

May



Pennfield Press

2020 Newsletter

Growing Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

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Dear Friends,

The pandemic continues to rage in the United States and we are quarantined still. When will we be shaking hands again, hugging, and mingling in crowds? When will we be stopped from watching reruns of old movies, arrange and re-arrange closets and drawers, calling friends and church members so many times that they declare us crazy!

Quarantined! What is the meaning of that word anyway? The Latin root of the word "quarantine" means "forty." In the fourteenth century, ships arriving in Venice from areas struck with the Black Death (bubonic plague) were required to anchor away from port for 40 days before docking. The Italians called it "quaranta giorni," or "40 days," which evolved into "quarantino." The 40-day quarantine was so effective that it became standard practice in Europe for the next 600 years.

The Bible makes frequent mention of the number 40. The flood lasted forty days, after forty years Moses fled Egypt, Moses stayed on Mount Sinai for forty days. The Exodus lasted forty years. Jesus fasted for forty days. And the season of Lent lasts for forty days. Some biblical scholars hold that the number 40 means change. It is a time of preparing a person or a people for a fundamental change.

Change is certainly happening outside--trees, flowers, shrubs are greening, flowering, producing buds. The Canada geese in my yard already had their goslings and they rush along the pond like little dervishes. I wonder what is

changing in me. Am I giving the Lord more time, more credit, more glory? Am I reading more and studying his word? Am I allowing whatever is good, whatever is true, whatever is beautiful to enter into my mind and heart?

Christ promises us that everything works together for the good of those who love God (Rom. 8:28).

So let us love and serve the Lord with prayer and thanksgiving through small acts of kindness. With love and joy during this 50-day Easter season,

Pastor Annemarie



Thank You For the Easter Flowers

They were set up and arranged by Lois Shubert in our sanctuary for Easter worship and they have been planted in our gardens now by Trina Sleper. Feel free to take a little outing up our church's driveway and see the flowers and trees in bloom.

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 Burrell & Deanna Stults

Loved Ones by Donna Teichman

Douglas VanVleet by Darrell & Marcia VanVleet





Our Boiler Fund--A Fabulous Update!!

Early in March, our Session sent you a letter regarding the need of a new boiler for our church. Since then you have been more than generous with your giving.

As of now, we have received nearly \$43,400. This means we will purchase the boiler within the next few weeks and hope to have it installed by June or July.

Those who have contributed funds up until now are:

James Akers, Martie and Nelson Dull, Christy and Mark Halbert,

Kathy Heath, The Rev. Annemarie Kidder, Cathy and Dan LaValley, Karen and Tom Lewis,

The Rev. Nelson Lumm, Kathy Lyon, Rachele Narovich, Bruce and Karen Newhard, Gay and Jim Noble,

Bill and Sandi Rothney, Harry Scheuffele, Mick and Lois Shubert, Bart and Trina Sleper, and Jane Vallee.

We are ever so grateful for your generosity! There is still an opportunity to give until the end of May.

Matching funds will come from our church's yard sale and memorial funds.

Church Yard Sale

Our church's Yard Sale has been postponed until September. However, we continue to accept donations of any kind, except clothing. Please consider cleaning out closets, basements, garages and sheds. Then call the church to set up a time when you want to drop off your donations. All donations are stored in the Cabin Room downstairs.

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.



Online Giving Through our Church Website

As of late April, we are now also able to give online. We have set up online giving through the Presbyterian Foundation, which offers us a reasonable rate for the service. To do so, please follow these simple steps:

Go to our church website www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

Click on the Give Now button (right hand upper corner or lower corner left)

Create a Giving Profile

This will connect you with our Church's Giving Page.

Enter either credit card no. or bank routing number and account number.

You can decide whether to set up repeated giving (monthly or weekly) or make a one-time donation.

You have the option of giving to the General Fund, which supports our annual budget, or to the Capital Fund, which supports individual building projects or capital improvements.

We already have received several donations in this manner and are grateful to you for doing so.

The percentage we pay for each transaction is small, so please do as is most convenient, that is, either give by mailing in your pledge envelope or donation, or by giving online.



Coffee Hour by Zoom

This is a unique time in our lives. We miss the fellowship of our church family and have turned to using the digital format Zoom for coffee time at 11 a.m. every Sunday. There are about 20 of us meeting like that. If you have questions on how to log in, please contact Tom Beaver, Marie Hull, or Christine Ayers.

For livestream worship, please tune in on Pastor Annemarie's facebook page, Annemarie Kidder, every Sunday at 10 a.m. We encourage you to share the worship video and click "like" or comment.

--Trina Sleper, Chair of Fellowship and Evangelism

A Big Thank You to Our Livestreaming Worship Team

Thank you so very much to Lois and Mick Shubert, our video producers, Franklin Ballard, our choir director, and Pastor Annemarie for livestreaming our worship service with sermon and special music each week and for making us all feel connected as a church family.

