

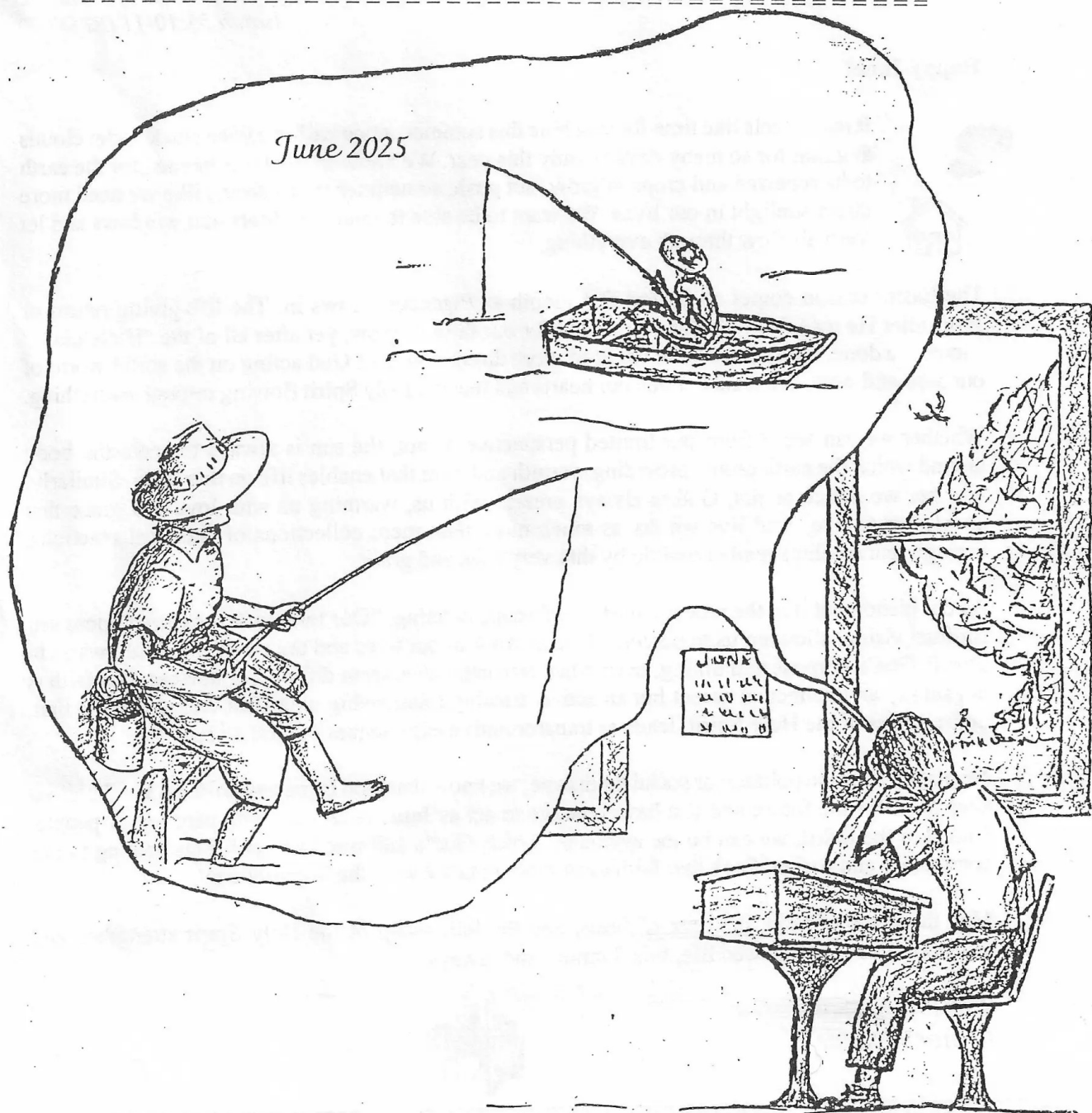
So. Otselec Methodist News

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June 2025

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g.o.

