

Pennfield Press

January 2021 Newsletter

Growing Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

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www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

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Dear Friends,

For some of us, the new year cannot come soon enough. We want to leave behind the bad memories associated with this past year, those of a pandemic, of economic hardships, political upheaval and riots, the loss of friends and loved ones, and the many inconveniences that we hope a vaccine will abate. Even the Christmas decorations seem to have come down earlier than usual this year. And yet, until January 6, it is still Christmas. We still are within the twelve proverbial days of this holy season. And the gift of God to us wants to be remembered. How will you remember Jesus this year? How much will you give him of your time and your resources? And where and how will you put gratitude to work?



January 6 is also the Feast of Epiphany with the Wise Men from the East bearing gifts for the child. The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh are symbols of who Christ is, namely a king who rules this world, a mediator between us and God, and a sacrificial lamb who died for our sins so they might be removed. This year, let us be mindful of the particular role we need to remember him by for consolation, peace, and hope.

Things to note this month:

On Sunday, January 3, we will celebrate the Feast of Epiphany and Holy Communion. Please have a piece of bread and some juice or wine ready at the beginning of worship. You will find the liturgy at the end of this newsletter.

On Sunday, January 10, we celebrate Jesus' baptism while remembering and being mindful of our own. On that day we will meet via Zoom at 11 a.m. to ordain and install the newly elected officers of deacon and elders. A Zoom link will be sent to you prior to that.

On Sunday, January 17 at 11 a.m., a new adult education class will kick off, taught by me. The class will meet via Zoom and explore the five essential practices of the Christian life. Study books are available in the church office.

And on Sunday, January 31 at 11 a.m., we will have our annual meeting of the congregation via Zoom.

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed New Year,

Pastor Annemarie





Stewardship and Mission Update

This year's stewardship theme is "Love", or more specifically, "Love, hospitality and being good stewards of God's grace". The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-29) is a good illustration of such love of God and neighbor. It also means providing hospitality to others out of the abundance that we have received. For our giving is ultimately a way of glorifying God and pointing to God's amazing love and grace for us.

Pledge Results (12/23/2020):

	12/23/2020	Total 2019
# of Pledges	35	47
\$ Pledged	\$86,688	\$107,222
Avg. Pledge	\$2,476.80	\$2,281.32

For those who have made their pledges, God Bless and thank you. I'm asking those who have not returned their pledge cards to please do so as soon as possible. Or, you may call in your pledge over the phone. Please remember, giving money to the Church is offering ourselves in service to God. Giving enriches our lives; it makes us stronger in faith, more aware of others' needs, and contributes to the joy of sharing. Moreover, it fulfills our church's mission and provides funding for our ministries and programs. Blessings,

Tom Beaver, Elder
Stewardship and Mission Committee Chair

Ordination and Installation via Zoom on Sunday, Jan. 10 at 11 a.m.

We will ordain and install our newly elected church officers for elder and deacon at a **Zoom meeting on Sunday, Jan. 10 at 11 a.m.** Those who will be ordained and installed are:

- For elders of the Class of 2023 Tom Beaver, Woody Booher, and Karen Newhard.
- For deacons of the Class of 2023 Rosemary Hahn, Steve Phillips, and Joy Thomas.
- For deacons of the Class of 2021 Lila Back, Marie Hull, and Marcia VanVleet.

Please join us online for a beautiful service with virtual kneeling and laying-on of hands.



Property and Finance Committee Update

Our boiler is up and running, using a minimum of energy. However, in addition to one pipe leaking, we now have two pipes. Our insurance company is covering some of the cost to replace both pipes and repair the damage to the well. The remainder will come from endowment funds.

The sound and video system is mostly installed and up and running. However, our worship team will need to be trained first in how to use the new system. We hope that we are “trainable.”

