



The Grapevine



LENT

— 2024 —

**Wednesday
Lenten Supper Series**

*Spiritual
Practices*

Wednesday
March 6
6:00-7:15 p.m.

EXPLORE

Wednesday
March 13
6:00-7:15 p.m.

SERVE

Wednesday
March 20
6:00-7:15 p.m.

REFLECT

— See the Article Inside for Full Details —

"PASTOR'S CORNER"

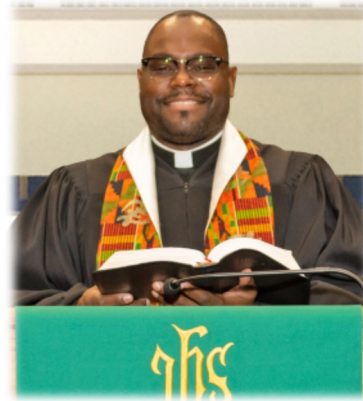
The True Fast: Lessons from Isaiah

Lent is all about sacrificing the things in our lives that separate us from God. And one of the most meaningful ways we do this is through the practice of fasting.

In Isaiah 58, we encounter a profound understanding of fasting, one that transcends mere abstention from food. The "true fast" is characterized by actions that reflect God's heart: loosening the bonds of injustice, setting the oppressed free, sharing with the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. It emphasizes not only individual devotion but communal responsibility—a call to dismantle systems of oppression and alleviate the suffering of others. This timeless challenge, forces us to examine the true nature of our spiritual practices—are they solely focused on personal salvation or do they extend to the restoration of our broken world?

The "true fast" beckons us to engage in acts of kindness, generosity, and advocacy, embodying the love and justice of God in tangible ways. In a world marred by inequality, injustice, and suffering, Isaiah reminds us that authentic spirituality demands active engagement in the pursuit of justice and mercy. May we heed the call to fast not only with our bodies but with our lives, striving to bring about a world where righteousness and peace embrace, and where the light of God's love shines brightly for all to see.

Pastor Hughes



Thank you to those who braved the blustery winter day in February to bring 50 sandwiches for St. Luke's. Thanks to Simon, Ryan and Clara for collecting and delivering them to our friend Dudley from Hamburg PC for the final drop off!

The next Sandwich Sunday is March 17.

BEDECK THE SANCTUARY WITH EASTER FLOWERS!

When it is time to celebrate the Resurrection, Easter flowers in the Sanctuary add to the joy. Please consider providing flowers in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones for Easter. Beautiful white lilies, pink hyacinths, and yellow tulips will be ordered from Lockwood's Nursery. You may place your order by filling out an order envelope at the Welcome Center, enclosing a check or cash in the envelope, and delivering the envelope to Christine in the church office.

The plants cost \$10 each, and the deadline for flower orders is March 18.





Wednesday Lenten Supper Series

March 6 ~ March 13 ~ March 20

6pm ~ Meal

Simple meal of chili/soup, bread & beverage
\$5 per person suggested donation ~ kids are free

6:45 – 7:15 program

One can "Give Up" or "Take Up" something for Lent.

This Supper Series provides the opportunity to do both!

Rev. Dr. Langdon Hubbard will be our guest speaker on **March 6**, when he will present an overview of Spiritual Practices. "Pastor Buddy" has recently retired from the East Aurora Presbyterian Church. He has led workshops and courses on Spiritual Practices, and is in the process of writing a book, *Living a Life of Constant Prayer*. He will be sharing several Spiritual Practices that participants will be able to use throughout the remainder of Lent and beyond.

On **March 13**, Linda Babcock will lead us in further study with more hands-on practices, including Service to Others.

Pastor Hughes will conclude the series on **March 20**, with a guided experience in the practice of Meditation.

Almsgiving is a practice of generosity that Christians have long used to share resources with others. A basket in the Reception Room will be available for Supper Series participants to practice almsgiving with a donation to the **World Food Program USA**, which has been providing families with urgently-needed food assistance in Gaza, Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, and Haiti. Approximately 90 percent of Gaza's population has been displaced, and the World Food Program has provided food and cash to more than 1 million people in the region since the humanitarian crisis began. This organization has received a 4-star rating with Charity Navigator.