Ann Campbell, Editor



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR ...

June 2025

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
Isaiah 55:10-11 (NRSVUE)

Happy June!



It really feels like time for sunshine this summer, since we have been stuck under clouds and rain for so many days already this year. We know the water is needed for the earth to be renewed and crops to grow, but gosh, sometimes it just seems like we need more direct sunlight in our lives. We want to be able to open our doors and windows and let fresh air flow through everything.

The Easter season comes to an end this month as Pentecost blows in. The life-giving return of Jesus after He rose from the dead is needed for our faith to grow, yet after all of the “Hallelujah!” shouts are done, it just seems like we need more direct power of God acting on the sinful world of our here-and-now. We want to open our hearts and feel the Holy Spirit flowing through everything.

Whether we can see it from our limited perspective or not, the sun is always the celestial body around which the earth orbits, providing warmth and light that enables life on this earth. Similarly, whether we notice or not, God is always present with us, warming us with love and grace that enables us to live. And live we do, as much more than mere collections of chemical reactions, through relationships made possible by that very love and grace.

As our bishop put it at the recent annual conference meeting: “Our faith in Jesus Christ opens our spiritual vision, allowing us to perceive God at work in our lives and the world. Faith allows us to trust in God’s purpose and timing, even when circumstances seem difficult or unclear. Our faith is not simply an intellectual assent but an active, trusting relationship with God through Christ that, in the power of the Holy Spirit, leads to transformative experiences of God’s glory.”

No matter what the political or social landscape, we know that God is present with us. We therefore keep hope for the future and can have courage to act as Jesus taught us, with care for all people. United in the Spirit, we can be the agents by which God’s unlimited power brings healing to our community and nation. Seek that faith even more than we seek the Summer sun!

May the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit strengthen and transform you into renewed life, this Summer and always.

With love in Christ,
Pastor Melanie



“The mission of the South Otselic 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



The soft breeze, gently stealing through the open window by my side, carries a faint scent of the lilacs blooming nearby in the warm sunshine of this late Spring day. My senses, lulled by the pleasant combination of the perfumed air and a stomach comfortably satisfied by my recent lunch, seem reluctant to tackle the blank computer screen facing me. The hypnotic screen, the warm scent-laden breeze, join post-lunch sleepiness in bringing about an atmosphere that beckons the Daydreamer.

Daydreaming is an art unto itself... A real Daydream must be spontaneous, and at the same time, a product of a very relaxed mental state. Above all, the proper timing is essential. The ideal setting occurs on a warm, lazy day when not too much is going on that might clutter one's thoughts with energetic urges.

Drawing from dim memories of long-gone days, I risk an opinion that the daydreams of youth are futuristic in that they concern what may happen in days to come. I well remember sitting in class about this time of year and having my thoughts continually wander from the pages of the open textbook to those of the coming summer pleasures.

The approaching vacation months seemed to stretch ahead with endless possibilities for fun. My daydreams were of the baseball diamond, the swimming hole, fishing and camping. Thoughts of the good times that were about to happen in the weeks ahead took precedence over classroom lessons -- until the ever-vigilant teacher noticed my vacant stare. Some teachers, classroom weary themselves, were understanding -- and some were not!!!

Now-a-days, I find my Daydreams focused in a different direction. Just as the Daydreams of youth are placed in the future, the Daydreams of older folks seem to be mostly thoughts of the past... Wait a minute! Before you challenge that, I admit we like to think about a coming visit or other event about to happen in a week or so - or even a little longer. But almost always, when we do experience that event, there will be something along the way that will awaken memories of a similar happening years ago. At least I find it so...

Reviewing the words I've just set down on this paper, I fear I might have given the impression that my time is spent in daydreaming. Not so!! Hopefully, that tendency is still reserved for some future time.

But I do like to tell stories about things that were part of my life many years ago. I've always heard that writers should limit their work to subjects with which they are familiar. Consequently, many of my efforts hark back to personal experiences in somewhat ancient times.

