



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*

March 2026

Here we are in Lent, a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual practice. I hope you are finding the time spent in this season to be meaningful and faith-enhancing. Our Wednesday Bible study is providing some excellent and interesting insights into Holy Week. We're reading and studying Amy-Jill Levine's *Entering the Passion of Jesus - A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. I realize that most, if not all, of us are not 'beginners' to Holy Week. Yet this study is allowing us to dig deeper into the stories and events of that week in new ways, bringing fresh insights. Sunday mornings include the previous Wednesday's title and theme so those who can't make it out for the study can learn along with us (and I'm sure even those who are here on Wednesdays also hear new things on Sunday)!

Our upcoming themes (and scriptures) include:

- March 1: The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger, Isaiah 56:6-8; Mark 11:15-17
- March 8: Teachings: Risking Challenge, Mark 12:13-17; Mark 12:28-34
- March 15: The First Dinner: Risking Rejection, Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9
- March 22: The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends; Exodus 12:21-28; Luke 22:14-27, John 13:1-16

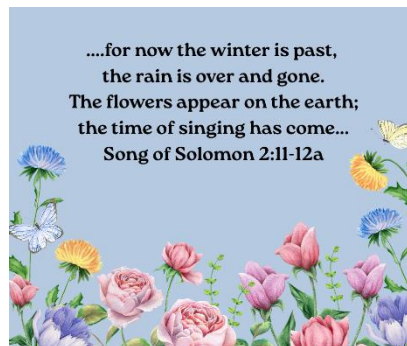
I encourage you to read through these scriptures ahead of each Sunday (or for those in the class, ahead of each Wednesday's meeting). It is a wondrous happening when the Holy Spirit brings fresh insight into Biblical passages we have read, perhaps many times.

In worship on February 22, I referred to the gospel passages about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem - Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44 and John 12:12-19. We have four gospels that each tell the story of Jesus, and sometimes all have the same general story. Each is different, each is important, each provides insight. I challenged those present to write the references down to read at home - so now is your chance! I will be giving this opportunity throughout Lent with our study.

Keep reading, keep growing, keep loving.

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 **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!

*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 Events



Soup and games time after church on Sunday March 1st. Bring games to play.

Wednesday Night Lenten Bible Study: 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall on March 4, 11, 25 & April 1st.

Easter Egg Candy is needed for the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 29th. If you can provide candy for the eggs, please put the candy in the

kitchen by March 15th. Any volunteers that are able to help fill the eggs, please contact Marge Roberts.

Palm Sunday Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 29 at 9am. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board if you are able to help in anyway for the breakfast.

One Great Hour of Sharing will be received on Sunday, March 29th. Please pick up your fish banks in the entryway.

Holy Week:

4/2/26: Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion at 7pm.

4/2-4/3: The Good Friday Prayer Vigil is held from 9pm on Thursday, April 2, through noon on Friday, April 3. We are offering the conventional prayer vigil at the church, but realize that not everyone can come to the church during the night hours for various reasons- small children at home, health reasons, driving at night, etc. so we also offer an at home prayer option. You can sign up for an hour time slot for either, or both. We will have prayer books, readings, etc. available at the church, and we will suggest prayer resources that can be used for the home vigil. Please join in the spiritual experience of prayer and contemplating the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection in your life.

4/5/26: Easter Sunday Service at 10am.

HELP WANTED AT FOOD PANTRY

March is OPC's month to assist with the Food Pantry at Trinity Methodist Church. The dates to help are the Mondays of March 9 & 30, and Tuesdays, March 10 & 31st. Sign up on sheets on bulletin board.

World Day of Prayer 2026 will be celebrated on March 6, 2026 at 12:30 pm in Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Ottawa. The theme is "I will give you rest: come." Please join us for a prayer program in Church followed by light refreshments in our Parish Meeting room.



