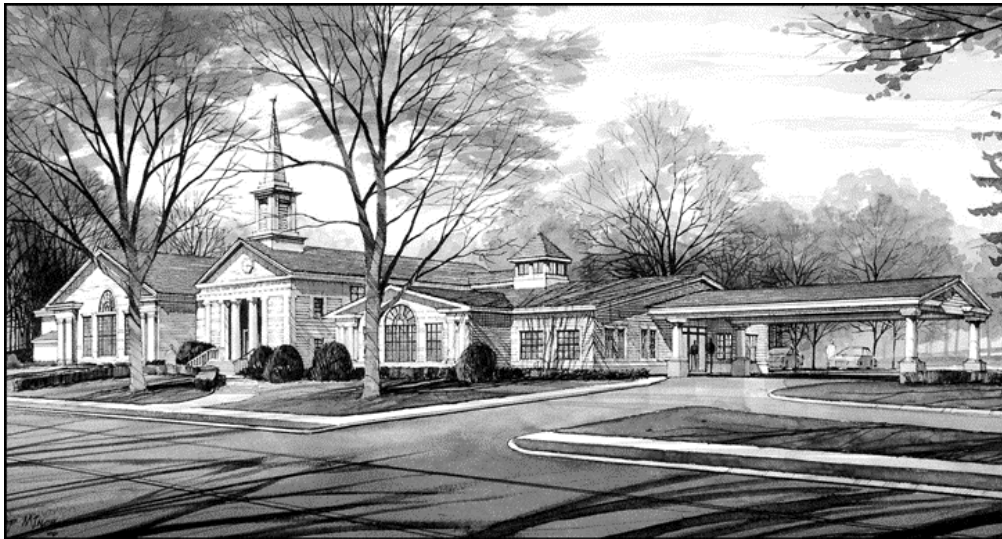




***A thriving faith community
engaged in compassionate service.***



August 16, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Live Streaming on Facebook plus On Demand on YouTube

4369 South Buffalo St., Orchard Park, NY 14127-2611

Office: (716) 662-9348

Email: info@oppchurch.org Website: www.oppchurch.org

www.facebook.com/orchardparkpresbyterianchurch

Order of Service

*Please rise in body or spirit

Prelude Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee L. V. Beethoven/Carl Sea

Greetings

***Call to Worship** (from Psalm 67)

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase; God has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

***Opening Hymn #318** In Christ There Is No East or West

***Invitation to Confession** (Romans 11:32)

The apostle Paul says that we are “imprisoned in disobedience,” but that God is merciful to all. We live amid the tension of knowing that the Lord is quick to forgive and recognizing that we need to be forgiven. We also live amid the tension of knowing that, through Christ, all things are being made new and recognizing that our broken world needs to be transformed.

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Merciful God, your world cries out. The fruits of our disobedience are harming your creation. You tasked us to be good stewards of your creation and we have fallen short. You challenged us to love God and love our neighbor, and we have failed to show that love. You promise to bring all people joyfully together in a house of prayer on your holy mountain. We find ways to stay apart. Bring us together, O Lord. Empower us with a spirit of love for you and love for all our neighbors. Help us live lives of service to you so that all your children will know your peace. Forgive us when we fall short and continue to transform your world, leading us to your promised kingdom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

(A moment for silent confession)

***Assurance of Pardon** (Romans 11:29)

Paul writes: “I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” God has shown us mercy and God will be merciful to all. Hear and believe this good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Be kind to one another, and tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. (Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you saying “Peace be with you”.)

Children’s Time

Announcements

Prayer for Illumination (Isaiah 56:1)

“Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.” Let us pray.

God of every time and place, may your Spirit move among us so that the words we hear and the words we speak will be to your glory, will lead towards justice, and will reveal to us your salvation and deliverance. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Scripture Reading Matthew 15:10-28, N. T. pg. 17

Special Music The Beautiful Garden of Prayer E. A. Schroll & J. H. Fillmore
April Dunlap, Piano & Heather Dunlap, Soloist

Sermon A Higher Standard Elder David Saintz

Affirmation of Faith (The Confession of 1967, inclusive language ed.)
God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer:
Let us pray. You created the world and all that is in it, O Lord, and declared “it is good.” Let the peoples praise you, O God;
Let all the peoples praise you.
You gather your people together, you equip us to join your work in making all things new, you lead your church with visions of your kingdom, and you lift up prophets who speak the truth. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
Let all the peoples praise you.
Sometimes your prophets are church leaders who wrote letters, sometimes your prophets speak from captivity, and sometimes your prophets are mothers seeking safety for your children (Romans 11; Isaiah 56; Matthew 15). Let the peoples praise you, O God;
Let all the peoples praise you.
Alongside the pleading mother of Matthew’s Gospel, we pray that all of your children who are in pain will know the comfort of your presence, that all of your children who are in harm’s way will know safety, that all of your children who are tired will find rest, and that all of your children who are anxious or afraid or uncertain will know your peace. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
Let all the peoples praise you.
There are people in this world who wield great influence and power, O Lord. Guide them in your way of peace, help them bring people together, help them make sure that our needs are met, that all who hunger are fed, that those without a place to live are sheltered, and that wars and fighting will cease. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
Let all the peoples praise you.

