

# Dryden Presbyterian Church Newsletter

December 2022



Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11 NKJV



## Advent

*"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;*

*For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."*  
Simeon's Song  
from Luke 2:29-32 NKJV

### Advent: Willing to Wait

"Is he here yet?" "I'm too excited to sleep." "How many more days?" "How many more minutes?" Familiar words during the holidays whether you are talking Santa Claus or favorite Grandpa Joe. As I was growing up, that was the extent of waiting at Christmas time as I understood it. There was no "Advent" time. I was raised Southern Baptist. The first coming had already happened, and the second coming was a year-round, day-to-day expectation. Hope, peace, joy, and love only related to the Christmas story as told in the carols that I loved to sing. Intellectually, I knew the nativity was rooted in the Old Testament *prophecies* but I didn't appreciate how they were *promises* for the Hebrews from their God. Advent gives us Christians an opportunity to appreciate and learn from the faithfulness of the Jews as they waited *700 years* from the time of Isaiah to the time of Gabriel appearing to a young maiden in Nazareth.

Going back to the year 1322 (700 years ago), most of us don't know who our ancestors were although a few of us may know the general neighborhood where they lived. Way back then, during what we call the High Middle Ages, there was no concept of a reformed church in a free country. But they knew what it was to serve Jesus Christ as their Savior. They knew the meaning of hope, peace, joy, and love as revealed in the promises of God to all people of every age. They even sang some of the same carols.

With such a great cloud of witnesses, are we willing to wait on the scale of 700 years? Are we willing to be content with just the hope, peace, joy, and love of the promises of God? We have already been blessed with abundant life through the first coming. But we look around and see what we don't have as a church. We're like children searching for the coveted gifts under the tree. More youth. More people. More resources. More... more. Advent asks us: is it enough to wait when we have Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and, most of all, Christ?

Blessings and peace to you all!



Oh Holy Night

## For Your Information



### Church Contacts

The church office is open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Nancy Didway, Pastor  
304.941.9659 text/call  
Pastor.nancy@drydenpres.com

Pastor's office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
The best way to contact Pastor Nancy remains her cell phone.

Office Administrator: Susan Barry (844-8321)

Clerk of Session: John Scott (844-9206)

Chair Deacons: Connie Walker

Church phone number: 607-844-8321

Web-site: [www.drydenpres.com](http://www.drydenpres.com)

We proclaim the good news  
of Jesus Christ, feed the  
hungry, welcome the  
stranger and love our  
neighbors as ourselves.

**Our  
Church  
Mission**

Information for the  
January newsletter  
should be in the church  
office by  
Wednesday ~ December 20, 2022.

### A Time to Pray

Dave Gross, Christopher DuPree, Bill Bailey, Bob Watros, and John Hausmann (Carol LaPlant's son-in-law).



# Welcome, Susan!

If you see a big smile on Pastor Nancy's face, it's not because she won the lottery; it's because, after a four-month search, she finally has a wonderful and very competent office administrator! Meet Susan Barry: Susan's family came to Dryden from Hazel Grove, near Manchester, England when she was 15. She was in tenth grade at the time and graduated from Dryden High School.

Sue is the youngest of five children, with siblings in Scotland, England, Tennessee; and one, Arthur Barry, who some of you know, right here in Dryden. She has three children. David, her oldest, lives in Rome, NY, with his wife and two daughters. Her daughter, Katie, lives in Slaterville with her son. And her youngest, Michael, lives in Mystic, CT, with his wife, son and daughter.

So, how did Sue come to be with us? She was searching for a new church to attend when the announcement for the office administrator position caught her eye on our website. Sue had retired as Program Coordinator with the Community Learning and Services Program at Cornell in December 2021 and was beginning to miss the interaction. Weeks later, she picked up The Shopper and again saw the ad for our position. . . she decided to apply. It was meant to be!

Now for the important information: Sue's favorite cookie is chocolate chip, her favorite dessert is apple crisp with ice cream, and her favorite place to vacation is in England or Scotland. She lives in Dryden with her two dogs, Winston and Sadie. Her favorite role is "Grandma". Her other interests include photography, reading, time with friends, and decorating.

Although very homesick when she first came to Dryden, she now loves living in Dryden and we love having her here!



## Helpful Information from the Office of the Aging

- ❖ The Medicare Enrollment period will end in a few weeks. If you have questions or concerns about which plan is best for you The Office for the Aging (OFA) has staff members who can provide assistance. You can contact them at 607-274-5482 to arrange an appointment.
- ❖ The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) enrollment period runs from November 1st until March 15th. OFA staff members can also provide help for this program.
- ❖ Another option for free support on Medicare issues and Federal Income filings is Lifelong which can be reached at 607-273-1511.



