



Pennfield Press

December 2019 Newsletter

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

Dear Friends,

We are in the season of Advent. The word “Advent” means coming. We are awaiting the coming of our Lord, his birth in and among us. Waiting is tedious and needs to be learned. We practice it each day, at the red light, in the grocery line, at the post office, by the phone. We wait for our turn, for being able to move forward, for connecting with the person who can help us.

The church year teaches us to wait twice: during Lent and during the four weeks leading up to Christmas. Both times are penitential periods, which means we are invited to do less and do with less: less noise, less activity, less seeking to be in a crowd. This of course goes against the culture, which is laden with jingling noise and constant appeals to consume.

This Advent season you can prepare your heart by trying to be more patient with others and also with yourself. You can resolve to talk less and pray more. You can spend a little more time with the church bulletin by taking it home and reading the prayers and re-reading the scriptures used in worship. And you can set aside an intentional time to be quiet and meet with the Lord—perhaps in the morning and again at night for a little more than usual.



For the next five weeks, we will be visiting the story of the Nativity. We will join the company of John the Baptist and of Mary and Joseph, as they travel to Bethlehem. And we will find that we are not so different from them as they await and witness the birth of the Christ child.

The Advent and Christmas season is a favorite one for many of us, especially children. What if we tried entering this season with the expectation of that of a child?

The poet David Redding wrote a poem, titled “Adult Advent Announcement”

O Lord, let Advent begin again in us,
Not merely in commercials;
For that first Christmas was not
Simply for children,
But for the wise and the strong.
It was crowded around that cradle,
With kings kneeling.
Speak to us who seek an adult seat this year.
Help us to realize,
As we fill stockings,
Christmas is mainly
For the old folks —
Bent backs and tired eyes
Need relief and light
A little more.



No wonder it was grown-ups
Who were the first
To notice such a star.

So let's wait and see what this child holds in store for us. Let him be your guide in all worldly affairs, your light that gives warmth and gladness, your fountain of peace, and your steady companion. Then it will be Christmas truly, this season and all through the year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pastor Annemarie



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

We will celebrate Christmas Eve on **Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.** The worship service will include lessons and carols, a sermon, and the candle-lighting ceremony.

Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for light refreshments as we celebrate the birth of Christ our Lord.



Stewardship & Mission Update

The Spirit of God has been truly reawakened in our church in 2019 and will shine even brighter in 2020. This year's stewardship theme was "Building Up the Body of Christ". It is based on the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians where we are encouraged to enlarge God's kingdom on earth (Eph. 2:21-22). In doing so, we are building upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ as our cornerstone. While I don't have audited number to report at this time I can tell early numbers are encouraging and reflect our members faith and commitments to doing God's work. If you have not returned your Pledge Card, please return it as soon as possible.

Also, you may have noticed that we have changed the name of the Stewardship Committee to include "Mission". This reflects the committee's expansion from just a fall Stewardship committee to a year around focus including our Church's Mission commitments. Beginning this January, the committee will be meeting monthly. The committee has been charged with the task of reviewing our current Mission activities as well as new Mission opportunities. This has not been done for a number of years. We hope to expand further our ministries of worship, mission, fellowship, and education by continuing to reach out to the community and making connections for the sake of Jesus Christ. If you would like to be part of the committee, or have thoughts for our Mission work please contact Tom Beaver.

Blessings,
Tom Beaver
Stewardship Chair

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. " CORRIE TEN BOOM



A Big Thanks to Our Musicians

With our Music Director on leave of absence through the year, we are immensely grateful to our accompanist Gayla Metzger and organist technician Jay Moore for filling in on short notice and making our worship service so meaningful musically. A big thank you also goes to soloists and instrumentalists who will be singing and playing for us this month and next. They are Kathy LaValley, the family and friends of Gayla Metzger, Aaron Jordan, Carla Stine-King, Susan Jordan, Christine Ayres, Alexis Ballard, Woody Booher, and Jay Moore.



In October we welcomed six new members to our church family.