I sympathize with the History students among today's scholars. So much has happened in the world, since I was a student, that text books should be at least twice as thick. The same holds true for Science, and I guess other subjects too. Each year that passes, adds still more knowledge that somehow must find storage room in the student's

already-crammed head!

Some sixty years ago I found a gap in my class schedule, and just for fun decided to fill it with Typing I. I was right -- it was fun, and although I was not taking a Commercial course, I followed up with Typing II.

This eventually led to the purchase of an ancient Underwood machine for the budget-busting sum of five dollars. The old Underwood was much too big to take along when I went into the Army, so a visit to Macy's produced a little Remington Portable that bounced around in my footlocker for the next four years. Now, more than a half century later, I think it's still sitting, neglected and almost forgotten, somewhere up in the attic. I stopped using it when the type got so worn that the e's and a's all came out looking like o's...

When I took that high school course in typing "just for fun", I little suspected that now, many decades later and on my third computer, it would turn out to be one of the best things I ever did. But who ever dreamed of anything like a computer back in those "dark ages"?

In fact, who in those days ever dreamed of a world even remotely like the one in which we find ourselves today? Young people who have entered life during the past twenty years have always known a world of electronic technology. Its wonders are commonplace to them. They take new advances in stride, never too surprised at any development, no matter how astounding.

Those of us whose memories stretch back to a time of steel-tired wheels on one horse-power vehicles have been on a parallel course with technology for many years. We've grown up together, and even so, continue to be amazed at every new wonder unveiled in the world of technology. But not so amazed that we fail to take advantage of the convenience provided by each technical advance!

My own favorite advance is, as you might have guessed, my computer. In the days of the old Underwood and the little Remington portable, I would have been surrounded with a pile of discarded sheets of paper by now. It always seemed to be a law, strictly observed by typewriters, that any mistakes must occur near the end of a page! Now any error, correction, or change in text, can be accomplished by a simple tap on a key. What a great saving in paper, patience, and time!

Well, this present Daydream surely got out of hand with true daydreaming subtlety, didn't it? But after all, that's what daydreams do...

Anyway, I hope what's left of Spring as well as the coming Summer, brings many pleasant happenings to add to your own store of wonderful memories.

George Ortiz

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

Treasurer's Corner

Wow - half of the year is now behind us already! Is time moving faster and faster or is it my imagination? I think as we age, I think time 'seems' to go faster but it marches to its own time and pace. I know that other than having good health, I wish I could have more time. A lot of that is because we have already traveled through many of life's ups and downs and we hopefully learned from those instances. But then it hits you that you want to experience even more and how much time do you have left to do that? For me, I would love to have more time to spend with my granddaughters, more time to take care of my flowers and lawn, more time to volunteer to help others just to mention a few. One cannot go back in time, but if that was possible, I would have spent more time with my Mom & Dad, asking about their growing up and their experiences. But life moves forward, and we have to keep that in mind. Over the years, time has given me, with the help of my friends and church family the importance God and how he works in our lives every day - in His own time! Isn't time a wonderful concept? Even if we would like to have more of it - just make the best use of your time when you have it!

Ann F. Campbell, Treas.

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

<i>Receipts:</i>		
Envelopes & Pledges	4130.00	<i>Beg Balances:</i>
Loose Offerings	232.00	Chng: 6313.52
Interest (Wells Fargo)	211.46	Savings: 8912.80
Bake Sale	530.00	
60+ rent 2nd qtr	175.00	Receipts: 5354.66
Tr fr Ch. Ed (youth roller skating)	76.20	Payments: 4554.31
	TOTAL	Balance 800.35
	5354.66	
<i>Payments:</i>		
Minister's Salary	231.25	<i>Ending Balances:</i>
Housing	1670.00	Chng: 7113.87
Treasurer	153.30	Savings: 8912.80
Cont. Ed / Book	0.00	
Travel	0.00	
Organist	0.00	
Secretary	0.00	
Tech Support	153.30	
Postage	115.94	
Fuel Oil	587.00	
NYSEG	200.99	
Apportionment	987.30	Year to Date: -1888.84
Penny Stone (trash removal)	30.00	
Upper Room (May-June)	0.00	
Copy paper & labels	66.44	
Chris Kalin (youth roller skating)	76.20	
Telephone	89.06	
Great America Financial Services (copier)	193.53	
	TOTAL	
	4554.31	

Up to the minute...

