

Pennfield Press

January 2020 Newsletter

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

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Dear Friends,

The little town of Frankenmuth is only a few hours away. Located in Saginaw County, the town is a recreation of a Bavarian village, replete with authentic Bavarian architecture and food. Best known is the town's Christmas store, Bronner's, with its wide range of Christmas displays and decorations. Bronner's billboards are found throughout Michigan throughout the year. It has sometimes struck me as odd to be reminded of Christmas when we are off season, but now I think, Why not?

As we enter a new year, a new decade, why not move into it with the daily heart-felt joy about Christ's birth! Why not be more like the Christ child, playful, expectant, trusting? Why not practice living in the moment, savoring each day given to us, each glimmer of insight about ourselves, about the nature of God? Yes, this mysterious God has come to us in the flesh, so we can see what God is like. And "he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness." Therefore, each day can be a little Christmas Day, filled with wonder.

This month we see the Christ child only once more, during the Feast of Epiphany. Then before long, he is being baptized by his cousin, John, in the River Jordan and begins his earthly ministry.

Our own earthly ministry continues this month with much activity.

On **Sunday, Jan. 5** we celebrate the beginning of a new calendar year. We take stock of the gifts received this past year, friendships, love, hope, and the gifts we will share with others and this church in the year to come. In preparation for this worship service, why not make a list of this "gift exchange," a mix of gratitude and the willingness to give.

On **Sunday, Jan. 12**, we celebrate Epiphany, the feast where the wise men from the East bring gifts to the Holy Child. In the Eastern churches, this day is Christmas Day, so we will have one more chance to sing Christmas carols and ring in with them the New Year. We will also celebrate communion that day so as to be strengthened and equipped for a new beginning together. After worship, our Christmas decorations will come down—unlike in Frankenmuth, and we hope you can stay to help us pack them away.

On **Sunday, Jan. 19**, we celebrate Jesus' baptism as well as our own. John Calvin says that we should "remember our baptism daily." Think and pray about what your baptism means, and why it makes a difference in your life. That same day after worship, our confirmands meet and begin their journey toward confirmation and church membership.

And on **Sunday, Jan. 26**, we encounter Jesus in the early stages of his ministry, teaching and calling his first disciples. This is also the day where we will have our Annual Meeting after worship to present the annual reports of the various Session committees and boards and to receive the church's 2020 budget.

May the Christ that is born to us continue to grow so there is less of us and more of Him.



Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year,

Pastor Annemarie



Stewardship & Mission Update

We have put the finishing touches on this year's Pledge Campaign. The stewardship theme this year 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. I'm very pleased with the response and participation from the Congregation for this year's Stewardship Drive. There were many positives in the results and some challenges that were identified, but the best news is, thanks to your faith, financial support and aggressive cost management by Property & Finance and the Session, we have a "BALANCED BUDGET" for 2020! It's been a long time since we could say that.

Campaign Overview:

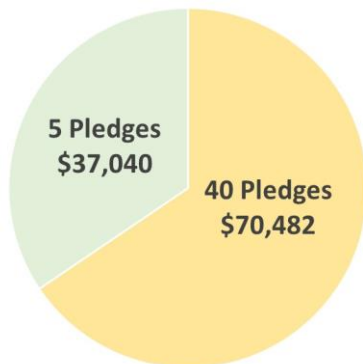
- Total 2020 Pledges were \$107,522, an increase of \$1,074
- 25 Members increased their pledge for a total amount of \$15,144
- 11 Members decreased their pledge for a total amount of \$14,040
- There were 7 New Pledges for a total amount \$9,630
- 6 members who pledged in 2019 did not pledge in 2020 for a total amount of \$6,020

Stewardship Drive Numbers:

