

So. Otselec Methodist News

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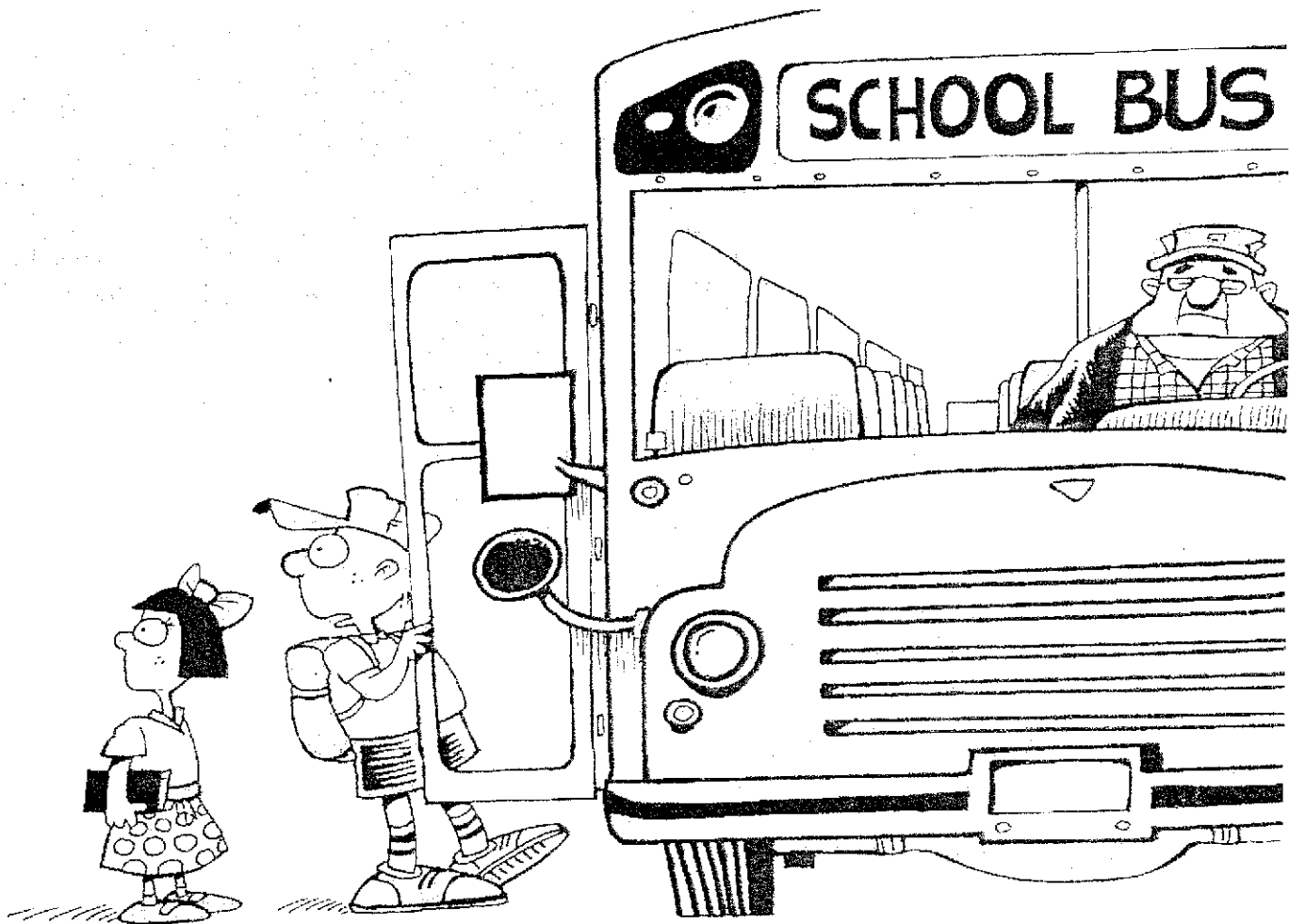
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September 2026

OTSELEC
TRIBUNE
REVIEW



I NEVER KNEW THAT MOM COULD DO CARTWHEELS

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Ann Campbell, Editor



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR ...

September 2026

The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:9-10 (NRSVue)

Happy Autumn!

I know, summer is not officially over yet, but it always seems to me that the start of the school year marks the end of summer vacations and the start of enjoying some delicious fall crops. So, my attitude is that fall starts when the school year starts.



Our current sermon series is a sort of attitude check for living as Christ's people, lessons for the start of a new academic year. Carl started with a discussion about how we view power, and I spoke this week about our challenge accepting God's way rather than relying on our own perspectives. Moving on this month, we will be talking about how Jesus teaches us to strive for reconciliation in conflict and how we are to show grace because God shows us grace.