Sunshine Shop News!

Stop by and check out all the "new" summer clothes available for the whole family! All sizes are well stocked and small household items are also plentiful.

NOTE: July dates change since the 4th of July weekend is the 1st weekend. Open weekends in July are the 2nd and 4th weekend.

Plans are in the process for the summer rummage sale to be held July 10th & 11th (10 to 4) and the 12th (9 to 2). Note this is the 2nd weekend! Lots of great items have already been donated and if you have good clean items, donations are still being accepted. Electronic items and TV's are not accepted as well as power tools or furniture. Thanks for understanding.

The free book library on the front porch of the Sunshine Shop has been changed out and many great barely read summer reading books are there for the taking. Please check them out and imagine yourself reading on your back porch or at the beach!

Thanks to everyone who shops at the Shop and to the volunteers who make this possible.

PS: The winner of the fishing pole on Fishing & Heritage Day was Yves Foeillet from Sheds!

News from Georgetown UMC

Happy Spring! Even though wet and soggy, the beauty of the earth seems to be more gorgeous every year. As I look out my window as I write - or type - this, the different shades of green are blended together into a beautiful tapestry of God's wonderful works.

One of our members enjoyed his participation at the annual conference in Syracuse recently. He was able to reconnect with a former friend from his Oneonta Methodist Youth Council days. He is eager to go again next year!

We are looking forward to hosting the Baccalaureate service for the Otselic Valley graduates on June 26th. We know Melanie will have an uplifting message for the 16 graduates as they embark on their future filled with hopes and dreams.

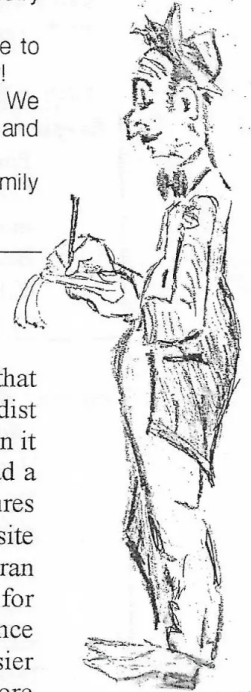
As summer approaches, we are filled with excitement of slower paced days of camping, lawn mowing, family reunions, and other get togethers that summer brings.

Until next time.....

New Church Website !!!

by Dawn White

The last few months I have been working on getting a new church website up and running. I found out that the current web service that we used was not going to be supported anymore. The United Methodist Communications sent out an email with a new company called Tithe.ly. I started to do some research on it and took it before the Ad Board. They had me do more research on the Online Giving part and I had a zoom meeting with a person from the company that gave me a lot of great information on all the features that is part of the offer from the company. I took it back to the Ad Board and they approved the website setup and to do the Online Giving later on. I then started the process of getting the website going. I ran into one issue that was the Domain Name, and it did not work. So, I started to research the best choice for one that was a lot easier than the previous one. We came to the following on www.sotselicumc.org. Once I got that all setup and going, I started to work on learning how to work on the site. This one is a lot easier to do and we can add photos and more on it. It is still a work in process as I work to learn how to do more with it. The company has provided some great training to learn how to use it. Take a look at it and see what it all about and if you have any ideas for the site please us know. You can also get to the website from the church Facebook.



Trustees Report - June 2025

Cal has contacted Mr. Brennan regarding the stained-glass windows that we would like to refurbish and is trying to set up a time to meet.

Bruce Gary and Cal looked at the side railing on front entrance to the church that was damaged by the heavy winds and felt they can rebuild it themselves.

Carl Stark donated a battery-operated lawn mower via Carl Johnson. A decision has not been made as to not keeping the gas-powered mower or just keep them both. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

They have not heard back from Adsit's of Sherburne regarding the parking lot. They may be waiting for sun to arrive before starting the project.

