

PRC CONNECTIONS



PULTNEYVILLE REFORMED CHURCH

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Rev. Eric Titus



January 2022

VOLUME XL

ISSUE 1

Pultneyville Reformed Church
P.O. Box 94
Pultneyville, NY 14538

From our Pastor

God's Blacksmiths

Christmas can be exhilarating and challenging. It can also be a time that brings people joy while for others it brings a sadness. I remember our last Christmas in Croatia, that it was a joy but at the same time we were profoundly sad to be leaving our students, friends, and colleagues. All of this was rushing together because we were leaving almost immediately after Christmas to return to the States. How to deal with a dozen different emotions became a challenge. A greater challenge than all this however was still before us, how to deal with the unknown future ahead of us as we returned to the States. This is the way it is with transitions. The passing of years is one way we mark in our minds transitions and wait for what the new year has in store for us. But, the more important reflection is: what does God have in store for us?

I hope that 2021 was wonderful for you. I know that for some of you, you met the promise of God and rejoiced, and I rejoiced with you. And yet for many of you (and us) 2021 meant facing enormous roadblocks, heartaches, loss, disappointment, serious illness, and the death of loved ones. My prayer for all of you is that 2022 would be a year of blessing.

The prophet Zechariah is filled with Divine vision. One is of four horns and four blacksmiths. The horns represent negative powers over the lives of God's people. They had been kept down by the horns, so much so that they could not even lift their heads. Despondency had overcome hope and the promises of God fractured in their heart so that not even a fragment remained. But God then points out the blacksmiths who are coming with fire, hammer, and anvil. Their purpose is to terrify the powers and to strike down the horns to bring a restoration of God's people. This would mean hope and promise to the people would be restored and that those things and people who have broken God's people would have their power broken by the blacksmiths of the Lord. I'm praying that those Divine blacksmiths of Zechariah's prophecy would come to your life.

But something else must take place. When the horns are broken, Zechariah's visional writing has a literary interlude of which we must take note. There is another promise here. The Lord says that anyone (horn or power) that touches you, "touches the apple of his eye." Therefore says the Lord I am coming to dwell in your midst. There is singing and rejoicing with the hearing of this promise. Then almost as waking from a slumber Zechariah notes that "God has roused himself from his holy dwelling," and then Zechariah says "be silent, all people, before the Lord." It is as if now the Lord will speak and act on his people's behalf.

Continued

So how do we deal with that unknown future before us at the beginning of a new year? We pray for the Divine blacksmiths to come. When the horns are broken we lift our heads to sing and rejoice. We rouse God through this to come from his holy dwelling place to be with us in our broken midst. We remain silent and anticipate that the Word of God is ready to speak and act for our restoration and redemption. I pray for you a New Year filled with the presence of God.

Happy and Blessed New Year to You All,
Pastor Eric

Caring Hands



January Meeting Dates

Thursday, January 6th 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 15th 9:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 20th 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 29th 9:00 a.m.

Our Missionaries

Nathan & Nozomi Brownell

Kenneth, Raymond, Luke

Japan

www.rca.org/brownell

Felipe & Janell de Waard-Silva

Luca, Sofia, Mila

Romania

www.rca.org/silva

Our Liturgists

January 2 John Manahan

January 9 Donna Reuter

January 16 Margie Setchell

January 23 Charlotte Buehler

January 30 Kate Orbaker

Thank you for your prayers and support this past week! I truly believe this made a difference in my sense of peace on Thursday, guidance of the medical care team and comfort now, while I heal. Special gratitude to Pastor Eric and Mark Lagoner for their calls and care.

In Christian love.....

Charlotte Buehler

PRC— Sandy and I continue to be blessed by God's love and the love received from so many. We thank you all for your continued prayers! We have started a new phase of chemotherapy! Whatever the future holds for us we know God the Father holds us in His arms!

Merry Christmas

Tom and Sandy Briggs

Thank
You

Thank you to everyone who; prayed, called, emailed, visited and sent cards during and following my knee replacement surgery. A special thank you to Caring Hands for the bright and cheerful quilt that I have been using daily - it reminds me of all your prayers, kindness and brightened my day when I was discouraged.

- Alison DeMarree

Dear Family of Pultneyville
Reformed Church,

I want to extend to all of you my thanks and appreciation for your generosity and kindness this Advent season. Your gift was truly a blessing in many ways and certainly brightened my holiday season. You are a wonderful and thoughtful congregation.

Peace,
Pastor Eric

Prayer changes the world, but first us!