Aaron Jordan

Aaron Jordan first came to Pennfield Presbyterian Church in early 2015 after first hearing of the church from his mom, Susan. He officially joined as a member this October, and is excited to continue to be a part of the Pennfield Presbyterian family. Aaron is a television news journalist, who is about to rejoin WOOD TV in Grand Rapids as a producer for the station's weekday morning show. He is a frequent liturgist at our church and will join the Worship and Music Committee. In his spare time, Aaron enjoys golfing, watching sports, and spending time with his family and dog, Cooper.

Durwood (“Woody”) Booher

Woody is a long-time Michigan resident. He and his wife, Jeanne, were married for 51 years until her death. They had two children, Doug and DeeDee, and three grandchildren: Charlie (21) is a student at Michigan State; Kirkland (18) and Gracie (15) attend school at Westlake High School in Austin, Texas. Kirkland is a starting quarterback and Woody is looking forward to a possible trip to Texas to see him play. Woody was self-employed for most of his life and is currently retired enjoying traveling. He and his partner, Rosemary Hahn, are looking forward to a trip to Aruba in January and a trip to Florida in March. He is active in our church as liturgist and occasional member of the choir.

Steve Phillips

Steve worked as a pipefitter at Westrock for 43 years before retiring. He had three children with this first wife, Chassidy, Casey, and John. He and his current wife of 20 years Saskia have one son, Alex. He and Saskia were married in this church by Pastor Al Sandalow. Since Steve's job required him to work seven days a week, he was not able to attend church. Upon retirement (and the gentle urging of Lois Shubert) he began to attend Pennfield Presbyterian Church. Because of his skills, he quickly became involved with the Property and Finance Committee keeping the grounds and the church building in good repair. His latest work is the wrought-iron railing up to Fellowship Hall.

Joy Lou-Katherine Thomas

Joy began attending Pennfield Presbyterian Church at the urging of Rev. Annemarie Kidder whom she met while working as the front desk manager of the hotel where Pastor Annemarie is staying. Joy has seven children, three of them living with her. She has been a steelworker, a C.N.A., a housekeeper, and a hotel manager. Her three children attend worship with her; Isabelle is 8, while both her older daughters, Alanalee and Margaret, will be enrolled in confirmation class this January. Joy lists her interests as gardening, choir, sewing, and cleaning.

Nicole Martinez

Nicole began attending Penfield Presbyterian Church at the urging of Joy Thomas and Rev. Annemarie Kidder. She has four young children, Sean, Nicayla, Karmin, and Tessa. Nicayla is currently attending worship with her mom. Nicole is a housekeeper and stay-at-home mom. She previously attended Battle Creek Baptist Temple of Battle Creek. Her areas of interest include reading, crocheting, and meeting other Christians.

Rachelle Narovich

Rachelle joined our church as an associate member. She began attending our church after having met the Rev. Annemarie Kidder at the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe. Rachelle was born and raised in Marquette, MI, and she lives in Tennessee. She has been a member of Morrison Hill Christian Church since 2005 and travels much for her work as a valve and pipe-fitting specialist. Rachelle helped with our landscaping efforts and the church yard sale. She attends our church whenever her job takes her to the area. She has three grown children and is currently taking religion and Bible classes at a Christian university.



Looking for Soloists

Since we are without a choir during this Advent and Christmas season, we are looking for singers and instrumentalists to lead us in worship. If you are willing to play or sing, please contact the Chair of Worship and Music, Kathy Lyon, or Pastor Annemarie.

Confirmation Class



Confirmation Class to Start on Sunday, Jan. 19

We as a Session are very excited to be offering a confirmation class at our church. The class will run from January through March and meet every two weeks during the Adult Education hour. Pastor Annemarie will be teaching the class. Each confirmand will have an adult mentor who will join us for class and with whom they may meet during the week. We currently have five students enrolled. If you have a youth that has not been confirmed, please contact the church or Pastor Annemarie.



Children's Sunday School Classes

Each Sunday during worship, except on Communion Sunday, which is the first Sunday of the month, Sunday School classes are offered for children. A big thanks to our committed teachers!

Leadership of Our Church

For questions regarding programs and activities in our church, please contact the chair of the respective session committee or the moderators of deacons.

