Greetings,

I hope and pray that you were able to find some of the joy of the season this year.

COVID is still with us. There is a list of guidelines which we are following that is in a 2-page document in this newsletter. We have streamlined the role of the ushers. I am writing this in mid-December, so many things may have changed by the time you get this. There will be more current info on the church website (drydenpres.com) and the weekly bulletin. We no longer take your temperature when you come in so you should do that at home before you come. We need your feedback on your response to the service whether you attend in person or via Zoom. We will also continue to monitor the COVID impact in the area and respond appropriately to any changes in those numbers. As I have stated before, we are very concerned with the health of each of you and will do what we can to make the worship experience safe (whether in person or via Zoom). If you cannot use Zoom and need some help setting it up, let us know and we will try to get you some help.

Some of you will get this prior to the Christmas Eve service. We will not be meeting in person but will be on Zoom at 7:00pm. I hope you consider your health and that of others as you worship from home. Please have a candle ready to light at the end of the service. Evan Carpenter will be preaching on Sunday for a few weeks so I can take some time off at the farm (and seeing Peg if possible). You can contact me there by phone or email and I will do what I can including coming back up here if needed.

We have been continuing a number of programs besides Sunday worship via Zoom. Check with the church office, bulletin newsletter or group leader to see when and how your group is meeting. I realize this is not the normal way to work, but it is likely to be the 'normal' for quite a while.

I have mentioned before that my wife Peg has entered an assisted-living facility near Philadelphia, PA. This does cause my schedule to be a bit more scattered than normal with possible trips to see her when they are allowed. She seems to be doing well and acclimating herself to the new surroundings nicely. She enjoys that others are now doing the cooking and cleaning. We appreciate all the prayers and gifts you have been offering for our family.

Shalom, Dale

Church Contacts

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.
Dale Francis, Interim Pastor
814-739-9537 (farm) or dale@dppjjc.com

Clerk of Session: John Scott (844-9206)

The Church Office Administrator is Arlene Krebs;
she can be reached at 844-8321
or email: drydenpresoffice@gmail.com

Co-chairs of Deacons: Linda Nydam (708-4210)
Johanna Mesmer (844-4383)

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

Sermons on the DPC web site: Thanks to Tim Parsons you can listen to sermons on our website.
Go to http://www.drydenpres.com; click on "Listen to Worship."

Federal privacy regulations prevent hospitals from giving out the names of people who have been admitted. That means that the Pastor may not be aware that someone in our church family is in the hospital and would like a visit. Please call the church office (844-8321) and let us know if a church member or friend been hospitalized.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact: drydenpresoffice@gmail.

If you are receiving this newsletter by e-mail or mail and would like to be removed from the list, please call the church office.

Newsletter Articles

Please have announcements for the **February** newsletter in the church office by
Monday, January 25, 2021

Thank you!

January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	Epiphany of the Lord
January 10	Baptism of the Lord
January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. birthday
January 24	Annual Meeting of the Congregation - Zoom

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Dryden will be held after the service on **Sunday, January 24th, 2021.** The meeting includes the election of nominating committee members, elders, deacons, reports on church activity, presentation of the 2021 budget, and an action to reduce the Session size to 9 beginning in 2022.

Although only active members may vote, all are welcome to attend and hear what our church leaders have to say about our ministries and missions. **Because we must have a quorum, all active members are urged to attend the Zoom meeting.**

Spring through Fall -
the church is a continuous presence through the seasons.

Finance and Facilities

January through November Operating Results

	2019 Actual	2020 vs 2019	2020 Actual	Actual vs Budget	2020 Budget
Income	**$ 130,932**	$ (31,670)	**$ 99,262**	$ (13,304)	**$ 112,567**
Operating Expenses	**91,366**	(206)	**91,160**	(8,374)	**99,534**
Net Cash Flow	**38,927**	(31,587)	**7,341**	(5,692)	**13,033**
Net Draw from Reserve Accounts	**(3,115)**	4,805	**1,690**	4,990	**(3,300)**
Balance	**$ 35,813**	$ (26,782)	**$ 9,031**	$ (701)	**$ 9,733**

Operating Results…

November was another strong month with over $12,000 received toward 2020 pledges and $4,400 toward 2021 pledges. The latter will be reported in next year's income. $16,000 will be needed in December to match the budget. $700 in non-pledge contributions were received in November. $1,200 will be needed in December to match the budget. $322 of cash was received in November. If that is repeated in December, plate contributions will be within $1,000 of the budget. Considering the devastating pandemic, these results are exceptionally good and greatly appreciated. ***Thanks go to everyone who made this possible!*** Expenses continue to be a little below budget.

