

Dryden Presbyterian Church Newsletter

January 2024

The Good News of the New Year

For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. Isaiah 43:19 NLT

In God's time, there is a lot of good "New"s. A new year, a new week, a new day. His mercies are new every morning!

God designed us so that as we wear down from bearing fruit, bearing burdens, and bearing life, we receive good "Re-New"s. Renewed growth, renewed health, renewed spirit.

The cycle of life as God created it is about that which has withered, that which has been dormant, is made new and renewed.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV-UE

On January 1st, we talk of the New Year with new resolutions, new opportunities, new diets. But at the same time, it's January, it's snowy, it's cold. It is a time to hibernate.

I don't know about you, but after the rush of November & December, January is a nice time to slow down, to stay warm, and to start fresh. I put away decorations for a new clean. I eat less sugar for a renewed metabolism. I spend less money for a new budget.

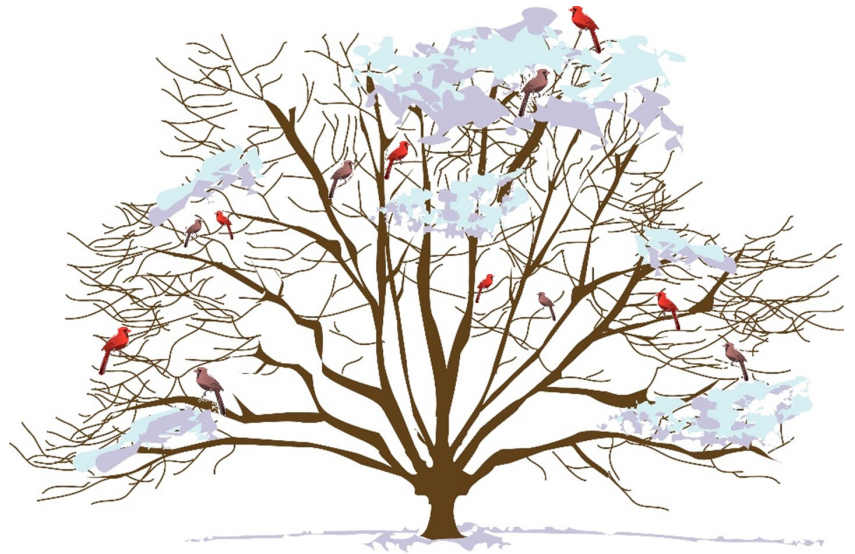
The Good News of the New Year is that, with God, being made new and being renewed brings freshness to staleness, not acceleration to exhaustion. It is new light (epiphany), new breath, new wine, new signs, new water, new bread...

Lent, with it's signs of Spring, comes early this year on February 14th. But before that we have a time to be made new and renewed in Christ, to breath the fresh crisp air of the Spirit, to sing for the joy of being with the birds.

Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing his praises from the ends of the earth! Sing, all you who sail the seas, all you who live in distant coastlands. Isaiah 42:10 NLT

May the Lord bless your New Year with God's love, Christ's grace, and the Spirit's presence for you and your loved ones each and every day.

Blessings and Peace!



- Pastor Nancy

PASTOR NANCY'S NEW PHONE

607-351-6966

Feel free to call/text
Mon-Thurs & Sun 9 am—6 pm
or anytime for emergencies.



Christmas Cantata



Dryden Presbyterian and United Methodist Churches

January 7, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Dryden Presbyterian Church

6 North Street, Dryden (The brick building)

The building is wheelchair accessible

Dear Unfrozen Chosen,

Thank you for your support and prayers during recent staff sicknesses. How beautiful it is that so many individuals stepped up to fill in and make things happen. What a blessing to have people go with the flow and adapt in both worship and service.

Thank you for being part of our church!

Pastor Nancy

Servant Opportunities

Be sure to check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall regularly for opportunities to serve.

Please consider adding your name to help in Kids' Club, ushering, providing flowers, being a greeter, liturgists and more.

Thank you



WEB Items for collection for January:

Microwavable popcorn

(Please keep sizes small enough for children to fit into their backpack.)

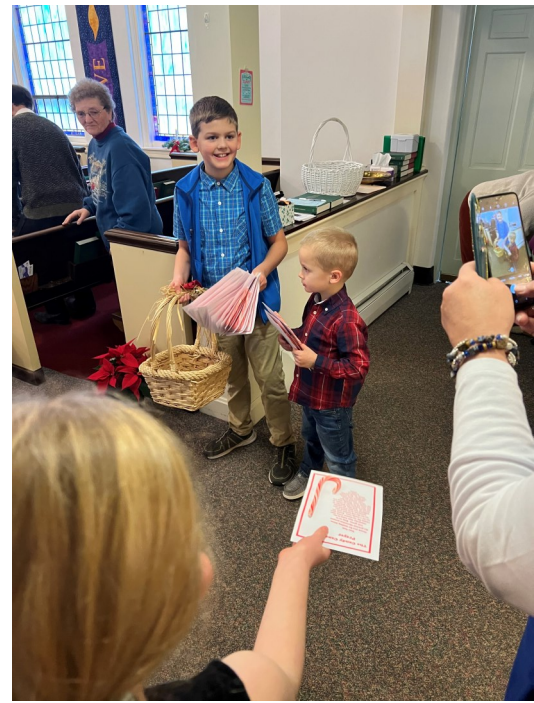


Kitchen Cupboard and Clothing Shed

Mon, Fri. and last Sat .of each month:
11 a.m. to noon;

Wed: 5 to 6 p.m.





