



Connections Newsletter

We Believe - We Hope - We Act - We Connect

From the Pastor's Desk

APRIL 2024

Dryden UMC

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Dear Friends,

Last year I wrote to you how flowers were starting to sprout, and the birds were beginning to sing. Today when I look out the window, I see snow. We are experiencing a lake effect snowstorm. One of the very few snows of the season, and possibly the last. Wow. How things change in a year.

Last year when I wrote the April newsletter article, we were excited to re-start the Community Dinners and we were not allowed to use the parking lot. Wow! How much has changed in a year. We are allowed to use the parking lot, and the community dinners are going strong (even with the short break for January and February). Isn't God wonderful!

Many things change in life. One of the changes we are currently experiencing in Dryden UMC is the life cycle of a congregation. We have reached that point where we have fewer people able to contribute to the ministries of the church than we have people who are benefiting from those ministries; and more financial need than we have financial resources. We are at the point where we can no longer 'kick the can down the road.' We are at the moment when decisions about the future of Dryden UM Church need to be made.

There is going to be an all-church meeting on April 20th to discuss our options and to brainstorm ideas. You can read a letter from Jennifer Dick, the chair of the Administrative Council, later in this newsletter. Change is always hard, but ultimately change is a part of God's plan for creation and for us. Just look outside your window at the changes from last year to this year, and from yesterday to today. I hope to see all of you on April 20th as we wrestle with how we are going to stay the same, and how we are going to change in the years ahead.

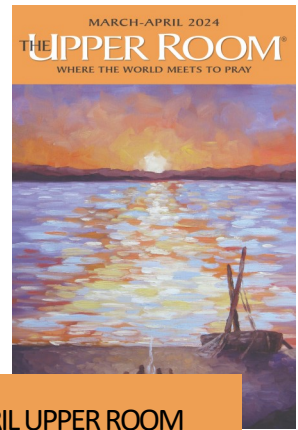
Your Sibling In Christ,
Robyn



April Birthdays

Sharon Hamilton
Rich Winter

4-24
4-25



THE MARCH/APRIL UPPER ROOM
IS AVAILABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

The Rummage Sale

RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING

Friday May 3rd, 9am - 6pm

Saturday May 4th 9am - 12noon - \$2 Bag Day

Items to donate may be brought in starting Sunday April 28th through Wednesday May 1st from 9am to 6:30 pm.

Sign-up sheet to help the week of Monday, April 29th through Wednesday, May 1st and then for the sale dates will be out in a couple of weeks before the sale.

We will need your help!!!!



The WEB Program would like donations of **Granola Bars in April** and **Ramon Noodles in May**. Your donations help to feed children in Dryden at risk of hunger on the weekends.

Since the beginning of 2024 we have collected microwave popcorn, fruit snacks, and pudding cups. Any of these items can be added to your grocery list and donated at any time. WEB works because many people care and volunteers at Dryden Elementary School make it happen! Thank you!

If you prefer not to shop a check can be mailed to DCSD with WEB written on the memo line. The check can be mailed to Dryden Central School; P.O. Box 88, 118 Freeville Rd.; Dryden, NY 13053.



COFFEE HOUR

Volunteers are needed to provide & serve refreshments following the 11am worship service on designated Sundays. There is a "sign-up" sheet in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great time for fellowship with your church family!



If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact: Karen at drydenumc@gmail.com
If you are receiving this newsletter by e-mail or snail-mail and would like to be removed from the list, please e-mail or call the church office at 844-9861.



APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 07

2nd Sunday of Easter

Robyn on Vacation

Janice Downey Preaching

April 14

3rd Sunday of Easter

Native American Ministries Sunday

In Honor of our First Nations Peoples, we will be including a bulletin insert each week from Crys Zinkiewicz. Zinkiewicz is from Nashville, TN (ancestral homeland of the Cherokee Tribe). She is on the Communications Team for the UM Creation Justice Movement, a United Methodist EarthKeeper, and part of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Creation Care Ministry Team. These inserts give information and ideas about how to celebrate and care for creation. Our worship will focus on the First Epistle of John.

11 am Worship Service

Scripture: 1 John 1:1-2:2

Message: We Walk in the Light

April 20

ALL CHURCH MEETING

2-4pm

April 21

4th Sunday of Easter

11 am Worship Service

Scripture: 1 John 3:1-7

Message: We Purify in Hope

April 28

5th Sunday of Easter

11 am Worship Service

Scripture: 1 John 3:16-24

Message: We Abide in Christ



Tompkins Trust Company has announced it will host its **annual Shred Day on Saturday, May 8** at the East Hill Plaza. This free event will be open to the public from 9am to 12pm.



General Conference...

Friends, General Conference will begin on April 23rd and conclude on May 3rd of this year. While there are certainly a few exciting issues being discussed both in churches and by news agencies, this General Conference will be addressing concerns lifted up since the deadline before the canceled 2020 General Conference. There will be 1,099 resolutions considered during this time. Some of these resolutions can be adopted by the General Conference while others will require constitutional amendments requiring approval from Annual Conference (local churches), but there's definitely a chance that some decisions will result in discussion and action by local congregations and charges.

