

So. Otselec Methodist News

Pastor Melanie Simmons

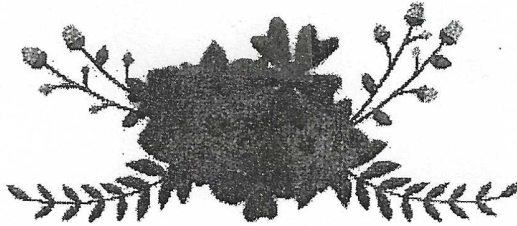
(church) 315-653-7728

(home) 607-674-9527 ... (cell) 607-371-0431

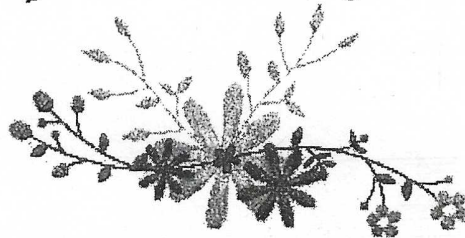
Email: Melanie@simmonsasylum.com

=====

May 2025



*The loveliest
masterpiece of
the heart of God
is the heart
of a mother.*



ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

=====

Ann Campbell, Editor



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR ...

May 2025

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; and they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God."
Revelation 21:3 (NRSVUE)

Happy May!

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring!



It is Spring now and the greening is well underway. Seeds sprouted and grew so that flowers are blooming everywhere, and all who see them can enjoy their beauty. Abundant life is being lived by all of nature – how about with you? Are you feeling renewed by the sunshine and warmer weather, blooming with renewed energy, that everywhere you go people enjoy the season because of your warm smile?

It is the Easter season now and our celebrating is well underway. Jesus rose from the dead and revealed Himself to the disciples, and they proclaimed the Good News for all the world to hear. Abundant life may be lived by all who follow Jesus – how about with you? Are you feeling born to new life in Christ, blooming with the love of Jesus, that everywhere you go people enjoy God's kingdom because of your beautiful soul?

Sometimes in the Spring, birds and bugs get into places that we find inconvenient or annoying. We then have a choice of whether to destroy them and the home they are making, or to determine some manner in which both we and they can thrive. Which preserves the beauty of God's creation more? Sometimes nature can be difficult to tolerate.



Sometimes in life, people and circumstances bring us to situations that we find awkward or detestable. We then have a choice of whether to try to destroy them and the goals that they have, or to determine some manner in which both we and they can thrive. Which preserves the glory of God's kingdom more? Sometimes holy living can be difficult to pursue.

I hope that this Spring you find both much beauty in nature and much joy in Good News of the resurrection. Christ is alive! Alleluia, spread the Word!

May the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit strengthen and preserve you always.

With love in Christ,
Pastor Melanie



"The mission of the South Otselick United Methodist Church is to worship God, serve Him, each other and our community and to share His love and actions while helping inspire and nurture followers of Christ."

Reflections ~~Reflections~~



My introduction to the fine art of lawn-mowing came in the thirties during my early teens. Lawn mowers in those days all looked alike:

Generally, they consisted of a revolving set of four iron blades, mounted as a reel between a pair of small iron wheels. This contrivance was then attached to a quite substantial wooden handle about four feet long. When in use, the upper end of this handle was usually attached to a teen-age boy.

Actually, those machines were very advanced ecology-wise -- there were no noxious exhaust fumes, no noisy motor sounds, not even danger of oil or gas spills... Aside from a whirring sound, there was no other disturbance to the atmosphere than an occasional grunt or groan from its one-boy-power motor. (And I use the term, motor, in its broadest and most painfully remembered manner.)

I really can't be too hard on those devil-designed machines, for they were also my introduction to the World of Capitalism. Every Saturday, I would walk a couple of blocks to the home of a neighbor, where I would share much of that day with one of those mowers. After four or five hours, when every blade of grass on that rather spacious lawn had been reduced to a respectable size, I would collect my fee and head for home. At twenty-five cents an hour, that fee, a generous one for those Depression days, represented most of my early-teen income.

