



# April

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## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor  
Mike Yeoman

Church Secretary  
John Merritt

Church Organist  
Brian Snyder

Choir Director  
Barbara Seaton

Treasurer  
Frank Kordziel

Financial Secretary  
Pat Thorpe

Clerk of Session  
Pat Thorpe

Custodian  
Jennawade Skellham

*Annual Fundraiser for*  
**NICNY - CNY MEDICAL MISSION TO NICARAGUA**

# Spaghetti Dinner



**SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH**

*From 4:00 to 7:00 pm*

*First Presbyterian Church of Oneida*

*304 Broad St. Oneida*

*100% of proceeds support the medical mission  
providing medicine, clothes, food and love to  
those in need in Nicaragua*

*BOTTLE AND CAN DONATIONS ACCEPTED*

**Adults \$12 Children 6-12 \$6 Under 6 Free**



Dear Church Family,

April is upon us, and with it, one of the most sacred and significant times in our Christian journey—Holy Week and Easter. As we walk through this season together, let us take time to reflect on the immense love and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 13th, a day that marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will gather to celebrate with joyful praise, and waving palm branches as a symbol of our Savior's kingship. Plan to have your children and/or grandchildren with you as they will be able to process with the choir and participate in the waving of the palms.

Throughout Holy Week, I encourage you to participate in our special services that lead us deeper into the story of Christ's passion. On Maundy Thursday, April 17th, we will have a traditional Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service. The Tenebrae service will create the emotional aspects of the passion story, from the anointing at Bethany, to the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the arrest – ending in darkness and silence with the crucifixion. On Good Friday, April 18th, I invite you to join with me and other City of Oneida clergy for our annual Ecumenical Good Friday Community Service at 12:00 Noon at St. John's Episcopal Church. This will be a solemn time of reflection on the crucifixion, reminding us of the price paid for our redemption.

Then comes Easter Sunday, April 20th—the glorious celebration of our risen Lord! The grave could not hold Him, and death was defeated! Join us for Easter Worship at 10:00 AM. Let us come together in joy and thanksgiving, proclaiming, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" Special music is planned for this festive day as well.

I am truly grateful, especially during this time of year, for all of the extra time commitments and dedication of our Organist, Brian Snyder, our Choir Director, Barb Seaton, and our incredibly gifted choir members who together make our music worship so uplifting.

As we move through this season, may we open our hearts to the transforming power of the resurrection. Jesus' victory over sin and death is our victory, and His love calls us to share this Good News with the world.

I encourage you to invite family, friends, and neighbors to experience the hope and joy of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday worship with us. Let this be a season of renewal, deepened faith, and overflowing grace.

Blessings to you all,

*Pastor Mike*



#### **NO COMMITMENT CHOIR BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

OFPC Choir Director Barb Seaton is inviting anyone and everyone to join the "No Commitment Choir" to present a beautiful and simple anthem during Palm Sunday and/or Easter Sunday services on April 13<sup>th</sup> and/or 20<sup>th</sup>. There are no auditions, no age limits, and all abilities are welcome.

There will be short (10 minutes) optional rehearsals on Sundays beginning March 16<sup>th</sup> immediately following the morning service in the choir room—come to one or more to learn the tune. Adults, Seniors, Teens, Children—all are welcome!

There will be music available for those who read, and just the words for those who don't. Please talk to Barb for more information. ♪ ♪ ♪

## CONSIDERING A SMALL GROUP?

Pastor Mike recently attended a conference that focused on grants, stewardship and church vitality. One of the sessions focused on attaining church vitality through the establishment of small groups.

According to the presenter, small groups are essential for fostering community, deeper connections, and spiritual growth within small churches. They also offer a space for meaningful relationships and accountability that larger churches may struggle to provide.

This is not something that is managed by the pastor, Rather, it becomes a passion of one individual to have the vision and excitement to start a small group and then simply say..... *hey, would you like to join me for.....*

Here are some ideas that they gave me:

**Lunch Clubs** – Get a group together that might enjoy the fellowship of sharing in a meal with others. With a national epidemic of loneliness surrounding us, this group could have tremendous impacts on each other and develop some very special friendships. Frequency and places is something that the group decides together.