If anyone knows of an electrician that can replace the outlet in the church (center of the steps up to the pulpit), please let us know. John Davis has not responded to our calls as he may have a full-time job.

Happy Father's Day

Side notes

Fishing & Heritage Day Recap

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the 16th Annual Fishing & Heritage Day on May 17th. The weather initially was questionable, but the day turned into a beautiful day with rain only appearing later in the afternoon. George Anderson and Dennis Winge provided great new music for the event, and John Liuzzo was a surprise guest performer!

Raffle winners were:

Musky Joe Fishing Trip - Lisa Marris

Savage Carvings Black Bear - Tom Neal

Maken Frenz Plus Bait 'n Tackle Fishing Boots - Kirsten Spear

Child's Bicycle donated by Linda Bailey and Ron Barr - Helen Baker

Thank you again to everyone in the community who donated time and energy to make the event a success and to the South Otselic UMC for providing meeting space each month!

Dates to remember

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

15 - Father's Day

20 - 60+ diner at 5:00 PM at the church

22 - Administrative Board after worship service

26 - Baccalaureate Service at 6:30 PM at the Georgetown UMC

28 - Deadline for newsletter items due

July 4 - Happy Birthday America!

Word of thanks..

On behalf of the ladies of the So. Otselic UMC we want to thank each and every one of you that worked, donated and purchased out flowers, plants, pies and famous fried dough! The weather turned out to be perfect and as the old saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child", well it takes the entire church to make this happen! As always it is a great way to share fellowship in a community atmosphere!

Annual Summer Rummage Sale

Mark your calendars for July 10,11 and 12 as the Sunshine Shop will be holding the annual rummage sale! The shop has been busy collecting items throughout the winter and spring months and the rooms are filling up with some great items already! If you have any clean items that you wish to donate, you can drop them off when the shop is open, when Pastor Melanie is in her office or on Sunday morning. This is a free will offering although some items may be specifically marked, and all proceeds will go towards purchasing school supplies for the OVCS children. Please come and support this worthwhile effort!

Weird Animals ... ???

What are weird animals? As of this writing, I am not too sure myself, but if this piques your interest, then come and join in the fun August 4-8 as the VBS will present, "Weird Animals"! As always, Chris and the youth have been busy with their thinking caps and creativity putting their thoughts into reality. Chris will have a list for those that can help with supplies, money and/or time, all which will be greatly appreciated. Get excited as this is a week of fun, food and learning about God through the eyes of children.

Congratulation to all the Graduates!

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 (continued from last month)

B. Sustainable Policies and Practices

Sustainability is crucial to the development of ecologically sound policies and practices that seek to restore balance to the natural world and end the disruptive relationships between humanity and the rest of God's creation.

Sustainable policies and practices aim to meet present human needs while ensuring that future generations have the resources they need to thrive. Sustainable policies and practices prioritize the protection of all forms of life and natural ecosystems, while supporting human beings to live in healthy balance with the earth.

We urge United Methodists to adopt sustainable habits and practices, including refraining from overconsumption, repurposing and recycling materials, avoiding products that pollute or otherwise harm the environment, and reducing the carbon footprints of individuals and families by reducing overall reliance on fossil fuels for heat, transportation and other goods.

Recognizing that simply changing our personal habits will not be enough to reverse decades of environmental damage, the church supports local, regional, national, and international cooperative efforts aimed at redressing the ecological harms humans have wreaked on a global scale. Such cooperative efforts must include the development and enforcement of policies and practices that protect all sentient beings, and the promotion of sustainable economic development. We also encourage responsible consumption and urgent action against global warming and climate change.

C. Food Justice

Food systems that are ecologically sustainable, locally oriented, and equitably distributed are urgent priorities. We endorse policies and practices designed to ensure access to healthy nourishment and clean drinking water, especially for communities that have been subjected to environmental degradation or deprived of adequate resources to produce or purchase their own food.