Stewardship Summary	Budget Years		# of 2020 Pledges		# of 2020	Pledged in 2019
	2019	2020	Increased	Decreased	New Pledges	No Pledge in 2020
# of Pledges	44	45	25	11	7	6
Pledge Amount	\$106,448	\$107,522	\$15,114	\$14,040	\$9,360	\$6,020
Average Pledge	\$2,419	\$2,389	\$605	\$1,276	\$1,337	\$1,003
Median Pledge	\$1,960	\$2,040	\$300	\$600	\$1,040	\$700

Challenges Identified:

- Over 50% of the member increased their 2020 pledge by an average of \$650. This is great, but it's not realistic to assume increasing existing pledges will continue to meet future operating needs. We need to continue to build. We basically broke even this year netting one additional Pledge.
- 10% of our members are contributing 33% of the total 2020 pledge amount. This puts a significant amount of operating revenue at risk for future Stewardship Campaigns. Building membership and actively inviting friends to worship will help to reduce this imbalance.



Pledge Envelopes Are Out

The pledge envelopes are out on the tables in the Narthex. Please pick up your box and, if possible, pick up a box of someone who may not be able to come to worship. Picking up a box helps us to defray cost since the church is charged about \$3 a box when mailing it. By the end of January we will mail out the remaining pledge envelopes.



Annual Report

For our Annual Report we will need a summary of the year's activities from every Session committee as well as from the Deacons and Presbyterian Women. Please turn in your report in electronic format and/or typed up to Jean Smith at pennpresBC@gmail.com by **Wednesday, Jan. 15.**

Annual Meeting

Members of the church are encouraged to join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 26**, following worship. There will be no Adult Education classes that day; however, there will be supervision provided for children during the meeting. You will have a chance to review the activities of the church for 2019 and receiving the 2020 budget. A Meal will be provided. Plan to stay for fellowship with your church family! See you there!



A Big Thanks to Our Musicians

A big thank you goes to soloists and instrumentalists singing and playing for us in December and January. They are Cathy LaValley, the family and friends of Gayla Metzger, Aaron Jordan, Carla Stine-King, Susan Jordan, Christine Ayres, Alexis Ballard, Woody Booher, and Jay Moore, our organ technician.

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.

They are:

Alanalee Link

Margaret Link

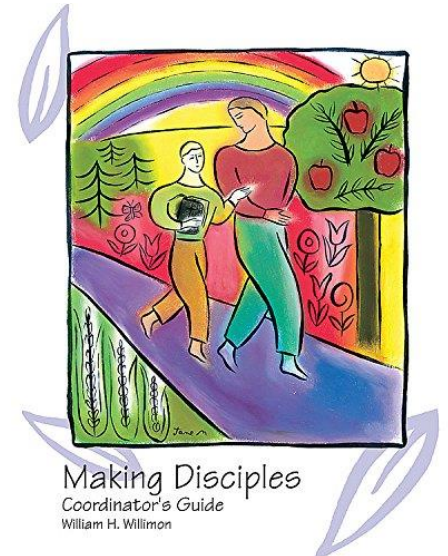
Aidan Tucker

Kaylee Tucker

Joshua Tucker

Mentors for them will be: Susan Jordan, Elsie Page, Lois Shubert, Darrell VanVleet and Don Preston.

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 2020

In February our new officers will be installed. The new elders on session are Burrell Stults and Trina Sleper who both will be serving on Fellowship and Evangelism, and Darrell VanVleet who will be serving as chair of Worship and Music. For questions regarding programs and activities, 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—Trina Sleper (Elder, Chair), Burrell Stults, (Elder)

Interpretation and Stewardship—Tom Beaver (Elder)

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

Worship and Music—Darrell VanVleet (Elder, Chair), Lois Shubert (Elder)

Clerk of Session—Cathy Walsh

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

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

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.

Deacon's Corner

A big thank you goes to all who donated gifts and made financial contributions to underwrite the ministry of the Deacons. We provided basket of food and gifts to nine families.

