



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

Leslee Kirkconnell, *Lay Pastor*/Andrea Morman, *Secretary*

February 2026

It's been one month since I began as your lay pastor. I am enjoying getting to know you - and please keep telling me your name! Even as winter continues (we'll see what the groundhog says soon, although there are always six more weeks of winter) there is warmth of fellowship, the warmth of God's love, the joy of worship!

Relationships are an important aspect of our lives together. As we navigate life in a world that can be frightening and uncertain, knowing we are bonded closely first to God and also to each other becomes important. Loving our neighbor is one of the highest callings we have from Jesus (right after loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind). As we grow closer as a community, that love will naturally spread and those who might have felt unwelcome in other situations may come to know God's love for them. I'm not one for making many New Year's resolutions, and while we are already a month past 'that,' I hope we as a community can make a resolution to share God's love wherever we are and with all we meet. And in this month of February, when we have a 'celebration' of love on the 14th, this is a great time for sharing love! Let us love our neighbor through helping with needs at our schools, through the Food Pantry with those who struggle to get enough to eat, and through simple acts of kindness every day.

Soon, I hope to be granted CRE status with the presbytery. CRE stands for Commissioned Ruling Elder. I have been a Certified Christian Educator for over 20 years, with more than 30 years serving as an Educator at both church and presbytery levels. I was ordained a Ruling Elder at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Tampa, FL when I was serving on staff of Tampa Bay Presbytery. Essentially, once that status is granted I will be able to do all the functions of a Minister of Word and Sacrament here at Ottawa Presbyterian Church. Until then we will have help from the Presbytery for Session meetings, and one of our trained elders to lead communion. But in the meantime, I am here for you - praying with and for you, leading worship, teaching Bible study in Lent (see the related article and invitation) and more.

If you need me feel free to call or text 352-339-1950 (If I am not able to answer, leave a message and I will call back asap), or email pastor@ottawapresby.org. I am learning a lot about what it means to be in this position, and I ask for your prayers, and for grace for when I stumble. Please pray for the church as well - for all those who are so dedicated in leading and making sure things happen. We are so blessed - let's continue to be a blessing to each other and our community! See you Sunday!

Leslee Kirkconnell



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 **servicing 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 **church leaders**—not just in our congregation, but in our Presbytery, in our Synod, and in the church worldwide.

And finally, please say a prayer of thanksgiving for the **blessings of this congregation**—as we continue to celebrate and look forward to enjoying 180 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).

The Friends of the Putnam County District Library is sponsoring a bus trip to The Ark



Encounter in Williamstown KY on Monday, April 27, 2026. The cost is \$160.00 which includes

transportation, lunch, admission to Ark Encounter, snacks, and all gratuities. The bus will leave Ottawa Walmart at 7am and arrive back approximately 8pm. RSVP by calling or texting Janet Verhoff at 419.934.3683.



Dear Ottawa Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for donating an AED to Kirkmont Center. Your generosity provides safety, peace of mind, and a tangible expression of God's love in action. Because of your gift, we can continue pouring into young lives with greater confidence and care. May the Lord bless you richly for your hearts to serve. With gratitude, Sara Metzler, Kirkmont Staff & Board of Directors

Dear Ottawa Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for your generous donation to Kirkmont Center. Because of your kindness and willingness to give, campers continue to have a place to go to encounter God, build lifelong friendships and grow their faith. Your support is truly making a difference. May God richly bless you for pouring into the next generation. With gratitude, Sara Metzler, Kirkmont Staff & Board of Directors

OPC, I cannot thank you enough for partnering with the Putnam County Council on Aging for the Senior Christmas Gift Program. Your donations make a huge impact for these seniors! We received wonderful compliments, smiles and tears of joy when delivering the gifts. Thank you, Angiie Heitmeyer

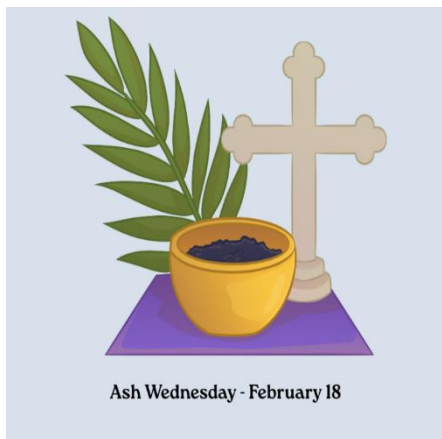
The church directory will be updated very soon. Please get any changes (email, address, baby, phone number, just want taken out, etc) to the church office ASAP.