That pioneer style of lawn mower reigned king for suburban homes for several decades preceeding World War II. Almost immediately following the close of that regrettable event, the old mowers came once again to the forefront of lawn care, but now with a small gasoline motor perched atop the reel.

A newly power-conscience society welcomed, with open arms, this boon to formerly aching backs and muscles. The big question in those late-forties years was whether to purchase a belt-driven or chain-driven model. The chain-drive machine was admittedly more reliable, but did cost more...

This question soon became a moot point when, with the brilliance of American ingenuity, someone came up with the concept of a rotary mower. The rotary mower, after its appearance during the decade of the fifties, initially struggled against the longtime rule of the reel-type machine. Home-owners believed the reel mowers left better looking results, and anyway, who wanted to go back to pushing a mower by hand!

But again, that argument too, was nullified when rotary mowers began to appear in self-propelled versions, the result of inventiveness following need!

Today the reel-type mower has disappeared from most of our suburban home landscape, relegated to use only in big gang-mowers serving such spacious areas as golf courses and large estates. Almost everyone with any size lawn at all, has in their garage, a motorized rotary mower complete with

steering wheel and comfortable seat -- a "LAWN & GARDEN TRACTOR" capable of laying down a three or four foot strip of lawn with every pass!

A year or so after coming back to civilian life, I became a home owner myself in 1947. My newly acquired homestead came complete with considerable lawn area. (Especially after we converted a former potato patch, esthetically located in front of the house, to a more appropriate appearing lawn).

Faced with the task of keeping rapidly growing grass in some semblance of respectability, I purchased a monstrous and ancient machine, once used on some rich person's large estate, long before the advent of smaller home-care mowers. This formidable contraption had no wheels, but instead was a wide reel mounted ahead of a large steel roller. The machine, weighing probably four or five hundred pounds, was propelled by a water-cooled motor and steered by pushing down on a pair of handlebars while swinging the front end one way or another.

The water-cooled motor, perched on top of and squarely in the middle of the rig, was theoretically cooled by an open-topped reservoir and a radiator. Its flaw was the fact that it was designed to operate without any waterpump to circulate the cooling water, thus depending solely on convection.

The folly of this engineering scheme, my folly in purchasing the machine, and the wisdom of the person who sold it to me, became evident every time the mower was operated for more than twenty minutes. That's about the time that was required for the water in the cooling system to reach the boiling point...

After reaching the boiling point myself a few times, I finally gave the monster to someone who thought he could solve its problem behavior. As I recall, he was no more successful than I.

The grass, along with an occasional volunteer potato plant, kept on growing of course, and I had to come up a mower or start raising sheep. There weren't any sheep handy, and anyway I didn't want to put up fencing, so I went over to Sears and bought one of the little rotary mowers that had recently appeared on the scene.

This little mower with its 16" cut, not only did a good job on the lawn, but was able to handle much taller and tougher grass than did the reel machines.

With the success of many such hand-propelled machines during the intervening years, our present lawn continued to grow in size until it became obvious that a riding mower was not only practical, but really necessary.

Now, at long last, our John Deere Lawn Tractor not only performs its duties with efficiency, but makes mowing actually fun.

Looking out the window, I see that the grass is already a little too high, so I guess I better leave this and start on that!

George Ortiz

The family of George Ortiz has granted us permission to continue to use his writings for this newsletter.

Treasurer's Corner

Here is a reading that I have on my bedroom wall. I thought it was good for all the Mom's out there...