December has been a busy month for the deacons. At the beginning of the month, many congregation members joined the deacons to visit four locations in Battle Creek to sing Christmas carols to some of our homebound members. All had a good time, and some non-Pennfield Presbyterian Church residents at these facilities asked if we could sing for them as well! Afterward the carolers returned to church to share a supper of bread and soup prepared by Fellowship Chair, Cathy Walsh. Thank you, Cathy!

The rest of the month was spent distributing the generous gifts provided by congregation members for nine local families who were experiencing financial hardship this year (these names were provided to us by Purdy Elementary School). In addition to gifts of essential items to the adults and children in these families, the children received toys or other wished-for items. Each family also received a full Christmas holiday turkey dinner provided by the deacons.

Poinsettia plants were individually delivered to homebound church members and to those members needing special support this Advent season during the first week of December.

All of these efforts helped the deacons to show the support of the entire congregation for those in particular need of joy this time of year. The deacons would like to express their sincere gratitude to the congregation for their ongoing support, in Christ's name.

--Ruth TenBroek, Co-Moderator



From one of the families served:

"Thank you all so much for your love and thoughtfulness. It has been a bad year for health issues in our family and a few family deaths. Thank you all so much for helping us with our holidays this year. Merry Christmas and lots of love!"



All Through the Year--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. 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.



Seeking Volunteers to Help with the Soup Kitchen

Every fourth Tuesday of the month we meet at the Salvation building to prepare and serve a meal to local residents.

Volunteers may help with either meal preparation from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., or they help serve the meal and clean up afterwards from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in helping, please contact Bill Rothney.

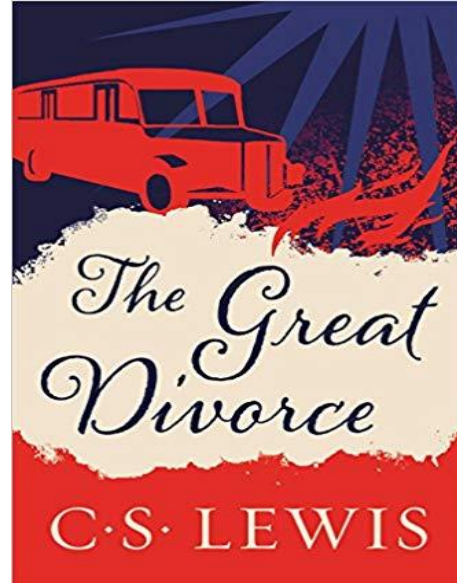
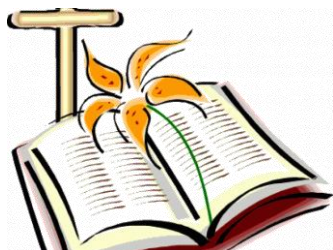
Adult Education Classes to Start on Sunday, Jan. 12

--A Study on Heaven and Hell

Have you ever wondered what the afterlife is like? We will be studying *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis, which is a visionary account of the afterlife. Boarding a bus the narrator embarks on an incredible voyage through Heaven and Hell. Books will be available in class at \$9 a copy. The study meets every other week in the Library. It will be facilitated by Pastor Annemarie.

--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 and is facilitated by Tom Beaver.



Pastor's Bible Study to Start on January 14

Each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. we will meet in the Library to study the upcoming preaching text from our lectionary with Pastor Annemarie. Each Sunday the upcoming preaching text will be in the bulletin.



Next Board Meeting

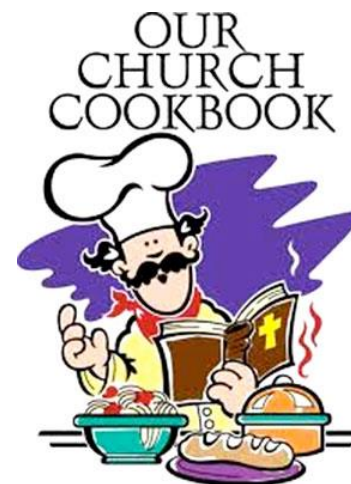
The next PW Board meeting will be **Jan. 27, 2020** at 1 p.m. All women of the church are invited.

