

The GoodNews Connection

PERINTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2021



CONTACT US

www.perintonpres.org

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The Rev. Laura Fry

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Ivanka Driankova

CARETAKER

Dale Olson

Join us Sundays at 11am on Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/perintonpresbyterian>

Dial-in option: 1-646-558-8656

US (New York)

Meeting ID: 527-577-4982

Password: 6511

Lent 2021: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

As we enter the season of Lent this year, it is with both hope and heaviness—hope at the movement toward healing and vaccination; heaviness at the terrible loss of life this year has held.



This, our second COVID Lent, many of us are longing for a renewed vision of Jesus and his kingdom alive and active in the world.

During Lent this year, rather than giving something up (which we've all had quite a bit of practice with recently), I invite you to consider what you might add or change in your daily life as a way to renew your vision of Jesus—

- Perhaps carving out special time for daily Bible reading, prayer, devotions, or contemplation;
- Reflective writing or physical movement that connects you with God;
- Joining our weekly virtual worship services;
- Building or renewing Christian friendships;
- Or another spiritual discipline that you find life-giving.

We begin the Holy Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 17, with a virtual worship service which will be available throughout the day, as we turn our eyes toward Jesus, and look full in his wonderful face.

God's grace and peace be with you,

Pastor Laura

PPC Names Steve Becker Pastor Emeritus



In the Presbyterian Church, a retired pastor may be formally recognized by the congregation as "Pastor Emeritus" as a way to honor their ministry when it has come to a conclusion after long and faithful service.

The motion to formally give thanks for the ministry of Reverend Steve Becker with recognition as "Pastor Emeritus" came to session in November of 2020 and was enthusiastically and unanimously approved as a recommendation to the congregation. In accordance with the *Book of Order*, the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley has also been consulted and has given their approval. At PPC's Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021 the congregation also enthusiastically and unanimously approved this motion.

We plan to formally recognize both Steve and Cathy during a worship service in the coming weeks, and together honor their ministry at PPC, giving thanks to God for all that they gave to PPC through so many years. Join us virtually for the celebration!

Pastor Laura Fry



On January 5, 2021 the session and deacons held their annual joint meeting with a time of reflection around the theme of "Star Words," to ground our lives and leadership in God's guidance for the coming year. Following this time of connection and sharing in small groups and as a whole, session attended to the following items of business:

- Receiving an update on COVID-19 safety from Dr. Kerry Katlic, on behalf of the COVID Response Team.
- Reflection on outreach through our Christmas Eve services.
- Completing annual business such as electing church officers, authorizing the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and approving special offerings for 2021.



Celebrating the Music Ministry of Don Besig

The Session is excited to share news about a very special gift of music—a choir anthem commissioned to honor Don Besig, Choir Director Emeritus, and his more than thirty years of dedicated, inspirational service as choir director at Perinton Presbyterian. *Take My Life and Let It Sing*, by renowned composer Joseph M. Martin, speaks to the blessing Don has been to our church as a choir director, sacred music composer and beloved longtime member. Although the pandemic has forced delays, we are pleased to finally announce this wonderful gift for Don and our congregation. We can't wait to premiere the anthem during worship as soon as "live" choirs can safely resume, hopefully next fall.

From the Worship Committee

Virtual Worship Continues

Worship services will continue virtually until further notice. Join us Sunday mornings at 11am through Facebook Live or dial-in option (see details on front page). Virtual communion will be celebrated during worship on Sunday, February 7.



AV Volunteers Needed

Calling all church members with technical skills or interest— we invite you to apply to be part of the AV tech team that produces our virtual worship services on Sunday mornings. Training to run the cameras, audio, software, etc. will be provided. Please consider how you can help—the dedicated tech crew, which since March has devoted endless hours each week to make our livestream services possible, needs reinforcements! To learn more, contact Tom Force at tomforce58@outlook.com.



Ash Wednesday Service

To mark the beginning of Lent, a virtual worship service will be available for the congregation on Ash Wednesday, February 17. You may view the service anytime that day through the church website perintonpres.org or Facebook.

Lenten Devotional

During this season of spiritual renewal, you are invited to read a Lenten devotional from *Presbyterians Today* available at pcusa.org/2021lent. Daily reflections will explore the theme of shalom— the Hebrew word for "peace"— and what it can mean in our lives and bring into our world.



This is My Story — Starting February 10

The last three Sundays of January, we heard three of our staff testify to the light of Christ in their lives. We love to tell such stories and to hear such stories. The Bible is primarily the story of God's love for us: it is God's story for us to hear and enter.

On three Wednesday evenings coming soon, pastor Harry will be leading a mini-course in telling our stories. We will look at several Bible stories and work on writing our own stories of God at work in our lives. These sessions will be by zoom, from our own homes, with a limit of 20 participants.

Session #1: February 10, 7:30pm

Session #2: March 3, 7:30pm

Session #3: March 17, 7:30pm.

Please pre-register by : <https://thisismystory2021.eventbrite.com>

"Be the Bridge 101" — Starting February 3

This summer 12 church members participated in our "Be the Bridge 101" series of four conversations around race and understanding white cultural identity in the United States. This Christian-based curriculum opened the door for honest and supportive conversations around a topic that can be difficult to discuss. The experience was so impactful that the group wanted to provide an opportunity for additional church members to experience the course. Jeanne Gehret and Rebekah Burrill will be co-facilitating the new course this winter, Wednesday nights in February and March. We'll meet by Zoom Feb 3, Feb 24, Mar 10, and Mar 24 7-8:15pm.