--Lois Shubert, Chair
Property and Finance Committee

Adult Education Classes on Sundays

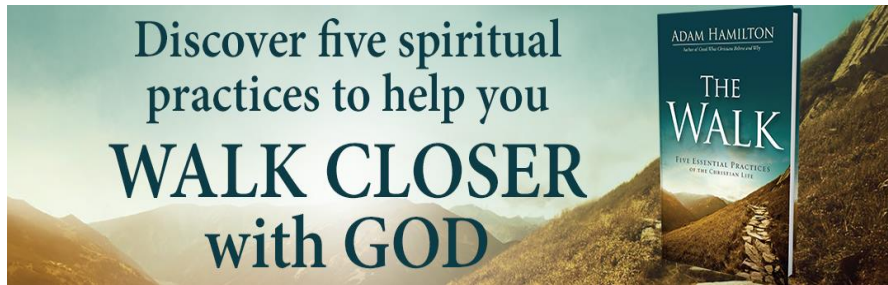
--Contemporary Issues Class

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 or by phone.



--Book Study on Christian Practices

What does it take to fully “operate” as a Christian? What are the essential “cylinders” that power us in our walk with Christ? Starting on **Jan. 17**, we will study the five essential practices of the Christian life.



The class will be using Adam Hamilton’s book The Walk and will be taught by Pastor Annemarie. Books are available now at church for \$12. The class will meet **at 11 a.m. via Zoom on January 17 and 24**, and then again

on February **7, 14, and 21**. Please note that there is no class on Jan. 28 due to our annual meeting.

Worship: Meeting In-Person and Via Facebook Live

We will continue to meet for in-person worship while also livestreaming via facebook. If you choose to attend worship, please be present at least ten (10) minutes prior to 10 a.m. Livestreaming will begin at 10 a.m. Entry will be at the main church door only. We will take your temperature there and expect you to wear a face mask the entire time of worship. You may sit in the designated areas to maintain social distancing. And you are asked to leave the building immediately following worship. Thank you all for working together!

Offering Envelopes

This year, we have unmarked and undated boxes of offering envelopes available. If you would like to have a box dropped off at your house or mailed to you, please contact the church office. We will need your requests for offering envelopes by Monday, Jan. 18.



Financial Giving

Thank you for your 2021 Pledge. We appreciate your support of our church programs and ministries. Giving statements will be mailed to shortly. For questions, please call our Financial Secretary, Jean Smith, at church, who will be available on Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m to 1 p.m.

Online Giving

A quick and easy way to give is through our church website, www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org. Click on the Give Now button and 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 specific projects, such as capital improvement or the deacons. Thank you for giving!

Musical Talent to Be Featured in January



On Sunday, Jan. 3, we welcome back **Jaelyn Burke** on the violin, accompanied by **Gayla Metzger**.

On Sunday, Jan. 10, **Paula Krontz Harris** will lead us on the piano. Mrs. Harris has been a music teacher, a professional accompanist, and a church musician for most of her adult life.

We welcome back on Jan. 17 and 31 **Franklin Ballard** and look forward to his energetic and Spirit-filled musical leadership in worship.

And on Jan. 24, we are happy to have with us again **Paul Freeburn** on the guitar and in song, along with hearing selections on the piano and the organ.

O Come, All Ye Faithful!

Please worship with us regularly on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. via facebook live. And let us know you are online by leaving a comment, liking, or sharing the video. Your “clicks” serve as our worship attendance pad. The worship videos stay up for the duration and can be accessed anytime on our church’s facebook page. Each Wednesday is posted a devotion and on Fridays the scripture on which the upcoming sermon is based.



Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Jan. 28 at 11 a.m. via Zoom

If you are a committee chair or board or circle moderator, please submit your annual report to the church office by **Monday, Jan. 18 at noon**. The address is pennpresBC@gmail.com. This year, we will have only a limited number of printed copies available as the Annual Report will be emailed to you. A link will be sent to you for this Zoom meeting. All church members in good standing are eligible to vote. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the minutes of prior congregational meetings in 2020, to hear reports from Session and the Deacons, and to receive the 2021 budget.

Monthly Evening Prayer on Jan. 6 at 6 p.m.

We meet again on **Wednesday, Jan. 6** (Day of Epiphany) at **6 p.m.** via facebook live for evening prayer. Go to Annemarie Kidder on facebook and wait for the little red notification dot in the bell icon to appear. Click on that icon, and you will be joined in a live broadcast. 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. And invite others to join.