The Gift of a PW Cookbook

Our church's PW cookbook contains some of the most mouth-watering recipes you might want to try out this year. Copies are available at \$20 from the moderator of Presbyterian Women, Gay Noble.

Previous sermons

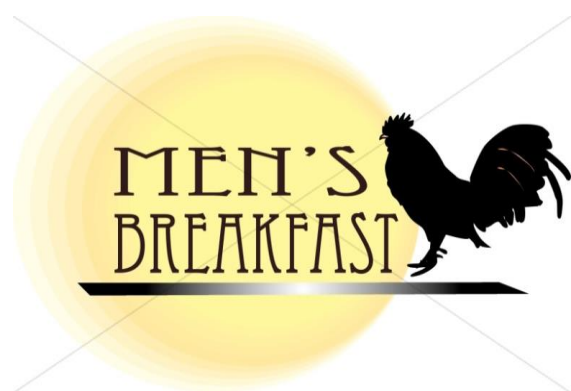
Copies of previous sermons are on the table in the Narthex.





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.



Hannah Circle Bible Study

The Hannah Circle will meet for the PW Horizon Bible study on **Tuesday, Jan. 21**. We will meet for lunch at 12:30 followed by the Bible Study at 1:00 p.m.

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

The next men's breakfast will meet at 7:00 a.m. on **Sunday, Jan. 5**. 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



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.



To Keep in Prayer

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



North East Neighborhood Food Pantry Needs

Family Fare receipts are always welcome. 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.

If you have empty egg cartons, please drop them off in the library as they will benefit the Food Pantry.

Thank You Notes

The Slepers - We have been so blessed by all of you. We thank you not just for your prayers but your love. It is so overwhelming! I just can't imagine how overwhelming Christ's love will be on that special day. Many blessings to you all and a special thanks for the poinsettia that Beth Tucker brought from the Deacons. Also a thank you for the turkey dinners that fed us for 4 days! So good. Thank you just seems so inadequate to express the gratitude we felt. In him who made us all! Bart & Trina

Chuck Romine – Very Dear Ones, a big hug to all! Doing fine and eating well. Miss you all so very much. Much love, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Chuck Romine

Glea Anthonissen – To My Presbyterian Friends: Thank you, a sad day was made bright as it was a year ago now. The love of my life was removed from our home and returned to Michigan. One Rose made my day. Also I enjoyed the DVD of the concert. I have been blessed for visiting the church of many friends and Harold. God Bless all. Bless your Pastor. Special friend, Glea.

Joan & Miles Van Orman –At this Holy season and through the year, may God quiet you with His peace, comfort you with His presence, and bless you with His love. Merry Christmas to my church family and friends. Love Joan & Miles Van Orman

Gayla Metzger – Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my musical talents for our Lord with you. Merry Christmas!

Carol & Glenn Alday – Thank you for your efforts to see that we all have Christmas cheer. The poinsettia you brought is lovely. Merry Christmas to all of you!

Mary Rose—Thank you so much for the beautiful basket. Merry Christmas!



Thank you for sharing your Poinsettias during the holiday season.

Poinsettias Given in Memory of:

Harold Mohlman by Glea Anthonissen
Loved Ones by Tom & Chris Beaver
Jeanne Booher by Woody Booher
Richard Carter by Dolores Carter

