

So. Otselec Methodist News

Pastor Melanie Simmons

(church) 315-653-7728

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

Email: Melanie@simmonsasylum.com



Oct. 17-18 2025

TERROR on TEXAS HILL

SCARY HAUNTED TRAIL
FUN FOR ALL AGES

Texas Hill Rd., Otselec (off Rt. 80)
Friday and Saturday 7-10pm
Saturday 4:30-6:30p.m, less scary for little ones

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Hosted by Chris and Lori Marquard
Contact Lori@ 315-416-5680

All donations going to: Syracuse Golisano Children's Hospital!

Ann Campbell, Editor



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR ...

October 2025

"But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you...Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:27-28,31 (NRSV)

Happy October!

I woke up one day this week to the sound of the Sherburne fire siren going nonstop. I think an automatic alarm wired to set it off must have been having a malfunction, because even when it sounded like someone manually interrupted the siren, it came on again. Also, I did not hear any truck sirens, so I think only an officer responded to the alarm location to check it out and determined that no apparatus needed to respond.



Before I came to that realization, however, I of course was praying for whoever needed help and whoever responded. As time passed and I heard no trucks responding, I began to wonder if no one was available to respond. It is a terrible thing to need help and have none appear.

I got to thinking: what if God calls us to show grace, brings us a need, and no one appears?



There are many reasons that could contribute to that. Noise – so much going on in this world, the news so overwhelming, that we do not even hear/notice God's call or the need. Busy-ness – we are caught up in doing so many things that we do not think we have time to deal with God's call or the need. Crowds – there are so many who want our time and attention, how are we supposed to fit in time for what God wants? Besides, with all those people around, cannot someone else deal with God's call or the need? The list of reasons can go on and on.

It comes down to priorities. What is the guiding call on our lives? Are we focused on Jesus's teaching and sharing God's love to everyone, no matter who they are, or are we letting popular media and society pull our time and attention to judging instead of loving? Are we too focused on doing for ourselves to let others share God's love with and help us? Remember, when you let someone else help you, you give them a sense of self-worth that many seem to lack today.

Also note – firetrucks respond to where the fire is when they get the alarm, to minimize the harm the fire does. Jesus taught us to use love to put out sin; as Christians, we should strive to notice the Holy Spirit's alarms and work promptly, that all people in this world may learn of and live with joy in the kingdom of God.

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

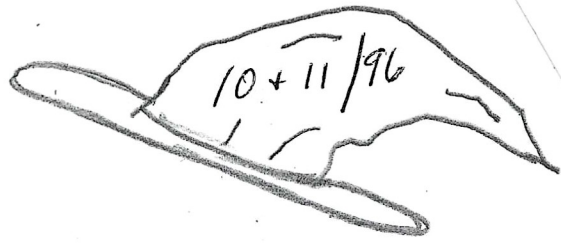
With love in Christ,
Pastor Melanie



"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



What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Autumn? Bright colored leaves? Soccer? Football? Halloween? Thanksgiving? Hunting? Cold weather?

My guess is that, for most of us, the answer would probably be "Bright colored leaves". At least that is, for those who live in "Sugar Maple" country. We delight in Nature's lustrous palette of colors, an extravaganza of leafy brilliance experienced every Fall. The blanket of green which clothed our landscape throughout the summer becomes a many-hued quilt, covering the hills and valleys with a kaleidoscope of color. On second thought, a better word to use than "quilt", when attempting to describe the rich tinting of Autumn's foliage, might well be "tapestry"! Certainly, the effect brought about by the random blending of all the different-colored trees, is similar to the rich earth-tones as seen in oldfashioned tapestry.

But then again, if you're a young athlete, you might connect thoughts of Autumn with football, soccer or any of the other school sports available in these modern times - volleyball, cross country running, or ????. Are you, perhaps, an ex-athlete, or maybe just an avid spectator? On these cool Fall days you might be more comfortable in that easy chair in front of the TV, that miracle contraption which puts you in the middle of the action...