# Church Fun!

## Blue Jean Sunday

Several members got together recently and had fun tidying up the grounds of the church!



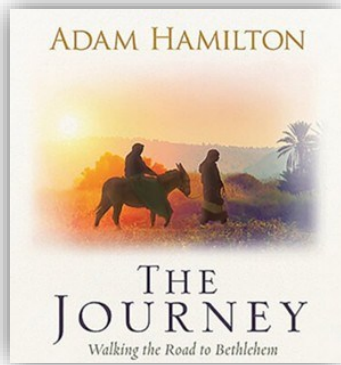
*I've seen and met  
angels  
wearing the  
disguise of  
ordinary people  
living  
ordinary lives*  
~Tracy Chapman

## Game and Craft Tailgate event

Families and Friends gathered to make Christmas crafts while enjoying some football.



# Christian Education



## Advent DVD Bible Study beginning November 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup>

Mondays ~ 7-8 pm on Zoom only  
Tuesdays ~ 11 am– 12 noon in person & on Zoom.  
Optional Book \$15

### *The Journey* by Adam Hamilton

In *The Journey*, Adam Hamilton travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road. We follow the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and others, gaining insight into our own journeys with Christ.

## Live Nativity –December 3

Once again we plan to share the Christmas Story with the community for our Live Nativity on Dec. 3, 5:00 pm. If you are interested in helping with set up, unloading animals, arranging props and costumes or being a shepherd or animal “wrangler,” please contact Brenda or Dan.



There will be a Christmas Carol sing following the Christmas Story.

Come and join the fun!



## Joy Offering

The Joy Offering is collected during the holiday season each year to support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

You will find a brochure and contribution envelope in your bulletin during the Advent season. Please make your contribution on or before the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. Thank you!

## Angel Tree Families

The Salvation Army through Adopt-a-Family program at the Christmas Season provides toys, clothing and food for families that would otherwise be without these expressions of love. Our church family is participating in the program this year by adopting 3 families with a total of 10 children. We are requested to provide 3 new toys and 2 new outfits or one outfit with coat or snow boots if requested for each child. One may also buy for the adults.

In lieu of food items, a Grocery Store Gift Card may be purchased. A maximum of \$25 per gift for a child is requested. Tags for gift recipients will be available at church for the congregation members to pick up so appropriate gifts may be selected. All gifts are to be brought to the church unwrapped.

They are to be delivered to the Salvation Army collection point by December 15.

Please join in this mission effort to show the abundant love given us as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ by supporting as you are able this effort to help provide a happy Christmas for families in need .



**Christmas Eve**  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE

**Invite Your Neighbors!**  
**Candlelight Christmas  
Eve Worship Service**  
*A celebration of scripture,  
carols, and candlelight.*  
**Dec. 24th at 7 pm**  
*Everyone is welcome!*

# Finance and Facilities Report

January through October Operating Results	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
Pledge Receipts	\$ 77,756	\$ 73,608	\$ 84,208
Non-Pledge & Plate Contributions	5,375	8,557	6,667
Interest, Dividends & Misc Income	4,994	5,469	5,833
Expenses	(88,694)	(106,726)	(117,826)
To Capital, Copier and Piano & Organ Reserve Accounts	(3,000)	(2,700)	(3,000)
From Contributions for 2 Overhead Projectors *	-	1,798	-
Net Operating Income	<u>\$ (3,569)</u>	<u>\$ (19,995)</u>	<u>\$ (24,118)</u>

\* The third projector was contributed by an individual.  
( ) Denotes reduction to Income.

## Operating Results...

Year-to-date contributions toward pledges are 5% below last year and 13%, below the budget. Non-Pledge contributions are +16% and -7%, respectively and Plate is +174% and +121%, respectively. Overall, contributions are basically the same as last year and 10% below the budget. Expenses are well within the budget which has been updated for the added costs of our new full-time pastor. The primary reasons that they are higher than last year are the payment to Pastor Hicks for unused vacation and the increased costs of salary & payroll overheads for Pastor Nancy. No administrative aid payroll for 2 1/2 months more than offset the small increases in other budget categories.

## Stewardship...

As of November 14th, 21 pledges totaling \$60,820 have been received for 2023. 20 are repeat pledgers and one is new. Of the 20 who also pledged last year, 10 increased their pledge by an average of 17%, 1 decreased (looks like the difference is the amount of the per-capita assessment) and 9 stayed the same. Hopefully the 16 outstanding pledges will come in soon so that the 2023 budget can be finalized. If you need a pledge card or would like it picked up, please call the church office at (607) 844-8321. Otherwise, please drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church at PO Box 42, Dryden NY, 13053.

