

# The GoodNews Connection

PERINTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



November 2021

## CONTACT US

[www.perintonpres.org](http://www.perintonpres.org)

6511 Pittsford Palmyra Road

P.O. Box 611

Fairport, NY 14450

585-223-1203

PASTOR

*Rev. Laura Fry*

[pastor@perintonpres.org](mailto:pastor@perintonpres.org)

PARISH ASSOCIATE

*Harry Heintz*

[harry@perintonpres.org](mailto:harry@perintonpres.org)

MUSIC DIRECTOR

*Julie Smith*

[musicdirector@perintonpres.org](mailto:musicdirector@perintonpres.org)

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

[office@perintonpres.org](mailto:office@perintonpres.org)

PIANIST

*Ivanka Driankova*

CARETAKER

*Dale Olson*

Join us Sundays at 8:30 am and  
10:30 a.m. in-person or 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



## It's Thanks-GIVING Season at PPC

This month we have a wonderful array of opportunities to give to our community and world.

**Blessing Children with Operation Christmas Child:** Now through November 7.

This year we're asking everyone to donate items and we will pack the boxes during Sunday School. You may donate markers, crayons, pencils or pens, pencil sharpeners, erasers, pads of paper and coloring books, small toys such a ball, car, doll, stuffed animal, wash-cloth and soap, toothbrush, comb or brush, socks, hair clips, ribbons, barrettes, etc. Everything must fit into a shoebox and can NOT include war toys, candy or perishable food or liquids such as shampoo, nail polish, toothpaste or bubbles.

**Supporting "Mothers in Need of Others":** Now through November 11. MOPS/MOMS Next invites you to a baby shower for the Rochester-based ministry "Mothers In Need of Others." See page 4 for all the details.

**Welcoming the Stranger with Saint's Place:** Now through November 14

The PPC youth group is collecting new purchased or handmade hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for refugees arriving in Rochester this winter. Items will be delivered to Saint's Place in Pittsford. <https://saintsplace.org>.

**Feeding the Hungry with Joy Community:** Now through November 17. Help provide a delicious Thanksgiving dinner to families in Rochester: A display with requested items is available in the narthex.

## *Pastor's Letter:*



Just recently in worship I spoke about the power of using resources in ways that bring joy, intentionality, and purpose to our lives. When resources flow to us and through us in life-affirming ways, we steer clear of the slippery stones of stagnant wealth and step securely on places where God's gifts flow.

You may have heard the story Mark Stevens told in worship, of his parents' giving practices, with the challenge to give so the IRS takes note. You may remember the story I told earlier this fall, about my dad teaching me to give with both hands. Throughout stewardship season you'll hear more giving stories from members of our church family about the people and experiences that have shaped their practice of giving.

As you prepare to make a pledge to the ministries of the church, I want to encourage you to try two things:

Think about your own giving story, of the people or experiences in your life that have shaped your attitudes toward giving.

Think about what resources you anticipate flowing into your life in 2022.

Then consider what percentage you intend to commit to charitable giving—here at PPC and to the other organizations you are passionate about. For Christians the practice of making a Biblical tithe (a gift of 10% to the ministries of the local church) is a powerful way to ground our lives in gratitude and trust, sharing the bounty God has give to us.

Then make your pledge—a commitment to giving—with trust and joyful thanksGIVING to God.

## Session Update

At our October 5 session meeting we took the following actions:



Voted to recommend to the congregation that we reduce the number of elders on session from 16 to 12. The rationale for this reduction is that it is a more effective size for discussion and decision-making, rooted in the model of Jesus and the 12. No elders will need to step down for this change to take place.

We will be adding 3 new elders to fill spots vacated by elders concluding terms in 2022. The congregation will have a chance to learn more about this recommendation and vote on it during the January congregational meeting.

Discussed a coordinated strategy for use of the narthex and identified a team to initiate this conversation.