There are those rugged individuals, who if they can't be on the field of combat, are content to sit high in the stands, just to be present where it's all happening. Perhaps "faithful" would be a better adjective than "rugged", for most of those who attend Fall sporting events, do so to lend support to their Alma Mater. Except, that is, in small towns such as ours, where a goodly portion of the crowd is bound to be composed of proud, usually anxious, parents. Few things are more dear to the hearts of parents than to watch their offspring do well in the contest. And few fans are more involved or vocal in spectator participation.

But, in all fairness, there is also something to be said for the "armchair fan" and his (or her) TV. After a trying day or week, what better way might be found for a somewhat weary, sports-minded person, than to relax in front of that big glass "electronic window on the world", and take advantage of a front row seat at a far away event? The weather is perfect, the seating is most comfortable, and the refreshment stand is only a few feet away!

A very, very young person might not be at all interested in any of the foregoing Fall activities, but could find Halloween a time to be eagerly awaited. Goblins and ghosts, witches, black cats and jack-o-lanterns, all are fascinating thoughts, enchanting to a young mind. Donning a scary costume and going about the neighborhood in quest of a bounty of sweets, is an adventure sure to be great fun. And when that spooky night finally arrives, with it comes a trip through the neighborhood, a place no longer familiar - now a shadowy land where ghosts, witches and other frightful

Treasurer's Corner

It is that time of year where once again we begin to gather up our summer items, clean them and put them away for the winter months ahead. The air is a bit crisper, the trees are beginning the process of changing colors and the churches do their best efforts to prepare for next year in the way of budgets. For me, this is the least favorite part of my job. Trying to figure out the best foot forward is not easy. We are so fortunate to have a very conscientious financial committee that looks very closely at our needs while keeping in mind the costs of each line item. This year we actually went *down* by a couple of thousand dollars from last year! Our little church has been so blessed over all these years of keeping our nose above the water line, by being very careful on spending, having many everyday items that are donated and by doing a lot of work that needs to be done by doing it ourselves. But many of our line items are out of our control, so as we look forward to next year, please keep the church line in your home budget, too. I want to personally thank each one of you for your dedication in assisting me in keeping His house open and financially sound.

Here is the report for September 2025. Please keep our little church in your prayers.

Ben F Campbell
Pres

Receipts:			
Envelopes & Pledges	3560.00		Beg Balances:
Loose Offerings	284.00		Chng: 7469.86
Interest (Wells Fargo)	206.64		Savings: 8915.02
	TOTAL	4050.64	
Payments:			Receipts: 4050.64
Minister's Salary	231.25		Payments: 5954.04
Housing	1670.00		Balance -1903.40
Treasurer	153.30		
Travel	0.00		Ending Balances:
Organist	0.00		Chng: 5566.46
Secretary	0.00		Savings: 8915.02
Tech Support	153.30		
Postage	47.92		
Fuel Oil	702.00		
NYSEG	149.40		
Apportionment	987.30		
Penny Stone (trash removal)	30.00		
Telephone	89.02		
US Postal Service (box rent)	78.00		Year to Date: -1291.44
Brotherhood Mutual Ins. Co.(multi-peril-4th qtr)	959.25		
Dawn White (website)	19.00		
Ministry Defender Solutions	79.45		
Upper Room	137.50		
CCLI (music license renewal)	257.00		
Great America Financial Services (copier)	210.35		
	TOTAL	5954.04	

Up to the minute...

Time to get your scare on!!!

The head witch and all of her accomplices have the caldron almost ready to start brewing and the bats and ghouls are prepared to begin their antics. So ready the brooms, adjust your costumes and get set to be scared out of your wits! 'Terror on Texas Hill' is ready to go on October 17 & 18 starting at 7:00! (Saturday from 4:30 to 6:30 for a less scary experience.) All monetary donations will be going to the Syracuse Golisano Children's Hospital and all non-perishable food items will be taken to local food pantries! Be ready to have who knows what jump out at you, fall from above or leap from wherever.... You have been warned!!!! Booo!

Trunk or Treat!

