

Dryden Presbyterian Church Newsletter

February 2025

Growing at the Grassroots

Since Lent doesn't start until March, February is all green this year! I'm referring to our worship colors, of course. Usually February is half green and half purple because the beginning of Lent usually falls in the middle of the month. But this year, we're green for Ordinary Time, for Growing Time!

The growing edge for our church right now is socializing through small group ministries. After such a positive experience with the Ladies' Advent Bible Study & Social, people have been asking, "What's next?" So the Ministry Committee is going to put a few ideas out there during the month of February and see what people are interested in. Your response to the Ministry Committee's survey will be a vital part of developing and revitalizing our church community as well as providing opportunities to reach out to our neighbors. Keep an eye out for the survey in your bulletins and emails.

Some small group possibilities could be:

- Lunch Out—a monthly gathering at restaurants, parks, etc.
- Warm Weather Walkers—a hiking group during May & June.
- Retired Educators Supporting Teachers—a monthly service group that does special little things to support and encourage Dryden teachers.
- Presby Puzzlers—gathering to do puzzles or a puzzle swapping group
- See the survey for more, or suggest something you would like to do!

There are more ways to be involved during February:

- Chili Cook-Off & Game Night on Saturday, February 22nd
- Read along with "4 Gospels in 3 Months"
- Sign up for a Lent Bible study group (6 lessons, March-April, Details Coming Soon!)

Thanks be to God! Our church is growing at the grassroots! We are growing in numbers, in community, and in outreach. Join us as we grow together!

Blessings and Peace!

- Pastor Nancy



**Read the Story of Jesus
in chronological order
across all four gospels
in 3 months: Feb-Apr**

The reading schedule is included
with this newsletter.

Lent
Bible
Study

Six Lessons: March–April

Details Coming Soon!
Days & Times to be
determined.
In Person & Zoom options
will be available.

Church and Community News

Dessert Bowl

Super Bowl is almost upon us. Vote for the team you think will win by bringing a non-perishable dessert item such as cake mix, frosting, pie filling, s'mores fixings, etc., and dropping it in the bucket with your team's logo.



All items collected will go to the Kitchen Cupboard.

Mark your Calendar Coming Saturday, February 22

Chili Cook Off & Game Night.

3:00 – 7:00 p.m.



Kitchen Cupboard & Clothing Shed

Mon, Fri & last Sat
of each month:
11 a.m. to noon.
Wednesdays: 5 to 6 p.m.



The Clothing Shed

Welcomes your warm clothes

New Years resolution to help others in our community? The Clothing Shed Program can help you fulfill that need!

"Anyone who has two shirts should share with one who has none, anyone who has food should do the same." - Luke 3:11"



For more information, contact Rich Couch at (607)708-0977

WEB Items for February

Yogurtz—Squeeze
yogurt pouches on the go.



Dryden Community Dinners

Dryden Methodist Church
Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

**There will be no Community Dinners for
January & February**



If you have pictures and/or stories of church or local events, please consider sharing them at:
drydenpresoffice@gmail.com.

The submission deadline for the March newsletter is February 20.

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

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please e-mail or call the church office at 607-844-8321.

Thank you, Jack Scott!

John "Jack" Scott served as Clerk of Session, 1997-2024.

At our annual congregational dinner, we honored his long ministry on Session. Jack said that he was privileged to serve for the love of God, our church, and our people.

Over 80 individuals were elders during Jack's long clerkship, benefiting from his leadership, organization, and quiet faith. Jack "passed the gavel" to Peggy Parsons as of January 2025.

Jack, as you leave your long-held position as clerk for the Dryden Presbyterian church, may good wishes follow you and your devoted in-your-house assistant. You (both) have given the rest of us not only an esteemed legacy but a path to emulate in the future. May you know God's blessing as you travel on in your life's journey.



Center left: Jack passes the gavel to Peggy Parsons, the new Clerk of Session;

Bottom left: Children from Kid's Club prepare to honor Jack.

