



# 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](http://ottawapresby.org)

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

## May 2026

Wow, here we are in May! Warmer days are finally outnumbering cool, trees are leafing out and there are so many signs of renewed life. I admit I am really enjoying watching life unfold every time I drive over from Findlay. From fields being cleared from last year's harvest, to snow blanketing, and now to growing new crops or being prepared for planting, it's wonderful. God's beautiful creation, with its ability to provide for God's creatures, I find peace and joy. The reminder of new life, of resurrection life. We are Easter people and every day is resurrection day. Winter turning to spring and moving toward summer absolutely reminds us of this!

May is also a time of transition as school winds down and some prepare to graduate and take the next steps on their journey. We will transition from weekly Sunday School to our summer schedule of breakfast fellowship ahead of worship. Our first Sunday of summer schedule is actually Pentecost (May 24) and we will have a potluck breakfast that morning as part of our celebration. We'll begin at 9:00 a.m. and share good food and some fun table activities. Wear your red (orange and yellow are also great Pentecost colors)! And bonus 'points' for bringing food that is (naturally) red, orange or yellow! Invite friends to join us - especially for Pentecost, but also every Sunday.

Let us pray for one another each day in May (and all year). As we celebrate endings and beginnings this month, pray for those taking next steps on their journey of life. As the rhythm of church life slows some, let's renew our commitment to one another and continue to strengthen the ties that bind us, knowing God is with us always. And as we continue to prepare to celebrate 180 years of faithful witness to Christ in August, pray for those who are planning this wonderful event!

I want to conclude with this prayer, written by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett (you can find her wonderful resources at [deepwellworship.com](http://deepwellworship.com)). May it remind us of just how much God loves each of us!

Nurturing God,

You are the Planter of Every Good Seed, the Fount of Every Blessing, the Bread of Life, the Good Physician, the Good Shepherd. You work in every part of our lives, encouraging us to grow and flourish so that we may have the strength to work for good in the lives of others. We strive to encounter you this morning, and yet, you are already here: open our hearts to your presence, and teach us gratitude for You and for each other. In the name of Christ, who revealed your saving care to us, Amen.

Remember you are loved and see you Sunday!

Leslee





## **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](mailto: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](mailto:treasurer@ottawapresby.org)).

## **Upcoming Church Happenings**

We are continuing to clean up/beautify the outside of our church on Saturday, May 16 at 9am.

Last day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Pentecost is May 24!** It is also the first Sunday of our summer schedule of breakfast each week. Let's kick off with a celebration and a Potluck Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Be sure to wear red! 'Bonus points' for bringing red, orange, or yellow food to share (natural colors please!). We'll enjoy delicious table fellowship along with Pentecost theme activities and then worship together. Invite a friend to join you!

Summer breakfasts will resume on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board for the rest of the summer. Those will begin at 9:30am and only a light breakfast is needed – donuts, yogurt, fruit, bagels, juice, etc.



## **Celebrate 180 Years of Ministry**

This year marks 180 years of ministry on our corner of Ottawa.

The history of this congregation is a great ministry to Ottawa and the surrounding area. To celebrate, we are planning a special Sunday morning on August 9. Worship will be at the usual 10:00 AM with Synod of the Covenant Associate Executive Ruth-Aimée Belonni-Rosario preaching. We will take a formal picture in front of the church and then have a catered luncheon afterwards. We are inviting all previous pastors to attend or send us a video greeting. Make your calendars now and invite any

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previous members to attend.



## **Senior Citizens' Day Celebration**

In honor of Older Americans Month, the Putnam County Council on Aging invites all adults age 60 and better to attend the Senior Citizens' Day Celebration on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, from 12:00–2:00 p.m. at the Columbus Grove Legion.

The celebration will include a sit-down lunch catered by Ted's Market and entertainment by Antique Mayhem.

Tickets are \$12.00 per person. Please RSVP by April 29 by calling 419-523-4121 or by visiting the Council on Aging office, 1425 E. 4th St., Ottawa to reserve your seat.

***The Food Pantry is in desperate need of toilet paper and bath soap. Please consider donating if you are able! Thanks!!!!***

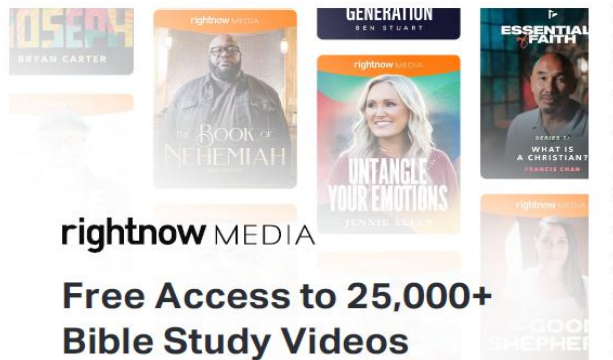
***Liturgists are needed for May***

## Right Now Media

With summer around the corner, we will be taking a break from our regular Sunday School Classes. This is a great time to explore Right Now Media on your own, or create a group study where you can chat about what you study with your friends. You can share the link with others outside of our church as well.

