

# Pennfield Press

## November 2020 Newsletter

*Growing Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship*

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Dear Friends,

Last month we elected a stellar slate of officers, both deacons and elders, along with nominees for the Nominating Committee. When and how the officers will be trained and installed we have yet to decide. Also last month, we saw many capital improvements, such as the installation of a new heating system (our boiler), new sanctuary and outdoor lighting, and a new sound system (that’s still waiting to have added the video portion). All this took countless(!) hours of work and coordination, and a big kudos goes to our Property and Finance Committee, and its chair Lois Shubert for seeing through all these upgrades.

We are also grateful for a new influx of church musicians, who are adding variety to our live worship broadcasts. Several of them are currently renting rooms at church for music lessons, so that our building is being put to good use during the week with an influx of young music students.

This month we consider God’s bounty to us, especially through this our church. What does this church mean to you? Yes, it’s stewardship month. And that means we will be hearing from several members what our church means to them. They are Harry Scheuffele, Trina Slepser, and Bill Rothney; each will be speaking during our live worship. We also have two stewardship testimonials from two elders on Session printed in this newsletter. And finally you will hear Tom Beaver, chair of the Stewardship and Mission Committee, share on **Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 24** what God has done for him here.

Please keep three dates in mind for this month:

On **Sunday, Nov. 1 is All Saints Day**, where we will remember and recognize those who died this past year such as relative, friend, or someone important to you. Please send their name(s) to me no later than **Friday, Oct. 30** via email [annemariesk59@gmail.com](mailto:annemariesk59@gmail.com). (If you do not have email, call me and leave a message).

On **Sunday, Nov. 22 is Stewardship Sunday**, where we will meet after worship for a drive-through fellowship time at 11:15 a.m. in our church parking lot. It is then that we will present our pledge cards and dedicate them unto the Lord.

Finally, we plan on opening for in-person worship on **Sunday, Nov. 29**. Please be present at least ten (10) minutes prior to 10 a.m. Livestreaming will begin at 10 a.m. You are asked to wear a mask and sit in a designated area. Please leave the building immediately following worship.

In all you do and say, may the Lord be with you now and make his presence felt. With love and joy,

Pastor Annemarie



## Stewardship Testimonials From Elders

On the first four Sundays in November a church member will offer a personal stewardship testimonial. Here are two more testimonials from two Session members.



My name is Darrell VanVleet. Marcia and I have been happily married for 59 years. We have been members of Pennfield Presbyterian Church for 59 years also. We have two children and five grandchildren. We both have served on various committees and on Session during our time here. We were drawn here by the friendliness of the church's members. This is still true today.



I would like to let you know what stewardship means to me. It means a lot more than making a monetary pledge each fall during the church's annual stewardship campaign. Although pledging is very important, stewardship also means my response to the Lord for the many blessings and graces he has given me. It means sharing my gifts of time and talent to do his work here at Pennfield Presbyterian Church. I feel also that God wants me to be kind and supportive of my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. It also means ever learning about the Word of God through Bible study. And it means sharing a portion of our income to help our church continue doing God's work on earth.

In closing I would like to invite you to pledge to this year's stewardship drive. Thank you, Darrell VanVleet, Elder, Chair of Worship Committee



My name is Burrel Stults and I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I am blessed with a loving wife of 62 years, three children, a daughter and two sons, and eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. I was invited to join Pennfield Presbyterian Church by a good friend and fellow engineer. Deanna and I have been members of Pennfield Presbyterian Church since 1962, and we have served here on many committees and on Session. The friendships I have made here and the love shared are my reward when trying to do God's work within the body of believers here.

The stewardship of God-given time, talents, and treasure is my response to Jesus Christ's call to me and his claim on my life.

I first became aware of God's call when I asked God, "Why me?" and God gave me the answer by saying, "Why not you!"

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I have no problem inviting others to follow Jesus Christ also by the power of the Holy Spirit. Please follow Christ's call by responding to this stewardship appeal.

Burrel Stults, Elder, Member of Stewardship and Mission Committee

## Time Change--Falling Back One Hour

Remember that daylight savings time will end by **Sunday, Nov. 1**. So please set your clocks back on Saturday, Oct. 31 by one hour, so you won't be too early for our livestreamed worship.





### **Livestreamed Yoga Class on Facebook**

Our long-time yoga teacher, Amanda Wallace, will again offer beginners and chair yoga. This time, it will be offered via facebook live. So please go to her facebook page, Amanda Wallace Yoga, to tune in.

