

# Dryden Presbyterian Church Newsletter

*April 2023*

## Fillbert & the Story of the Easter Rabbit

Most rabbits lead simple lives. They eat nibbly things like vegetables and grass. They have little, bitty babies – lots of them. They poop.

Sometimes they hop slowly from here to the spot right next to here. Sometimes they go >>ZIP!! << and hide from scary things that want to gobble them up.

But things rarely get complicated.

Rabbits never have to tie their shoe or memorize the seven times table. They don't even have to figure out how to fit everything under their bed when it's time to clean their room.

It's just eat, hop, babies, poop, ZIP!

But not for Fillbert. His life is very complicated indeed – at least it is once a year – when Easter rolls around – when he starts laying eggs.

Life can be very difficult for a rabbit that lays candy eggs – especially for a boy rabbit. Fillbert rarely likes to talk about it. He usually just lays his eggs every Easter and moves on.

But on the day I first met Fillbert, he was in more of a talkative mood. I was walking through the church (as pastors are prone to do), and I found a rabbit on one of the pews. As it is somewhat unusual to find wildlife of any sort inside the church,

I was understandably startled.

"How did you get in here?" I asked.

"I hopped," Fillbert answered in a surprisingly deep voice. "You get places when you hop."



*My friend Fillbert*

"Well, what are you doing here? Rabbits don't come to church!" Then I felt bad because that had really been a rude thing to say, so I tried to explain. "I mean, you are certainly welcomed to come. Anytime you want. Everyone is always welcome.

But you see, they don't... I mean, you usually... well, I didn't expect to see a rabbit, you know, sitting in a pew... this morning."

"I surprise a lot of folks, I guess," he answered in a matter of fact voice. "Sitting in pews. Laying eggs. At least I don't do the popping out of a hat thing."

"I suppose that's a blessing," I said. I didn't know what else to say. Then something occurred to me, "I didn't know rabbits laid eggs."

"I do," he said with a sigh. "Candy ones. Sometimes with polka-dots."

"Oh my! How did you start doing that?"

"My great-great-etc. grandfather found Jesus."

"Found Jesus! What does finding Jesus have to do with rabbits laying candy eggs?"

"Lots of people ask that," he said. Then he wiggled his nose and scratched at his ear a bit. Then he apparently decided he was in a talkative mood and proceeded to tell me the strangest Easter story I had ever heard.

(continued on next page)



*Philobertus*

*Continued from front page.*

### **The Story of the Easter Rabbit** *continued*

"It all started with on an Easter Sunday, long, long ago. Apparently, Jesus had gotten lost. Not really lost, but everyone thought his body was lost. And, after all, it was dead, or they had thought it was dead, and so being lost had seemed like a serious thing.

"Anyway, my great-great-great-great (sigh) etc. grandfather, Philobertus, was eating grass in the garden there, hopping a bit, eating a bit, pooping a bit. You know, the usual thing for a rabbit, even way back then.

"Then, he heard a laughing, then a lot of jumping, then even more great-big-laughing. So instead of zipping away like any sensible rabbit would have done, he peeked over a dandelion to see who was making such a to-do. And there was Jesus. Alive. And apparently happy about it.

"Woo-hoo!" Jesus shouted out as he jumped around. Then he spotted my great-great etc. grandfather and scooped him up. 'I'm alive!' Jesus told him. 'I'm alive, and because I live, everyone will live! Isn't it amazing?"

"Philobertus wriggled his nose at Jesus. This seemed to make him even more happy because he then said, 'And we're going to amaze everyone! Everyone will do such amazing new things with their new lives!'

"Then a woman came into the garden, crying. Jesus stopped laughing and jumping up and down when he saw her. He went over close to her and put Philobertus at the ground at her feet.

"He's lost!" she cried. "His body is lost!" She didn't look up to see Jesus standing there, but just cried and cried while looking down at my great-great-etc

"So he wriggled his nose at her. After all, it had made Jesus happy. But she kept crying. So he scratched his ears at her, but no good. He couldn't think of any way to tell her that Jesus wasn't lost at all. He had found him. And she could too, if she would look up.

