

*Newsletter of the Orchard Park Presbyterian Church*

*April 2026 Issue*

# The Grapevine

## Join us for Holy Week

In a world pulling us in many  
directions, Lent is a time  
to realign our hearts.

Where is God inviting your  
faithfulness?

## A Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

I am just approaching the one month mark as your temporary pastor. Last night was my first Session meeting. We had perfect attendance! Clerk of Session Al Sager informed me that it's been a while since every elder was present—although, he was quick to add, Session meetings are always well-attended. I took that perfect attendance to be a sign of the good things that are happening in the life of this congregation.

The OPPC church family has been through a lot. In my pastor's report I told the elders that healing is the top priority for this church right now. I also said that the further away the congregation gets from the congregational meeting of January 25—no matter how you view the outcome of that meeting—the more positive energy I witness in virtually every area of church life. People are staying longer after both worship services to visit with each other, to catch up with their friends here. Several people have commented on a welcome sense of calm in the building and at church gatherings. The elders at their meeting last night were focused and thorough in the discussion they held on various motions, and when a vote or two was not unanimous, I felt a sense of mutual support, solidarity and the bonds of friendship.

We discussed important matters like finances, staffing, and stewardship. A small group of elders and staff will meet to draft a positive statement from the Session to the congregation and community as well as draft a vision/mission for ministry that will be a guide for the immediate future. The interim period has begun, we dare not waste time by delaying the process to imagine the next chapter in Orchard Park Presbyterian Church's life. As we map out and picture what that will be, we will be able to more effectively direct human and material resources to achieve our goals as a church, as well, if history is a guide, to raise human and material support for this mission and ministry.

I think of these efforts as "a work in progress" as well as a jump start for the new intentional interim pastor (when ever he or she arrives) who will continue to shepherd OPPC into new life.

Keep your elders and deacons in your prayers!

In Christ's service,

*Pastor Tom*



## Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday

March 29, 8:30am & 10:30am

### Good Friday

April 3, 7pm

### Easter Sunday

April 5, 8:30am & 10:30am

*All are Welcome*

# Faith Formation

The Littles and Bigs have been engaged in Illustrated Ministry's *The Work of Imagination* lessons. One Sunday found them planting seeds they sprouted earlier this winter. Another lesson was about Jesus being The Good Shepherd and how we too can be shepherds when folks are in need. The Bigs made 45 sandwiches and the Littles and Pray & Play packed 24 Kid Care Kits for St. Luke's Mission of Mercy.



**There will be no Children/Youth Classes, Pray & Play or Staffed Nursery on Easter Sunday. Regular CE programming returns on April 12 for six weeks and will conclude on May 17.**

## CONFIRMATION CAMP

Confirmation Camp was a whirlwind of activity the first weekend of Spring. Camp Counselors, Mrs. B and Xanda Weiss, shepherded the six youth in an 18-hour journey of learning to be God's kind and faithful people.

The youth will be confirmed on **SUNDAY, APRIL 19** at the 10:30 service.



**Sermon Discussion continues at 9:15 am in The Meeting Place with "Guide on the Side" Robert Mustard facilitating discussion of the prior week's sermon after those assembled view it together. Everyone is welcome to attend!**

# Family, Faith & Food – March 22



Thank you, God, for yummy food, for Easter grass, and for the little bits of dirt that show how much fun we've had.

Thank you for our Christian Ed teachers, Chef Theresa for keeping us fed, and Mrs. B, the wonder woman guiding us along the way.

AMEN!



# MISSION MATTERS

## Panera DAY-END DOUGH-NATION™

OPPC was one of the first churches in Orchard Park who jumped on the Operation Dough-Nation "ministry" to have volunteers pick up the baked goods that were left at the end of the day and deliver them to an agency who feeds the hungry. We began this responsibility in 2007 and have saved food from the trash and fed people instead.

Each year Panera Bread sends us a report confirming how many items we transported to neighbors in need of food and the total cost.

In 2025 OPPC's totals were 12,456 items worth \$32,427.79.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to the volunteers who picked up the baked goods on Tuesday evening at 9:00 pm and delivered the goodies on Wednesday morning to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy: Dolores Battle, Melanie Kolek, Linda Lorentz and Don Schmid.



