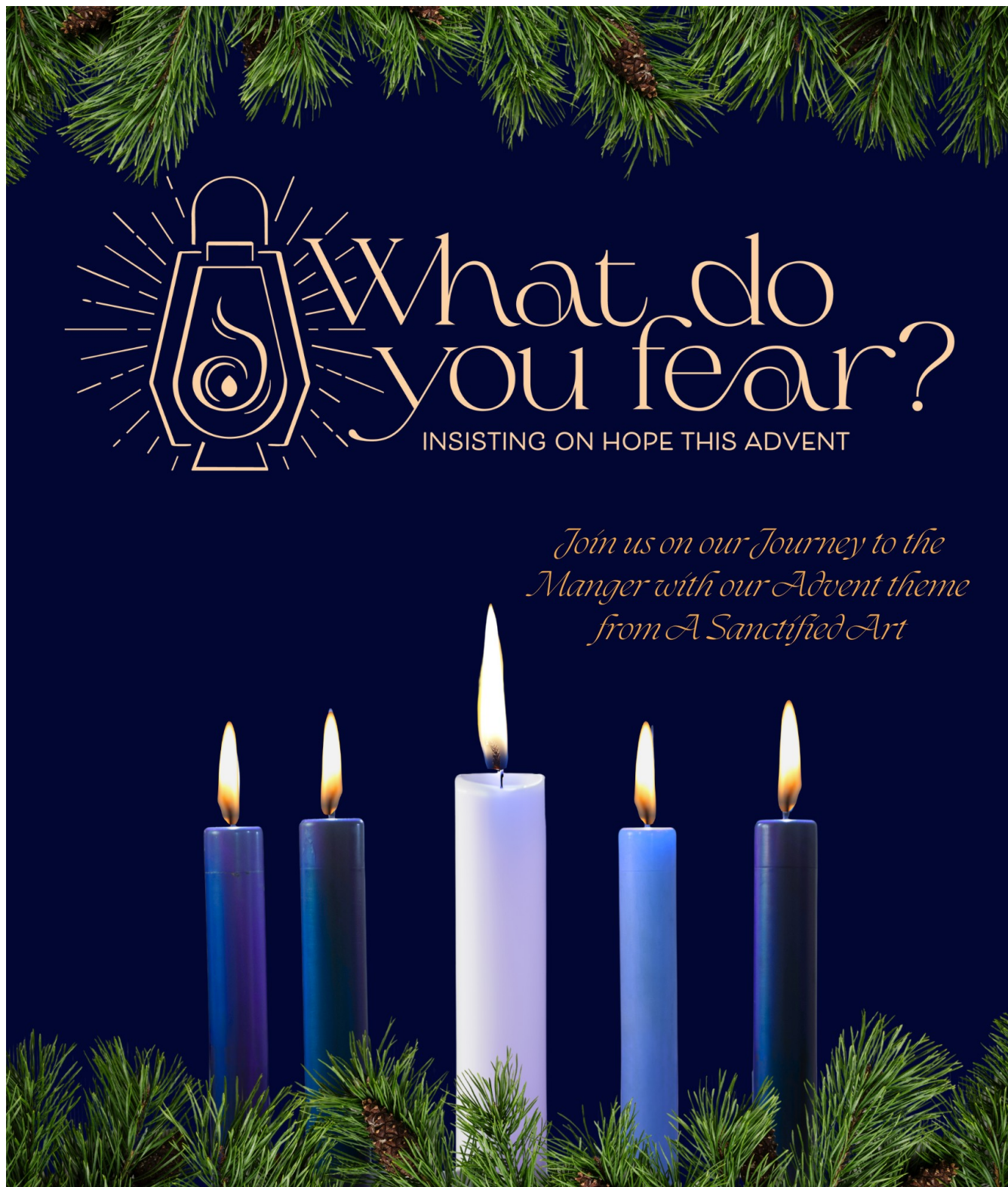


Newsletter of the Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

December 2025

January 2026 Issue

# The Grapevine



## "PASTOR'S CORNER"

### Advent: Waiting With Open Eyes

Advent always sneaks up on me. Every year I think I'm ready for it, but then December arrives with its rush, its noise, its expectations, and I realize how easy it is to drift through this season on autopilot. Advent is meant to slow us down, yet my life rarely cooperates. Maybe that's why I find myself returning to it with such hunger. I need this season. I need that pause. I need that promise.