Above: Jeanine and Jack Scott with Pastor Nancy as the celebration begins

Ministry Committee News

February 2025 Newsletter Ministry Committee

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

Next Meeting of Ministry Committee –
Feb. 2, 11:30 am

Worship Team:

March 2 – Ash Sunday; The ashes used on Ash Sunday typically come from the burning of palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations. The ashes are used to keep us in mind of our humble origin and of how the body of Adam, our forefather, was formed out of the dust of the earth; also to remind us of death, when our bodies will return to dust, and of the necessity of doing penance for our sins. While the ashes remind us that we will die and return to the ground, if we believe in Jesus, we will be raised with Him in glorious new bodies.

Hospitality:

"February is the border between Winter and Spring"-Terri Guillemets

"The Polar Intuit of northwest Greenland, the northernmost people call February 'seqinniaq', the month when the sun appears." (Fred Bruemmer).

Our "sun" appears when we take the time to fellowship and enjoy our coffee hours on the second Sunday of the month and "Joes & Doughs" on the others.

We also will have a Chili Cook Off/Game Day on February 22. Be sure to sign up.

Here's some "future" sunshine. Daylight Savings time begins on Sunday March 9. Until next month....

Cheryl

Missions:

Session would like to call your attention to this budgeted line item of per capita. Through per capita, nearly 10,000 congregations and mid-councils of the Presbyterian Church (USA) connect, participate, and share in the work of the wider church. It is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly as well as the administrative work of the Synod of the Northeast and the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley. By it, Presbyterian leaders are trained, churches are assisted in many ways, and structure is in place to answer needs of people especially those in crisis as we collectively witness for the Holy Spirit in our world. The amount assessed a congregation for each church member for 2025 is: General Assembly-\$10.84; Synod-\$4.25; and Presbytery - \$34.20, for a total of \$49.29 (up from \$45.90 for last year). To help meet our obligation, session is requesting that members consider contributing \$49.29 above normal giving. Thanks to all who are able to do so.

Mission Committee would like to report that from this year's Mitten Tree, we delivered to Dryden Elementary School 30 mittens and gloves, 22 hats, and 2 scarves for distribution to kids in need of those cold weather items. Thank you all for your help.

Christmas Eve offering brought in \$720 which will be donated to Second Wind for its Dryden house. Nic Brenner from that organization will at the February 2, 2025 morning worship service give us an update on the Dryden house and in person accept the check donated to that cause.

Those wishing to donate to help people affected by the Los Angeles area fires can do so online by going to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website which lists ways to send financial assistance. As people of God we are called to stand by our neighbors in need. Included with the loss are several houses of worship, including one Presbyterian church.

Finance Technology & Facilities Report

<u>January through December Operating Results</u>	2023	2024	2024	2025
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Contributions				
Pledge Receipts	\$ 109,253	\$ 116,842	\$ 116,114	\$ 126,000
Non-Pledge	4,386	8,380	4,000	1,000
Plate	4,674	3,249	4,500	3,200
Other Income (Interest, Dividends & Misc Income)	14,332	18,765	18,100	21,760
Cash Expenses	<u>(156,603)</u>	<u>(181,617)</u>	<u>(193,549)</u>	<u>(172,389)</u>
Net Cash Flow	(23,958)	(34,381)	(50,835)	(20,429)
Transfer to/from Reserve Accounts				
To Capital, Copier and Piano & Organ Reserves	(3,600)	(3,600)	(3,600)	(3,600)
From Insurance for Repairs to the Nursery	920	2,932	3,967	-
From Contributions Received & Pledged for Parking Lot	-	20,860	12,815	-
From Designated for Stoves, Fire Alarm Dialer & Phone System	4,361	-	-	-
From Designated for Cantata Accompanist	-	300	-	-
From Designated for Piano Tuning and Other Operating Costs	<u>127</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Operating Income After Transfer to/from Reserves	<u>\$ (22,150)</u>	<u>\$ (13,429)</u>	<u>\$ (37,653)</u>	<u>\$ (24,029)</u>

() Denotes reduction to Income.

