



Pennfield Press

February 2020 Newsletter

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

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Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

As I look ahead to the many activities this month, I am reminded that we are not human “doings” but human beings. God created us in his image and likeness and we resemble God’s nature most by who we are, our identity, our authentic self, as opposed to the image we want to project. We can be very busy, and often are, but our worth, our value in God’s eyes, derives from how well we are connected to him, how real and true we are with others and with ourselves. Connecting with God takes shape during our quiet time of self-reflection—and we call it often prayer; it takes shape whenever we feel sorrow over our rash words and how we might have excluded, maligned, or ignored someone; it takes shape when we “return” to God, revise our course of thinking, and begin anew cleansed and forgiven. God affords us this opportunity, and he gives us the training wheels by allowing us to watch other brothers and sisters in Christ who already excel at this practice and be inspired by them in turn.

Speaking of inspiration, I am inspired by our confirmation class, both the confirmants and their mentors. Together we are exploring the triune God, the church’s sacraments, ministry, and the gifts we offer up in the context of our church. A portion of the class time will be spent in worship, where our confirmants will observe what they hear there, what they learn about Jesus in the sermon, what they see in the images and paraments of our sanctuary, and what might have struck them there. In the summer, we will also take part in some mission projects as an expression of our service to others in need.

Last month we were invited by Presbytery to take part in a Vital Congregation’s Initiative. Two elders and I will be attending a monthly workshop at Presbytery to help us set goals in ministry and clarify our direction for the church’s mission. The Initiative is funded in part by a grant and we are fortunate to be welcomed in.





the membership rolls, and will be revisiting our current mission statement, which dates back to 1999.

The first steps in revisiting and revising our mission statement will happen during our joint officers' retreat on **Saturday, Feb. 15**. We will meet at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and hope to spend the major part of our time together in studying the nature of the church, the nature of our church and its programs, and our call as members and friends in carrying out ministry in our community. We will finish up by noon.

Finally, I am pleased to share that again this year we will be joined in our Ash Wednesday worship on **Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.** by the First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek and possibly Westlake Presbyterian Church. We look forward to this meaningful collaboration and hope you will invite your friends.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Annemarie



Usher Training on Sunday, Feb. 2

Thank you to all those who volunteered to serve on the core team of ushers. We hope to make the streamlined format easier to work with. However, a few things have changed and we want the ushers to know about them. This means that there will be a brief usher training after worship in the sanctuary on **Sunday, Feb. 2**. Please be sure to attend if you are on the usher list this year. If unable, let Darrel VanVleet know as the chair of Worship and Music Committee.

The Rev. Barbara Edema to Speak on Sunday, Feb. 23

On Sunday, Feb. 23, the Rev. Barbara Edema will be our guest preacher and will also lead an adult education class after worship about her Christian novels. Rev. Edema has been a pastor for over twenty-five years. She has served churches in the RCA, UCC, and the PC (U.S.A.). She received her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. She is the mother of Elise, Lauren, Alana, and Wesley; and stepmother to Becky (and John), Todd (and Alli), and step-grandma to Mason, Addie, Sammy, and Matthew. She is the author of the "Pastor Maggie Series" (Pen-1.com) and enjoys writing about small town parish life and ministry. Barb lives in DeWitt, Michigan with her husband, Dr. Doug Edema, and an assortment of rescue cats.

And there is more good news. Recently we received a generous bequest from a former member, Kay Withee. After consultation with Presbytery and the Presbyterian Foundation, we as a Session felt we wanted to conduct small group listening sessions regarding the way this money might be invested and used wisely for current and future needs. Stay tuned for more on that.

The other good news is that our Session has taken the initiative of finishing up the revision of the Church's bylaws which has been long overdue, has undertaken the cleaning of



Joint Officers' Retreat on Saturday, Feb. 15

All active deacons and elders will be joining for our annual officers' retreat on **Saturday, Feb. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon**. We will learn about our form of government. The main part of our meeting will be to revisit our mission as a church and to draft a mission statement.



