

Pennfield Press

April 2019 Newsletter

*Newsletter of the Pennfield Presbyterian Church –
Growing Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship*

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Pastor's Message

Dear Friends

After the evening Lenten study, I went briefly to my office to turn off the lights, when one of the members waved me back into the Library. I had seen the large framed chalk painting there many times it shows a lush, verdant landscape of hills and meadows in varying shades of green against an azure sky. And, I had noticed the purple neon white light attached to the upper end of the frame. But I never knew its purpose. What I now saw left me speechless. The Library lights had been turned off with only the white light illuminating the painting. And what did it show? Not the landscape or sky, but a prominent silhouette of Jesus.

The season of Lent is to help us see Him. Beyond the ordinary of everyday, beneath the common sights and sounds, there is Christ. We can discern him as the still small voice in our conscience, the subtle presence behind our everyday activities, the gentle lead beneath our meandering daily walk. When we take the time to pause, to reflect, to meditate on his word, he becomes more real and everpresent to us.

The problems that weigh on us, the irritating incidences, and the annoying habits of our neighbor lose their grip on us. As we draw near to Christ, he draws near to us. Our perspective becomes adjusted and our priorities move back into focus, so that what seemed important before looks now more like a speck of dust.

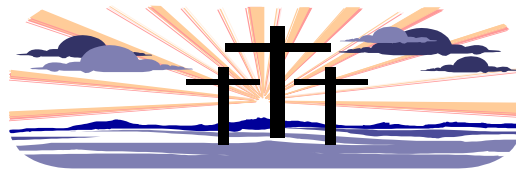
*Christ
is
Risen!*

We are in the final stretch of Lent and look ahead to Holy Week and Easter. On **Sunday, April 7**, we will celebrate communion while remembering that this was the last meal before his death that Jesus shared with his disciples. On **Palm Sunday, April 14**, we will process into our sanctuary while waving palm branches and singing “Hosannah.”

Leading in this processional will be our liturgical dancers under the direction of Susan Jordan. We will hear the passion narrative performed as a drama with the congregation taking the role of the crowd. On **Maundy Thursday, April 18**, we will worship at the First Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek in a joint service at 6 p.m. And on **Easter Sunday, April 21**, we will join the women who at the break of dawn entered Jesus' tomb only to find it empty.

“Christ is risen,” we hear people say on that day; and we respond with, “He is risen indeed.” May Christ show himself during these upcoming weeks as the image of God, the ruler of nations, the closest friend you could ever have.

With love and joy, Pastor Annemarie



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP
Sunday, April 14 at 10:00 a.m. ...Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 18 6:00 p.m. ... Maundy Thursday
(meet at First Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek)

Sunday, April 21 at 7:30 a.m. ... Easter Sunrise service
Sunday, April 21 at 10:00 a.m. ... Easter Service



Lenten Luncheon Series

The Second Missionary Baptist Church has invited the public to their annual Lenten Luncheon Series which began on March 6 and ends on April 17. The theme is “Living Connected because we are connected to Christ.” They provide a free lunch and a different pastor will give the meditation each week. The schedule is: April 3, Pastor Roxie Perry; April 10, Pastor Denry White; April 17, Chaplain Brent Folkema.



Palm Sunday Procession

If you would like to be part of the group leading the congregation in during the procession on Palm Sunday, doing a few simple dance/arm movements, please plan on staying for a brief meeting (10-15 minutes) on Sunday, April 7, right after worship service. For questions, contact Susan Jordan.



Easter Flowers

This year we are offering Tulips and Daffodils for \$5.75 and Lilies for \$7.00. The deadline to order is April 3. Please complete the form at church or call the office with your request.

PROPERTY

A big thanks to all who painted and cleaned the classrooms downstairs. It was a big job but everything is repaired and cleaned. Come and check it out. –Lois Shubert, Chair of Property and Finance



Garage Sale

Our garage sale will be on Thursday, May 16 and Friday, May 17. Now is a good time to clean out the basement and bring the stuff to church for our sale.

Spring

Spring is coming and we need green thumbs to help us keep the flowers blooming and free of weeds. Any lilies that are not taken home after Easter will be planted in our yard. If you are willing to help, please let Lois Shubert know.

FROM THE SESSION

Update on Lower Level Space Rental

For the past two months, the Session has been in negotiation with a prospective renter of the lower level education wing. Jacqua Realtor has drafted a rental agreement for three years has carefully reviewed it and added some clarifications and which the renter has agreed. The renter intends to use the Christian pre-school that operates Monday through Friday 8 to 5 p.m. (Yes, our church may be filled with children and families all through the week, and perhaps on Sundays too.)



and the Session stipulations to space for a a.m.