Advent is a journey toward the light, but it begins in the dark. Not a frightening darkness - more like the quiet hush before dawn. It gives us permission to be honest about what weighs on our hearts. Advent invites us to bring that heaviness into a sacred space and trust that God is already at work in places we cannot yet see.

This season teaches me something every year: hope isn't a passive wish. Hope is active waiting. It's choosing to believe that God is moving even when the night feels long. It's lighting candles one by one and allowing their small flames to shape our courage.

I'm learning to approach Advent with open eyes. To look for grace in ordinary encounters. To welcome quiet moments as gifts. To let prayer soften what has grown rigid in me. And to remember that Christ comes to us gently - often in ways that look like humility, hospitality, and compassion.

My prayer for this Advent is simple: that we won't rush past the sacred in our search for the spectacular. May we slow down. May we watch for God's nearness. And may the coming light find us ready to receive it.

*Pastor Hughes*



## A Special Christmas Something

A Special Christmas Something returns on **Sunday, December 21** at the single service at 10:30am. The Littles and Bigs will be leading worship and will share the Nativity Story in their usual delightful fashion. There are no "sneak previews" available so plan to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to ask friends and neighbors with kiddos to attend.

Cookie Reception after worship!



## FROM THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Another year is winding down. For many of us year-end is a time of speculation and wonderment, of uncertainty and apprehension. Especially so as we consider events that have preceded the present moment: changes in the way our society functions; the questioning of principles that have shaped relationships, personal, social, national, and international, for decades; assumptions we have held as permanent seem to be shaken.



Yet we hold onto the conviction that God is in control - that human will and intention do not dictate the final outcome. We look once again to a manger and a babe, shepherds and angels, Magi from the East following a star.

This bit of verse by Wendell Berry in his collection of poems entitled *Sabbath*, sets a tone of anticipation and wonderment:

*A child unborn, the coming year  
Grows big within us, dangerous,  
And yet we hunger as we fear  
For its increase: the blunted bud  
To free the leaf to have its day,  
The unborn to be born.....*

(Wendell Berry, *Sabbaths*, North Point Press, 1987)

A blessed New Year to all!

*Rev. Allyn Foster*

## Christmas Services at OPPC

### *A Special Christmas Something*

December 21, 10:30am

One Service

### *Journey to the Manger*

December 24, 4pm

Outdoor Service,

Weather permitting

### *Candlelight Christmas Eve*

December 24, 10pm

Live Music begins at 9:30pm

Communion

*Lessons & Carols* ~ December 28, 10:30am ~ One Service

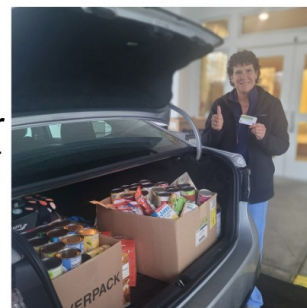


# MISSION MATTERS

The Mission Ministry Team allocated \$1,000.00 for **Friends of Kenya Rising** Family Care Model which is a holistic approach to assisting families as they rise out of poverty. The five guiding stars which symbolize their approach represent Education & Scholarships, Basic Needs, Health, Agriculture and Livelihoods.



**The Blessing Box** has lots of folks dropping off goods that don't necessarily work with the parameters the Mission Ministry Team set. The good news is that **The Genesis Center** and **Bread of Life Outreach Center** are always happy to take the items we cannot fit in our pantry. The new Director at BOLO, Cathy Geist (pictured right), was thrilled to get the food we cannot possibly move and we are thrilled to have space for the basics we stock.



Additionally, one of the caterers who use our space, Violet from **V Well Nutrition**, made a huge donation of the items we DO stock! Working together to keep the local community fed is a beautiful thing indeed!



Pictured to the left are the students from **South Davis Elementary** prior to the drop off at the church of an epic amount of Blessing Box necessities!