'Mother's Strength'

"Why are you crying?" she asked her mom. "Because I'm a mother" she told her. "I don't understand," she said. Her Mom just hugged her and said, "You will". Later the little girl asked her father why Mother's cry for no reason. "All mothers cry for no reason" was all her dad could say. The little girl grew up and became a young lady, still wondering why mothers cry. So, she finally put in a call to God and asked, "Why do Mothers cry so easily?" God said, "You see my daughter, when I made mothers, they had to be special. I made their shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world, yet gentle enough to give comfort. I gave them an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times come from their children. I gave them a hardiness that allows them to keep going when everyone else gives up, and to take care of their families through sickness and fatigue without complaining. I gave them the sensitivity to love their children under all circumstances, even when their child has hurt them very badly. This same sensitivity helps them to make a child's boo-boo feel better and helps them share a teenagers anxieties and fears. I gave them a tear to shed. It's theirs exclusively to use whenever it is needed. It's their only weakness. It's a tear for mankind"

Here is the report for April. Please keep our little church in your prayers.

Ann & Campbell News

Receipts:

Envelopes & Pledges	4820.00
Loose Offerings	293.00
Interest (Wells Fargo)	1142.14
Tr fr Ch. Education	154.75
Int on savings	2.20
Easter Flowers	545.00

TOTAL 6957.09

Beg Balances:

Chng: 4944.05
Savings: 8912.80

Receipts: 6957.09

Payments: 5585.42

Balance 1371.67

Payments:

Minister's Salary	231.25
Housing	1670.00
Continuing Education	0.00
Treasurer	153.30
Travel	0.00
Organist	0.00
Secretary	0.00
Tech Support	153.30
Postage	0.00
Fuel Oil	587.00
NYSEG	173.09
Apportionment	987.30
Telephone	89.06
Easter flowers	538.00
Upper Room (May-June)	15.90
Chris Kalin (Youth movie trip)	154.75
Cokesbury (music planner)	41.98
Penny Stone (trash removal)	30.00
US Treasury (1st qtr - FICA)	154.84
Dave Cruikshank (1 snow plow)	40.00
Bill Wentworth (15 sidewalk plows)	200.00
Lightwell Ins Advisors of NY	84.13
So. Otselec Water District	96.40
America Financial Services (copier)	185.12

TOTAL 5585.42

Ending Balances:

Chng: 6313.52
Savings: 8912.80

Year to Date: +3339.47

Up to the minute...

Come and Celebrate the 16th year of Otselic Valley & Fishing Heritage Day!

On May 17th we will be celebrating the 16th year of the Otselic Valley Fishing and Heritage Day. There will be events at the State ponds, the fire house, the Grange and Town Park. Food trucks and the food booth of the UMW will be at park along with many various vendors and musical talent! The Grange will be hosting a weaving demonstration with lessons to be offered in June. This is a great family day, and it all is free except for the food and purchases from the vendors. So, come with your family and bring a friend...enjoy the music, food, fishing events and hometown celebrations!

Smell the air !!!

The aroma of homemade pie slices, fresh fried dough, sodas, water and coffee.... That is what awaits you when you come to the park on May 17th! The UMW will be frying their famous fried dough and fresh pie slices will be available for you to enjoy. Their flower and plant sale will also be in attendance to help you with your summer planting needs. So, come and enjoy the delights that will be offered, and we hope to see you there!!!

Sunshine Shop News

The 15th Anniversary month was a huge success, with customers coming up to 60 miles to participate! Everyone loved the shopping the "new" spring/summer collection of gently used clothes and totally new tagged clothes.

Thank you to the following winners of the Aldi gift cards: Margaret Ames and Melissa Ramsey. A lady from Morrisville won the kitchen basket. Dawn White answered the church newsletter trivia questions correctly and won an Aldi's gift card. Thank you to everyone who shopped and entered the drawings!

The shop will be open on Fishing Heritage Day from 9 to 2. Once again, the ladies are preparing to hold their summer rummage sale on July 10, 11 & 12 with all proceeds to go towards school supplies for the OVCS children. This event is a free will offering and there will be something for everyone! So, mark your calendars for those days!

*(As a reminder, the shop does **NOT** take electronics, so please do not bring these to the church or shop)*

RUMMAGE SALE TIME !