--Darrell VanVleet, Worship and Music Committee

Church Trip to Detroit--To Be Postponed to July or August

Our 2-day trip to the Detroit Art Institute, Greektown, and Eastern Market has been postponed. We will keep you posted on the new dates.



Summer Tutoring Program is Canceled

Due to school closings, we have decided to cancel this year's summer tutoring program. We hope to offer this program again next year by collaborating with Purdy Elementary and North Pennfield schools. Please keep in your prayers our children, youth, and parents and teachers.

Confirmation Sunday Postponed

Our confirmands have completed their classes and are now waiting. We all are waiting to examine and receive them into membership of our church as soon as we are able to meet again as a community of faith. We look forward to celebrating your lives as disciples of Jesus Christ!

From Our Choir Director

I give our God the glory and honor for calling me to serve as choir director for such a wonderful congregation as Pennfield Presbyterian Church. I believe that this call has come in its own proper time.

My call from God is to be a musician and not a magician. So, I need the opportunity to increase the status of the music department with your help. I cannot do this alone. Our initial "soldiers" of the choir were brave and trusted my direction. They did a fantastic presentation. And for that I am grateful.



However, I want to extend a challenge to you, the congregation. As your choir director, I want to challenge you, your families, neighbors, friends, and relatives to bring voices (whether trained or not) to us. Also to those who play instruments (that may have been collecting dust by now) and to those who have ignored the passion to participate in our music ministry to accept this challenge of invitation. We must encourage each other and those we seek to serve. Let's not ignore the true and honest message of LOVE as set forth by Christ Jesus.

The music department is here to support our worship service. It's up to all of us to respond to God's claim on our lives, talents, and time. Please let me know if you are interested in serving.
--Franklin Ballard, Choir Director

"We are blessed to have Franklin Ballard assume the leadership and responsibility for the music in our worship services. He brings a lot of talent and energy to our church. Franklin is "chomping at the bit" to organize and lead a choir, so please contact him via facebook if interested in helping with music and song."
--Bart Sleper, Administration and Personnel



FOOD PANTRY AND FOOD BANK

The Northeast Food Pantry is currently open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays providing food for the families in need in our community, as well as, baby items. The Food Bank is extending the Food Bank Challenge through May. If you haven't and still wish to contribute make out your check to South Michigan Food Bank and send to: South Michigan Food Bank, 5451 Wayne Rd., Battle Creek, MI 49037. Please remember to put Northeast Food Pantry in the memo line. Thanks, Laurie Riley

Livestream Worship and Printed Sermon Copies

Please join us for livestreamed worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. from the facebook page Annemarie Kidder.

We will post the worship service later that day on our church's facebook page, Pennfield Presbyterian Church. Please be sure to click "Like" or "Comment" in some fashion so we know you were there.

If you are not connected to the Internet and unable to watch, please contact the church by phone or email to have a printed copy of the worship service and sermon sent to you. Let's stay connected!

Pastoral Care

Please keep in touch with one another during this time. Also keep in your prayers our homebound members, as well as Cathy LaValley and Burrel Stults. For prayer requests, please contact Dan LaValley or Ruth TenBroek. For immediate needs, please contact Pastor Annemarie by e-mail, phone, or text.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

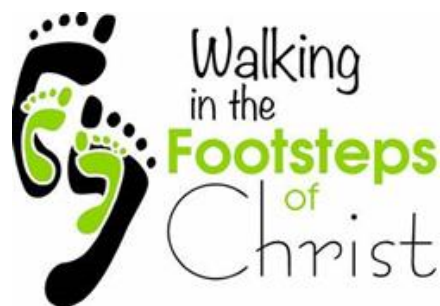
PW Birthday Offering

The Birthday Offering is a PW offering collected in the spring of each year to celebrate the blessings in the lives of Presbyterian Women. The offering funds up to five projects such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns.



If we would give a penny for each year of our age, we could make a difference. The PW Birthday Offering will be taken up throughout this season.

Please mark your check accordingly.



Contemporary Issues Class

The class is currently meeting via Zoom on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and is having great discussions. If you would like to join, please contact Tom Beaver thbeaver@aol.com or by phone.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- May 3 Jack Hagist
4 Sara Galloway
10 Joan Van Orman
14 Phillip Jarrard
Gay Noble
15 Joan Williston
19 Sue Hagist
Judy Nettleton
Sandi Rothney
22 Lisa Needham
30 Tom Beaver
Becky Monroe



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- May 1 Mike and Becki Monroe
12 Jack and Sue Hagist
18 Tom and Chris Beaver
23 Carolyn and Don Hammond
26 Tom and Laurel Riley
30 Christine and Stewart Ayres