Installation

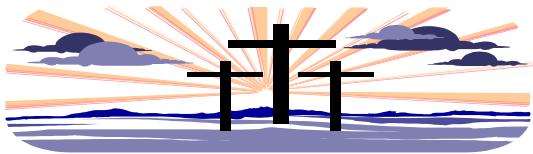
Ordination and Installation of Officers on Sunday, Feb. 9

Our newly elected officers of deacon and elder will be ordained in worship and installed. They are Harry Scheuffele as deacon, and Trina Sleper and Darrell VanVleet as elders. We are grateful that they have accepted this responsibility of office.



Joint Ash Wednesday Worship on Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.

This year again we are joined by the First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek (and possibly Westlake Presbyterian Church) for our Ash Wednesday service. Included in the service are the imposition of ashes, which come from the palm branches we waved on Palm Sunday and communion by intinction. Please join us for this moving service and bring a friend.



The Lenten Journey

Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday	7 p.m. at Pennfield Presbyterian Church Worship with Communion and Imposition of Ashes
April 5	Palm Sunday	Worship with Palm Sunday Processional and Drama
April 9	Maundy Thursday	6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church for potluck (Please sign up and bring a salad to share)
April 12	Easter Sunday	7 p.m. Worship Service 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service followed by breakfast 10 a.m. Worship service



Lenten Lunches

The Second Missionary Baptist Church has invited us to participate in their Lenten Lunch series every Wednesday at noon beginning Feb. 26 –Apr. 1. The program includes singing, a sermon by a local pastor, and lunch. No reservations are necessary and donations are accepted.



Confirmation Classes

Our confirmation class continues to meet on the following Sundays in our Youth Room downstairs after church: Dates are Feb. 2, Feb. 16, March 1, March 15 and March 29. We have five students and five mentors. The class is being taught by Pastor Annemarie. Please keep them and their mentors in your prayers as they explore the basics of the Christian faith. They will be received as members on Palm Sunday.



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 Burrel 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), Burrel 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)

Pastor's Bible Study to Run Through February

Each Tuesday at 11 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. In March we will be having Lenten Small Groups again where the upcoming preaching text will be explored.



ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Reports

The annual reports are on the table in the Narthex. If you would like one sent to you, please contact the church office.

Deacon's Corner

Written Prayers Available

Ever wanted to have a prayer on hand for comfort and healing? Our Deacons have made available a list of prayers for several occasions. A list of these prayers is available on the table in the Narthex and on the Caring bulletin board.

Deacons to Visit With Pastor



Every other Tuesday at 1 p.m., a deacon will join Pastor Annemarie to visit some of our homebound and hospitalized members. Thank you, Deacons, for embracing this ministry and wanting to be a joyful presence to our saints.

Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed

Every fourth Tuesday of the month we meet at the Salvation Army building to prepare and serve a meal to local residents. Volunteers may help with either meal preparation from 9 - 11 a.m., or they help serve the meal and clean up afterwards from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are interested in helping, please contact Bill Rothney.

To Keep in Prayer

Marshall Hlatko, Helen Yates, Chuck Romine, Don Farrington, Jack Hagist, Dolores Carter, Joann Williston, Dick Walker, Sandy Prince and Burrel Stults. A card or a call would brighten their day.

Forgotten Dishes

Please remember to pick up your dishes left over from previous potlucks. We need to clear the top of the coat rack near the Fellowship Hall of the left over dishes. Thank you!

Yoga Class to Run Through Feb. 24

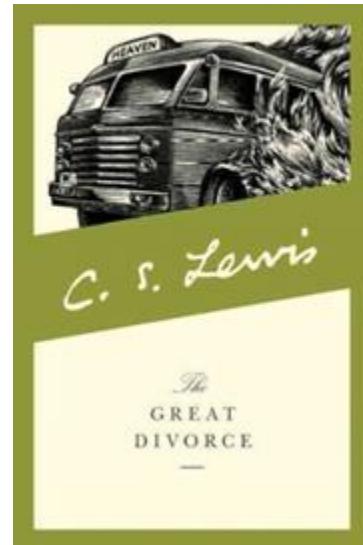
In mid-January we welcomed back Yoga instructor, Amanda Wallace.