It's not too early to start planning for Kirkmont! Information on summer camps can be found on the kirkmontcenter.org website or by clicking on this link:

<https://www.kirkmontcenter.org/summer-camps/>

Any youth from OPC that would like to attend Kirkmont can apply for a scholarship through our Sewell Scholarship Fund. Scholarship forms can be found under the tab:

“Presby Papers” on the ottawapresby.org website, or by clicking on this link:

<https://ottawapresby.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Sewell-Scholarship-OPC-Scholarship.pdf>

Scholarship applications are due on April 26. Applications can be scanned and emailed to Lynne Hirzel at hirzel506@gmail.com or given to her at church. There will be an endowment meeting on Sunday, April 26, following church, to discuss camp scholarships



On the bulletin board there is a sign up sheet for color suggestions for the bathrooms. If you have any colors you would like to see the bathrooms painted, please mark it down.



It's not too late! Here are some great websites for your spiritual journey. Some also have apps for your phone, should you wish to download there, otherwise, just click on the link here and deepen your faith and your walk with Christ!

[Pray as You Go](#) – daily reflections, music, prayer time. *app available

D365.org five movements for reflection. *app available

[The Lent Project](#) from the Center for Christianity, Culture and the Arts. Daily email scripture reflection with music and poetry. In Advent, they have The Advent Project.

We also have printed copies of Luther Seminary's Lenten Devotional, Oh, Love, How

Deep, both regular and larger print. You can also read their daily devotional, God Pause and [sign up for email devotions here](#).

The Ottawa and Glandorf Lions Clubs and Ottawa Elementary House Council Present-

SPAGHETTI DINNER NIGHT

MONDAY, MARCH 23RD

SPAGHETTI WITH MEATBALLS, SALAD, BREADSTICK, AND A COOKIE

4:30-6:30

DRIVE-THRU PICK UP IN THE BACK OF OTTAWA ELEMENTARY

ADULT MEAL-\$8.00
CHILDREN (UNDER 10) MEAL-\$4.00

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED IN THE OE OFFICE
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
THE OTTAWA LIONS CLUB



We are 180 years strong this year! On Sunday August 9 we will have a special Homecoming Celebration. Details are in the beginning stages, but SAVE THE DATE NOW! If you know of former members who might want to join us, PLEASE reach out and let them know. If you want to be part of the planning fun, see Chas Myers, who is chairing the planning team.

Maumee Valley Presbytery – February 17, 2026 - Commissioner's Report

Maumee Valley Presbytery (MVP) met via Zoom on Feb. 17 starting at 10:00 AM. OPC Commissioner Chas Myers and Alternate Commissioner Beth Myers attended. Gillian Holzhauser-Graber, MVP Commissioner to Synod of the Covenant also attended. The meeting was opened with worship "Resting in the Watch of God" lead by Rev. Tom Polker. It was good to see former pastors, Amy Remaklus and Dean and Ellen McGormley on the Zoom.

Luke Choi from Board of Pensions said there will be a virtual informative town hall via Zoom tentatively scheduled 10 AM Tuesday, May 26. Invitations will be sent in April. 2026 Assistance updates included Housing Supplement, Adoption Assistance and Minister Debt relief.

Jen Juhasz, MVP Associate for Ministry Vitality read the Necrology Report for 2025. Happily, there is no one from Ottawa this year.

Matt Meinke offered prayers of joy that Dean McGormley survived an aortic dissection. He also reported MVP is doing something a little different for Spring Retreat – leaning on the great staff at Lial Renewal Center joining them in a Mini SoulCollage Retreat, which will begin Friday April 25-26. Registration will be through Lial Center.

<https://www.lialrenewalcenter.org/april-soulcollage>

Matt also reported that MVP is looking for more lay preachers. If you are feeling called to preach or to become a lay pastor, check out our Leadership Academy page
<https://maumeevp.org/leadership-academy/>

Chip Hardwick report \$1,635 to Midwest Hamni Church. Two new ministries programs include perils of AI in ministry and Peacemaking. They are looking for help. Boundaries Training is available via Zoom.