Operating Results

A huge **Thank You** to our entire congregation for making 2024 a good year. Pledge receipts were 7% higher than last year and slightly above the budget. Non-Pledge contributions were almost double last year and the budget. Despite the plate being down about 30% from last year and the budget, total contributions were 8.6% higher than in 2023 and 3% above the budget. In addition, over the past two years, our congregation and a few others donated all the \$20,960 needed to repair the driveway and parking lot! This collective effort highlights the tremendous support and commitment of our members. When the 2024 budget was prepared, it appeared that there might be a \$37,653 deficit. However, thanks to the unwavering support from our congregation and lower expenditures than projected, the deficit turned out to be \$13,429. To offset the shortfall, funds were drawn from the "Session Discretionary Reserve". We are deeply grateful for your support and look forward to another fruitful year together in 2025.

Annual Report

The Annual Report has further information about the 2024 financial results and the 2025 budget.

Session Discretionary Reserve

The Session Discretionary Reserve is a "rainy day fund" that was established with surplus earnings received during the period that we had part-time interim pastors after Pastor Robinson retired. That fund is being used to offset the shortfall in earnings being experienced now that we, thankfully, have a full-time pastor. At its peak in June 2022, the fund had \$101,314. As of the end of 2024, the fund has \$46,175.

Error in the Annual Report

The Annual Report includes a one-page schedule showing the 12/23 and 12/24 balances in the various bank and investment accounts owned by the church. The schedule also shows the amount of money in those accounts this at designated for major categories like Bequests, Facilities, Memorials, Session Discretionary Reserve, etc. Not in the report are two support schedules that provide more detail about each of the designated categories (amount in Memorials for each of our past members, etc.). After the Annual Report was published, it was discovered that a modification made to one of those support schedules caused the Session Discretionary Reserve balances in the "Summary" section at the bottom of the report page to be doubled. The correct balances are \$59,605 on 12/23 and \$46,175 on 12/24. If anyone would like a copy of the corrected schedule or copies of the detailed support schedules, please call Ernie Walker at (607) 227-4969.

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

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

The best way to contact her is by cell phone.

Session

Doug Barton, Worship
 Brenda Carpenter, Worship
 Fran Sincerbeaux, Education
 Gale Conway, Hospitality
 Cheryl Nemecek, Hospitality
 Chuck Nydam, Missions
 Dave Parsons, Technology
 Brad Perkins, Facilities
 Peggy Parsons, Clerk of Session
 Ernie Walker, Finance

Deacons

Sue Bahny
 Susan Barry
 Evan Carpenter
 Dottie Slocum
 Chuck Uttech
 MJ Uttech
 Joan Van Vranken

Staff

Clerk of Session Peggy Parsons
 Office Admin..... Susan Barry
 TreasurerDottie Slocum
 Financial Secy. Jay Engels
 Organist..... Michael Singbusch
 Music Director.....Scott Miller
 Custodian Rob White



ASHES	HOLY WATER	PURPLE
BLESS	DEUS	RISEN
CROSS	PALM	SUNDAY
EGG	PREPARE	WEDNESDAY
FOREHEAD	PRIEST	WHITE

February Birthdays

David Parsons 6

Jay Engels 20

No anniversaries in February

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 let Sue know at 844-8321 or email Drydenpresoffice@gmail.com so your church family can share in the celebration.



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Choir 915/1130 Joe & Doughs 1130 Ministry Com. Mtg. 11:45 am	3 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12 Finance Mtg	4	5 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	6 Prayer Shawls	7 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	8
9 Choir 915/1130 Coffee Hour 1130	10 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	11 Quilters 10-2	12 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	13 Session Reports Due	14 Valentine's Day Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	15
16 Choir 915/1130 Joe & Doughs 1130 Deacons 1145	17 Presidents Day Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	18 Session 7 pm	19 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	20 Newsletter Articles Due Prayer Shawls	21 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	22 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12 Chili Cook-Off 3 pm
23 Choir 915/1130 Joe & Doughs 1130	24 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	25 Quilters 10-2	26 Kitchen Cupboard 5-6 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	27	28 Kitchen Cupboard 11-12	
Pastor Nancy on Study Leave 2/23-3/1						



