

Dryden Presbyterian Church Newsletter

February 2024

Begin Again, Michael Finnegan

*There once was a man named Michael Finnegan.
He grew whiskers on his chin-ne-gan.
The wind came up and blew them in again.
Poor Old Michael Finnegan—begin again!*

Michael Finnegan is one of my favorite silly children's songs. Poor Old Michael Finnegan goes about the daily tasks of life just to have some force beyond his control wipe out his efforts. Every stanza ends with "Begin again!"

With Ash Sunday, February 18, we (once again) begin again. We go back to square one, back to the ashes. Ashes that symbolize our fallen state. Ashes that remind us of our mortality. Ashes that are made from the palms used to hail Christ as King. We are dust, so we return to dust, begin again with dust—not in the manner of death, but in the manner of our place in the universe. The manner of those going about our daily spiritual tasks just to have some force send us back to the beginning.

What is humanity that God is mindful of them? Loves them? Saves them? We are but dust.

Who is God that I worship him? Serve him? Ignore him??

Here's the good news: God, our great Creator, loves to create amazing lives from dust covered in ashes. So, while we start with ashes, we don't stay there. We move on. We are re-created... through love—God's loving us, us loving God, us loving one another, and us loving ourselves. (Note: We always begin again at God's love.)

This Lent season, come back to the beginning with me as we rediscover our roots and grow in God's love as we consider the Old Testament scriptures during this season of introspection.

Peace be with you all!

- Pastor Nancy



Labyrinth Journeys

Dating back to the 4th Century, labyrinths in Christian spirituality represent the lifelong journeys of believers moving toward God at the center.

Unlike a maze, there are no dead ends. Instead, the path is clear but winding. Twisting back and forth in unexpected ways, the walker can find themselves seeming to move away from the center rather than toward it.

The center is meant to be a place of prayer and meditation before the walker once again follows the path out. Once outside the labyrinth, the walker begins again—the spiritual journey of daily life.

Lent Adult Sunday School

6 Sundays ~ February 18 - March 24

9:30-10:15 am

Exploring Biblical Themes with The Bible Project:

A local labyrinth can be found at the Ithaca Children's Garden. It's simplified path is wheelchair accessible and celebrated for its bulb flowers and blooms. It was constructed to remember babies and children that our community has lost.

Ladies' Tea

February 17th, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

The Fellowship Hall, Dryden Presbyterian Church

Bring a friend for goodies, tea and fellowship.

Sign up on the bulletin board
in the Fellowship Hall.



Super Bowl Sunday (February 11)

In celebration of the Super Bowl, we will have a **Breakfast Bowl!**

You will find two boxes in the Fellowship Hall – one for each team competing (49ers or the Chiefs). Please bring in your non-perishable breakfast item(s), such as syrup, cereal, oatmeal, etc. and place them in the box that represents your team.

Let's fill up those team boxes! All food collected will go to the Kitchen Cupboard.



Servant Opportunities

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

Servants are needed in these areas:

- ❖ Greeter
- ❖ Usher
- ❖ Liturgist
- ❖ Kids' Club
- ❖ Providing flowers



WEB Items for collection for February:

Graham Crackers

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



Kitchen Cupboard and Clothing Shed

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

Wed: 5 to 6 p.m.



Church and Community News

Thank you Macomers!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to the Macomber family for these protective cages to keep the shrubs safe from the hungry neighborhood deer population!



CANCELLED

For January & February

Due to lack of volunteers for all of the churches the Dryden Community Dinners, held on Wednesday at the Methodist Church, are cancelled for February.

They will start back up in March.



COMMUNITY DINNER

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT



TRUALTA

Via Zoom

CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE WITH TRUALTA

FREE CAREGIVER INFORMATION!

Join us to learn about Trualta, which is a FREE online platform. You can have unlimited access to articles and tips about caring for your loved one. Improve confidence, reduce stress and prevent burnout by learning care skills!

Access free training & resources to help you build skills & confidence to provide care at home.

**Thursday, 2/08/2024
11 am-12 pm**

To Register:
(607) 274-5486

ajackson@tompkins-co.org



TOMPKINS COUNTY
OFFICE FOR THE AGING
Aging Better. Together.

214 W. Martin Luther King/State St.
(607) 274-5482
www.tompkinscounty.gov/cola

Ministry Committee News

(Sub-committees: Hospitality, Education, Missions, Worship)

**Next Meeting of Ministry Committee
Feb. 4, 11:30 am**

WORSHIP TEAM:

Feb. 4 – Guest Preacher, Matthew Gibbons

Feb. 11 – Communion

Feb. 18 – Ash Sunday; receiving ashes during service followed by Soup & Salad luncheon

We are in need of ushers and Kids' Club volunteers!

Check your heart, and if you feel drawn to either of these opportunities, check out the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and add your name! Both are great ways to fulfill the mission of the church.

HOSPITALITY

We have the "breakfast bowl" that will go until Super Bowl LVIII on Sunday Feb 11. Bring in your breakfast items and place by your team.

There is a Ladies Tea on Saturday Feb 17. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Be also on the look out for sign up for Easter Lillies. Yes, it's coming fast.

EDUCATION

The Kids' Club is in full swing and needs more volunteers to invest in our next generation. Please consider volunteering.

Missions News

In addition to our response to the 30 tags filled for the Salvation Army Tree, the congregation participated in other Christmas season activities.

