

The GoodNews Connection

PERINTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2021



CONTACT US

www.perintonpres.org

6511 Pittsford Palmyra Road

P.O. Box 611

Fairport, NY 14450

585-223-1203

PASTOR

The Rev. Laura Fry

pastor@perintonpres.org

PARISH ASSOCIATE

Harry Heintz

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MUSIC DIRECTOR

Julie Smith

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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Jill Bazer

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CO-LEADER YOUTH MINISTRIES

Alexis Frederick

alexis@perintonpres.org

PIANIST

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

Holy Week

WORSHIP at PPC

*All worship services will be virtual only
(with the exception of Easter sunrise service)*

Worship online at perintonpres.org and Facebook

SATURDAY, MARCH 27 10am-12 noon *"Holy Week at Home" Bags*

Plans are underway by the Worship Committee to provide resources for our church family to celebrate and reflect at home during this special week. Take-home bags that include palm branches, prefilled communion cups, scripture readings, crafts and recipes will be available for drive-thru pickup in the church parking lot. Delivery can be arranged by calling the church office (223-1203) or your deacon by March 24th.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 11am *Palm Sunday Service*

Begin the walk with Jesus through his last week on earth. Children of all ages are invited to join in the Parade of Palms from home.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 7pm *Maunder Thursday Service*

Share in worship with Scripture, song and the Sacrament of Communion in remembrance of the Last Supper.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 12pm *Good Friday Service*

A meditation upon the Seven Last Words of Christ through word and special music. Service will be pre-recorded and available to view online from 12 o'clock on.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 7:30am *Easter Sunrise Service*

An informal outdoor service to greet the glorious morning! Social distancing and COVID safety rules will apply. Location details coming soon.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 11am *Easter Worship Service*

Traditional worship with festive music by brass quartet and PPC's virtual choir to celebrate this joyous day.



Dear PPC,

A few weeks ago, PBS aired a powerful series entitled “The Black Church: This Is My Story, This Is My Song.” The series expanded my understanding of this rich and varied part of our history as Christians and Americans and shed light on the profound contributions of black churches to our culture and theology. If you have not yet had a chance to see it, I highly commend it to you.

The series is available online at <https://www.pbs.org/weta/black-church/>

Early on in ministry, I learned a benediction that arises from the black church traditions. Attributed to S.M. Lockridge, a mid-20th Century Baptist pastor at an African American congregation in San Diego, the benediction has been adapted and shared many times over. The version I use goes like this,

It is Friday and darkness has fallen on all creation.

Death, it seems has won,

And sin had the victory over Jesus.

The tomb is sealed,

The stone in place.

It is dark, yes,

And this is Friday.

But Sunday's coming,

Sunday's coming.

As I reflect over the past 12 months with COVID, it seems that in many ways this whole year has been Good Friday. We have passed the 500,000 mark in number of Americans who have died from this disease. Life expectancy in the US has declined by one full year, and even more in African American and Latino communities. Here at PPC many of us have known people who have personally battled COVID and some in our church family have lost loved ones to it.

Yet even as we face this lingering darkness, and the long Good Friday of this year, we give thanks that there are bright signs of hope: increasing vaccinations, decreasing infections, and the joy of looking forward to worshipping together again in these coming months.

It seems we may now be leaving Good Friday, entering Holy Saturday, that Sabbath pause when the stone is still in place, yet we are nearer to the rising sun of Easter.

Let us keep on holding fast to Jesus, and to the joyous promise: Sunday's coming, Sunday's coming.

Pastor Laura



At our February 2 session meeting, we devoted significant time to consideration of how best to be neighbors to those surrounding our church land. When PPC was founded, the church purchased 5 acres and received a donation of an additional 12 acres from a neighbor. On the hill above the church, we have paths, mown in the summer, to provide hiking and walking trails to our neighbors and community. In 2020 a scout from Troop 209 completed an eagle scout project of enhancing the seating at the cross on the hill.

Due to some sporadic challenges with misuse of the land, the Facilities Committee installed beautiful “Yes and No” signs at access points to remind visitors of which activities are appropriate on church grounds.

One of the issues session has struggled with over the years is the balance of being stewards of the land entrusted to the care of PPC and relating faithfully with a few of our neighbors who wish to expand their yards onto the land originally donated to PPC. Following a property survey in 2020, we are carefully examining best practices moving forward, with the guidance of PPC’s legal counsel Ed Daniel.

Additionally at our February meeting, session approved office closure dates for 2021 holidays; received updates on COVID-19 from Dr. Kerry Katlic; identified a location in the narthex to display a beautiful painting of the church; approved updated job descriptions for our staff; and approved 2021 fees for guest worship leaders, musicians, funerals, and weddings. We also received a recommendation from the Stewardship Committee to intentionally recruit committee members in addition to inviting people to volunteer for service, and elected Mark Stevens our 2021 elder commissioner to presbytery.

Our next meeting date is March 2, when we will be welcoming new elders to join the meeting as part of their preparation for service on session beginning in May and discussing gradual reopening of our church building.

Worship
with us
from
HOME

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship at PPC will remain **virtual only** through at least Easter Sunday, with the exception of the Easter sunrise service. Although we're disappointed not to celebrate Holy Week together in the sanctuary for a second year, church leaders are committed to keeping our congregation and community safe while offering meaningful worship services with the broadest outreach. Session continues to reevaluate the COVID-19 situation monthly and, if all goes well, we're looking to resume limited in-person worship in the sanctuary later in April. Stay tuned for updates.