Classes will meet for four weeks on Monday, Nov. 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 9 a.m. until 9:45. The cost for the class is \$35. Please mail your check directly to Pennfield Presbyterian Church, with “Yoga” marked on the memo line.

### **From Our Congregational Meeting of Sunday, Oct. 25**



Last Sunday, we gathered in our parking lot for a drive-through fellowship time and a congregational meeting to vote on the revised bylaws of our church (that were last updated in 1998) as submitted by Session and on the slate of nominees for elder, deacon, and the Nominating Committee as submitted by Nominating Committee.

Voting was done by “honking.” Members of Nominating Committee were Cathy Walsh Boyer (Chair), Mitch Hull, Joan Jarrard, Deanna Stults, Susan Jordan (for Deacons), Darrell VanVleet (for Session), Cathy Heath (for Session), The Rev. Annemarie Kidder (ex officio).

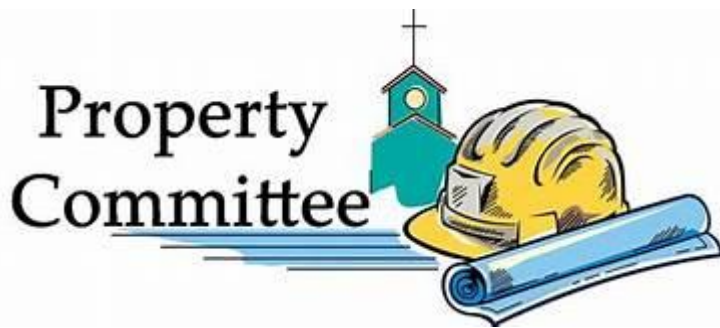
Elected as elders for Class of 2023 were Tom Beaver, Woody, Booher, and Karen Newhard. Elected as deacons for Class of 2023 were Rosemary Hahn, Steve Phillips, and Joy Thomas. Elected as deacons for Class of 2021 were Lila Back, Marie Hull, and Marcia VanVleet. Elected for the 2021 Nominating Committee for the congregation were Carolyn Hammond, Aaron Jordan, Jay Moore, and Char Pierce.

We concluded our meeting with singing accompanied by streamed music from our blue-tooth speaker system (thanks to Lois’s tech know-how). Congratulations to our newly elected officers and committee members and many thanks to the good work of the Nominating Committee!

### **All Saints Day**

On **Sunday, Nov. 1** we will celebrate All Saints Day. If you lost a loved one this past year and would like to have them remembered during our livestreamed worship service, please send me their name via email at [annemariesk59@gmail.com](mailto:annemariesk59@gmail.com). For those without email, please call Pastor Annemarie at home by Friday, Oct. 30.





## Property and Finance Committee Update

As of last week, we have heat at the church and the new boiler is up and running. A big thank you to all who so generously donated to our Boiler Fund and made it possible to have a brand new heating system. The current boiler is highly efficient and uses a minimum of energy.

The sound and video system is nearly up and running. The company, Phillips Pro Systems of Temperance, Michigan, is still waiting for one of two cameras by which we will record the live worship service.

Lighting has been considerably improved for video purposes. All ceiling lights have been replaced by LED bulbs. In addition, new track lighting will be installed in the coming days, so that the chancel area is better illuminated and shadows are being kept to a minimum. Also, we now have outdoor lighting, which means our church is illuminated at night and shines like a "beacon" on the hill.

## Fall Clean-Up Outside and Inside

Thank you for volunteering to be on the "leaves task force" which involves raking and blowing leaves.



In addition, we are looking for a few volunteers for cleaning up inside the church (dusting and vacuuming) and outside by clearing out flower beds and others areas on our property. If you are willing to help, please contact Lois Shubert. We want to finish these tasks by mid-November.

Lois Shubert, Elder

Chair, Property and Finance Committee

## Adult Education Classes on Sundays

### Contemporary Issues Class

This class meets weekly via Zoom on Sundays at noon. Addressed are topics generated by the "Wired Word," an educational service that takes news articles of current interest in the areas of social, economic, and political relevance and examines them through the lens of the Christian faith. You will receive the articles with discussion questions beforehand. If you would like to join, please contact Tom Beaver at [thbeaver@aol.com](mailto:thbeaver@aol.com) or by phone.





## Bible Study to Finish Up

We will conclude our Zoom study on the Sermon on the Mount on **Sunday, Nov. 1 at 11 a.m.** Following that is a two-week session on the basics of the Christian faith.

