

The Grapevine



Sunday, September 7

Join us for our return to 2 services plus an All Church Breakfast!

"PASTOR'S CORNER"

Welcome Back!

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." – *Romans 15:7*

After a season of summer adventures, travels, and well-earned rest, we are excited to say: Welcome back! The church is alive with the sounds of fellowship, worship, and laughter as we gather again to grow in faith and community.

This fall promises to be full of opportunities to reconnect, to serve,

and to be renewed. Our worship series will invite us to reflect deeply on what it means to walk with Christ in a changing world. Families can look forward to the return of church school and youth gatherings - spaces where young hearts and minds encounter God's love in creative ways. Adult study groups will offer room for honest conversations and fresh insights into Scripture.

We're also planning special events that bring us together beyond Sunday mornings - community meals, service projects, music, and fellowship opportunities that strengthen the bonds between us. Each of these moments is a chance not only to participate, but to belong, to share your gifts, and to be reminded that in Christ, we never walk alone.

As we step into this new season, may we carry with us both the joy of summer and the hope of God's promises. Together, let us make this fall a time of renewed commitment to worship, service, and love.

So welcome back—whether you've been away for a week or a while, there is a place here for you. We can't wait to see what God will do in and through us this season!

Pastor Hughes



Fall is quickly approaching — and, with it, Welcome Back Sunday! Please join us on Sunday, September 7 as we welcome in the new program year and return to

holding two services (8:30am and 10:30am). Between services, we will enjoy time for fellowship with an all church breakfast, beginning at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in joining our roster of worship assistants (ushers, liturgists, and early service helpers), please reach out to Paul Woodard

(paul.a.woodard@gmail.com). Welcome back!

Welcome Back **FOOD DRIVE**

It's time to stock the Blessing Box for fall! Pick up a bag at church or just add the following items to your shopping list:

Canned Chicken & Tuna Microwaveable Rice Dishes Pasta Sauce Canned Fruit



Please return the food on Sunday, September 7



FROM THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT

"Witnessing our faith"

Every Sunday people of faith from all over the state of Florida - Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and people of no faith - are gathering at the gate of "Alligator Alcatraz," the notorious prison facility located in the heart of the Everglades.

Along with members of the Miccosukee Tribe, whose village complex is located within walking distance of the prison, this diverse gathering of over

150 souls raises its voice in song, prayer, poetry, and proclamation in opposition to the cruelty and injustice represented by the treatment afforded these prisoners, the majority of whom have no criminal record!

Each week a delegation from a different part of the state makes its way to this location to give voice to the cause of justice.

How do we give evidence of our faith? How do we witness to our commitment to the principles of equality, justice, and mercy, as taught by our Savior and our forbearers in the faith? It may be by visibly demonstrating, participating in a vigil, like our friends in Florida, or like Jesus' earliest apostles, Peter and John, who boldly declare to the authorities who demand they no longer declare that Christ had been raised, "We cannot keep from speaking the things we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20).

More often it is within the concourse of our daily encounters with friends, co-workers and strangers we meet along the way, as we seek mercy, do justice, and walk humbly with our God.

Yours, in Christ,

Rev. Allyn Foster



Welcome Back Sunday Sunday, September 7

8:30am Worship with Communion 9:30am All Church Breakfast 10:30am Worship with Communion



RSVP for Breakfast by using the QR Code or this LINK or call the church office at 716-662-9348

Faith Formation for All Ages begins on Sunday, September 14

9:15am

Adult Education in The Meeting Place

9:30am

Church School for Second through Twelfth Graders

10:30 (after Children's Time)

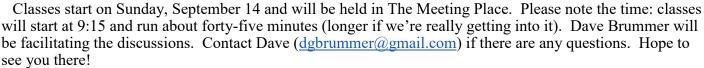
Pray & Play for 4 year olds - First Grade & the Nursery will be staffed

The schedule will be available in a link in the Constant Contact & at the CE table in the Reception Room on Sunday Mornings.

