

So. Otselec Methodist News

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August 2025



Ann Campbell, Editor



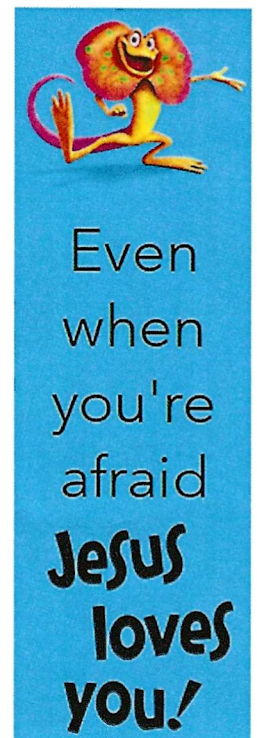
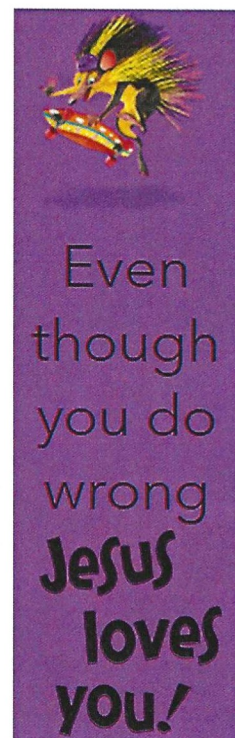
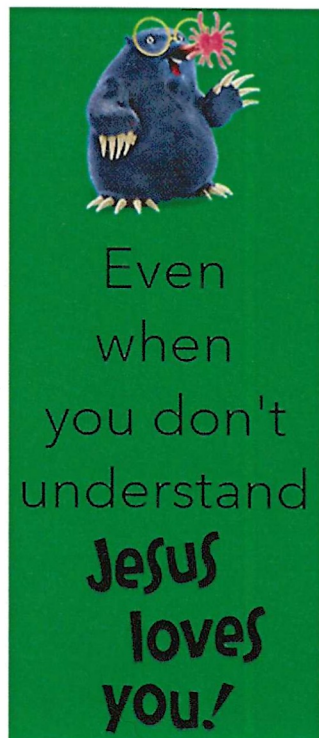
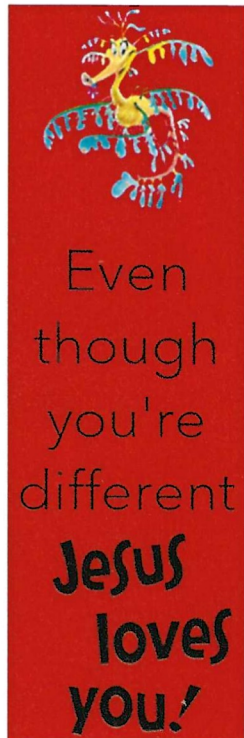
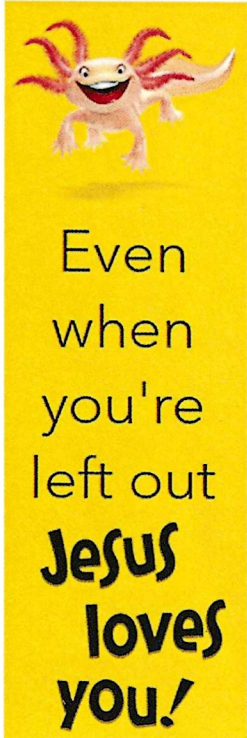
MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR ...

August 2025

"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other."
John 13:34 (CEB)

Happy August!

As I write this, we just finished Vacation Bible School (VBS), "Weird Animals." A total of 23 youngsters were taught about the love of Jesus by a handful of youth group members and several adults. Each day we focused on a Bible point: Even when you [daily focus] ... **Jesus loves you!** (That's amazing!)



While VBS targets kids, I think it is important for us as adults to remember that whatever we do or have done/been, Jesus loves us. When we repent of our sin, we have a better way forward through that love of Jesus. "That's amazing!" because so often we lose hope, forgetting there are more perspectives on what is possible than the limited amount we can see in the midst of our troubles. Jesus's love frees us from the traps we get into (whether or not caused by us), enabling us to live and grow beyond mistakes and pain by the power of the Holy Spirit.


