

# GraceNotes

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There will be a New Member's classes on January 28 and February 25 at 7:00pm.

Please RSVP:  
Call Alice (386-3851) or  
email Jeff at  
[Jeff@otisvillepres.org](mailto:Jeff@otisvillepres.org)

"The Otisville Church is amazing!  
It has gone from a little church worried about survival, past a local church doing ministry for itself, to a missional church living and breathing the good news and taking it to the whole world! Wow! Just wow!"

A publication of the Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church

## A *Christmas* Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came to decorate. We had 30 people helping. What a blessing. Also Thank You to John Gugliuzzi for the delicious sandwiches, Allison Wilbur and Tammy Porter for the wonderful homemade soups, Anita Goldsmith and others for desserts. What a great day!

Thanks also to everyone that helped put up our stable for the **Live Nativity**, all the wonderful characters that braved the cold,

Orin Pierson for bringing the animals and to everyone that provided refreshments after Christmas Caroling.

We were able to enjoy a Fantastic Coffee House and a terrific Brass Quintet concert. Thanks to Sue and Mike and everyone that sang or played an instrument.

How blessed we are to be able to celebrate Christmas together in so many wonderful ways.

## The Stable Crew

Many thanks to Roy B., John D., Jim K., Bobby K., and Anthony S. for braving the elements to put up the stable this morning. Moving the A/C compressors to a new "plow safe" location was a nice bonus. An extra round of thank you's to Anthony and his son Anthony for loading up and delivering all the needed stable parts this morning. The great fellowship and spirit actually made the weather a non factor.

## Jesse Tree

Blessings and thanks to our church members that participated in this year's Jesse Tree. Clothing and toys were provided for 14 children at Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary School. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Watch for a special thank you from the children themselves.



## Food, Fellowship & Friends

On Friday, January 31st, we will be starting a new gathering for fellowship. The group will meet the last Friday of the month and go to dinner. We will rotate restaurants every month. This is a great way to meet people from the church or get to know them better. We will meet at the restaurant at 6:30pm. Everyone will pay for themselves. You may come as couples or singles (adults only please). It is a great way to enjoy fellowship and make some new friends. The restaurant for January will be Tony Boffa's in Middletown and a sign-up sheet is available at the back table in the sanctuary. Hope you can join us!



## Coat Drive

A big shout out of thanks to our church for the awesome donations of coats, ear muffs & gloves. Together with the 4th grade religion class from Holy Name Church we sent three appliance boxes full of winter wear to the Port Jervis Community Outreach Program - sponsored by Easter Seals/ Project Discovery in Port Jervis. Thank you for your generosity and for keeping some adult/child warm tonight & this winter. God Bless!

## Our Mission in Haiti

*Happy New Year to all!*

I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for all your support for our mission work. The support from this congregation is inspiring, from Haiti to the Philippines. We are all making a difference in others' lives. I feel so blessed to be the director of our mission team.

Thank you all again and keep up the work of our Lord.—Allison Wilbur

## Choir News

The Adult Choirs assembled 20 "shoeboxes" full of gifts and goodies for children, to donate to "Operation Christmas Child" this past November. These gifts give hope and share the love of Jesus with orphans and children living in poverty and hunger. This is a project of "Samaritan's Purse". We hope to expand our efforts to include our entire church next year! The "shoebox" campaign will begin in October of 2014. You can find out more details on the "Samaritan's Purse" website. If you would like to help the Choirs at the organizational level next Fall, please see Sue Conklin by September.



## Babysitter Training

We are in need of more babysitters for the Worship Nursery as some of our current sitters will be graduating this year. A one day babysitter training class is being schedule for either January 18th or 25th. Those interested in babysitting in the worship nursery on Sunday mornings, ages 13 and up, are eligible for the class. A certificate will be given upon completion. We like to have a Sr. babysitter, 16 yrs. and up and a Jr. babysitter, 13 yrs. and up, in the nursery for the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

The training is being sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary. For more information, see Gerda Kroglund or Candy Burnett.

## Youth Group

Continues to meet every Sunday from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the church unless otherwise notified. All youth from 6th grade and up are welcome.

## Sunday School

All Sunday School FAMILIES are invited to attend a pancake breakfast on January 12th @9:30 in the fellowship hall. Please come and enjoy a breakfast with your child and family in lieu of Sunday School.

Please mark your calendars for Bowling on 3/9/14 @3:30pm at Quinnz Pinz.

