



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*

January 2026

Friends,

Happy New Year! 2026 is here and we look forward to what God has in store for this church as well as each of us as individuals. It is always a joy to gather with the family of faith and we have a special opportunity this first Sunday of the new year (January 4)! The Epiphany Celebration will start our day together in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. Bring a breakfast item to share - casserole, fruit, pastries, bagels, etc. We'll enjoy table fellowship along with some Epiphany activities. Then we'll do a special 'Chalking of the Doors' liturgy for this new year.

The chalking ceremony grows out of the Roman Catholic tradition and is especially appropriate for Epiphany. Usually done at home, we'll adapt for our church building (and there will be resources for you to take home to do at home, as desired). With some chalk and prayers, we'll make some 'holy graffiti' on some specific doors in the building. The markings will be 20+C+M+B+26. The year frames the marking, the + reminds us of Christ, and C, M and B represent the traditional names of the Magi who came to visit the Christ Child - Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, and the Latin "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" (May Christ bless this house). The 'holy graffiti' marks the building as God's dwelling, inviting God to bless the congregation when we gather AND reminds us to live out our faith in every space. We will move about the building to chalk different doors, which also serves as a reminder of the many wonderful ministries that happen in the church!

Please plan to join us for this special event - and invite a friend! I look forward to leading the Epiphany Celebration and chalking ceremony and continuing our celebration in worship. Starting the New Year with blessings is always a wonderful resolution, so come!

Leslee Kirkconnell



Epiphany Celebration
Sunday, January 4, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall
Potluck Breakfast and Program



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 **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!

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).

2026 Liturgist and Flower Volunteer Signup sheets are now posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you are willing to help.



Per Capita: With the start of the new year, we want to remind members of the congregation about the per capita donation that is sent to Maumee Valley Presbytery. Per capita is an annual per-member fee (apportionment) that congregations pay to their [Presbytery](#), [Synod](#), and the [General Assembly](#)(PC(USA)), funding the shared administrative, legislative, and mission costs of the wider church, acting as a covenant to support governance, leadership training, and connectional ministries. This year's apportionment per member is \$40.71. If you could donate even part of your apportionment, it helps our church reduce these payments from our

general fund. With approximately 60 members, the amount our church has to contribute to Presbytery will be around \$2,442. Please consider donating towards this cost. Make sure to designate "Per Capita" on your check. Thanks!

2026 Per Capita Breakdown

Presbytery Portion: \$26.05 (unchanged)

Synod Portion: \$3.40 (unchanged)

General Assembly (G.A.) Portion: \$11.26

(increased) **Total for 2026: \$40.71**



A Big Thanks to everyone for the Christmas bonus. Much appreciated! Happy New Year! -Andrea

Thank you for the generous use of your lovely church facilities for our Christmas luncheon. We very much appreciated it.

Rose Stechschulte – Dooryard Garden Club

Thanks to all who took a giftbag to fill for a Christmas present for the names listed for Council on Aging! Much appreciated!

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



Communion Dates for 2026

Session has voted to only administer the Sacrament of Communion once, in March, during the first

quarter of 2026. When our new pastor, Leslee Kirkconnell, has met all of the requirements of Presbytery to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder within the Presbytery, we will return to the schedule that we have followed for the past several years, which would be the second Sunday of each month. If you or another member of the congregation would like to request Communion individually at home, please contact any member of session. - Lynne

January 11: Worship & Music Committee meeting after church.



The PNC is pleased to announce that we have found a new pastor! Please welcome Leslee Kirkconnell, who will begin January 1!

