



# 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

## March 2020



Friends in Christ,

Last Saturday at Session we voted to do something none of us exactly dream about: we voted to lock the doors during worship.

There are a lot of reasons we did this. Sadly it's not especially unusual to hear about mass shootings in churches, and churches during worship hours are easy targets for thieves. Our nursery is located far from the sanctuary, and there was concern about protecting our children in a number of different circumstances. I think it was the right decision.

But it still doesn't feel great to lock ourselves away during worship. There *will* be people checking the doors early in worship for late-comers, and your key fob will still let you in no matter the time (if you don't have a key fob...call the office). But the feeling of locking ourselves away, even for the right reasons, feels a little weird to us. Does it prevent a spontaneous visitor from meeting God in our walls? Does it make us feel comfortable inside our building, but fearful of the world? Is it a witness of fear in a world that needs a witness of God's overwhelming, expansive welcome?

Perhaps. But any decision we make for our own safety inside needs to be balanced by a risk taken to share who we are, who God is, and what God has done for us *outside* of our walls. I think we will have some exciting news to report on this front in the months ahead—stay tuned.

In the meantime, are you taking what you find in our walls out with you? Or does the gratitude God's grace inspires remain locked away safely at 150 N. Oak Street until next Sunday? For many of you I can confidently say that it does not—but can you explain why, or how?

Sometimes we make decisions in the name of safety. And when we do this, the onus is with us to show that the warmth and security we feel here are not just ours, but for all—whether they ever come through our doors or not. Godspeed.

In the love of Christ,  
Rev. Ben



## Prayer Concerns

Please note: Specific information about those included in our prayers is available during worship, from Rev. Ben, 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 Rev. Ben's wonderful leadership of this group of believers!

## Financial Report

Financial reports for the church are available in the hard copy version of this newsletter. If you would like more information, you may also contact our treasurer ([treasurer@ottawapresby.org](mailto:treasurer@ottawapresby.org)).

Dear Fellow Partners in God's Mission,

Grace and peace to you and yours through Jesus Christ, who makes us one.

On Sunday, February 23, we celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord. In Matthew's gospel, we read, "And Jesus was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white" (17:2). Clearly, Peter, James and John received a glimpse of God. As you engage with Presbyterian Mission, you too get a glimpse of God – a vision of what God is doing around the world. And so, on behalf of your

Presbyterian Mission, please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support. On December 31, 2019, we received \$500.00 for 102 Shared Mission Support. Your church's support changes people's lives and helps others receive a glimpse of God around the world.

Thank you once again for your support, dedication and partnership in furthering God's mission around the world. You are a valued partner.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Chris Roseland,  
Mission Engagement Advisor

## Upcoming Events

World Day of Prayer will be on Friday, March 6, at Glandorf St. John's Catholic Church at 11am. Luncheon will follow. All are welcome to attend.



Betsy Baldwin has a new address which is available in the office.



**Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Session will meet Sunday, April 19 after worship**

**OTTAWA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**150 N. OAK ST.**  
**OTTAWA, OH 45875-1810**  
**419-523-3694**  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Presbyterian Tidbits** is published once a month by:

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Reverend Ben Shaw can be reached via email at [revben@ottawapresby.org](mailto:revben@ottawapresby.org) or phone  
740-972-1606.

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

Our website is [ottawapresby.org](http://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](mailto:prayercircle@ottawapresby.org).

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ELDERS IN CHARGE</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>
March 1	Karl H.	Kaufman
March 8	Robyn B. Servers: Brandon F., Robyn B. Communion Prep: Rev. Ben	TBD
March 15	Brandon F.	Font
March 22	Paul B.	Carrie Johnson
March 29	Ashley R.	Myers

### **Session:**

Class of 2020: **Paul Baransy, Brandon Font**

Class of 2021: **Robyn Badder, Ashley Roberts**

Class of 2022: **Karl Hirzel, Nancy Kaufman**