Many volunteers have been working very hard to clear the rooms of stuff, stuff, stuff; and they have scrubbed, painted, and refurbished walls and shelves so everything looks clean and bright and ready to welcome little children and babies. The renter has currently requested from the state a site visit for licensing of their pre-school facility and operation. This visit may occur as early as this month. While there may need to be made some adjustment to comply with state code, we hope that these adjustments and modifications will be minor. We the Session and the renters are all agreed that this development is God-driven and God-given. No one could have foreseen, nor engineered, such a fortuitous and speedy turn of events. Let's praise God for it and hold it in our daily prayers!

--Pastor Annemarie S. Kidder



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Gift of the Heart Kits

To help those who are disaster survivors throughout the world, we are encouraged to participate in the “Gift of the Heart Kits”. PW has chosen the cleanup bucket as their project. As you can see from the poster at church, Church World Service is helping in any way that is needed. If you are able to purchase an item for our bucket, feel free to take a card that suggests the items needed and bring it to our bucket sitting by the stairway.

PW Spring Gathering

Lake Michigan Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering is at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven, MI on **Saturday, April 27**. Registration is \$15.00. This year’s theme is “All are welcome here”. Speakers are from Firsthand Aid and The People Center. If you are interested in attending, contact Gay Noble.

Future PW dates

- May 4 Church Women United Friendship Day
- June 4-7 Ladies’ Day at Gull Lake Ministries
- June 11 Tri-Church Salad Supper at Pennfield Pres.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



New Yoga Class to start up again

What a great turnout for our first round of Beginner’s Yoga with over 25 students enrolled!

Starting **Monday, May 6**, we will offer another 6-week yoga class with Amanda Wallace . The class will meet on Mondays at 9 a.m. in the Music Room. It will kick off on May 6 and run through June 17. There will be no class on Memorial Day. The cost is \$7.00 person, per session.



Prayer Breakfast

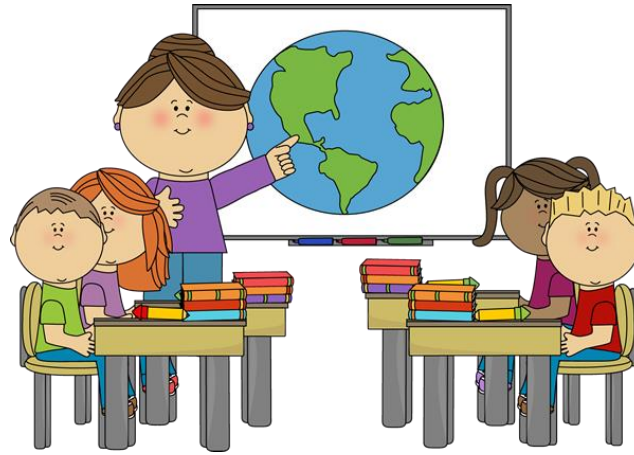
The Battle Creek Prayer Breakfast is on **Tuesday, May 7, at 7:25 a.m.** at the Kellogg Arena. The theme is "Faith, Hope, Optimism". Our guest speaker is Austin Hatch a University of Michigan basketball player who survived two plane crashes. He will be sharing an uplifting message of faith and dedication. Ticket price is \$15. The application form is on the bulletin board in the narthex.



Upcoming Memorial Services

In our February newsletter, condolences were sent to Karen Grant and family upon the death of Chuck upon the death of Chuck 1/30/2019. Chuck and Karen were members of PPC from 1971-1999 and Karen was our secretary from 1975-1999. A committal service for Chuck will be held on **Monday, April 22**, at 11:00 a.m. at Fort Custer National Cemetery with the Rev. Leon White officiating. A light lunch will follow at the church.

A memorial service for Kay Edgerton Withee, daughter of Jesse and Alex Edgerton, will be held on **Sunday, May 5** at the church. Kay taught music and owned a dance studio. Kay died on Feb. 14, 2019 at age 73 in Punta Gorda, Fla. A reception will follow at the church.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

NEW Summer Tutoring Program to Launch

This summer, we will kick off a collaborative program with Purdy Elementary school. This means, that four six weeks during the summer, we will help tutor elementary school children in either basic reading or basic math. The school's principal is excited about this partnership, as are we.

Children and tutors will meet twice a week here at church, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Curriculum will be available from the school. Parents will bring children to us and pick up. The start is **July 8 and end is August 14.**

At this point, we are collecting names of potential tutors (and, praise God, we already have a good number of volunteers who have said yes). Even if you are not available for all six weeks, or can volunteer for only a portion of the summer, we would welcome your contribution. There is a sign-up sheet in the Lobby, and we hope to see your name on it. This is a great way to minister to the children and families right here in Pennfield Township. Let's make a difference in one child's life through Christ, who calls all children unto him.



