

The GoodNews Connection

PERINTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 2021



CONTACT US

www.perintonpres.org

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CARETAKER

Dale Olson

Join us Sundays at 11am on
Facebook Live

[https://www.facebook.com/
perintonpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/perintonpresbyterian)

Dial-in option: 1-646-558-
8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 527-577-4982
Password: 6511



The Art of Connecting

As January is almost upon us the Outreach Committee is very excited about formally beginning our five year journey of the 25X25 initiative. We have been exploring the possibility of doing new print advertising and more specifically, sending postcards out to the community to increase awareness and extend invitation. We recently shared a mock-up of the post card at our monthly meeting. The front of the card highlighted a picture that was taken by our very own Dale Olson! In addition to caring for our church for the last ten years, Dale has shared his photography talents many times. You may have seen his beautiful picture of the church with the sunlight reflecting off the building. One our committee members, Al Gubiotti, took it home and showed it to a friend of his who has a daughter named Ashlynn in art school at Cleveland. She created the digital painting (shown above) and donated it to us. While the committee is excited to use this for the postcards we are equally excited to share with you that Ashlynn has also created a 24" x 36" canvas painting which we have framed and will be hanging in our foyer. We are grateful and reminded that we are the big white church on the hill and are guided by God's spirit and grace and called as disciples to share Christ's love with the world.

Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes.



With these words from Elizabeth Barrett Browning humming in our hearts, welcome to Epiphany! After twelve days of Christmas, we celebrate the arrival of the Magi on January 6, or the Sunday closest to this day.

One Epiphany tradition we are sharing in this year is called “Star Words.” Star Words can help us see more clearly the guidance of God in our ordinary lives. Those who wish to participate receive a word, selected at random. They are invited to reflect on that word in Scripture and their lives and notice how it appears during the coming year. This practice can allow us to discern more clearly the nearness and guidance of our God.

In the month of January, we are offering several ways for you to experience Star Words:

- At our elder and deacon annual retreat gathering by Zoom, Harry and I will be co-leading a workshop with this theme.
- We are offering a Star Words workshop for the entire congregation on Tuesday, January 12, at 7pm (by Zoom).
- A family-based “Star Words” resource will be available for those with young children at home.
- And our Youth Group will experience a version of the Star Words reflection during one of our January gatherings. More details on this are to come.

If you would like to attend the Star Words Workshop on January 12, at 7pm, please sign up by Sunday, January 10 at: <https://starwords.eventbrite.com>

Building on the theme of God’s light and guidance in our lives, Parish Associate Harry Heintz, Music Director Julie Smith, and I will be collaborating on a sermon series in January, during which we’ll share reflections on God’s word and leading in our own lives.

Now may God’s light shine on you as you journey into 2021,

Pastor Laura

Announcement of Co-Leader for Youth Ministries

Exciting news! Ms. Alexis Frederick is joining our PPC staff as Co-Leader for Youth Ministries! Alexis and I (Pastor Laura) will be co-leading this ministry, together with our parent and adult volunteers, and the communications expertise of Office Administrator Jill Bazer. Alexis will be a wonderful addition to our leadership team.

At the beginning of January, we will be sending out a youth and parent survey to seek your input on plans for meaningful, faith-shaping youth ministry in 2021. As we gradually move toward the end of this pandemic, we hope to be able to bring back many of our treasured youth group traditions this summer and beyond. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Alexis Frederick as our Co-Leader for Youth Ministries.

Alexis Frederick is currently a Senior at Keuka College in the Occupational Therapy program. At Keuka College, she also serves as a student director in the Center for Interfaith Engagement where she helps to plan programs for students to learn about and respect different faiths. Alexis is a former member of the PPC youth group and is excited to explore new ideas to bring to the current youth ministry program as a co-leader. She hopes to create the strong bond and sense of Christian community within the youth group that she experienced as a member herself.



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will be held Sunday, January 31, 2021, at 12:30pm, by Zoom. Agenda items include the receiving of 2020 Committee Reports; the Election of Elders, Deacons, and the Nominating Committee; and voting on Pastoral Compensation for 2021.



During our two virtual December session meetings, we finalized and approved the church budget for 2021, approved new COVID safety guidelines, identified candidates for serving as members of the Nominating Committee for 2021, and set the date for our 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting. In collaboration with the COVID Response Team, session continues to very closely monitor and adapt our safety practices as needed.

From the Worship Committee

Return to Virtual Worship Services

For the COVID safety of our church family, staff and community, in-person worship and church activities have been temporarily suspended by Session. Until further notice, **worship services at PPC will be virtual only**. When deemed safe, we will joyfully open our doors to gather again.

Worship services will continue to be livestreamed and recorded on Sunday mornings at 11am. Join through <https://www.facebook.com/perintonpresbyterian> or phone in (see front page). Thanks be to God for our dedicated worship team and AV tech crew who make all this possible!

Virtual communion will be celebrated during worship on Sunday, January 3rd.

To volunteer as a liturgist, sign up online or contact Pastor Laura or the church office.

Christmas Blessings

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped create such a memorable Advent and Christmas season for our PPC church family. God was with us, working in wonderful ways as we introduced new, creative ideas and responded with a joyful sense of community to carry them out successfully. Even during these unprecedented times, we were able to keep our congregation well-connected spiritually in the following ways:

- Advent wreath and devotional for every PPC household
- Virtual lighting of the Advent wreath by a church family during each worship service
- Poinsettia ornaments in memory and honor of loved ones to decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree
- Blues Comfort and Hope service
- Virtual Christmas Eve services—Youth Pageant and Candlelight
- Virtual music of the season by instrumentalists, adult choir and handbell choir

Special thanks to those who purchased poinsettia ornaments. The sanctuary tree was filled with lovely blue and white poinsettias in memory and honor of loved ones, and over \$100 profit was donated towards future PPC youth work camp programs. We hope that everyone can enjoy the Christmas tree in person next December!