New Worshipping recommended ordination of Jason Armstrong as Love First New Worshipping Community. Jason was examined by the Presbytery and was approved for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Leadership Commission reported they approved that the Exam for Fit for Leslee Kirkconnell is sustained; and authorized Ottawa Presbyterian Church's Pastor Nominating Committee and Session to negotiate a Temporary Supply Contract (lay pastor) with Leslee Kirkconnell on a month-to-month basis until such time the Discipleship Commission certifies her readiness to be a Certified Ruling Elder.

Discipleship Commission reported dates for Kirkmont Camps and employment opportunities, and they are posted on the church bulletin board. Rekindle will be November 6-8, 2026. They also highlighted workshop *Partnering with God in the formation of Presbyterian Leaders*. Here is the link to access many resources on this topic. [Leader Formation](#) There are podcasts, training videos, webinars and so much more. You can also use the Code: LEADER40 in the [PCUSA Store](#) on the resources they suggest.



March 29 – 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Breakfast – Fellowship Hall - sign up in the hallway to help, bring food, etc.

March 29 – Easter Egg Hunt (following/during breakfast) – we need donations of individually wrapped candy for the eggs.

March 29 – Palm/Passion Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary

March 29 – One Great Hour of Sharing Offering dedicated

April 1 – 6:30 p.m. final class on Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week, Fellowship Hall

April 1 – 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

April 2 – 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship with Communion, Sanctuary

April 2, 9:00 p.m. through April 2, 12:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil. Sign up in the hallway for an hour to pray, at church or at home.

April 5 – 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship – The Resurrection of our Lord

Please join us for any or all these events – and invite those who might not have a church home to join us as well!

A Sharing Calendar for Lent 2026

Each day at or after a meal time, gather around this map activity. Consider the reflection and questions, place a coin or a bill (a "gift" in your fish coin bank or a jar.