"If only I could help her,' Philobertus thought.

Then it happened.

"Just as Jesus whispered the woman's name, 'Mary,' it happened. Candy eggs popped out from underneath my great-great-etc. grandfather! All different colors – yellow ones, blue ones, green ones, red ones.

"Well, as strange as it was, the woman didn't notice the candy eggs. I suppose someone coming back to life after being dead would capture someone's attention a little more.

"So Philobertus just looked at Jesus as if to ask, 'What do I do now? I just laid eggs!'

"Then Jesus gave him a little wink, and Philobertus remembered what he had said. 'Everyone will do such amazing new things with their new lives!' Apparently this includes rabbits.

"So Philobertus put the eggs under a bush to keep people from squishing them. Later, some children found the candy eggs, and laughed, and ate them. You know, the usual thing for children, even way back then.

"Ever since, our family have been laying candy eggs on Easter Sunday for the children to find to remind them to laugh because Jesus isn't lost – they can find him as easy as the eggs."



I hope you enjoyed a little unorthodox story of Easter! What amazing transformation has Jesus given you in your new life?

Happy Easter! - Pastor Nancy



*Join us as we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

**Palm Sunday, April 2**  
at 10:30 am

**Holy Thursday April 6**  
at 7 pm  
*In fellowship with  
Dryden Methodist Church*

**Easter Sunday, April 9**  
at 10:30 am

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*THE BRICK CHURCH AT 6 NORTH STREET IN DRYDEN*

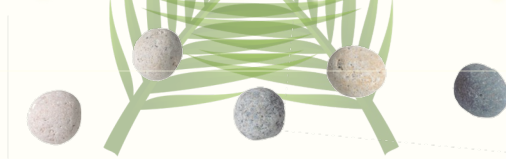


Dryden Methodist and Presbyterian Churches  
present

## Palms & Stones

HYMNS AND LESSONS FOR HOLY WEEK.

**Holy Thursday, April 6 at 7 pm**



Be sure to join us at the Presbyterian Church for a special worship service of hymns, scripture reading, and communion as we walk through Jesus' last week before Easter.



*Good Friday, April 7  
All-Church Cross Walk  
Start at 12 at fountain*

*Do you know why Jesus  
"descended into Hell"?  
Did you realize our  
"traditional" form of  
Communion resulted from  
a pandemic?  
Have you heard about  
all the people who  
resurrected on Easter?  
Find out these answers and  
explore deeper levels of the  
stories in scripture at:*

## Bible Talks

**Sundays 9:30 AM**

- April 2 Creeds, the Crucifixion, & the Tomb
- April 9 Easter—no class
- April 16 Communion throughout History
- April 23 Unusual Events Surrounding Easter
- April 30 Pastor Off—no class



**May is Membership Month**  
Interested in becoming a church member?  
New Members Meeting is  
**Wed, May 10 at 7 pm**  
Zoom & In Person  
See our Membership Display in the Fellowship Hall

# Church and Community News

## Prayer Requests



Dave Gross  
Patsy Thornton  
Christi LaPlant  
Joyce Kalk and Tim Grossman  
(Fran Sincerbeaux's  
sister and nephew)  
Brenda Carpenter's mother,  
Patsy.

## From the Flower Committee

If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary, please sign up on the calendar across from the bulletin boards

*Thank you.*



## ALERT:

Pandemic aftermath has left many isolated, including in church pews. Do your part to free the frozen chosen. Cross the aisle, and sit by someone who is sitting alone.

Sanctuary Seasonings @  
UPC presents:

# BONES EAST



**With Organ!** 

United Presbyterian Church of  
Cortland  
25 Church Street  
[www.unitedpresbyterian.net](http://www.unitedpresbyterian.net)

**Sunday, May 7 @ 2:00 PM**

FREE ADMISSION  
COOKIES!  
FULLY ACCESSIBLE

DONATIONS for  
Syrian/Turkey Earthquake  
Relief

**A SONIC  
EXTRAVAGANZA!**

## Grief Support from Hospicare

### Grieving Together: Online Ongoing General Support Group

This group meets the first and third Wednesday of every month via Zoom from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. This group is for anyone 18 years of age or older grieving a loss, regardless of when the death occurred. **Registration is required.** Please contact Laura Ward at 607-272-0212 or [lward@hospicare.org](mailto:lward@hospicare.org). Login details will be provided after registration.