~ Please sign up at the Welcome Center or on the Constant Contact ~

Shrove Tuesday 2024

On Tuesday, February 13, members of the Worship Team gathered for food, fellowship and the burning of palms. The Team saved palms from last year's Palm Sunday service to be used for this year's Ash Wednesday service. The palms quickly ignited, delighting the observant team. Wine and charcuterie were enjoyed and all eyebrows were kept.
A new tradition is born!



Musings from the Music Director

The Lenten Season at OPPC is a busy time of year for musical events. With a wide range of musical genres in our worship for March, this Lent will be a truly special time for reflection and spiritual centering.

Many thanks to our vocalists and musicians who helped put on our **2/25 Celebration of African-American Music**. Our participants were elated to perform such a diverse mix of traditional choral, gospel, and spirituals-based works. Look for the feature article in this month's newsletter for more details and pictures from the event!

On **March 9, 2024 at 1pm** OPPC will host its second concert event in the new *Synesthesia* series, seeking to combine music with other artistic media, sensory experiences, and casual community fellowship. This installment will feature harpsichord music. Artist **Samantha Domagala** will be painting during the event. This series encourages free community gathering and socialization around a common interest in music and a live visual artist. See the dedicated article in this month's newsletter for more details!

Our Sanctuary Choir was invited to participate at the Good Friday Tenebrae service on **March 29, 2024 at 7pm** at Nativity of Our Lord Parish. Musical contributions from Orchard Park Presbyterian, St. Mark's Episcopal, and Nativity will make this service a special contemplative evening of meditation. This marks the first time Nativity's Tenebrae service has been able to fully involve community musical collaboration since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, so we are happy to get the chance to make music together again.

Easter Sunday (3/31) will feature **Lindsey Roth** on trumpet with the choir's anthems.

Many thanks to the congregation's continued support of our musical endeavors at OPPC.

Keep making music,
Alex Hamilton



Tackling Hunger a Dollar and a Can of Soup at a Time!



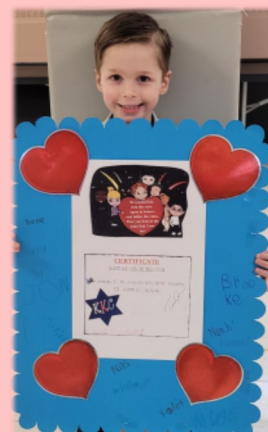
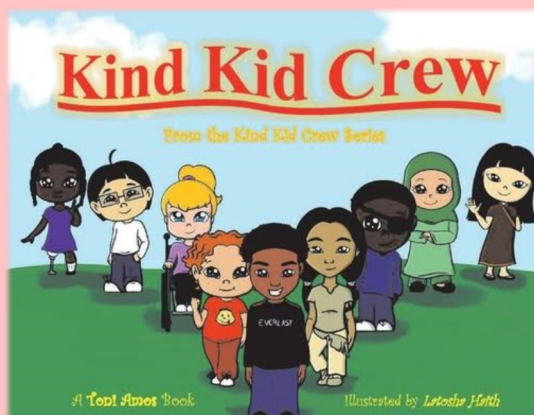
**Once More, Our Church's
Dedicated Youth
Carried a Longtime
OPPC Tradition in
for the Score...**



**Collecting 84
Cans of Soup and
\$330 for Donation
to St. Luke's
Mission of Mercy**



A Special Valentine's Day Family, Faith & Food



Good food and smiles abound and a special certificate was signed inducting all of our littles in the Kind Kid Crew!



WORSHIP NOTES

FOLLOWING THE LENTEN PATH TO EASTER

The somber season of Lent continues through March, and culminates in the resurrection celebration of Easter on the last day of the month. Try out some spiritual practices on Wednesday evenings (at the Lenten Supper Series) to prepare for the remembrance of Jesus' last days, and the glory of his triumph over death. Worship services are offered Sundays at 8:30 am with Communion, and 10:30 am with choir. Special Holy Week services are included below:

- March 3: Third Sunday of Lent. Communion by Modified Intinction. Pastor preaches.
- March 10: Fourth Sunday of Lent. Daylight Savings Time begins. Pastor preaches.
- March 17: Fifth Sunday of Lent. Pastor preaches. Worship Assistants Training.
- March 24: **Palm Sunday**. Rev. Foster preaches.
- March 28: **Maundy Thursday** service at 7pm with Modified Intinction.
- March 29: **Good Friday** Community Tenebrae Service at Nativity of Our Lord Church, OP.
- March 31: **Easter Sunday** He is Risen! Pastor preaches.

