



Pennfield Press

March 2020 Newsletter

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

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Dear Friends,

The Epiphany season ended on Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 23, and we now have entered the season of Lent. The word "Lent" implies the lengthening of days, more hours of sunlight, more time for staying up and awake and alert. It is also the season where we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem, the place of his trial and crucifixion. Since the fourth century, Christians have observed Lent by voluntarily practicing such spiritual disciplines as fasting, extended times of prayer, devotional readings, and making a personal sacrifice.

Lent invites you and me to make a sacrifice, giving up something, or willing ourselves to do something extra.

The first Lenten discipline I would propose to you is church-wide. It is our **Lenten Small Groups**. On Sundays and throughout the week, four groups will meet to study the upcoming scripture passage on which the sermon will be based. Facilitators of these small groups will guide participants through a reflective, meditative reading of the passage. It's not a Bible study. Rather, it is a way of gaining entry into the biblical story where Jesus meets a person, a biblical character—and ultimately us.

Each session will last about 40 to 50 minutes. We will open in prayer, hear the story, reflect on it, share personal reflections on the story, and close in prayer. This is an exercise in prayer. Please sign up for a small group in the narthex or simply come and pick the group that best fits your schedule.

And there is more: throughout the month of March, for four weeks during coffee hour, our elders will provide listening sessions. We hope you will take the time to provide us with input regarding how best to invest the money we received from a bequest and to be faithful stewards.



Finally, still related to study is our Adult Education program, which will continue throughout the month. The class on contemporary issues will meet on the first, third, and fifth Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in the Music Room. The class on C. S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce* will meet on the second and fourth Sunday in the Library.

Now, a second Lenten discipline for you: **Invite a friend**, neighbor, or relative to worship. We have bi-fold cards that outline our Lenten and Easter worship services. Yes, it takes courage and initiative. Yes, it might feel uncomfortable. But, yes, it may also change a person's life for eternity. The cards are in the narthex on the table. Pick up a few and prayerfully discern who to invite during this season.

Finally, the third Lenten discipline I want to propose: Attend faithfully the special worship services along with weekly worship. The beginning of Lent is marked by our **Ash Wednesday service, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.** This service offers communion and the imposition of ashes (gleaned from last year's Palm Sunday). We will be joined this year by the First Presbyterian Church and Westlake Presbyterian Church.

The book end of the seven weeks of Lent is Holy Week with worship on **Maundy Thursday, April 9** at the First Presbyterian Church, where we will gather at 6 p.m. for a potluck and the service beginning at 7 p.m.

Come and see that the Lord is good. Happy are those who trust in him, walk with him, and “give up” or “add to their routine” for his sake.

Happy Lent!

Pastor Annemarie



The Lenten Journey

April 5	Palm Sunday	Worship with Palm Sunday Processional
April 9	Maundy Thursday	6:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church for potluck (Please sign up and bring a salad to share) 7:00 p.m. Worship Service
April 12	Easter Sunday	7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service followed by breakfast 10:00 a.m. Worship service



Lenten Study Small Groups

This year we are again offering small groups during the Lenten season. They will kick off **Sunday, March 1** and run through the entire month. Each week's study will focus on the upcoming preaching text. You are encouraged to choose the group that best fits your schedule. Groups will meet in the Library on:

- Sunday at 2 p.m. (facilitated by Darrel VanVleet)
- Monday at 11 a.m. (facilitated by Tom Beaver)
- Monday at 5 p.m. (facilitated by Trina Sleper and Char Pierce)
- Tuesday at 11 a.m. (facilitated by Bart Sleper and Mark Baxter)

Please sign up in the Narthex.



Lenten Lunches at the Second Missionary Baptist Church

The Second Missionary Baptist Church has invited us to participate in their Lenten Lunch series every Wednesday at noon through Apr. 8. The program includes singing, a message by a local pastor, and lunch. No reservations are necessary and donations are accepted.

Schedule of speakers:

March 4 Chaplain Brent Folkema

March 11 Rev. Denry White

March 18 Rev. Blaine Faircloth

March 25 Rev. Leon Coleman

April 1 Rev. Annemarie Kidder

April 8 Minister Roxie Perry

Listening Sessions to Meet in March

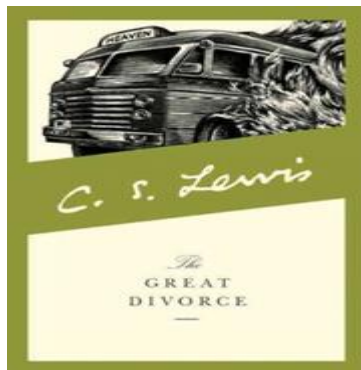
Our church has received a sizeable gift from the Kay Withee trust. The elders of our Session will be facilitating listening sessions to get your input regarding current and future financial needs and the best way of investing these funds. Listening sessions will meet after worship during Coffee and conversation in the Music Room starting **March 1 and continue through March 22**. Please make every effort to attend one of these sessions.