Knowing that Jesus loves us also enables us to show love to the "unlovable" – those on the fringes, who cause problems, who shy away from building relationships. In many ways, when I encounter someone like that, I am reminded that "there, but for the grace of God, go I" – and if Jesus loves me enough for God to have helped me, then maybe God is using me to help this other person that Jesus also loves. I pray that God may use you, too!

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

It is generally accepted that New York State's nickname of "The Empire State" was originated by George Washington upon his realization of the potential of her vast, but still untapped, natural resources. However, the actual fulfilling of this grandiose title only came about after the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825.

In addition to being called "the father of his country", George Washington was also acclaimed by early writers as "the father of American canals". At the close of the Revolution, but before peace was actually declared, Washington left from his Newburgh, N.Y. headquarters, and journeyed across central New York to explore the possibility of a canal system from the Hudson River to western waters.

As a surveyor and engineer, Washington had, even before the war, successfully obtained official sanction for one of his projected canal plans. In 1791 a private company was chartered for the purpose of improving existing natural waterways. Over the period of a half-dozen years, rivers and streams of New York had been improved enough so that several tributaries of the Hudson were carrying much produce from the eastern part of the state.

However, to tap the vast areas of fertile land of New York's interior, it became apparent that only a cross-state canal system would suffice. To most people, this idea seemed to be one of impossible accomplishment in view of the hundreds of miles of mountainous terrain that would have to be conquered for the completion of such a project.

Today's giant earth-moving machines would make short work of that kind of task, but two centuries ago, every engineering project depended solely on horse, mule or ox power, and strong human backs. The idea of creating a navigable waterway up and down the high rockbound hills of New York seemed beyond even remote possibility.

The Federal government was of the same opinion and refused to sponsor any part of the project. In 1817, however, Dewitt Clinton, long a proponent of the canal and now Governor of New York, finally convinced his state to undertake construction of a canal that would link the Hudson River in the east to Lake Erie in the west. Still, most people doubted the feasibility of the plan and derisively dubbed it "Clinton's big ditch".

At times during the next eight years, it often seemed as if the skeptics were correct in their dire predictions of failure, but as each new obstacle made an appearance, it was somehow overcome and work progressed, sometimes at a snail's pace, yet always stubbornly forward. Hills of solid rock and miles of mosquito-infested swamp were met and conquered. "Clinton's big ditch", forty feet wide and four feet deep, slowly crawled across the state, not in a straight line, but in loops and curves as dictated by the terrain - and every inch gained was by hand-powered shovel and pick, mostly wielded by Irish immigrant labor, but also often by local workers.

The easier sections of the canal were finished first, and

some were placed in use even before the final completion. The immediate success of these parts of a still unfinished canal ended the unfavorable criticism.

On October 26, 1825, the completed Erie Canal was at last opened, as the first fleet to traverse its entire length left from Buffalo, traveled the width of the state, and then down the Hudson to New York City. Passengers on the boat, "Seneca Chief", which led the fleet on this initial journey, were the now-heralded Governor Dewitt Clinton, the Lieutenant-Governor and a group of prominent citizens.

New York City, which until then had been a second-rate seaport, far behind Philadelphia and Boston, soon easily surpassed both and in a few years became the most important port in the new nation. Thousands of tons of freight from the interior of New York and even from the western states via the Great Lakes, were carried on barges to city markets and the seaport. New York had, indeed, finally become "The Empire State"!

From time to time in its history, the canal has been enlarged as it handled more and more traffic. Becoming known as "The Barge Canal", it has served admirably as a freight carrier during its long career. However, in this century of the growth of highway trucking and improved railways, it has lost ground to faster services.

Now it is once again simply "The Erie Canal" and is seeing a new rebirth of use as a recreational waterway. Many thousands of pleasure boats annually travel its waters, which when considering all the rivers and lakes joined by its canals, stretch out for more than 800 miles. From tidewater level at Albany of 0 feet, it rises through a series of locks to an elevation of 565 feet at Buffalo.

For relaxing travel and a change of pace, it is hard to beat a trip by boat on the peaceful waters of the Erie Canal. No speeding water-skiers or fast bass-boats are allowed, but the canaler can fish at leisure, tie up at one of the many canal parks (even for the night) or visit museums and historic places plainly marked on canal maps.