See you in church!



**Mission
Workshop**
meets
Wednesdays
10am to
Noon
The Meeting Place

The **Deadline for the
April Grapevine**
is Tuesday, March 19 at 9am.
Please send any submissions to
Xanda at xanda@oppchurch.org.
If you would like to receive the
Grapevine by email, please reach out to
Xanda at the same email address.

The Church Office will be
closed on
Monday, April 1 in
observance of
Easter Monday.

Our **Deepest Sympathy** is extended to . . .

- † The Zielinski Family on the death of David Zielinski on January 23, 2024
- † The Hakes Family on the death of Jim Hakes on February 1, 2024
 - † The Venturo Family on the death of Valerie's mother,
Nancy Champlin on February 2, 2024
- † Ada Karaffa on the death of daughter, Gretchen in February
 - † Mary Hinnens and family on the death of Jack on February 9, 2024



We celebrate the life and ministry of these faithful members and friends, and
give thanks to God for their presence among us.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>March 3</u> 8:30a Worship 9:30a Education 10:30a Worship 11:30a Blood Pressure Screening-CR 1p Girl Scouts World Thinking Day-FH	<u>March 4</u> 1p Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team-TMP 5:45p OP Chorale BOD-CR 7p OP Chorale-S 7p Mission MT-CR 7p Co-Op Board-TMP	<u>March 5</u> 9a TWT	<u>March 6</u> 10a Friendship Circle-IIR 10a Staff-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 4:45p Bell Choir 6p Lenten Supper Series-RR 7p Choir	<u>March 7</u> 6p Quaker Quilters BOD-RR 7p Quaker Quilters-RR 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<u>March 8</u> 10:30a Music w/Miss Sarah-UC	<u>March 9</u> 1p Synesthesia Concert Series-RR
<u>March 10</u> Daylight Savings Time 8:30a Worship 9:30a Education 10:30a Worship 11:30a Property MT-CR	<u>March 11</u> 2p Worship MT-CR 7p OP Chorale-S 7p Membership MT-CR	<u>March 12</u> 9a TWT 11a PEO-TMP 6:30p A&F MT-CR 7p Christian Ed MT-IIR	<u>March 13</u> 10a Staff-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 4:45p Bell Choir 6p Lenten Supper Series-RR 7p Choir	<u>March 14</u> 3p Fox Run Service 6:15p Huppuch Bequest Committee-CR 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<u>March 15</u> 10:30a Music w/Miss Sarah-UC 3:30p Genesis Center	<u>March 16</u>
<u>March 17</u> Sandwich Sunday 8:30a Worship 9:15a Liturgist/Head Usher Training 9:30a Adult Education 9:30a Family, Faith & Food-FH 10:30a Worship 11:30a Liturgist/Head Usher Training	<u>March 18</u> Deadline for Flower Orders 7p MDO Board-MDO 7p OP Chorale-S 7p Deacons-TMP	<u>March 19</u> 9a TWT 9a Grapevine deadline 5:30p PEO-IIR 7p Book Group-TMP	<u>March 20</u> 10a Staff-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 4:45p Bell Choir 6p Lenten Supper Series-RR 7p Choir	<u>March 21</u> 6p Meditation for Peace-IIR 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<u>March 22</u> 9a Grapevine Mailing 10:30a Music w/Miss Sarah-UC	<u>March 23</u> 1p Presbyterian Women Spring Program-RR
<u>March 24</u> Palm Sunday 8:30a Worship 9:30a Education 10:30a Worship 7p Bach Concert	<u>March 25</u> 6:30p Ministry Team Leader Meeting-TMP 7p OP Chorale-S 7p Session-TMP	<u>March 26</u> 9a TWT	<u>March 27</u> 10a Staff-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 5:30p Bell Choir 6:30p Choir	<u>March 28</u> Maunday Thursday 3p Fox Run Service 7p Worship 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<u>March 29</u> Good Friday 10:30a Music w/Miss Sarah-UC 7p Tenebrae Service-Nativity of Our Lord Church	<u>March 30</u> 10a Easter Egg Hunt
<u>March 31</u> Easter Sunday 8:30a Worship 10:30a Worship	<u>April 1</u> Easter Monday Office Closed	<u>April 2</u> 9a TWT	<u>April 3</u> 10a Friendship Circle-IIR 10a Staff-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 5:30p Bell Choir 6:30p Choir	<u>April 4</u> 6p Quaker Quilters BOD-RR 7p Quaker Quilters-RR 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<u>April 5</u> 10:30a Music w/Miss Sarah-UC	<u>April 6</u>

