

April



Pennfield Press

2020 Newsletter

Growing Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

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www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

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Pastor's
Message

Dear Friends,

Michigan is under a lockdown and we are asked to stay indoors for several weeks. Shopping for groceries and trips to the pharmacy should be kept to a minimum. There is no telling what will happen over these next few weeks and when we will be able to leave our homes again. So, we are asked to hunker down and fill up our time in ways familiar and unfamiliar. Besides watching television, perusing obscure channels and visiting Youtube, apart from cracking open a novel we meant to read months ago, reorganizing drawers, closets, and cupboards, what do you do?

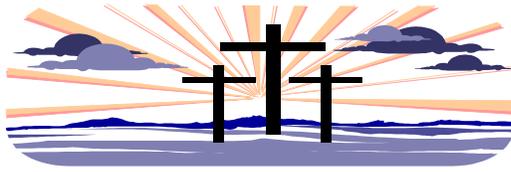
I recently checked with a friend who used to be a cloistered nun. And she told me that keeping a regular daily schedule is critical. Give yourself jobs to do at set times throughout the day. Before you get up, decide when you plan on doing what. Soon this becomes a routine and the days feel less empty, erratic, and boring. One "assignment" might be to go down the names of church members and friends in our directory and to pray for each person. You can split up the names and take half a page or one page each day. And as one or the other name seems to move something in your heart, stirring some sentiment, you might consider picking up the phone to call or to send a note.

On March 22, we stopped meeting for Sunday worship in person and started livestreaming a shorter worship service with sermon and prayer at 10 a.m. on facebook. We will do so for the duration. This is a new experience and the learning curve is steep. You do not have to be signed up for facebook in order to watch. The videos are posted on both my timeline "Annemarie Kidder" and the church's, "Pennfield Presbyterian Church." Videos will remain up and can also be shared with facebook friends.

For now it seems unlikely that we will be meeting in person for worship on Easter. So stay tuned online. Christ will rise as we as a community of his followers are praising him and singing our Hallelujas with hope and joy.

Christ
is
Risen!

Pastor Annemarie



Easter Prayer Vigil

From **Saturday, April 11 to Sunday, April 12 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.** we are looking for people of prayer to pray in installments of one-hour slots and who pass on the prayer chain until the glorious day of Resurrection. You may pray from home, while on vacation, or in whatever way you can. Please call Jay Moore if you would like to take part in this prayer ministry.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Currently millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. The OGHS is our largest denominational offering and we typically take it up on Palm Sunday or Easter. Please send your contributions to the church with One Great Hour of Sharing or OGHS on the Memo Line.



Thank You For the Easter Flowers

For Easter, we will post pictures on our church's facebook page of the flowers decorating our sanctuary. They will be planted later on. Thank you for sharing your flowers with us during the Easter season.

Flowers Given in Memory of:

Delores E. Dull and Jack G. Newton by Nelson & Martie Dull

Loved Ones by Ross & Joan Jarrard

Dorotha & Bob Daly, Lynn Strait, Linnie McConnohie by Kathy Lyon

Arnold Pierce, Kathy Pierce Brauer, Ethel Rollins, Jean Pierce by Char Pierce

Our deceased family members by Bill & Sandi Rothney

Loved Ones by Mick & Lois Shubert

Linda Ann Sleper, Dorothy Phillips, Ruth Anderson by the Sleper Family

Foster & Alma Stults, Charles & Gretchen Anthony, Lois Perry and Baby Charles Foster Stults

by Burrel & Deanna Stults

Loved Ones by Donna Teichman

Douglas VanVleet by Darrell & Marcia VanVleet

Planting Flowers

We ordered the Easter flowers from the greenhouse and they will be decorating our sanctuary on Easter. Thereafter we will plant them in our church gardens. If you are interested in helping, please let Lois Shubert or Trina Sleper know.



Our Boiler Fund--Update

A few weeks ago, our Session sent you a letter regarding the need of a new boiler for our church. Since then we have received several generous contributions to the boiler fund. We are ever so grateful for your generosity! Please know that we completely understand that currently financial resources are tight. However we appreciate any contributions you can make, along with donations in kind to our church's garage sale whose proceeds will benefit the boiler fund.

Church Garage Sale

Our church's Garage Sale is slated for Thursday, May 14 through Saturday, May 16. Please consider cleaning out closets, basements, and garages and sheds. We take nearly anything except for clothing. But hold off bringing them to church for right now until it is safe again to leave our homes.

Great News on Our Church's Certification as an Earthcare Congregation



Since its early years, Pennfield Presbyterian Church has been shaped by the natural beauty of the landscape which it inhabits. Situated between a glacial moraine and the broad valley of the Battle Creek river, the founding members of this church recognized its unique place upon "the hill" and worked with that original landscape to create our beautiful Celebration Garden -- a tranquil area perfect for reflection and prayer. Later generations added a labyrinth for self-reflection and a gazebo as a focal landmark to these gardens. In her time ministering to this congregation, our Christian Education director, Zoe Kimmel, introduced the youth of our church to the wonders of God's creation. This appreciation for the natural world is our legacy today.

