

Newsletter of the Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

October 2026 Issue



The Grapevine



*Join us for
2 special
services
in October*



*World Communion Sunday
October 4*



*Service of Remembrance
October 11*

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A Blessing from Pastor Mario

Nehemiah 8:10 and Psalm 118:24

DON'T LOSE YOUR JOY!

The joy of the Lord is my strength. Joy is serious because it is central to the very being of God. When you keep your joy, you allow God to handle your problems. Your joy is directly connected to your strength. Life is too short to live frustrated. *This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

KEEP YOUR JOY ALIVE!

Pastor Mario



Worship Notes

As we move deeper into the fall season, we are grateful to welcome **Rev. Ken Hughes** as our temporary pastor during this season of transition. Ken already has begun providing pastoral leadership and support to the congregation, and he will assume regular preaching responsibilities beginning with the **First Sunday of Advent (November 29)**. In the meantime, we will continue to be blessed by a variety of guest preachers and elders over the coming weeks.

On **October 4**, we will celebrate **World Communion Sunday**, joining with churches around the globe in sharing Communion as we remember that we are all part of the same body of Christ and that all are welcome at the Lord's Table. After the 10:30am service, please stay for a time of fellowship and enjoy an assortment of breads and spreads from cultures around the world.

On **October 11**, we will gather for our annual **Service of Remembrance**, a sacred time to give thanks for our loved ones who have passed. Through prayer, music, and the lighting of candles, we remember those who have shaped our lives and take comfort in the promise of Christ's resurrection.

Finally, on **October 25**, we invite everyone to participate in our semi-annual **Pray, Rake, Eat** event following the 10:30am service. After worship concludes, teams will head out to care for our church grounds and enjoy fellowship around a shared meal. As we work together, we'll be reminded that even simple acts of service can enrich our life together and reflect God's care for the world around us.

See you in church!

Directory Changes

For directory changes,
please contact Christine
Cotton in the Church office.
716-662-9348



WORLD *Communion* SUNDAY

Sunday, October 4

8:30am & 10:30am

Breads & Spreads following the 10:30am
service in the Reception Room

Celebrate our connection with Christians around
the world as we gather at Christ's open table.



Communion Table Flowers

We have open dates available on the
2026 Communion Table Flower
Calendar. The cost per arrangement is
\$50.00 and will be provided by
Expressions Florist. Please contact
Christine in the church office.

MISSION MATTERS



The Genesis Center

Join the group of OPPC volunteers the third Friday of the month from 3:45pm-6pm to serve a meal and show that you care for those in need at The Genesis Center, which is about 4 blocks from Mercy Hospital in South Buffalo.

For information about the Genesis Center, visit www.thegenesiscenter.us or contact Dolores Battle at Battlede03@gmail.com



Fall Dates

October 16

November 20

December 18



"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

-Mark 10:45

Join OPPC as we partner with Feed My Starving Children to pack meals for children and families in need!

Saturday, October 24
Two-hour shift — 9am-11am

Contact Ryan Kilpatrick at kilpatrick.32@outlook.com to sign up.



Thank you to everyone who brought sandwiches for St. Luke's in September. Thanks to Deb Galloway and Barbara Olandt from the Mission Ministry Team for staffing the table and delivering **86 sandwiches**.

The next SANDWICH SUNDAY
is OCTOBER 18.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who participated in our Blessing Box Food Drive!



Your generosity helps keep our Blessing Box stocked and ready to serve our neighbors in need. Thank you for continuing to support this ministry and helping us care for our community.

WE'RE ON THE HUNT FOR EGG CARTONS!

We have a generous donor providing eggs for the Blessing Box, and we need cartons to help distribute them. Please save your clean, empty egg cartons and bring them to church!



WANTED: Volunteer Shoppers!

Help Warm the Children to provide new, warm winter clothing to local children in need!

Volunteer shoppers are paired with families to shop for coats, sweaters, boots and other winter clothing at Walmart in Hamburg. Shopping times are flexible, with opportunities available mornings, afternoons, evenings and weekends. **Shopping begins in mid-October and runs through December 1.**

Want to help? Contact Liz Angelbeck to volunteer or learn more.



Church School

Follow the Son!

The Middles



The Littles



Pray & Play Nursery



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is back!

Youth in Grade 8 and up gather Thursday evenings for fun, fellowship, and faith. This year, they'll also take part in monthly service projects throughout the community.



There will be no church school on October 11.

Family, Faith and Food - October 18

Families with kids, be sure to RSVP with Christine for breakfast by October 15!