First Presbyterian Church of Dryden

January—April 2025

1/27 Jn 1:1-14; Lk 1:5-25
 1/28 Lk 1:26-56
 1/29 Lk 1:57-80
 1/30 Mt 1:18-25; Lk 2:1-20
 1/31 Lk 2:21-38; Mt 2:1-12
 2/1 Mt 2:13-23; Lk 2:39-52
 2/2 Lk 3:1-22
 2/3 Lk 4:1-30
 2/4 Jn 1:15-51
 2/5 Lk 5:1-11; Mk 1:21-39
 2/6 Jn 2:1-25
 2/7 Jn 3:1-36
 2/8 Jn 4:1-26
 2/9 Jn 4:27-42; Mk 2:1-12
 2/10 Mk 2:13-17, 2:23- 3:19

2/11 Mk 3:20-35; Jn 5:1-18
 2/12 Jn 5:19-47
 2/13 Mt 5:1-30
 2/14 Mt 5:31- 6:14
 2/15 Mt 6:15-34
 2/16 Mt 7:1-29
 2/17 Mt 8:1-13;
 Lk 7:11-17, 36-50
 2/18 Mt 11:1-30
 2/19 Mt 12:38-45; 13:1-23
 2/20 Mt 13:24-52
 2/21 Lk 8:1-3; Mt 8:18-22;
 Mk 4:35-5:20
 2/22 Mk 5:21-43
 2/23 Mt 9:27-10:25
 2/24 Mt 10:26-42; Mk 6:1-13
 2/25 Mk 6:14-44
 2/26 Mk 7:1-23
 2/27 Mk 6:45-56, 7:24-37
 2/28 Jn 6:22-40
 3/1 Jn 6:41-71
 3/2 Mt 16:13-17:21
 3/3 Mt 17:22-27,
 Mk 8:1-21
 3/4 Lk 9:46-62
 3/5 Mt 18:10-35
 3/6 Jn 7:1-24

3/7 Jn 7:25-52
 3/8 Jn 7:53-8:30
 3/9 Jn 8:31-59
 3/10 Jn 9:1-34
 3/11 Jn 9:35-41; 10:1-21
 3/12 Lk 10:1-24
 3/13 Lk 10:25-42;
 Jn 10:22-42
 3/14 Lk 11:37-12:12
 3/15 Lk 12:13-21, 35-48
 3/16 Lk 12:49-13:21
 3/17 Lk 13:22-14:14
 3/18 Lk 14:15-35
 3/19 Lk 15:1-32
 3/20 Lk 16:1-31
 3/21 Lk 17:1-10; Jn 10:22-42
 3/22 Jn 11:1-27
 3/23 Jn 11:28-57
 3/24 Lk 17:11-37
 3/25 Lk 18:1-14; Mt 19:1-15
 3/26 Mt 19:16- 20:16
 3/27 Mt 20:17- 21:11
 3/28 Mk 11:12-33
 3/29 Mt 21:23-46
 3/30 Mt 22:1-22
 3/31 Mt 22:23-46
 4/1 Mt 23:1-39

4/2 Lk 21:1-38
 4/3 Mt 24:36- 25:13
 4/4 Mt 25:14-46
 4/5 Lk 22:1-13; Jn 13:1-17
 4/6 Jn 13:1-17; Lk 22:14-23
 4/7 Jn 13:31-34; 14:1-31
 4/8 Jn 15:1-27
 4/9 Jn 16:1-33
 4/10 Lk 22:24-38; Jn 17:1-26
 4/11 Mk 14:32-42;
 Mt 26:47-56
 4/12 Jn 18:12-24;
 Mk 14:53-65
 4/13 Mt 26:69- 27:10
 4/14 Jn 18:28-38; Lk 23:5-12;
 Jn 18:39-40
 4/15 Jn 19:1-14; Mt 27:24-25
 4/16 Jn 19:16-17;
 Lk 23:26-34; Jn 19:19-24;
 Mk 15:29-43
 4/17 Jn 19:25-30;
 Mk 15:33-36; Lk 23:44-46;
 Mk 15:39-41; Jn 19:31-42;
 Mk 15:46-47
 4/18 Mt 27:62-28:15
 4/19 Jn 20:1-18; Lk 24:13-35
 4/20 Jn 20:19-29; 21:1-25
 4/21 Jn 20:30-31;
 Mt 28:16-20; Lk 24:50-53

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



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

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 at 10:30 a.m.

Fall/Winter hours