**Thank you to all of our amazing Blessing Box supporters!!!**



## THE GENESIS CENTER

OPPC serves the meal at **The Genesis Center** the third Friday of every month. This is a great opportunity for folks to engage with the South Buffalo community by providing a hot meal direct to folks at the table. Chef Marty and his crew make fantastic food and there is a lot of laughter and love in the air. OPPC serves the meal again on Friday, December 19. Contact Linda Babcock at [lindab@oppchurch.org](mailto:lindab@oppchurch.org) if you are interested in volunteering from 3:45 - 6pm.



**SANDWICH SUNDAY** is the **THIRD SUNDAY** of the month and individually wrapped sandwiches of any kind are most welcome at the Good Shepherd House which feeds the hungry when they show up at the door. The congregation brought in 96 for the November Sandwich Sunday. The next two dates are **DECEMBER 21** and **JANUARY 18**.

**POINSETTIAS** will decorate the Sanctuary for **Christmas Eve**. If you wish to order a plant in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out an envelope, available at the Welcome Center and specify the number, color of red, white or pink and how you would like your dedication to read. The deadline for orders is **Friday, December 5**. The cost is \$10.00 per plant.



### WORSHIP NOTES

As we enter this holy season of Advent and Christmas, we rejoice in the coming of Christ – the light of the world breaking into our darkness with hope, peace, joy, and love. This is a time of anticipation and celebration, and we invite you to join us in worship as we mark these sacred days together. We will hold several special worship services this month:

**December 21 – *A Special Christmas Something***, a single worship service led by the children of OPPC, beginning at 10:30am.

**December 24 – *Christmas Eve Services***

***Journey to the Manager***, an outdoor service designed to be welcoming to all ages, especially young children, beginning at 4pm.

***Candlelight Service***, a traditional Christmas Eve communion service, with live music beginning at 9:30pm, followed by worship at 10pm.

**December 28 – *Lessons and Carols***, a single service of scripture and song, at 10:30am.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas season and a joyful start to the new year!

## Music In December

AT ORCHARD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADVENT CHORALE

Handel's Messiah

FRI. DEC 5, 7PM

BUFFALO GAY MEN'S CHORUS  
NICKEL CITY TREBLE MAKERS

Joyful and Triumphant

SAT. DEC 6, 2PM

BUFFALO BELLS

Ring We Now  
of Christmas

WED. DEC 10, 7PM

OP CHORALE

Sing, Joyfully

SUN. DEC 14, 4PM

OPPC SANCTUARY CHOIR  
& GUESTS

Ceremony of Candles

Cantata

FRI. DEC 19, 7PM

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR TICKET INFO FOR EACH GROUP



Jim and Meredith accepted their much-deserved award from Orchard Park Village Mayor JoAnn Litwin surrounded by family and friends from OPPC.



## Credit Where Credit Is Due

**ORCHARD PARK**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Has Recognized  
JIM AND MEREDITH WILSON  
for Their Outstanding  
Community Service with Its  
2025 POST OF FAME AWARD**

Longtime OPPC members Jim and Meredith Wilson were honored by the Chamber on Thursday, November 6th at its annual *Business Bash & Awards Ceremony*, in grateful acknowledgment of the many years and diverse ways the couple has so generously given of their time and talents for the betterment of our community. (But it's not like they have to tell us that.) Congratulations, Jim and Meredith, and thanks!





*Sympathy is extended to the McCall family  
and friends on the death of  
Mary McCall  
on November 5, 2025. Her memorial service  
was held on November 14 at Fox Run.*

## Adult Education: Sermon Discussion

Each Sunday we will view a recording of the previous week's sermon, then we will discuss it. The discussions are not cumulative, so each session is self-contained; come when you can, don't worry about missing any. We'll start by discussing the sermon from the prior Sunday but we can take requests as well. Classes will be held in The Meeting Place at 9:15am and run about forty-five minutes. Dave Brummer will be facilitating the discussions. Contact Dave [dgbrummer@gmail.com](mailto:dgbrummer@gmail.com) if there are any questions. Hope to see you there!