Delores E. Dull and Jack G. Newton by Nelson & Martie Dull
Our Parents by the Halbert Family
Pat Brunette and Larry Heath by Kathy Heath & Bob Brunette
Harden & Dorothy Hoffman & Frank & Marie Higgs by Steven & Jeanette Higgs
Joann L. Soules & Harden & Dorothy Hoffman by Duane Hoffman
Loved Ones by Ross & Joan Jarrard
C.C. "Bud" & Virginia Wascher and David Jordan by Jim, Aaron & Susan Jordan
Bertha Glaser by Annemarie S. Kidder
Arnold, Sr., Dorothy, and Arnold Jr. LaValley, Donald L. & Norma Schroll and David Harrison by Dan, Cathy, Steven & Caitlin LaValley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Preston (Bob, Bobbye) by Joan Lovette
Jim's sister, Susie Hough by Jim & Gay Noble
Rishanna and Family Members by Don & Joann Preston
Our deceased loved ones by Bill & Sandi Rothney
Marjorie Scheuffele, Jarrad Scheuffele and Millie Smith by Harry Scheuffele
Loved ones gone before us by Burrell & Deanna Stults
Loved Ones by Donna Teichman
Loved ones by Joy Thomas & Family
Charles & Margaret Hanson by Eric, Beth, Aidan, Kaylee, and Joshua Tucker
Douglas VanVleet by Darrell & Marcia VanVleet
Barbara Walker by Dick Walker

Poinsettias given in honor:

Our family by Don & Carolyn Hammond
All our loved ones before us by the Shubert Family
Our Family by Joy Thomas and Family

When you are through with your poinsettia and if you do not need the empty pot, would you bring it to church as PW has a use for them. It would be appreciated very much.



Happy Birthday

Jan 7: Elinor Thorpe
 9: Matt Higgs
 12: Carol Alday
 23: Carolyn Hammond
 25: Carla Stine-King
 26: Martie Dull
 28: Kevin Adler

Happy Anniversary

Jan. 29: Dennis & Sandy Shaffer

SERVERS FOR JANUARY:

Jan. 5 Steve Higgs
 12 Steve Higgs

OPENER:

19 Tom Beaver

26 Tom Beaver

GREETERS:

Jan. 5 Esther Rayburn & Susan Jordan

12 Chris & Tom Beaver

19 Jay & Sally Moore

26 Karen & Bruce Newhard

USHERS:

Jan. 5 Steve Higgs & Burrell Stults

12 Glenn Alday & Steve Higgs

19 Chris & Tom Beaver

26 Chris & Tom Beaver

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Steve & Jeanette Higgs

Burrell Stults & K. Lyon

LAY READERS:

Jan. 5 Mark Atma

12 Jay Moore

19 Aaron Jordan

26 Mitch Hull

LOCK UP:

Jan. 5 Bill Rothney

12 Bruce Newhard

19 Mick Shubert

26 Bart Sleper

COFFEE & CONVERSATION:

Jan. 5 Bill & Sandi Rothney

12 Karen & Bruce Newhard

19 Lois & Mick Shubert

26 Annual Meeting

COUNTERS: Dan & Cathy LaValley

SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY:

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

OPENER:

Feb. 2 Bruce Newhard

9 Bruce Newhard

16 Bruce Newhard

23 Bruce Newhard

GREETERS:

Feb. 2 LaJean Hewitt & Debbie Trayer

9 Mitch & Marie Hull

16 Lila Back & Kathy Heath

23 Jean & Joe Schlubatis

USHERS:

Feb. 2 Karen & Bruce Newhard

9 Karen & Bruce Newhard

16 Karen & Bruce Newhard

23 Karen & Bruce Newhard

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Jay & Sally Moore

Karen & Bruce Newhard

LAY READERS:

Feb. 2 Trina Sleper

9 Cathy LaValley

16 Burrell Stults

23 Woody Booher

LOCK UP:

Feb. 2 Darrell VanVleet

9 Ross Jarrard

16 Tom Beaver

23 Don Preston

COFFEE & CONVERSATION:

Feb. 2 Bart & Trina Sleper

9 Ross & Joan Jarrard

16 Tom & Chris Beaver

23 Don & Joan Preston

COUNTERS: Karen Newhard & Kathy Lyon

January 2020

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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26 Annual Meeting No Adult Ed	27 1:00 PM PW Board 6:00 PM Session	28 9:00 AM Soup Kitchen 11:00 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Deacon Visit	29 W.O.W.	30 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal	31 9:00 AM -3:00 PM HEART Homeschool																																																																																					