Recently, son Mike and I took advantage of this by taking our boat up the canal, our destination being Newark. Arriving there after a pleasant trip during which we were lifted through six locks, we tied up overnight at the town canal park. By pre-arrangement we were met there by daughter Jeri and her husband Jim, who live in nearby Victor. After a meal at the local Ponderosa, we all went back aboard the boat and visited for awhile. Then, the hour growing late, they returned home, while Mike and I turned in aboard the boat.

The next morning, we walked to a close-by diner and had our breakfast. Then putting about, we headed back east through the same six locks, finally arriving at our home slip in a Cayuga Lake marina after a very enjoyable cruise through some of New York's prettiest locale.

There are many ways to enjoy the beauty of God's Good Earth! I find this to be one of my favorites!

George Ortiz

Treasurer's Corner

Wow - summer is almost over yet it seems like Memorial Day was only yesterday! I have had the pleasure of having my 2 granddaughters visiting us this last week to participate in our annual VBS program, 'Weird Animals' and it did not disappoint! Our feet, hands and legs were just going nonstop for 4 hours - for 5 days! I was pooped! I am always *amazed* at what Chris, the youth and Pastor Melanie can come up with not to mention the time involved, not just putting it on for the week, but the PRE preparation - decorations, signs, games, Bible stories that have active participation, songs, Kate's delicious lunches and fabulous creative snacks... just to mention a few. Hours and hours of prep - then flipping over the entire sanctuary and fellowship rooms into festive areas that anyone would totally enjoy... just *amazing* (sorry I use *amazing* a lot in this article, but that was out 'theme' all week long!) Jesus loves us - that's *amazing*!!! Again, I invite all of you to just come on just one day to see what goes into this summer festivity, as I had no idea over all these years until I brought my granddaughters (I had always enjoyed the Sunday review that was presented to the congregation - not having the foggiest idea of the 'behind the scenes' endeavor) My hat goes off to Chris and her unending energy, creativeness and enthusiasm to continue our church tradition of VBS ... I do not think *amazing* covers my inner thoughts, but I cannot think of a better word! This little church is very lucky to have her among us! ☺

Here is the for July 2025. Please keep our little church in our prayers.

Ann P Campbell
Treas

Receipts:

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Envelopes & Pledges | 3840.00 |
| Loose Offerings | 200.00 |
| Interest (Wells Fargo) | 909.46 |
| Interest on savings | 2.22 |

Beg Balances:

Chng: 5642.87
Savings: 8915.02

TOTAL 4951.68

Payments:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Minister's Salary | 231.25 |
| Housing | 1670.00 |
| Treasurer | 153.30 |
| Travel | 627.41 |
| Organist | 0.00 |
| Secretary | 0.00 |
| Tech Support | 153.30 |
| Postage | 73.00 |
| Office Supplies (copy paper) | 39.99 |
| Fuel Oil | 587.00 |
| NYSEG (June & July) | 300.33 |
| Apportionment | 987.30 |
| Cokesbury (Baptism Books) | 149.50 |
| Telephone | 89.06 |
| US Treasury (FICA - 2nd qtr) | 152.38 |
| Lightwell Ins. Advisors of NY, LLC (3rd qtr) | 84.13 |
| So. Otselec Water District | 116.00 |
| Great America Financial Services (copier) | 184.01 |
| Penny Stone (trash removal) | 30.00 |

TOTAL 5627.96

Receipts:

Payments:
Balance

Ending Balances:

Chng: 4964.37
Savings: 8915.02

Year to Date: +259.75

Up to the minute...

Weird Animals - Review...

Wow - what an amazing week was had at VBS this past week! We had an average of 20 children every day and man were they busy! Chris and Melanie had 4 stations, 2 sing-a-long sessions, snack time, quiet time, and lunch! Whew - you can get tired just listing all of these, so just imagine actually being there! The church was full of laughing, singing, dancing, bible lessons, fun games, crafty things and great food/snacks! We learned about many 'weird' animals, but we also learned that weird is not bad at all! Bring different is not a bad thing as we are all different... and we have to understand each other... what great lessons! The youth and some additional adult helpers made this week go smoothly and *fast*! Before we knew it - the time was up, and we had to go home! I cannot speak for all of the older helpers, but I was in bed by 10 every single night! I would invite each and every one of you to just come and witness this extraordinary event - it is beyond what you think. Every minute is accounted for, supervised well and loaded with God's message at each different station. A huge shoutout out to all of the parents that brought their children because without you this would not happen! We also want to thank everyone that donated money, time and/or supplies to help Chris with VBS. Kudos to Chris, Melanie, Kate and all of the helpers to make this week so special... *Weird* - but so special!!!! ©

News from Georgetown UMC

We hope everyone is enjoying the lovely summer weather and all the fun events that happen this time of year. However, it seems that all those other things have resulted in lowering our Sunday attendance. In turn, this of course affects our finances. We really miss our friends and neighbors and are hopeful that this is a temporary situation and that things will pick up again in the Fall.