As we recognize and honor this tradition, our church has been recently certified by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as an Earth Care Congregation. This designation has come about through the efforts of our Property and Finance Committee to improve the energy efficiency of our building. But also, by the efforts of our Worship Committee, our Session and our Pastor's commitment to preaching the importance of Earth Care Stewardship. Last fall, Session approved submitting our application to the PC(USA), and we have just recently been approved.

Next month, we will observe the 50th anniversary of the original "Earth Day", a pivotal moment in our country's recognition of our relationship to -- and responsibility to-- God's creation. We hope to provide the congregation with further information on how we can be better Stewards of God's Creation on the bulletin board leading up to Fellowship Hall in the months to come.

In this Lenten time of reflection -- especially amid the current uncertainty and worry of the Covid-19 pandemic -- please take a moment to look outside and appreciate the grandeur of God's creation. Know that all is well in His creation, and that ultimately, He is supreme.

In closing, I would like to cite the Bible passage that is on the dedication plaque in our Celebration Garden:

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." - Psalm 118:24



Financial Giving

Please remember to keep your pledges current by mailing in your offering to the church. We appreciate your support of our church staff and programs.

If you need information regarding your current balance, please call the church office. Our Financial Secretary, Jean Smith, will get back with you in timely manner.

Church Trip to Detroit on June 26-27

Fellowship and Evangelism is sponsoring a 2-day trip to the Detroit Art Institute, Greektown, and Eastern Market. We will be carpooling from church and staying overnight at a hotel near the airport. Approximate cost for one night stay is \$60 per person. We already have twelve people signed up. If interested or if you have questions, please contact the chair of the committee, Trina Sleper.

Prayer Breakfast

The Battle Creek Prayer Breakfast is on **Tuesday, May 12, at 7:25 a.m.** at the Kellogg Arena. The theme is "Faith Beyond Measure". Our guest speaker is Anthony Evans, Christian singer and songwriter. Christian music invokes reflection, motivation and creates a closeness with God, and Anthony will share a mix of his music and his journey as a Christian musician.

In advance of the Prayer Breakfast, please believe God for everything that can be imagined in your lives, your family's lives and throughout our community – Faith Beyond Measure!

Ticket price is \$15. For more information, please check in online.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Summer Tutoring Program to begin on June 22

This summer, we will again offer a collaborative program with Purdy Elementary and North Pennfield schools. This means, that for six weeks during the summer, we will help tutor elementary school children in basic reading, writing, and math. Both schools' principals are 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. Parents will bring children to us and pick up. The start is **June 22 and end is July 29. Scholarships are available for children in part thanks to the Lyons Club of Battle Creek.**

Please let the co-chair of the Christian Education Committee Laurie Riley know if you are available.



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. Please hold off coming to church and instead send your check to the church with "Food Pantry" on the memo line. Thank you for helping feed the hungry. Any questions, see Laurie Riley.

Printed Sermon Copies

Printed copies of Pastor Annemarie's sermons are available in the Narthex.

Pastoral Care

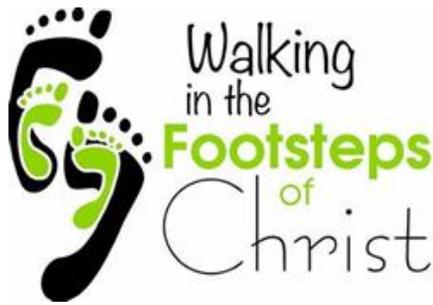
Please keep in touch with one another during this time while staying at home. For prayer requests, please contact Dan LaValley or Ruth TenBroek. For immediate needs, please contact Pastor Annemarie by e-mail, phone, or text. For the time being, Pastor Annemarie plans to be at the church on Sundays and Mondays.

Stewardship & Mission Update

Your Stewardship & Mission Committee has been working on several items as we expand our role beyond just the fall pledge drive. These include:

- **Listening Groups on current & Future Investments** – The Stewardship & Mission Committee will be compiling the results from the Small Listening groups regarding current and future investments of the Kay Withee bequest. Unfortunately, the last two listening sessions had to be cancelled due to the Virus. But it's not too Late! If you did not attend a session, please send your ideas to Tom Beaver. Stephen Keizer, from the Presbyterian Foundation is planning to speak on Sunday May 31st. The Presbyterian Foundation provides free financial planning advice to Presbyterian Church's focused on the unique needs of churches. If you missed the Listening Groups questions, the 3 questions were:
 1. What portion of the request should be invested long-term?
 2. What percentage should be kept in reserve for capital improvements?
 3. What specific recommendation for long-term investments would you make?
- **Raising money to Help pay for the boiler** – Your Session recently approved a short Fun Drive to help offset some of the \$55,000 cost for the new Boiler. You all should have received a letter from Burrell detailing the funding request. Burrell was planning to speak to the congregation on Mar 22, but due to the virus situation it had to be postponed to a later date. A reminder, we need to receive your response by June 1st to allow Session to proceed with plans for financing the new boiler. Also, all proceeds from the May Garage sale will go toward the boiler fund. So, while we are all staying home it's a good time to clean out those rooms!