Stewardship Campaign…

Thanks for responding to the stewardship campaign so timely and generously! As of December 15th, 33 pledges totaling $93,196 have been received for 2021. 13 increased their pledge, 6 decreased and 14 remained the same. 9 pledge cards are outstanding.

It would be greatly appreciated for the remaining pledge cards to be returned before the end of the year so the 2021 budget can be finalized and the Pastor Nominating Committee knows what support can be counted on as they search for our new pastor. If you need a card, please call Ernie Walker at (607) 227-4969.

2021 Budget…

Assuming the remaining pledges are received at the amount pledged for 2020, we should have enough income in 2021 to support the preliminary budget based on our part-time interim pastor. It is estimated that between $7,000 and $39,000 of funds in addition to the amount in the budget will be needed to support a permanent part-time or full-time pastor.

Wash your hands and say your prayers because Jesus and germs are everywhere!

First Presbyterian Church of Dryden
Procedure for Church Services and Use during COVID-19 Pandemic

1. The service will not exceed 40 minutes as a safety precaution. The pastor will perform the service from the **pulpit**. Praise & Worship leaders and the pastor will be seated before the congregation arrives. Praise & Worship leaders will be seated at the front of the church and will speak from the podium. The pastor will be seated in the choir loft.
2. Windows and doors will be open as much as possible to increase ventilation. Ceiling fans will not be used.
3. Only the main entrance from the driveway to the fellowship hall will be used so that everyone passes through the screening process. Everyone gets screened.
4. There will be no more than 50 people in the sanctuary at one time. Every "household" group must maintain at least a 6 foot distance from other households.
5. Everyone must wear a mask that covers both the nose and mouth at all times while they are in the church building. Masks should also be worn outside when people are within 6 feet of each other. Only the pastor may remove his/her mask when they are at the pulpit. Masks must be either 2 layers of fabric or disposable. Masks will be available for anyone who does not have one. A sign will be posted at the main entrance stating that people must wear a mask at all times.
6. Every person must use hand sanitizer upon entering the building. Hand sanitizing stations will be maintained at the main door entrance and in the fellowship hall. It is recommended that individuals use hand sanitizer when they leave the church.
7. Hymnals and Bibles will be removed for any service held at a time other than Sunday morning.
8. An usher (Usher #1) will:
    a. meet attendees at the entrance to the church;
    b. immediately give them a mask if they are not wearing one;
    c. check off the name of each member/friend on a list provided by the Church Administrative Assistant. If a visitor is present, their name and contact information will be recorded, but no one is required to give their contact information;
    d. inform people that, if they need to use a bathroom, they are to use the one located in the link;
    e. take each person's temperature with a touchless thermometer;
    f. ask each person if:
        1) they feel ill or have had any symptoms of COVID in the past 14 days including cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue, headache, sore throat, nausea, or diarrhea;
        2) have tested positive for COVID within the last 14 days,
        3) have been in contact with someone who was diagnosed with COVID or was suspected of having COVID within the last 14 days,
        4) have traveled from one of the states that New York considers high risk (the up-to-date list is at https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory). The Church Administrative Assistant will generate an up-to-date list at the end of each week of the high risk states.

g. Anyone who answers any of the screening questions with a positive answer or has a temperature of 100.4 or above will be asked gently to go home and view our worship service on-line.

