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*

October 2026

I absolutely love the month of October! Fall is my favorite time of year-cooler days leading us to bring out those sweatshirts and sweaters, leaves turning beautiful colors, fields of crops harvested so the land can rest and more. And then there's Halloween, which heralds the beginning of the holiday season (although to shop in some stores even in September one could think Christmas is next week). Full disclosure I love Halloween and in many ways it is my favorite holiday. Colorful and fun costumes, candy, parties, trick or treating fun for all ages (and yes, if youth show up at my door they are absolutely getting candy!!). And while the shorter days are not as welcome as the cooler weather, that can be a reminder to us that as the earth slows down to rest, even sleep during winter, we too should make sure we take the time to rest and refresh, spend time with loved ones, help those who need food and clothing and shelter, feed the birds and more.

October is also the time when we can reflect on the year thus far and look forward with anticipation to what God might be doing in our midst now and into the future. God is always faithful, God always keeps God's promises. And we too can participate in this as we consider our commitment this coming year. Our stewardship theme is 'All In. 'God has gone All In with us and we can lean into All In with God. All in with our Hearts, with our Hands, with our Resources, with our Future. Each week we'll explore scripture and how we can learn to go All In. I look forward to this journey with you!

Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday. Many churches observe the Lord's Supper every week - including some Presbyterian Churches. Others, like ours, only once a month and some only quarterly. Yet on this one Sunday, ALL Christians everywhere celebrate and it becomes a bond of unity that is not hampered by denomination, or state or country. A special time to remember we are ALL one in Christ whether we live in Ottawa, OH; Ottawa, Canada; London, England; Hong Kong, Taiwan; or Wellington, New Zealand. God loves God's people no matter where they live and we can and should celebrate together!

Join us in October as we go All In, as we learn and worship and grow together. And invite a friend too! Know that you are so loved!

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 **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 all churches church worldwide.

And finally, please say a prayer of thanksgiving for the **blessings of this congregation**—as we continue to celebrate 180 years of congregational life and faithfulness 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 at (treasurer@ottawapresby.org).

There will be a fellowship meeting on October 4, after church, to discuss the quarter auction. Everyone is welcome!

Liturgists are needed for the Sundays of October 18 & 25th. Please sign up on sheet on bulletin board if you can help with this.

The Church will be passing out candy during Ottawa's downtown Trick or Treat night October 29th from 7-8 PM. There is a signup sheet in the hallway for anyone that would like to pass out candy. If you would like to donate candy to be passed out, please bring it to the church and leave it on the kitchen counter marked for Trick or Treat.

OPC rocks Kirkmont! Every September Presbytery meeting Camper Dave presents churches with high attendance at camp with cash awards in five categories! We won outright in three and shared with Christ Toledo in another, and both Christ and Tiffin in the last. $195 gift because YOU support camp ministry for our children and youth!

A **Stewardship letter** will be mailed out to you the week of October 5th. We are looking for volunteers to do a minute of Stewardship in October. The weekly themes are:

October 11: All in with our Hearts
Matthew 22:36-40
God wants your whole heart, not just your Sunday best.

October 18: All in with our Hands
John 13:1-17
Your time and talents are meant to bless others generously.

October 25: All in with our Hearts
Mark 10:17-31
We're not entitled to anything, we're entrusted with everything. The overall trust is that God did not only go part way, God went all in with us, is still all in with us and doesn't hold back. We'll explore how we can also live into this bold generosity.

If anyone is willing to do a certain Sunday, please let Marge Roberts know or anyone on Session. Thanks!

Maumee Valley Presbytery Commissioner's Report September 15,2026

The May MVP meeting was held at Bowling Green First Presbyterian Church. Representing OPC were Chas Myers, commissioner, Beth Myers, alternate commissioner and Leslee Kirkconnell, pastor.

Central Support reported the sale of the Norwalk Church to Templo Genesaret congregation for a sale price of $50,000. They also approved a $.20 increase in the Presbytery's portion of Per Capita.

Commission on Churches Concluding Ministry approved the merger of First Presbyterian Church and East Side Presbyterian Church, both of Fremont, Ohio, to become a new entity known as **Fremont Presbyterian Church** ("FPC"), after more than two (2) years' careful discernment and planning.

Synod Commissioner Gillian Holzhauser-Graber reported 'Synod Snapshot' articles containing relevant information about Synod initiatives have been written and submitted to the EP for inclusion in his newsletter. Emphasis is placed upon those SoC efforts of particular relevance to congregations and their members. The next Synod Assembly will be the 2026 Annual Assembly, Thursday –Saturday, October 29-31 to be held at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, MI.

Rev. David Bartley presented his annual $50 checks for most campers at the different camps at Kirkmont this past summer. Ottawa won or tied in all categories including Junior Camp, Junior-Senior High Camp, Senior High Camp, Camp Rejoice and total campers for the entire summer.

Bowling Green Pastor Jeff Schooley raised questions about Pastor Leslee Kirkconnell's process for approval as a Commissioned Ruling Elder. Issues included confusion as to who the session should check with - is it Leadership? Is it Discipleship? Lack of communication/incomplete information specifically from Discipleship. Findlay Pastor Jessie Commeret moved that Central Support create a task force to investigate the overlapping of some of the committees, especially Leadership and Discipleship. Motion passed.

