



The Oracle

Ogden Presbyterian Church
2400 S. Union Street
Spencerport, NY 14559
(585) 352-6802

February 2017

Oracle Volume XX — Issue II

Understanding Identity

In Luke's gospel, chapter 9:18-20 we hear the following story: ¹⁸Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' ¹⁹They answered, 'John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.' ²⁰He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'the Messiah of God.' Friends, understanding Identity is critical – for people and institutions, particularly churches. In order to be effective and to be a blessing to the world, a congregation needs to understand who it is. As a congregation walking through the Interim time and looking to call a new pastor, it is important for Ogden Presbyterian to know who you are in order to call the right person to lead you. So, as we continue to progress through the 6 Developmental Tasks of Interim Ministry, we have come to Step 2: **Discovering a New Identity**. During this step we will work together as a church community to answer 3 overarching questions: **1.) Who are we? 2.) Who are our neighbors? 3.) What is God calling us to do?**, along with several others as well (see full description of process below).

Over the next few months, a small team will gather to guide Ogden through this process and help to answer these questions fully. After we answer these questions, as a congregation we will produce a written report and a formal Mission Statement. With the updated Mission Statement, you will be able to identify the type of pastoral leadership you are seeking; as well as what qualities, characteristics and skills should the Pastor Nominating Committee be looking for in your next pastoral leader. This can be a fun and exciting time of discovery and growing together as disciples. This step will be challenging, but will launch Ogden Presbyterian safely into the future, God's future. Stay tuned to hear more and continue to be in prayer for God to lead Ogden forward.

Thanks,
Pastor Tedd

Components of a Mission Study, required by the Presbytery (from Amy Fowler)

3 questions: Who are we? Who are our neighbors? What is God calling us to do?

- I. Assessment of Vitality—(Who are we?)
 - a. People Resources and life of the church—what's happening now and who is involved? What or who is missing?
Membership analysis by age, race, and gender
 - b. Financial Resources—full financial report, including all designated funds, budget
 - c. Condition of the Building
 - d. What are our gifts, talents, and passions? Who are we now? Strengths/Weaknesses, History, Beliefs, Values
 - e. Looking at our programs, what is the focus of this congregation? Who do we minister to?
 - f. What do we value?
 - g. Who uses our resources?
- II. Assessment of the Surrounding Community: (Who are our neighbors?)
 - a. What's changed?
 - b. Demographic report
 - c. What's changing?
 - d. What difference does it make?
 - e. Community Leader Interviews—With whom?
Questions:
What are the needs of this community now?
Is there a role you could see our church playing in meeting those needs?
What are your projections for the next five to ten years?

(continued on p.3)



Welcome to the Committee Corner! Session has elected to highlight the many mission and outreach activities going on at OPC, both to inform congregants and visitors of all that we do, as well as to guide Stewardship communications. Each month, we will focus on the inner workings of one of our many committees. This will help keep the congregation up-to-date on the happenings, both current and future, in OPC, with the hopes that it might help people find a way to utilize their own talents in our church. It also shows why your financial contributions are so important to our overall ministry, and why your support is vital to the overall success of OPC and ensuring its place within our community.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Each Tuesday morning from September to May a group of about 12-24 OPC women and friends meet for a time of fellowship and Bible study. This group not only offers us the opportunity to study God's word, but also the opportunity to apply God's word to our daily lives.

The use of reusable coffee mugs for coffee hour, instead of Styrofoam, was one of the outcomes of our study of Everyday Justice by Julie Clawson. Thank you for your willingness to wash those mugs instead of just dumping more stuff into landfills.



Each week we take a "least coin offering." It has been used to support a variety of projects around the world and locally. We were able to support a need that one of our members and deacons shared with us. Most recently we have used the money to pay the postage to send used pill bottles, first to Afghanistan, and now to the work of *Matthew 25 Ministries*. Our thanks to Sharon Pittman for coordinating this effort, and for preparing and shipping 2,500 bottles to this point. Thank **YOU** for supporting this effort! Continue to drop them off in the box on the Mission Table.

On Saturday, May 6, we will be preparing a ham and scalloped potato dinner for the church family and community. The proceeds will go to the general fund of the church. Save the date and watch for more details.

Our goal is, and continues to be, that each of us will not just learn to love God and his word more, but to also show more love to those around us.

~Anne Wallace, for Women's Bible Study

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY PROJECT



Women's Bible Study continues to collect, clean, package and send used pill bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries. So far, we have sent over 2,500 bottles and have more to send soon! Thank you all for your bottles, and continue to drop them off in the box on the Mission Table.