# Praise Team April Letter



"It's early in the final week. The props and players for Friday's drama are in position. Six-inch spikes are in the bin. A crossbeam leans against a shed wall. Thorn limbs are wrapped around a trellis awaiting the weaving of a soldier's fingers

The players are nearing the stage. Pilate is concerned at the number of Passover pilgrims. Annas and Caiaphas are restless over a volatile Nazarene. Judas views his master with furtive eyes. A centurion is available, awaiting the next crucifixions.

Players and props. Only this is no play, it's a divine plan. A plan begun before Adam felt heaven's breath and now all heaven waits and watches. All eyes are on one figure – the Nazarene. Commonly clad. Uncommonly focused. Leaving Jericho and walking toward Jerusalem. He doesn't chatter. He doesn't pause. He is on a journey. His final journey.

The angels are silent. They know this is no ordinary walk. They know this is no ordinary week. For hinged on this week is the door of eternity." (Taken from "The Final Week of Jesus" by Max Lucado)

As you turn the calendar to April and enter the week before Easter, Holy Week, set aside time each day to reflect on the significance and meaning of this special time – make Jesus your goal, your focus. "Not only is Jesus our goal when we set aside time for Him, He is our solution for fighting through all the distractions and temptations that work so hard to keep us away." ("Journey to the Cross", Mary Carver). Join us for these special worship services:

April 2 – Palm Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m. with Coffee Hour to follow

April 6 – Maundy Thursday Service at our church with our Methodist friends; Communion served, 7:00 p.m.

April 9 – Easter Service, 10:30 a.m.

April 23 - Regular Service with Communion (volunteers needed)

April 30 – Regular Service with Rev. Jim Hicks as guest preacher

## Word Search

### PETER

ANDREW  
APOSTLE  
BETHSAIDA  
BOAT  
BROTHER  
CATCH  
CEPHAS  
CHRIST  
CHURCH  
CORNELIUS  
DENY  
DISCIPLE  
FEAR  
FISHERMAN  
GOSPELS  
HOLY SPIRIT

JAMES  
JESUS  
JOHN  
LAST SUPPER  
LEADER  
LOVE  
MALCHUS  
MESSIAH  
MOTHER-IN-LAW  
PETER  
ROCK  
SEA OF GALILEE  
SIMON  
THREE  
TONGUES  
TRANSFIGURATION

H	P	B	E	T	H	S	A	I	H	A	I	S	S	E	M
O	N	O	L	E	U	L	A	S	E	U	G	N	O	T	P
J	O	A	U	S	E	J	T	H	R	E	E	I	J	K	I
H	I	C	E	T	S	I	R	H	C	E	P	H	A	S	C
O	T	J	E	E	L	T	S	O	P	A	N	O	M	I	S
L	A	P	L	L	E	A	D	E	R	N	T	A	E	F	I
Y	R	F	I	N	E	D	Y	N	E	D	K	C	S	M	D
S	U	I	L	E	N	R	O	C	O	R	F	G	H	O	N
P	G	S	A	D	I	A	S	H	T	E	B	O	A	T	H
I	I	H	G	I	I	R	C	U	A	W	R	S	S	H	O
R	F	E	F	S	R	H	O	R	R	T	O	P	U	E	J
I	S	R	O	C	R	E	C	C	D	S	T	E	H	R	H
T	N	M	A	I	U	C	T	H	N	O	H	L	C	I	T
L	A	A	E	P	H	E	A	E	A	P	E	S	L	N	O
O	R	N	S	L	C	P	C	B	P	A	R	R	A	L	R
V	T	D	A	E	L	H	K	C	O	R	C	B	M	A	B
E	M	A	J	R	E	P	P	U	S	T	S	A	L	W	P

# Communion

It is with joy that we report the return to traditional communion in the sanctuary. Thanks go to Worship Committee leaders, Brenda Carpenter and Doug Barton under the direction of Pastor Nancy. Skilled baker, Hellon Jones, pictured, provided the bread element.



