

Pennfield Press

October 2020 Newsletter

Growing Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

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www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

Find us on Facebook “Pennfield Presbyterian Church”

Dear Friends,

The bright yellow and red of tree and grass is transforming our landscape into a patchwork of art. We are reminded that change is in the air, a change from lush vegetation to bare branches, from the sun stroking our skin to the cool breezes of fall, from spending more time outdoors to spending less.

As I look at creation, I am grateful that we too can experience change and need not stay the same: we can experience a change of heart perhaps, a change of opinion, a change of scenery or perspective.

And of course, we hope that very soon on Sunday mornings we will be able to change into our Sunday outfits and come here to gather for in-person worship. We still plan on opening the sanctuary for in-person worship for the first Sunday in Advent, namely Nov. 29.

We will continue livestreaming our worship services even after we open for in-person worship. And we will do so in a similar format as before.

This month, our church calendar is filled to overflowing with ministry activities. I want to highlight two special Sundays in particular, the first and the last Sunday in October. **On Oct. 4**, we celebrate World Communion Sunday; this day was conceived by a Presbyterian pastor at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA in 1933. In 1936, this day was adopted by our denomination at large and by 1940 was adopted by what is today the National Council of Churches. It is a reminder that Christ died for all and that at the communion table we gather in unity of Spirit, regardless of language, skin color, economic condition, political conviction, or race. Thus, it is a feast especially meaningful in the weeks and months ahead.

On Oct. 25, we celebrate Reformation Sunday, the day when we remember what the great church reformer Martin Luther did for the Christian faith and the theological insights he formulated that forever changed the face of the church worldwide.



As we continue to meet and minister to one another during this time of physical separation, I am grateful for your faithfulness and love for one another and for me. I certainly feel it each week by your comments online, over the phone, and via notes. And I am humbled by the fact that the Session recently voted unanimously to not proceed with a pastoral search at this time.

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be your source of joy and strength for the building up of one another and laboring for his kingdom on earth. With love and blessings,

Pastor Annemarie

Our Own CROP Walk at Pennfield Presbyterian Church

Hunger hasn't taken a break during the pandemic. Since the unified CROP Walk was not held this year due to the pandemic, we are going to hold our own CROP Walk safely at our own church! We can distance and still feel a sense of joining together for a good cause. Due to Covid precautions, no refreshments will be served.

CROP Walk at Pennfield Presbyterian:

Date: October 11, 2020

Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

How long/far to walk: You decide!



In case of rain, use your own judgment. No walking in case of inclement weather such as thunder or lightning. Bring your mask and stay 6 feet away from people not in your own household. Plan to sign a COVID-19 liability waiver.

If you would like to make a donation to fight hunger you may send the amount through your usual means, mail or online, to Pennfield Presbyterian by October 23rd. Please be sure to note the amount is for the CROP Walk, so it can be forwarded in one check. One quarter of funds raised stay in the local community. Questions? Call Marie Hull on her cell phone, Mark Baxter, or Ruth TenBroek.

Our New Sound System

Our new sound system is being installed currently by Phillips Pro Systems of Temperance, Michigan. New speakers have already been hung and the microphones will be put in shortly. This system is digital, as opposed to analog, with two cameras that are linked to our live broadcast. The new system will give us greater flexibility with our livestreamed worship and enhance the overall quality of our sound on video and in person. Our old system will be donated to a foundation that distributes sound systems to churches in developing countries.