Jan 5	<b>Favorite Shirt Day</b> – Wear your favorite shirt to Sunday School 9:30am – continuation of 123 Magic Video
Jan 12	<b>Super Hero Day</b> – Dress as your favorite super hero
Jan 19	<b>Backwards Day</b> – Dress in a backwards fashion of your interpretation.
Jan 26	<b>Snowman Day</b> – Wear or bring your favorite snowman item.
Feb 2	<b>Bible Character Day</b> – Dress as your favorite Bible character or bring something that reminds you of a character in the Bible.
Feb 9	<b>Heart Day</b> – Wear your heart on your sleeve (literally) and bring your Sunday School teacher a valentine letting them know how much you enjoy them and your class.
Feb 16	<b>Church Day</b> – Attend a different church service than you normally do, or attend one for the first time. Turn in your bulletin for a special treat next week.
Feb 23	<b>Parent’s Meeting</b> @9:30am in Fellowship Hall

## Ugly Sweater Contest

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 9th at 12:15pm.

Wait!! Don't return those Christmas presents yet. You may have an ugly sweater to wear for our Ugly Sweater Contest and win yourself a gift certificate to Macys to get that beautiful sweater you have always wanted. The contest is free to enter and free to watch. We will again have our special MC Bubba. It is very entertaining. Last year's winner was Katie Farley. Rumor has it she wore her Mom's favorite sweater! (And that she has already been shopping for this year's new winner!)

Lunch will be available \$5.00 for a meatball hero and salad and drink.

## Ron James Peace Award

Applications for the Ron James Peace Award are available by email and from the church office.

The award will be given in February on Black Heritage Sunday.



## Baked Potato Lunch

We will hold our next Baked Potato lunch on Sunday, February 23rd at 12:15pm. The tickets will be \$7.00 and will include a bowl of homemade soup or chili, a baked potato with toppings, a beverage and dessert.

Proceeds to benefit: HEART (Haitian Education and Resource Team).

## Church Cookbook

The new church cookbook, "Faith, Food & Friends" has sold-out! We will make more but would like to have an idea of how many to make.

If you would like to order one please add your name (and number ordering, if ordering more than one) to the gold colored sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary! Or you can e-mail Candy at [ckburnett@yahoo.com](mailto:ckburnett@yahoo.com) or call 343-5675. The price is \$8 with proceeds of December & January sales going to Philippines Disaster Relief.



## Roast Beef Dinner

The Women’s Auxiliary Annual Roast Beef Dinner will be held on March 1st at 5:30PM. The menu includes tomato juice, rolls, salad, roast beef, gravy, mashed potatoes, a vegetable and for dessert, homemade apple cake. Take – outs will be available at 5:45PM. For tickets contact Gerda Krogslund, Anita Goldsmith or any Auxiliary member. If you would like to help at the dinner see Candy Burnett. We are always happy to have extra help!

## Calendar of Events

### JANUARY:

- 5—Communion
- 5—Park Manor
- 7—New Officer Training
- 9—Board of Deacons
- 12—Sunday School Pancake Breakfast
- 12—“Un-Deck” the Halls
- 19—Ordination & Installation
- 21—Session
- 25—Baby Sitter Training
- 26—Directors Meeting
- 28—New Members Class
- 31—Food, Fellowship & Friends

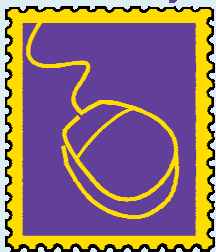
### FEBRUARY:

- 2—Communion
- 2—Park Manor (new time: 2:30 PM)
- 9—Blanket Sunday
- 9—Ugly Sweater Contest
- 13—Board of Deacons
- 15—Coffee House
- 18—Session
- 23—Baked Potato Lunch
- 25—New Members Class

### MARCH:

- 1—Roast Beef Dinner
- 2—Communion
- 5—Ash Wednesday
- 9—Spring Ahead—Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 9—Sunday School Bowling Trip
- 13—Board of Deacons
- 15—St. Patrick’s Dance & Social
- 18—Session
- 25—New Members Class

### Do we have your



**e-mail address?**  
If we don't, you may be missing out on our email updates and newsletter.

To ensure you're in “the know”, update your information by contacting Alice in the church office at 386-3851 or at [secretary@otisvillepres.org](mailto:secretary@otisvillepres.org).

## Coffee House

*Here's a “sneak peek” at 2014!*

**February 15:** **Chocolate Extravaganza** and the dynamic music ministry of **Arlene Whiteman!**

Time: 7:30-9:00 pm

Place: Fellowship Hall

Beverages and desserts are complimentary

Freewill offering available

**March 15:** **Saint Patrick's Dance** with DJ Faith

(stay-tuned for details!)