Prayers & Sympathy are extended to

Tanis Berry on the death of her sister, Michele

The Banas and Trampert families on the death of Phyllis Banas on September 11, 2026

The Day family on the death of Denise Hoffman-Day on September 18, 2026

Do You Know
What's at the **Heart**
of Every Successful
Church?

CHURCH

**There's a Ministry Team at OPPC
That Could Really Use Someone
Just Like **You**!**

Ministry Team Fair
Sunday, November 8th
After the 8:30 & 10:30 Services

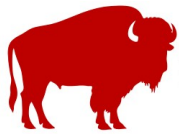
Welcome Back Sunday



What a wonderful way to welcome a new program year at OPPC!

Welcome Back Sunday brought our church community together for worship, fellowship, and celebration. Between services, we gathered around the table for breakfast, catching up with friends and enjoying time together. During our 10:30am worship, we also celebrated the ordination and installation of our newest officers, surrounding them with prayer as they answer the call to serve in the life and ministry of OPPC.





Quarter Notes



Our Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir are going full swing into the fall season, but that doesn't mean we don't need more help. Please consider joining one or both! Just show up for **Wednesday rehearsals**, with **bells at 6pm** in the sanctuary and **choir at 7pm** in the choir room. You'll find us! Listen for the music and laughter!



The choir will soon be preparing for our new **Christmas Cantata** (no, not the same old one!), which will be presented in our sanctuary at **7pm on Friday, December 18**, along with several invited guest singers from other Western New York church choirs. We'll keep you posted on this one. **We hope to see you at rehearsal!**



OPPC Congregational Meeting September 6, 2026 Election of Church Officers

Board of Deacons • Class of 2027 Electing 1 to Serve 1 Year

Geri Scofield To Join Board and Serve Remaining 1 Year of 3-Year Term

Board of Deacons • Class of 2028 Electing 1 to Serve 2 Years

Nancy Wilson To Join Board and Serve Remaining 2 Years of 3-Year Term

Nominating Committee for 2026-2027

Cindy Grogan To Join Committee and Serve Remainder of 1-Year Term As Congregational Representative

Thank you for answering the call to serve.



Music at OPPC

Christmas Cantata
Friday, December 18 • 7pm

Rutter Requiem
Friday, April 16 • 7pm

Broadway Night
Wednesday, May 19 • 7pm

SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>September 27</u> 8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Education 10:30a Worship/Church School 3p Girl Scouts-UC	<u>September 28</u> 7p Session-TMP	<u>September 29</u> 9a TWT 7p Membership	<u>September 30</u> 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 4p Yoga-IIR 6p Yoga-IIR 6p Bell Choir-S 6:30p CE Teacher Meeting-CR 7p Choir-CH	<u>October 1</u> 11a Staff Meeting-CR 6p Quaker Quilters BOD-RR 6p Youth Group-TMP/UC 7p Quaker Quilters-RR 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<u>October 2</u> 10a Grapevine Mailing-CR 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 3:30p Co-Op Chicken BBQ-Portico 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<u>October 3</u>
<u>October 4</u> World Communion Sunday 8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Education 10:30a Worship/Church School 11:30a Breads & Spreads 3p Girl Scouts-UC	<u>October 5</u> 1p PWCT-TMP 7p Co-Op Board-TMP	<u>October 6</u> 9a TWT 9:30a COM-TMP 6p Cub Scouts-UC 7p Advent Chorale-S	<u>October 7</u> 9:30a Co-Op Photo Day 10a Friendship Circle-IIR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 4p Yoga-IIR 6p Yoga-IIR 6p Bell Choir-S 7p Choir-CH	<u>October 8</u> 9:30a Co-Op Photo Day 10a Staff-CR 6p Youth Group-TMP/UC 7p A Capella-S 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<u>October 9</u> 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<u>October 10</u>
<u>October 11</u> Service of Remembrance 8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Education 10:30a Worship 3p Girl Scouts-UC	<u>October 12</u> Indigenous Peoples Day—Office Closed 5:30p Mission MT-CR	<u>October 13</u> 9a TWT 11a Christian Ed MT-TMP 12p Wednesday Morning Musicales Rehearsal-S 7p A&F MT-CR 7p Worship MT-TMP 7p Advent Chorale-S	<u>October 14</u> 10a Staff-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 12p Wednesday Morning Musicales-S 4p Yoga-IIR 6p Bell Choir-S 7p Choir-CH	<u>October 15</u> 6p Youth Group-TMP/UC 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<u>October 16</u> 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 3:30p Genesis Center 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<u>October 17</u> 1p Presbyterian Women's Fall Program-RR 2p Halloween in the Park-Jolls House
<u>October 18</u> Sandwich Sunday 8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Education 9:30a Family, Faith & Food-FH 10:30a Worship/Church School 3p Girl Scouts-UC	<u>October 19</u> 6:30p Deacons-TMP 7p MDO Board-MDO	<u>October 20</u> 9a TWT 1p Communication Committee-CR 7p OPPC Book Group-IIR 7p Personnel Committee-CR 7p Advent Chorale-S	<u>October 21</u> Grapevine Deadline 10a Staff-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 4p Yoga-IIR 6p Bell Choir-S 7p Choir-CH	<u>October 22</u> 4p Yoga-IIR 6p Youth Group-TMP/UC 7p A Capella-S 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<u>October 23</u> 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	<u>October 24</u> 9a Feed My Starving Children-Getzville 10a Daisy Troop-EC 3p Parker/Raught Wedding-S
<u>October 25</u> Pray, Rake, Eat 8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Education 10:30a Worship/Church School 3p Girl Scouts-UC 3p Miss Sarah's Halloween Recital-S	<u>October 26</u> 7p Session-TMP	<u>October 27</u> 9a TWT 9:30a Co-Op Photo Makeup Day 7p Advent Chorale-S	<u>October 28</u> 9:30a Co-Op Photo Makeup Day 10a Staff 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 4p Yoga-IIR 6p Bell Choir-S 7p Choir-CH	<u>October 29</u> 4p Yoga-IIR 6p Youth Group-TMP/UC 6p OP Symphony Rehearsal-S 7:30p Al-Anon-IIR	<u>October 30</u> 10a Grapevine Mailing-CR 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR 7p Orchard Park Symphony-S	<u>October 31</u>

