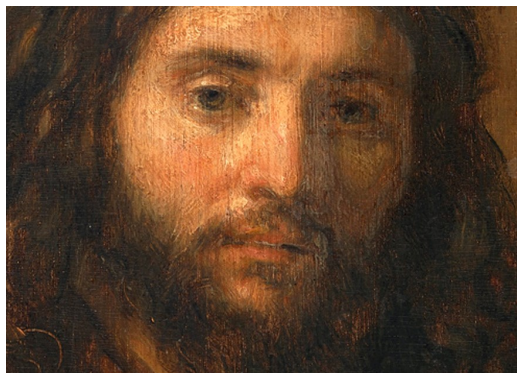


Dryden Presbyterian Church Newsletter

March 2023



The Blessings of Lent

Many Presbyterians often ask, “Why bother with Lent? Isn’t that a Catholic tradition? What is Lent anyway?” The Eastern Orthodox tradition calls Lent, the season of “bright sadness.” On one hand, it is a time of self-examination and repentance. On the other hand, it is 40 days seeking a more meaningful relationship with Jesus.

Seeking Jesus is the key to understanding what Lent is about. If it doesn’t improve your understanding, deepen your love, and/or strengthen your faith in Jesus, it is usually a self-righteous, ritualistic waste of time. There are many traditional ways to go about observing Lent that are scripturally based, including repentance, prayer, fasting, and giving.

Repentance Here is a word this Baptist chick can relate to, but how do you do it other than your original conversion to Christianity? Repentance involves the spiritual discipline Self-Examination, in which you honestly and prayerfully turn away from anything destructive/sinful in your life and renew your commitment as a follower of Jesus. My favorite way that I’ve heard this described is “Planting Seeds & Pulling Weeds.”

Prayer is essential to a healthy Lenten practice. You can focus on pushing deeper and longer in prayer, trying new methods of praying, listening and using scripture, and more. Here the key is—Do It! Most of us “don’t know how to pray as we ought.” However, we will never get better at it unless we dive in and do it. Work at a reasonable, yet challenging, goal for your prayer practice for the next six weeks, and your Lent will bear fruit.

Fasting or “Giving Up” This is perhaps the one thing about Lent that most people can recognize. In our culture, there is an awareness that a person “gives up _____ for Lent.” It can range from eating meat on Fridays to Facebook. What is not often understood is *Why?* Fasting or “giving up” is not something that is done for its own merit. Fasting is meant not only to deprive but also leave room for something else. Here are some examples. Skipping lunch in order to do a Bible study. Donating money usually spent lattes to charity. Watching less television to have time for meaningful conversations with friends and family. Not eating meat to find greater understanding and empathy for the hungry in the world. Giving up your favorite activity to seek a deeper appreciation of how Jesus gave up heaven to live and die on earth. In other words, fasting is a discipline designed to reduce self-involvement and to promote loving God and others.

Continue on next page.

The Blessings of Lent *continued*

Giving or Service has become the protestant favorite way of observing Lent. Whether it is a donation of time, treasure, or talent, it helps connect us to the service that Jesus gave through teaching, feeding, healing, and even dying. Mission trips are often popular during Lent for this very reason. The key here is to use the time to serve to increase humility not just to check off a spiritual to-do list.

I encourage you to observe a holy Lent by repentance, prayer, fasting, and works of love. Top it off with spending more time in the Bible and sharing your Lenten experience with friends. Blessings and Peace! - Pastor Nancy

Don't forget Daylight Savings Time! March 12, 2023



WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Testify with Words and deeds that Jesus is Lord of your life.

Let us proclaim Christ with our words.

Fill Out a
Testimony Card
for the Lent Board at Church

I believe Jesus is:

Let us honor Christ with our deeds.

Fill Out a
Witness Card
for the Lent Board at Church

I will honor Jesus in my life by:

(Preprinted suggestions are available.)

Complete new cards every Sunday or email your responses.

