

# The Circuit Rider

## OSWEGO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST

Volume 40 Issue 10

October 2025



### October Calendar



- |                                                           |                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5th World Communion Offering<br>Freewill dinner at 4:30pm | 15th N.O.W. meeting at 6:30pm                                            |
| 8th Worship meeting at noon<br>Trustee meeting at 6:30    | 18th Quilt Show at Oswego 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC<br>from 10-3               |
| 11th Winterwear Giveaway from 9-12                        | 19th SAGE meeting at 2pm                                                 |
| 12th Finance Committee meeting at<br>noon                 | 20th Bright & Cheerful at noon                                           |
| 14th Spiritual Retreat at 11am                            | 25th Chicken & Biscuit dinner at<br>Fulton 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC from 11-2 |

Our annual Charge Conference will be held on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 1st UMC from 9:30 – 11:30am

AA group meets on Friday evening  
Choir rehearsals are 7pm on Thursdays. All are welcome!



### Chancel Servants for October



Altar Guild: Marge Zeller and Brenda Holliday  
Communion Stewards: Pam Hill and Marge Zeller



### Winter Wear Giveaway



Our winterwear giveaway this year will take place **October 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – noon**. We are asked to bring in coats, hats, mittens, boots, etc. anytime. Let's help our neighbors stay warm.

### Support our Local UMC's

We have 2 opportunities in October to participate in activities  
with our neighboring United Methodist churches.

**Oswego First** is having their annual **Quilt Show and Sale** on **Saturday, October 18th from 10am -3pm**. Come also for their delicious **Chicken BBQ, from noon to sold out!**

**Fulton First** is having a **Chicken and Biscuit Dinner** on **Saturday, October 25th from 11am - 2pm**. Cost is \$15.00, either dine-in or takeout.

### All Saints Sunday

Our **annual All Saints Service** will be held on **Sunday, November 2nd at 11am**. If you have loved ones who have died in the past year who you would like to be included, please contact Pam or the church email by November 19th. Our special guest preacher will be our District Superintendent, Rev. Sherri Rood.

### **Birthdays:**

- 3 Sam Stone
- 7 Chris Tucker
- 8 Diana McKenna
- 9 Marge Zeller
- 19 Charles Murphy, Sr.
- 23 Pastor Ruth Rosa Warner
- 31 Gaylon Oldenburg, Sr.

### **Anniversaries:**

- 5 Jeffery & Melissa Lisk
- 10 Renee & Timothy Mulkerin
- 13 Kathy & Mike Flaherty



If you would like other new dates added, please just send an email to the church office. 😊😊

### 🙏 **Daily Prayers** 🙏

Please keep the following in your prayers this month:

***Condolences to Eleanor Lund and family, on the passing of her brother-in-law,  
Chuck Himes, who died on September 27<sup>th</sup>.***

### **Parishioners, Friends, and Family:**

Those with health concerns: Pastor Ruth; J.R. Simmons; Dave Wadleigh; Connie LeBoeuf; Mary Seaton and her brothers; Marge Zeller, Nancy Wadleigh; Bea Holliday; Debbie Downs; Judy Lake; Zeke Seymour; Wade Smith; Mark Garlock's father-in-law (Bob); Ed Downs; Will Abare; Nancy Sawyer; Wuxin Shen; Gerrick (Brenda's nephew); Betty Holliday; Cindy Abare; Donna (Gail's sister); Kelly and Alana (Nancy Sawyer's nieces). Those in nursing homes: Ann Rockower; Grace Truell; Valerie Palmer; Cheryl Coe DeLoff; Barbara Buske. Please pray for those suffering from cancer; those who are homeless; all caregivers; and the health and safety of our families and friends.

### **Community and World Concerns:**

Please pray for democracy, especially those who have been illegally deported, imprisoned, and murdered; and leaders to be merciful everywhere. Pray for wisdom and strength for local political candidates. Pray also for all victims of natural disasters. Please pray for those living in fear; especially in Ukraine and Gaza, as well as in our country. Prayers for all those doing God's work in the world; an end to racism, and the coming of world peace! Prayers also for Pastor Ruth in her ministry, for Alan Kinney, and Pope Leo XIV.

### ☀️ **Bright and Cheerful** ☀️

We will meet on the **20<sup>th</sup> at noon** to enjoy lunch and fellowship, as we write cards to our friends of Trinity. We would love to have more people join this wonderful ministry! 🌻

### ✉️ **Secret Siblings** 📧

Please remember your 'Siblings' with daily prayers, monthly cards, and a small birthday gift!



## **Sterling Nature Center Spiritual Retreat 2025**

You are invited to our Spiritual Retreat in Nature at **Sterling Nature Center on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> (rain date 10-16-25) at 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** with optional lunch to follow.

