

# Dryden Presbyterian Church Newsletter

January 2025

Dear Friends, Because of our holiday calendar and a busy January, the Newsletter is late and abbreviated. We'll pick up with the full Newsletter in February. Meanwhile, please enjoy this letter and a snapshot of December at Dryden Presbyterian.

## As Simple as 1, 2, 3—A Way of Being Church

January is traditionally a month of renewed focus, renewed purpose, or, dare I say it, "resolution." It is a time of examination with scales and microscopes and heart monitors. It is a time to put away the glittering clutter and get back to business, back to basics, back to wherever we left off. It is exhausting and stressful.

So, instead of resolving to resurrect the righteous resemblance of all we should be, let's keep things simple at church this year. Here are three simple points of focus for 2025. They don't involve elaborate program changes or fundraising campaigns—just simple service of God in our community.

1. **Keep the Faith**
2. **Grow**
3. **Maintain Balance**

*Keep the Faith* means remaining faithful in our ministries and missions. It means staying involved, continuing financial support, and loving God, loving people. It's nothing new or elaborate, but it words and does a world of good in our little corner of God's creation.

*Grow* is simple in concept but complex in actuality. As a church, we want to grow in numbers, but we need more than that. We want to grow in our ability to trust, follow, and worship Jesus Christ. We want to grow in our effectiveness in loving and witnessing to our neighbors, friends, and family. We want to grow in prayer, scripture study, and other spiritual disciplines. But how do we do all these things? The simplest way is *to do these things*. Toss out the scales —let's trust, follow, worship, love, witness, pray, study, and more together. Growth will be inevitable.

*Maintain Balance* can seem odd alongside the battle cries of *Keep the Faith!* and *Grow!*, but it is essential. 2024 was a whirlwind of ministries, missions, events, programs, and calls for financial support. Our people responded with generosity of heart and effort. Unfortunately, such a pace can leave us feeling drained and tired. So, to alleviate the wearing down of our most valuable resource, our people, we need to allow energies to refresh between and among ministry efforts. This expanded view of stewardship is a scripture-endorsed road to preserving good health in individuals as well as the whole church body.

Simply put, let's use 2025 to follow Christ, in the power of the Spirit, to the glory of the Father.

Blessings and Peace!

- Pastor Nancy



Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and... forgive each other...

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing... to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:12-17 NRSVUE

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



Our Advent highlights included the fun and enriching Women's Advent Study, and a multigenerational Advent play, "His Name is Jesus" .



Thrive Church, Freeville NY

Cost: \$20

Friday – January 31<sup>st</sup>

6:00 PM | Check-in

6:30 – 9:15 PM | Seminar

Saturday – February 1<sup>st</sup>

8:00 AM | Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 12:30 PM | Seminar

Childcare is available for nursery and elementary children.