MUSINGS OF MILLIE THE CHURCH MOUSE

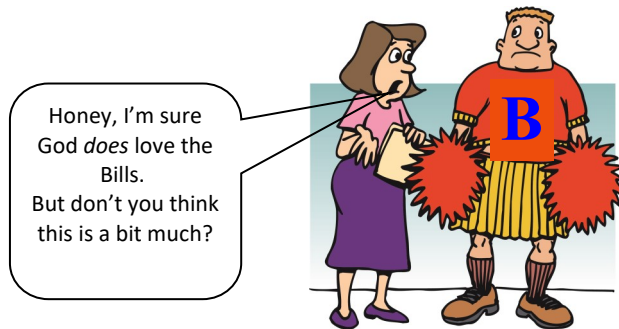


Quarterback Connie and Receiver Ernie scored a major victory for the Deacons team on Souper Bowl Sunday. The final score was Eagles 37, Chiefs 36 = 73. We didn't pick the champs but we did match the same total of cans at 73!!!!!!!!!!!!!! With contributions from each of the loyal Presbyterian teams, everyone was a winner. These will all be given to the Dryden Kitchen Cupboard and the WEB squad for distribution to those in need. Thank you to all who participated in this successful event. You can take great pride in the numbers you tallied.



We look forward to future innovative and creative events to uphold our motto to "Love Thy Neighbor."

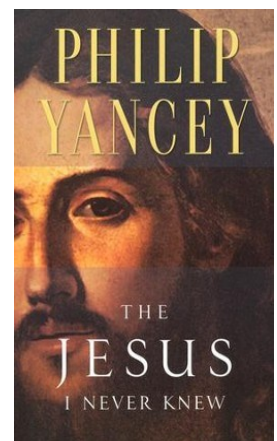
How about a special event for the month of May on Mother's Day? Maybe ... "Mom's Bring Your Kids to Church Sunday." Send your suggestions to Brenda Carpenter and Doug Barton - Worship



Adult Bible Study
Sundays 9:30 AM
BRING YOUR BIBLE!



Lent Bible Study
Tuesdays 11 am
Feb. 28 - Apr. 4



Praise Team News

A big thank you to Evan Carpenter for “fixing” the large candle snuffer! It needed a new wick, and was held together with duct tape – wick inserted and the duct tape is gone!!! If you want to check it out further, please sign up to usher and give it a try!



Our first “traditional” communion is now history, and thanks to the following folks, it was a great success: Pastor Nancy and Hellon – baking bread and communion set up; MJ and Chuck Uttech for serving; Cheryl Nemecheck for clean up; Jeanine for general support and encouragement!

We are looking for help for our next two communions on April 6 and 23. Please contact either Doug or Brenda before they contact you!



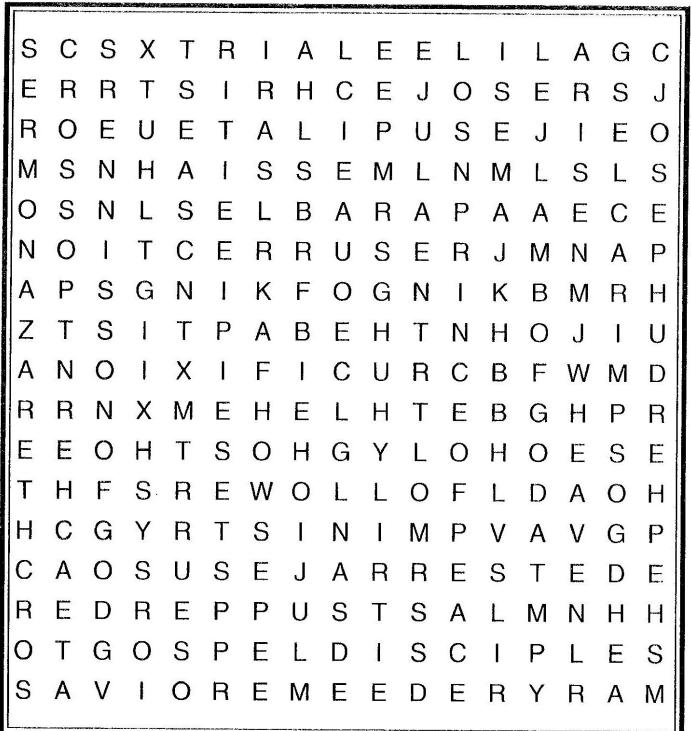
Ushers and Liturgists needed!

Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

JESUS

How many of these words can you find?

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| ARRESTED | LAST SUPPER |
| BETHLEHEM | MARY |
| CHRIST | MESSIAH |
| CROSS | MINISTRY |
| CRUCIFIXION | MIRACLES |
| DISCIPLES | NAZARETH |
| FOLLOWERS | PARABLES |
| GALILEE | PILATE |
| GOSPEL | PRINCE OF PEACE |
| HEAL | REDEEMER |
| HEAVEN | RESURRECTION |
| HOLY GHOST | RISEN |
| IMMANUEL | SAVIOR |
| JAMES | SERMON |
| JESUS | SHEPHERD (Good) |
| JOHN THE BAPTIST | SINNERS |
| JOSEPH | SON OF GOD |
| KING OF KINGS | TEACHER |
| LAMB OF GOD | TRIAL |



One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of the Special Offerings that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA promotes to its member churches and one in which this congregation has long participated. It has been utilized by our denomination for over 70 years and is the single largest way that Presbyterians can join together to share God's love with our neighbors in need in many ways and in many places. As a connectional church our combined efforts can effectively reach many more of our fellow humans who find themselves in situations of need.



The time when One Great Hour of Sharing is held is during Lent and culminates on Palm Sunday in our church. Gifts are sent to General Assembly from where funds are distributed to one of three programs of mission. In many if not most cases, the Presbyterian Mission Agency joins with partners in joint endeavors, such as Church World Service, to reach those helped. Some needs are handled through the church's national office while others are addressed by a synod or a presbytery or a congregation.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance receives 32% of the funds and they are used in working alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters. Hurricanes and earthquakes in our country and overseas are examples of disasters that provoke exceptional need.

Refugee ministries on our borders and in other countries also receive aid.

Presbyterian Hunger Program takes action to alleviate hunger and address its causes with its 36% share. While there are times when direct food relief is most appropriate, much effort is directed in using it in combination with seeking sustainable development, education, and advocacy. Food banks and community gardens are included in this program which works in our country as well as several places overseas, such as in Somalia.

Self-Development of People uses its 32% portion to invest in communities coping with injustice, oppression, racism, and poverty to helping them positively respond to their circumstance. Examining the list of many projects includes support for such as African immigrant services in Fargo, ND, a women's Committee in Panama, a Farmer's Cooperative in Belize, a Philadelphia Presbytery program for formerly incarcerated women, and a Hudson River Presbytery immigrant group .

Last year's contribution amount was \$1040 and in 2021 \$840 was sent by this congregation to One Great Hour of Sharing and hopefully we are able to respond well again. Donations may be made to Dryden Presbyterian Church noting it is for OGHS, either during Sunday morning services or by mail to the church. Special offering envelopes will be provided with Sunday bulletins.

Church and Community News

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

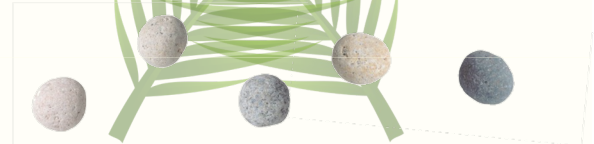


Dryden Methodist and Presbyterian Churches
present

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.

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. Login details will be provided after registration.

Spousal Loss Support Group

Facilitator: Laura Ward, LMFT, CT
This group meets Tuesdays, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4 via Zoom from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
Description: A 5-week group offering men and women who have lost a spouse or partner the opportunity to process their loss in a supportive and confidential setting. **Participants must commit to all 5 sessions. Registration is required by March 6th.** For more information contact the Bereavement staff at 607-272-0212 or email bereavement@hospicare.org. Login details will be provided close to time of event.