We will be having our annual 'Trunk or Treat' on Saturday, October 25 from 5-7 and this will be in conjunction with the town, fire department and school. If anyone wishes to do up their car/truck for this event, please feel free to do so. We will be parking in front of the church. So be creative and we hope to see you there!

Sunshine Shop News

The Shop is celebrating 'CUSTOMER APPRECIATION' month during October! Without you, our valued, loyal customers, the Shop would be nonexistent. We celebrate YOU! Thank you!

In addition to the freshly stocked "new" clothes for the entire family and a great selection of small household items inside, there are free "spooktacular" Halloween costumes located on the front porch as well as free books. These costumes run from small children to adult in size! There is an outfit for each family member!

Look no further for warm winter jackets and boots, or cards, or 2026 calendars, that special piece of jewelry, or a warm flannel nightgown, or perhaps that holiday dress. The Sunshine Shop has it! Do you want LLBean blouses and jackets? Columbia jackets? Lee jeans? Sweaters? Sweatshirts? The Sunshine Shop has it!

Come in and check us out on October 16th (10 to 4), October 17th (11 to 5), and Saturday the 18th (9 to noon). Register for one of 3 Aldi gift cards to be drawn on Saturday the 18th at noon!

The ladies of the shop want to thank the Trustees and church for getting our first-floor windows replaced! They look awesome and we hope it will help with our heating usage. Thank you again!

We appreciate *all* of our customers!

Trustees Report - October 2025

Glass Smith completed the installation of the Sunshine Shop's first floor windows the week of September 22.

Brad Burke is still waiting on an estimate for steel double exterior doors to the church basement. Cal recently asked him to consider a having only one door equipped with a push bar and the other equipped with two vertical bolts, one at the top and one at the bottom, like the current doors, only to have them both swing outward. Meanwhile, Cal contacted two door manufacturers regarding estimates.

After receiving a message regarding a leak above the entrance door to the Sanctuary from the hallway during the last rain, Cal checked the church roof where it joins the Fellowship Hall, but found nothing visible that might cause the leak. Carl Stark mentioned a leak in the attic above the door that he was aware of when helping with a project there. Cal will contact NY Roofers and have them check it out.

Still no word from the two contractors regarding the repair of the stain glass windows.

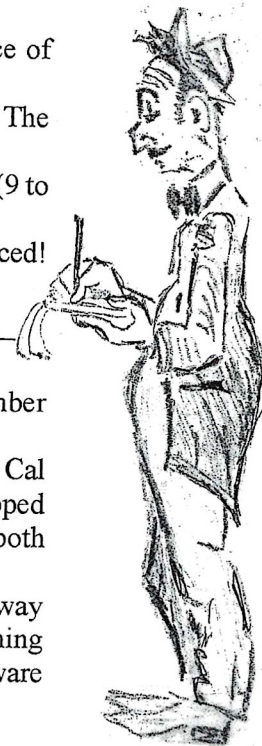
News from Georgetown UMC

Greetings from the Georgetown United Methodist Church! We have been enjoying the many days of unusually warm temperatures for October as we gaze in awe of beautiful colors of the ever-changing leaves on the hillsides. There is very little more beautiful than the Fall foliage of Central New York.

We are busily preparing for Laity Sunday. We look forward to hearing the message that Matt will share with us. We know that Lorraine will bring a thought-provoking interactive children's story. After all, each of us are children at heart.

We are continuing to gear up for our usual Fall and Winter activities. Our Trunk or Treat will be on Friday, October 31st from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the church. We welcome all Trick or Treaters! Hats and mittens are being collected for the Neighborhood Center in Utica. The Samaritan Purse boxes are beginning to be packed as well.

Until next time.....



When God closes a door ... He opens a window!

Side notes

Annual Fall Rummage Sale!

Mark your calendars for November 8 for our annual fall rummage sale, bake sale, beef stew luncheon and mission baskets. You will notice that this year we will be having this great event for only 1 day, from 9 to 2. So, let's make it spectacular! There will be something for everyone and it is a free will offering for the rummage items. All of the proceeds will go towards Christmas meals, gifts and community events. Please tell a friend and we hope to see you there!