Adult Education Classes

--**Contemporary Issues Class (the "Wired Word")** will meet March 1 and every other week in the Library. Topics vary and range from socio-critical to economic, religious, and social justice issues. The class is facilitated by Tom Beaver.

--Book Study

The class on "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis, which is a visionary account of the afterlife will continue to meet on Mar. 8, 22 & Apr. 5 in the Library. The study is facilitated by Pastor Annemarie.



Pastor's Bible Study

During Lent, there will be no Pastor's Bible study as the Lenten small groups will take its place.



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!



Confirmation Classes

Our confirmation class continues to meet on the following Sundays in our Youth Room downstairs after church: March 1, March 15 and March 29. On March 29 confirmands will meet with our Session at 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room.

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.

Invitation Cards

We are making it easier for you to invite friends during this season of Lent and Easter. Our Fellowship and Evangelism Committee has created beautiful invitation cards to hand out to your friends. Listed are all upcoming special worship services. We are excited about this form of reaching out.

Leadership of Our Church for 2020

In February our new officers were installed. 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)



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.

Deacons' News

The deacons are here to offer love, support, and assistance. Each time a visit is made, a deacon is scheduled to join Pastor Annemarie. Additionally, if you or anyone you know in the congregation has any special needs, please feel free to contact any of the deacons. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we seek to bring healing and love to those who are part of our community of faith.



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To Keep in Prayer

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

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.



New Church Directory

A copy of our new 2020 church directory is available on the table in the Narthex. Please pick up your copy so you can stay in touch with one another. If you would like a directory mailed to you, please call the office.



Yoga Classes to start on March 2

A new five-week session with Yoga instructor, Amanda Wallace, will begin **Monday, Mar. 2 at 9:00 a.m.** The class will meet for one hour and the cost for 5 sessions is \$40 prepaid or \$10 per session.

Food Bank and Food Pantry

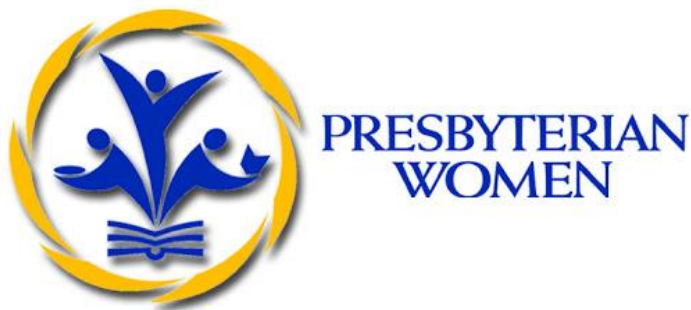
The Food Bank of South Central Michigan (FBSCM) will again be holding its annual Food Bank Challenge running from March 1-April 30. The Food Bank will do a 10% match for all donations made during this time. Since this challenge is a main source of income for the Northeast Pantry, it is important that donations to the pantry be made during this period.

Please send checks made out to FBSCM with Northeast Food Pantry in the memo line to ensure that Northeast Pantry gets credit for your contribution.

Thank you for helping the pantry feed the hungry in the Pennfield neighborhood. There are contribution cards available in the narthex. Any questions, see Laurel Riley, Coordinator of the Northeast Food Pantry Outreach Ministry

The pantry is always in need of peanut butter, canned fruit and vegetables, cereal, and brown paper bags, along with toilet paper, laundry powder, and bar soap.

Please keep bringing your Family Fare receipts to benefit the Northeast Food Pantry. Put them in the basket on the table in the narthex. –Laurie Riley



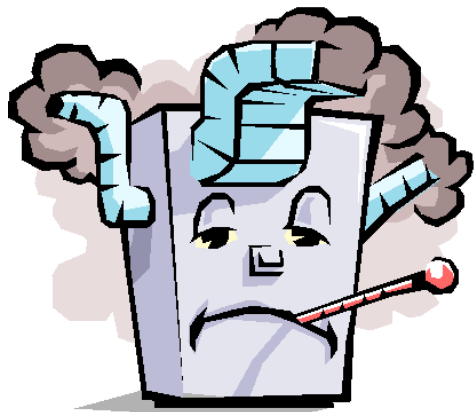
PW Charitable Union Coat Fund

PW is sponsoring a campaign for the Charitable Union Coat Fund. The Charitable Union can buy coats at a very reduced price so PW has decided to give them a donation rather than giving coats. If you would like to make a donation, make the check out to PW and we will give CU a check. The deadline for our project is March 31.