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.

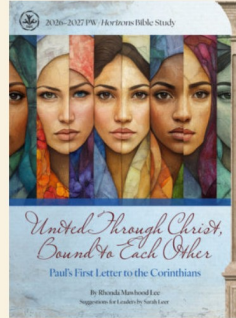


Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team

will meet on
Monday, October 5 at 1pm
in The Meeting Place.

Friendship Circle

Wednesday, October 7
10am
Irene Irving Room



Ladies, join us for fellowship and
Bible study as we discuss Lesson Two of:
United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other

For more information,
contact Barbara Roberts or Sue Sager.

Buffalo: Crime. Romance & Intrigue

Saturday, October 17 at 1pm

Reception Room | \$3

Join Presbyterian Women for an
afternoon of pie and fascinating Buffalo
history! Certified Buffalo tour guide
Marla Bujnicki will relate little-known
tales from Buffalo's more scintillating
history, from the 1880s through the
roaring 1920s.

Reservations can be made at the table
by the church office or by calling
Sue Sager. The cost of the program is \$3.

We hope that you will join us!



We would like to invite anyone who
sews, knits, or crochets to join us on
**Wednesdays from 10 am until noon in
The Meeting Place.** We are a casual
group - just come when you can!
We make items to donate to many local
charities and would love to have you
join us!



**Saturday,
November 14
10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Sunday,
November 15
9 a.m.-12 p.m.**

**Reception
Room**

**So Many Great Items
to Choose from!**

- ✂ Bills and Baby Items
- ✂ Blankets and Quilts
- ✂ Hats and Scarves
- ✂ Christmas Ornaments
- ✂ Greeting Cards and More!



Proceeds
Benefit



and
**Friends of
Kenya
Rising**

Membership *Dial Blitz*

The Membership Ministry Team had an absolute ball calling members of the community and inviting them to Welcome Back Sunday! It was the very first phone-a-thon and it won't be the last. Members dialed, smiled, chatted it up, texted, and enjoyed food. We were able to talk with old friends and made some new ones!



*Dialed, smiled,
chatted, texted!*

You are invited to a special **PRESBYTERY WEEKEND!** October 23 & 24

DAY 1: FRIDAY, OCT. 23 – CAMP DUFFIELD FELLOWSHIP & OVERNIGHT

Enjoy an overnight at beautiful Camp Duffield.

We have cabins for women, men, and families; the overnight is \$20 per person.

The camp opens at 3pm for hikes, games, etc.

We'll have a hotdog cookout for dinner, complete with s'mores! Bring a treat to share.