~Sharon Pittman, for Women's Bible Study

(continued from p.1)

III. Sense of God's Call towards the Future (What is God calling us to do?)

- a. Who are we now? Strengths/Weaknesses, History, Beliefs, Values (from above)
- b. Who is God calling us to become? Opportunities/Challenges
- c. For what are we here? What is God's purpose for this church? What is God calling us to do? What is God's mission for us?
- d. Who is our neighbor? With whom is God calling us to be active in mission and ministry?

IV. In light of all the above, what type (full-time call, part-time call, supply, Commissioned Ruling Elder) of pastoral leadership should we be seeking?

For what qualities, characteristics, and skills should the Pastor Nominating Committee be looking in the next pastoral leader?

V. On what issues do we need to be working in the meantime (until the new pastoral leader is in place?) These will be referred to the Session.

VI. **The Mission Study Team produces a *written narrative report*, including all of the above, which is approved by the Session and the congregation, and the Committee on Ministry. Only after these approvals will COM give permission for a PNC to be formed.**

JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The OPC Session met on Tuesday, January 17th. In that meeting, Session:

- 1) Reviewed our agenda for the upcoming Congregational Meeting
- 2) Discussed the next phase of our Interim Journey – the Mission Study
- 3) Made some modest changes to the structure of Session meetings to improve flow and efficiency
- 4) Welcomed Youth Elder, Toya Lalnumawia
- 5) Approved several Motions involving Building Use, OPC calendar, disbursement of monies, and fundraising initiatives.

For 2017 and beyond, our OPC family has so much to be grateful for. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,
OPC Session



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OUTING

Please come and join us to see Greece Athena Middle School's production of *Mary Poppins* on Saturday, March 25th at 1pm at Athena's GPAC! The cost is \$12/ticket. Please sign up on the sheet on the PW Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. We also might go out for breakfast before the show. More details to follow.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Just wanted everyone to know that I am stepping down from the chair of PW until things are better with Tom and his treatments. Pam Ehring will now be chair of PW. Please contact her with thoughts and ideas for the committee.

Thank you, Pam, for stepping in, and I hope to be back as chair in the future.

~Sim Mulford



2017 OPC Fellowship Events

February 23 – OPC Luncheon Outing to the Farmer's Table in Hamlin; please sign up on the Fellowship Bulletin Board by February 19th.



March 18 – OPC Outing to Zarpentine's for a pancake breakfast. Please sign up on the Fellowship Bulletin Board by March 12th.

May 14 – Special Mothers' Day Fellowship Hour hosted by the men of OPC. Please sign up for contributions on the Fellowship Bulletin Board.



June 4 – Pentecost Fellowship Hour. Please sign up for contributions on the Fellowship Bulletin Board.



June 18 – Dad and Grad Celebration during Fellowship Hour. Meal served by Fellowship Team (Free Will Offering).



August 20 – OPC Annual Picnic. Please sign up for contributions on the Fellowship Bulletin Board.



September 17 – Road Rally and Ice Cream Sundae Bar. Participants please sign up on the Fellowship Bulletin Board.



October 15 – Oktoberfest Fellowship Hour. Meal served by Fellowship Team (Free Will Offering).



November 19 – Mexican Theme Fellowship Hour with a Piñata for the children. Meal served by Fellowship Team (Free Will Offering).

December 17 – OPC Christmas Party hosted by the Fellowship Team. Great food and gifts! 😊



Please join us for these fun fellowship activities!

We hope you will join us for these fun Fellowship Activities and invite your family and friends! Other events that we are working on and may add to the list are:

- A family bowling and pizza event at Spencerport Lanes late in February
- An outing on April 1st to see the Greece Paint Players (show and dinner)
- A miniature golf family outing sometime this summer
- A boat ride and dinner to be held mid-July
- Outing to the Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival in Olcott in September

We look forward to having you join us!

~Your OPC Fellowship Team

From the DEACONS...

Our Shut-ins

Judy Pagel at St. Mary's/Unity
Gene Brendel at The Hamlet @ Unity Villages — Deacon/Ruth Gaskill

Those in care facilities/shut-ins to be remembered with prayers, cards, and visits!

Addresses/phone numbers for any of the above, or best times to visit, may be obtained from the Deacons.



Mary En-
gelbreit

Be a lamp, a lifeboat, or a ladder

-Rumi

Our Deacons for 2017

Dawn Sheffet — Moderator
Harry Pittman — Charity, Men @ Work
Dennise Webster — Co-Moderator/Cards
Cindy Caloritis — Flowers
Diane Dupree — Membership
Sim Mulford — Communion Setup
Ruth Gaskill — Communion Servers
Marilyn Spilberg — Secretary
Ron Tucker — Treasurer

The Deacons would like to acknowledge those familiar to our church family who are currently serving in the United States Military. We encourage the congregation to remember and pray for them in honor of their service to our country.

