



PRESBYTERIAN TIDBITS

The Newsletter of Ottawa Presbyterian Church

150 N. Oak St., Ottawa, OH 45875-1810 ♦ (419) 523-3694

Reverend Ben Shaw ♦ ottawapresby.org

Andrea Morman, *Secretary* ♦ 9:30 am Sunday School ♦ 10:45 am Worship

November 2017

The church where I grew up in Delaware has a tradition where, on the first Sunday of a new year, we draw paper stars from a basket. And on those stars is a word to guide your spiritual journey for the year—different for everyone in the church. Maybe you’ve seen this done before. Maybe we’ll do it this year—that’s a question for a different newsletter.

In 2016 the star I pulled said “gratitude”. As 2016 wore on, and I graduated from Seminary and moved back to my parents’ house, gratitude came to feel like a burden. By this time last year, it felt like a sick joke. Gratitude can be a hard sell, especially when Thanksgiving is around the corner and suddenly we’re expected to have a list of things to be thankful for.

This is why gratitude is a spiritual discipline—it can take work. Sometimes it can take a lot of work. Sometimes it involves searching long and hard for something good to feel grateful for. And that’s okay. Part of why worship can feel like a chore when things aren’t going well is become Presbyterians frame worship as an act of gratitude, and we don’t always have a lot to give.

But if you are feeling grateful, or if you have worked some to get to gratefulness—how are you responding? November gives us plenty of ways to respond to God in gratitude, beyond simply going around the table at Thanksgiving.

It wouldn’t be November if I didn’t make a plug for stewardship—for responding financially if God has blessed you with more than you need. Filling out a pledge card can be a way of expressing gratitude. But it’s far from the only way. If God has given you more time than money, then use that for expressing gratitude. If you need help brainstorming...stop by my office. We can find something for you to do.

This November, I’m challenging you to find new things to feel grateful for, and new ways of expressing gratitude. It isn’t always easy. Sometimes it means doing a whole audit of your life. It is called a discipline for a reason. But it is worth it.

To get you brainstorming, here are a few things I’m grateful for in this November of 2017:

You, the Ottawa Presbyterian Church. That Andrea is back from maternity leave, and that as I write this her 5-week old son is making baby noises in the next room. That Beth served so well as our secretary during Andrea’s absence. That my ordination is coming up (finally!) and that some of you are planning to be there the first time I preside at communion. The many people who have showed us examples of faith and Christian life who have departed this life. The potluck skills of the congregation. That I am warm and comfortable. That God has given us work to do so that all people might be warm and comfortable. That, as imperfect as I am, God has called me to faith and ministry. That, as imperfect as I am, God loves and forgives me.

It’s a start. I can’t wait to hear what you come up with.

Yours in Christ,

Ben

Fair Share

Oh No! It's November and that means different things to different people. The Holidays are coming faster than we are prepared for; colder weather is here or looming and outside projects need attention; commercials tell us to buy, Buy, BUY and the sales are mind boggling to entice us to spend more. And it is the traditional time when stewardship is talked about in church. Oh No! Not again, haven't we heard all the reasons why we should pledge to the church already?!?

Well, what if we consider stewardship as our way of giving a fair share. Gillian, Stan and I attended a Stewardship Conference last spring. The keynote speaker was Mark Allan Powell. In a small group discussion he offered that giving financial support to the church is only doing a fair share. Churches are not run like secular organizations where membership dues, fees, fundraiser campaigns, and corporate contributions pay the bills and make programs possible. But churches do cost money to operate, do mission, provide programs and outreach services. One responsibility of belonging to a church is supporting it with time, talent, and treasure. All members should contribute fairly to meet the costs of the faith community's life and mission. But how much? Only you can answer that one. Read the 8th chapter of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians for some help as you decide what is your fair share of supporting OPC.

Next Session Meeting will be held on Thurs., Nov. 16 at 7 pm.

Sunday, November 5: One hour



Financial Report

(Operational Income & Expense Only)

This financial report is included in the printed copies of the newsletter available at church or emailed directly to members of the congregation.



Prayer Concerns

Please note: Specific information about those included in our prayers is available during worship, in our office, or from our Session members. However, specific names will not be posted on this web version of the newsletter.

Please pray for those with **health concerns** no matter what their stage of life.

Please pray for those undergoing **Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Rehab Therapy.**

Please pray for those **serving in the military**, both at home and overseas, as well as the families who watch and wait for them.

Please pray for **those receiving hospice care** as well as for their families and their caregivers.

Please pray for residents of **nursing homes** and **children's hospitals** and also **those who are returning to their homes** after hospital or nursing home stays.

Please pray for those who are either waiting for or who have received **organ transplants** and the families who face difficult decisions.

Please pray for those **facing decisions** in their personal lives, their professional lives, their family lives, or their spiritual lives.

And finally, please say a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings of this congregation as well as a prayer for the future leadership of this group of believers!

Upcoming Events



Dear Friends in Choir,
Thank you for the beautiful flowers at my brother's memorial service.
Thank you, too, for the prayers and support during Ralph's illness.
Sincerely,
Mike, Nancy, George & all Ralph's family.

Dear Church family and OPW,
Thank you so much for all of the candy and snacks! I have been enjoying a lot.
Also, thank you for the cute note and light up pumpkin.
Reminded me of when I was little☺
Thanks again!
Love, Chloe



- Lori F

Ottawa Presbyterian Church is the best! I go to my mail box and there is a package from the church filled with great stuff. Thanks so much for the goodie box. I'm so blessed.

Such a bitter sweet moment yesterday. After a very long night of parent teacher conferences, I came home to a package from my wonderful family. It was my last Halloween care package. I cried knowing that this is my last one and that I will be done in May. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers and I miss you so much! I love you all! And this care package means more than you know! God bless and see you all soon!

- Victoria C



My roommates saw me open a box full of candy and got super jealous. Thanks everyone for the love and support you've shown me every year!

- Katrina R

Women's Breakfast will be held here on Saturday, November 4, at 9 am. Devotions will be given by Jean S. Hostesses are Dee B and Becky R.

Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday, November 11, at 9 am at Henry's Restaurant.

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, November 19, following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers.

Ordination of Rev. Ben Shaw will take place on Sunday, November 19 in First Presbyterian Church in Delaware, OH, at 3 pm. The church is located at 73 West Winter Street in Delaware.



Christmas Eve is on Sunday, December 24 this year. Our services will be held at 10:45 am and 9:30 pm.

10:45 am: Regular service with children doing most of the service.

9:30 pm: Candlelight/Music service.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Presbyterian Tidbits is published once a month by:

Ottawa Presbyterian Church, part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Reverend Ben Shaw can be reached via email at revben@ottawapresby.org or phone
740-972-1606.

Andrea Morman, secretary, is usually here Tuesday & Thursday.

Our website is ottawapresby.org

Sunday School – 9:30 am/Worship – 10:45 am

The **Prayer Circle** is a group willing to confidentially pray for your joys and concerns.

Please contact prayercircle@ottawapresby.org.

DATE	ELDERS IN CHARGE	FLOWERS
November 5	Diane B.	Badder
November 12	Lynne H.	Beckman
November 19	Jane D.	Badder
November 26	Chas M. Servers: Chas M., Jeff R. Communion Prep: Chas M.	Doepker

Session:

Class of 2017: **Chas Myers, Jeff Remaklus**

Class of 2018: **Lynne Hirzel, Becky Riepenhoff**

Class of 2019: **Diane Bishop, Jane Doepker**