We acknowledge with pleasure the return of more friends and family to the sanctuary as well as the near dozen who join us from home or traveling on Zoom.

Our choir remains the same, MAGNIFICENT, whether large or small in number, under the skillfully trained direction of Scott Miller with Mike Singbush accompanying. Choir rehearsal will be held before and after Sunday morning worship due to work schedule changes. Contact Scott if you would like to share your talent. Better programs, weather and less illness are being shared by each of us.

We acknowledge the services of Tim and Dave Parsons with assistance from Chuck Uttech in the sound booth. In unison we proclaim:

“Stars in your crowns!”

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## Notes from Mission Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing is the largest joint effort of the Presbyterian Church USA members to fund mission efforts across the country and the world. Our congregation has long been a participant in this and at this writing is halfway through conducting awareness of its outreach to the congregation. This Special Offering culminates on Palm Sunday, April 2, though donations to it may be made before as well as after then. Offering envelopes are in pews at church and offerings may also be mailed to the church. Designate on checks that are made out to the church that it is for OGHS. Please support OGHS as you are able thereby witnessing our faith in a world affected by hunger, poverty, and disaster so that we may be as the prophet Isaiah reminds us in verse 58, “You shall be called healers of the breach.”

Additional offerings that arrived after earlier donations were submitted to our mission support of Heifer International have been sent to that organization with assurance that they, like the prior donation, will be doubled by a grant to Heifer.



Thanks to all who were able to help, our approximate donations of \$4000 has provided then over \$8000 of assistance to Heifer to work on solutions to hunger and poverty.

Blanket Sunday, a program of Church World Service, for many years was promoted by our Presbyterian Women’s organization. Now that we do not have that organization in our church, session has decided that Blanket Sunday is still worthy of continued support, so watch for further information on that coming in May.

# MILLIE'S MUSINGS

## - The Gift That Keeps on Giving

In 1930 a gift was given to Marshall and Bernice Livermore, parents of Phyllis on March 15<sup>th</sup>, the day of her birth. This little gal grew up to become the wife of David T. Smith, a treasure to this church for guidance and leadership for over 40 years of membership. Phyllis continues to give of her talents following the formation of the Prayer Shawl Knitting group over a decade ago. After Phyllis and David moved to Longview Senior Housing, she continued to drive back, twice a month, teaching her skills to a group of church gals. Her motivation and skill encouraged not only a new hobby for many of us but also a time for socializing with church friends. Her productive efforts and those of her group have provided many hundreds of Prayer Shawls to local families as they celebrated new births, graduations, weddings, or recovered from illnesses.



When the supply outgrew our own needs, they have been shared with Ithaca and Cortland nursing homes and Hospice. Thank you, Phyllis, and

Happy Birthday with 93 candles on your cake! We love you.

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## The Deacons Corner

### New Outreach Project

We have been working with folks from the Interfaith Chapel at SUNY Cortland; and the Deacons will be providing meals for eight to ten students three times in April. This is a new outreach project for us and we are pleased to provide meals to the students.

We continue to provide meals, Deacons' cards, phone calls, visits, rides, etc. to our church family. If you are in need, please feel free to reach out to us.



# Just a Note, by Scott Miller

## *Messiah*, Part II

Part II of the *Messiah* begins with Christ's Passion and continues through His Resurrection, Ascension and on to God's ultimate victory. This is understandably the largest section of the work as it also reflects the central events and foundation upon which Christianity rests. Again, the text chosen by Handel's librettist, Charles Jennens, focuses less on the events of the passion and those that followed and focuses instead on scriptural reference, much of which is found in the Old Testament. The most notable exception to this is the final chorus of this part, the "Hallelujah Chorus" which takes its text solely from *Revelation*. Here the text makes a clear shift from the past and its scriptural foretelling to the future and its scriptural foretelling. While Jennens is generally dismissed as not being particularly gifted as a writer the general consensus shifts dramatically when referencing *Messiah*. Musicologist Watkins Shaw, who was not a fan of Jennens, concedes that the libretto of *Messiah* "amounts to little short of a work of genius."