Adult Education: Sermon Discussion

Adult Christian education classes will pick up where we left off in May with our sermon discussion group. Each Sunday we will view a recording of the previous week's sermon, then we will discuss it.

No preparation is needed to attend and discuss. 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; for instance, maybe there's a sermon from the past summer you'd like to dive into.



Session

Session met on Monday, August 25 at 7pm. A copy of the minutes of this meeting may be requested from Christine Cotton (christine@oppchurch.org). The next meeting will be

Monday, September 22 at 7pm.

The Office will be closed on Monday, September 1 in honor of Labor Day.





Tuesdays 9am—Noon

WFFKLY

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

Mission Workshop meets Wednesdays



10am—Noon in The Meeting Place 🗸





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women of Orchard Park Presbyterian Church are members of Presbyterian Women. This organization provides opportunities for fellowship by sponsoring various social activities during the year. A monthly Bible study is offered by Friendship Circle.

Presbyterian Women also runs the annual Rummage Sale to generate funds for mission projects and to provide items needed by the church.

Coordinating Team for 2025-2026

Moderator Sue Sager Sue Pfister Secretary Treasurer Nancy Wilson **Publicity** Members-at-large Sue Hoerner Mary McKinley Diane Owens Judy Pilley

Friendship Circle Leader

Wendy Mohrman Xanda Weiss Barbara Roberts



Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team

will meet on Monday, September 8, 1pm in The Meeting Place.

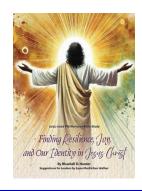


Friendship Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 3 at 10am in the Irene Irvina

Room. Ladies, you are cordially invited to join us for fellowship and Bible study.

This year's study is titled

Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ. For more information, please call Barbara Roberts or Sue Sager.



SSION

Youth Ministry Service Events

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in the September activities with Pastor Mario and Mrs. B. Parents are responsible for transportation to these events unless prior arrangements are made with one of the Advisors. Medical Forms must be completed as well as a Google Form for each event. More information will arrive directly in your email boxes regarding these events.



- **Roat Acres**
- or any public access along Lake Erie

September 20, 2025 - 10am to 12pm

September 19 ~ 3:45-6:00 pm Serve the meal at The Genesis Center

> September 20 ~ 10 am-Noon Great Lakes Beach Sweep @ Woodlawn Beach



Pastor Mario, on the right, in his new role as Pastoral Assistant for Youth and Young Adults and the August volunteers at the Genesis Center



THANK YOU to OPPC's own "Dream Team" also known as Alyssa & Sandy Trampert, who placed 7th among a field of 34 teams as they competed in the July 19 Buffalo's Most Amazing Race to support The Salvation Army. OPPC was a proud sponsor of The Dream Team and after our \$250 registration fee was placed they went on to raise more than \$500 on their own!!



STARVING CHILDREN MOBILEPACK'

Feed My Starving Children
Mobile Pack Event

The Mission Ministry Team is firming up plans for Saturday, October 18 for a church-wide volunteer event! On Sunday, September 14, during the 10:30am worship service Kim Kotz, the coordinator for the event, will be with us to get us jazzed up about this family-friendly volunteer opportunity. You won't want to miss hearing her OR the event!





SANDWICH SUNDAY September 21

Please bring your individually wrapped sandwiches to worship with you and drop them at the table at the Welcome Center staffed by a

member of the Mission Ministry Team. After worship, the sandwiches are delivered to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy to be passed out during the week to hungry folks. THANK YOU to those who made sandwiches for the summer months - 78 in July and 73 in August.