## FAITH FORMATION

Church School, Pray & Play and the Staffed Nursery takes a break on the following Sundays:  
November 30  
December 28



## Family Faith & Food *Epiphany Celebration* Sunday, January 4, 9:30am Fellowship Hall

Families with kids of all ages are invited to a delicious breakfast as we begin the second half of the program year.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November 30</b> <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Giving Tree</b>  8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Ed-TMP 10:30a Worship 3p Girl Scouts-UC	<b>December 1</b> 5p Kids Cooking Class-FHK 7p OP Chorale-S 7p Theology on Tap-Fathey Beer Co. 7p Co-Op Board-TMP	<b>December 2</b> 9a TWT 9:30a COM-TMP 7p Advent Chorale-S	<b>December 3</b> 10a Staff 10a Mission Workshop 11a Friendship Circle Luncheon-RR 6p Bell Choir-S 6:30p Disciple Bible-CR 6:30p One Light Many Paths Book Club-TMP 7p Choir-CH	<b>December 4</b> 6p Advent Chorale Rehearsal-S 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<b>December 5</b> 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR 7p Handel's Messiah-RR/S	<b>December 6</b> 10:15a Daisy Troop-Ed Wing 2p Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus-S
<b>December 7</b> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Giving Tree</b>  8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Ed-TMP 9:30 Church School 10:30a Worship 11a Worship MT-CR 3p Girl Scouts	<b>December 8</b> 5p Kids Cooking Class-FHK 7p OP Chorale-S 7p Property MT-CR	<b>December 9</b> 9a TWT 6:30p A&F MT-CR	<b>December 10</b> 10a Staff 10a Mission Workshop 9a Buffalo Bells Set Up- 7p Buffalo Bells Concert-S	<b>December 11</b> 3p Fox Run Service 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal-S 6p Quaker Quilters BOD-RR 7p Quaker Quilters-RR 7p Choir Rehearsal-CH 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<b>December 12</b> 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<b>December 13</b> 1p Quaker Arts Music Program-S
<b>December 14</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Giving Tree</b>  8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Ed-TMP 9:30 Church School 10:30a Worship 3p Girl Scouts 4p OP Chorale Concert-S	<b>December 15</b> 5p Kids Cooking Class-FHK 7p Theology on Tap-Fathey Beer Co.	<b>December 16</b> 9a TWT	<b>December 17</b> 10a Staff 10a Mission Workshop 6p Bell Choir-S 6:30p Disciple Bible-CR 6:30p One Light Many Paths Book Club-TMP 7p Choir-CH	<b>December 18</b> 12p Restorative Yoga-IIR/TMP 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<b>December 19</b> 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 3:30p Genesis Center 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR 7p Ceremony of Candles Cantata-S	<b>December 20</b> 10:15a Daisy Troop-Ed Wing 1p Miss Sarah Piano Recital-S
<b>December 21</b> <b>A Special Christmas</b> <b>Something</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Sandwich Sunday</b>  10:30a Worship	<b>December 22</b>	<b>December 23</b> 9a TWT	<b>December 24</b> 4p Journey to the Manger-Outdoor Service, weather permitting 9:30p Live Music-S 10p Candlelight Christmas Eve Service-S	<b>December 25</b> <i>Christmas Day—Office Closed</i>  7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<b>December 26</b> <i>Christmas—Office Closed</i>  5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<b>December 27</b>
<b>December 28</b> <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b>  10:30a Worship	<b>December 29</b>	<b>December 30</b> 9a TWT	<b>December 31</b> 10a Staff 10a Mission Workshop 6p Bell Choir-S 7p Choir-CR	<b>January 1</b> 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<b>January 2</b> 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<b>January 3</b>