100-year prayer meeting sends missionaries

By Nancy Titus, Missions Chair

Imagine a group of oppressed people seeking refuge on your property and the community you build becoming the nucleus of a worldwide mission revolution fueled by unceasing prayer that literally lasted for a century.

This is the story of Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, a man from a leading European family who made Christian unity and spreading the gospel his life work.

In 1727, his Moravian community began an around-the-clock prayer “watch” that continued for more than 100 years. One result of those continued prayers was the sending of more than 300 missionaries to the farthest places on earth — from a community of roughly 600. That prayer watch began with 24 men and 24 women covenanting to spend one hour a day in scheduled prayer.

As I began work with the PRC Missions Committee, I reminded them as I try to remind everyone, that missions is not primarily about money. When we were raising support to go to Croatia, I often said that \$1 million would not meet the needs my family would find there even though that would be much more than our expected budget! We needed prayer first and foremost. (Certainly, our experience bore that out.)

In the months ahead, we as a congregation will be invited to join with hundreds of thousands of people praying biblical prayers of hope for our communities and for people who do not have saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. These efforts will cost us — in commitment, time, and yes, very possibly, obedience as we truly seek the coming of God’s Kingdom.

Back to Count Zinzendorf.

He was born in Dresden, Germany, in 1700 and was raised by his grandmother and aunt in a climate of prayer, scripture reading, and hymn singing. Even as a child, his devotion to Christ was pronounced. At age six, a group Swedish soldiers came upon him at his customary devotions and were awed by the way he spoke and prayed.

In 1722, a Moravian approached him about allowing a group of ten refugees to live on his land. This community became known as Herrnhut. By the following year, it had grown to 90. Former Catholics, Separatists, Reformed and Anabaptists later moved into the community, and by 1726 its population swelled to 300.

Serious squabbles began over differences in worship, economic pressures, and language difficulties. With all this trouble brewing, Zinzendorf moved his family into the community and began to pastor this disparate flock.

The first two missionaries were sent to St. Croix. Others followed. Even though 22 of the first 29 died, they kept on praying and sending people in what Zinzendorf called “a formidable caravan” to places such as Greenland, Lapland, Georgia, Surinam, South Africa, Amsterdam’s Jewish Quarter, Algeria, Ceylon, and Romania. Zinzendorf himself, together with others, gave Bethlehem, Penn., its name and made it his base from which to reach Native Americans.

Churches had sent missionaries before this, but it was the Moravians who considered the missionary task as the duty of the whole church, lay and clergy alike. They had a contagious form of Christianity and as displaced people were quick to take on the work of itinerant evangelism.

Women's Retreat 2022

It is now 2022 and the Women's Retreat is a few weeks away. Our title for the weekend event is **Mission Possible: EDC***. If you choose to accept the Mission, the sign up sheet is posted in Trinity Hall. The weekend of January 21-23 we will be at Camp Fowler staying in Chi Rho Conference Center. I'm excited about the plans for our weekend together but also apprehensive about the best way to run a retreat while maintaining safety during Covid. Details about the retreat will be sent to individuals signed up. Any questions, concerns, or ideas - feel free to contact me at tonja-jane1@gmail.com. Tonja

Sunday, January 2nd

The Missions Committee will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Come-Unity Center. Baskets are available in Trinity Hall and Shalom Lounge for your donations.

Communion on

Sunday, January 2nd

The Communion Offering is designated for the Church World Service. Church World Service is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

Congregational Meeting

Our Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 9th immediately following worship.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Bob Hopkins, Tom Moenter |
| 6 | Sophia TenClay |
| 7 | Paul Heilman |
| 9 | Tracy Watson |
| 13 | Petra TenClay |
| 21 | Matt Yost |
| 22 | Dick Baxter, Ron Cole, Peter DeNagel |
| 23 | Andy Fox, Tim TenClay, Emma Vos |
| 25 | Rick Vos |
| 28 | Annaliese Reuter |
| 29 | Kendall Shultes |

Family Promise Update

Family Promise of Wayne County continues to operate a full program. There are currently two families in the Savannah apartments and two in the Lyons apartments for a total of 4 families consisting of 18 people. The final two Lyons apartments are nearly complete which will result in the phasing out of the Savannah apartments, saving the program time and money. One family will be graduating and transitioning to their own apartment around January 1st. FPWC has now been operating just over three years. During this time we have helped 36 families consisting of 96 children in the apartment/rotational model.

During 2021, the apartment program has seen 10 families graduate into stable housing, 100% of which continue to be in stable housing. Of all families that entered into the program this year, 93% graduated into stable housing. FPWC's goal for 2022 is to double the number of families graduating into stable housing. The biggest challenge this year has been the lack of affordable housing available, leading to longer stays in the program. Our current wait list consists of 10 families.