Some of us attended the Georgetown Central School All Class Reunion in early August. Friends reminisced with those they hadn't seen in a number of years. One attendee, who was a kindergarten graduate of GCS, was able to connect with a very generous donor of a graduation award to an OVCS graduate for the past few years. A good time was had by all.

Until next time.....

The Sunshine Shop News

In a time of rising costs, consider shopping at the Sunshine Shop!

Encourage your family and friends, near or far, to check out their local thrift shops. Recycling clothes and saving money at the same time is a win, win situation in today's rising inflation. The Sunshine Shop is full of summer clothes and back to school appropriate clothes. While the \$5 bag sale continues through the month of August, convince your network of friends to shop thriftily. Encourage and bring your friends and family to the Sunshine Shop and check out the ever-changing inventory.

I have to disclose that the majority of the Shop shoppers are not from South Otselic. Many, travel from areas 10 miles and more distant from South Otselic. Be the first on your street to come to this cute little store, a hidden gem in downtown South Otselic. Just to share, there are 2 other hidden gems in town! The first is Artselic, just a little out of town on 26 south, open on weekends. Local handmade goods are for sale and a tattoo area is also available. The second is a weaving school located in the Grange across from the OVSC. When Kathryn's green Subaru is parked out front, she is there. Sign up for lessons or rent an 1800s barn loom to weave your special project! You now have 3 reasons to come to town!

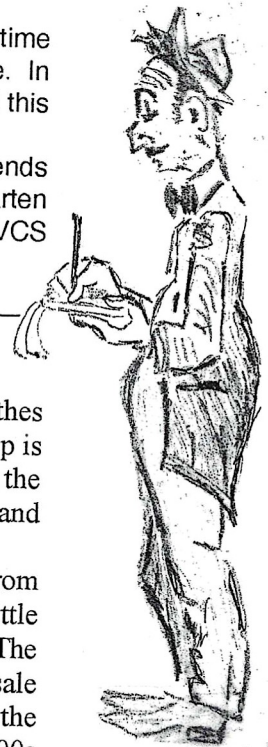
September will have a change in inventory to fall and winter clothes. Our small staff of 4 work tirelessly to organize, sort and hang clothes, and to clean the building.

If you live within 30 miles of the Sunshine Shop, you need to treat yourself to a shopping experience! Hope to see you soon!

Trustees Report – August 2025

The trustees have continued to clean the sanctuary and fellowship rooms on Thursday mornings and Suki has kept the outside grounds mowed and trimmed. The parking lot is holding up well and with the hot summer days it has compacted nicely. We are looking into new outside doors for the pantry and updating the cost for replacing the downstairs windows for the shop. Once these two projects have been completed this should conclude this year's objectives. If there are any gents (or ladies) that would like to join the 'brain trust' on Thursday mornings, they would love more company. Bruce, Cal and Gary have willingly taken on this job seemingly forever and they do a great job, but we are all aging and new recruits are a plus. Please think about it and let one of the guys know if you want to join the group!

Jesus Loves You - - - That's Amazing!!!



Side Notes

Church Picnic - September 7th at the Vet's home in Oxford!

We are going to celebrate our annual church picnic starting with our service, followed by the picnic so we can celebrate with Dave Wentworth! The service will start at 10:30 with our dish to pass picnic afterwards. So, come one come all and let's have a great turnout and a good visit with Dave!

Screams, HOWLS and creepy things that scare in the night!!!

It is hot...it is sticky...it is also time to get your 'Boo' on!!! Yes, Terror on Texas Hill is gearing up to make this year even more spooktacular! The dates this year will be October 17 & 18 and if anyone wishes to help with this scary endeavor you can contact Lori Marquard at 315-416-5680. The more ghouls and goblins to help the better!!!!