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December 28</b> <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b>  10:30a Worship	<b>December 29</b>	<b>December 30</b>  9a TWT	<b>December 31</b>  10a Staff 10a Mission Workshop 6p Bell Choir-S 7p Choir-CH	<b>January 1</b>  7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<b>January 2</b>  10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<b>January 3</b>
<b>January 4</b>  8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Ed-TMP 9:30a Family, Faith & Food-FH 10:30a Worship	<b>January 5</b>  1p PWCT-TMP 7p Theology on Tap-Fathey Beer Co. 7p Co-Op Board-TMP	<b>January 6</b>  9a TWT 9:30a COM-TMP	<b>January 7</b>  10a Staff 10a Mission Workshop 10a Friendship Circle-IIR 6p Bell Choir-S 6:30p Disciple Bible-CR 6:30p One Light Many Paths Book Group-TMP 7p Choir-CH	<b>January 8</b>  1p UpBeet Cooking-FHK 3p Fox Run Service 6p Quaker Quilters BOD-RR 7p Quaker Quilters-RR 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<b>January 9</b>  10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<b>January 10</b>  10:15a Daisy Troop-Ed Wing
<b>January 11</b>  8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Ed-TMP 9:30a Church School 10:30a Worship	<b>January 12</b>  5:45p OP Chorale BOD-CR 7p OP Chorale-S 7p MDO Board-TMP 7p Property MT-IIR	<b>January 13</b>  9a TWT 10:30a PEO-TMP 1p Communications Committee-CR 6:30p A&F-CR	<b>January 14</b>  10a Staff 10a Mission Workshop 6p Bell Choir-S 6:30p Disciple Bible-CR 7p Choir-CH 7:15p Mission MT-TMP	<b>January 15</b>  1p UpBeet Cooking-FHK 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<b>January 16</b>  10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 3:30p Genesis Center 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<b>January 17</b>
<b>January 18</b> <b>Sandwich Sunday</b>  8:30a Worship 9:30a Church School 10:30a Worship 3p Girl Scouts-UC	<b>January 19</b> <b>MLK Jr. Day—Office Closed</b>  7p Theology on Tap-Fathey Beer Co.	<b>January 20</b>  9a TWT 7p OPPC Book Group-IIR	<b>January 21</b>  10a Staff 10a Mission Workshop 6p Bell Choir-S 6:30p Disciple Bible-CR 6:30p One Light Many Paths Book Group-TMP 7p Choir-CH	<b>January 22</b>  1p UpBeet Cooking-FHK 3p Fox Run Service 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<b>January 23</b>  10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<b>January 24</b>  9a Co-Op Midyear Classroom Clean Up 10:15a Daisy Troop-Ed Wing 1p Presbyterian Women Winter Program-RR 6p Alex Hamilton Organ Concert-S
<b>January 25</b>  8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Ed-TMP 9:30a Church School 10:30a Worship	<b>January 26</b>  6:30p Deacons-IIR 6:30p Ministry Team Leader Meeting-TMP 7p Session-TMP 7p OP Chorale-S	<b>January 27</b> <b>Grapevine Deadline</b>  9a TWT	<b>January 28</b>  10a Staff 10a Mission Workshop 6p Bell Choir-S 6:30p Disciple Bible-CR 7p Choir-CH	<b>January 29</b>  1p UpBeet Cooking-FHK 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<b>January 30</b>  10a Grapevine Mailing-CR 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<b>January 31</b>  10a Co-Op Open House

**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**



## Quarter Notes

On Friday, December 19 at 7pm in the OPPC sanctuary, our choir in combination with singers from St. Mark's Episcopal Church, St. Matthias' Episcopal Church of East Aurora, First Presbyterian Church of Warren, PA, and First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora will present Joseph Martin's **Ceremony of Candles**. The forty-voice choir will be directed by Barry Dietsch and accompanied by Heather Dietsch. Pastor Wylie Hughes will narrate and Mary Brummer will play the flute. Please make this beautiful, moving, forty-minute cantata part of your Christmas celebration. There is no charge for the concert which will be followed by a Christmas cookie and coffee reception at the church.

Our church musicians also hope you will celebrate Christmas Eve with us at a 9:30pm concert in the sanctuary followed by the 10pm Christmas Eve candlelight service. The concert will feature soloists, ensembles, instrumentalists, as well as our choir and handbell choir. Please join us for this evening of music and worship!

Join the OPPC Sanctuary choir and guests for a  
night filled with music

# ***Ceremony of Candles***

A Cantata for Advent and Christmas  
By Joseph M. Martin

**December 19, 7pm**  
Orchard Park Presbyterian Church  
Free Admission  
Free Will Donation to benefit Family Promise

Cookie Reception to Follow

### **It Takes Two to Tango—How about Three?**

At 6pm on Saturday, January 24, 2026, Alex Hamilton will present an organ recital in the Sanctuary featuring the **"Six Trio Sonatas for Organ"** by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Mostly written in the early 1720s, these centuries-old pieces formed the cornerstone for the keyboard and composition education of J.S. Bach's son, Wilhelm Friedemann, a renowned organist and composer in his own right. In this collection, the organ takes on the role of a chamber ensemble rather than a room-shaking orchestra, and the delicate 3-part texture crisply defines each melodic line with colorful stop combinations. For this reason, the Trio Sonatas remain a fresh and innovative staple of the repertoire over three hundred years later.