## New Member Class on Sunday, Nov. 8 and 15 via Zoom



We will meet via Zoom on Sundays, Nov. 8 and 15 for a new member class. This class is open to anyone wishing to get a refresher on the basics of the Christian and Reformed faith, but especially those considering membership in our church. The class meets at 11 a.m. via Zoom. If you would like to receive a Zoom link via email and are not currently on our email list, please email me at [annemariesk59@gmail.com](mailto:annemariesk59@gmail.com). The link is sent out on Fridays. The class is being facilitated by Pastor Annemarie.

## Wave-A-Thon

This has been a very unusual and difficult year in so many ways. We need a unique way to reach out to others and let them know that God loves them. So how about a wave-a-thon??!! Come up to church dressed for the weather, bring a lawn chair to be down by the road on **Monday, November 2 from 3 to 5 p.m.** and wave to all who drive by!

Make a sign if desired to let them know God loves them.  
We can make a difference!

Trina Sleper, Elder  
Chair of Evangelism and Fellowship Committee



## Financial Giving

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

If you need information regarding your current balance, please call the church office to talk to our financial secretary, Jean Smith.

## Online Giving

A quick and easy way to give is through our church website. Go to our church website [www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org](http://www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org). Click on the Give Now button. 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 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. The service is managed by the Presbyterian Foundation. Thank you to those who are already taking advantage of this service!



## Musical Talent to Be Featured in November

On Sunday, Nov. 22 we will have as our musical guest again **Paul Freeburn**, founder and director of Freeburn School of Music, who is also teaching at Kellogg Community College and as part of the Gull Lake Home School Virtual Partnership.

In addition, we will have two more musicians playing for us during our livestreamed worship services.

**Denise Carter** will play piano for us on Sunday, Nov. 8 or 15. Mrs. Carter has been a church pianist for more than thirty years at several Seventh Day Adventist Churches. More recently she has moved back from Centerville, Ohio, to her hometown Battle Creek, where she attends the Urbandale church. She is married to Jimmy Carter.

On Sunday, Nov. 1, we welcome **Jaelyn Burke** to our church, who will provide us with special music on the violin. Mrs. Burke studied violin performance at Grand Valley State University and Western Michigan University. She grew traveling in her military family and now has a family of her own in Battle Creek. She is a member of the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra and is regularly a substitute player for the Kalamazoo Symphony. Jaelyn is the official violinist at the Henderson Castle Inn, and recently founded the Coretet String Quartet. Jaelyn runs a Violin studio from her home based on the philosophy of Shinichi Suzuki. She also teaches students through the Gull Lake Virtual Partnership. It is this program that has led her find a new space to teach here at the church.

## We Miss YOU in Worship!

Please make it a habit to worship with us on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. via facebook live. This is especially important for our elders and deacons, who are the spiritual leaders of our church. And please invite your friends. If you have problems connecting or signing on, please contact Elder Trina Sleper or Christine Ayers.

Also, we want to know when you are online, so please leave a comment or like, or share the video. It serves as our worship attendance pad. The worship videos stay up on fb Annemarie Kidder and on our church's fb page for the duration and can be accessed any time.

If you want to prepare for worship, you will find a blurb on our church's facebook page every Friday introducing the gist of the upcoming sermon and the preaching text, which tends to be the Gospel lesson from the Revised Common Lectionary.

## Hannah Women's Circle

Study guides for our Horizon Bible Study and are still available in the Church Library for pick-up. This year's study is called *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Psalms of Lament*. The cost of the study guide is \$10.00 and \$15.00 for large print. Please call the church ahead of time to make sure someone is there .

The next meeting of the Circle is the third Tuesday of each month, namely **Nov. 17 at 1 p.m.** The study will meet via Zoom and a link will be sent to you by Marie Hull. ---Deanna Stults, Circle Moderator

## Our Church's Labyrinth

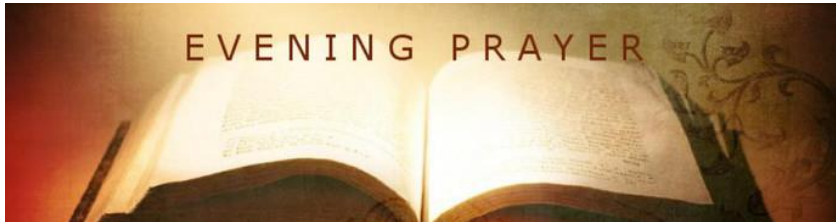


In the summer of 2017, Aidan Tucker installed a labyrinth on our church grounds outdoors as part of an Eagle Scout Project. Recently he, along with Josh and Kaylee cleared off the overgrown grass so that the pathways are again clearly marked.