Here's how to join the class:

Sign Up: <https://bethebridge2021.eventbrite.com>

Prep for the Class: Visit <https://bethebridge.com/btb101/> to download the course book simply scroll down and click the box entitled "Get the BTB101 Guide" (\$10). Please read pages 2-8 and complete activities on pages 9-10 in preparation for the first class (2/3/21).

Youth Group News

On Friday, February 19th, the PPC youth group will be holding a food drive to benefit the Perinton Food Shelf. Typically, the youth group would be heading off to Washington DC to serve the community and spread God's love through service at this time. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, work camp has been postponed for the safety of our youth group and the community. Instead of a traditional work camp during February break, the youth group will be focusing on serving the local community. We have decided to collect food for the Perinton Food Shelf which is a nonprofit organization that provides food, supplies, and meals to people in need in our community.

If you are interested in supporting the food drive, please bring your donations to the church parking lot on Friday, February 19th between 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm. The food shelf accepts food items in their original packaging that are not damaged or expired. Thank you for your ongoing support of the youth group!

**FOOD
DRIVE**

From the Deacons

We would like to reach out to anyone in our church family and let you know that we care about you and are there for you. Please contact your deacon if you have any concerns or if you just want to chat. The congregation is so blessed to have such an awesome worship committee and staff. Much appreciation to all.

Every January the deacons and elders have a combined meeting and this year we were grateful to participate in the "Star Words 2021" workshop. It was wonderful on many levels. We were fortunate to meet other ordained leaders, we were able to break up in to smaller groups to experience a more intimate conversation, we discussed the spiritual connections we had with our word based on Bible verses and lastly we shared how our words could benefit us with our leadership connections. To think we did this all through Zoom. Thanks to Rev. Laura for orchestrating the whole process.



Happy February 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

John Baker, Amber Birkland, Kerri Blake, Sarah Coats, Maddie Csont, Katherine Diehl, Mary DiPaolo, Larry Duca, Kim Fabrizi, Kathy Force, Adam Foskett, Christine Grimm, Anne Katlic, Robert Kester, David Knickerbocker, Betsy Lilley, Jerry Magee, Emily Miller, Meghan Miller, William Moore, Michele Platner, Andrew Pratt, Kurt Prister, David Ransome, Connor Rehkopf, Jaret Schug, Donald Smith, Bernard Trott, Jason Tuccio, Jessica Vanoost, Talia Wilke



Each month, we will be spotlighting one of the many organizations that you support financially, through your Stewardship pledge.

Mission Spotlight - BETHANY HOUSE

Bethany House is a nonprofit agency that was founded in 1978 in response to a growing need for emergency shelter and services for women and their children who are caught in the crisis of homelessness. For more information, you are invited to check them out at www.bethanyhouserocny.org.



Your Missions Team is in the process of updating the mission section of the PPC website. We hope to include photos of the various mission events taken over the last 5 years or so. To that end, we would appreciate your sending any photographs that you might have in your possession. Please e-mail them to my address dmfc.55@rochester.rr.com. If you have them in hard copy, you can mail them to the PPC office and Jill will forward them on to missions. Thank you, David Connelly

Online Fee Opportunity

We thank everyone who has taken advantage of the online/electronic giving platform over the last year. It has certainly assisted the cash flow of the church during these virtual times. The online transactions carry a fee of approximately 3% for credit/debit card and approximately 1% for ACH (electronic bank transfer)

The online software now provides the option to offset the fees that are incurred by the church for the transaction. There is a checkbox at the bottom of the online payment form should you wish to offset these fees. Thank you for your continued support

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request that you would like added to the prayer chain, please email it to Jill by Thursday's at noon. office@perintonpres.org

"...we have not ceased to pray for you..." (Col. 1:9)

**DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!**

All submissions for the monthly newsletter must be emailed to Jill no later than 9am on the 20th of the month. Formatting is not necessary, a simple Word Doc works well as often times graphics, certain fonts etc. do not copy over to the program I use very well causing much more work.

office@perintonpres.org

The numbers are in...

Stewardship Message

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

– Proverbs 22:9



Results through December

Below are the results through the end of 2020. This past year was a good year for the church financially. Our income levels remained strong even with the challenges we faced this year. We also benefited from the extra income we received through the 2019 Stewardship Challenge. In addition, our operating expenses were about \$20,000 lower than last year due to the building being closed and reduced church activities.

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

Perinton Presbyterian Church			
Summary			
12/31/2020			
Performance Year-to-date through Dec			
<u>INCOME</u>			
Operating Fund	\$	317,605	
Building Fund	\$	119,173	
Total Income			\$ 436,778
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Operating Fund	\$	312,956	
Building Fund	\$	117,684	
Total Expenses			\$ 430,640
<u>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</u>			
Operating Fund	\$	4,648	
Building Fund	\$	1,489	
Net Surplus (Deficit)			\$ 6,137

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

The Blue Envelope – 2021 Per Capita

People often ask – “What is the blue envelope for?” This is for the ‘per capita’ payment, which are the ‘dues’ we pay to PC USA. Every church is required to make payments based on the number of active members. The per capita for this year is \$35.14 per member. The total amount that we advance on behalf of the congregation is \$17,183 this year. These dollars support the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly. Please fill out the blue Per Capita Envelope that is in the envelope box and return it with your regular offering. If you are not using electronic giving, please indicate “Per Capita” on your payment.

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Website: www.perintonpres.org

Rev. Laura Fry, Pastor

Harry Heintz, Parish Associate

Julie Smith, Music Director

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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