



Spring Brings Changes to Orwell Union Church

Spring is here and with it many changes have come to the Orwell Union Church. First, we now have popular Pastor Dave Snyder is back in the pulpit. He was our minister years ago and we are delighted to have him back. We also have a new associate pastor, Josh Bush.

The church also now has a phone and Wi-Fi. (see below for our phone numbers)

The most exciting development is that we are now livestreaming our Sunday services on our Facebook Page. This way the service is available to everyone whether they can come to church or not.

Please check out our Facebook Page for news of the church. photos, inspirational quotes.



Looking for Those Graduates Among Us

Graduation season is once upon us and we would like to recognize those among us that are graduating from not only High School but College or a trade school. If you have someone in your family or in our community that is graduating, please forward their name and info to us by email to Brenda Potter at 315-380-0097, or to OrwellUnionChurch@hotmail.com, or finally in person to Pastor Dave or Josh.

We will then schedule a Sunday in June to recognize these people and present them with a gift.



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By
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Did You Know?

The history of our Church and the practice of Christian fellowship and worship in our town is vast. As with most of the early settlers in the 18th and 19th centuries, those who came to settle in the area we now refer to as Orwell in the northern part of Oswego County had a strong religious foundation. Families shared the reading and listening of the scriptures on a daily basis. Those who could not read would seek those who could and small meetings and groups were common.

Since most of the early settlements could not afford to support a pastor independently, many groups would share a Pastor with a neighboring town or as in the case with the Methodists, circuit preachers were prevalent. While individual ties to a specific denomination were often very strong, the need to share in worship and study was stronger and brought all together.

Probably the earliest permanent settler in Orwell was Frederick Eastman and family. They were Presbyterian. In 1807 Nathaniel Bennett and family arrived, and they were followers of Methodist movement. It was not long before the need to share in Christian fellowship and worship overshadowed the doctrinal differences they may have had.

First, in the early days of our town's religious endeavors, local residents who were chosen to serve as Elders would conduct the weekly services or studies. On a fairly regular monthly basis, a Pastor would arrive on Saturday for a Church business meeting. On Sunday there was often a morning service followed by an afternoon service, which would include the Lords Supper. This seemed to be a time of great fellowship and social interaction. Compare this with today where we try to fit that all valuable one hour into our Sunday morning.

Second, the records show that the first true organized religious organization was of the Presbyterian faith, followed by the Congregationalist, and then the Methodist. The Orwell Union Church built in 1844-5 and was concurrently used by these groups. Again, this demonstrates how despite affiliation, the community worked together to worship God.

Each newsletter will contain a look back into the history of the faith journey of our town and in particular the Orwell Union Church.

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

Pastor's Corner



Here we are, we have made it through the winter, Good Friday and Easter. The Sunday snows have become memories and we as a church family have grown more and more. The Harvest has been collected and we have been living off of last year's hard work.

Now is the time to go out and prepare for this spring's planting. The fields are waiting for us. We have now updated our office equipment and now broadcast our Sunday Services. Our "Christmas Child shoe boxes" collections are now about half collected and it looks like that project will be very successful this year. In June we will be having a Baptism and that is "Good".

We hope to have at least one more "coffee house" this summer, with another in the Fall.

There is a need to have a "Work Day" to finish some projects as we prepare for the summer. Looking forward to a possible Chicken BBQ with a "drive-through" take out chicken sale.

Just as the summer is a time of refreshing our buildings and grounds and general building maintenance, it is also a time of refreshing and maintaining our "Faith Life".

As with Saul, it is the time for us to once again see the power of the Holy Spirit and be renewed and refreshed. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to rebuild and maintain our Faith and Strength in our God. Thus, as we have a Baptism in June let us each renew our baptism.

Inclosing, 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!

Stewardship and Giving

Our Noisy Can giving is doing great things. It has become away for us to reach out and make a difference. The January and February collection resulted in \$306 being donated to the Oswego County Sheriff Scholarship fund in memory of Melisa France who was a corrections officer who passed from complications of COVID.

March and April were held for the Samaritan's Purse Ukraine Relief and resulted in \$428. This project supports deployment of the Samaritan's Purse field mobile hospital and direct support to Ukrainian refugees in the area.

May we are collecting for ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) research and as of May 14 we have collected \$211.

JOURNEY OF Faith

More About Associate Pastor Josh Bush

Our new associate pastor is Josh Bush. We introduced him in last month's newsletter, now we'd like to tell you a bit more about him.



When Joshua Bush was a young child, he wanted to be a preacher. Now he is an associate pastor, alongside Pastor Dave Snyder at the Orwell Union Church. Together they have increased attendance and introduced many new ideas into the church.

Pastor Josh lives in Central Square with his wife Erica and two sons Mason and Gabriel. He said that he appreciates the church's caring and low-key atmosphere. He says that preaching at Orwell has been "a true blessing." His greatest joy in being a minister is changing someone's life with his preaching.

Pastor Josh has a vision for the church, he wants to see the church "filled every Sunday." With the renewed energy and motivation within the Orwell Union Church, it seems like his vision just might come true.

Improvements.....

We now have hot water in the bathroom! Thanks to Ken and Rose Graham for stepping up and providing this much needed improvement. In Orwell's wonderful winters, washing your hands in 38-degree water may wake you up but having that warm water is surely a blessing.

In Memoriam



With the approach of Memorial Day where we honor the memory of those veterans who have passed on or gave the ultimate sacrifice, our hearts often will go to those family members and friends who have gone onto their final reward.

We have received an anonymous gift of \$1,000 given in memory of a loved one. This was given to be used in any way the Church desires.

Another great display celebrating Easter created by Doreen Macklin. She visually took us all through Lent to the miraculous return of Jesus.

