



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 2025

Church family,

I liked Ellen Hugunin's message November 16th "Seeing Past the World's Illusions". Christmas for a lot of the world is quite the illusion. Many people dream of a Hallmark movie Christmas. The perfectly clean homes, beautiful decorations, gorgeously prepared meals, and all family relationships joyful, cordial and happy. In reality it's most likely not going to be like this for us, but there can be warm fuzzy meaningful moments in the season. I always like seeing the church decorated and the warmth the outside lights radiate. I love Christmas Eve service at our church- you can feel the Holy Spirit through the music and candlelight passing of the peace. As I get older, I appreciate many of these church traditions that have been passed on from previous generations because they really do give me the essence of the meaning of Christmas-they work for me. I have been trying to find some daily things to incorporate as advent approaches and I am passing on some suggestions to try this season:

Spiritual and reflective practices

- **Meditate on the Christmas story:** Take time to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' birth.
- **Practice quiet worship:** Incorporate moments for prayer and meditation into your daily routine, perhaps by reading scripture by the Christmas tree or singing praise songs.
- **Give thanks:** Make a conscious effort to focus on gratitude for what God has given you.
- **Attend church services:** Take advantage of extra church services during the season to worship with others and focus on the religious meaning of Christmas.
- **Create quiet moments:** Intentionally schedule quiet time into your day, even for just a few minutes, to combat the noise and activity of the season.

Becky



Prayer Concerns

Please note: Specific information about those included in our prayers is available during worship, 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 facing decisions** in their personal lives, their professional lives, their family lives, or their spiritual lives.

Please pray for our **Pastor Nominating Committee** as they dedicate time and prayer to the process of finding new pastoral leadership for our church.

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.

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



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 5th.

Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, December 14, after worship.



Senior Citizen's Christmas Bags are due back to the church on Sunday, 12/14.

Dee Beckman has names for Christmas senior citizens gift bags. She has 25 senior names who would benefit from a bag-either low income or no family. She has a list of helpful items to put in the gift bags. Gift bags to fill are provided in fellowship hall.

Our Christmas Eve service this year will begin with special music at 8:30pm, and the service will start at 9:00pm. Please join your church family for this beautiful and meaningful service.

HELP WANTED AT FOOD PANTRY

As we prepare ourselves, let us not forget caring for our neighbors. December is OPC's month to assist with the Food Pantry at Trinity Methodist Church. The pantry is in need of many items-see the list printed elsewhere in this newsletter. We can also give of our time by volunteering at the pantry, assisting the clients as they shop for their next few meals. OPC's dates to help are: Dec. 8 - 9am-12pm; Dec. 9-10am-1pm; Dec.15-9 am-12pm; and Dec.16-10am-1pm. Sign up on sheets on bulletin board.

December Pulpit Supply

December 7	Leslee Kirkconnell
December 14	Rev. Ann Wasson
December 21	Ellen Hugunin
December 24	Leslee Kirkconnell
December 28	Leslee Kirkconnell

We could really use some help in filling the Liturgist list for December 7 & 14th.



A liturgist script is provided, (emailed in advance and a hardcopy is put on the pulpit stand) and it's only the beginning of the service. Everything is written out and labeled, and it's an easy thing to do. Any age that can read confidently can volunteer.

New signup sheets for 2026 liturgists and flowers, will be provided this month on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you are willing to help out.




December is always a crazy busy month with decorating our homes, sending Christmas cards (for those that still do that!), baking cookies, buying gifts. But as we stop and reflect on what the real meaning of Advent is, we find that it is a season of waiting, expectation, and preparation, which teaches us patience and allows us time to think about what the birth of Christ really means to each of us. As the skies get dark earlier and earlier this month, God gives us time after our busy workday to sit and think for a bit. Maybe we can use that time to read about the Christmas story in the Bible either to ourselves or to our children, or follow a daily devotional for individuals or families. Perhaps we will even light our own advent candles at the dinner table. Advent is also a season of hope, a time to nurture peace and experience joy as we remember the true meaning of Christ's birth, which was to provide a savior for us through his grace.

Another way to experience the meaning of Advent is to volunteer to light the advent candles at church. If you are interested in doing this with your family, a friend, or by yourself, please contact Chas Myers.

For Epiphany, on January 4, we will have a potluck breakfast to celebrate the New Year beginning at 9 am (no Sunday School this day). Following the meal, Leslee Kirkconnell will lead us in a ceremony of "the chalking of the doors". Chalking the Door is a new-old tradition: its origins lie in God's instructions to the people of Israel in **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**. "Chalking the Door" is a short liturgy for marking our homes and church with sacred symbols and asking God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. In this service, we will mark the classroom doors, nursery doors, and entrance doors with chalk as a sign that we are inviting God's presence into the places, relationships, and situations that we call home. (Credit to buildfaith.org)

We hope that you will invite neighbors and friends for these meaningful Advent events and services!