FOOD PANTRY AND FOOD BANK

Don't forget the annual Food Bank of South Central Michigan (FBSCM) challenge continuing through April 30 at Meijer's on Beckley. The Food Bank will do a 10% match for all donations made during this time. Since this challenge is a main source of income for the Northeast Pantry, it is important that donations to the pantry be made during this period.

In the spirit of Lent, instead of "giving up" something, "give to" the Northeast Food Pantry. On **Sunday, March 31 and April 6** there will be brown grocery bags in the narthex. Please help fill these bags with canned goods (vegetables, fruit, soup), spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, pasta, bar soap, laundry powder and toilet paper. We always need baby items (food, diapers, cereal).

Thank you for helping feed the hungry. Any questions, see Laurie Riley. Note: Esther Rayburn collects empty egg cartons for the Food Pantry which you may drop off in the Library.



SERMON COPIES AVAILABLE

Printed copies of Pastor Annemarie's sermons are available in the Narthex. If you would like an e-mail copy, please contact Burrel Stults.

NEW ADDRESSES, EMAILS, ETC.

Dick & Barbara Walker Lakeview Senior Living 14661 Helmer Road, S. Apt. 30
Battle Creek, MI 49015

Glea Anthonissen 5300 Betmar Drive Zephyrhills, Fl 33543 813-780-9215

Joyce Elferdink 1700 Robbins Road Grand Haven, MI 49417

Kathy Garms email - kgarms.1945@gmail.com

Kathy Heath email - kheath13@comcast.net

Joan Jarrard email - joanjarrard40@comcast.net

Karen Lewis email - lewis49017@sbcglobal.net

Orv Stevens email - orvanddor@gmail.com

Elinor Thorpe email - ellie32848@gmail.com



Pastor on Vacation the Week after Easter

Pastor Annemarie will be gone from Monday, April 22 through Sunday, April 28. The pulpit will be filled by Thom Outman, who will lead us in worship with a dramatic enactment of an Easter scene and a solo. For pastoral needs, please contact the co-moderators of deacons, Ruth TenBroek and Dan LaValley.

SERVERS DURING APRIL

OPENER:

April 7 Darrell VanVleet
14 Bill Rothney
21 Dan LaValley
28 Burrel Stults

USHERS:

April 7 Marcia & Darrell VanVleet
14 Richard & Kathy Adler
21 Dan & Cathy LaValley
28 Eric & Beth Tucker

COMMUNION USHERS:

April 7 Darrell & Marcia VanVleet
Kathy Lyon & Cathy Walsh

GREETERS:

April 7 Esther Rayburn & Christine Ayres
14 LuAnne Pierson & Kathy Lyon
21 Dennis & Sandy Shaffer
28 Marcie & Darrell VanVleet

LAY READER:

April 7 Carla Stine-King
14 Trina Sleper
21 Cathy LaValley
28 Bill Rothney

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION:

April 7 The Jordan Family
14 Erin & Sara Galloway
21 The Atma Family
28 Dennis & Sandy Shaffer

LOCK UP:

April 7 Bruce Newhard
14 Bill Rothney
21 Mark Atma
28 Mark Baxter

NURSERY:

April 7 Bart & Trina Sleper
14 Elsie Page & Joan Jarrard
21 Bruce & Karen Newhard
28 Burrel & Deanna Stults

COUNTERS: Darrell VanVleet & Bev Grimes

SERVERS DURING MAY

OPENER:

May 5 Bruce Newhard
12 Dan LaValley
19 Bart Sleper
26 Mark Atma

USHERS:

May 5 Bruce & Karen Newhard
12 Glenn Alday & Dan LaValley
19 Jim & Lois Fleming
26 Mark Atma Family

COMMUNION USHERS:

May 5 Dan & Cathy LaValley,
Karen & Bruce Newhard

GREETERS:

May 5 Esther Rayburn & Rosemary Hahn
12 Bill & Sandi Rothney
19 Debbie Trayer & LaJean Hewitt
26 Marti & Nelson Dull

LAY READERS:

May 5 Burrel Stults
12 Aaron Jordan
19 Cathy LaValley
26 Trina Sleper

COFFEE & CONVERSATION:

May 5 Marcia & Darrell VanVleet
12 PW
19 Lila Back & Elsie Page
26 Bruce & Karen Newhard

LOCK UP:

May 5 Burrel Stults
12 Mick Shubert
19 Bart Sleper
26 Steve Higgs

NURSERY

May 6 Trina & Bart Sleper
13 Elsie Page & Joan Jarrard
20 Bruce & Karen Newhard
27 Burrel & Deanna Stults

COUNTERS: Debbie Trayer & Kathy Heath

 **BIRTHDAY
GREETINGS**

Apr. 2: Dolores Carter
6: Trina Sleper
7: Tracy Goll
14: Joann Preston
Corey Shubert
18: Eric Tucker
19: Helen Yates
27: Jan Moore