As I was going through the scriptures and planning ahead for the month, my husband went to an apple orchard and picked apples. His focus was on the gifts God has given us to share with one another. I think if we remember that God has given us as gifts to one another, that we are to cherish one another with grace and love, that we will do well in living as Jesus taught us to.



It also helps to remember also that the trials we face often develop skills God will put to use in ways we have yet to realize. Often they are even answers to prayers – remember this, from an old Guideposts story? I used it six years ago, but still give God thanks as it reminds me of the blessings I am given.

I asked for Strength...and God gave me difficulties to make me strong.
I asked for Wisdom...and God gave me problems to solve.
I asked for Prosperity...and God gave me a brain and brawn to work.
I asked for Courage...and God gave me obstacles to overcome.
I asked for Love...and God gave me troubled people to help.
I asked for Favors...and God gave me opportunities.
I received nothing I wanted...but I received everything I needed.

I pray that you find joy in receiving everything you need. May the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the peace of the Holy Spirit keep you always.

With love in Christ,
Pastor Melanie



**Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously**

"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

Times - they are a changing ... not only are the color of the leaves beginning their bright annual fall spectacular, this week our country also lost one of its brightest stars. Everyone around the world knew of Dolly Parton with her kindness, generosity and gifted talent and now everyone around the world is paying tribute to this amazing woman. You did not have to know her to love her. She was real, authentic, down to earth and it seems she was a friend to any person she met! What a true American legend! I cannot remember our national flag being lowered for an entire week for an American 'citizen'. That alone is such an honor, and she left this world in hopes of a better place. She was bigger than life itself and yet she never let her celebrity status take away from who and what she was ... a lovely human being. She gave more of her money to charities and causes she believed in and her deep-rooted faith carried her over some of the hardest bridges that life could hand to any human being. We all could learn to live with one of Dolly's mottos: Dream more - Learn more - Care more - Be more ... Well said. May God hold you in his hands.

Here is the report for July 2026. Please keep our little church in your prayers.

Ann F. Campbell

Pres.

Receipts:

Envelopes & Pledges	4390.00
Loose Offerings	285.00
Interest (Wells Fargo & Methodist Foundation)	1202.35
Computer tighing	310.00
Tr fr Ch. Ed.	107.47
Interest on savings	2.22
TOTAL	6297.04

Beg Balances:

Chng: 4367.20
Savings: 8923.94

Receipts: 6297.04

Payments: 5061.20

Balance 1235.84

Payments:

Minister's Salary	312.00
Housing	1670.00
Treasurer	169.00
Travel	0.00
Organist	0.00
Secretary	0.00
Tech Support	156.99
Postage	122.74
Office Supplies	0.00
Fuel Oil	702.00
NYSEG	136.40
Apportionment	1005.11
Lightwell Ins. Agency of NY, LLC (3rd qtr)	82.31
Telephone	89.09
US Treasury (FICA - 2nd qtr)	162.03
Website	19.00
Christine Kalin (VBS)	107.47
So. Otselic Water District	116.00
Great America Financial Services (copier)	181.06
Penny Stone	30.00
TOTAL	5061.20

Ending Balances:

Chng: 5600.82
Savings: 8923.94

Year to Date: + 545.27

- This report does NOT include offering on Sunday, August 30

Up to the minute....

Trustees Report - September 2026

NY Roofers are scheduled to fix the roof leak between the church and the Fellowship Hall on Friday, September 4.

Sweeny Pest Elimination made an assessment of the bat issue on August 7. They advised doing nothing since the bats are not getting into the church building beyond the attic, and the cost for removal, including the guano, would be high. I've requested an estimate on the bats' removal only.

Brenchley Painting plans to begin the Sunshine Shop roof repair/painting and window/chimney caulking this coming Monday, August 31 and Wednesday, September 2.

As part of the hamlet's water district upgrade, water pipe replacement in front of the church and Sunshine Shop was started the week of August 24th.

The Sunshine Shop News

The Sunshine Shop will feature all "NEW" inventory when it opens on Thursday September 3rd at 10am. Stop and see brand new items still sporting their tags as well as exceptionally great quality and name brand clothes. We guarantee you will not be disappointed!

The Shop will be open: Sept. 3rd & 4th: 10 to 4 and Sept. 5th: 9 to noon.

Pharsalia Hook News

The ladies of Pharsalia Hook are hosting a sale of new and used items on September 26 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Pharsalia Hook Community Building. So, if you are looking for something unique or different, stop over, shop for a while and visit with the ladies. You may find that special treasure!