(April & May—taking a break)

**June 21:** **The New Connection**



### Coffee House

## Ash Wednesday

- Eileen Siegel

Ash Wednesday is the 5th of March in 2014 — the beginning of the 40 days of penance and reflection until Easter. Often in our culture, people will ask you, “What are you giving up for Lent?” And what will your response be?

If we give up chocolate, is it truly a sacrifice we make so that we can think more deeply about God, or is it really a way we can lose maybe 5 pounds, and appear to be Godly people? Sort of kill two birds with one stone!!

What should we really do during Lent that will bring our hearts closer to God?

Have you ever thought about fasting? Giving up one meal a day? Or maybe one meal once a week during Lent? Do you think you could do it? And what would you do during that time when you would normally be eating? Could you discipline yourself to read 2 chapters in the Gospel of John, or reading 2 Psalms, or 2 chapters from the Book of Proverbs during that space of time when you would normally be eating that meal?

How about fasting from junk television for one or two evenings a week during Lent? Just turn off the tube, and spend an hour reading, or discipline yourself to write two or three cards to people whom you know are shut-ins, or dealing with crisis in their lives, or recovering from surgery.

Here's another thought: how about fasting from grumbling and complaining? Every time a situation or a person pops into your head that you find yourself complaining about—boss, co-worker, spouse, sibling, the driver tail-gating you—instead of grumbling and complaining, pray for that person. Ask God to work in your life and in the life of that person so that we all become better “Kingdom People.”

Do you suppose we, the people of the Otisville-Mt-Hope Presbyterian Church, could fast this year during Lent?



## Anniversaries

Jaclyn & Nicolas Chase  
Charles & Gerda Krogslund

Orrin & Jackie Pierson  
Mike & Allison Wilbur

## Birthdays

Laurelei Terwilliger  
William Lynch  
Sara Howarth  
Frank Ketcham  
Briana Moore  
Brenda O'Connell  
Kristina Santa Cruz  
Ryan Steixner  
Todd Schwartz  
Sean Addy  
Micah Hayes  
Jason Ketcham  
MacKay Lynch  
Connor Lynch  
LaVella Simpson  
Mark Frank

Nicholas Vermeulen  
Janelle McCombs  
Carolyn Pierson  
Alice Halstead  
Marie Defazio-Schulz  
Kimberly Dolson  
Karen Ketcham  
Nathaneal DeYoung, Jr.  
Jason Swaine  
Jennifer Swaine  
Jazmine Baggatta  
Jeff Farley  
Katie Dullaghan  
Mack Morley  
Samuel Tucker  
Grace Andrews  
Katelyn Hums

Katie Ketcham  
Rita Pierson  
Tammy Kirby  
Tootie Canonico  
Luna Star Card  
Tyler Gibbs  
Gavin Hoolan  
Leah Hoolan  
Andrew Green  
John Dineen  
Charles Krogslund  
Michaela Rufino  
Robert Komstedt  
Emily Chase  
Kaitlyn Eisentraut  
Stacey Baisely



### BIRTHDAY WORD SEARCH

Birthdays are special occasions. Did you know that each month has a special flower and gemstone associated with it? Try to find them in the puzzle.

**MONTHS:**  
JANUARY  
FEBRUARY  
MARCH  
APRIL  
MAY  
JUNE  
JULY  
AUGUST  
SEPTEMBER  
OCTOBER  
NOVEMBER  
DECEMBER

**BIRTHSTONES:**  
AMETHYST  
AQUAMARINE  
DIAMOND  
EMERALD  
GARNET  
OPAL

PEARL  
PERIDOT  
RUBY  
SAPPHIR  
TURQUOISE  
TOPAZ  
**BIRTH FLOWERS:**  
ASTER  
CARNATION  
ROSE  
CHRYSANTHEMUM  
VIOLET  
GLADIOLUS  
JONQUIL  
THRUSH  
LARKSPUR  
MARGOLD  
NARCISSUS  
SWEET PEA

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GraceNotes



Our standard snow policy is that because the pastor lives next door to the church, services in even the craziest of weather will be held, although the best bet for a service to happen would be at 11:00am!

In any case, we advise you not to venture out if the conditions make your travel even the least bit hazardous. We would rather have you come safe on another day than make a dangerous trip to church.

For small groups, check with your group leader to see if your group is meeting. Questions? Call the church office at 386-3851.

### **Snow Shoveling**

If there is a big storm and you want to help our paid shoveler, give the office a call or come on over and shovel away! Many hands makes lighter work. Also, if you are aware of folks who need help shoveling during a big storm because they aren't in good health, call the office as well. and we will see if we can get a team out to "make a difference"!