Blues Comfort and Hope

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year....” And also, for many, it’s the most difficult time of the year. The weeks of Advent leading to Christmas are filled with light and anticipation for many. But for some, it is a season of darkness and struggle. For those of us that have experienced the death of a loved one or another of life’s disappointments, the season can be unrelentingly dark. Our Lord, whose birth we sing, is well acquainted with darkness, death, and struggle. That, too, is good news for us.

On the afternoon of the third Sunday of Advent, December 13 at 3:00pm, we had a brief worship service called **“Blues Comfort and Hope.”** It gave us holy space for bringing our losses, hurts, and disappointments to the Lord—and to receive comfort and hope from his word and his Spirit. Our worship included music, scripture, and prayer, with times of silence for meditation. It was over in time to get home before nightfall.



It is amazing how wonderful our church members can be during such a challenging time. We are grateful and blessed. We were so fortunate to have our new parish associate, Reverend Harry Heintz, join us at our last zoom deacons meeting. Looking forward to seeing you at future meetings Harry. He reminded us of the Blues service of Comfort and Hope.

Thanks to all for the planning, making and distributing of the advent wreaths.

Kudos to deacon Jen Wallace for putting together the awesome Christmas cards that the deacons gave to their families. Good job Dale Olson for taking the awesome church photograph. The PPC celebrated two recent baptisms. Congratulations to Eric and Lindsay Ward on the baptism of their daughter Myla Leona and to Jason and Katie Tuccio on the baptism of their daughter Sophie Jade.

A special prayer goes out to our deacon vice moderator, Robbyn Drew and her husband Terry for experiencing a house fire. We pray for God’s hand in helping them get through this tragedy. We are very appreciative of our COVID team and the worship committee for their efforts in keeping our church life safe.



Happy January Birthday to the following members of our church family!!!

May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. Psalm 20:4

Katherine Bradford, Sophia Bradford, Norman Cialini, Leila Doll, Benjamin Eckdahl, Daryl Embling, Julie Fish, Mark Fish, Steven Fish, Kevin Foskett, Becky Girouard, Steven Grose, Susan Heiligman, Laura Lasher, Stacy Marasco, Barbara Moore, Mark Murphy, Rebecca Rubino, Debra Saylor, Owen Shedden. Zachary Stewart, Megan Trapani, Nicholas Trapani, Dianne Valle, Martha Verplank, Joyce Wackerman, Joan Wallance, Amanda Zimmer

January 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Happy New Year!

1

2

Dear Lord God, Thank you for bestowing upon our family a new, fresh year. We praise and glorify you for your goodness and grace, and we would like to lift this year up to you. ...

3

11am
Worship

4

5

7pm
Meeting of
Elders and
Deacons

6

10am Bible
Study

7

8

9

10

11am
Worship

11

12

7pm
Star Words
Virtual
Retreat

13

10am Bible
Study

14

15

16

17

11am
Worship

18

6pm CE
Meeting

7pm
Facilities

19

6:30pm
Worship

7:30pm
Outreach
Meeting

20

10am Bible
Study

12pm
Newsletter
Deadline

21

7pm Stew-
ardship
Meeting

22

23

24

11am
Worship

25

26

7:30pm
Finance
Meeting

27

10am Bible
Study

28

29

30

An-
nual
Mtg.

31

The numbers are in...

Stewardship Message

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. –
Psalm 24:1



Results through November

Below are the results through the first eleven months of the year. Our finances rebounded nicely over the past months. We are currently running a surplus for the Operating Fund and a deficit for the Building fund. The financial outlook for year end is looking positive.

Thank you for your support of the ministries and missions of the church.

Perinton Presbyterian Church			
Summary			
11/30/2020			
Performance Year-to-date through Nov			
<u>INCOME</u>			
Operating Fund	\$	276,624	
Building Fund	\$	<u>103,179</u>	
Total Income			\$ 379,803
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Operating Fund	\$	260,042	
Building Fund	\$	<u>107,877</u>	
Total Expenses			\$ 367,919
<u>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</u>			
Operating Fund	\$	16,581	
Building Fund	\$	<u>(4,698)</u>	
Net Surplus (Deficit)			\$ <u>11,883</u>

General Information

There is a two-month lag in reporting finances in the newsletter due to mailing deadlines, timing of bank statements and report processing. Contact Mark Stevens at (585) 739-8452 or mwstevens63@gmail.com if you have questions or to request copies of financial statements. Our Operational Fund supports the day to day operation of the church and its programs. The Building Fund supports our Mortgage and building expansion program. Like several churches in the Presbytery we embrace a "faith-based" financial plan and thus we do not budget our income. If you have questions about your individual contributions or personal statements please contact the Financial Secretary, Al Norby at (585) 223-2126 or anorby1@rochester.rr.com

Stock Donations and Bequests

If you have appreciated stock you may find it to be a tax advantage to donate stock to the church. Several people have provided PPC with stock donations which have personal tax benefits. Please consider a bequest to PPC in planning your Will. We have received bequests in the past year and are blessed that at the passing of life other lives can be impacted in this special way. If you are interested in learning more about these giving options please contact Al Norby or Mark Stevens.

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Ivanka Driankova, Pianist

Jonelle Kohl & Sherri Frederick, Church School Coordinators

Alexis Frederick, Co-Leader Youth Ministries

Dale Olson, Caretaker

Jillian Bazer, Office Administrator

Worship Time:

Sunday's 11am

Facebook Live or Call-in Option

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