Authorized, with great joy, the use of the sanctuary for the wedding of Maureen Thayer and Jim Stone on November 27.

Authorized, with gratitude, the formation of “The Jean Larsen Hessney Memorial Fund” and “The Jean Larsen Hessney Endowment.”

Approved needed repairs to the church HVAC system.

Approved youth work camp, February 19-26, 2022 to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, pending no major changes in the situation with COVID. COVID guidelines including vaccination requirement for all participants and a negative COVID test result will be established and implemented

Approved special services for Christmas Eve: 5pm Pageant, 8pm: Candlelight, both of which will be offered in person and virtually. We will also offer a “Comfort and Hope” service, 100% virtually, at Christmastime.

Discussed with appreciation worship on October 3, 2021, with guest preacher Rev. Dr. Marlowe Washington.

Approved the use of the building for a Friday evening Eating Disorders Anonymous Group, the first of its kind in Monroe Country.

Additionally session enjoyed dinner at the home of Matthew and Jen Wallace on Friday, October 15. We are thankful to the Wallaces for their wonderful hospitality!

### **Announcing the Jean Larsen Hessney Endowment and the Jean Larsen Hessney Memorial Fund**

It is with deep gratitude that session authorized the creation of an endowment and memorial fund in honor of longtime church member Jean Hessney. Many of you knew and loved Jean, who served faithfully in many ministries of the church, including as an elder, Sunday School teacher, and member of the choir and bell choir. Jean and Larry Hessney designated PPC as a beneficiary in their wills, with a gift of \$20,000 to the church, to be used for music, Christian education, and facilities. Jean’s husband Larry worked with Peter Judd and Mark Stevens to set up both an endowment and memorial fund to steward this gift. We give God thanks and praise for the ways Jean embodied God’s loving and generous giving in life and in death. Thanks be to God for Jean and Larry, for their family and their dedication to the church, and for the ways Jean’s life and faith continue to minister to us.

### **Church Accountant/Bookkeeper**

*Do you have finance experience or just love working with numbers? Looking for a new way to serve God’s mission for our church? The Finance Team is looking for a volunteer Church Accountant/Bookkeeper. This person manages the Operating Fund aspects of the church so that all income, expenses, and fund balances are accurately controlled and reported. Just a few hours per month. Experience with Microsoft Excel needed. Experience with QuickBooks a plus. Training available. If you’re interested in learning more, contact Mark Stevens, Peter Judd, or Rev. Laura.*



## From the Deacons

From the Deacons...

The Deacons were able to host a funeral reception, October 4th, for Gerry Bolton, Kurt Prister's mother.

At the October 12th meeting the Deacons prepared boxes to be sent to our college freshmen with treats and messages of support from the PPC family.

Thank you for the submissions for our "Earth Angel." The person will be chosen at our November meeting and announced at an upcoming church service.

The Advent season will be here soon! Need an Advent wreath? Please let your Deacon know.

Have any ideas or concerns about PPC, services, church school, etc.? Please share any thoughts you might have with Pastor Laura, Pastor Harry or your Deacon. Open communication helps everyone.

Remember... you are on God's mind.

I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.

Isaiah 49:15-16

## Youth Mental Health First Aid

**Adults** please sign up now to join this two-part training with church member and mental health professional Mark Fish.

**Sundays November 14 and 21st from 12:30 - 3:30 pm**

**Register here or by calling the church office at 223-1203**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfychv57Hm0e2IPj5wIOQCegRG5mWLI0B14YP7J-FHUxlljSg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfychv57Hm0e2IPj5wIOQCegRG5mWLI0B14YP7J-FHUxlljSg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## **BABY SHOWER**

**NOVEMBER 11, 6-8:00 P.M.**

**PERINTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**TICKETS:** [evite.me/qDCmf9aucy](https://evite.me/qDCmf9aucy)

This meeting will be **IN-PERSON**. We will share a light meal at 6:00pm. Tickets are free, but you must RSVP via the link so we can plan for seating and food. **Everyone must wear a face mask when not eating/drinking.\***

This event is open to members & guests of PPC MOPS/MOMSnext and Perinton Presbyterian Church. This event is organized by PPC MOPS/MOMSnext and the PPC Missions Committee.