Location Legend: S –Sanctuary; RR—Reception Room; LB—Library; CH—Choir Room
CR—Conference Room; IIR—Irene Irving Room; FH—Fellowship Hall; UC—Undercroft; MDO—Nursery; MG—Memorial Garden;
PW—Presbyterian Women; TMP—The Meeting Place

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

YOUTH IN SERVICE

Thank you to Mike, Gary, Dave and Jake, who, along with Mrs. B., served over 150 meals at OPPC's Third Friday at The Genesis Center.

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to serve from 3:30 -6:05pm on FRIDAY, MARCH 15.



TUESDAYS WITH TOOLS

9am—Noon

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

Secure online giving to OPPC
available with QR Code.
Your financial support of
OPPC is greatly appreciated!



Blessing Box News

We are grateful for the work of our Tuesdays With Tools friends (Jim Wilson, Mike Morrow, Roger Murphy and John Beyer) who have constructed additional shelves in the second Blessing Box pantry. Thanks also to Roger Murphy who has donated a unit to help with organizing donations. These closets hold the non-perishable food items donated to the OPPC Blessing Box feeding ministry. The items are used to replenish the pantry in the Blessing Box located in the church entrance. Volunteers stock the Blessing Box and the BB refrigerator daily, Monday through Friday.

Of course, the items donated need to be kept current. Janine Kroon has and continues to help with this by sorting and labeling the items by expiration date so that closer expiration/ use by dates are at the forefront to be used first. This project is a work in progress.

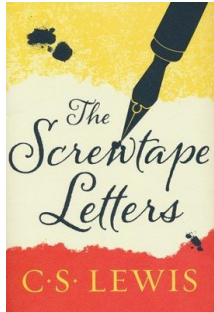
A friendly reminder that all food donations should be left in the bin in the Door B vestibule and not in the Blessing Box itself. This allows us to keep foods current and fresh.

Many thanks to all who make this feeding ministry function and assist those in need.



Your Blessing Box Team

*Liz Angelbeck, Robin Boyd, Deb Galloway,
Joy Kowalik (and Family), Janine Kroon, Sue Pfister, Judy Pilley,
Claudia Rodems and Lynda Somerville*



Adult Education

9:30am ~ The Conference Room

The Lenten Study of C.S. Lewis'

The Screwtape Letters continues through Lent.

If you have any questions or would like a copy of the book, please contact Dave Brummer at dgbrummer@gmail.com

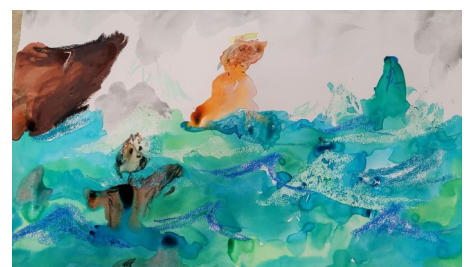
Learning to Be Like Peter

Pray & Play Littles built the story of Peter and Jesus walking on the water complete with salt and pond water (think Freeman Road pond!) AND...a flying car of course!



Violet with her own personal hug to remind her to be like Peter and even when life gets scary to keep her eyes on Jesus!