The next SANDWICH SUNDAY is APRIL 19.

Thank you to the congregation for providing **115 sandwiches** for St. Luke's Mission of Mercy in March. We are grateful to the members of the Mission Ministry Team who transported the sandwiches downtown - **Barb Olandt and Deb Galloway.** Thanks to the Bigs Church School Class for making 45 PB&J sandwiches.



## THE GENESIS CENTER

The Confirmation Class joined "the regulars" in serving the meal at The Genesis Center on Friday, March 20. The next time OPPC serves the meal is **Friday, APRIL 17.**

Email [lindab@oppchurch.org](mailto:lindab@oppchurch.org) if you are interested in serving from 3:45-6:05 pm.



Family Promise of Western New York

The Mission Ministry Team allocated funding for two of **Family Promise of WNY** upcoming events - the Homecoming Picnic in July and Choctoberfest this fall. We are "Friends" sponsors for \$500 for each event.



A SIMPLE WAY TO SERVE

Today, we can say something that fills us with gratitude: we have now helped furnish apartments for 57 families!



Over the course of those 57 families, so many people have played a part. So many individuals have donated items, organized, lifted, delivered, cleaned and welcomed. So many have quietly stepped in when a need appeared.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

## RIVERKEEPERS SPRING SWEEP

Youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to sign up with Mrs. B for Spring Sweep on Saturday April 25.



We have secured spots at Hamburg Beach. We will meet in the parking lot at 9:45am and volunteer until noon when parents return to pick up their youth.

Please email Mrs. B at [lindab@oppchurch.org](mailto:lindab@oppchurch.org) to be sent the Minor Waiver and instructions on how to sign up.

The MMTeam also allocated funding for up to four more Household Rehoming Kits for **Churches in Action** at about \$230 for each kit.

How Do You Say  
 ...to Someone Like

# Thank You Allyn?



**WITH TRADITIONAL SACRAMENTAL OBSERVANCE AND ALLYN'S MOVING AND INSPIRING SERMON.**  
 After more than 25 years as OPPC's Pastoral Assistant, Allyn conducted worship for the last time on Sunday, March 1st, during which he led Children's Time, served Communion and delivered a final, touchingly-autobiographical sermon. We recognized his many contributions to our faith community again at our Sunday, March 22nd, service, when we further gratefully acknowledged his Pastoral legacy with the dedication of our Conference Room in his name.



**WITH WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION!**  
 OPPC's Conference Room has been officially renamed in Allyn's honor. Stop by and check out the plaque.

**and of course, WITH CAKE!**  
 We celebrated his Tuesday, March 3rd 93rd birthday with a 10:30 a.m. worship service afterparty on Sunday, March 1st.



Allyn Foster had already been retired from his distinguished 37-year parish ministry as the Pastor of Fairport United Methodist Church for five years when he received an unexpected invitation to serve OPPC as a part-time Pastoral Assistant. And it was truly God's gift to us that he accepted.

Because over the more than two and a half decades that would follow, he became – and continued to be – an invaluable source of supportive spiritual guidance and loving pastoral comfort for countless members of our faith community.

His consistent, reassuring presence has reinforced the strength and resiliency of our congregation at the times when we needed it most, helping us to weather change and challenge both within our church and in the world around us.

As his service in his Pastoral role concludes, we take joy in his continued fellowship as a faithful member of our church family, and wish both him and Bonnie God's grace, our love and good health throughout the coming years.

*We Love You, Allyn.*

### Dear Orchard Park Presbyterian Church Family,

I am overwhelmed by the recognition I received at our March 22 service. Having the Conference Room named in my honor is beyond my wildest imagination! I am forever grateful for the privilege of laboring in the Lord's vineyard with you these past 25 years! And I look forward to sharing in the life of our faith community in the days to come.

Love in Christ,

*Allyn*

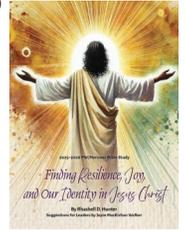
### Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team

will meet on **Monday, April 13 at 1pm** in The Meeting Place.



**Friendship Circle** will meet on **Wednesday, April 1 at 10am in the Irene Irving Room.** Ladies, you are cordially invited to join us for fellowship and Bible study. Lesson

**Seven of Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ** will be discussed. For more information, please call Barbara Roberts or Sue Sager.