Come hear why generations of organists and their employers found this music so irresistible. Light refreshments will be provided following the program.





**Mission Workshop's Fall Bazaar** enjoyed their 26th year of this sale that is used to fund their ministry throughout the rest of the year. They sold over 300 items for just over **\$1,300.00**.

Lora Grinder, founder of The Workshop encourages anyone with a gift for making handcrafted items such as knitting, crocheting, paper crafting (the list is endless really) to join in on Wednesdays at 10am in The Meeting Place. Bring your current project and see what others are working on and share some warm laughter together. If you'd like more information, please contact the church office.



We were delighted to have Allison Hyde, Co-Founder and Mary Klaus, Board Member from **Friends of Kenya Rising** join in the fun of the Fall Bazaar. OPPC has long supported the mission of FKR and the Littles love to stuff those adorable bears that Mary sews!



Thank you to the many volunteers who made the weekend joyful and thanks to those who shopped with a purpose (including 3 generations of Putnam's!).

The **Deadline for the February Grapevine** is Tuesday, January 27 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.



## Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team

will meet on  
**Monday, January 5, 1pm**  
in The Meeting Place.

## Powerful Tools FOR Caregivers

An evidence-based program to support caregiver wellbeing

Classes to help you enhance your self-care while supporting a loved one, whether at home or afar. This course is designed specifically for family caregivers like you!

This six-week class series gives you the confidence and support to better care for your loved one – and yourself. The classes give caregivers tools to help:

- Reduce stress
- Improve self confidence
- Manage time, set goals, solve problems, communicate your feelings
- Make tough decisions
- Locate helpful resources

Participants will receive *The Caregiver Helpbook*, which follows the curriculum and provides additional tools to address specific caregiver issues. The New York State Caregiving & Respite Coalition provides this class at no charge to New York State residents.

Date(s): Every Wednesday, Jan. 14 - Feb. 18, 2026

Time: 1 - 2:30 PM

Location: Virtual

Contact: Rebecca at 585-645-4572

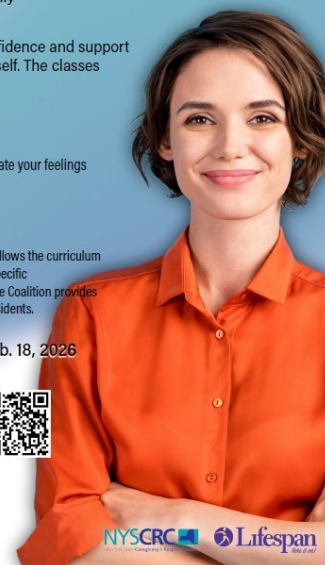
Register: [NYSRCR.ORG/EVENTS](https://nyscrg.org/events)

Please register by January 2



Powerful Tools for Caregivers is owned and managed by Iowa State University of Science and Technology.

NYSRCR Lifespan



## Session

Session met on Monday, November 24 at 7pm.

A copy of the minutes of this meeting may be requested from Christine Cotton ([christine@oppchurch.org](mailto:christine@oppchurch.org)).

The Session will not meet in December. The next meeting will be Monday, January 26.

**TUESDAYS  
WITH TOOLS**

**Tuesdays  
9am—Noon**

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

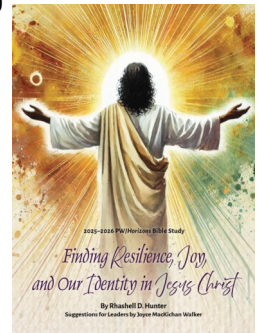


## PW Winter Program Saturday, January 24, 2026

Please come and enjoy a delicious "Dessert Buffet" while Rachelle Moyer Francis, a retired Orchard Park teacher, presents **"Roughing it with the Rich Folks: Great Camps of the Adirondacks"** Rachelle, a former staff member at Great Camp Sagamore, will speak about the rustic camps built at the turn of the century by William West Durant and others. The program will be held at 1pm in the Reception Room. The cost of the event is \$3. Reservations are appreciated and can be made on January 4, 11 and 18 at the table near the church office or by calling Sue Sager. We hope to see you there!