You may have also seen greater clarity of picture in the livestreamed worship service. That's because at the advice of our sound system installer, all the light bulbs in our sanctuary were replaced with LED lights. A big thank you goes to Lois Shubert for this initiative and Bill Rothney for the balancing act up on the ladder

Adult Education Classes on Sundays

Contemporary Issues Class

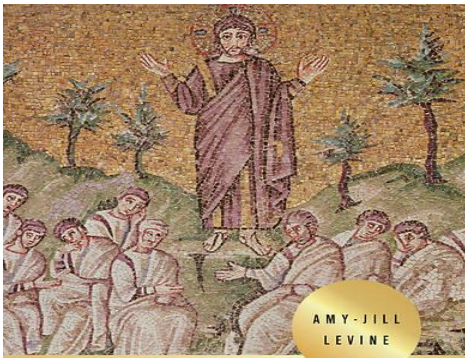
This class meets weekly via Zoom on Sundays at noon. Addressed are topics generated by the “Wired Word,” educational service that takes news articles of current interest in the areas of social, economic, and political relevance and examines them through the lens of the Christian faith. You will receive the articles with discussion questions beforehand.



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If you would like to join, please contact Tom Beaver at thbeaver@aol.com or by phone.

Bible Study on the Sermon on the Mount



This adult education class meets at 11 a.m. via Zoom throughout the month of October. It is not necessary to own a book to join this class. Just open your Bibles to Matthew 5-7 and read ahead of our meeting time. The study will provide a historical and theological overview of Jesus’ beloved teachings. If you would like to receive a Zoom link via email, please email me at Annemariesk59@gmail.com. The link is sent out on Fridays. The class is being facilitated by Pastor Annemarie.

SERMON *on*
the MOUNT
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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. Here are the simple steps to follow:

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, such as the Sound System.

Thank you to those who are already taking advantage of this service!



Musical Talent to Be Featured in October

This month we are particularly blessed with special music from two more local musicians and performing professionals in addition to our invaluable music staff, Gayla Metzger and Franklin Ballard.

On **Sunday, Oct. 4** we will celebrate World Communion Sunday and our special guest is Dr. Gerald Case-Blanchard, who will be accompanied on the piano by our own Gayla Metzger. Dr. Blanchard is the director of vocal/choral music at Kellogg Community College and an internationally recognized lyric baritone. As an opera singer and conductor he has toured widely with opera companies and has been on the concert stage in North America, Canada, and Europe. We look forward to having Dr. Blanchard with us.

On **Sunday, Oct. 25**, we welcome musician, singer, and music educator Paul Freeburn. Mr. Freeburn has been a professional musician for forty years. In 1998, he founded The Freeburn School of Music in Battle Creek whose mission it is to provide quality musical education. He is an adjunct music faculty member at Kellogg Community College and also teaches at St. Joseph Catholic School and Gull Lake Home School. We will hear Mr. Freeburn in worship once a month and look forward to that.



Livestreamed Worship at 10 a.m.

If you are still having difficulties connecting on Sunday morning, here are a few more tips:

Go to the facebook page of Annemarie Kidder shortly before 10 a.m. When the live broadcast is on, you will see a notification in the “bell” icon. This “bell” icon will have a red dot now. Click on the bell (which is really the notification icon) and you will see a message saying “Annemarie Kidder is live.” Click on that message and the video will appear. If it doesn’t work on your iPhone, you may try the iPad or computer. Note: It’s best not to switch devices once you have found one that works for you.

Please note that while the video is on, you are in a virtual community. That means you can interact with other viewers, such as greeting them or clicking “like” on their comments. Also note that the video will stay up, so you can go back later if you missed watching or you can watch it again. You can also comment on the video later on. The worship video will be posted on our church's facebook page, where it will stay up also. Each Sunday, Lois Shubert, our tech coordinator, records the special music separately on her facebook page.

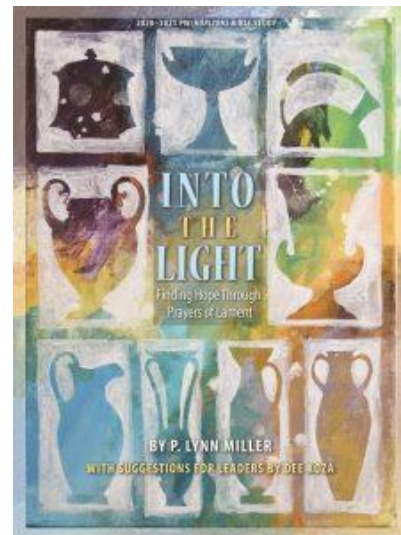
You can share the worship video to your own facebook page after the broadcast has ended. To do so, simply click the “Share” button beneath the video.