Administration and Personnel—Bart Sleeper (Elder, Chair), Tom Beaver (Elder)

Christian Education—Kathy Heath (Elder, Co-Chair), Laurel Riley (Co-Chair)

Evangelism and Fellowship—Cathy Walsh (Elder, Co-Chair), Jeanette Higgs (Elder, Co-Chair)

Interpretation and Stewardship—Tom Beaver (Elder)

Property and Finance—Lois Shubert (Elder, Chair), Jim Noble (Elder), Don Preston (Elder)

Worship and Music—Kathleen Lyon (Elder, Chair), Lois Shubert (Elder)

Moderator of Session—The Rev. Annemarie S. Kidder (Teaching Elder)

Moderators of Deacons: Ruth TenBroek and Dan La Valley (Co-Moderators)



Deacon's Corner

This year the Deacons are providing baskets of food and gifts to nine families. Each baskets cost us between \$65 and \$90. The names of needy families were given to us by Purdy Elementary School. In addition we have received a few other names. The Deacons will be providing food for a Christmas dinner and also give gifts to each member of the family. Suggested gifts are posted on a tag on the Deacons bulletin board. Please take one tag as soon as possible, shop for the gift, and return the wrapped gift with the original tag on it to church no later than **Sunday, Dec. 15.**

Currently the Deacons' envelope is in the pews. Your financial contributions will support the Deacons' ministry throughout the year and especially during this Christmas season. We appreciate your generous gift.
--The Board of Deacons



Going Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 1

The Deacons invite the congregation to join them in going caroling to our homebound members. We will meet at 4:45 p.m. at church for carpooling and return to church for a light supper.

New Yoga Class to Start on Jan. 20

In mid-January we will welcome back Yoga instructor, Amanda Wallace.

Her six-week yoga session will start on Monday, Jan. 20 and meet again at 9:00 a.m. in the Music Room. The cost is \$48 for all six sessions or \$10 per session per person.





Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child

Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has brought joy to 146 million children around the world through Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts. As of Dec. 1 the volunteers in Battle Creek had packed 10,000 shoeboxes to be shipped overseas this year. You can participate locally by donating items and/or volunteering the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9am to noon, at the Covenant Hope Youth Center.

Suggested donations or craft supplies: crayons & pencils; hair bands & clips; miniature stuffed animals; match box size cars; empty prescription pill bottles; yarn & ribbon; scrap fabric over ¼ yard & felt squares; fishing line & hooks; Q-tips & small Band-Aids; decorated duct tape & letter-size envelopes; used greeting cards picture side; stationery & decorated typing paper. We will begin workshops again in January 2020, so continue saving items for us.



Adult Education Classes to Meet through Dec. 15

--Bible Study on the Epistle to the Philippians

In December, we will study Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. Our study guide is by N. T. Wright, former Bishop of Durham and professor of New Testament. Copies of the study guide are available in class. The class meets in the Library.

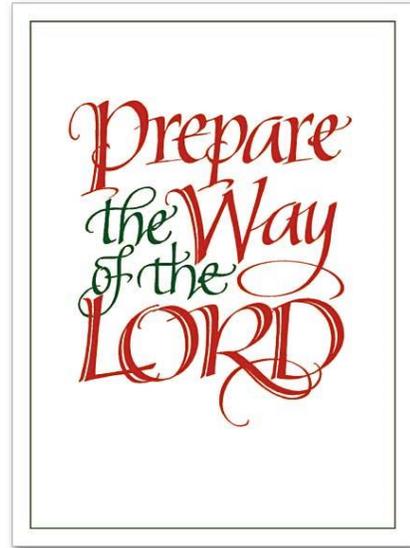
--Wired Word "Contemporary Issues" Class

Topics vary and range from socio-critical to economic, religious, and social justice issues. The class meets in the Music Room.

Please note there will be no Adult Ed Classes on Dec. 22 and Dec. 29.

Pastor's Bible Study

Each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. we will meet in the Library to study the upcoming preaching text with Pastor Annemarie. Each Sunday the upcoming preaching text will be in the bulletin. The study will meet Dec. 3, 10, and 17.