!!! Food Pantry News !!!

Even though our pantry is small, it is a 'community' pantry and with the recent cuts from the federal government, our grants have been cut by a third. We usually receive about \$3000.00 a year and this year we will only receive about \$1000.00. This discussion will be taken up at our Administrative Board meeting, but we wanted everyone to know the situation up front. If anyone has any ideas as to help our pantry and community, please share them with either Kevin, Debbie Williams or Pastor Melanie.

Dates to remember

August 22 - 60+ dinner at 5:00 PM at the church

24 - Administrative Board after worship service

31 - PPRC meeting after worship service
Deadline for Newsletter items due

September 4 - School opens : *Drive carefully!*

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



Pray for our Country

One Sunday a pastor told the congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate.

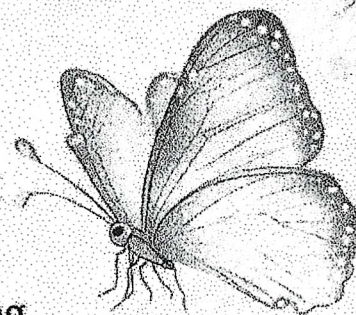
He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns.

After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1,000 bill in offering. He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate.

A very quiet, elderly and saintly lady all the way in the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly, she made her way to the pastor. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and in thanks asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three handsomest men in the building and said, "I'll take him and him and him."

I'm not young
anymore,
I'm not as strong
as I used to be, and
sometimes I forget
things. But I have no
complaints because
God is always with me,
and I am always
blessed.



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.

THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

PREFACE

When the Possessor of heaven and earth brought you into being, and placed you in this world, [God] placed you here not as a proprietor, but a steward: As such [God] entrusted you, for a season, with goods of various kinds; but the sole property of these still rests in [God], nor can be alienated from [God]. As you yourself are not your own, but [God's], such is, likewise, all that you enjoy.

John Wesley, "The Use of Money."

As United Methodists, we profess that all we are and all that we possess, belong to God. We are temporary stewards of the resources and material goods that we have accumulated. In our financial dealings and relationships no less than other aspects of discipleship, we are compelled to serve God and neighbor in all we do.

Few biblical themes are as prominent or as numerous as the scriptural injunctions to stand in solidarity with "the least of these," including the poor, the orphan, the widow, the stranger, and all other vulnerable members of society (Amos 5:7–13; Matt. 25:3–46; James 2:15–16). Accordingly, we pledge ourselves to the establishment of just, equitable, and sustainable economies that work for all.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

A. Globalization

We believe that global cooperation often contributes to human and environmental flourishing. However, we lament that globalization has created significant obstacles to achieving economic justice in too many instances. Globalization is marked by the growing integration of national economies and the emergence of multinational corporations that play an outsize role in global market systems.

While globalization undoubtedly has provided certain financial and other benefits, it has also undermined established wage and labor standards, weakened environmental protections, and accelerated the concentration of the world's wealth in the hands of a relative few. Additionally, globalization has increased overconsumption due to the ready access of cheaper goods and has undermined indigenous land rights in a rush to acquire raw materials necessary for expanded production.

As a church, we recognize the importance of creating just, equitable, and sustainable economies that benefit all members of society, especially marginalized and vulnerable peoples. Further, because globalization transcends the capacity of any single individual, community or government to manage, we call on international bodies, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and others, to hold multinational corporations and national governments accountable to provide for economies that promote people over profits and protect the environment.

Some call it multi-tasking, I
call it doing something else
while I try to remember what
I was doing in the first place

**I think the proper
term for 'senior' women
should be: Queen-agers.**

That is all. Carry on.

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) Nikko Baker, Rick Benson, Janice Trass & Eric Bowers, Gail Evans-Burpee, Paul Carson, Anne Crossway, Pete Kalin, Chris & Lori Marquard, Christopher Newton, Heidi Newton, Madeline Newton, Justin Sheldon, Matt Sheldon,, Mike Sheldon, Travis Sheldon, Monty Warner, family of Pam McCracken, family of Julia white, rescue personnel & loved ones od victims missing post flood, Middle East, VBS

PRAYER LIST: (Long Term) Jonna Bartlett, Richard Bishop, David Boyer, Paul Carson, Margaret Chase, Ron Colasudo, Kaity Davis, Doug (& Kathe) Evans, 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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