**We will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. for those who wish to car pool.**

The following are excerpts from an article which originally appeared in the 2022 Issue II of the Advocate, which focused on spiritual wellness. The Rev. Frueh is a retired clergy member of the Upper New York Conference:

Nature saved Jesus from burnout. Overwhelmed by pastoral demands, he retreated “to a deserted place,” had soul-talk with God, and returned with perspective and passion. (Mark 1:35-39 NRSV) He favored open air mountains, meadows, deserts, and the sea for silent retreats. He ministered in the synagogues; he was ministered to in the wild.

Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the natural world, in his Canticle of Creation helps us: “All praise be Yours, my God, through Brother Wind ... Sister Water ... Brother Fire ... Sister Earth.” He knew wind, water, fire, and earth as his kin. They were family, the outdoors his home of origin, a “haven of blessing and a place of peace.”

Wind. Water. Fire. Earth. The same four elements the ancients identified as comprising the universe. They are our natural Spiritual Directors.

### **Here’s a brief course in Spiritual Restoration in the Wild 101:**

First, enter an undisturbed place of nature with no agenda. Check your onerous backpack of pastoral cares at the gate. Turn off the sound and fury of your mind (and your cell phone, and your music app).

Now ... simply ... observe and notice. Forget words. Use all five of your God-given senses. Listen. See. Touch. Smell. Taste.

#### **“Sister Water.”**

The element of fluidity and cleansing. Watch a stream flow around rocks dropped by a glacier 10,000 years ago. May our spirits be so fluid, so flexible, so adaptable to that which we cannot or should not control. For “love does not insist on its own way...” “Remember your baptism, and be thankful.” ...“... goodness and mercy shall follow me....”

#### **“Brother Wind.”**

The element of freedom, renewal, unpredictability, the Holy Spirit. Invisible, yet powerful in its effects. Wind bends, but does not break, fragile infant grass – yet uproots and splinters long-standing trees asunder. Wind clears stagnant air, portends change, carries the seeds of new life. “Lord, raise me up on eagle’s wings. Refresh my flagging spirit. Drench my parched soul. Enliven my mission!”

#### **“Sister Earth.”**

The element of roots and fruits, of grounding, of nourishment. Walk upon God’s holy ground. Notice textures of rock, sand, dirt, vegetation. Be grounded, centered, drawn to the gravity of God’s love.... Above all, seek humus’ cousin, humility, our superpower. For “love ... is not boastful or arrogant.”

#### **“Brother Fire.”**

From 93 million miles away, the sun is the source of all fire on Earth. Feel its heat. Meditate on its gifts: the flames of illumination, of warmth, of purification, of inspiration, of community. ...Follow the “one true light that enlightens the world.” Then, like Moses, return with face aglow from an encounter with the divine, love for God and flock, and passion for ministry.

\*\*\*\*\*

**On the 14<sup>th</sup> at the Nature Center, we will be guided by readings from Scripture, and questions to reflect upon and ponder silently, at four different locations within the park. After our time in nature, we can gather someplace for lunch. Look for the sign-up sheet or email the church if you would like to join us. May the forest be with you!**



## Pastor's Letter

Greetings, beloved Church family!

Welcoming the month of October brings great joy to my heart, as it promises to be a time of great excitement!

Our Sermon Series, "Praise in Action" (featuring King David, Paul & Silas, Elijah and Joshua), will demonstrate the power of praise in the life of His people; those who worship Him in spirit and truth. For *"God is Spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him in spirit and in truth - as he really is."* (John 4:24)

There are several opportunities to grow and to collaborate this month:

1. **5 Week Bible Study** – based on movie **"Do You Believe?"**  
will be held on **Thursdays at 5 pm** at the Fulton Friendship Room  
(Flyer details enclosed at morning announcements)
2. **Winter-Wear Give-Away** at Oswego Trinity **Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
Drop off donations at the church OR come support us 9a-12n!
3. **Meal and a Movie Night** is **October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm**  
Featured film: War Room at the Fulton Fellowship Hall
4. **Chicken and Biscuit Dinner** is **October 25<sup>th</sup> at 11 am**  
Donations and Helpers are needed. Call church office for details.
5. Let us **Trunk or Treat Hallelujah** with Noah's Nursery families  
at **11 am Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> on parking spots by the parsonage.**  
See Chlarrisia Crast or myself for more details.
6. **Operation Christmas Child** boxes details at the Narthex  
Collecting goods every Sunday and sending boxes off Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>

Please, call the church office if you have any questions, and may God's peace continue to uphold you and those around you!

Blessings, *Pastor Ruth*

*"Let us not become tired of **doing good**; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest."* (Galatians 6:9)



## From Knowing to Becoming

Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.