What a gift for our church to have an outdoor labyrinth! You are free to walk it anytime.

## Printed Sermon Copies

If you are unable to watch worship online, 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!



## Monthly Evening Prayer on Wednesday, Nov. 4

What a great turnout we had! We will meet again **on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 6 p.m.** via facebook live for evening prayer. Evening prayer is a time of scripture reading, a brief meditation, and lifting up those we wish to pray for. Simply put your requests in the comment section while we are live.

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*Stewardship Sunday*

## Stewardship Sunday and Drive-In Fellowship Time

Our next drive-in Fellowship time at church will be **Sunday, Nov. 22 at 11:15 a.m.** This will also be Stewardship Sunday, where we will offer up our pledge cards for this coming year. The stewardship mailing along with a pledge card will sent out the week of November 9. In case you leave the card at home, we will have extras on hand.

If you are not able to come to church, you may mail in your pledge card to the church<sup>1</sup>. We will hold these cards and dedicated them all that day.



### **About Our CROP Walk-- "Parking Lot Crop Walk Was Wonderful!"**

Our very own CROP Walk held in our parking lot because of the pandemic was well attended: ten members plus one well-behaved guide dog. We were blessed to be outside on a beautiful fall day. We distanced and wore masks if we walked and talked with non-family, six feet apart. It was so special to have a time of fellowship for a good cause, fighting hunger in our area and worldwide. The exact amount raised (more than \$200) will be available after the end of October when the online giving is reported. Watch for a total in the December newsletter. --Marie Hull, for the Board of Deacons



### **Pastoral Care and Deacons' Ministry**

Please continue to check in with one another during this time of physical/social distancing and to lend "a hand" in helping each other connect to livestreamed worship on facebook and to Zoom.

Recently our deacons have implemented a system by which to connect by phone with our entire membership, so you might contact your deacon for help also.

For prayer requests for the Deacons' prayer chain, please contact Ruth TenBroek, moderator of the Board of Deacons. For immediate needs, please contact Pastor Annemarie by e-mail, phone, or text.

### **Food Bank Updates**

Meijer is extending their hunger relief efforts through the end of the year by conducting back-to-back fall and holiday campaigns to ensure the maximum support for food pantry partners during this time of pandemic. They will be launching the extended holiday *Simply Give* campaign beginning **Sunday, October 25, 2020, through Saturday, January 2, 2021**. Our partnering Meijer store is on Beckley Road. As before, you just purchase a \$10 Simply Give card (or more) at the store during this time period. The **Double Match** days are Tuesday, December 1, 2020 and Saturday, December 12, 2020. Each of your \$10 Simply Give contributions will yield \$30 with the additional match from Meijer on the two double match days.



**Feeding the Community**

Thank you for helping support the Neighborhood Food Pantry Ministries of which Northeast Food Pantry is the one supported by Pennfield Presbyterian by purchasing the Simply gift cards when you are checking out with your groceries. The cards are available at the check out lanes. With your help we are able to provide food and baby items for our neighbors in need.

Thank you, Laurie Riley



### **A Thank You Note From our Choir Director**

To the PPC congregation,

I feel there are many prayers said on my behalf during my absence. I really appreciate them. I am better but very cautious. I still don't know where I picked up this virus. Please be careful and don't rush into returning to normal. I miss you all. At this time, I am not sure when I will be able to return.

God bless,

Franklin Ballard



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Nov. 11: Sally Moore

Michelle Martens

17: Maggie Goll

19: Noah Brown

20: Erin Galloway

Peter Atma

Todd Paul, Jr.

26: Laura Nettleton

27: Burrel Stults

30: Nelson Dull

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Nov. 16: Don and Joann Preston



### **Comment Section with Liturgy for All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1**

Opening Prayer (in unison):

God of peace, give us grace to follow your saints.

You taught us that in returning to you we shall be saved,

In quiet and in confidence shall be our strength.

By the power of your Spirit, lift us to your presence,

Where we may be still and know that you are God;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn after Sermon:

#526 "For All the Saints"

For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, o Jesus, be forever blest,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Communion Liturgy

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Song during Communion (sing twice)

#2227 "Bind Us Together"

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together  
With cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, in love.

There is only one God, there is only one king;

There is only one body, that is why we sing.

Prayer after Communion (in unison)

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life.**

**May we who drink his cup bring life to others.**

**May we who have inherited the light of truth**

**Give light to a darkened world,**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