Rev. PJ Craig



Rev. Cece Armstrong

DAY 2: SATURDAY, OCT. 24 – PRESBYTERY MEETING, WORSHIP, SPEAKERS, AND DISCUSSION

Registration is at 9:30a.m. and the meeting (with worship) is called to order at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting is optional for church members.

Volunteers will lead games and hikes during the meeting.

At 12pm, enjoy a catered Vietnamese lunch from Pham's Kitchen (\$15.00 per adult).

An afternoon of spiritual enrichment begins at 1pm, featuring Rev. Cece Armstrong & Rev. PJ Craig, gifted preachers who serve throughout our denomination.

Pizza and snacks will be served during the afternoon (including vegetarian and gluten-free options).

We'll then conclude by 5pm.

RSVP by 10/16

<https://tinyurl.com/pbywnyOctWeekend>

Contact Jesse Larson (pastor@pcca.org) or Mark Aquino (MarkFitnessFun@Gmail.com) with questions.



LOST - RED LANDS END RAIN JACKET

If you were here this summer and had a red rain jacket from Pacific Trail, please check to make sure it was not a Lands End jacket.

Please contact Meredith Wilson.

The Church Office will be closed on
Monday, October 12 for
Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Questions, call Christine Cotton,
Office Manager at 716-662-3948

Office Hours are
Monday-Friday 8am-4pm.



Pray, Rake, Eat

On **October 25** after the 10:30am service, we will rake leaves, clean out the playground, the boiler room stairwell, gutters and window wells, and put away the outdoor benches, tables and chairs for the season.

A supervised kids' activity will be available, and lunch will be provided.

Many hands make light work - come lend yours!

Wear your work clothes!
Bring your gloves!
Bring your rakes and clippers!

OPPC Book Group Presents

The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune

Tuesday, October 20 @ 7pm in the Irene Irving Room



This inventive story follows Linus Baker, a lonely man who lives in a tiny house with his persnickety cat. He is a strict caseworker for the Department in Charge of Magical Youth (DICOMY), chosen by the Extremely Upper Management to investigate an orphanage on Marsyas Island for a month to determine whether it should remain open. It's a long journey by train, met by a sprite named Zoe, then a boat ride across the beautiful blue cerulean sea.

Upon arrival on the island, Linus is introduced to the headmaster Arthur Parnassus and his magical children: Talia, Phee, Chauncey, Theodore, Sal and Lucy, each with a unique personality and magical powers. Living in this home, accompanying this motley crew on field trips into the town of judgmental people, Linus comes to terms with tolerance for others, and discovers an unlikely family of children who need love, safety, and protection.

From an Amazon review: "Books like this make me happy to be a reader. They remind me how lucky I am to experience different worlds and discover something new with every page I turn."

Please join us as we discuss this quirky, charming, delightful, thought-provoking tale of found family and hope.

November 17: *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

No book group in December

The **Deadline for the November Grapevine** is

Wednesday, October 21 at 9am. Please send any submissions to Xanda at xanda@oppchurch.org.

To receive the Grapevine by email, contact Xanda at the same email address.

**TUESDAYS
WITH TOOLS**

**Tuesdays,
9am—Noon**

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

SCARY GOOD NEWS!

This Year, OPPC Will Be Part of the Village of Orchard Park's

HALLOWEEN IN THE PARK

**OFFERING FUN ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY, NOW WITH 4 GREAT LOCATIONS:
PRINCETON PLACE, GREEN LAKE, THE O.P. TRAIN DEPOT/LIBRARY & JOLLS HOUSE**

FEATURING

FOOD TRUCKS • CRAFTS • COSTUME CONTEST • FACE PAINTING • BALLOON ANIMALS • HAYRIDES
HAUNTED HOUSE • TRICK-OR-TREATING (FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 PM) • TAROT CARD READINGS & MORE!

PLUS

OPPC'S POPULAR HAUNTED HOUSE GHOST TOSS GAME & MONSTERMATIC PHOTO BOOTH

**SATURDAY
10/17 • 2-5 PM**

**AT THE JOLLS HOUSE
4287 SOUTH BUFFALO STREET
JUST A BLOCK NORTH OF OPPC**

Event
Sponsorship
Provided by





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.*



SERVICE OF *Remembrance*

Sunday, October 11, 8:30 & 10:30am

Join us for a special Service of Remembrance as we honor and remember those who have gone before us. Through worship, prayer, music, and the beauty of flowers, we will make space for memory, gratitude, and hope.

*All are welcome as we gather to
remember those we carry in our hearts.*