---Tom Beaver, Chair of Stewardship and Mission Committee



Contemporary Issues Class

The “Contemporary Issues Class” take current issues and examine them from a Christian focus. We show that the Bible is alive today by relating it to news events happening here and now. It shows that we can make a real difference in people’s lives. Meeting’ Topics vary and range from socio-critical to economic, religious, environmental, and social justice issues.

The “Tool” we use is called “The Wired Word”. Each week we receive a choice of two different current lessons. Each lesson includes a biblical commentary, discussion questions, reference materials that relate to a topic in the news that week, it could even be a news event that is occurring the same day.

Lessons are organized into seven sections:

- A Teacher Introduction to the lesson
- In the News summary of a current event
- Big Questions for consideration or discussion about the topic
- Scripture references to help confront the news with hope
- Additional group Discussion Questions
- Suggestions for Responding to the News
- A Closing Prayer
-

Some of our Recent class Topics Include:

--Being the Church' During the Pandemic - This lesson told of churches no longer having gatherings for worship due to the new restrictions on crowd sizes while the struggle against the coronavirus goes on. Many churches have figured out accommodations, technological and otherwise, to still "be the church" while suspending worship assemblies. Thus, how to be the church during the pandemic was the topic of this installment of The Wired Word.

--More Americans Are Lonely Than Ever Before: - The lesson explored the implications of a recent report by health insurer Cigna on the rise in loneliness. We inquire how people in the Bible dealt with loneliness and how the church can build community where lonely people can find life-nurturing social and spiritual connections.

In addition to the “Wired Word”, everyone is encouraged to suggest a topic. If you would like to be put on the distribution list of these email updates, please email Tom Beaver at tbbeaver@aol.com.

Church Duty Schedule

Please note that this church schedule is tentative and will not be in effect until it is safe again to open the church to the public!

OPENER:

SERVERS DURING APRIL

April 5 Mick Shubert

12 Darrell VanVleet

19 Darrell VanVleet

26 Mick Shubert

12 Erin & Sara Galloway

19 The Atma Family

26 Dennis & Sandy Shaffer

USHERS:

April 5 Lois & Mick Shubert

12 Darrell & Marcia VanVleet

19 Darrell & Marcia VanVleet

26 Lois & Mick Shubert

LOCK UP:

April 5 Bruce Newhard

12 Bill Rothney

19 Mark Atma

26 Mark Baxter

COMMUNION USHERS:

Mick & Lois Shubert

COUNTERS: Darrell VanVleet & Bev Grimes

Susan Jordan & Marie Hull

GREETERS:

April 5 Rosemary Hahn & Woody Booher

12 LuAnne Pierson & Kathy Lyon

19 Dennis & Sandy Shaffer

26 Christine Ayres & Lila Back

SERVERS DURING MAY

OPENER:

May 3 Steve Phillips

10 Steve Phillips

17 Steve Phillips

24 Steve Phillips

31 Steve Phillips

LAY READER:

April 5 Ruth TenBroek

12 Burrel Stults

19 Jay Thomas

26 Mark Baxter

USHERS:

May 3 Steve Phillips & Woody Booher

10 Steve Phillips & Burrel Stults

17 Steve Phillips & Burrel Stults

24 Steve Phillips & Mark Baxter

31 Steve Phillips & Mark Baxter

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION:

April 5 Fellowship - Jeanette & Steve Higgs

COMMUNION USHERS:

May 3 Burrel Stults, Trina Sleper
Tom Beaver, Mark Baxter

GREETERS:

May 3 Darrell & Marcia VanVleet
10 Bill & Sandi Rothney
17 Marti & Nelson Dull
24 Burrel & Deanna Stults
31 Joann & Don Preston

LAY READER:

May 3 Mitch Hull
10 Aaron Jordan
17 Bill Rothney
24 Cathy LaValley
31 Trina Sleper

COFFEE & CONVERSATION:

May 3 Don & Carolyn Hammond
10 PW – Sara Galloway
17 Elsie Page & Gay Noble
24 Marty & LuAnne Pierson
31 Bruce & Karen Newhard

LOCK UP:

May 3 Burrel Stults
10 Mick Shubert
17 Bart Sleper
24 Steve Higgs
31 Bruce Newhard

COUNTERS: Debbie Trayer & Kathy Heath



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