

So. Otselic Methodist News

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October 2026

Oct. 16-17 2026

TERROR on TEXAS HILL

SCARY HAUNTED TRAIL
FUN FOR ALL AGES

Texas Hill Rd., Otselic (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

**Benefiting sick and injured children cared for at Upstate
Golisano Children's Hospital, Syracuse. Thank you!**

Ann Campbell, Editor



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR ...

October 2026

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4 (NRSVue)

Happy October!

Decorations are turning spookier everywhere we look. The days grow shorter and the nights longer; the air grows cooler and the meal preparations get warmer; equipment for dealing with growing plants gets shuffled around with equipment for dealing with snow.



At the end of this month comes the social tradition of trick-or-treating. Based on old superstitions about frightening away evil spirits, kids dress up in costumes and go door-to-door to get handouts of free candy. It is a day we greet probably more of our neighbors than on any other day during the year – and we may not even recognize who they are because of their costumes.

Do you greet your neighbors as warmly on other days of the year? Imagine if we showed the love of God so generously that our neighbors came to our homes every day for the free handout of grace. Imagine having a kind neighbor who never complains about you but rather always helps you do what you need to do for healthy living. How would you respond to them?



God blesses us daily with so very much: In nature, the sun warms the earth every morning, clouds water the earth on a regular basis, breezes blow fresh air all over. As individuals, we are healthy enough to breathe, eat/drink, excrete, think, feel, and communicate with others. As a society, most of us have roofs over our heads, a means of transport to other places, and assurance that we are not alone in this world. Our Creator enabled all of that, Jesus made sure we can be part of God's kingdom, and the Holy Spirit helps us to live more fully each day. How do you respond to them?



The apostle Paul reminds us that we should always give thanks and praise to God, that there is nothing more precious than "the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8) and the righteousness we receive from God through faith in Him.

In our worship series, we continue "Pressing On" this month and begin "Always Give Thanks." As we seek the Lord and remember all of the blessings we have, how about we give love to our neighbors as freely as we have received it from God, that all may come to know the Good News of salvation in Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit and live in blessed holiness.



May the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the peace of the Holy Spirit keep you always.

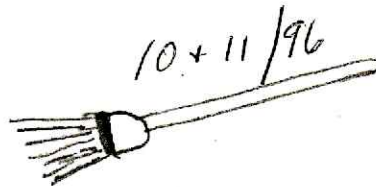
With love in Christ,
Pastor Melanie



**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

10 + 11 / 96


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

things lurk in the dark. But, not to fear, parents are near! Smaller "trick or treaters" are always convoyed along the perilous way by Mom, Dad, or an older sibling.

Halloween enjoys its big night, gathers in its spooky menagerie and departs for another year, leaving behind some disappointment that The Great Pumpkin once again failed to rise from the pumpkin patch. Oh well, maybe next year...

Thoughts of Thanksgiving are probably not among those coming to mind in the early Autumn, but as that festive date draws nearer during the next few weeks, those tardy thoughts begin to surface in the form of anticipation. Scholars happily anticipate the coming short vacation, mothers anxiously anticipate their shopping chores, spread-out families anticipate reunion, and all of us anticipate roast turkey, pumpkin and mince pie. It's just as well that turkeys can't anticipate...

To many men and some women too, thoughts of Autumn are concentrated on a single activity -- hunting! Through October into December, our forests and wood-lots see multitudes of hopeful nimrods tramping over hill and dale in an attempt to outwit the wily critters therein. Their chances of success in this traditional American pastime usually depends on their individual skill and a bit of luck. But then, that's always been true ever since the first settlers arrived from Europe.

But then, I don't believe the early colonists had much in the way of hunting skill. In fact, they were probably as much out of place in the American forests as was their funnel-shaped blunderbus. Fortunately, they had good teachers in the persons of friendly Indians. Eventually, they learned well and thus began what is possibly the oldest American sport...

Lastly -- thoughts of the coming cold weather. Yes, many people (I among them in recent years) connect the word Autumn with cold and snow. I know that Winter doesn't officially commence until December 21, but nobody ever bothered to make that clear to Mother Nature. Winter starts when the first snow falls -- Maybe October, likely November, possibly even December (don't ever bet on that last choice!).

One thing is sure: The season of bright colored leaves is always a short one. Just when the leaves are at their prettiest, the remnant of a renegade Florida or Carolina hurricane comes up North, bringing along enough wind and rain to strip the trees to winter bareness!