9. A second usher (Usher #2) will stand at the entry of the sanctuary and instruct people that:
    1. they must wear a mask while in the building that covers both the mouth and nose,
    2. they should fill the sanctuary from the front to the back and go to the pews that are not blocked,
    3. only one family unit should sit in a pew and should sit where the bulletins are placed so as to maximize distance between seats,
10. If someone uses the bathroom, Usher #2 will do the disinfecting and Usher #1 will cover the responsibilities of Usher #2. All touched and flat services in the bathroom will be disinfected after each use. Supplies for disinfection will be stored in the maintenance closet.
11. At the end of the service, the pastor will announce that people in the back of the church should file out first and that they should notify him if they develop any symptoms of COVID within three days after the service or if they test positive for COVID.
12. On communion Sundays, packets with pre-filled communion cups will be placed on a table for people to pick up on their way into the sanctuary.
13. There will be no singing. The organist can play the music and people may hum the tune.
14. People should refrain from personal contact---hand-shaking, hugging, or touching.
15. A collection plate will be on a table by the entrance to the sanctuary for people to use as they enter or leave.
16. Until further notice, the following activities are suspended:
    a. Sunday School and nursery
    b. Coffee hours and other food events
    c. Outside groups using the church
17. People will be asked to exit the building directly after the service. People may socialize outside of the building, away from the entrance and maintaining the social distance of at least 6 feet.
18. If the sanctuary or fellowship hall is going to be used at some time other than for Sunday services, it will be thoroughly cleaned using a recommended disinfectant on all surfaces before and after use.
19. A reminder regarding COVID safety will be in each week's bulletin.
20. Services will still be offered through the internet for those people who do not wish to attend in person.
21. A copy of this plan and a list of attendees for each service will be filed in the church office. Attendee lists can be destroyed after one month. As part of their responsibility to do contact tracing, the local Health Department will notify the church if someone who attended a service tested positive and the church would have to follow the Department's guidance as to what follow up was necessary.
22. If there is a significant increase in the numbers of COVID cases in the community, services in the sanctuary may need to be suspended again.

Christian Education

The time between December 25 and January 6 is known as the Twelve Days of Christmas. Epiphany is always celebrated on January 6 and commemorates the visit by the Magi to the infant Jesus, which is seen as evidence that Christ, the Jewish Messiah, came also for the salvation of Gentiles. If you are able to come to the church during this time you will find a beautiful Epiphany decoration in the sanctuary. We will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, Jan. 10 with a special Children's message, and you will receive, in the mail, a “Star Gift”. On the Sunday we celebrate Epiphany it is our tradition to hand out special stars, each with a word – chosen uniquely at random for you! You can hang the star where you see it every day, and can meditate and pray that you receive the gift printed on the star.

Kristen Strobel, Sorry …. pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church in Youngstown, Ohio tells of the first “Star Gift” she received. The word was “restraint” and she wanted to throw it back!! These words were supposed to be a gift, but this did not feel like one to her. And yet, over time the word continued to work on her heart and mind. She started practicing RESTRAINT at church coffee hours and forgoing doughnuts. She used RESTRAINT to stop herself from getting second helpings at potlucks. RESTRAINT gave her permission to look at how unhealthy she had become and do something about it. When she began to see RESTRAINT as a gift instead of a curse, it freed her to change her eating habits without apology, to leave work earlier to exercise and to focus not just on her spiritual health but her physical health. In her year of RESTRAINT she lost 90 pounds.

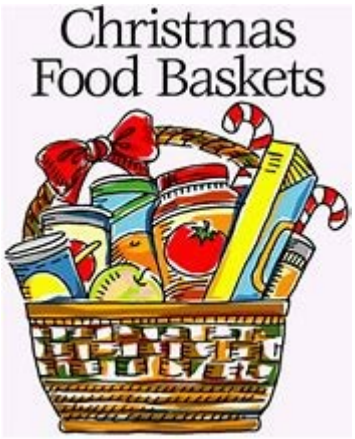
If you would like to send a Star Gift to a someone, there are a few extra at the church. Enjoy your “Star Gift” and let it guide you all year. - - - -Brenda Carpenter

Yes, the Kitchen Cupboard is open!

Please direct anyone who needs food to feel free to come to the pantry.
The Kitchen Cupboard will receive donations of canned goods, fresh vegetables and dry foods.
Financial donations enable the purchase of other necessities: bread, milk, etc.

The hours that the kitchen cupboard are open:

Monday and Friday 11 a.m. to noon.
Wednesday 5 to 6 p.m. and the <u>every</u> Saturday of the month 11 a.m. to noon.



Thank You!