SGT. MULFORD, GARY
CMR 414 BOX 129
APO AE 09173



Deacon News

- We want to thank everyone who helped with the “Unhanging of the Greens” on January 1st. We even had a little elf who joined in!
- In a previous Oracle, the Deacons told you about the bulletin covers that we were inspired by Harry and Sharon Pittman (Easter 2016) to provide for special services. We have decided to continue this practice.
Below is the list of services for which we will be ordering in February for months through July 2017. If anyone in the congregation wishes to donate for a particular service, contact Diane Dupree at 352-1824. The cost is approximately \$8.00.

Palm Sunday (April 9th)
Easter Sunday (April 16th)
Mother's Day (May 14th)
Memorial Day (May 29th)
Pentecost Sunday (June 4th)
Father's Day (June 18th)
Confirmation Day

Where love and caring are, there is God.

The work of the board of the Deacons is supported by your contributions to the Deacon offering, which is taken on Communion Sunday. Offering envelopes are available in the pews for this collection. Thank you!

STITCHIN' FOR MISSION



The Stitchin' for Mission group continues to meet the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10-Noon at OPC. We have a group of very dedicated people who crochet/knit afghans and others who sew squares together to make quilts. We then give them to people who need the love they bring when they are ill or are having a difficult time in their life. In the past couple of months, we have given to OPC members and friends and to outside organizations. We recently sent 16 quilts to the Unity

Cancer Center at Park Ridge Hospital and to the Unity Dialysis Unit in Spencerport. I would like to send a big thank you for all the dedication and work that this group does. If the group is something you might be interested in, please come and join us to see what we do. If you have any questions, call Marilyn Malloy at 723-1731.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

March 11th, 2017

Sponsored by the Men's Bible Study Group

Proceeds to benefit the ministry of OPC. Bring a friend!!!

More details forthcoming.

WOMEN'S TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Who is Jesus? *What a Difference a Lens Makes* by Judy Yates Siker will be the winter study for the Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study. Each of the study's nine lessons explores the question "Who is Jesus?" through a particular theological lens. Who is Jesus... according to the Gospel writers, Hebrews, other Abrahamic Faiths, and Contemporary Cultural.

Who do you say Jesus is? Join us **Tuesday mornings at 9:30am** as we expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is — a journey of our hearts and minds and a journey we will take together.

All OPC women and their friends are welcome. See Anne Wallace for more information.

FOOD SHELF CURRENT NEEDS

Cookies, Crackers, Canned Stew, and Canned Hash are in short supply right now at the Food Shelf.

Any cash donations toward purchase of gift cards can be given to Jean Schult or Andy Resch.



Thank you to all the OPC members who have been filling the boxes in the Narthex with food and household items for the Food Shelf. There was a trunk load delivered on December 22nd, and the stockers were amazed at how generous the folks at OPC are! Thank you!!!

~Jean Schult and Andy Resch, Food Shelf Representatives



PARAMENTS/LITURGICAL COLORS

There are four liturgical colors for the Christian year: white, purple, red, and green.
Do you know what their significance is?

WHITE is used for special days in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, and is reserved for Easter and Christmas.

PURPLE marks times of penitence and preparation, and is used during the seasons of Lent and Advent.

RED is the color of the Holy Spirit, and is used for the church's (as a whole) birthday: Pentecost.

Lastly, **GREEN** is used for all other times during the Christian year.

The Cross is draped in Purple for Lent, Black for Good Friday (Christ's death), and then White for Easter.

Hopefully this sheds some light on the changes in the Parament colors throughout the year.



DINNERS FOR 8 ARE BACK!!!

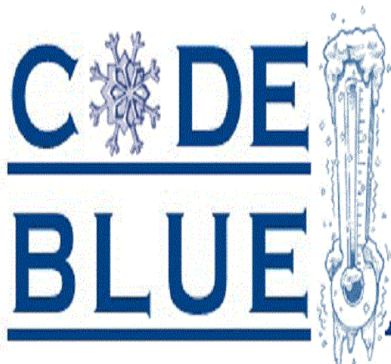
The Discipleship Committee is excited to announce that "Dinners for 8" are returning by popular request. The first one will be **Saturday, February 25th** at the home of Roger & Bonnie Howlett. As previously, the goal of these dinners is to promote deeper connections among members of the congregation, and attendance will be limited to eight guests plus the hosts.

A sign-up sheet is on the Discipleship Board in the Fellowship Hall.

We are also seeking volunteers who would be willing to host future dinners at their homes. Hosts are free to choose the date and time of their dinner, as well as the preferred number of guests. Hosts often provide a main dish with the guests bringing other dishes, but individual dinners may vary. A sign-up sheet for volunteer hosts is also posted. We hope you will join us! Bon appetite!!!