For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6-7, RSV.



Thank you to the many hands and hearts
that made this Advent season so meaningful.

WORSHIP/PRAISE NEWS

Epiphany is celebrated on Jan. 6, twelve days after Christmas. It's referred to as the "Kings day" and it is believed that is when the wise men found baby Jesus. Epiphany celebrates the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem where they found our Lord. The wise men who traveled great distances to offer their gift to the newborn King were responding to the gift first given to them.

They received God's gift, then offered their gifts to God. It is our tradition to give a "Star Gift" to celebrate Epiphany - this word is God's gift to you. Star Gifts will be handed out in church on Jan 7 and 14. Pastor Nancy and the Deacons will deliver Star Gifts to those who will be worshipping with us on zoom.

What do I do with my Star Gift? Like any other gift it can be either received with joy or discarded and forgotten. Here are some suggestions on how to use this Star Gift to reflect on God's message to you this year:

Display your star somewhere you'll see it frequently. Begin to pray that God will enlighten you and point you to what God has to say to you through this word.

Make a New Year's Resolution that includes your star word.

Start a "star word" journal.

Listen as people talk to you, as you read, as you watch tv/movies and pay attention to how and when and how often your word comes up.

Epiphany is the celebration of God's presence breaking through to shine as a light in the darkness. This is your opportunity to rejoice in the reminder of your generous, giving God - one star gift at a time.

(if you know someone who would like to receive a star gift, pick one up at the church office).

We will celebrate the Baptism of the Lord with communion on Jan. 14.



MISSIONS NEWS

Dryden Presbyterian has participated lately in several activities both in our community and beyond to bear witness to the teachings of Jesus Christ. An example of the latter is our special offering for Heifer International this autumn for which we were able to submit \$1655, which was timely to qualify for being matched in amount three times.

The Christmas Angel tree in the Fellowship Room was hung with 30 tags for local youth identified by the Salvation Army as needing some help in the way of toys and clothing for Christmas. All tags were taken and filled and delivered to Salvation Army for distribution.

The Mitten Tree in the Fellowship Room was decorated during December with gifts of hats and mittens for Dryden Elementary School children in need of them for the winter months.



Christmas Joy Offering gifts to be received during this season will be sent to PC(USA) which uses this Special Offering half in support of retired and current church workers in financial hard times and half to aid Presbyterian-related schools and colleges primarily equipping minority ethnicities.

Christmas Eve service offering this year was designated by Session for HANDS, which stands for Helping a Needy Dryden Student. The fund covers many things that typical agencies can't cover, including in the past glasses, food, clothing, sports gear, study guides, etc. This program has a 23-year history. Requests are reviewed by the school superintendent (Mr. Bacigalupi) and school social worker (Mary Hicks).

Much gratitude to all who were able to support these and other special mission activities, both in the past year and in on-going programs.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE REPORT

January through November Operating Results	2022 Actual (11 months)	2023 Actual (11 months)	2023 Budget (11 months)	2023 Budget (12 months)
Operating Income				
Pledge Receipts	\$ 80,380	\$ 97,956	\$ 98,450	\$ 107,400
Non-Pledge	4,620	3,114	5,042	5,500
Plate	4,486	4,246	4,125	4,500
Interest, Dividends & Misc Income	5,991	12,419	12,375	13,500
Expenses	(117,483)	(144,582)	(154,324)	(167,422)
Net Operating Income Before Transfer to/from Reserves	(22,005)	(26,848)	(34,332)	(36,522)
Transfer to/from Reserve Accounts				
To Capital, Copier and Piano & Organ Reserve Accounts	(3,300)	(3,173)	(3,300)	(3,600)
From Insurance Proceeds for Preliminary Repairs of Nursery		920		
From Memorials and Other Savings for Purchase of Equipment	-	4,361	-	-
Net Operating Income After Transfer to/from Reserves	\$ (25,305)	\$ (24,740)	\$ (37,632)	\$ (40,122)

() Denotes reduction to Income.

