

# Presbyterian News



EDITION

June 2025



# July

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[oneidafirstpres.org](http://oneidafirstpres.org)

## 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





Beloved children of God:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As the summer sun stretches longer across our days and the pace of life begins to slow—if only just a little—I want to offer a gentle encouragement for the month of July: receive this season as an invitation to Sabbath.

We often think of Sabbath as something we schedule on Sundays—a worship service, a nap, maybe a break from errands. But true Sabbath is more than a day of the week. It is a rhythm of holy rest and joyful renewal, woven into the fabric of creation itself.

In Genesis, after six days of forming light and sky, land and sea, creatures and humankind, God *rested*. Not because God was tired, but because rest was—and still is—good, sacred, and necessary.

In a world that glorifies hustle and productivity, Sabbath reminds us we are not machines—we are beloved children of God, invited to live in grace rather than grind. When we pause, we make room to delight in God, to reconnect with loved ones, to enjoy the beauty of creation, and to let our souls breathe again.

This July, whether you're traveling or staying close to home, I encourage you to practice Sabbath in intentional ways:

- Take a walk without your phone and thank God for the beauty you see.
- Enjoy a meal slowly, with laughter and gratitude.
- Set aside time each week to worship, pray, and rest.

Say no to unnecessary noise and yes to the peace of God.

Remember: Sabbath is not a reward for finishing your to-do list. It's a gift—a weekly reminder that God is in control, not us, and that grace carries us further than effort ever will.

So this month, take a breath. Watch a sunset. Read a book. Worship with joy. Laugh with family. Let your soul rest in the arms of the One who says, "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" (Matthew 11:28)

Michelle and I will be taking a week for vacation July 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> to be together in the Adirondacks and appreciate each other and the beauty of God's creation in this beautiful mountain area. For emergencies during this time, please contact the church offices.

Wishing you peace, renewal, and joy this summer.

With love in Christ,

*Pastor Mike*



# TALK SAVES LIVES: AN INTRODUCTION TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

Talk Saves Lives is the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's leading education program on suicide prevention, covering the scope of the issue, warning signs, risk factors, and proven prevention strategies.



Monday, July 21, 2025  
10:00-12:00 pm



Oneida Public Library  
459 Main St, Oneida



This session is 45-60 minutes and will be followed by a brief discussion of suicide prevention.



Contact Us  
315.697.3947



Please call or scan QR code to register for this free training.



The Fellowship Committee would like to invite you to join us for an Ice Cream Sundae in the auditorium following service on July 13th!!!!!!

Toppings and bananas are available for you to maximize your Sundae Sunday pleasure!!!



## LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

*For the month of July 2025*

Jude Alexander (Mancarella's great nephew)  
Fred Bavo (Jennawade's Uncle)  
Kevin Bedford  
Brody  
Richard Brown  
Marty Canning  
Timothy Carver (Jen Bailey's Father)  
Elizabeth Coulby  
Cora Cramer (Ethel Abbott's sister)  
Fran Dowd (Jim Sweet's sister)  
Emeri Dryer (Maggie's grand daughter)  
Peggy Eastman  
John Ferguson  
Robert Feldmann (Melinda's Father)  
Linda Felix  
Jillian Felt  
Andy Froass  
Don Fuller (Stephanie Gwilt's Father)  
Pat Grabow (Chrissy Thompson's Mom)

Becky Grasso  
Wendy Holtz  
Jim Hotaling  
Sandy Houseman  
Victor Johnson  
Dan King (Pastor @ New Life Assembly  
of God)  
Jean Kowalik  
Florence LaRock  
Laurie Mudge  
Michelle Newman  
Becky Nichols  
Michael O'Bryan (Mike's Brother in law)  
Mike Oot  
Tom Panasci  
Elli Pfluke  
Dan & Claudia Rayome  
Dave Scribner  
Debbie Shaw  
Brian Stites  
Millicent Vidal  
Jan Whiting

**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

Debra Skellham  
Casey

Jim Chappell  
Kaitlyn Peryer

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:**

**Mildred Johnson (Wife of long time church member Victor Johnson Jr. Lt. Col US Army Retired)**

## **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.

## DEACONS

### CLASS OF 2025

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

### CLASS OF 2026

## **MISSION EMPHASIS:**

The Learning Academy and Committee on Preparation for Ministry

First Presbyterian Church Oneida

New Hartford Presbyterian Church, New Hartford

Waterbury Memorial Presbyterian Church, Oriskany

### CLASS OF 2027

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

stationed in non-combat zones: Stephen Cafalone, Jack Sharkey, Mark las Young, Philip Messina, Ryan Geer, John Goodwill, Errol Crossman, Corey Reed, Michael McMahon, Andrew Fargo, Jim Jennings, Michelle Ludwig, Peter Thompson, Dylan McClelland

Sia, Nicho-

Those currently serving in a combat zone:



## THIS MONTH AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

July 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Senior Bible Study

July 4th Office Closed

July 5th, 19th Restoration

Fellowship (JWCC)

July 6th Communion

July 13th Ice Cream Sundae Sunday

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

July 20th Joint Service in Oneida  
Castle

July 24th Newsletter Deadline



**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**



July 2 Elli Pfluke

July 4 Don Dew, Myrtle Smith

July 6 Lou White

July 7 Jim Sweet

July 10 Eliana Mastriano

July 11 Sarah Dew, Gail Nicolaisen

July 12 Jan Whiting, George Hammerle

July 19 Jessica Coulter, Bob Williams

July 26 Alexander Tooker

July 27 Sierra Bloom

### *Anniversaries*

July 12 Jim and Cathy Opperman

July 21 Amanda and Joe Burdick

### Scripture Readers for July

July 6th-Barb Seaton

July 13th-Perry Tooker IV

July 20th-No Reader

July 27th-Pat Thorpe

### Coffee Servers for July

July 6th-Lucille Merriman & Deb Owens

July 13th-Phyllis Lighthall

July 20th-No Coffee Service

July 27th John Merritt & Lou White



# Our Graduates

## 2025



## **SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE**

JUNE

**29th-Barb Seaton**

JULY

**6th-Hymn Sing**

**13th-Stephanie Gwilt & John Merritt**

**20th- Service at Cochran**

**27th-Patricia Durante and Barb Seaton**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
304 Broad Street  
Oneida, NY 13421

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST  
NEWSLETTER IS JULY 24TH**