CODE BLUE IS IN EFFECT!

Through February, the Mission Committee will be collecting new men's winter hats, gloves, thermal socks, and hand warmers for the Open Door Mission's Code Blue Program. Code Blue goes into effect when the temperatures drop to 20 degrees



and below. In addition to providing food and shelter, the Mission hands out backpacks of personal hygiene items, hats, gloves, thermoses, and first aid kits. A special box is on the Mission Table.

VALENTINES COOKIES NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help bake Valentine's Day Cookies for OPC members and the Veterans who need a little cheering up. If you can bake a dozen cookies (or more), it would be greatly appreciated. Please bring any cookie donations to church on **Sunday, February 12th**.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the Mission Bulletin Board.

Thank you
for your
generosity!

~OPC Missions





happy
birthday

Worship and Fellowship Assistants

GREETERS:

February 5 Boy Scout Troop 92
12 Carol Newman
19 Diana Inman
26 Carol Quinn

USHERS:

February 5 Boy Scouts, Troop 92
12 Marilyn & Dick Malloy
19 Sandy & Jim Friday
26 Marilyn & Randy Spilberg

LITURGIST:

February 5 Quinn Ewell
12 Sandy Friday
19 Pat Everett
26 Norma Jones

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:

February 5 Dawn Sheffet
12 Sandy & Jim Friday
19 Cindy Anderson
26 Jean Schult

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:

February 5 Carol Newman
12 Cindy Anderson
19 Kelly Bindert
26 Sim Mulford

NURSERY CARE:

February 5 Heather Shaffer
12 Molly & Emma Corey
19 Sharon Pittman
26 Michelle Rosipayla

COMMUNION SERVERS:

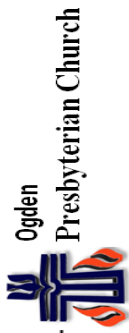
February 5 Cindy & John Caloritis, Norma Jones & Stephanie Cassidy

Name	Day
Stephen Savino	2 / 3
Kaitlin Anderson	2 / 5
Emily Knight	2 / 10
Michelle Rosipayla	2 / 13
Delos Jones	2 / 15
Randy Rosipayla	2 / 15
Sharon Pittman	2 / 18
Dianne Voorhees	2 / 18
Susan Azzolina	2 / 21
Julia Ryhal	2 / 21
Barry Barklund	2 / 22
Janet Fraina	2 / 24
Roger Howlett	2 / 26

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH: Jim Friday — February 260-0175

One trustee is assigned per month to take care of any building issues that may arise. Please call the designated Trustee if you have something that needs to be addressed.

Thank You!



Ogden
Presbyterian Church

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February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Souper Bowl Sunday Boy Scout Sunday Missions (after worship) Confirmation, 11:30-1 Youth Group, 6:30	6 Fellowship, 6pm, @ Alice Brendel's Cub Scouts	7 Women's Bible, 9:30am	8 Choir, 10am TOPS, 5:30pm Bell Choir, 6pm	9 Stitchin' for Mission, 10am	10	11
12 Christian Ed (after worship) Personnel (after worship) PW (after worship) Confirmation, 11:30-1 Eagle Court of Honor, 5-8pm	13 Men's Bible, Noon, @ Union St. Eatery (Vets Home after) Cub Scouts *ORACLE DEADLINE	14 Women's Bible, 9:30am Worship & Music, 7pm	15 Choir, 10am Membership, 2pm TOPS, 5:30pm Bell Choir, 6pm	16	17	18
19	20 Deacons, 6:30pm Trustees, 7pm Cub Scouts	21 Women's Bible, 9:30am Session, 7pm	22 Choir, 10am TOPS, 5:30pm Bell Choir, 6pm	23	24	25
26	27 Men's Bible, Noon, @ OPC Cub Scouts	28 Women's Bible, 9:30am	<i>OPC Mission Statement: Our purpose is to equip ourselves and others to be disciples of Christ as we seek God's will for our church and beyond.</i>			

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Website: <http://www.ogdenpresbyterian.org>

****DATED MATERIAL****

February 2017

February 2017

Newsletter Deadline: Articles for the *March 2017* issue of The Oracle are due in the Church Office no later than **Monday, February 13th** by 10:00 a.m. All contributions are subject to editing with regard to the subject matter and space requirements.

The Oracle is the newsletter of the Ogden Presbyterian Church of Spencerport, New York, a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The newsletter is sent to members and friends of the congregation to keep them informed of events, activities, and people in the life of the congregation. **Sunday worship is at 10:00a.m.** Church school is offered for all ages. Coffee Fellowship immediately follows worship. All guests are welcome!

OPC Mission Statement: *Our purpose is to equip ourselves and others to be Disciples of Christ as we seek God's will for our church and beyond.*