From the annual Mitten Tree, we were able to deliver to the Dryden Elementary School 42 hats, 37 pairs of gloves or mittens, 3 scarves, 10 pairs of socks, a card of hair pins, and one cat toy. These will replace such items not supplied or lost by the students as they encounter winter weather. A small card to identify to recipients that these expressions of our care came from Dryden Presbyterian Church was sent with each item.

Christmas Joy Offering totaling \$590 was received in December for forwarding to PC(USA) . Christmas Eve service offering was delegated to the HANDS program to assist students with special financial needs as determined by the superintendent and the school social worker.

A donation to Heifer International was made through our church and it has been sent onto Heifer where it is eligible for matching funds. All these means of witnessing our faith were received with gratitude by recipients. Thanks to all who were able to help our joint efforts.



Finance Committee Report

2023 Operating Results	2022 Actual (12 months)	2023 Actual (12 months)	2023 Budget (12 months)	2024 Budget (12 months)
Operating Income				
Pledge Receipts	\$ 96,896	\$ 109,253	\$ 107,400	\$ 116,114
Non-Pledge	5,420	4,386	5,500	4,000
Plate	4,854	4,674	4,500	4,500
Interest, Dividends & Misc Income	7,137	14,332	13,500	18,100
Expenses	(129,738)	(156,603)	(167,422)	(193,549)
Net Operating Income Before Transfer to/from Reserves	(15,431)	(23,958)	(36,522)	(50,835)
Transfer to/from Reserve Accounts				
To Capital, Copier and Piano & Organ Reserve Accounts	(3,600)	(3,600)	(3,600)	(3,600)
From Designated for Piano Tuning	-	127	-	-
From Insurance Proceeds for Preliminary Repairs of Nursery	-	920	-	-
From Memorials and Other Savings for Purchase of Equipment	1,798	4,361	-	16,782
Net Operating Income After Transfer to/from Reserves	\$ (17,234)	\$ (22,150)	\$ (40,122)	\$ (37,653)

() Denotes reduction to Income.

Thank you all for your financial *and* other support during 2023.

With your **increased** help, the year ended up much better than originally projected. The Annual Report provides detailed schedules and a description of the actual 2023 operating results and forecast for 2024. If you would like another copy, please contact the church office at (607) 844-8321. If you have any questions, please contact Ernie Walker at (607) 227-4969.

2023 Net Income

Actual cash expenditures were lower than forecast but \$24,000 higher than income. Including the accruals for future capital, copier and organ & piano expenditures, the loss was \$27,600. To cover those costs, \$22,150 was drawn from the Session Discretionary Reserve, \$920 from insurance proceeds and the balance from Memorial funds and other reserve accounts.

Stewardship Campaign

Last year, 37 pledges, totaling \$107,400, were received and the actual amount of pledge contributions received was \$109,253. For this year, 37 pledges, totaling \$110,314, have been received. 35 are repeat pledges and 2 are new. Of the 35 who also pledged last year, 15 increased their pledge (+13% on average), 2 decreased (-21% on average) and 18 remained the same. Pledge cards for 2 members who pledged last year are still outstanding.

Major Expenditure in 2024

Repair and Repaving of the Driveway & Parking Lot is the major project for 2024. The total cost is \$20,960. To date our congregation has contributed \$6,815 and pledged another \$6,000 which leaves \$8,145 to be raised. If you would like to help close the gap, please mark "Parking Lot" in the memo space on your check.

Thanks Everyone!

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, Worship
 Brenda Carpenter, Worship
 Dan Carpenter, Education
 Gale Conway, Hospitality
 Cheryl Nemecek, Hospitality
 Chuck Nydam, Missions
 Dave Parsons, Technology
 Peggy Parsons, Assistant Clerk
 Brad Perkins, Facilities
 Jack Scott, Clerk of Session
 Ernie Walker, Finance

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
 Treasurer Dottie Slocum
 Financial Secy. Jay Engels
 Organist Michael Singbusch
 Music Director Scott Miller
 Custodian..... Rob White
 Librarian..... Gretchen Young

Word Search

Lent

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

Church	Believe	Fasting	Forgiveness
Friendship	God	Growth	Healing
Holy	Hope	Jerusalem	Jesus
Lent	Luke	Mercy	Prayer
Spirit	Worship		

February Birthdays

Dean Hicks 4
 David Parsons 6
 Jay Engels 20
 Steve Riggs 21

No anniversaries in February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	3
	Pastor's Study Leave 1/29 - 2/4					
4 Choir 945/1130 Ministry Com Mtg. 1130	5 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	6 Revelation Study 11 am	7 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 Bulletin Deadline	8	9 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	
Pastor's Study Leave				Sue—Vacation		
11 Choir 945/1130 Super Breakfast Bowl Communion Coffee Hour 1130	12 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	13 Quilters 10-2 Revelation Study 11 am Finance Mtg	14 Valentine's Day & Ash Wed. Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 Bulletin Dead- line	15 Session Reports Due	16 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	17 Ladies' Tea 2:00 p.m.
Sue—Vacation						
18 Choir 945/1130 Ash Sunday Soup & Salad Lunch Deacons Mtg. Adult Sunday School 9:45	19 Presidents' Day Office Closed Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	20 Session 7 pm	21 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 Bulletin Deadline	22 Newsletter Articles Due	23 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	24 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12
25 Choir 945/1130 Adult Sunday School 9:45	26 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	27 Quilters 10-2	28 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 Bulletin Deadline	29		

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)