageamatters.com

Signup sheets are on the bulletin board for anyone willing to volunteer to be a liturgist or provide flowers on Sundays for the 2025 year.

**Session Retreat will be Sunday,
January 5, after worship.**

PUZZLE DAY

JANUARY 9, 2025

10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

Northside Lions Den Shelter House
429 Northland Drive Kalida

RSVP by: January 3, 2025

Seating is limited. Call today to register!



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



Our funny version of the Jeopardy game!



For Putnam County Seniors age 60 and better

January 21, 2025

10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

Northside Lions Den Shelter House
429 Northside Drive
Kalida

Seating is limited. Call today to register!

Reservations are required by January 14, 2025



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

Coffee & Conversation

JANUARY 14, 2025
10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Columbus Grove American Legion
412 Plum Street
Columbus Grove

RSVP by: January 8, 2025

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



Presentation by: Jessica Cox LSW
Pathways Counseling Center

January 16, 2025
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Ottawa Senior Center
1035 East Third Street
Ottawa

RSVP by January 10, 2025

Seating is limited. Call today to register!



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

Serving Putnam County Seniors age 60 and better.



COLOR MY WORLD

A Coloring Gathering for those 60 years and better.
Join us for fun, fellowship and conversation!

Reservations Are Required
by January 23, 2025

JANUARY 30, 2025
10:00 - 11:30 A.M.

To Register Call:
The Putnam County
Council on Aging
419-523-4121 or
1-877-796-1760

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
224 SOUTH ELM STREET
COLUMBUS GROVE



Your Role as a PCUSA Member

The congregation is the church engaged in the mission of God in its particular context. The congregation is the basic form of the church but is not sufficient by itself. Congregations are bound together in communion with one another, united in relationships of accountability and responsibility, contributing their strengths to the benefit of the whole church. Through the congregation, God's people carry out the ministries of proclamation, sharing the Sacraments, and living in covenant life with God and one another. The congregation reaches out to people, communities, and the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to gather for worship, to offer care and nurture to God's children, to speak for social justice and righteousness, to bear witness to the truth and to the reign of God that is coming into the world (*Book of Order*, G-1.01).

Membership in the church of Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's church. Such involvement includes:

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed;
- taking part in the common life and worship of the congregation;
- lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support;
- studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life;
- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents;
- demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church;
- responding to God's activity in the world through service to others;
- living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life;
- working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment;
- caring for God's creation;
- participating in the governing responsibilities of the church;
- reviewing and evaluating the integrity of one's membership;
- and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful (*Book of Order*, G-1.0304). The Ministry of Members).

Questions to Consider in Preparing for 2025

1. How will we work with other congregations in the PCUSA or in Ottawa this coming year?
2. Do you hope for any special worship services or opportunities this year outside the regular Sunday, Advent, and Lent services?
3. How are we planning to reach out to people, the community, and the world this year? How do we exercise pastoral care?
4. How are we planning to share the good news of Jesus Christ beyond these walls?
5. How will we speak for social justice and righteousness this year? How will we work for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment?
6. How will we care for God's creation this year?
7. Have we ever, or do we, evaluate the "integrity" of our membership?
8. How do we equip and enable people for their tasks within the church and their mission in the world?

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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
January 5	Lynne H.	Poinsettias
January 12	Victoria O.(Communion)	TBD
January 19	Kate G .	TBD
January 26	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 -

Christian Education – Victoria Otto

Clerk of Session - Karl Hirzel

Building/Operations – Mike Kaufman

Some positions will change after the January 5 Session Retreat

Session:

Class of 2024: **Stan Beckman, Victoria Otto**

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

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

Class of 2027: **Brandon Font, Victoria Otto**