We ask all of this in faith, and in hope, and in love, and in the name of your son, the Prince of Peace who hears us and calls us, leads us and cares for us, and who teaches us to pray, saying,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering
Offertory *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Robert Hunter

***Doxology #606** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ,*
(Melody) *all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune*
God, whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**
Holy God, you tell us that “offerings will be accepted on your altar, for your house shall be called a house of prayer.” Thank you for all that you have given us. Continue to guide us as we dedicate these offerings and our lives to you.
Amen.

***Hymn #649** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *Go Down, Moses* arr. Roger Emerson

Thank you to April and Heather Dunlap for sharing their gifts of music and voice with us today!

WELCOME! We are glad you have joined us to worship God. If you are a visitor, we invite you to introduce yourself to our Elder of the Day, Al Sager, who will be available after worship.

The **LITURGIST** today is Dolores Battle with the Quinn Family; T. J., Lisa, Nora and Tommy as **GREETERS and USHERS** with Wil Weiss as HEAD USHER.

The **FLOWERS** on the communion table are given by Terrie Murray , in memory of Dick and Peggy Benson.

Please sign the **WELCOME PAD** as it makes its way down your row. If you are a visitor or have recently changed your address, please include this and any other information you wish to share.

Today we **WELCOME** Elder David Saintz

WE WELCOME KIDS IN WORSHIP as together we are the whole people of God and today all the children are staying in worship as our regular CE programming is done until September. Worship Bags are always available in the Reception Room at the CE table. The Nursery will be open, and the service will be live streamed, so if a Little One gets restless, a parent may take them there to play and still see the service.

THREE WAYS TO WORSHIP! In Person, live streamed at 9:30 a.m. on Facebook and then the service (which is being recorded as we worship in person) will be available beginning Sunday afternoons on the OPPC You Tube channel which can be accessed directly from YouTube or our webpage: www.oppchurch.org. Please be aware that the worship service is being recorded as well as live streamed and will be broadcast via the internet.

The **PRAYER BOARD** is located in the Reception Room at the name tag table. You are invited to use a slip of paper to write or draw your prayer and clip it to the board. The Prayer Board will be brought into worship; however, the prayers will not be read aloud or shared. This is a unique and special opportunity for children and adults to be able to express their joys and/or concerns.

If you are in need of **PASTORAL CARE**, please contact Rev. Rachel Brown, Pastor at Hamburg Presbyterian Church. You can reach her directly at (716) 444-7333. **PRAYER REQUESTS** can be submitted to the office. Please remember that our worship service is livestreamed, so discretion should be used when sharing requests involving others.

Today is **SANDWICH SUNDAY**. Thank you for bringing your individually wrapped sandwiches to worship with you and dropping them at the table by The Welcome Center. They will be delivered to St. Luke's after worship.

On Friday, **August 21**, OPPC will be serving the evening meal at **The Genesis Center**. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dolores Battle at battlede03@gmail.com.

HELP STOCK THE BLESSING BOX THIS SUMMER!

When doing your weekly shopping throughout the summer, please consider adding **peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, boxed cereal, pasta sauce, canned tuna** and **canned chicken** to your list for our Blessing Box! Children are off for the summer and our nonperishable foods are quickly disappearing! Place your donations in the bins marked "Blessing Box" so that our volunteers can stock the cabinet with the appropriate amount each day. Thanks for helping us with this valuable mission project that benefits our community all summer long.

GRAPEVINE DEADLINE is Wednesday, August 19 at 9:00 a.m. If you have an article for The Grapevine, please send it to Xanda Weiss at Xanda@oppchurch.org.

On **Saturday, August 29th**, the **Presbyterian Women of WNY Coordinating Team** will be presenting an introduction to the **bible study** for 2026-2027. The topic of the study is "United in Christ: Bound to Each Other". The gathering will be held in The Meeting Place from 10 AM to 12 PM. Refreshments will be served. Reservations are appreciated and can be made by calling Sue Sager at 716-662-9413. All women are welcome.

THE OFFERING is one way of many ways for us to respond to God. Monetary gifts to support the ministry of OPPC are greatly appreciated. **Secure online giving is now available. Scan the QR Code with your cell phone and you will be directed to our Online Giving Site. You can also give by Text as well: 844-980-1625, enter your dollar amount and hit enter.**