### Worship Notes

April draws us into the heart of Holy Week, inviting us to reflect on how God meets us in both challenge and renewal. As we gather for our **Good Friday service on April 3 at 7pm**, we will remember Jesus' journey to the cross — a moment to contemplate the immeasurable love shown in Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

**Easter morning on April 5** offers a joyful opportunity to celebrate Christ's resurrection and all it promises. As OPPC continues to find its footing in a season of transition, the message of new life feels especially meaningful.

On **Sunday, April 19**, we will also celebrate the **confirmation** of new members — a beautiful reminder that faith continues to grow here at OPPC. Throughout this month, may our worship help us notice the steady, quiet ways God is rebuilding and strengthening our community, inviting hope to take root again.

**See you in church!**



**PROVIDENCE**  
FARM COLLECTIVE

### OPPC was host to Providence Farm Collective's Community

**Potluck Supper.** We gathered in the Reception Room to share a meal and talk about nurturing community and preserving cultural heritage.

Burton Road is home to 29 small farms and 200+ incubation farmers and, if you check out their website and Facebook page, you will see there are vegetables, flowers and (new this year!) fruit shares to purchase! You can also sign up to take a basket weaving or terracotta wind chime workshop.

It truly is a remarkable place.



This year's **Lenten Supper** was a meaningful and energizing evening of connection, reflection and community, creating a warm and engaged atmosphere throughout the night.

The evening, facilitated by the Worship Ministry Team, centered on a poetry reading lead by Tom Yorty and Xanda Weiss, with discussion woven throughout. This rhythm invited both quiet reflection and thoughtful conversation, allowing the themes of the Lenten season to resonate more deeply. The meal was beautifully catered by Violet of **V. Well Nutrition**, who rents our Fellowship Hall Kitchen, adding to the sense of care and hospitality that shaped the evening.

We are so grateful to everyone who attended, participated, and helped make the evening such a success.

## Quarter Notes

This is a photo of the ecstatic winners of the highly coveted Most Valuable Ringer and Most Valuable Singer awards, Bonnie Arnold and Dan Hay, celebrating with Associate Pastor Allyn Foster.

The awards were presented by Music Directors Barry and Heather Dietsch at the annual Christmas party at the Dietsch home in December.



Save the date! Join us for the feel-good event of the year:

## Broadway Night!

Wednesday, May 20 @ 7pm  
OPPC Sanctuary



## RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, April 24 & Saturday, April 25

As you begin spring cleaning, please save your gently used items that you no longer want or need. Frequently in demand at the sale are household items, jewelry, clothing, toys, linens, books, small furniture and sporting goods. We will not be able to accept televisions, computers, exercise equipment or shoes.

### Please note the following important dates:

**Saturday, April 11 – Sunday, April 19** - You may drop off donated items in the hallway behind the Fellowship Hall stage. The Clark Street entrance will be open Sunday (11am- 6pm) Monday – Friday (1pm- 6pm) and Saturday (9am-6pm).

**Sunday, April 19-** Volunteers are needed to start setting up before and after the 10:30am worship service.

**Monday, April 20 and Tuesday, April 21** – Volunteers are needed to sort items. Due to the Access Control System, morning helpers **MUST** meet at 9am in the Reception Room in order to be admitted to the Fellowship Hall. Afternoon volunteers should come at 1pm or later and can go directly to the Fellowship Hall.

**Wednesday, April 22** – Helpers are needed to price items and should meet at 9am in the Reception Room. Lunch will be provided.

**Friday, April 24** – The sale goes from 2pm until 8pm. Helpers are needed for shifts 1:30– 5pm and 5 – 8pm.

**Saturday, April 25** - Bag Sale from 10am until noon. Fill a brown paper bag for just \$2.00. Helpers and cashiers are needed 9:30am – noon. Starting at noon volunteers are needed to clean up.