## Blue Jeans Sunday...

Blue Jeans Sunday was another huge success! Thanks Joyce Day and Dottie Slocum for the lunch. The soup was fabulous! The weather couldn't have been better. Our crew was great. Everyone seemed to find a job and jumped right in and by the time we were done, the place was ship-shape. As always happens, the oak trees don't want to shed their leaves until Blue Jeans Sunday is over - often after there is snow on the ground and long after we can get the village truck. As a result, we have another opportunity to clean up more leaves. If anyone has the ambition, please put the leaves in a pile to the left of the utility shed in the back-right corner of the parking lot.

***Thanks Everyone.***



## MOVIE Night!

Plans are being made for a church outing to watch the movie “I Heard The Bells” **December 4, 4:00 p.m. at Regal Cinemas in Ithaca!** The movie is a production of Sight and Sound. Sight & Sound® is a ministry on a mission to create spectacular entertainment experiences for the whole family. They announced expansion into feature films production, with **I Heard the Bells** as the first-ever theatrical release set for December 2022.

Known as America's Poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow leads an idyllic life...until the day his world is shattered by tragedy. With a nation divided by Civil War and his family torn apart, Henry puts down his pen, silenced by grief. But it's the sound of Christmas morning that reignites the poet's lost voice as he discovers the resounding hope of rekindled faith.



## The Annual Christmas Cantata is returning!

The Annual Christmas Cantata will be held 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 18, 2022.



## Mitten Tree

An opportunity to keep children warm is here again!

The mitten tree is up in the Fellowship Hall awaiting decorations of hats, scarves, and water repellent mittens.

Donations are delivered to the elementary school for children who need them.

Please help to decorate our tree!



Mitten Tree

Warm Hands and Hearts



# Good Deeds and Meeting Needs

## Kitchen Cupboard

If you know of anyone who needs help with food, let that person know about our cupboard!

There is a box marked in the entrance to the administrative wing for your generous donations.

The Kitchen Cupboard receives donations of canned goods, prepared meals, etc., while financial donations enable the purchase of other necessities: bread, milk, etc.

Thank you all who faithfully fill KC's shelves month after month.

## The Clothing Shed is OPEN!

Please place donations in the following three places: In baskets in The Caring Corner of the Social Room, in the black cupboard in the rear entryway, and in the closet labelled "Clothing Shed Donations" just inside the Administrative Of-



The WEB program delivers approximately 50 bags of food to students in the Dryden School District who are food insufficient. Please donate **applesauce cups** for December. There is a basket in the administrative wing that is labeled WEB for your donations. Thank you.




*It is good to sing*

*God's praises!*

*If you're getting an inner nudge to join the choir, PLEASE DO! The choir, led by Music Director Scott Miller, rehearses Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.*

The Church Life Committee is seeking USHERS for Sunday morning service. If you can help out in this way, sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>3</b> Live Nativity 5
<b>4</b> 9:30 Bible Study in the Library Worship 10:30 In-person church service, or join us on Zoom Communion Movie 4:00	<b>5</b> Kitchen Cupboard 11-12 Advent Study 7	<b>6</b> Advent Study 11 Finance 7:00	<b>7</b> Bulletin items due KC 5-6	<b>8</b> Prayer Shawl Crusaders 1-3	<b>9</b> Church office Closed Kitchen Cupboard	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:30 Bible Study in Library Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Angel Tree items due	<b>12</b> Kitchen Cupboard 11-12 Advent Study 7	<b>13</b> Advent Study 11 Deacons 6:15 Session 7:00	<b>14</b> Bulletin items due KC 5-6	<b>15</b> Choir 7:00 Committee Reports Due	<b>16</b> Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30 Bible Study in Library Worship 10:30 Cantata 3:00	<b>19</b> Kitchen Cupboard 11-12 Advent Study 7	<b>20</b> Advent Study 11 Session 7:00 Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b> Bulletin items due	<b>22</b> Prayer Shawl Crusaders 1-3 Choir 7:00	<b>23</b> Church Office Closed Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	<b>24</b> Kitchen Cupboard 11-12 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7
<b>25</b> Worship 10:30	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	<b>27</b> Quilters 10:00	<b>28</b> Bulletin items due KC 5-6	<b>29</b> Choir 7:00	<b>30</b> Church Office Closed Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	<b>31</b>



December Birthdays:

Cayden Cooper 4  
 Chuck Nydam 6  
 Daryl Nydam 9  
 Cheryl Nemecek 18  
 Gretchen Young 18

Anniversaries:

Ed & Nancy Couch 18



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



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

### Join us as we worship the Lord

Worship — 10:30 a.m.  
Fall/Winter Hours