We are asking attendees to either bring a physical "gift" or a monetary donation to MINO. Checks can also be made out to "Project URGE, Inc." with "MINO Ministry" on the memo line.

Current Needs: Enfamil Neuropro in the yellow can and Enfamil Gentlease in the purple can, also diapers in sizes: preemie, newborn, sized 5 and 6 and Pull Ups and wipes. For a complete list of what MINO does (and doesn't) accept, please go to <https://projecturge.org/giving-guidelines>.

Mothers In Need of Others ministry assists social service agencies and churches by providing emergency items (baby items, personal and feminine hygiene products, and cleaning supplies) to care managers and church outreach workers for families in crisis. <https://www.projecturge.org/mino>



# Advent Project



Please join us on Sunday November 28 at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Family Advent Project. There will be no church school classes on that day so everyone can attend this activity with their family.

All supplies will be provided.

## **Advent Begins November 28!**

This year's advent theme is "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." We encourage you to set up your Advent wreath (if you need a wreath base, please let the office know--we have some remaining from last year). Special services include our music Sunday, December 19 at 8:30 and 10:30am, and Christmas Eve services: our 5pm pageant and 8pm candlelight service. All of these services will be in person and livestreamed. Prepare the way of the Lord!

## **2022 Stewardship Season**

This month we celebrate God's goodness with thanks GIVING! The Stewardship Committee invites you to join us in making a pledge to support PPC ministries in 2022. We are accepting pledges from now through November 14, our dedication Sunday. This year's campaign will be a little different than in the past. After considering various options, the session has approved changing to a Unified Budget starting in 2022. A Unified Budget combines our Operating and Building Funds into a single account. This approach will make pledging simpler for everyone and provides greater flexibility in using the gifts we receive to fulfill God's mission for our church. To learn more about this new budget process, you can speak to any member of the Stewardship or Finance Committees or contact Mark Stevens directly at [mwstevens63@gmail.com](mailto:mwstevens63@gmail.com)

## **Prayer Requests**

If you have a prayer request that you would like added to the prayer chain, please email it to the office by Thursdays at noon [office@perintonpres.org](mailto:office@perintonpres.org)

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



## Help Keep our Space Sparkling Clean on Sundays!

We are currently seeking volunteers to help with a quick sanitizing between services on Sunday mornings. We need two volunteers each week. This is a 10-minute commitment between approximately 9:20 and 9:30am and involves sanitizing door handles on our main level and pew backs between services with disinfecting wipes. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044FAAAC2DA1FD0-sunday>

## Holiday Bazaar

Thank you to...

... All youth who made ornaments, pallet trees, snowmen and other items sold at the Holiday Bazaar on October 23.

... Parents of our youth who helped at crafting sessions, set up on Friday, worked at the bazaar and helped clean up.

... Mary Cooney, Linda and Eric St Phillips, Robbyn and Terry Drew, Chris Routier, Karen Braun, Rollin Pickering, Becky and Paul Girouard and our office staff

... All of the shoppers who supported our youth and the other vendors. We had many positive comments from the vendors about the day, our facility and especially our youth who helped carry in boxes in the morning and in various ways during the day.

Snowmen ordered will be ready on November 21!