This section, like the first, can be divided into several scenes, the scriptural references are included, enjoy reading:

### Scene 1: Christ's Passion

John 1:29, Isaiah 50:6, Isaiah 53:4-5, Isaiah 53:5, Isaiah 53:6, Psalm 22:7, Psalm 22:8, Psalm 69:20, Lamentations 1:12,

### Scene 2: Christ's Death and Resurrection

Isaiah 53:8, Psalm 16:10

### Scene 3: Christ's Ascension

Psalm 24:7-10

### Scene 4: Christ's reception in Heaven

Hebrews 1:5, Hebrews 1:6

### Scene 5: The beginnings of Gospel preaching

Psalm 68:18, Psalm 68:11, Romans 10:15, Romans 10:18

### Scene 6: The World's rejection of the Gospel

Psalm 2:1-2, Psalm 2:3, Psalm 2:4

### Scene 7: God's ultimate victory

Psalm 2:9, Revelation 19:6, Revelation 11:15, Revelation 19:16

Next month, *Messiah*, Part III.





## FACILITIES REPORT

Spring Cleanup – Spring Cleanup is scheduled **for Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.** Please bring rakes, tarps etc for outside work and cleaning supplies for washing windows etc. A sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and goodies will be provided.

Frozen Pipe – It was discovered a water pipe had frozen in the nursery wall and Al Avery was contacted. He and Kay Kimmich repaired the pipe. The west wall, ceiling and floor will have to be repaired at a later date. Heaters in 2 classrooms were leaking. One was rebuilt and the other was resoldered.

Fire Inspection – A fire inspection was conducted by the Town of Dryden. Several issues were noted including emergency lights inoperable (most have been fixed), a carbon monoxide detector was needed in the Fellowship Hall (it's there), fire extinguishers need to be wall mounted and made accessible (to be done), paint removed from fire door labels (2 have been done) and the furnace room door needs a label (being made).

Phone System – A new phone system is being considered.

Water Heater in Kitchen Cupboard – The water heater used in the office area needs to be replaced. It will be replaced with an on demand electric heater.

# Resource Committee Informational Report

\*Expenses are in line with last year's. We will be putting our NYSEG bills on the annual budget and set up auto-pay.

\*We received the insurance payment for the damage from the frozen pipe in the nursery and will use it to pay for the repairs.

Thank you Dave for installing the new water heater for the office area!



January through February Operating Results	2022 Actual (2 months)	2023 Actual (2 months)	2023 Budget (2 months)	2023 Budget (12 months)
<b><u>Operating Income</u></b>				
Pledge Receipts	\$ 12,542	\$ 13,862	\$ 17,900	\$ 107,400
Non-Pledge & Plate Contributions	1,874	3,071	1,667	10,000
Interest, Dividends & Misc Income	1,032	1,008	2,250	13,500
Expenses	(17,044)	(23,241)	(25,467)	(167,422)
To Capital, Copier and Piano & Organ Reserve Account	(600)	(600)	(600)	(3,600)
From Designated for Purchase of Stoves	-	1,423	-	-
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ (2,197)</b>	<b>\$ (4,478)</b>	<b>\$ (4,251)</b>	<b>\$ (40,122)</b>

( ) Denotes reduction to Income.

## Welcoming Rev. Greg Garis as Transitional Presbyter

Lenten Greetings to the Churches of the Presbytery,

I wanted you all to know that we are happy to now welcome Rev. Greg Garis and his family (Lynn, Cole and Hope) to the Presbytery! Greg will begin work as the Transitional Presbyter on April 3rd. They are moving into their new home in Johnson City in the first days of April.

We know Greg is anxious to visit the churches as quickly as possible and listen to your hopes and visions as well as get a feel for your missions and ministries.