Leslee Kirkconnell is happy to be here as your Lay Pastor. To contact her with pastoral concerns, desire for a visit, prayer, feel free to email

pastor@ottawapresby.org or call/text 352-339-1950 (please leave a message). She is also generally in the office on Monday and Wednesday.

Congregational Meeting will take place after worship on February 8th.



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 18th. We will have a pancake supper beginning at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall. At 7pm, we will gather for worship to include the imposition of ashes. Please plan to come as we share fellowship and worship at the beginning of this Holy Season.

Lent is an excellent time to commit to daily devotional time. Fortunately, there are many excellent resources available for you! Some of these are daily emails, some have downloadable PDF documents you can print or read on your computer or tablet. If you need help with accessing something, let Leslee know. There are, of course, excellent books available for purchase, this list contains free devotionals. Some have phone apps, but all are available on-line, apps are optional!

prayasyougo.org A daily devotion, about 12-15 minutes with scripture, music, deep reflection questions and more. Primarily uses lectionary readings. Run by Jesuits in England, it leans Roman Catholic, but is wonderful for everyone.

d365.org Daily devotion with 5 movements - pause, listen, think, pray, go. Written by an assortment of Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Cooperative Baptists and more - all ministry leaders who work with students, it is designed for youth and young adults but ALL adults will find it meaningful. During Lent, they use Journey to the Cross as their overall theme.

God Pause from luthersem.edu. Daily email devotion with scripture, hymn, reflection, prayer. They have a special Lenten email devotional as well.

cca.biola.edu The Center for Christianity and the Arts has Lenten Devotionals written by the community at Biola University. Artwork, music, scripture, reflection.

katebowler.com has a number of free downloadable PDF devotional guides.

faithward.org A ministry of the Reformed Church in America, their Lenten devotional free download is centered on the Psalms. You click on Resources, then devotional and you can then download the devotional.



AMY-JILL
LEVINE

ENTERING
THE PASSION
of JESUS

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK



Our Lent together will have a weeknight Bible study that will provide the theme to guide us. The Bible study will begin Wednesday, February 11, at 6:30pm, in Fellowship Hall. We will study Amy-Jill Levine's *Entering the Passion of Jesus – A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. There are six lessons:

Jerusalem: Risking Reputation, **The Temple:** Risking Righteous Anger, **Teachings:** Risking Challenge, **The First Dinner:** Risking Rejection, **The Last Supper:** Risking the Loss of Friends, **Gethsemane:** Risking Temptation.

Our Wednesday lesson will dig into the texts and include video to enhance our learning. The Wednesday theme will then frame worship on the following Sunday to provide a bridge between Wednesdays and Sundays. The schedule will be a bit adjusted as we actually begin before Lent, so our first Sunday in the series will be 2/22. The hope is we will all grow in faith and knowledge of this key week. Classes will meet February 11 & 25, March 4, 11, 25, & April 1st. All are invited to join the Bible Study on Wednesday evenings. There is a book available, and while not required for

the class, will enhance learning. Books will be \$12 each and there is a sign up in the hallway. Books must be ordered shortly, please let Leslee Kirkconnell know if you like one. If you want to participate in the study, but aren't comfortable coming out at night, we will try to have a zoom option. Let Leslee know!

OTTAWA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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 1	Mike K.	TBD
February 8	Lynne H.	TBD
February 15	Brandon F.	TBD
February 22	Victoria O.	TBD

2026 Committees Chairs and officers:

Treasurer - Beth Myers
Financial Secretary - Lynne Hirzel
Worship and Music – Lynne Hirzel
Fellowship/OPW Rep. – Marge Roberts
Mission and Outreach – Brandon Font/Mike Kaufman
Stewardship & Communication – Robyn Badder
Presbytery Rep – Beth Myers
Christian Education & Youth – Victoria Otto
Clerk of Session/Contact - Karl Hirzel
Church Operations/Personnel – Mike Kaufman
Nominating Committee Chair – Kate Gerding (As outgoing Elder for 2025)
Synod Representative for Presbytery – Gillian Holzhauser-Graber

Session:

Class of 2026: **Lynne Hirzel, Mike Kaufman**
Class of 2027: **Brandon Font, Victoria Otto**
Class of 2028: **Robyn Badder, Marge Roberts**