Happy Thanksgiving!

George Ortiz

Treasurer's Corner

Well, autumn is upon us in full force. The colors are turning out to be spectacular this year and I am awestruck at how quickly the colors change, just overnight! What amazes me is how one tree can have just one branch that is colored and the rest still green - how and why does that happen? God's handiwork - why should I guess???

This time of year, our little church and other little churches also make their changes. It is called 'budget time', and for me - it is the most unpleasant part of my job. We are so blessed to have very conscious people on the finance committee that take very seriously their roles in preparing the church's budget. It is a time when each and every one of us is under the importance of putting together a plan that we pray can be met, knowing that many features are out of our control. Just because we are a church does not mean we get any special breaks in our fuel, electricity and postage. We are at the mercy of what the price is. Plus, while putting together budget line items, we all know that to keep the church going we are looking into our own pockets, too. I pray that everyone can look at their own home situation while preparing for the costs that lie ahead but also keep the church in their budget, too. The challenges are great, but we are stronger!

So, while our financial changes have been placed on paper for next year, let us enjoy the physical changes that God has placed before us - in the easel of bursting colors...

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

*Ann P. Campbell
Treas.*

<i>Receipts:</i>				<i>Beg Balances:</i>
Envelopes & Pledges	3864.00			Chng: 5150.03
Loose Offerings	240.00			Savings: 8923.94
Interest (Wells Fargo)	1243.93			
	TOTAL	5347.93		
<i>Payments:</i>				Receipts: 5347.93
Minister's Salary	312.00			Payments: 6385.12
Housing	1670.00			Balance -1087.19
Treasurer	169.00			
Travel	0.00			<i>Ending Balances:</i>
Organist	0.00			Chng: 4112.84
Secretary	0.00			Savings: 8923.94
Tech Support	156.99			
Postage (box rent)	80.00			
Fuel Oil	1116.00			
NYSEG	147.74			
Apportionment	1005.11			
Penny Stone	50.00			
Website	19.00			Year to Date: -7463.14
Telephone	89.21			
Brotherhood Mutual Ins.Co.(multi-peril-4th qtr)	1030.75			
Tr to Trustees	25.00			
CCLI - license renewal	266.00			
Great America Financial Services (copier)	248.32			
	TOTAL	6385.12		

Up to the minute

Creepy paths ... Scary Goblins ... Spookies that jump out of the dark...BOOOOO!

Mark your calendars and tell all of your friends and neighbors that the time has come once again to be scared and delighted all at the same time! 'Terror on Texas Hill' will be holding their annual Halloween thriller for those who are brave enough to venture out! The dates are October 16 and 17 from 7 to 10. (On Saturday from 4:30 to 6:30 they will hold a less scary time for little ones.) This will be the ninth year of giving folks scares, dares and just plain old-Halloween fun! Over these years this small hometown event has donated over \$17,000.00 to the Upstate Golisano Children's hospital in Syracuse!!! That is an incredibly awesome for a very tiny rural town event that Lori and Chris have developed over these years. There will be a food truck to help with your growling tummies while you wait to travel the path of darkness. Monetary donations are always appreciated along with non-perishable food items.

Trustees Report - October 2026

The roof repair where the leak was causing water to drip where the church and fellowship hall joined, was completed on September 4th. In addition, the Sunshine Shop roof was scraped, painted and attic windows were caulked the same day.

Rick Benson replaced the toilet in the ladies room, figured out the issue with some of the electrical outlets in the church and fixed the leaking faucet in the Sunshine Shop bathroom. Welcome to the newest Trustee member in 2027!

Sunshine Shop News

October is **CUSTOMER APPRECIATION MONTH** at the Shop. There has been a great response from shoppers from near and far. Each shopper may enter their name and phone number for an opportunity to win a \$25 Aldi gift card.

The winter inventory contains clothes for all sizes from XS to 5XL for women, and small to 5XL for men. You will find winter boots, coats, jackets, and snowpants. There are many more totes to be unpacked, so be sure and shop the next 3 **CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS** in October: 15th and 16th from 10 to 4, and the 17th from 9 to noon. You will not be disappointed in your trip to South Otselic!

See you soon and thanks for sharing the news about this great thrift shop with your friends, neighbors, and family!

Georgetown UMC News

Greetings from the neighbors to the north! The big news is that our forms are complete, signed and/or submitted! Now we anxiously await our conference on November 1st.