Mark your calendars on July 10, 11 and 12 for the Sunshine Shop's semi-annual rummage sale! There will be something for everyone and once again, it is a free will offering. All the money will go towards purchasing school supplies for the children of Otselic Valley School. So, if you are cleaning out your storage rooms or garage and were wondering where to take your items, we would be happy to have them! You can drop them off when the shop is open, during Pastor Melanie's office hours or on Sunday mornings. We thank you in advance and we hope to see you there!

Trustees Report - May 2025

Despite the cool temperature, we had 8 people for the annual Spring cleaning at the church on the 12th. Lot of inside cleaning was accomplished, as well as clearing of debris from the bank above the parking lot wall (Katie) and outdoor window washing (Gary). Thanks to all.

Cal, Gary, Bruce and Suki met with Adsit Septic Service reviewing plans to schedule work for the parking lot/septic tank project this Spring, pending the weather. The contractor recommended constructing a concrete block box built on a concrete pad to replace the current storm drain basin.

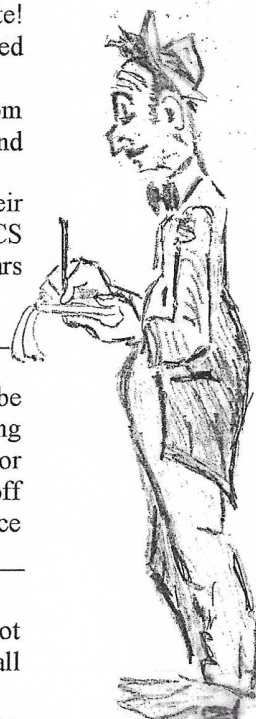
A recent storm the end of April blew the wooden railing off the south side of the church front entrance. Due to the deterioration of the wood, the trustees will look into replacement costs for both railings either in wood or perhaps vinyl.

The annual fire extinguisher inspection for the church and Sunshine Shop is scheduled for May 16th at 10 am.

Cal, Gary, Bruce and Suki met with Sergio New York Roofers regarding some roof projects. The small metal shingle overhang roof on the SS (facing the church), and the standing seam metal roof on the food pantry entry, simply require some scraping and roofing paint. Sergio pushed a section of metal fascia above the stain glass window that may have been the cause of those occasional drips inside the Sanctuary. He recommended a couple of nails to secure it in place. Upon a closer examination of the SS main roof, he recommended that any metal shingles that are loose be nailed down, any rust be brushed off and the entire roof be painted. Within the next few years, he advised we replace it with architectural shingles. He suspected that the one-time leak over the chair storage in the fellowship hall may have been due to an extraordinary wind/rain event, no recommendation at this time. The single pane dormer windows have visible air spaces and should probably be replaced.

We are still waiting on an estimate for the restoration of 3 of the church-stained glass windows. Cal will follow up.

Thank you, Lord, for Moms!



Side notes

Georgetown United Methodist Church News

Greetings and Happy Spring from Georgetown! We have been busy with numerous projects. We had a new fuel tank installed due to the old one giving away to rust. Our nice, new, shiny one is an added blessing to us. We've spruced up the inside of the sanctuary for Easter as well as getting ready to host Baccalaureate on June 26th. We are anxiously awaiting to host our booth at Fishing Heritage Day. We so enjoy reconnecting with folks we haven't seen in many years and those we haven't seen since last year. We are also looking forward to our little friend who enjoys fishing at our "amazing" fishing booth. We hope he is able to visit us again this year.

We tried something new this year for Holy Week. We hosted a Seder Review where we learned about the 15 different items that are served in the traditional Seder Meal. We appreciate all the work Melanie did to studying and learning about the different items. It was quite interesting. After the review, we sampled the foods that were served. The most interesting was the Charoset which is a mixture of apples, nuts and other items. It was delicious on matza crackers with just a pinch of kosher horseradish. We learned not to take very much horseradish! We all breathed better when we left! We hope to do it again next year and hope others are able to join us.