Dryden Kitchen Cupboard wishes to thank everyone for donating to our appeal to help us. We were able to give out 139 Thanksgiving baskets to families in need. We were able to give out 33 Christmas baskets as well.
Your thoughtfulness is so much appreciated.
Blessings to you all - - - Aiden Payne

It is that time of year. Please send your annual committee reports to the church office no later than January 11th.

Pastor Nominating Committee

The committee members are :
Doug Barton, Piers Bramham,
Phyllis Byrn,
Evan Carpenter, Al Macomber,
Dave Parsons,
Dottie Slocum and MJ Uttech.

Dottie and MJ are
co-chairs of the committee.

Birthday List

Carol LaPlant	8
Bailee Cotterill	9
Molly Parker	10
Jeannine Dodds	14
Doug Barton	19
Nancy Couch	21
Chuck Uttech	22
Allen Schenck	25
Rylee Cotterill	28
Jason Carpenter	30
Kathlene Gross	31
Johanna Mesmer	31
Emma Park-Miller	31

Upper Room and *These Days*

These are two daily devotional booklets for living by the faith. They are available in the fellowship hall on the small table. The booklets feature daily meditations and devotions wonderfully written by clergy and lay leaders. *These Days* continues to be the source of comfort and hope throughout the world and has been for thirty-five years.

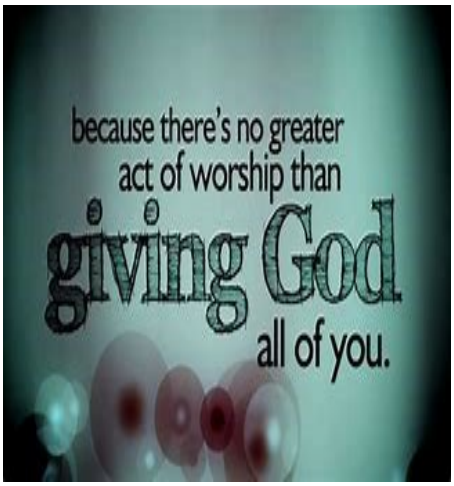
These booklets are now in the administrative office on the table. Please feel free to come in and pick up these resources in this trying time.

Thank you to all the committees and their hard work in 2020. Thank you to the kitchen cupboard volunteers along with the clothing shed volunteers. Your stewardship and commitment to this church is wonderful and appreciated!

Have You Seen A Forest Praying?

Have you seen a forest praying,
Heads bowed down in silent prayer,
Rows of pines so softly swaying,
Ice and snow upon their hair?
All the wood's a simple altar,
God is ever-present there;
Refuge for the weak who falter
And the stronger deer and bear.
Have you gawked with awe and wonder
At a sight so truly rare?
If you have, you know the splendor
Of a forest deep in prayer.

Ruth Sells



Thank you to Scott for all your diligent work with music recordings and sharing of your musical abilities.

Thank you to Mike for your wonderful organ music and talent.

A huge thank-you to Tim and Dave Parsons for handling all the technology to make our church services available to all of us! . We are blessed to have you in our church!

Thank you for the all Christmas gifts that you have given me. I wish I could thank each of you personally. I am truly grateful for all your love and kindness. You have a wonderful church family here at the Dryden Presbyterian Church.

God Bless!
Arlene Krebs

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Do you have a special celebration coming up or one that took place recently that can be announced in a future newsletter? Please call (844-8321) or e-mail (drydenpresoffice@gmail.com) the church office, so your church family can share in the celebration.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church office closed 	2 KC 11-12
3 Worship 10:30 **Transfiguration of the Lord** Evan Carpenter preaching	4 Church Office Closed KC 11-12	5	6 **Epiphany of the Lord** KC 5-6	7	8 Church office closed KC 11-12	9 KC 11-12
10 **Baptism of the Lord** Evan Carpenter preaching	11 KC 11-12	12 **Finance 7:00 p.m. Zoom**	13 KC 5-6	14	15 Church office closed KC 11-12	16 KC 11-12
17	18 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday** KC 11-12	19 **Deacons 6:30 Session 7:00 Zoom**	20 KC 5-6	21	22 Church office closed KC 11-12	23 KC 11-12
24 **Congregational Annual Meeting -after church Service Zoom**	25 **February Newsletter Items Due** KC 11-12	26	27 KC 5-6	28	29 Church office closed KC 11-12	30 KC 11-12
31						

KC=Kitchen Cupboard