Leslee is a native of Peekskill, New York and grew up in the Presbyterian Church. She taught Sunday School and participated in church activities. Girl Scouting was a beloved activity and she earned her First Class Award and had the experience of a Wider Opportunity backpacking the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming. Maryville College (TN) was her destination and she majored in History, was part of the Concert Choir, MC Players, Student Government, Delta Omicron and more. Following graduation she moved to Birmingham, AL (having spent two summers serving as Campcraft Director at the Children's Fresh Air Farm, a mission/ministry of Independent Presbyterian Church). It was at the Fresh Air Farm where she received a clear call to ministry. After that year, she moved to Richmond, VA and enrolled at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now Union Presbyterian Seminary) and Virginia Commonwealth University. The plan was to get a dual degree - MA in Christian Education

and MSW in Social Work, as she wanted to do mission work. Shortly after arriving in Richmond, she met W. Glenn Kirkconnell, who came from Princeton Seminary. Glenn quickly became a friend and then her love and between her two years of school they married at Second Presbyterian in Richmond.

Following graduation, they moved to Charlottesville for Glenn to enroll at the University of Virginia for PhD studies. Their children were born there - first Heather Gail and then Ryan Scott. In 1993 Leslee accepted her first call to First Presbyterian Church in Gainesville, Florida, where she served 12 years, earning her certification as a Christian Educator. Glenn received his PhD in 2002. He began teaching at Santa Fe College in Gainesville and continues on-line for them currently. Leslee served in the greater Atlanta area at two churches and then Tampa Bay Presbytery, where she was Resource Center Director and Educator. She was also ordained a ruling elder by Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, where they were members. Following the closure of the Center by the Presbytery, she served Davidson College Presbyterian Church (NC) as Interim DCE for two years. Then on to Bowling Green, KY where she was DCE for The Presbyterian Church for six. A brief time with the Presbytery of Western Kentucky followed and then Findlay FPC, as Director of Connectional Ministry.

Leslee has also served on presbytery committees, led training in Healthy Boundaries for four presbyteries, been camp chaplain at three Presbyterian Camp and Conference Centers, and served on the Leadership Council for the Association of Partners in Christian Education. She has planned and participated in mission work both domestically and internationally, with youth and adults. She loves to help all ages serve God through serving the needs of people.

Along the way her children graduated from High School and college. Heather married Jake in 2014, and they have two children, Theo, age 8 and Juniper, age 3. She teaches music and plays the organ for area BG KY churches as requested. Ryan graduated with a Music Education degree (he plays Tuba) and spent four years in Korea teaching English. He is now a Sergeant in the Army Band at Fort Stewart, Ga, and is enjoying newlywed life with his wife Karabi, who is from Bangladesh. Karabi is pursuing a PdD in Public Health from Georgia State University. Leslee and Glenn enjoy playing with their grandchildren, taking walks, playing fun board games and being bossed by their parrot companions. Leslee also does a lot of sewing for the grands, grows a variety of vegetables and herbs and enjoys cooking. And hopefully OPC potlucks!

Putnam County Council on Aging January Activities

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
1-6-26	Penny Drop	10:00am	Community Center Columbus Grove
1-7-26	Diamond Art	10:00am	Fort Haven Apartments Fort Jennings
1-12-26	Venmo Presentation	1:30pm	Putnam Co. District Library Pandora
1-13-26	The Power of Pollinators Presentation	1:00pm	Community Center Vaughsville
1-14-26	Beating the Winter Blues	10:00am	Sportsman's Club Miller City
1-20-26	Be Alert to Financial Fraud	10:00am	Parish Center Ottoville (Banquet room)
1-22-26	Intro to Fused Glass	10:00am	Lilac Clubhouse Leipsic
1-27-26	Euchre	10:00am	Church of the Good Shepherd Columbus Grove
1-28-26	Frost Moon Festival	10:00am	Arthur-Lugibihl Community Center Pandora

Please call us for more information or to attend!
419-523-4121-1-877-796-1760



OTTAWA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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OTTAWA, OH 45875-1810
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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 4	Robyn B.	Poinsettias
January 11	Lynne H.	TBD
January 18	Mike K.	TBD
January 25	Brandon F.	TBD

2025 Committees Chairs and officers: (2026 will be decided at the next Session Mtg)

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