Her six-week yoga session meets again on Mondays at 9:00 a.m. in the Music Room. The cost is \$10 per session per person. The session will run through Feb. 24.

Adult Education Class on Heaven and Hell

This Adult Ed class will meet on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 9, Feb. 23, March 8, and March 22. 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. The study is facilitated by Pastor Annemarie



SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY

OPENER:

Feb. 2 Bruce Newhard

9 Bruce Newhard
16 Bruce Newhard
23 Bruce Newhard

USHERS:

Feb. 2 Karen & Bruce Newhard
9 Karen & Bruce Newhard
16 Karen & Bruce Newhard
23 Karen & Bruce Newhard

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Karen & Bruce Newhard
Jay & Sally Moore

GREETERS:

Feb. 2 LaJean Hewitt & Debbie Trayer
9 Marie & Mitch Hull
16 Lila Back & Kathy Heath
23 Jean & Joe Schlubatis

LAY READER:

Feb. 2 Trina Sleper
9 Cathy LaValley
16 Burrel Stults
23 Woody Booher

LOCK UP:

Feb. 2 Darrell VanVleet
9 Ross Jarrard
16 Tom Beaver
23 Don Preston

COFFEE & CONVERSATION:

Feb. 2 Trina & Bart Sleper
9 Ross & Joan Jarrard
16 Tom & Chris Beaver
23 Don & Joann Preston

COUNTERS:

Karen Newhard & Kathy Lyon

SERVERS FOR MARCH**OPENER:**

Mar. 1 Burrel Stults
Mar. 8 Tom Beaver
Mar. 15 Tom Beaver
Mar. 22 Burrel Stults
Mar. 29 Burrel Stults

USHERS:

Mar. 1 Glenn Alday & Burrel Stults
8 Tom & Chris Beaver
15 Tom & Chris Beaver
22 Glenn Alday & Burrel Stults
29 Glenn Alday & Burrel Stults

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Steve Higgs, Burrel Stults
Ruth TenBroek, Mark Atma

GREETERS:

Mar. 1 Susan Jordan & Family
8 Harry Scheuffele
15 Erin & Sara Galloway
22 Tom & Chris Beaver
29 Jim & Gay Noble

LAY READERS:

Mar. 1 Lois Shubert
8 Jay Moore
15 Trina Sleper
22 Carla Stine-King
29 Laurie Riley

LOCK UP:

Mar. 1 Jay Moore
8 Steve Higgs
15 Burrel Stults
22 Dan LaValley
29 Kathy Lyon

COFFEE & CONVERSATION:

Mar. 1 Jay & Sally Moore
8 Steve & Jeanette Higgs
15 Mitch & Marie Hull
22 Elsie Page & Lila Back
29 Donna Teichman & Kathy Lyon

COUNTERS:

Debbie Trayer & Kathy Heath



BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- 2: Ruth TenBroek
- 2: Kaylee Tucker
- 5: Donna Teichman
- 6: Joan Jarrard
- 7: Mike Monroe
- 8: Marshall Hlatko
 Gayla Metzger
- 9: Don Preston
- 11: Samantha Elliott
 Elizabeth Jarrard
 Chloe Paul
 Leon White
- 12: Jim Noble
- 13: Bart Sleper
- 21: Kelly Shaffer
- 25: Brooke Martens
- 26: Lois Shubert
 Mark Atma
 Don Hammond
- 27: Annemarie Kidder
- 28: Lois Fleming

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Feb 24: Ross & Joan Jarrard

February 2020

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
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9 11:30 AM Adult Education Installation of Officers Two Cents aMeal	10 9:00 AM -10:00 AM Yoga 1:00 PM Fellowship & Evang. 2:00 PM Property & Finance	11 1:00 PM Deacon's Visit	12	13 5:30 PM Choir	14 9:00 AM -3:00PM HEART Homeschool	15 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Officers retreat																																																																																			
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