If you would like to prepare for worship ahead of time, you will find a blurb on our church's facebook page every Friday introducing the topic or gist of the upcoming sermon and the preaching text, which tends to be the Gospel from our revised common lectionary.

Hannah Women's Circle

The study guides have arrived for our Horizon Bible Study and are available in the Church Library for pick-up. This year's study is called *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Psalms of Lament*. It includes opportunities to reclaim, or learn, the practice of lament, which can help us live faithfully in this in-between time, engaging the real world with our faith and our faith with the real world. 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 Circle meets on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning Tuesday, **Oct. 20**. Please invite other women to join us. The study will meet via Zoom. ---Deanna Stults, Circle Moderator



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!

What in the World is the Lectionary?

You have heard me say at the beginning of our worship service that our scripture reading comes from the lectionary. What do I mean by that? I mean to say that generally I do not pick the preaching text but allow the lectionary to choose it for me. Some pastors like to preach a sermon series, usually addressing a certain theme. But I prefer to stick with the lectionary text of the day as a spiritual discipline, you might say. The New Revised Common Lectionary is an ecumenical, internationally used reading guide for worship planning in churches and chooses a set of readings, including the Gospel passage, for each Sunday. So, if you happen to tune in to several worship services online on any given Sunday, you are likely to hear sermons preached on the same Gospel lesson. (It's fun hearing how different preachers interpret a passage and how they suggest it be applied today.) Letting the lectionary dictate the preaching text allows us then to connect ecumenically with our brothers and sisters in Christ, not just all across this country but even all around the world.



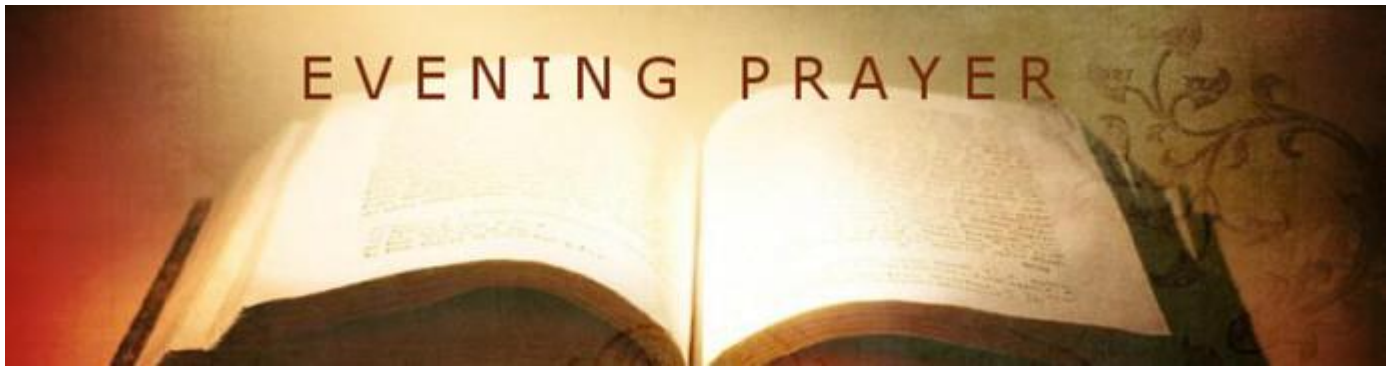
Our Church's Labyrinth

In the summer of 2017, Aidan Tucker installed a labyrinth on our church grounds outdoors. A few weeks ago, his sister, Kaylee Tucker, 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.

