



# Orwell Union Church



Dedicated 1845

March 2023

“The Little Church That Cares”

Edition 1, Volume 2

## ANNUAL MEETING

January of each year we hold our annual business meeting where we elect the business officers for our Church, review the past years finances and reaffirm our leaders, both lay and pastoral.

PASTOR	David Snyder
ASSOCIATE PASTOR	Josh Bush
DEACON 2023	Tony Bush
DEACON 2024	Sharon Miller
DEACON 2025	Rose Graham
MODERATOR	Sharon Miller
CLERK	David Potter
TREASURER	David Potter
FINANCIAL RECORDER	Joseph Keesey
TRUSTEE 2023	James Macklin
TRUSTEE 2024	Richard Potter
TRUSTEE 2025	Kenneth Graham

## Did You Know?

By Rose Graham & Dave Potter

As we are still uncovering the history of our Church, we continue to find interesting facts that tend to bring more questions.

The description of the Church building as it was dedicated in 1845 was a building 36' X 52'. That is the exact measurement of the present Sanctuary, minus the alcove and storage area to the rear and the front entrance to include the steeple. We surmised that these were part of the enlargement and repair of the Church which was undertaken in 1881.

Here lies the next new mystery. The Bell which is in the steeple was forged by the Mcneely Bell Foundry in Troy, New York in 1852. There is no mention (so far) of when we acquired the bell or when it was installed. We do know that the bell has served the town well as it was the main fire alarm before the installation of an electric siren.



During these improvements started in 1881 we see that the Bradley and Hubbard chandeliers were purchased at a cost of \$135 and 2 bracket lights to light the pulpit area were purchased for \$10. Also added was a pulpit set at a cost of \$112 plus \$5 freight. The Ladies Aid Society raised money for the stained-glass windows, carpet and pew cushions. Forty or fifty people put together and purchased the pipe organ for \$168. The total cost of all these repairs came to \$4,165.55.

## CHICKEN BAR-B-QUE

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> will see the first of possibly several Chicken Bar-B-Ques. Tony Bush and his crew of volunteers will be doing the cooking which will include: ½ Chicken, Salt Potatoes, and baked beans. We will be set up across the street from the Church where you can drive-up, walk-up or sneak in for a great takeout dinner.



Dinners will be ready by 11am and I am sure we will sell out quickly.

## Pastor's Corner



As winter 2022-2023 begins to loosen its grip as we move closer to Spring 2023, we have accomplished much in 2022. We have some of our goals left to accomplish as we continue to grow as a family.

Coming soon we will have another Coffee House and we will be participating in the return of the Orwell Old Home Days with our joint Church outdoor Service. Also, we will hold our first drive-by Chicken BBQ. The BBQ will be Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> with ½ chicken, salt potatoes and baked beans all for just \$10. We will have the Church open for people to walk through and see what we have to offer.

Just as summer and spring are times of renewal of our facilities, it is the time to refresh our Faith Walk with our God. We have some folks fighting cancer and other ailments and we need to continue holding each other in prayer.

It is my deepest desire that we hold each other in prayer, that we hold this Church in prayer and that we are responding to God's plans for this community. We must begin our ministry at the very doorstep of this Church.

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!

## SPECIAL NOTE

Pastor Dave is undergoing some medical issues which may at time limit some of his activities. We pray for his successful treatments and know that with his guidance, Pastor Josh will continue to provide our congregation with the spiritual teaching and leadership that we need.

# EASTER and the EGG

By Dave Potter

Have you ever wondered why eggs are so identified with the Easter Season? There are many stories and theories, such as the egg symbolizes new birth and of things to come. While this is true, I prefer to see the egg as a symbol of the Trinity. The Bible can be very confusing at times like when it refers to the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, Three in One.

When I was young, we used to have religious education in school every Thursday. The Pastor from this Church would come to our class and give us a lesson concerning religion. On one such day (about 60 years ago) he explained how the Holy Trinity could be, by using an egg as a visual example.

He held up an egg and asked, "How many things am I holding?". Of course, we all answered, "One!". He then said, "Are you sure?" as he broke open the egg and placed the white in one bowl, the yolk in another and the shell in a third. "Now how many things do I have?", we all said three.

The Pastor continued by explaining that the Holy Trinity is much like the egg. God the Father is like the shell, that protective layer that protects us and holds everything together. The Yolk represents God the Son, Jesus, who is the center of the Christian Faith and is the bright light that shines upon us all. Finally, we come to the Yolk which is like the God Holy Spirit. That clear but ever-present spirit that fills all of the voids in our lives.

I have carried this lesson in my heart for many years. When I am feeling empty or have a void in my life, I remember that Egg. The white, or Holy Spirit, is there to fill that emptiness. When my life feels dark, I recall the yolk, that ever-bright center of my Faith, Jesus, and He lights my path. Finally, when I am feeling vulnerable, I recall the Shell. That ever-protective layer that holds everything together and makes us One with God.

If you have a story to tell or have a question you would like answered in the context of the Bible, we invite you to submit them. This may be done by emailing to [OrwellUnionChurch@hotmail.com](mailto:OrwellUnionChurch@hotmail.com) or passing them on to Pastor Dave or Pastor Josh.



**EASTER BASKET** A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.  
- 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV



# Our Noisy Can Mission


January and February we selected the Heifer International Project for our Noisy Can collection. We collected a total of \$533 and this allowed us to give several gifts:



**Gift of Clean Water:** Provides a family unit with a source of clean water

**Family Farm Care Package:** Gives a family the tools and training needed to make their farm productive and profitable

**3 Hope Baskets:** This gift includes rabbits and a starter flock of chickens, along with training and education on their care.

March, we collected for the American Heart Association in honor of  **American Heart Association**. Georgia Garcia and Patricia Holtz. Both Georgia and Patricia were born with heart defects that required open heart surgery. These miracle children have decided to raise funds for the American Hear Association each year since their surgeries.

For April we are collecting for the Food Pantry in Sandy Creek which serves the Sandy Creek School District and beyond.

## What the Future Holds

One thing that the season of Spring and Easter brings is that promise of renewal and of fresh new beginnings. This year is the 178<sup>th</sup> year that our Church building has been in existence and in each newsletter, we have tried to tell some of the stories of how we started. We would also like to tell you some of the things that may be on the horizon.

One such thing is exploring starting an internet web page where it will easier for us to communicate with everyone regardless of where they are in the world. Our live streaming our services on Facebook has been successful but, it would be more available to more people with a web site. This would also make it easier for people to connect with our Pastoral staff and to ask for prayers when needed. These requests could be kept confidential or re-broadcast for the congregation to share. This would also make notifying everyone when our ever-changing weather causes a cancelation.

To help with outreach, we are developing a tri-fold brochure to hand out to the public. While we are hopeful that this will bring new people in our doors, the important part is to let them know we are alive and well and are ready to serve their spiritual needs.

**Orwell Union Church**  
Sunday Service 9:30 am  
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