Garage Sale from Thursday, May 14 to Saturday, May 16

We want your "stuff"! Please start cleaning out your closets, basements, garages, and spare bedrooms now. You may drop off your boxed small items at the church on Mondays and Tuesdays all day and store them downstairs in the Cabin Room. If you have large items, such as furniture, please contact either Darrell VanVleet or Lois Shubert to arrange for pick-up (closer to the Garage Sale date). All profits will go to our Boiler Fund. Also, the PW will have baked goods for sale during our Garage Sale.



We Need a New Boiler to Heat our Building

We have known for some time that our boiler system may be on the fritz. But now it's for certain. We also know that as soon as we turn off the boiler sometime after Easter, we will not be able to turn them back on for heat. That's to say that a new system has to be installed by fall at a cost of roughly \$45,000. To that end, the Session has created a Boiler Fund to help defray the cost. Yes, we have savings, but we hope to use them mostly as a regular source of income and cushion. If you want to help, please mark your envelope "Boiler Fund."



Boiler Fund Deadline

The Session has created a new Boiler Fund to help us have heat this winter. But we need to raise enough money to be able to purchase the system this spring. This means that the deadline for contributing to the Boiler Fund is **Monday, June 1.**



Choir Kick-Off on Thursday, March 5

The Session has hired a new choir director! To find out who that is, please join us for choir on **Thursday, March 5 at 5:30 p.m.** From then on, the choir will meet on the first two Thursdays of the month with the choir singing in worship the subsequent Sunday. Let the saints come marching in!

Thank you from Esther Rayburn

To my many friends at Pennfield Presbyterian Church: Thank you for the hugs, cards and other expressions of friendship at my farewell Sunday, Feb. 16. As a volunteer for Jesus, I will continue to serve at the Salvation Army soup kitchen and bring eggs to the Food Pantry. Items for Operation Christmas Child can still be placed in the box in the church library. Thanks, again for your loving Kindness to me!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 15: Hope Crisher
16: Jeff Jarrard
18: Kent Elliot
19: Emily Jarrard
21: Jim Fleming
23: Helen Smith
27: Cassie Cope
29: Haneul Ann Park
Iseul May Park
31: Marcia VanVleet
Kathy Garms

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 8: Keith & Michelle Martens

SERVERS FOR MARCH

OPENER:

Mar. 1 Mick Shubert
8 Tom Beaver
15 Tom Beaver

22 Mark Baxter
29 Mick Shubert

12 Darrell VanVleet
19 Darrell VanVleet
26 Mick Shubert

USHERS:

Mar. 1 Glenn Alday & Mick Shubert
8 Tom & Chris Beaver
15 Tom & Chris Beaver
22 Glenn Alday & Mark Baxter
29 Glenn Alday & Mick Shubert

USHERS:

April 5 Lois & Mick Shubert
12 Darrell & Marcia VanVleet
19 Darrell & Marcia VanVleet
26 Lois & Mick Shubert

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Steve & Jeanette Higgs,
Ruth TenBroek & Mark Atma

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Mick & Lois Shubert
Susan Jordan & Marie Hull

GREETERS:

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

GREETERS:

April 5 Rosemary Hahn & Woody Booher
12 LuAnne Pierson & Kathy Lyon
19 Dennis & Sandy Shaffer
26 Christine Ayres & Lila Back

LAY READER:

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

LAY READER:

April 5 Ruth TenBroek
12 Woody Booher
19 Jay Thomas
26 Mark Baxter

LOCK UP:

Mar. 1 Jay Moore
8 Steve Higgs
15 Mick Shubert
22 Dan LaValley
29 Kathy Lyon

LOCK UP:

April 5 Bruce Newhard
12 Bill Rothney
19 Mark Atma
26 Mark Baxter

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

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION:

April 5 Christine Ayres & Chris Beaver
12 Erin & Sara Galloway
19 The Atma Family
26 Dennis & Sandy Shaffer

COUNTERS:

Debbie Trayer & Kathy Heath

COUNTERS: Darrell VanVleet & Bev Grimes

SERVERS FOR APRIL

OPENER:

April 5 Mick Shubert

March 2020

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
1 7:00 AM Mens Breakfast 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 11:30 AM Contemporary Issues 11:30 AM Listening Class 2:00 PM Lenten Study Communion	2 9:00 AM Music & Worship 9:00 AM Yoga 5:00 PM Lenten Study	3 11:00 AM Lenten Study 1:00 PM Deacon Visit	4 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch at 2nd Baptist - Chaplain Brent Folkema	5 5:30 PM Choir	6 9:00 AM -3:00 PM HEART Homeschool	7 Move clocks forward one hour																																																																																																		
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29 11:30 AM Confirmation & Session 11:30 AM Contemporary Issues 2:00 PM Lenten Study	30 9:00 AM Yoga 1:00 PM PW Board 5:00 PM Lenten Study	31 11:00 AM Lenten Study 1:00 PM Deacon Visit	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Feb 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Apr 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Feb 2020							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	Apr 2020							S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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