The next Sandwich Sunday will be October 19.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 31 9:30a Worship 10:45a Worship MT-CR	September 1 Labor Day— Office Closed 7p Theology on Tap—Fattey Beer Co.	September 2 9a TWT 9:30a COM-CR	September 3 10a Friendship Circle-IIR 10a Staff Meeting-CR 10a Mission Workshop- TMP	September 4 9a MDO Orientation 6p Quaker Quilters BOD-TMP 7p Co-Op Parents Night-S/RR 7p Quaker Quilters- TMP 7:30p Al Anon-IIR	September 5 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	September 6 12p Tour of Faiths and Cultures 12p Sparks of Hope
September 7 Welcome Back Sunday 8:30a Worship 9:30a All Church Breakfast-FH 10:30a Worship	September 8 MDO/Co-Op First Day of School 1p PWCT-TMP 5p Kids Cooking Class-FH 5:45p OP Chorale BOD-CR 6p Blessing Box-IIR 7p Co-Op Board-TMP 7p Mission MT-IIR 7p Property MT-CR 7p OP Chorale-S	September 9 9a TWT 5p PEO Board-TMP 6:30p A&F MT-CR 7p Membership MT- IIR 7p PEO-TMP	September 10 10a Staff Meeting-CR 10a Mission Workshop- TMP	September 11 3p Fox Run Service 6p Bells Workshop-S 7:30p Al Anon-IIR	September 12 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	September 13 10:15a Daisy Troop-EC
September 14 8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Education-TMP 9:30a Church School 10:30a Worship 3p Girl Scouts-UC	September 15 5p Kids Cooking Class-FH 6:30p Deacons-IIR 7p MDO Board-TMP 7p OP Chorale-S 7 Theology on Tap- Fattey Beer Co.	September 16 9a TWT 7p OPPC Book Group-IIR	September 17 10a Staff Meeting-CR 10a Mission Workshop-TMP 6:30p Co-Op Ice Cream Social-FH	September 18 7:30p Al Anon-IIR	September 19 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 3:30p Genesis Center 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	September 20 10a Beach Sweep-Woodlawn Beach 3p Tour of Faiths and Cultures 4:30p OPPC Potluck Dinner-RR
September 21 Sandwich Sunday 8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Education- TMP 9:30a Church School 10:30a Worship	September 22 2p Communications Committee-CR 5p Kids Cooking Class-FH 6:30 Ministry Team Leader Meeting-TMP 7p Session-TMP 7p OP Chorale-S	September 23 Grapevine Deadline 9a TWT	September 24 10a Staff Meeting-CR 10a Mission Workshop- TMP 7p Christian Ed MT-CR	September 25 12:30p Restorative Yoga-IIR 3p Fox Run Service 6p Choctoberfest 7:30p Al Anon-IIR	September 26 10a Grapevine Mailing-CR 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	September 27 10:15a Daisy Troop-EC
September 28 8:30a Worship 9:15a Adult Education-TMP 9:30a Church School 10:30a Worship 3p Girl Scouts-UC	September 29 5p Kids Cooking Class-FH 7p OP Chorale-S	September 30 9a TWT	October 1 10a Friendship Circle-IIR 10a Staff Meeting-CR 10a Mission Workshop- TMP	October 2 6p Quaker Quilters BOD-RR 7p Quaker Quilters- RR 7:30p Al Anon-IIR	October 3 10:30a Music with Miss Sarah-UC 4p Co-Op Chicken BBQ 5:30p Alcoholics Anonymous-IIR	October 4 9a Retreat for Leadership

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

AMAZING AMELIA HEADS TO EUROPE

Our Interim Music Director Amelia Wroblewski has moved many in the congregation with her exquisite musicianship at the piano since her arrival last November. As a graduate of SUNY Fredonia who double-majored in Elementary Education and Piano Performance, Amelia brought sensitivity, skill, and passion to her musical offerings. Arriving with a basic background in playing the organ, Amelia jumped at the opportunity to improve her organ skills at the OPPC Austin organ, and she succeeded admirably. She also conducted the Sanctuary Choir, the Bell Choir, and facilitated several appearances by talented guest musicians who contributed to our Worship services. Amelia has remarked often about the welcoming atmosphere at OPPC, and she has appreciated the opportunities for creativity in musically expressing spiritual themes.