As General Conference can change the way we relate to the world around us how the world sees us, we invite you to be in prayer from the 23rd of April to the 3rd of May. Please consider following along by reading the official news of the UMC: umcnews.org



SPRING TREATS

Mini Cheesecakes

16 oz. cream cheese

½ Cup Sugar

2 Eggs

1 tsp. vanilla

Mix together above ingredients till smooth.

Vanilla wafer cookies

In a cupcake pan, spray each compartment.

Add one vanilla wafer to the bottom of each cup.

Fill each cup ¾ full with cheese mixture.

Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

Cool completely. Top with your favorite toppings.



Cherry Pineapple Coke Salad

16 oz. can of Royal Anne cherries, pitted

20 oz. can of crushed pineapple, drained

6 oz. Cherry Jell-O

2 cups fruit juice drained from cherries and pineapple

12 oz. can of Coca Cola

1 Cup chopped nuts

Drain juice from cherries and pineapple. Add water to make 2 cups. Pit cherries. Heat juice to boiling and add Jell-O, stirring until dissolved. When cool, add coke and let chill in fridge until partly congealed. Last add cherries, pineapple and nuts. Pour into a 1 ½ Quart mold or bowl. Refrigerate.





A Church-Wide Meeting April 20th 2-4pm in Fellowship Hall

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
-Jeremiah 29:11-



On Saturday April 20th the Administrative Council is inviting you to attend an important meeting regarding the future of our church. As many of you are aware, our funding for the operating costs is at a critical level. Last fall the Finance Committee requested the transfer of funds from the Reserves line in order to insure meeting the increased operating costs we are facing in 2024. The number of congregants is down and therefore our pledges and contributions are down. As we look ahead to building the 2025 budget it will be necessary to make changes.

What changes do we want to embrace? Where do we move from here? How do we continue to meet our financial obligations? What are some ways we can use our building to reach more Dryden citizens? This meeting will be the first of several we will have during the next few months. Such important decisions need input from **ALL** our members and attendees. We want and need your ideas. With your input, along with God's guidance and love, we seek to find the answers together. Please plan to join us on the 20th.

Fellowship Hall: 2:00 – 4:00pm
Coffee, Cookies and Conversation

Administrative Council:
Vivian Collins, Jennifer Dick, Janice Downey
Sharon Hamilton, Nancy Hart, Pastor Robyn Hays, Jim Minor, Cathy Paddock
Judy Starr, Hummy Van DeWeert

Church Treasurer:
Charlie Hart

Real change,
enduring change,
happens
one
step at
a time.





Selections from *“Talking with God in Old Age: Meditations and Psalms”*

by Missy Buchanan

Submitted by Judy Starr

Be Still

You’d think someone like me would be an expert on being still.
I spend so much time sitting in my recliner and resting on my bed.
Just being still. Even so, I am very restless.
There’s no blaring TV to disturb me.
No neighborly chatter to divert my attention.
Just a noise in my soul that keeps me on edge.
I’m led to wonder what impact my life has, now that I’ve grown old.
But it seems to be a one-sided conversation.
Is silence the language you speak, God?
Don’t you have anything to say to this old one?
About long life and the challenges it brings?
About what will happen when I die?
And so I ask you to simply quiet my mind.
Help me to be still in your presence and know that you are still God.

Psalm 46:10a “Be still, and know that I am God.”

In the Mirror


Old age crept up so slowly. I hardly noticed.
One day I was middle-aged. Then I was old.
Now I look at the image in the mirror and wonder how I got this way.
I barely recognize myself.
Sagging head and stooped shoulders.
Gray-haired and frail.
This tent of a body has served me well, but now it is tattered and worn.
I think you must see me better than I see myself, Lord.
Can you still use an old body like mine?
To smile through a wrinkled face?
To caress a child with my liver-spotted hands?
Give me fresh motivation for today.
And purpose until I’m all used up.

Psalm 71:18 Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.





April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 2pm Yoga Robyn on vacation	2	3 5:30pm Dinner (HC)	4	5 10am MBK 7pm AA Mtg.	6
7 Janice Downey preaching/no communion 11am Worship Coffee Hour following the service 4pm Wired Word	8 2pm Yoga	9 7pm Trustee Mtg. (dumc/zoom)	10 5:30pm Dinner (UMC)	11	12 10am MBK 7pm AA Mtg.	13 2pm Celebration of Life Lou Eltscher
14 11am Worship 4pm Wired Word (zoom)	15 Newsletter items are due 2pm Yoga	16	17 5:30pm Dinner (CL) 10:30am Finance Mtg. (in-person only) Conf. Rm.	18	19 10am MBK 7pm AA Mtg.	20 Second Wind Luncheon 2-4pm All Church Mtg. FH
21 11am Worship Coffee Hour following the service 4pm Wired Word (zoom)	22 2pm Yoga	23 7pm AD Board Mtg. (dumc/zoom)	24 5:30pm Dinner (UMC/RH)	25 10am Outreach Mtg. (in-person)	26 10am Last MBK 7pm AA Mtg.	27
28 11am Worship 4pm Wired Word (zoom)	29	30				

Prep for Rummage Sale



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