**Day Trippers:** The group plans a day trip a month to some local attraction or one that is within an acceptable travel time for participants.

**Game Clubs** – Enjoy board games or interactive group games that promote laughter, bonding and friendly competition. The Janeth P. Whiting Community Center would be a great place for this!

**Prayer Circles** – Create a dedicated time for prayer where members can share their prayer requests and pray for one another.

**Sewing / Knitting Clubs** – Again, the Janeth P. Whiting Community Center might be a perfect spot for sewers or knitters to gather and have fun with this special craft together.

**Spiritual Journaling** – Provide journals for group members to record their thoughts, prayers and reflections on their faith journey. Share entries during meetings.

**Book Clubs** –A reading group where people meet to discuss books they've all read together, fostering a community of shared literary experiences and engaging in discussions about the book.

**Creative Workshops** – Host creative workshops like painting, crafting, etc.

**Movie Nights** – Gather as a group and watch a movie together then spend some time discussing it afterwards.

**Walking Groups** – Members meet at whatever frequency is decided and set destinations around the city to walk through and get to know the community better.

**PALM SUNDAY 4/13**

**10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY 4/17**

**6:30 PM TENEBRAE SERVICE WITH COMMUNION**

**GOOD FRIDAY -4/18**

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE 12:00 PM – ST JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**EASTER SUNDAY 4/20**

**SUNRISE SERVICE – TRI VALLY YMCA ONEIDA (OUTSIDE)**

**TRADITIONAL EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM**





## LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

*For the month of April 2025*

Jude Alexander (Mancarella's great nephew)	Millie Johnson
Fred Bavo (Jennawade's Uncle)	Victor Johnson
Kevin Bedford	Dan King (Pastor @ New Life Assembly of God)
Brody	
Richard Brown	Jean Kowalik
Marty Canning	Florence LaRock
Ed Cieslak (Friend of John Merritt)	Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn's brother)
Pam Corrington	Laurie Mudge
Timothy Carver (Jen Bailey's Father)	Michelle Newman
Elizabeth Coulby	Becky Nichols
Cora Cramer (Ethel Abbott's sister)	Michael O'Bryan (Mike's Brother in law)
Fran Dowd (Jim Sweet's sister)	Mike Oot
Emeri Dryer (Maggie's grand daughter)	Audrey Opperman (Cathy's Mother-in-law)
Peggy Eastman	
John Ferguson	Tom Panasci
Robert Feldmann (Melinda's Father)	Elli Pfluke
Jillian Felt	Dan & Claudia Rayome
Andy Froass	Debbie Shaw
Don Fuller (Stephanie Gwilt's Father)	Brian Stites
Pat Grabow (Chrissy Thompson's Mom)	Millicent Vidal
Becky Grasso	Jan Whiting
Wendy Holtz	
Jim Hotaling	

**Thank you for your prayers. If you know of anyone who is sick, in the hospital, or in need of our prayers, PLEASE call the Church Office, 363-7590.**

## SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

Kristen Lippert Martin	Sharon Pierce
Cindi Gregory	Susan O'Bryan (Mike's sister)
Pam Corrigan	Michelle Newman

If you have a prayer need, there are cards in the pews. Fill it out and hand it to an usher. If you know of anyone who is sick, in the hospital, or in need of our prayers, PLEASE call the Church Office, 363-7590. Please let us know also when they are healed and can be taken off the prayer list.





ELDERS

CLASS OF 2025

Randy Bonville  
 Frank Kordziel  
 Lucille Merriman  
 Pat Thorpe

CLASS OF 2026

Paul Mancarella  
 Perry Tooker IV

CLASS OF 2027

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:**

**Michael (Alicia Lippert's brother)**

**Frieda Phoenix**

**Jerome DeVaul Sr.**

**Robert Sayles**

**SPECIAL CONCERNS:**

The citizens of Ukraine

Pray for those who are serving overseas and our Police/Fire Safety personnel.

All victims and survivors of gun violence.