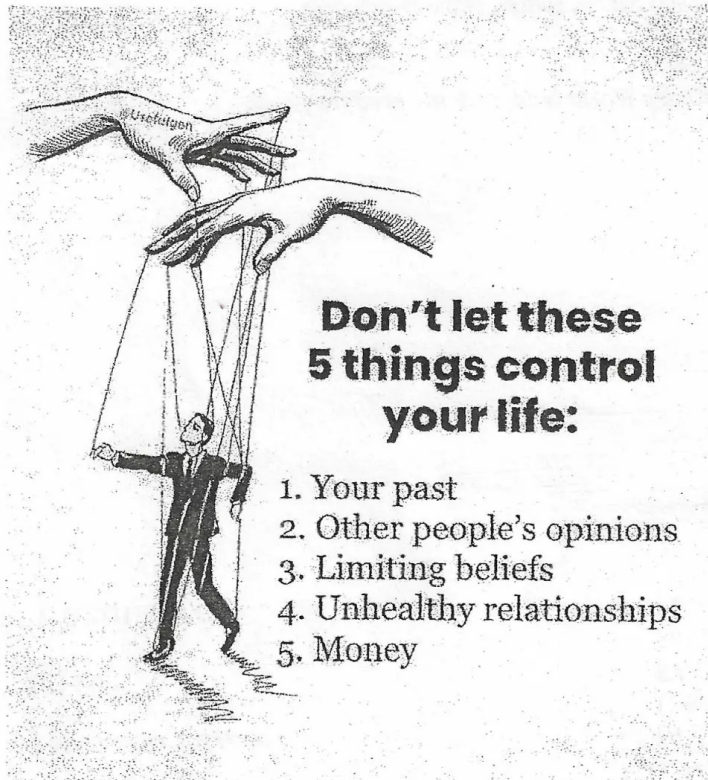
We also affirm food sovereignty, which promotes the rights of all people to healthy, culturally appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. We support local control of food production, which entails providing opportunities for local communities to participate meaningfully in decisions about the kinds of livestock to be raised and crops to be grown. We reject agricultural policies and practices that make food inaccessible to agricultural workers and the communities in which the food is produced. We advocate for strong protections of the land, food, and water rights of indigenous peoples.

We oppose the patenting of seed varieties and other organisms traditionally used in farming and agriculture. The rapidly expanding practice of patenting seed varieties and charging farmers for their use has reduced access to traditional crops and increased the indebtedness of subsistence and smaller-scale farms. Consequently, we support cooperative, open-source efforts aimed at making traditional seed varieties available to those who need them.

We also call for the creation of policies that reduce carbon-intensive agricultural methods, which increase climate change. Producers must be responsible for their adverse impact on food packaging, distribution and transport, and seek the safety and well-being of agricultural and food processing workers.

Pray for our Country

I wonder how often
I cause my guardian angel
to look like this



**Don't let these
5 things control
your life:**

1. Your past
2. Other people's opinions
3. Limiting beliefs
4. Unhealthy relationships
5. Money

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

So. Otselic Methodist News
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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 Otselic 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 Otselic 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) Doug (&Kathe)Evans, Maddy Davis & Calvin Hooper & Sawyer, Chris Marquard, Frank Mason, Annette Sheldon, Travis Sheldon, Jim Slocumb, Ton Taylor, Wenda West, family of Janice Ashlaw, family of Elaine & Milt Chapin,, family of Nancy Goodrich, family of Richard White, storm victims in Midwest, UNY UMC Annual Conference, Roman Catholic Church, Christians proclaiming Jesus in face of persecution, economic justice, end colonialism

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, Chris Marquard, Maverick Mesko, Aaron Miller, Phil Mudge, Mitch Mullenax, Jenny Nabor, Elaine Perkins, John & Carole Roalef, Kate Robinson, Matt & Annette Sheldon, Cathy Silver, Normajeane Stark, Kenneth Sullivan, Angela (Graves) Szlamczynski, Dave Wentworth,

Travel mercies for family and friends
Our men and women in the military World leaders & the need for peace

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