<p>Feb. 22–28</p> <p>Sunday: After a natural disaster, it may be hard to find places to cook or buy meals. Say a prayer or thanksgiving and give a gift for each meal you ate today.</p>	<p>Monday: Over 18 million Americans live in a food desert, far from a store where they can buy groceries. Give a gift for each grocery store nearby.</p>	<p>Tuesday: Electricity is usually the first utility that is lost in a storm. Give a gift for each electrical outlet in the room you are currently in.</p>	<p>Wednesday: Is water necessary for good health? Using the map, find Zambia and read what the PCUSA is doing there. After learning more, give a gift for each drink you had today.</p>	<p>Thursday: On the online OGHs map, look at the U.S. states where the PCUSA is working. Pray for each by name and give a gift for each state you've visited.</p>	<p>Friday: If you can read, you are more likely to be healthier. Learn a new word today and give a gift for every letter in your name.</p>
<p>March 1–7</p> <p>Sunday: Most people around the world don't have access to the many varieties of fruit and vegetables we have. Give one gift for each type of fruit in your house.</p>	<p>Monday: Climate change is forcing farmers worldwide to either adjust their farming methods or move away. Give a gift for each type of animal you saw today.</p>	<p>Tuesday: When families move, building a new community of friends and neighbors can be hard. Make a card or gift for someone new in your church or neighborhood.</p>	<p>Wednesday: Without the right nutrition in the first two years of life, a child's physical and mental development is compromised. Give a gift for each toddler you know.</p>	<p>Thursday: When roads are closed and electricity is off, going to see a doctor can be hard. Give a gift if you've been able to see a doctor in the past year.</p>	<p>Friday: It is estimated that 1 in 5 kids in the U.S. will experience hunger this year. Give at least one gift if you have not experienced hunger this year.</p>
<p>March 8–14</p> <p>Sunday: Where does your water come from? Many people carry buckets of water long distances to their homes every day. Give a gift for every faucet in your home.</p>	<p>Monday: In Panama, the PCUSA partnered in the construction of a 25,000-liter tank, helping families with clean water for drinking and cooking. Give a gift for each drink of water you had today.</p>	<p>Tuesday: Social barriers are like locked doors that hold people back and keep them from thriving. Give a gift for every door that can lock in your home.</p>	<p>Wednesday: If you could start a business of your own, what would it be? Give a gift for every good business idea you hear from those you are with.</p>	<p>Thursday: Rainwater is rare in some places, so special collection systems are built to catch the water. Give one gift for every day it rained (or snowed) in the past week.</p>	<p>Friday: Changing weather patterns mean old ways of farming don't work in some areas anymore, so farmers need to be taught new techniques. Give a gift for every farm you've visited.</p>
<p>March 15–21</p> <p>Sunday: In some places, people walk for hours to go to church, where they find support and encouragement from friends and family. Give a gift for every time you went to church this month.</p>	<p>Monday: Hunger-related causes kill thousands of people every day around the world. Give a gift for meals you've had today.</p>	<p>Tuesday: Some people can't find jobs and care for themselves because they don't have access to a car or the right bus route. Give one gift for every wheel in your garage that helps you get places.</p>	<p>Wednesday: Poverty can make people feel like they are always falling two steps back with surprise expenses or problems. Give a gift for every set of steps in your home.</p>	<p>Thursday: The most vulnerable are often the most impacted in emergency situations. Say a prayer for children impacted by disasters, and give a gift for every flashlight in your home.</p>	<p>Friday: Sometimes people need help advocating for their rights — like lawyers fighting for those impacted by unfair employment practices. Say a prayer for those who advocate for the poor.</p>
<p>March 22–28</p> <p>Sunday: In South Sudan, women have found hope as they learn to farm so they can grow food for their families. Give a gift per plant in your house.</p>	<p>Monday: In Ohio, refugee women are able to market their sweet and savory treats at the farmers market, helping to take care of their families. Give one gift for every sweet treat you had today.</p>	<p>Tuesday: Immunizations give us hope for when certain diseases will no longer cause sickness and pain. Give a gift for each immunization you have received.</p>	<p>Wednesday: In Haiti, hope is seen in the leaves of the morning tree, a superfood that can help many hungry people! Give one gift for every tree at home.</p>	<p>Thursday: Give a gift for every year you have been in school and find three books you can donate so another person can read and learn.</p>	<p>Friday: Learning new languages can be hard. Give five gifts for every language your family members speak.</p>
<p>March 29–April 4</p> <p>Passion/Palm Sunday: Blankets are used internationally to comfort those impacted by disasters. Give a gift for each blanket in your home, or find some blankets you can donate.</p>	<p>Monday: Teaching healthy food choices and food safety can change the health of an entire community! Find some healthier foods you can donate to a food pantry or soup kitchen.</p>	<p>Tuesday: Find a location on the OGHs map you have not learned about yet. Spend some extended time learning about and praying for the ministry and people there.</p>	<p>Wednesday: Communication can be incredibly difficult after a disaster. Give a gift for every computer in your home, and call, email or text a loved one.</p>	<p>Thursday: God's love is shown in so many ways. Find three things you can do today or tomorrow to share God's love.</p>	<p>Friday: Clean water is a precious resource all over the world. Find some ways you can conserve or use less water every day and commit to doing at least 1 for a month or more.</p>
<p>April 5</p> <p>Sunday – Resurrection/Easter/One Great Hour of Sharing: Present the gifts in your coin box to your congregation. Say a prayer for all those who will receive help from your generosity.</p>					

For more locations and ministries, go to pousa.org/ogshmap or scan this code:



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
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.

DATE	ELDERS IN CHARGE	FLOWERS
March 1	Lynne H.	TBD
March 8	Victoria O. (Communion)	TBD
March 15	Brandon F.	TBD
March 22	Mike K.	TBD
March 29	Marge R.	Palms

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**