The Bigs and teachers painting the story of Peter walking on water



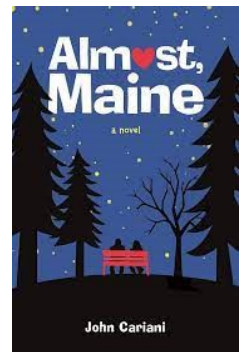


Friendship Circle will meet on **Wednesday, March 6 at 10am** in the Irene Irving Room. Ladies, you are cordially invited to join us for fellowship and Bible study. Lesson six of **Sacred Encounters** will be discussed. For more information, please call Barbara Roberts or Sue Sager.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S SPRING PROGRAM

Come join us on **Saturday, March 23** at **1pm** in the Reception Room, as our very own Alexandra Anderson and Xanda and Wil Weiss will present a few scenes from the play ***Almost, Maine***. The inhabitants of the fictional town of Almost will be portrayed "falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Hearts are broken. But bruises heal, and the hearts mend-*almost*- in this delightful midwinter night's dream."

Punch and snacks will be served and the cost of the program is \$3.00. Reservations are appreciated and can be made on March 3rd, 10th and 17th at the table in the hallway near the church office or by calling Sue Sager at 716-662-9413. We hope to see you there!



Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on **Monday, March 4, at 1pm** in The Meeting Place.



OPPC's 2nd Celebration of African American Music Raised Both Spirits and Awareness on Feb. 25...

Oh Happy Day!

...as Talented Performers from Across WNY Shared Their Amazing Musical Gifts



WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE – IN WORSHIP, TOO



Our Sunday Worship services are beautiful experiences of prayer, music, and Scripture. We come together as a community to give thanks and praise for all we have been given, and to ask God's help as we navigate life.

Our Worship services are made possible through the leadership of our ministers and the participation of the congregation. Please consider giving a little extra time in Worship by helping during the service. We will have a brief orientation meeting on **Sunday, March 17** after each Worship service to show those interested what is involved – and to enjoy some Saint Patrick's Day refreshments. Here are the different ways you can make a difference:

8:30 Helper: One Elder is needed to prepare the Communion elements and to help distribute them during Worship. Stow the Offering and clean up Communion service after Worship.

Head Usher: Instruct the Ushers and Liturgist on their assignments before the 10:30 service, and manage the Offering.

Liturgist: Represent the congregation at the Communion Table during 10:30 Worship, and assist the minister by leading prayers and reading Scripture as needed. On Communion Sundays, help to distribute Communion.

Usher/Greeter: Welcome your church community to Worship with a greeting by handing out bulletins before the 10:30 service begins, then help collect the Offering after the sermon. On Communion Sundays, Elders and Deacons may also serve Communion.

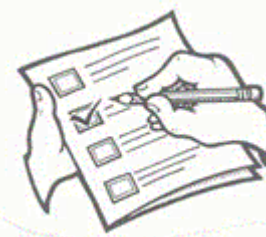
Communion Table Dresser: The liturgical year follows a specific cycle of colors used on the Communion Table, the lectern, and in the Reception Room. Would you like to be part of the team that applies the tablecloths? We would love to show you what we do!

Take your Worship experience to the next level of participation. It is easy, enjoyable, and much appreciated by your church community. If you cannot attend the March 17 gathering, but would like to help in Worship, please contact Mary Brummer at marybrummer200@gmail.com or notify the church office.



Annual Report

The Annual Report was distributed during our Congregational Meeting on February 11, 2024. For a copy of the Annual Report, call or stop by the church office.



Families with Children
of all ages are invited
to join us for the next
Family Faith & Food,
March 17 at 9:30am
in the Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP via the
Constant Contact

RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, April 26 and
Saturday, April 27



Donations and volunteers are needed! Please start setting aside your gently used items that you no longer want or need. Frequently in demand at the sale are household items, linens, toys, sporting goods, books, clothing and jewelry. Items may be dropped off in the hallway behind the Fellowship Hall stage starting in mid April. Dates and times will be listed in the April Grapevine. Helpers will be needed for the week of the Rummage Sale. Watch for opportunities to volunteer for this fun event!

Please – no televisions, computers, exercise equipment or shoes as these create a disposal problem.

If you have any questions, please call Sue Sager.