Look for the sign-up chart at a table in the hallway near the office and volunteer to help with this worthwhile event. Funds from the Rummage Sale are used to support mission projects and to provide items needed by our church. If you have any questions, please call Sue Sager.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>March 29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b></p> <p>8:30a Worship 9:15a Sermon Discussion Group 9:30a Church School 10:30a Worship</p>	<p><b>March 30</b></p> <p>7p OP Chorale-S</p>	<p><b>March 31</b></p> <p>9a TWT 7p Organ Concert-S 7p Hospitality &amp; Fellowship MT-CR</p>	<p><b>April 1</b></p> <p>10a Staff-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 10a Friendship Circle-IIR 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal-S 7p Choir Rehearsal-CH</p>	<p><b>April 2</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b></p> <p>7p Worship MT-CR 7:30p AI-Anon-IIR</p>	<p><b>April 3</b> <b>Good Friday</b></p> <p>10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR 7p Good Friday Service-S</p>	<p><b>April 4</b></p> <p>10a Easter Egg Hunt-S</p>
<p><b>April 5</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b></p> <p>8:30a Worship 9:15a Sermon Discussion Group 10:30a Worship</p>	<p><b>April 6</b> <i>Easter Monday— Office Closed</i></p>	<p><b>April 7</b></p> <p>9a TWT 7p Organ Concert-S</p>	<p><b>April 8</b></p> <p>10a Mission Workshop-TMP 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal-S 7p Choir Rehearsal-CH</p>	<p><b>April 9</b></p> <p>6p Quaker Quilters BOD-RR 7p Quaker Quilters-RR 7p Membership MT-CR 7:30p AI-Anon-IIR</p>	<p><b>April 10</b></p> <p>10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR</p>	<p><b>April 11</b></p> <p>Rummage Sale Drop Off Starts</p>
<p><b>April 12</b></p> <p>8:30a Worship 9:15a Sermon Discussion Group 9:30a Church School 10:30a Worship</p>	<p><b>April 13</b></p> <p>1p PWCT-TMP 5:45p OP Chorale BOD-CR 7p OP Chorale-S 7p Co-Op Board-Co-Op 7p MDO Board-TMP</p>	<p><b>April 14</b></p> <p>9a TWT 11a Comm Committee-CR 6:30p A&amp;F MT-CR</p>	<p><b>April 15</b></p> <p>10a Staff-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal-S 7p Choir Rehearsal-CH 7p Christian Ed MT-CR 7p Stewardship MT-TMP</p>	<p><b>April 16</b></p> <p>2:15p Orchard Heights Service 7:30p AI-Anon-IIR 7:30p Personnel Committee-CR</p>	<p><b>April 17</b></p> <p>10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 3:30p Genesis Center 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR</p>	<p><b>April 18</b></p> <p>10:15a Daisy Troop-EW 12p Orchard Park Symphony Scholarship-S/RR</p>
<p><b>April 19</b> <b>Confirmation Class Received</b> <b>Sandwich Sunday</b></p> <p>8:30a Worship 9:15a Sermon Discussion Group 9:30a Church School 10:30a Worship 12p Rummage Sale Set Up-FH</p>	<p><b>April 20</b></p> <p>6p OP Chorale-S 6:30p Deacons-TMP</p>	<p><b>April 21</b></p> <p>9a TWT 7p OPPC Book Group-IIR</p>	<p><b>April 22</b></p> <p>10a Staff-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal-S 7p Choir Rehearsal-CH</p>	<p><b>April 23</b></p> <p>7p Mission MT-CR 7:30p AI-Anon-IIR</p>	<p><b>April 24</b></p> <p>10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 2p Rummage Sale-FH 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR</p>	<p><b>April 25</b></p> <p>9a Lions District Meeting-CR/TMP/RR/IIR 10a Rummage Sale-FH</p>
<p><b>April 26</b></p> <p>8:30a Worship 9:15a Sermon Discussion Group 9:30a Church School 10:30a Worship 3p Girl Scouts-UC 4p OP Chorale Concert-S</p>	<p><b>April 27</b></p> <p>7p Session</p>	<p><b>April 28</b> <i>Grapevine Deadline</i></p> <p>9a TWT</p>	<p><b>April 29</b></p> <p>10a Staff-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal-S 7p Choir Rehearsal-CH</p>	<p><b>April 30</b></p> <p>2:15p Fox Run Service 7:30p AI-Anon-IIR</p>	<p><b>May 1</b></p> <p>10a Grapevine Mailing-CR 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR</p>	<p><b>May 2</b></p> <p>10:15a Daisy Troop-EW</p>

**Location Legend: S –Sanctuary; RR—Reception Room; CH—Choir Room; GR—Green Room  
CR—Conference Room; IIR—Irene Irving Room; FH—Fellowship Hall; UC—Undercroft;  
MG—Memorial Garden; PW—Presbyterian Women; TMP—The Meeting Place; EC—Ed Wing Classroom**

Our calendar sometimes has changes after the GV goes to print, stay up-to-date by viewing the complete [calendar](#) on the church website.