There are recommendations on the church page, but those are just a few of the thousands of resources available! You can even download the RightNowMedia app on your phone and listen on your way to work, or on vacation! You can go to [www.rightnowmedia.org](http://www.rightnowmedia.org) to sign up. The QR code is available as well to get you connected. Our account is Ottawa Presbyterian Church and you will see a picture of our church on the page. Then just browse and choose what you feel led to study!

If you have any questions, you can reach out to Nancy Kaufman or Stan Beckman.




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## May is graduation month!

Many congratulations to Faith F as she graduates High School and begins the next steps on her journey! Please join her family on Sunday, June 7 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. for a party in her honor (see the card posted on our bulletin board for more details). If you have a graduate in your life that you wish to celebrate, let Pastor Leslee know - college, graduate school, basic training - any milestone is appropriate!

**Vacation Bible School** will be Monday, July 13-Thursday, July 16, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at New Creation Lutheran Church in Ottawa. Plans are in the works, so save those dates now and watch for more information! We are partnering with New Creation Lutheran and Trinity Methodist.



**Putnam County Council on Aging May Activities**

Date	Event	Time	Location
5-6-2026	Senior Day	12:00pm	Columbus Grove Legion, Columbus Grove
5-7-2026	Bingo	1:00pm	Fort Haven Apartments, Fort Jennings
5-12-2026	Mother's Day Event	10:00am	Community Center, Columbus Grove
5-18-2026	Learn to Use MyChart	1:30pm	Putnam Co. District Library, Pandora
5-19-2026	Cookie Decorating Party *\$20 fee per person	10:00am	Northside Lions Den Shelterhouse, Kalida
5-26-2026	Euchre	10:00am	Church of the Good Shepherd, Col. Grove

For more information or to attend please call  
Putnam County Council on Aging  
419-523-4121 or 1-877-796-1760



**Do you know Per Capita?** Some call it ‘head tax’ for the church, and while that’s not incorrect, it doesn’t tell the whole story! Presbyterians are connectional. Sessions are responsible for day to day work in the local church. Presbyteries cover a broader region and care for pastors, CREs, Certified Educators and churches within their bounds. Synods support the presbyteries in their area (we are Synod of the Covenant with 11 presbyteries in Michigan and Ohio). And General Assembly is the ‘national church.’ General Assembly has two ‘entities:’ the national offices in Louisville, KY, where many resources are produced to support local churches and presbyteries, and the biennial gathering of the whole church, also known as General Assembly or GA. Every two years Presbyterians come together for GA. Each presbytery sends both Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders.

This year is a GA year, and later in June commissioners from all over will gather in Milwaukee. Much goes into this gathering, worship, committee meetings, plenary meetings, voting on overtures and more. Our per capita funds pay for this. It is one way all of us share the cost for our commissioners to come together to discern where God is leading. Our polity is connectional, meaning we make decisions in community, as opposed to hierarchically, where one individual makes decisions for all. So while our per capita enables the PC(U.S.A.) to gather for communal discernment, it also helps fund preparation for ministry for Pastors, supports Certified Educators, helps churches with the call process, pays travel for Co-Moderators, the Stated Clerk and members of OGA staff who all visit presbyteries and churches. Book of Order – paid by per capita! Ecumenical relationships are also strengthened by per capita. Ultimately per capita is about relationships. Our relationship with God, with each other locally, relationships between churches and presbyteries, and churches and synods and General Assembly. It helps us build God’s kingdom through sharing resources.

We pay per capita each year, and while it is a budgeted item for Ottawa, we invite members to consider paying their portion, which frees more funds for mission in God’s kingdom! \$40.71 is this year’s amount. \$11.26 supports General Assembly, \$3.40 supports the Synod of the Covenant and \$26.05 helps with our own Presbytery. Any who wish to offset their per capita are welcome to do so. It’s not a requirement, but an invitation. And we are grateful for all the work our session, our presbytery, synod and general assembly do for the Lord.



**OTTAWA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**150 N. OAK ST.**  
**OTTAWA, OH 45875-1810**  
**419-523-3694**



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

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ELDERS IN CHARGE</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>
May 3	Robyn B.	TBD
May 10	Victoria O. (Communion)	TBD
May 17	Marge R.	TBD
May 24	Mike K.	Doepker
May 31	Brandon F.	TBD

**2026 Committees Chairs and officers:**

- Treasurer - Beth Myers
- Financial Secretary - Lynne Hirzel
- Worship and Music – Lynne Hirzel
- Fellowship – Robyn Badder
- Mission and Outreach – Brandon Font/Mike Kaufman
- Stewardship & Communication – Marge Roberts
- 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**