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

Prayer Requests

Dave Gross

Christopher DuPre

Bob Watros

Louise Baumgart
(Chuck Uttech's sister)

Patsy Thornton



Resource Committee Informational Report

- ❖ Approximately \$8650 of the 2023 pledge was received in 2022. This has been recorded as 2023 revenue and will be spread out over 12 months.
- ❖ \$100,000 has been invested in a 4.75% CD which will be due in February 2024.
- ❖ Two stoves were purchased for \$1423. The cost was covered by a donation of \$1,000 from Presbyterian Women and \$423 from David Smith Memorial Fund.

January Operating Results

January Operating Results	2022 Actual (1 month)	2023 Actual (1 month)	2023 Budget (1 month)	2023 Budget (12 months)
Operating Income				
Pledge Receipts	\$ 8,455	\$ 6,711	\$ 8,950	\$ 107,400
Non-Pledge & Plate Contributions	1,450	940	833	10,000
Interest, Dividends & Misc Income	302	283	1,125	13,500
Expenses	(10,135)	(13,928)	(12,801)	(167,422)
To Capital, Copier and Piano & Organ Reserve Account	(300)	(300)	(300)	(3,600)
From Designated for Purchase of Stoves	-	1,423	-	-
Net Operating Income	<u>\$ (228)</u>	<u>\$ (4,870)</u>	<u>\$ (2,193)</u>	<u>\$ (40,122)</u>

() Denotes reduction to Income.

Christian Education Committee Recognizes Fran Sincerbeaux



A big shout out from the Christian Education Committee to Fran Sincerbeaux for her faithful work with the children and, most recently, for the great Valentine's bags she put together for them.

Thank you Fran!



Just a Note, by Scott Miller

Back in October I began talking about Handel's *Messiah*. The planned follow-up didn't take place in December as planned but I've never wanted to abandon it and with Lent fast upon us now seems a good time to me. Pages upon pages have been written about this oratorio and I neither hope to nor will I attempt to be complete in telling about the work. I do hope to get you interested enough to listen to it not just for the sake of the music, which is glorious, but for the sake of the words. For those who would like to listen to the oratorio there are numerous recordings on YouTube:

Sydney Opera House – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bR0cEOTpYSk>

American Bach Soloists – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-QV_I-xseA

Handel & Haydn Society (abridged) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OrMFvVHNT6U>

Along with many others.

Two useful references

A concise history of the oratorio containing a breakdown of the 3 parts and 16 scenes:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messiah_\(Handel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messiah_(Handel))

A reference to the scripture from which the text is taken:

<https://haventoday.org/handels-messiah-lyrics-verse-references/>

Messiah, Part I

We can summarize this first part as God's promise of a Messiah and the fulfillment of that promise. Beginning with Scene 1, "Isaiah's prophecy of salvation" we hear some of the most familiar prophecy concerning the coming of Christ, and some of the most comforting, culminating with "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed." In Scene 2 we hear of "The coming judgement," generally less familiar scripture and then in Scene 3 "The prophecy of Christ's birth." We now come to the good news part of the story.

One of the things that strikes me about the choice of text by Charles Jennens is the lack of Christ's own words throughout. Instead, the scripture used focuses of what was and is said about the Messiah. It's not a telling of Christ's life and ministry but it is a description, a choral painting, of the Messiah based on prophecy and observation. Jennens shows us the clues and our task is to simply be reminded, "This is why I believe."

Scenes 4, "The annunciation to the shepherds," and 5, "Christ's healing and redemption," announce His arrival and tell of the good news yet to come.

Part I contains much of what we're most familiar with from *Messiah*. It's the happy part, the good news and contains roughly two fifths of the music. It represents hope and joy, expectation and fulfillment; it's Advent, Christmas and Epiphany all together. Next comes Lent, Maundy Thursday, Easter, and the Ascension.

Next month, *Messiah*, Part II.



Good Deeds and Meeting Needs

Kitchen Cupboard



If you know of anyone who needs help with food, let them know about the Kitchen Cupboard!