Next Board Meeting

The next PW Board meeting will be **Jan. 27, 2020** at 1 p.m. All women of the church are invited.

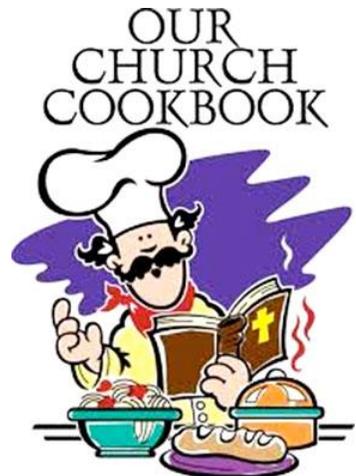


The Mitten Tree

Our mitten tree is up and ready to receive any hats, mittens or socks to be given to the Charitable Union. We appreciate your generosity.

The Gift of a PW Cookbook

Still looking for a stocking stuffer or that special gift? Our church's PW cookbook contains some of the most mouth-watering recipes you might want to try out this season. Copies are available at \$20 from the moderator of Presbyterian Women, Gay Noble.



Previous sermons

Copies of previous sermons are on the table in the Narthex.



New Chair Lift Installed—and Up and Running

Our new Acorn stair lift is now up and running. New batteries were installed and a brand new key was made because the former key needed for operating had been inadvertently removed and was nowhere to be found. Please do not remove the key. Happy riding!

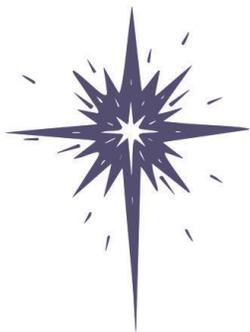


Duty List of Servers

The 2020 Church Duty list will be sent out by email on Dec. 2. We have made some changes so please look this over carefully and let the office know if something should be changed for you. If you did not get a list but would like to be active in the church duties, please call the office. Remember that changes can be made at any time just by calling the office. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Membership Fee for our Denomination for 2020

Our 2018 membership is 128, obligating us to pay \$4,505.60 this coming year. The per capita/membership rate for 2020 was set by our Presbytery at \$35.20 per member. Our Session concurred with the distribution of these funds: 38% goes to General Assembly, 1% goes to Synod, and 61% goes to the Presbytery. We would appreciate very much if you could pay your personal per capita fee early in the year.



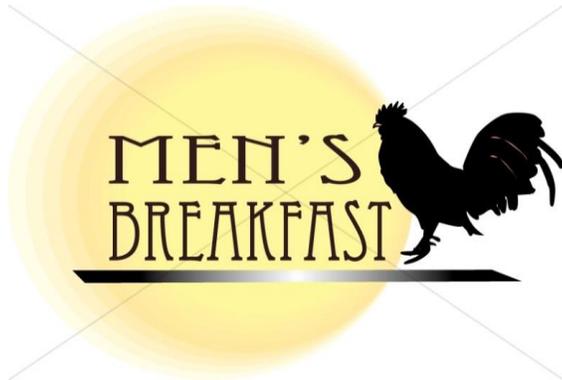
Christmas Joy OFFERING

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families. It also offers support to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken up on **Dec. 24** during our Christmas Eve service. If you would like to make a donation you may do so by marking your check “Christmas Joy Offering” on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

Hannah Circle Bible Study

The Hannah Circle will meet for the PW Horizon Bible study on **Tuesday, Dec. 17**. We will meet for lunch at 12:30 followed by the Bible Study at 1:00 p.m. The study will be facilitated by Pastor Annemarie. Study books are still available in the Library for \$10.



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

The next men's breakfast will meet at 7:00 a.m. on **Sunday, Dec. 1**. We will cook breakfast and study the preaching text for that Sunday. All men are invited and be sure to bring a friend.

Prayer Chain

Our church has a prayer chain. All prayer requests will be kept confidential and participants are those currently serving as Deacons. Please direct prayer requests at this time to the co-moderators of the Board of Deacons, Ruth Ten Broek and Dan LaValley.