We are geared up for Laity Sunday. We are confident that Matt will have a thoughtful message and that Lorraine will have an invigorating interactive message!

Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Halloween evening from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. We hope it will be warmer and drier than last year.

As I write this, there is a huge geese population making their way south. Safe travels. Certainly, a sign of what's to come.

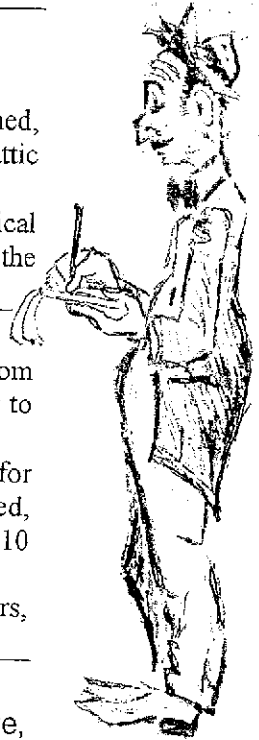
Until next time.....

Free Community Luncheons !

Community lunches continue on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at noon. These lunches are open to anyone within driving distance of the church! Come and meet new folks and enjoy a warm delicious lunch and afterwards sometimes there is a program! If you have a hobby to share or an interest that you would like to share after lunch, please let Sarah know at: text or call 607 244 2447. Remember too, that the LUNCH is **FREE**, but please make a reservation to help with food preparation. (607 244 2447).

The lunches coincide with the Sunshine Shop (10 to 4) being open and The Care and Share Food Pantry (3 to 6) on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a day in South Otselic!

There is always a reason to complain and always a reason to be grateful. They live side by side every single day. The one you feed is the one that grows....



Side notes

Dates to remember

October 1 - Free luncheon from 12 to 2 at the church

12 - 'Terror on Texas Hill' Fund raiser event at Gilligan's in Sherburne 4 to 8

15 - Free luncheon om 12 to 2 at the church
SFCU at the fire house from 9 to 4

24 - Trunk or Treat from 5 to 7

31 - Deadline for newsletter items due

November 1 - Annual Charge Conference at Norwich UMC at 7:00

Daylight Savings Time ends ... turn your clocks BACK one hour!

5 - Free luncheon from 12 to 2 at the church

Freedom is not worth having if it does not include
the freedom to make mistakes.

Annual Fall Rummage Sale / Bake Sale / Beef Stew Luncheon

The UMW and Sunshine Shop have pooled their groups to offer a rummage sale, bake sale and beef stew luncheon on November 21st from 9 to 2! Time goes by so fast and the ladies at the shop have been collecting rooms full of items for this sale! This will be a free will offering and all the proceeds got go towards Holiday meals for folks in need. Some items may be specially marked. There will be mission baskets for sale and we hope to see you there! The UMW will be having their beef stew luncheon and bake sale with their proceeds going towards the 2 free luncheons a month. So come and browse, have a nice meal and take home some delicious deserts! See you on the 19th!

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas!!!

Well, not exactly starting, but it is never too late to begin 'thinking' about it and in our case making Christmas wreaths! The day is going to be Monday, November 23 starting at 9. We need at least 4 elves that are willing to make the actual wreaths plus 2 cutting the branches. Over the past few years we end up making approximately 50 wreaths and having all the elves working together - it goes by quickly and then we do not have to return for another day to finish up. It is such a fun day of music, laughter, fellowship ... oh and making wreaths! You can bring your own lunch, or we can order from Buel's, whichever you prefer. We usually bring snacks to keep us fortified and working... so mark your calendar for November 23 and we hope to see you there! (Bring your wire cutters with you!)

**Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously**



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



Be the kind of person who makes cashiers smile, makes waiters laugh, and who makes lonely people feel seen. In a world so obsessed with being important, being kind, present, and wonderfully human is its own kind of extraordinary.

Happy Halloween!

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: 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 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: 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 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): Dan Andrews, Laurie Brussel, Lonnie Hakes, Neda & Frank Kay, Christopher Marquard, Chris Marquard, Carrie Perry, Brian Rogers, Travis Sheldon, Elva White, family of Jerry Dunham, school staff/students/families, Cornell assault situation, people in storm areas, Georgetown UMC

PRAYER LIST: (Long Term): **PRAYER LIST: (Long Term):** Dan Andrews, 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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