—Ned Erickson

## August 2025 Current Expense Report

**Staff Salaries & Benefits** \$3,309.88

*(This includes cash paid; plus Trinity's portion of SS & Medicare taxes, & some insurances)*

**Program Expenses** \$0.00

*(This includes Cash used to further our mission as a worshiping community)*

**Operations Expenses** \$979.63

*(This includes all utilities, multi-peril insurance, office supplies, and copier maintenance)*

**Conference Billing** \$1,781.00

*(This includes shared ministry and retiree premiums)*

**Total August Expenditures** \$6,070.51

*Prepared 09/13/25 by Lisa Bartholomew*

*Reflects August 29 Paychecks*



### The Beauty of Stewardship

Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources — basically our entire lives. It's a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship: God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.

We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.

Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God's creation and of God's gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God's provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God's work.

That is the beauty of stewardship.

## **Administrative Council Minutes September 23, 2025**

Present: Rev. Ruth Rosa Warner, Marge Zeller, Sheila Buske, LaDonna Tucker, Pam Hill, Diana McKenna, Mike Lund.

Excused: Lisa Bartholomew.

Marge opened the meeting with scripture (Haggai 2:2-4) and prayer at 6:34. The minutes from July 16th were reviewed. Sheila moved to accept, approved.

Current Expense report through August 31st:

Income:

- Received for budget: \$41,406.00
- Local mission: \$569.00
- Conference mission: \$4,518.00
- Total income: \$46,493.00
- Checking account balance: \$41,046.51

Expenses:

- Personnel: \$26,324.77
- Program: \$117.89
- Operations: \$10,592.56
- Conference: \$9,959.92
- Total expenses: \$46,995.14

Mike moved to accept, approved.

Trustee treasurer report through August 31st:

- Trustee income: \$4,357.00
- Restoration income: \$346.00
- Memorial/misc. income: \$510.00
- Total income: \$5,213.00
- Total expenses: \$673.88
- Balance of all accounts: \$128,557.34

The Cadaret Grant account is now under Principle Financial Group.

Pam moved to accept, approved.

Many thanks to Lisa, Sheila, and Mike for their hard work!

Trustee Report

Art Jones has not responded to Mike's phone calls about work on the downstairs bathroom. Mike will look for other contractors.

The spotlights in the sanctuary are not coming on in the evening. Mike will check the circuit.

The church inventory needs to be completed.

Mike will also work on the light in the organ closet.

Pastor Report

Pastor Ruth is focusing on the following agenda:

\*Loving:

Strengthening her walk with the Lord through daily devotions, Bible study, and prayer.

Serving those around her...connecting at fellowship, and through phone calls and home visits.

Sending a letter of introduction to all church members with desire to meet and serve them

Visiting and praying for the sick.

**\*Learning:**

Attending zoom Pastor covenant group.

Working with central New York Closer Walk Community.

Participating in District events and trainings.

**\*Leading:**

Providing open prayer and devotions on Facebook, Mon-Sat, 8am. Offering joint Bible studies.

We need to update the mailing/contact list, and the church brochure.

**Nurture**

Bright and Cheerful continues to meet monthly for lunch and cards.

Bible King is studying "The Serviceberry" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. She is speaking September 24th at the college.

There have not been kids for Sunday School, except for twin 4-year old boys.

October 14th at 11am is the Spiritual Retreat at Sterling Nature Center.

Sheila will lead a 4-week Advent study on "A Child is Born, by A. J. Levine. We will meet Sunday mornings at 9:30, starting on November 30th, and another time will be offered.

We will provide visitor cards and gift bags for newcomers.

**Outreach**

The August Freewill dinner served 14 guests, and 27 attended the September dinner. Thanks to all the helpers!

The September Nu2U sale was able to give \$167, plus a donation of \$168, to The Human Concerns Center.

October 11th is our Winterwear Giveaway, from 9-12.

**Witness**

26 new United Methodist shirts have been received for Trinity and Fulton First.

Our Tshirt outing at Bev's on July 19th was enjoyed by 6 Trinity people.

We continue to display "Jesus said..." messages on our signboard.

Pastor Ruth requested more Tshirt outings!

**Finance**

A meeting will be set soon to work on the budget and Stewardship.

**SPRC**

No report. A meeting has been set for September 28th following worship.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Conference paperwork needs to be completed by October 1st. The SPRC will meet Sunday to do the Pastor's salary and church profile.

The Lay Leadership committee will meet September 25th at 6pm.

Charge Conference is November 8th from 9:30-11:30 at Fulton First UMC.

We need to order new offering envelopes. The council agreed that we just need CE and Trustee lines, with a separate 'Other' line.

Kathy and Pastor Ruth will set a time for a Worship meeting.

Pastor Ruth would like to use projections during worship. We need to upgrade the sound system.

Pastor Ruth asks for prayers for 'her to speak and for the congregation to hear'.

Next meeting is November 19th at 6:30. The meeting was adjourned in prayer at 8:01pm.



Trinity United Methodist Church  
45 East Utica Street  
Oswego, NY 13126



2025

Worship and Church School: 11:00 a.m. Sundays  
315-343-1715

***“Know the Love of God, Grow as Disciples of Jesus Christ, and  
Go into the World With the Power of the Holy Spirit.”***

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