North East Neighborhood Food Pantry Needs

The NorthEast Neighborhood Food Pantry Holiday "Simply Give" campaign will run through **Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020**.

Double Match Days are **Tuesday, Dec. 3 and Friday, Dec. 13**. Meijers on Beckley is our partner.

Family Fare receipts are still needed. Any receipt of purchase from the Family Fare stores can be put in the basket on the table in the narthex. When our pantry has received \$150,000 worth of receipts, Family Fare will donate \$1,000 to our food pantry. Every little bit makes a big difference! Volunteers are always needed.

Egg cartons are still welcome as eggs are an ongoing project for the Food Pantry.



Commissioning of Leaderdog Patron

On Sunday, **Dec. 8**, we will be commissioning Harry Scheuffele's new leaderdog, Patron. We are so glad that Harry has received a new companion that will take him by the hand and lead him safely along the path.

SERVERS DURING
DECEMBER

OPENER:
Dec. 1: Mick Shubert
8: Tom Beaver

15: Darrell VanVleet
22: Mark Baxter
29: Lois Shubert



GREETERS:

Dec. 1: Lois & Mick Shubert
8: Burrel & Deanna Stults
15: Tom & Chris Beaver
22: Jay & Sally Moore
29: Bruce & Karen Newhard

USHERS:

Dec. 1: Sally & Jay Moore
8: Tom & Chris Beaver
15: Darrell VanVleet & Eric Tucker
22: Mark Baxter & Mick Shubert
29: Burrel Stults & Lois Shubert

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Dec. 1: Jay & Sally Moore
Deanna & Burrel Stults

LAY READER:

Dec. 1: Tom Beaver
8: Trina Sleper
15: Mitch Hull
22: Joy Thomas
29: Jay Moore

LOCK UP:

Dec. 1: Mick Shubert
8: Jay Moore
15: Ross Jarrard
22: Don Preston
29: Burrel Stults

COFFEE & CONVERSATION:

Dec. 1: Lois & Mick Shubert
8: Jay & Sally Moore
15: Rosemary Hahn & Woody Booher
22: Debbie Trayer & Susan Jordan
29: Bev Grimes & Carolyn Hammond

COUNTERS: Cathy Walsh & Kathy Lyon



Dec. 19: John & Linda Baxter
Dec. 29 Burrel & Deanna Stults

Dec. 3: Brad Gestring
Kathy Adler
4: Beth Tucker
9: Kathy Lyon
10: Aaron Jordan
11: Nathan Hahn
Elsie Page
12: Karen Newhard
13: Jeanette Higgs
Michael Lockett
17: Sandy Prince
18: Cathy Walsh
Elijah Brown
19: Morgan Martens
Christine Ayres
21: Cathy LaValley
Allison Baxter
LuAnne Pierson
29: Jeremy & Joel Sleper
Joshua Tucker
30: Cleashae Crowder

If we are missing your Birthdate or Anniversary date, please let the office know.

Remembering in prayer our members and friends:



Marshall Hlatko, Harry Scheuffele, Helen Yates, Chuck Romine, Char Pierce, Jack Hagist, Dolores Carter, Don Farrington, Joann Williston.

December 2019

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
1 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 4:45 PM Caroling Communion	2 9:00 AM Yoga	3 11:00 AM Bible Study Presbytery at Forrest Hills	4	5	6 9:00 AM -3:00 PM HEART Homeschool	7 6:00 PM K. Shott - Recital																																																																																																		
8 Two Cents a Meal	9 2:00 PM Property & Finance	10 11:00 AM Bible Study	11	12	13 9:00 AM -3:00 PM HEART Homeschool 5:00 PM Rehearsal	14 12:00 PM Wedding																																																																																																		
15 Deadline to bring wrapped gifts	16 5:30 PM Deacons 6:00 PM Session	17 11:00 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Hannah Circle	18	19	20 Homeschool Potluck	21 8:00 AM -5:00 PM Laurie Riley																																																																																																		
22 No Adult Ed.	23	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27 No Homeschool	28																																																																																																		
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