Here is what Kaylee says about the practice of walking the labyrinth:

“Walking a prayer labyrinth is all about peace. Just like the one outside the church, a prayer labyrinth has only one way in or out. As you walk the path, folding in on itself, it is a time for contemplation. When you reach the center, and your thoughts are at peace, you can truly hear God. The cross in the center is your focus to allow you to hear God more clearly than you usually could, free from noise and distraction. The way out allows for thought upon your prayers. A prayer labyrinth is really just a way to feel close to God.” --Kaylee Tucker



Monthly Evening Prayer

Starting on Wednesday, **Oct. 7**, we will gather **at 6 p.m.** via facebook live for evening prayer. This will be a monthly event where we gather on the first Wednesday of the month. It will be a time of scripture reading, a brief meditation or reflection, and of making prayer requests and joining in prayer. You will also receive reminders on our church's facebook page.

Fellowship Outing to Detroit, Oct. 23-24

We are excited about the good turnout for the trip to the Detroit Institute of Art and to Eastern Market on **Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-24**. We will be staying overnight at a hotel in Detroit. If interested in joining us, please contact Trina Slepser, chair of Fellowship and Evangelism Committee, to make your reservations. We want to book the rooms no later than Oct. 11.



Drive-In Fellowship Time and Congregational Meeting

Our next drive-in Fellowship time at church will be **Sunday, Oct. 25 at 11:15 a.m.** This will also be a congregational meeting, where we vote on the revised church bylaws as ratified by Session. Copies of the revisions will be available in print at the meeting. If you would like to have a copy of the revisions emailed to you, please contact the clerk of session, Cathy Walsh, no later than Oct. 18.

Pastoral Care

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. It looks like both media platforms will be used by us for many more months to come. If you have thought about getting an iPad or a better phone (and many of you have been telling me about that), please do so sooner rather than later. While technology cannot replace the human touch, it can certainly enhance our sense of being connected and being cared for and caring.

Please keep in touch especially with our homebound members. 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.

Stewardship Campaign Coming Up

Are you excited about our church and God's goodness to you? Have you developed a stewardship routine that others might benefit hearing about? Are you willing to share what makes you want to give? This year's stewardship campaign in November will feature live testimonials of those who love what we do and want to make a difference for Christ in the world. If this is you, please let Elder Tom Beaver know, though he may be calling you first.

Thank You Note

Dear Loved Ones: My daughter, Val, and I want to thank you for your expressions of sympathy through cards, calls, and meals upon Roger's death. You are our family and we love you.

Thank you,

Jean Smith and Val Hodge



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Oct 2: Jane Moore

3: Keith Martens

8: Kathy Heath Kristi Shaffer

9: George Garms

16: Jim Jordan

24: Kathy Yost

25: Christy Cope Phillip Adler

26: Brittany Moore Jean Smith

27: Justin Pierson Tyler Pierson

28: Todd Paul

29: Luke Atma

30: Susan Jordan Esther Rayburn

31: John Goll

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Oct 6: John and Tracy Goll

9: Steve and Jeanette Higgs

11: Sandi & Bill Rothney

15: Jay and Sally Moore, Sr.

24: Jeff and Michelle Jarrard

25: Tom and Karen Lewis

Comment Section with World Communion Liturgy for October 4

Opening Prayer (in unison):

Creator God, you show us that the secret of joy
is a heart set free from selfish desires.

Help us to delight in simple things,
to rejoice always in the richness of your bounty,
and to share good things with others,
for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn after Sermon:

#516 "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation"

Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
Chosen by you, to be counted your friends.
Yours is the strength that sustains dedication,
Ours the commitment we know never ends.

Here at your table, confirm our intention,
Give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
Teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.

When, at your table, each time of returning,
Vows are renewed and our courage restored,
May we increasingly glory in learning
All that it means to accept you as Lord.

Communion Liturgy

Prayer for World Communion Sunday (in unison), first in English, then Italian and German

Dear Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

Make your face shine upon us

until your ways are known all over this earth

and your salvation among all the nations;

we pray this in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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)

**Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup
and you have made us one with Christ.**

Help us to bring your salvation and joy to our neighbor, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