As young people often do, Amelia has responded to an opportunity that was too good to pass up. She has been invited to teach language at the university level in Poland, and will begin teaching there this October. We will bid farewell to Amelia on September 7, her last full day at OPPC.

Our heartfelt thanks go to you, Amelia, for all the care and joy you put into the music that added a wonderful dimension to our Worship services. Your friends at OPPC wish you all the best for your European adventure, and hope you will remain close in spirit.



Pictured with violinist, Angel Rhodes



It has been a joy to spend this past year with you as Interim Music Director. I am especially grateful for the warmth and welcome you extended to me and your willingness to get involved with the music here, whether you were a part of the choirs, collaborated with me, or extended a hello after service. OPPC is truly a special place; I often find myself talking about the great atmosphere and spirit you have created here because it is inspiring to witness your authenticity and kindness.

As many of you know, I have been teaching literacy and English for a few years. I will be beginning a new role teaching in the Department of English Philology at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, where I previously have studied Polish. While it is very far away, I already have plans to visit during the holidays and summer, and I hope that I will see all of you soon and collaborate musically during those times! It has been wonderful to create and share music together, and I look forward to seeing you in a few months. I am thrilled that Barry and Heather Dietsch will lead you through the upcoming program year and am excited to see what they have in store for the music at OPPC. Again, thank you so much for your care, collaboration, and passion for music at OPPC.



Welcome Heather and Barry Dietsch!

As OPPC bids farewell to Amelia, we also welcome new Co-Music Directors Heather and Barry Dietsch. Heather and Barry will begin their tenure as the new directors of music on Sunday, September 14, after serving in the same capacity for two decades at the First Presbyterian Church of Warren, PA. Both are retired music teachers and life-long musicians. Heather taught at Parkdale Elementary school in East Aurora and Barry at Lake Shore Central. Heather received her BM and MM degrees in piano performance at Fredonia and Bowling Green and Barry received his BA and MM in vocal performance at Allegheny College and Fredonia.

They are very excited about joining our music program and hope everyone will consider joining choir and/or bell choir. They also hope to get the youth of our church singing.



The Dietsches live in East Aurora with their daughter, Natalie, who is a sophomore pre med student at SUNY Geneseo. Heather and Barry also want us to know they are Bills and Bisons fans as well as Pirates fans!

We look forward to collaborating musically with Heather and Barry starting this September!

ORCHARD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH INVITES YOU FOR A FREE

HANDBELL CHOIR WORKSHOP

Whether you are a seasoned ringer or curious about bell choir, prepare for the new program year with a **free** workshop covering the physics of a bell, special techniques, and more!







THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SUITABLE FOR ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS!

BEGINNERS WELCOME!

All materials/bells are provided.

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 5

Limited Spots Available
Call the OPPC Office:
(716) 662-9348
Or scan the QR Code to RSVP!



CRCHARD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4369 S BUFFALO STREET ORCHARD PARK, NY 14127



Jim York Workshop Facilitator

Jim York was introduced to handbell ringing as a youth at his hometown church in Castile, NY, where he developed a passion for the instrument. Later, he returned to ringing at First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls, NY, where he also directed for many years as the bell choir grew from two to four octaves of bells and added three octaves of handchimes. He has also been a performer with the ROC City Ringers in Rochester NY and at the Wooster United Methodist Church. For the past three years, he has served as the handbell director at Baker Memorial United Methodist and he also performs with the Buffalo Bells under the direction of Linda Collett.

As both a performer and director, Jim is a lifelong learner who enjoys ringing, learning more about the bells, and helping others develop their own handbell skills and interests.

Stewardship 2025

Siblings In Christ:

The executive summary for our financial position through July remains as follows: not bad. Members are just about keeping up with their pledges (thank you). Folks who have not pledged have given more than we budgeted (thank you).



What's that "Other Income" and how did we get so lucky? Most of that money is from the pandemic (Paycheck Protection Program) and is a one-off: nice to have, but we won't see it again. Without it we would be in a negative net position.