Nonetheless, a full offering of Holy Week and Easter worship services and activities has been planned by our pastors and music leaders, in collaboration with the Worship and Christian Ed Committees. Plans include such PPC traditions as palm branches, a communion service and children's learning activities as well as "Holy Week at Home" bags, a meditation on the "Seven Last Words" of Christ, virtual music by our choir and instrumentalists, and a chance to gather in person at an outdoor Easter sunrise service (on page 1).

See the full **schedule of Holy Week and Easter events** that follows for details. Please join us!

Parents— please note that **children's bulletins** are now posted on the church website each week. Click on the link for the regular liturgy to find options for ages 3+ and 7+ that you can print at home.

During this Lenten season of renewal, we invite you to read the **daily devotional** from *Presbyterians Today* at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021/>.



We certainly hope that everyone is healthy and warm. Brrrr. We would like to give a shout out to Jill Hammond for providing the inspiring Monday morning prayer for so long to our congregation. She stepping down from this role and we are fortunate to have her join the deacons in the near future. Thank you to Pastor Laura, Harry and Music Director, Julie, for providing us with the Monday morning prayer. Kudos to Bernie Trott for setting up the deacon and prayer team distribution lists.

We are excited to have Pastor Harry lead the three week mini-course "This Is My Story". This is in response to Laura's, Harry's and Julie's awesome "Testifying to the Light" sermons.

Thank you to Peter Judd and Jill Bazer for updating our church directory which will become available at the beginning of April. If anyone does not want their cell phone number or email address to be in the directory, please contact the church office.

Much appreciation goes to all of the members who donated items to the Perinton Food Shelf organized by the youth group. Good job Alexis Frederick for the wonderful announcement during the on-line church service.

We are so grateful for the many musicians we have at PPC. Ivanka, Julie and Julie's husband (Roy) certainly shared their musical talents at the Ash Wednesday service. BLESSINGS TO ALL.

2021 Lenten Project: February 17 – April 4, 2021



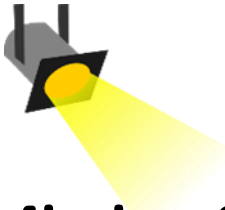
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

This year's **LENTEN PROJECT** will consist of collecting monetary contributions for PC USA's One Great Hour of Sharing. For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors around the world. This year our gifts will benefit the Pineridge Indian Reservation of South Dakota, help provide clean water infrastructure to remote parts of Bolivia, and aid the ministry of Black Women's Blueprint of service to victims of abuse. Among many other ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Project and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Texas.

If you wish to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing, you can send a check to Perinton Presbyterian Church, 6511 Pittsford-Palmyra Road, Fairport, New York 14450. Please write "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the memo line or give to One Great Hour of Sharing online at:

<https://ppc6511.breezechms.com/give/online>



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

Mission Spotlight - Cameron Community Ministries

Cameron Community Ministries is an Urban Outreach Community Center in the Lyell-Otis neighborhood of Rochester. They offer many programs including a free hot meal program serving lunch daily, an emergency food pantry, youth after school and summer programs, and a distribution center that serves the Rochester city neighborhoods in the greatest need for food, clothing, and housewares.

Cameron also provides a variety of services to the community including Phone, fax, and computer access, Health screenings, Onsite bike repairs, School supply, and book distributions, Referrals to social services, Job training, Holiday celebrations with toys and food. For more information visit www.cameronministries.org



cameron
community ministries

• OFFERING HOPE
• SERVING NEEDS
• EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

FROM JULIE SMITH...

You all know I love music, but you may not know that I LOVE baking. I recently learned that baked pretzels are closely associated with Lent. If you think about the twisted shape of a pretzel, you can imagine how it mimics arms folded in prayer. Many faith traditions link the pretzel with this season of wandering and prayer. As a part of PPC's Lenten preparations this year, I'd like to invite you to join me on our Facebook page on Thursday, March 25 at 7PM. I'll be doing a live baking demonstration, showing you how to make your own batch of soft pretzels. They are inexpensive, not difficult to make, and over-the-top delicious. Hope to see many of you that evening!



PPC Youth Ministry

Thank you so much for your support for our local service week 2021 Work Camp. With your donations, we were able to deliver 5 carloads of food to the Perinton Food Shelf and learn about their work and the realities of hunger in Monroe County. We hiked the Song Bird Trail at Mendon Ponds Park, experienced new ways to pray, and reflected on the people in our lives who have supported



us. We will be helping lead the Easter Sunrise Service (April 4 at 7:30am) and are starting a "Youth Ministry Visioning Team" engaged in leadership coaching with Elder Maureen Thayer. This team includes Mary

Kate Fish, Jen Wallace, Alexis Frederick, Jackson Dietz, and Laura Fry. We're excited to collaborate on our vision for youth ministry at PPC for the coming decade and beyond.

Youth Ministry Co-Leader Alexis Frederick and Pastor Laura Fry



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.

office@perintonpres.org

The numbers are in...

Stewardship Message

"Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others."

– Former First Lady Barbara Bush



Results through January

Below are the results through the first month of 2021. We are off to a good start and pray that the momentum continues.

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

Perinton Presbyterian Church			
Summary			
1/31/2021			
Performance Year-to-date through Jan			
<u>INCOME</u>			
Operating Fund	\$	21,950	
Building Fund	\$	10,467	
Total Income			\$ 32,417
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Operating Fund	\$	25,445	
Building Fund	\$	9,807	
Total Expenses			\$ 35,252
<u>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</u>			
Operating Fund	\$	(3,495)	
Building Fund	\$	660	
Net Surplus (Deficit)			\$ (2,835)

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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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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