Synesthesia: A Collaboration of WNY Music, Art, and Community

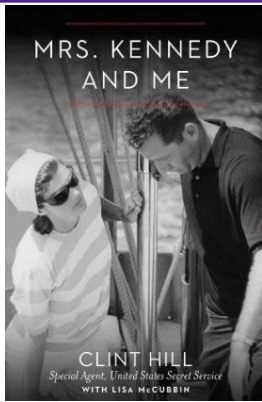
On **Saturday, March 9 at 1pm**, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church will host its second installment of its new concert series *Synesthesia: A Collaboration of WNY Music, Art, and Community*. After a successful kickoff to the series in December with a showcase of Baroque chamber music by Buffalo's *Royall Consort*, this next event will be presenting 17th-century music for keyboard and will be performed on a harpsichord tuned in meantone temperament, a distinctive keyboard tuning of the period. Programming features colorful chromatic works from North and South Germany that blend Baroque influences from Italy, France, and the Netherlands.

Highlighted composers include Johann Jakob Froberger, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, Johann Sebastian Bach, Matthias Weckmann, Johann Caspar Ferdinand Fischer, Johann Pachelbel, Dieterich Buxtehude, Samuel Scheidt, and Georg Böhm.

Samantha Domagala, a watercolor artist (The Roaming Buffalo Art) who specializes in Buffalo architecture and portraits, will be creating live work during the event, seated in view of the audience.

The event will be hosted in a coffee-house setting (warm homemade food provided) with open seating in OPPC's reception area for free movement during the event. A free-will offering will be collected before and after the program to support OPPC's musical events and collaborations.

Additional inquiries about this event and series may be directed to Alex Hamilton, OPPC Director of Music, at alex@oppchurch.org or (716) 662-9348.



OPPC Book Group Presents

***Mrs. Kennedy and Me* by Clint Hill**

Tuesday, March 19 at 7pm in The Meeting Place

For four years, from John Fitzgerald Kennedy's election in November 1960 until after the election of Lyndon Johnson in 1964, Clint Hill was the Secret Service agent assigned to guard the glamorous and intensely private Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy. Looking back after fifty years, Clint Hill tells his story, from starting life in a North Dakota orphanage to become the most trusted man in the life of the First Lady who captivated the nation and the world.

To celebrate **Women's History Month**, Jackie Kennedy's life during those four years is fascinating. She was treated like royalty all around the world, JFK's greatest asset, charming crowds of admirers, queens, kings, international presidents and the Pope. Her knowledge of world history and art, her grace, poise and fluency in French, Spanish and Italian made her beloved all around the world. Mrs. Kennedy rode a camel, an elephant, many horses, and received interesting gifts, including a pair of tiger cubs and a Pakistani horse name Sardar, who became her favorite when he was brought to the United States. Clint Hill was by her side for all of her travels and adventures, as well as family gatherings in Palm Beach, Hyannis Port and Camp David. JFK trusted him to protect her 24/7.

Including many photos and written in a conversational style, this is a memoir of joy, humor, and sadness. If you want more, Clint Hill wrote a follow-up book ten years later, ***My Travels with Mrs. Kennedy***, with even more photos and detailed stories.

Please join us to discuss this great First Lady at a crucial time in US history, and bring friends! All are welcome.

Contact barbarabadame8@gmail.com for more information or to be added to our email list.

Tuesday, April 16: *Her Hidden Genius* by Marie Benedict

Don't Miss OPPC's



and **Pizza PARTY**

Saturday, April 27th
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

— OPPC Reception Room —

We'll Have
Games Available
for All Ages

or
Bring Your Favorite
to Share!

It's a Great Chance to Introduce
Friends or Neighbors to OPPC!

Sign Up in the Welcome Center
or

Call 716-206-4753 for Details!

— Presented by the —
Hospitality-Fellowship Ministry Team



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

Forwarding Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Paid Postage
PERMIT # 39

*A thriving faith
community engaged in
compassionate service.*



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 24

8:30am & 10:30am

Maunday Thursday, March 28

7pm

Good Friday, March 29

Community Tenebrae Service

7pm, Nativity

Easter Sunday, March 31

8:30am & 10:30am



You're Cordially Invited to
HIPPITY HOP TO A FREE COMMUNITY

Easter egg hunt

Saturday, March 30th • 10:00 a.m.

— Rain or Shine —

**Orchard Park
Presbyterian Church
4369 South Buffalo Street**

Treat Bags for the Kids • Refreshments

**Bring the Whole Family and Invite Your
Friends and Neighbors. Everyone Welcome!**