**MISSION EMPHASIS:**

First Presbyterian Church, Holland Patent

Participants in the Plentiful Gifts Initiative in the Presbytery of Utica

Seminary Students

Voice in the Wilderness Ministry, Greg Jenkins (New Worshiping Committee)

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2025

Sue Kordziel  
 Rachel Mancarella  
 John Merritt  
 Kathy Nichols  
 Jennawade  
 Skellham  
 Kristin Tooker  
 Michelle Yeoman

CLASS OF 2026

CLASS OF 2027

**PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS:** Pray for those who are

stationed in non-combat zones: Stephen Cafalone, Jack Sharkey, Mark Sia, Nicholas Young, Philip Messina, Ryan Geer,

John Goodwill, Errol Crossman, Corey Reed, Michael McMahon, Andrew Fargo, Jim Jennings, Michelle Ludwig, Peter Thompson, Dylan McClelland

Those currently serving in a combat zone:



THIS MONTH AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

April 5th, 19th Restoration  
Fellowship (JWCC)

April 6th Communion,  
Team Meetings

April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th  
Senior Bible Study  
Connection

April 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th  
Choir Practice

April 6th, 13th,  
Lenten Lunches following service

April 14th, 28th Activ8 Her BS (JWCC)

April 13th Deacons Meeting

April 21st Session Meeting

April 23rd Newsletter Deadline



- Apr. 4 Linda Shay  
Apr. 11 Paul Thompson  
Apr. 14 Mitch Erion  
Apr. 15 Lucille Merriman  
Apr. 21 Phyllis Little  
Apr. 22 Andy Froass, Robert Paul,  
Ryan Paul  
Apr. 30 Peter Shay



**If anyone is need of a pastoral visit or knows of a congregation member who would like a visit, please let Pastor Mike know. (315) 761-2721**



Scripture Readers for April  
April 6th-Barb Schwartz  
April 13th-Paul Mancarella  
April 20th-Perry Tooker IV  
April 27th-Lou White

Coffee Servers for April  
April 6th-Randy & Cindy Bonville  
April 13th-Ethel Abbott & Janet Sarensky  
April 20th-No Coffee Easter Sunday  
April 27th-Bob & Austin Williams

## Prom Dress Giveaway

Our Prom Dress Giveaway was held on February 7 & 8 and again on March 1.

We had 32 girls and 46 dresses were given away. Several girls took more than one dress as they had more than 1 event that they needed a dress for.

The following schools were represented:

Oneida, Holy Cross, Stockbridge, VVS, Waterville, Madison, Morrisville, New Life Christian, LEAH Co-op and Home Schooled.

We were also blessed with the help of our Oneida High School Z-Club who did a fundraiser for us and collected many beautiful dresses along with accessories. We also had girls from Z-Club that helped at the giveaway. The girls helped return dresses to the racks and assisted with helping the girls try on dresses.

Thank you to our church members who took the time to help with the giveaway. Becky Ewen, Kristin Tooker, Becky Willaims and Michelle Yeoman

If you are interested in helping with next years event please contact Michelle Yeoman 315-240-6913

## *REIMAGINING "FESTIVAL" IN A NEW AGE*

By now, most of our church community knows that after many, many years of hard work and dedication, the Presbyterian Women of the First Presbyterian Church has dissolved. This has become a national trend as it has become more difficult to recruit new members.

The work that this group of women have done over the years is more than most realize. Their most well-known project was the annual Festival of Christmas. This was a labor of love that goes back decades and raised thousands of dollars that aided many local organizations.

Last year Presbyterian Women assisted organizations such as the Rescue Mission, Toys for Tots, Willow Network, Matthews Place, Clear Paths for Vets, Help Restore Hope Center, Oneida Healthcare Auxiliary, Samaritans Purse, many area food banks, and other needy organizations. Without similar fundraising efforts these local organizations will feel the pain of loss that is already having direct impacts on them from federal and state budget cuts.

Romans 8:28 says *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose"*. You see friends, we can make what might seem impossible – possible through God. It only takes a few people to say, I am in – I want to help make this happen.

Over the next few weeks, we ask you to pray earnestly for God to touch your heart and show you how you, along with others might be able to make something like the festival was a reality for the church and the community.

Pray and then talk to Pastor Mike. Or tear off and fill out this form and place it in the offering plate:

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*I want to be part of Reimagining "Festival" in a New Age. Please count me in on beginning the grassroots planning:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY  
NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 23RD**