The program does continue to have weekly "hosts" that provide check-ins and some food to the families. Most Monday nights and occasional Fridays, families eat dinner with host volunteers at the Day Resource Center, offering a chance for interaction and conversation. This has become time families and volunteers look forward to.

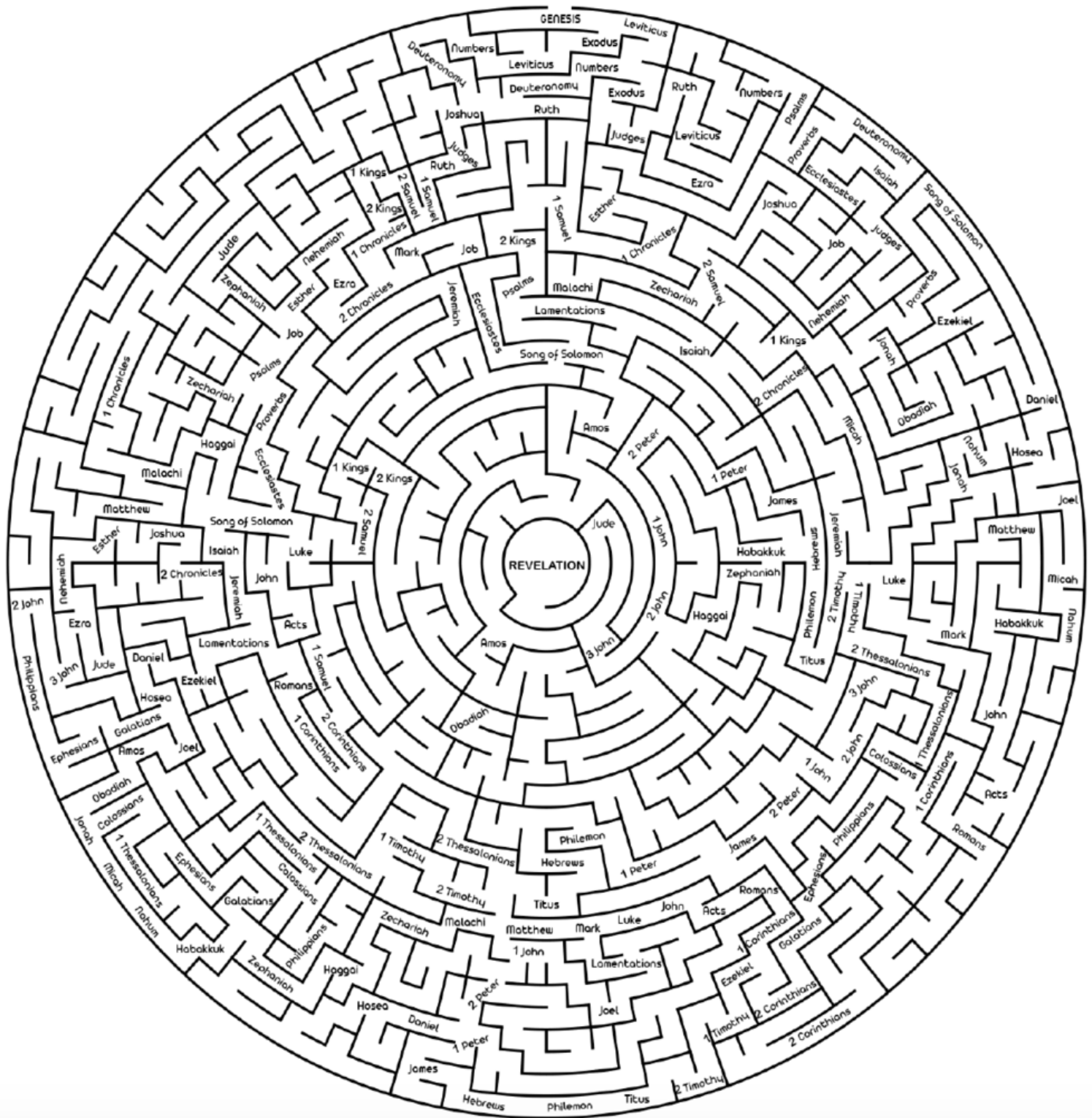
On December 19th, the program had a holiday gathering for current and graduate families of the program. Santa visited and children opened gifts generously donated by a couple of volunteers. It also allowed for families to reconnect with some of our volunteers as contact has been limited this year.