## Operation Christmas Child

Once again our church school kids will be collecting items to fill shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child. Last year we filled over 50 boxes thanks to the generosity of our church family. We will collect items through November 7th. Donations may be left in the bin in the upstairs

hallway. We typically include markers, crayons, pencils or pens, pencil sharpeners, erasers, pads of paper and coloring books in addition to small toys such a ball, car, doll stuffed animal, washcloth and soap, toothbrush, comb or brush, socks, hair clips, ribbons, barrettes, etc Please remember that everything must fit into a shoebox and we can NOT include war toys, candy or perishable food or liquids such as shampoo, nail polish, toothpaste or bubbles. Any questions? Ask Sherri Frederick, Jonelle Kohl, or Cyndi Besig



# FINANCE

## UPDATE

The numbers are in.....

### Stewardship Message

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." – Aesop

### Results through September

Below are the results through the first nine months of 2021. We continue to run a small deficit in both the Operating and Building funds, but our overall cash position remains strong due to lower than expected expenses.

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

Perinton Presbyterian Church			
Summary			
9/30/2021			
Performance Year-to-date through September			
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Operating Fund	\$	196,706	
Building Fund	\$	<u>86,304</u>	
Total Income	\$	283,010	\$ 283,010
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
Operating Fund	\$	200,680	
Building Fund	\$	<u>88,263</u>	
Total Expenses	\$	288,943	\$ 288,943
-			
<b><u>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</u></b>			
Operating Fund	\$	(3,975)	
Building Fund	\$	<u>(1,959)</u>	
Net Surplus (Deficit)			<u>\$ (5,933)</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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **Important COVID Updates**

As cold and flu season arrives, we want to remind everyone of our COVID safety practices at PPC:

If you are feeling unwell, please stay home and rest. If you are signed up to help with something at church, call the office (223-1203) and we will find a replacement for that role until you are feeling better.

We urge everyone to get vaccinated against both COVID-19 and the flu.

Thank you all for your cooperation in wearing masks in the church building.

Please maintain a safe distance from all those not living in your household.

Food may be served in accordance with the following guidelines:

Food is served by designated individuals wearing gloves and masks (no serve yourself/buffet option.)

Individually wrapped utensils are provided.

Masks may be removed to eat, provided individuals are seated approximately 3' apart.

Handwashing and sanitizing is encouraged.

We thank you for helping PPC stay open as we strive to safely navigate the pandemic.

### **Religious Exemptions Q and A from Pastor Laura**

As employers are increasingly requiring COVID vaccination, I have been asked whether a religious exemption is something our church can provide. The Presbyterian Church (USA) does not provide religious exemptions to vaccination. It is the theological stance of our denomination, and a strong conviction that I share as an individual pastor, that our faith, and commitment to love our neighbors as ourselves, compels us to join in world-wide public health measures, including vaccination.

The Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) writes,

*"The theological commitments of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) compel us to support vaccination against COVID-19 for all people except those who are unable to receive the vaccines due either to age or medical condition.*

*Because we believe in the God who urged the people of God to "seek the good of the city" (Jeremiah 29:7) where they were located, a city that was not even their native home, we urge all people to be vaccinated. Because we are followers of Jesus Christ who requires us "to love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), we urge all people to get vaccinated. Because we confess, as a matter of our religious belief, that "the members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics" (Confession of 1967), we urge all to seek the good of all, to love their neighbor and get vaccinated."*

Recognizing that there are some members of the church and our wider circles of friends, family, and colleagues who, due to age or medical condition, are not yet eligible for vaccination, it's kind to let them know if you are spending time with them and have not yet been vaccinated. If you would like to talk more about your own decision on vaccination, or learn more about our theological teachings on this subject, Pastor Harry and I are both available and most willing to talk with you.



# Perinton Presbyterian Church

6511 Pittsford-Palmyra Road

## Mailing Address

P.O. Box 611

Fairport, NY 14450

Tel (585) 223-1203

office@perintonpres.org

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

Dale Olson, Caretaker

## Worship Time:

Sundays 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Facebook Live or Call-in Option

# The GoodNews Connection

Perinton Presbyterian Church  
6511 Pittsford-Palmyra Road  
P.O. Box 611  
Fairport, NY 14450-0611

