



Orwell Union Church



Dedicated 1845

October 2022

“The Little Church That Cares”

Edition 3, Volume 1

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is traditionally the time set aside to show our Pastoral leadership how much we appreciate them. This is particularly true this year with the Orwell Union Church family.

Just a short three years ago we were in a much different place in our faith journey. We had a Pastor assigned to us that saw his mission as leading us to a time where we would close our doors and transfer to another nearby Church. As the Covid pandemic reared its ugly head, we as a congregation of 10-12, decided to sever our relationship with this Pastor for many reasons.

For about a year we continued to hold services by using our own lay speakers and occasional guest speakers. Then the Lord gave us a gift. *Pastor Dave Snyder.*

Pastor Dave had served our Church from 2004 to 2008, before moving on to Pastor other Churches, as is a common practice with the United Methodist Church. Pastor Dave had retired from the active Ministry but with a chance meeting in a grocery store parking lot, he agreed to come back and deliver a sermon.

Since that first Sunday it did not take much arm twisting to get Pastor Dave to agree to returning each Sunday with taking one Sunday off per month. And here comes our next Pastoral miracle. Word came to us that a young man from the Hastings area had a great desire to preach the Word of God and did not have a venue in which to achieve his goal.

We invited him to come and deliver a message to us and it was very evident that Josh Bush was not only a devoted Christian and family man, but also a great fit. We were now blessed with the best of two Pastoral worlds. First, the blessing of having a highly experienced and knowledgeable Pastor, along with a young and energetic Pastor with a great thirst for growing in his faith.

With the blessing of having these two exceptional Pastors, our “Little Church that Cares” has grown in attendance from 10 to 12, to 30 to 40.

Please let these gentlemen know how much we appreciate their dedication and service to our Church, and remember that they could not do any of this without the support of their wives and families.

Orwell Union Church
Sunday Service 9:30 am
Phone.....315.509.4327
Information phone.....315.380.0097
Pastor Dave.....315.591.7072

Pastor's Corner



As I was sitting in the stands yesterday watching my youngest granddaughter play her last soccer game of her senior year, it really struck me that I was right smack in the middle of a changing season of my life.

The bright colored leaves falling in the cool temperatures, birds building relationships into flocks headed south, my last grandchild going through her life building (but changing) last year as a student in her Mexico School. Our house, our home for the last 45 years, on the market for sale with us making plans to down size into a trailer in a retirement community. Watching my wife work with some other ladies in her first try at organizing a Bible Study.

Changes, changes, changes! I truly believe that our God blesses us each day with change. Our comfort box is built with stretching walls! This is as God plans. He is still molding us, changing us to bring us to the finished person that He will bring with Him to stand in front of God the Father to hear those blessed words...."Well done my good and faithful child".

Welcome those changes as God continues to mold and make us into what His original plan calls for us to be!

In closing, I would like to leave you with a few words.....Continue to pray and remember that prayer is conversation with God. Conversation consists of two equal parts. Talking *and* Listening! Don't short yourself and not hear what God has to say!

And
I will give you
shepherds
after my own heart,
who will feed you
with
knowledge
and
understanding.
Jeremiah 3:15

Did You Know?

By Rose Graham & Dave Potter

We will try and have a little history of our "Little Church That Cares" in each newsletter. The information that we present has been gathered from original records found in the Church by Rose Graham and Dave Potter. These records also are a treasure trove of genealogy information with marriages and baptisms going back to the early 1800's.

As our town grew in the early 1800's so did the need for places to gather and worship. As with most frontier areas, families would gather in homes or the small school houses each Sunday in what was often called "Classes". When available, circuit preachers would deliver the message, but often this would fall on a local deacon who could read.

Often these gatherings would result in standing room only. On one of those occasions someone who was weary of standing dropped down upon John Beadle's lap, much to his annoyance. On the following day, as Deacon Stowell was working in his shop, Mr. Beadle entered saying "Good morning, Deacon I have important business on hand today." "Ah, what now" says the Deacon.

"We are going to have a new meeting house where everyone can have a seat of his own. I ain't going to meeting any more to be sot on!" "Such a house as we want to build will cost \$2,000. I know the circumstances of every man in this town, and just how much he is able to give. I have made out a list of ten men who can give \$100, ten who can give \$50, ten who can give \$10 and ten who can give \$5. Now," he said with a forcible gesture, "every man has to pay the sum opposite his name or I'll abuse him."



Now the right place to begin is in the Church so I came to you first. I can pay \$200 and not hurt any, and anyhow, I won't be out of pocket much, for my farm will be worth more. Besides it will give an air of respectability to the town. Now you can't really afford to give more than \$100, but considering your interest in such manners and your position in the Church, I knew you would give an extra \$50 if necessary. That will just make out the sum."

The Deacon heartily assented to the plan, as it had long laid near his heart. Other people were seen and the money was pledged to the Orwell Meeting House Society for the purpose of building a Church.

The result was our wonderful Orwell Union Church which was constructed on land purchased from O.B. Olmstead for \$40. The cost of the construction was \$1,963, a close approximation to what was estimated by Mr. Beadle. The construction began in 1844 and the Church was dedicated in 1845.



Our Noisy Can Mission

For a number of years, we have participated in the Operation Christmas Child mission. It looks like this year will be the biggest yet with a target of 150 shoe boxes to be filled. Our Missions committee will keep us posted each week with what supplies are needed and when the Packing event will be.



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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"Heaven is a great big hug that lasts forever."