As we approach Palm Sunday let us sing our Hosannas and give Praises to our Lord- who was and is and ever more shall be,

Grace & Peace,  
Rev. Lorrie Cooney, on behalf of the PSVAC

# April 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesd	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Palm Sunday OneGrtHrShrOffg	3 KitCupb 11-12	4 Bible Study 11am	5 Bulletin Deadline KitCupb 5-6	6 PrayerShawl 1pm Maundy Thurs Ecu Communion	7 KitCupb 11-12 Good Friday Ecu CrossWalk	8
9 Easter Sunday Lilies	10 KitCupb 11-12	11 Quilters 10 am Finance Team SsnMotionsDue	12 Bulletin Deadline KitCupb 5-6	13 SsnRptsDue	14 KitCupb 11-12	15
16 930 Sun School Choir 915/1130 CofHrw/SlvrSet	17 KitCupb 11-12	18 Deacons 615 pm Session 7 pm	19 Bulletin Deadline KitCupb 5-6	20 PrayerShawl 1pm Nwsltrr Deadline	21 KitCupb 11-12	22
23 930 Sun School Choir 915/1130 Communion	24 KitCupb 11-12	25 Quilters 10 am	26 Bulletin Deadline KitCupb 5-6	27	28 KitCupb 11-12	29 KitCupb 11-12
Pastor Nancy on vacation						
30 Jim Hicks Choir 915/1130 Vacation	1	2	3	4	5	6

NOTE: May is Membership Month.

## Birthdays

⇒ Bruce Wright 7-9?  
Jeanine Scott 8  
Heather Kotula 10  
Tyler Engels 11  
Dottie Slocum 11  
Mary Ann Pearce 17

Karen Cotterill 23  
Mackayla Macomber 24  
Carol Engels 25  
Nancy Newberry 25  
Corey Cooper 29

## Anniversaries

Deadline for the May Newsletter is April 20.

# Church Contacts

## First Presbyterian Church of Dryden

6 North Street / PO Box 42

Dryden, NY 13053

607-844-8321

[drydenpresoffice@gmail.com](mailto:drydenpresoffice@gmail.com)

Church Office Hours Tues. – Thurs.

9:00 a.m. - noon

## Nancy Didway, Pastor

304.941.9659 text/call\*

[Pastor.nancy@drydenpres.com](mailto:Pastor.nancy@drydenpres.com)

Pastor's office hours are

Monday through Thursday 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

\*The best way to contact her is by her cell phone.

### Session

Discipleship ..... Dan Carpenter  
 Fellowship ..... Cheryl Nemecek  
 Harmony ..... Jeanine Scott  
 Missions ..... Chuck Nydam  
 Property ..... Dave Parsons  
 Resources ..... Joyce Day  
 ..... Brad Perkins  
 Worship ..... Doug Barton  
 ..... Brenda Carpenter

### Deacons

Phyllis Byrn  
 Evan Carpenter  
 Christi LaPlant  
 Fran Sincerbeaux  
 Dottie Slocum  
 MJ Uttech  
 Connie Walker

### Staff

Clerk of Session ..... John Scott  
 Office Admin. .... Susan Barry  
 Treasurer ..... Dottie Slocum  
 Financial Secy. .... Jay Engels  
 Organist ..... Michael Singbusch  
 Music Director ..... Scott Miller  
 Custodian ..... Rob White  
 Librarian ..... Gretchen Young

## Kitchen Cupboard

Providing 3 days of food to families of the Dryden Community

Mon. and Fri. 11 a.m. to noon

Wed. 5 to 6 p.m.

Last Sat. of each month

11a.m.—noon.



## The WEB Program

In partnership with the William George Agency, the WEB program packs and delivers bags to 48 students, helping to fight hunger on the weekends.

### WEB Items for April:

#### Canned Chicken

Drop off in basket in the Office entryway



## Clothing Shed

Providing free clothing to those in need.

*If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.*

*Luke 6:29*

- Closet by the office mailboxes
- Caring Corner - Social Room
- Black cupboard - rear entryway