There was no set...  
no director...  
no rehearsal...

and just one actor,  
who had never  
seen the script.



The author's vision is framed through actor Wil Weiss's voice.



Pretending to be a rabbit that is impersonating an ostrich.



Key elements of the story are put in place.



"Bear," meet "Bunny" – who is adorably all ears.



The play's author was in attendance... we think.



Five toothsome volunteers who hopped forward to play rabbits.



The "& Conversation" part was engaging and enlightening.

ANOTHER GREAT  
THEATRE & Conversation  
PRODUCTION

**WHITE RABBIT** **RED RABBIT**

A Timely, Thought-Provoking One-Act Play  
by Nassim Soleimanpour

...and it all added up to one memorable performance!

Friday,  
March 13th  
7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the OPPC Hospitality-Fellowship Ministry Team and Presented in Cooperation with



Nassim Soleimanpour  
Productions

# OPPC Book Group Presents

*Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi

Tuesday, April 21, 7pm in the Irene Irving Room



Author Allen Levi has revealed that this book started out as a few short stories about pencil sketches of individuals he saw at a coffee shop. He thought these might make for a book, which he self-published. Little did he know this thoughtful, gentle book would become a worldwide sensation.

Theo is a sweet older man who shows up one spring morning in Golden, Georgia. In his search for a quality cup of coffee, he stumbles upon a portrait gallery in The Chalice. The walls are lined with 92 pencil sketches of Golden residents. He determines to purchase every portrait, making it his mission to gift each one to its rightful owner.

The book includes stories of some of these quiet bestowals on a bench beside a fountain, each special in its own way. Theo has a knack for detail in each portrait, giving him insight into the subject's personality. He befriends other memorable characters including Asher, the artist of these beautiful portraits, and Tony, a book seller and leader of the Penny Loafers. There are deep conversations, music, humor and life lessons along the way.

Please join us as we discuss this inspiring book, highly recommended for everyone to read, e-read or listen to the excellent audiobook.

**May 19, 7pm: A Study in Scarlet Women** by Sherry Thomas

The Church Office will be closed on **April 6** for Easter Monday. Office Hours for **April 9 & 10** will be 9-11am, and 1-3pm.

**TUESDAYS WITH TOOLS**

Tuesdays  
9am—Noon

Bring your tools and come join the crew. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Wilson.

The **Deadline for the May Grapevine** is Tuesday, April 28 at 9am.

Please send any submissions to Xanda at [xanda@oppchurch.org](mailto:xanda@oppchurch.org). If you would like to receive the Grapevine by email, please reach out to Xanda at the same email address.



**MISSION WORKSHOP** Mission Workshop meets Wednesdays  
10am—Noon in  
The Meeting Place



**Garden Committee**

The Property Ministry Team is seeking members who would like to assist in the general planning and upkeep of our beautiful garden areas.

Please reach out to [dan@oppchurch.org](mailto:dan@oppchurch.org) if interested.

CONGRATULATIONS to Matthew Nagowski and Catherine March on the birth of their daughter **Mariana March Nagowski** born on February 28, 2026.



Orchard Park Presbyterian Church  
4369 South Buffalo Street  
Orchard Park, NY 14127-2611

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*A thriving faith  
community engaged in  
compassionate service.*



HIPPITY HOP TO OUR FREE ANNUAL COMMUNITY-WIDE

# Easter egg hunt

**Saturday, April 4th • 10:00 a.m.**

— Rain or Shine —



Orchard Park Presbyterian Church  
4369 South Buffalo Street at Clark

Refreshments and Treat Bags for the Kids!

The Entire Community Is Welcome!  
Bring the Whole Family and Invite  
Your Friends and Neighbors!

Sponsored by Hospitality-Fellowship Ministry Team