Friendship Circle will gather for a Christmas luncheon on **Wednesday, December 3** at 11am in the Reception Room. Please bring a dish to share.

Friendship Circle will meet on **Wednesday, January 7 at 10am in the Irene Irving Room.** Ladies, you are cordially invited to join us for fellowship and Bible study. Lesson Four of **Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ** will be discussed. For more information, please call Barbara Roberts or Sue Sager.



# THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY SING ALONG

## A COMMUNITY SINGS

On November 14, OPPC hosted a free Thanksgiving Community Singalong featuring the Sunnyside String Band with special guest, noted fiddler Heather Pennington. The band played old-time Gospel and bluegrass tunes, and the audience sang along with the lyrics projected on the Sanctuary screen. Everyone had a chance to mingle at intermission, sipping hot spiced cider and snacking on cookies while the band members and audience became acquainted.



**SUNNYSIDE STRING BAND**  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**HEATHER PENNINGTON**



A free will offering from the evening will benefit OPPC's blessing box and the Troublesome Creek Luthery School in Appalachia – a nonprofit organization that helps people recovering from opioid addiction through the crafting of stringed musical instruments. The Singalong was a special evening of beloved tunes, good friends, and heartfelt song.





# OPPC Book Group Presents

*Wayward Girls* by Susan Wiggs

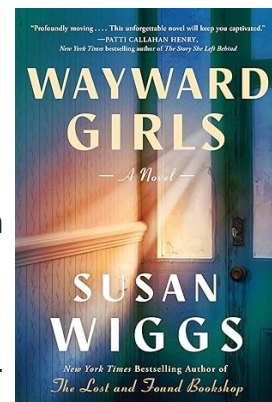
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 7pm in the Irene Irving Room

After a holiday break in December, our book group returns with Susan Wiggs' latest novel, her best yet, set in Buffalo, NY in 1968. Meticulous research included the help of the librarian of the Buffalo History Museum, the Facebook group called "Buffalore," and many others. The characters are fictional but the Home of the Good Shepherd, 485 Best Street in Buffalo, was a real place, an industrial laundry and Catholic reform school controlled by the Sisters of Charity. It operated as a home for girls from the 1880s to the 1970s.

The story centers on eight girls sent to the Home by their parents or the legal system for various reasons. When they meet, they are strangers, but become close friends as they endure the slave labor and abuse. In the author's skilled writing, the girls come to life, and they will reside in your heart long after the last life-affirming page. It's a tale of hope, survival, redemption and justice.

Have you heard of St. Apollonia, patron saint of dentistry? Do you remember the summer of 1969, when Niagara Falls went dry for months? Wiggs continues the girls' stories over more than 50 years, saying "with the emotional payoff and triumphant resolution my readers deserve."

Please join us as we discuss this page-turner. All are welcome, and bring friends!





# Our Church Just Isn't Complete Without u.



## And Our Updated 2026 OPPC Pictorial Directory Won't Be Either Unless **Your Photo** Is in It!



New members join. Families and kids get bigger. And the rest of us get better looking every day. (Just go with us on this, OK?) So obviously it's time we updated OPPC's Pictorial Directory. That's why we're **setting up appointments** to take fresh shots of all the members of our faith community to be included in a 2026 edition to be distributed right after the first of the year. All you have to do is **1: Contact OPPC's office (716-662-9348)** to make sure your currently-listed information is correct, and **2: Sign up in our Welcome Center** for a photo appointment. If you have questions, call **Doug Carpenter (716-206-4753)**.

### DIRECTORY CHANGES

**RODEMS, Mike & Claudia**  
858 Luther Road  
East Aurora, NY 14052



The Church will be closed on **December 25 & December 26** for Christmas, **January 1** for New Year's Day and **January 19** for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



What do you fear?

## A Blessing for the Advent Series

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands.

May you choose courage whenever you can.

And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear.

In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with us;  
go in peace and be not afraid. Amen.





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.*



# ***The Giving Tree***

**November 30**  
**December 7**  
**December 14**



***Tags for items and gift cards  
will be available on the tree  
in the Reception Room  
starting November 30  
or scan the QR Code to donate.***