Georgetown UMC News

Greetings from the Georgetown United Methodist Church! Now that the weather is a little cooler, our thought turn to our Fall adventures. We have begun planning the Lay Sunday service, gathering items and details for Trunk or Treat, and lest we forget, compiling the forms for our conference on November 1st. We are blessed to be able to continue these traditions.

With schools starting up again in a few days, be sure to watch out for school buses stopping, and eager children who can't wait to get to school.

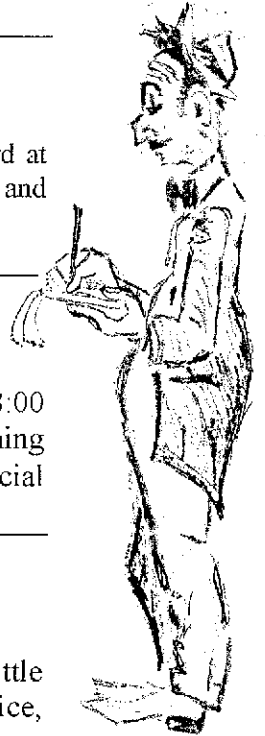
Until next time.....

Free Community Lunches !!!

September 3rd at noon will be the next Free luncheon at the South Otselic UMC in the Fellowship Hall. The menu has yet to be decided, but the program starting at 1 pm will be a field trip to the farm of Lonnie and Bruce Hakes on State Highway 26, just south of town. Bruce will share with us his longhorn cattle right up close! He is going to bring them down to a lower pasture but we will still have to carpool up to see them. Several of us have vehicles that will easily make the short trip so that everyone can be amazed at these wonderful gentle animals. This will be a weather dependent adventure as it is all outside!

September 17th at noon will be the second Free September luncheon. The menu has again yet to be decided. The program, however, is a very local field trip to the Old School Wool and Weaving Center located at the Grange Hall across from the Otselic Valley Central School on Maple Street. Kathryn will share with us the history of weaving and her passion for teaching and weaving on her huge barn looms. This is a must see and a very hidden gem in the center of South Otselic!

Please join us for lunch (**RSVP PLEASE!**) at noon and the 2 field trips at 1pm.



Side notes

Dates to remember

September 3 - Free Community luncheon 12 to 2

9 - First day of school! *Drive carefully!!!*

20 - Free Community luncheon 12 to 2

26 - Sale of new and used items at Pharsalia Hook community building - 8 to 2.

Deadline on newsletter items due

27 - Administrative Board meeting after worship service

October 1 - Free Community luncheon 12 to 2

Witches ... Goblins ... Werewolves and Ghouls ...

It is that time of year when our resident head witch and her ghastly crew are preparing for their annual haunt ... for YOUR pleasure? This year it will be October 16th and 17th from 7 to 10. (On Saturday from 4:30 to 6:30 will be less scary for the little ones!) If there is anyone interested in helping with this spooky adventure please contact Lori at: 315-416-5680. All monetary proceeds will go to the Children's Golisano Hospital in Syracuse and all non-perishable food goes to the local pantries. So, mark you calendars for the scariest event of the season!!!



BOTTLE DRIVE

So. Otselec UMC

• to support flood bucket mission

Help us help others who suffer losses from natural disasters.

THANK YOU!!!

Love Boldly
Joyfully
Lead Courageously



Our online giving at
<https://www.sotselecumc.org/>
now has a QR code:



May life always treats you kind ... Dolly Parton

We'll be friends until we're old and senile then we will be new friends!

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: deerknoil1948@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: 10 - 4
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): Hite family, Colleen Law-Tefft, Donna Chuddley's dog Coco, Colombian earthquake victims, those affected by wildfires in Washington, Frances Dick, Angela Harris, Christopher Marquard, Chris Marquard, Lori Marquard, those affected by fires/severe weather, VBS

PRAYER LIST: (Long Term): Jonna Bartlett, Richard Bishop, David Boyer, Ron Colasudo, Kaity Davis, Doug Evans, Linda Excell, Ted Gargas, Kevin Grewe, Roger Hakes, Chuck Hathaway, Fran Knickerbocker, Patti Lamandia, Diane MacGregor, Cassandra & Christopher Marquard, Chris Marquard, Maverick Mesko, Aaron Miller, Phil Mudge, Mitch Mullenax, Jenny Naber, Elaine Perkins, John & Carole Roalef, Kate Robinson, Justin Sheldon, Matt & Annette Sheldon, Cathy Silver, Jim Slocum, Harvey Stalker, Normajean Stark, Kenneth Sullivan, Angela (Graves) Szlamczynski, David Wentworth

Travel mercies for family and friends

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

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