See bulletin board for information on upcoming workshops and retreats. The next regular meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery will be Tuesday, November 17, 2026, Toledo Collingwood, Toledo, OH beginning at 10:00am.

Saturday, October 3 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. ALL FAMILIES with children preschool through youth are welcome. We will play some games, study the Bible, learn about the sacrament, make communion bread and have pizza! A parent must accompany all children, as a way to continue conversations at home (Leslee will have materials). Families should also look for direct communication from Leslee. (Fun 'spoiler' the children/youth in the workshop will on Sunday present the communion bread during worship!)

The memorial service for Nancy Haughn will be Saturday, October 10, 11am, with lunch following. Help is needed for set up, clean up, greeters and more. Sign up on the sheet in the hallway.

Ottawa Food Pantry

Located at Trinity United Methodist Church. Open on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month, from 11:30am – 2pm. Food is distributed according to family size and may include meats, tuna, eggs, bread, cereal, margarine, canned fruits and vegetables, soup, juice, toilet tissue, bar soap, personal care items, and more. This ministry is supported by a community board with members from area churches. Questions or interested in volunteering? Please call Trinity UMC at 419-523-6496.

Congregational Survey
LED Sign board for church to replace existing signboard on corner.
Sept 17, 2026

Session has been in discussion as to whether or not to purchase a digital sign board for the church to replace the existing signboard. A new sign would utilize the existing brick base. A donation has been received towards this potential purchase, and session has voted to pursue additional donations to pay for it.

A survey was suggested to determine the broader interest among the congregation for support in moving forward with this potential purchase, which would be upwards of $25,000 to install.

SURVEY QUESTIONS:

1. Do you feel that a digital sign would provide value and positive exposure for the church if purchased?

2. Would you be willing to contribute towards a purchase of a digital sign?

We ask that you return your reply no later than Monday, October 12th. A non-response will be taken as a "NO" to both questions.

Thank you.

****Please consider a donation or prayerful support of this church project. Our last project was in 2012, which we renovated the sanctuary. ****

Paper hardcopies are available in the entryway, or you can reply back in an email to the church office at secretary@ottawapresby.org

To Ottawa Presbyterian Church,
The Putnam County Historical Society would like to thank you for sharing the history of your church for our Ohio Open Doors event. Our ancestors valued their religious heritage and it is important for our generation to pass along that legacy. We thank each representative for giving up a Sunday afternoon to join us and participate in this historical occasion. Your photos, artifacts, and stories were of great value to our visitors. We appreciate the support your church family has given to the Historical Society and museum as we continue to collect, preserve, and educate the public on the rich history of our county and especially our churches.
Blessings, Carol Wise, PCHS Board of Trustees.

Caring for Caregivers

Free education and support sessions for caregivers.

We hear you Putnam County!

Join us for a 6-part wellness series designed to support and encourage individuals caring for adult loved ones.

- **What: Caring for Caregivers Group**
- **When: 2nd Thursday of each month 2:00PM to 3:00PM starting Oct. 8th, 2026 to March 11th, 2027.**
- **Where: Putnam County Homecare & Hospice at 575 Ottawa Glandorf Rd #3 Ottawa, OH 45875**
- **Registration is requested but not required. Call Putnam County HomeCare and Hospice at (419) 523-4449.**

Putnam County Homecare & Hospice

Pathways Counseling Center, Inc. — Where New Paths Begin —

The Mental Health, Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Board of Putnam County

Putnam County Council on Aging, Inc. — Assisting Those 60 or Better

Putnam County Health Department — Prevent • Promote • Protect

Alzheimer's Association — Northwest Ohio Chapter

The Meadows of Kalida, Leipsic & Ottawa

Putnam County Council on Aging October Activities

Date	Event	Time	Location
10-1-2026	Bingo	1:00pm	Fort Haven Apts. Fort Jennings
10-5-2026	MyChart Presentation	1:30pm	Putnam Co. District Library, Ottawa
10-7-2026	Mexican Train Dominos	10:00am	United Methodist Church, Continental (Northside)
10-8-2026	Bingo	1:00pm	Putnam Heritage, Ottawa
10-14-2026	Cooking for 1 or 2	1:30pm	Community Center, Columbus Grove
10-19-2026	Passwords Made Easy	1:30pm	Putnam Co. District Library, Ottoville
10-21-2026	Ceramics, Paint, Create; Relax	1:00pm	Sportsman Club, Miller City
10-23-2026	Sourdough Class	2:00pm	Lilac Clubhouse, Leipsic
10-27-2026	Diamond Art	10:00am	Church of the Good Shepherd, Columbus Grove
10-29-2026	Pumpkins and Punch	10:00am	Arthur-Lugibihl Community Center, Pandora

Putnam County Council on Aging, Inc.
Assisting Those 60 or Better

To RSVP or for more information please call the Council on Aging at 419-523-4121 or 1-877-796-1760

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
Leslee Kirkconnell is 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
October 4	Robyn B. (Communion)	Myers
October 11	Mike K.	TBD
October 18	Brandon F.	TBD
October 25	Victoria O.	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 – Chas 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**