	<u>2025 (Actual)</u>	<u>2025 (Budgeted)</u>
Pledged Income Unpledged Envelopes Other Income	\$130,426 \$81,082 \$165,908	\$138,833 \$73,791 \$30,684
Total Operating Income <u>Total Operating Expenses</u> Net Position	\$377,416 (\$350,984) \$26,432	\$243,308 (\$351,363) (\$108,055)

And recall that a negative net position is just what we budgeted, to the tune of a \$185,000 deficit for the year. Recall also that any deficit is covered by money from our General Reserve Fund which is not inexhaustible.

Again, a heart-felt "thank you." Remember that you can pledge at any time during the year. As we've tried to highlight, your generosity has never been more needed.

Yours In Christ, The Stewardship Committee Michael Cid, Nancy Lesakowski, Doug Carpenter, David Brummer

Our Deepest Sympathy is extended to....

- The Miller family on the death of **Gloria Miller** on June 22nd. Her memorial service was held on July 31.
- The Grabau family on the death of Trevor's father, **John Grabau** on July 2.
- The Dresser family on the death of **Anne Dresser** on July 15. Her service was held on July 23.
- The Scully family on the death of Alma Scully on July 18.
- The Mitchell family on the death **Colleen Mitchell** on July 7. Her memorial service was held on August 2.

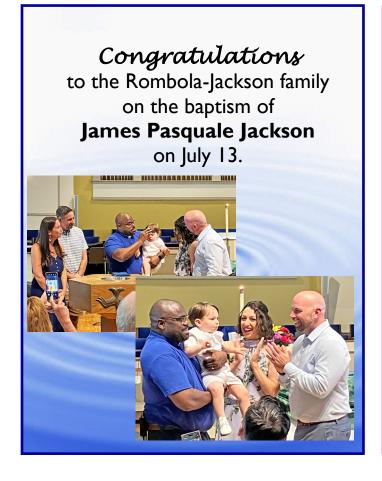


DIRECTORY CHANGES

For any directory changes, please call Office Manager Christine Cotton at 716-662-9348.







New Member!



Welcome to

Delcey Pulvino

who joined

OPPC

on July 20.



Pictured here with her family!

2 Syndally 13 with Aug 24 Indoor Sprinkles!





Although weather reports for the two July and August Sundays that OPPC's Worship Ministry Team had planned to hold our morning services outdoors projected a strong possibility of rain, they knew that if they moved our **Sundaes Outside** inside to the Sanctuary,





there'd still be a 100% CHANCE OF ICE CREAM! And just like the resiliant, unflappable WNYers they are, our congregation weathered the change together. (The assortment of tasty toppings — and yes, sprinkles — available to them undoubtedly helped.)

UpBeet Cooking Classes rents our space on Mondays this fall. Check out www.UpBeetCooking.com for more info!



STAY TUNED!

OPPC and Deerhurst Presbyterian Church will be planning a Labyrinth Walk here at OPPC for September 27, time TBD.

Watch the bulletin and our social media for upcoming info!



The **Deadline for the October Grapevine** is Tuesday, September 23 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.

OPPC Book Group Presents

Still Life by Louise Penny Tuesday, September 16, 7pm in the Irene Irving Room

We resume in September with Louise Penny's first book in the blockbuster series about Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. The author lives in a small village south of Montreal, and in 2017 she received the Order of Canada for her contributions to Canadian culture.

In this engaging mystery, kindly Inspector Gamache and his team of investigators are called to the scene of a suspicious death in the rural Quebec village of Three Pines. A gem of a debut novel, this tale has charming characters, secrets revealed and clues hidden in plain sight. There are many sequels that are best read in order. But try not to watch the TV series about Three Pines, a disappointment after experiencing Louise Penny's masterful storytelling.

Please join us and bring friends!

PENNY



Property Update

You may have noticed some activity around the former Family Justice Center building. The house was renovated for residential use, and Pastor Mario and family moved in July 28! This property project was funded through the Liz Kelley Fund.





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A thriving faith community engaged in compassionate service.