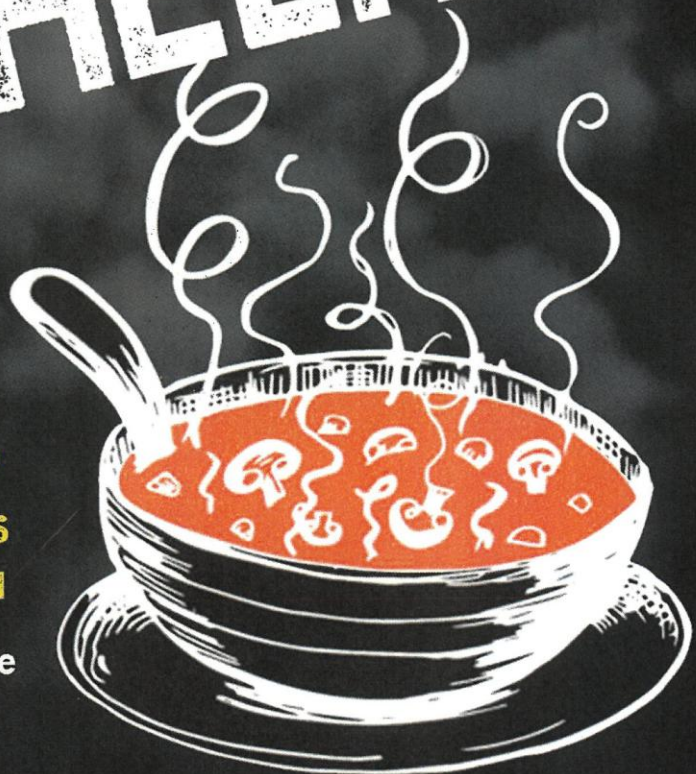
SOUP for SHELTER

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 4
4:30-7:00 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.

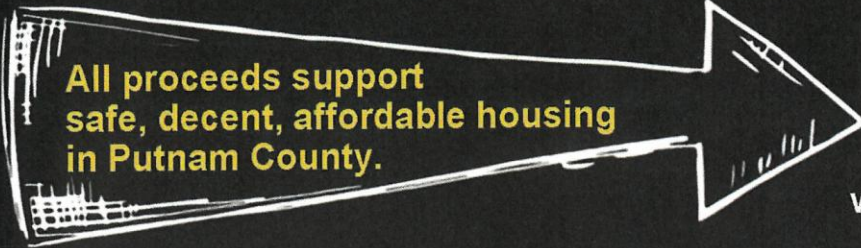
Adult ticketholders have their
choice of a hand-crafted bowl made
by local high school and college
students and regional artists.



\$25 per person

\$5 children under 13 & free under 3*

**doesn't include hand-made bowl*



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



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for Humanity®

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Advent Food Pantry Drive

Join Ottawa Presbyterian Church in an Advent Food Pantry Drive.

Each Sunday of Advent we will collect select food items that the Food Pantry is in need of. If you wish to participate, please bring your items to church each Sunday of Advent.

November 30: Toilet Paper and bar soap

December 7: Boxed Cereal and Small Oatmeal Containers

December 14: Hamburger Helper, Baked Beans, and Canned Potatoes

December 21: Canned Pineapple and Canned Peaches





Epiphany Celebration

Sunday January 4, 2026

9:00 a.m.–9:50 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Bring a potluck breakfast item: fruit, breakfast casserole, biscuits, bagels, pastries etc. We will enjoy table fellowship and a special 'Chalking' ceremony!
Everyone welcome - bring a friend!



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Presbyterian Tidbits is published once a month by:
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Our website is ottawapresby.org

DATE	ELDERS IN CHARGE	FLOWERS
December 7	Kate G.	Poinsettias
December 14	Brandon F. (Communion)	Poinsettias
December 21	Mike K.	Poinsettias
December 28	Becky R.	Poinsettias

2025 Committees Chairs and officers:

Treasurer - Beth Myers
Financial Secretary - Lynne Hirzel
Worship and Music – Lynne Hirzel
Fellowship/OPW Rep. – Becky Riepenhoff
Mission and Outreach – Brandon Font
Stewardship & Communication – Kate Gerding
Presbytery Rep - Chas Myers
Christian Education & Youth – Victoria Otto
Clerk of Session - Karl Hirzel
Church Operations/Personnel – Mike Kaufman
Nominating Committee Chair – Kate Gerding (As outgoing Elder for 2025)

Session:

Class of 2025: **Katelyn Gerding, Becky Riepenhoff**
Class of 2026: **Lynne Hirzel, Mike Kaufman**
Class of 2027: **Brandon Font, Victoria Otto**