Until next time

Dates to remember

May 11 - Mother's Day

13 - Adult Bible study starts using zoom at 7:00 PM. The course will be on 'Simon Peter' by Adam Hamilton
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84482135347?pwd=WmtBJcJazPaAqMAzaJrsbYDkKvhw.1>

16 - 60+ dinner at 5:00 PM at the church

17 - Otselic Valley Fishing & Heritage Date: 9-4

22-24 - Annual Conference at the OnCenter in Syracuse

24 - Youth trip to mini golf

25 - Administrative Board after worship service

26 - Memorial Day

30 - Deadline for newsletter items due

June 6 - 60+ dinner at 5:00 PM at the church

Bake Sale Update...

The Good Friday bake sale was a HUGE success! Our thanks to Lonnie and Lolita for manning the tables and greeting everyone that baked, visited and/or purchased baked goods. We hope we helped make your Easter dinner that much more enjoyable!

Weaving - a long lost art!

Open House at the Grange on Fishing Heritage Day

Join us on May 17th as we celebrate Fishing Heritage Day with an open house at the Grange! This special event is a wonderful opportunity to explore the Grange building, learn about its history, and discover our exciting flax-to-fabric initiative.

During the open house, you'll enjoy:

- Guided Tours: Explore the Grange and learn about its significance in the community.
- Demonstrations: Watch live demonstrations of hand spinning, weaving, and other traditional crafts.
- Meet the Team: Get to know the passionate individuals behind our flax-to-fabric project.
- Interactive Activities: Participate in hands-on activities and workshops.

Whether you're a seasoned artisan or curious about sustainable fabric production, this open house is the perfect chance to connect with like-minded individuals and experience the charm of the Grange.

Don't miss out on this exciting event—we look forward to welcoming you on May 17th!

(Continued on the next page)

VETERANS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

I am looking for people to demonstrate on this day. If you are interested in doing so, please email me at : earlyamericantextiletools@yahoo.com Selling any hand made goods also encouraged.

Old School Wool and Weaving Center | 130 County Road 13A | South Otselec, NY 13155 US

The Introduction to Beginning Weaving Classes were well recieved last year and will be on the schedule again this year.

June 9 - 10 Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

June 16-17 Monday and Tuesday from 9 a. m - 3 p.m.

Discover the art of weaving in our Beginning Weaving Class! This class is designed for beginners who have little to no experience with weaving. You'll learn the basics of hand-weaving, starting with a pre-warped loom, already to get started weaving right away. In this course, you'll cover:

- Introduction to Weaving: Learn about the history and significance of weaving, and explore different types of looms and materials.
 - Basic Weaving Techniques: Master essential weaving techniques such as plain weave, twill, and more.
 - Finishing Techniques: Learn how to finish your woven pieces and care for them.
-

In 2024, the United Methodist Church General Conference approved revised Social Principles (<https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>). Here is a small piece of them for your consideration this month; what action might we take with this in mind?

Special Editorial Notes: Throughout the Social Principles, the term "we" refers specifically to the General Conference and more broadly to members of The United Methodist Church. Unless otherwise stated, the term "church" refers specifically to The United Methodist Church rather than, for example, the Church Universal.

COMMUNITY OF ALL CREATION (continued from last month)

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

In Genesis 1, we read that God declares creation good (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 25, 31), and we read in Genesis 2 that God "took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it" (Gen. 2:15). The goodness of God's creation, and the value given to every part of it, call people to respect, protect, and care for the creation and all interrelated aspects of it.

A. Environmental Racism

We confess that the negative impacts resulting from the degradation of the natural world have fallen disproportionately on marginalized communities, including indigenous tribes, religious and ethnic communities, people living in poverty, and other vulnerable groups. We, therefore, pledge to resist all forms of environmental exploitation, neglect and inequality. These practices condemn impoverished communities and developing countries to bear the brunt of hazardous environments, industrial pollution, toxic waste dumps and urban decay. Such behaviors constitute environmental racism. We oppose policies and practices that relegate marginalized communities to a permanent underclass status and ignore indigenous and other sources of communal wisdom, which call for air, land, and water to be treated with profound respect.