There is a box marked in the entrance to the administrative wing for your generous donations of canned goods, prepared meals, etc. Financial donations enable the purchase of bread, milk, and other necessities.

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

Kitchen Cupboard hours

Monday and Friday 11 a.m. to noon,

Wednesday 5 to 6 p.m., and

Last Saturday of each month, 11a.m—noon.

From the Flower Committee

The flower committee welcomes volunteers to provide flowers (live or artificial) for the sanctuary.

You may sign up on the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board.



Thank you!

Ushers Needed

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.



The WEB Program

With your help, the WEB program at the Dryden Elementary School has been successfully delivering bags to 48 students this year.



You may leave donations in the basket in the entrance to the administrative wing.

WEB Items collected for March: Yogurt pouches on the go

Thank you for your support.

The Clothing Shed is OPEN!



Please place donations in:

- The baskets in The Caring Corner of the Social Room,
- The black cupboard in the rear entryway,
- The "Clothing Shed Donations" closet by the mailboxes in the office.

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
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.



March 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bulletin Deadline <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 5-6	2 Prayer Shawl 1 pm	3 <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 11-noon	4
5 9:30 Sun School <u>OneGreatHour of</u> <u>Sharing</u> Offering Choir 9:15/11:30 LENT 2	6 <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 11-noon	7 <u>BibleStudy</u> 11 am.	8 Bulletin Deadline <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 5-6	9	10 <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 11-noon	11
12 9:30 Sun School <u>OneGrthrShrOffg</u> Choir 9:15/11:30 LENT 3 Coffee Hour	13 <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 11-noon	14 Quilters 10 a.m. <u>BibleStudy</u> 11 a.m. Session Motions Due	15 Bulletin Deadline <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 5-6	16 Prayer Shawl 1 pm Session Reports Due	17 <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 11-noon	18
19 9:30 Sun School <u>OneGrthrShrOffg</u> Choir 9:15/11:30 LENT 4	20 <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 11-noon	21 <u>BibleStudy</u> 11 a.m. NO Deacons Session 7 pm Zoom	22 Bulletin Deadline <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 5-6	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 11-noon	25 <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 11-noon
26 9:30 Sun School <u>OneGrthrShrOffg</u> Choir 9:15/11:30 LENT 5	27 <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 11-noon	28 Quilters 10 am <u>BibleStudy</u> 11 a.m.	29 Bulletin Deadline <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 5-6	30	31 <u>KitchenCupboard</u> 11-noon	

Birthdays

Mark Dodds - 1
Betsy VanSickle - 2
Dave Robinson - 4
Phyllis Byrn - 5
Evan Carpenter - 8
Doug Cotterill - 11

Brad Perkins - 11
Marsha Smith - 11
Phyllis Smith - 12
Mahlon Perkins - 29
Michelle Brackin - 30

Anniversaries

Dave & Kathleen Gross - 29

Church Contacts

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
 304.941.9659 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.

Session	Deacons	Staff
Discipleship Dan Carpenter	Phyllis Byrn	Clerk of Session John Scott
Fellowship Cheryl Nemecek	Evan Carpenter	Office Admin. Susan Barry
Harmony Jeanine Scott	Christi LaPlant	Treasurer Dottie Slocum
Missions Chuck Nydam	Fran Sincerbeaux	Financial Secy. Jay Engels
Property Dave Parsons	Dottie Slocum	Organist..... Michael Singbusch
Resources Joyce Day	MJ Uttech	Music Director..... Scott Miller
..... Brad Perkins	Connie Walker	Custodian Rob White
Worship Doug Barton		Librarian Gretchen Young
..... Brenda Carpenter		

Deadline for the
 April Newsletter
 is March 23.

Have you updated your contact information for 2023?

Even if nothing has changed since the last directory was printed, please email Sue at drydenpresoffice@gmail.com or call at 607-844-8321 with the following information for each adult to be listed.

- Name, Address
- Phone number(s)/Email
- Birthday/Anniversary
- No you prefer email, paper copy, or both of the newsletter?
- Names of children or other members of your household that you wish to have listed.

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