Income


[Income through November is 23% higher than 2022 \(2% below the budget\). Contributions are 18% higher than last year \(2% below the budget\). Pledge and Plate receipts are very close to the budget however Non-Pledge contributions are 38% below the budget. Interest & Dividend income is \\$6,000 higher than last year \(\\$500 above the budget\).](#)

Expenses

Expenses are *higher* than 2022 because: (a) we had a 1/2-time interim pastor for the first five months of 2022, (b) we were without an office administrator from early-August through mid-October last year and (c) more equipment was purchased this year (stoves, fire alarm cellular dialer & telephone system). Expenses are *lower* than the budget for the following reasons: (a) Professional Development costs are below budget, (b) office administration has taken fewer hours than budgeted and (c) the driveway & parking lot project was delayed until next year due to contractor workforce difficulties. (The scope of the project has also been expanded.)

Net Income

Based on the budget, a net loss of \$37,632 was projected through the end of November. The actual, after transfers to/from designated reserve accounts, was \$24,740. The main reasons for the difference are (a) expenses were \$9,700 lower than budgeted, (b) contributions were \$2,300 below budget, (c) \$900 of insurance proceeds were used to cover preliminary repairs of the damage to the nursery caused by a water leak and (d) \$4,400 of memorial funds & other savings were used to pay for some of the equipment purchased.



2024	
Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley	\$ 32.00
Synod of the Northeast	\$ 4.10
General Assembly	\$ 9.80
Total	\$ 45.90

What is Per Capita?

Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger denomination to cover the expenses associated with regional and national efforts to enable, encourage, and enhance the ministry of the local church.

How Can You Help? Session requests that members contribute \$45.90 above their normal giving to cover their per capita portion. Thank you.

Paying per capita is similar to:

- contributing to a dish-to-share meal
- paying to be connected to the internet
- paying for the benefit of utilities
- pitching in with other passengers to pay for gasoline for a road trip

First Presbyterian Church of Dryden

6 North Street / PO Box 42

Dryden, NY 13053

607-844-8321

drydenpresoffice@gmail.com

Church Office Hours Tues. – Thurs.

9:00 a.m. - noon

Nancy Didway, Pastor

607-351-6966 text/call*

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.

(Please note this is a new number. Please update your contact information.)

Session

Doug Barton
 Brenda Carpenter
 Dan Carpenter
 Gale Conway
 Joyce Day
 Cheryl Nemecek
 Chuck Nydam
 Dave Parsons
 Peggy Parsons
 Brad Perkins
 Jack Scott, Clerk of Session
 Ernie Walker

Deacons

Susan Barry
 Evan Carpenter
 Christi LaPlant
 Fran Sincerbeaux
 Dottie Slocum
 Chuck Uttech
 MJ Uttech

Staff

Clerk of Session John Scott
 Office Admin.Susan Barry
 TreasurerDottie Slocum
 Financial Secy. Jay Engels
 Organist..... Michael Singbusch
 Music Director.....Scott Miller
 CustodianRob White
 LibrarianGretchen Young

**Word Search
 Epiphany**

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

king magi Bethlehem camel east epiphany
 frankincense gold Herrod Jesus journey
 myrrh star wisemen worship

January Birthdays

Carol LaPlant 8

Jeannine Dodds 14

Doug Barton 19

Nancy Couch 21

Chuck Uttech 22

Kathlene Gross 31

Emma Park-Miller 31

January Anniversaries

Chuck & MJ Uttech 2



January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day Office Closed Kitchen Cupboard Closed	2	3 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 Bulletin Deadline Catholic Charities 9-3	4 Catholic Charities 9-3	5 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	6 New Elder & Deacon Training 10-12
7 Choir 945/1130 Joint Com. Mtg. 1130	8 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	9 Annual Reports Due Quilters 10-2 Revelation Study 11 am Finance Mtg	10 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 Bulletin Deadline Catholic Charities 9-3	11 Session Reports Due Catholic Charities 9-3	12 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	13
14 Choir 945/1130 Epiphany Installation Coffee Hour 1130	15 MLK Day Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	16 Revelation Study 11 am Deacons Session 7 pm	17 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 Bulletin Deadline Catholic Charities 9-3	18 Newsletter Articles Due Catholic Charities 9-3	19 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	20
21 Choir 945/1130 Annual Reports distributed	22 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	23 Revelation Study 11 am Quilters 10-	24 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 Bulletin Deadline Catholic Charities 9-3	25 Catholic Charities 9-3	26 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	27 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12
28 Choir 945/1130 Annual Congr. Meeting & Lunch	29 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	30 Revelation Study 11 am	31 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 Bulletin Deadline Catholic Charities 9-3			

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DRYDEN
6 North Street, PO Box 42
Dryden, NY 13053 USA



The First Presbyterian Church
of Dryden

6 North Street, PO Box 42
Dryden, NY 13053 USA
Phone: 607-844-8321
E-mail: drydenpresoffice@gmail.com
Pastor Nancy Didway

Join us as we worship
the Lord

Worship — Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
(Fall/Winter Hours)