Additionally, these groups suffer disproportionately from higher rates of asthma, cancer, birth defects and other preventable medical conditions. These health problems are associated with pollutants and other chemicals in soil, water and air that affect our drinking water, foods and physical environment. We urge governments, businesses, and civic institutions to give priority to increasing access to prevention and treatment services.

We call for the institution of environmentally just principles, policies and practices. We affirm the wisdom and agency of indigenous peoples and marginalized populations to determine for themselves practices and policies that best provide for their basic human needs, including food, water, shelter, and land free from toxic wastes. Self-determination entails, among other things, access to all pertinent information and significant decision-making power over industrial, agricultural, and other developments that have potential to wreak significant harm on land, air and water.

Pray for our Country

FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY.

BE KIND ANYWAY.

SUCCEED ANYWAY.

WHAT YOU SPEND YEARS CREATING, OTHERS COULD DESTROY OVERNIGHT.

CREATE ANYWAY.

IF YOU FIND SERENITY AND HAPPINESS, SOME MAY BE JEALOUS.

BE HAPPY ANYWAY.

THE GOOD YOU DO TODAY, WILL OFTEN BE FORGOTTEN.

DO GOOD ANYWAY.

GIVE THE BEST YOU HAVE, AND IT WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH.

GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY.

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS BETWEEN YOU AND GOD.

**IT WAS NEVER BETWEEN
YOU AND THEM ANYWAY.**



++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

If there is anyone that would like to be added and/or removed on our newsletter mailing list please contact:

So. Otselec Methodist News
Editor: Ann Campbell

(home) 607-674-9355
E-mail: deerknoll1948@gmail.com

Sunday Worship:

10:30 AM
11:30 AM

Worship
Coffee Hour

This Month:

Office hours: Wednesday 11-2
Thursday 1-4
(Bible study from 1-2 ... Sept - June)

Check us out on Facebook:

South Otselec United Methodist Church / The Sunshine Shop

The Sunshine Shop

Contact: Sarah Hite
(home) 315-653-7490
(shop) 315-653-7728
Hours: Thurs: 10- 4
Fri: 11- 5
Sat: 9 - noon
(Donations at back porch)

Care & Share Pantry

Contact: Deb Williams
315-653-0040
3rd Thursday: 3:00 - 6:00 PM

"The mission of the South Otselec United Methodist Church is to worship God, serve Him, each other and our community and to share His love in words and actions while helping inspire and nurture followers of Christ"

PRAYER LIST: (Short term) Cooper Burke & family, Paul Carson, Britney David, Angela Harris, Earl Horton, Ron & Barb Kingsley, Matt Sheldon, Travis Sheldon, Jessica Smith & family, Bill Tei, Jansen (& Mackenzie) Waltz & burglar, Campbell family, Harris family, Palmer family, family of Steven Biviano, family of Thomas Bonocchi, family of Joel Mason, family of Carter Mullenax, family of Jane Parker, family of Jesse Patton, those mourning the death of Pope Francis, people unjustly detained by ICE, those persecuted by racism/bigotry

PRAYER LIST: (Long Term) Jonna Bartlett, Richard Bishop, David Boyer, Paul Carson, Margaret Chase, Ron Colasudo, Kaity Davis, Linda Excell, Ted Gargas, Roger Hakes, Chuck Hathaway, Patti Lamandia, Diane MacGregor, Cassandra & Chris Marquard, Maverick Mesko, Aaron Miller, Phil Mudge, Mitch Mullenax, Jenny Nabor, Elaine Perkins, John & Carole Roalef, Kate Robinson, Matt & Annette Sheldon, Cathy Silver, Normajean Stark, Kenneth Sullivan, Angela (Graves) Szlamczynski, Kay Thorpe, Dave Wentworth,

Travel mercies for family and friends

Our men and women in the military World leaders & the need for peace

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
South Otselec, NY 13155
PERMIT #4

South Otselec United Methodist Church
PO Box 47
South Otselec, NY 13155