The Greater Rochester Health Foundation provided funding to Family Promise in an effort to support those in need of rental arrears, security deposit or first month's rent for Wayne County families. Family Promise started taking referrals on June 1, 2021. Since that time, 14 families (53 people) have received support which includes 36 children. This has allowed families to maintain their stable housing as well as provide opportunities for families to secure permanent housing. ROTH (Roof Over Their Head) is currently receiving an average of three applications per week.

Family Promise and Help Us Move In (HUMI), a nonprofit "on a mission helping children to escape homelessness by engaging communities in sustainable solutions," are eager to announce the next stage of their partnership. Family Promise of Wayne County is very fortunate to have been selected by HUMI to participate in their \$20,000 challenge grant to secure funding for families to either maintain their current home or move into a new one. There will be more information on the grant challenge in 2022.

As always, we thank you for your prayers and continued support. The need is great and we would not be able to operate without your support. We look forward to a great 2022!





Our Homebound Church Family



Marilyn Bixby
Wayne County Nursing Home
1529 Nye Road
Lyons, NY 14489
Birthday: March 7th

Don DeMarree
900 Cherry Ridge Blvd.
The Glen – Apt. 118
Webster, NY 14580
Birthday: April 17th

Louise Hermetet
Victor Views
1440 Rt. 444
Victor, NY 14564
Birthday: September 25th

Jennie Hubright
Solstice Senior Living
55 Ayrault Road Room 113
Fairport, NY 14450
Birthday: October 19th

Anne Hotchkiss
6186 Willow Drive
Williamson, NY 14589
Birthday: September 21st

Alice Morgan
2301 Lake Road
Ontario, NY 14519
Birthday: March 27th

Ruth Naylor
St. John's Home
150 Highland Avenue
South 481A
Rochester, NY 14620
Birthday: September 29th

Dave Scheffinger
1016 Railway Crossing
Webster, NY 14580
Birthday: June 30th

Jo SomDeCerff
4233 Scarlet Sage Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Birthday: October 25th

Ray and Lorraine Walvoord
4281 Congdon Road
Williamson, NY 14589
Birthday – Ray: June 2nd
Birthday – Lorraine: October 21st

Financial Report

1/1/21 – 11/30/21

| | Starting Balance | Income | Expenses | Balance |
|---------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Operating Fund | 0 | 130,266.84 | 142,627.56 | -12,360.72 |
| Benevolent Fund | 0 | 23,870.37 | 17,633.65 | 6,236.72 |
| Capital Improvement | 28,318.00 | 404.14 | 466.73 | 28,255.41 |

Daily Scripture Readings

Saturday, January 1

New Year's Day; Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Sunday, January 2

Second Sunday after Christmas

Monday, January 3

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Tuesday, January 4

Psalms 147:12-20

Wednesday, January 5

Ephesians 1:3-14

Thursday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord; Matthew 2:1-12

Friday, January 7

Luke 3:15-17

Saturday, January 8

Luke 3:21-22

Sunday, January 9

First Sunday after Epiphany

Monday, January 10

Isaiah 62:1-5

Tuesday, January 11

Psalms 36:5-10

Wednesday, January 12

I Corinthians 12:1-3

Thursday, January 13

I Corinthians 12:4-11

Friday, January 14

John 2:1-5

Saturday, January 15

John 2:6-11

Sunday, January 16

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Monday, January 17

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Tuesday, January 18

Psalms 19:1-6

Wednesday, January 19

Psalms 19:7-14

Thursday, January 20

I Corinthians 12:12-26

Friday, January 21

I Corinthians 12:27-31

Saturday, January 22

Luke 4:14-21

Sunday, January 23

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Monday, January 24

Jeremiah 1:4-8

Tuesday, January 25

Jeremiah 1:9-10

Wednesday, January 26

Psalms 71:1-6

Thursday, January 27

I Corinthians 13:1-3

Friday, January 28

I Corinthians 13:4-13

Saturday, January 29

Luke 4:21-30

Sunday, January 30

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Monday, January 31

Psalms 138

Consistory Directory

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Pastor

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Paul Heilman

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Gary Orbaker

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gary.orbaker@gmail.com

January 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 8:40 Choir 10:00 Worship | 3 | 4 7:00 Deacons | 5 | 6 12:00 Caring Hands | 7 | 8 |
| 9 8:40 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Congregational Meeting | 10 | 11 | 12 7:00 Elders | 13 | 14 | 15 9:00 Caring Hands |
| 16 8:40 Choir 10:00 Worship | 17 | 18 | 19 7:00 Consistory | 20 12:00 Caring Hands | 21 | 22 |
| 23 8:40 Choir 10:00 Worship | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 9:00 Caring Hands |
| 30 8:40 Choir 10:00 Worship | 31 | | | | | |