It's beginning to look like Christmas...

Not quite yet, but before you know it, the holiday season will be upon us! With that being said, please mark your calendars for Monday, November 17 for our annual Christmas wreath making day! This is one of the most fun filled days that we get to have fellowship, sing, have yummy snacks and of course make wreaths! The cost will be the same as last year - \$19.00 and that will include a homemade bow! If anyone out there still has their 'metal ring', please return it as we recycle as much as we can to keep the cost down. So, if there are any 'elves' out there that would like to join us in a day of fun... please mark your calendar - we will be starting at 9:00 AM.

Thanksgiving Dinner & 'Hanging of the Greens'...

On November 30th, we will be very busy as that is the day for the 'hanging of greens' plus our annual Thanksgiving Day dinner! It is a bit early to announce, but as we all know - once October comes, no moss grows on anyone's sneakers! More information will follow in next month's newsletter.

Dates to remember

October 17 - 60+ dinner at 5:00 PM at the church

19 - Laity Sunday: see Chris to sign up to help do the service!

25 - Trunk or Treat from 5-7 in front of the church

November 1 - Deadline for newsletter articles due

2 - Daylight Savings Time begins! Turn your clock BACK one hour!

7 - 60+ dinner at 5:00 PM at the church

8 - Annual fall rummage sale and beef stew luncheon, bake sale and mission baskets

9 - Charge Conference at 7:00 PM at the Norwich UMC. All are welcome to attend.

In 2024, the United Methodist Church General Conference approved revised Social Principles

(<https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>). This month we are beginning to present just brief summaries instead of the full text of some of them for your consideration; what action might we take with these in mind?

THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (picking up from where we left off last month)

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES (picking up from where we left off last month)

D. *Graft, Bribery, and Corruption* – the UMC opposes these kinds of corruption as breaches of the public trust and deplores leaders who perform or enable such things.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The UMC holds a covenantal understanding that God's creation is meant to be shared by all and seeks to ensure that individuals, families, and communities not only survive but thrive.

- A. *Responsible Consumerism* – the UMC urges people to reduce waste and promote sustainability of resources. The UMC supports nonviolent efforts to encourage manufacture of goods without exploitation of workers and seeks international cooperation in developing productive economies for the benefit of all humanity.
- B. *Farming and Agricultural Production* – the UMC supports local and family farms. The UMC deplores agribusiness monopolization by corporations that decimate ecosystems for cash crops to be exported. The UMC urges all farmers to use sustainable practices that preserve the food chain and to pay workers fairly.
- C. *The Dignity of Work* – the UMC endorses safe working conditions and equitable compensation for all workers. The UMC opposes child labor, supports unions, and champions work/life balance.
- D. *Sabbath and Renewal Time* – the UMC recognizes the Sabbath as a gift from God for all people. United Methodists are encouraged to honor it by participating in corporate worship with our local congregation.
- E. *Corporate Responsibility* – the UMC believes corporations and business should promote the social and economic health and welfare of society. The UMC calls on corporations and businesses to place people above profits and to observe the highest ethical standards in conducting business. Furthermore, the UMC urges individuals to hold corporations accountable through managed investments and lawful social action.

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

So. Otselic 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 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) Nikko Baker, Betty Benson, Bob Brown, Brenda Brown, Dana Brussel, Henry Campbell, Chelsea Coyle, Amanda Cregg, Kevin Grewe, Lonnie Hakes, Jim Hauptfleisch, Betty Law, Chris Marquard, Justin Sheldon, Eloise Shuman, Ella Simmons, Bruce Smiley, Wenda West, Andrew Wheeler & Amaya Tibbits, family of Edwin Calhoun, family of Duane Horton, family of Dan Spencer, family of Rudy White, victims of Afghanistan earthquake and of Darfur landslide, victims of Typhoon Ragasa, Portland, all with covid/related illness

PRAYER LIST: (Long Term) Jonna Bartlett, Richard Bishop, David Boyer, Dana Brussel, 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, Ella Simmons, Normajean 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

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

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