Welcome to Our Newest Member

Last month, our Session examined via Zoom a candidate for full membership in our church. Jessica Prince Harvath is the daughter of longtime member Sandy Prince. A few months ago Jessica had sensed the call to unite with us and attended new member classes. She is eager to become active and to serve the people of God in ministry and mission. Members of the Session enthusiastically welcomed her. If you would like to drop her a note, her address is 100 Clifton Place, Battle Creek, MI 48017.

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.

Our deacons have now implemented a system by which to connect by phone with our entire membership, so you might contact your deacon for help also. The new deacons will contact you shortly.

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

From the Outgoing Deacons' Moderator

A big thank you to all who made financial contributions to underwrite the ministry of the Deacons. This year we needed to do things differently, but December has still been a busy month for the deacons.

We delivered two-dozen poinsettia plants to homebound members as well as to those with special concerns during this Christmas season.

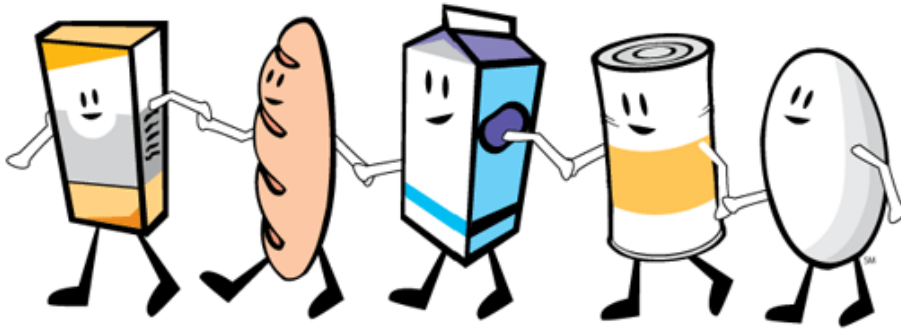
On the second Saturday of December we distributed food baskets as well as gift cards to seven local families who were experiencing financial hardship this year (these names were provided to us by Purdy Elementary School). The parents in these families were then able to purchase gifts for each of their family members using the gift cards provided. The food baskets and gifts cards were received by the families with sincere expressions of gratitude. This ministry helped the deacons to show the support of the entire congregation for those in particular need of joy this Christmas season—particularly this year!

I would like to take this time to let the congregation know that since I have reached the end of my second term as deacon, I will be stepping down as the moderator of deacons. Marie Hull and Susan Jordan will be assuming the role of co-moderators beginning in January 2021. Both Marie and Susan have been on the board of Deacons for many years and will be excellent co-moderators! I am very grateful to have been a part of the deacons and would like to express my sincere gratitude to the congregation for their ongoing support of the Deacons' ministry, in Christ's name. --Ruth TenBroek

Membership Directory Update

This year we will send out the updated Church Membership Directory via email. If you would like to have a printed copy, please contact the church office directly. Our financial church secretary, Jean Smith, will be available at church on **Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**





Food Bank: Help Wanted

The Northeast Food Pantry is in need of someone who is willing to place food orders through the Food Bank for food for the Northeast pantry shelves. It's all computerized and training would be available. Also, someone is needed to pick up food from the Food Bank and deliver to the Northeast pantry. The pantry has a trailer, but needs someone with a vehicle with a hitch to pick up food on Mondays at 9:00 and bring to the pantry and unload it into the storage areas. We would need a driver and one to three people willing to help load and unload. John Worthington has been doing both of these jobs but is now wanting to retire. Please, if you are interested, willing and able to take on any of these volunteer roles let Laurie Riley know ASAP. She can be reached at ariley2324@comcast.net or on her cell phone. Thank you, Laurie Riley

Our Sympathy

Our prayers are with the families of Chuck Romine and Miles Van Orman who both joined the Church Triumphant last month. Chuck's cremains will be interred in our church's Memorial Garden during a memorial service in late spring.

Hannah Women's Circle

Hannah Circle will meet on **Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 1:00 p.m.** via Zoom. We are discussing Chapter Three in the Horizon's Bible study. If you would need a Zoom link, please let me or Marie Hull know. Books are still available in the church library; else, just join for the lesson. --Kathy Lyon, Co-Moderator

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan. 7: Elinor Thorpe
12: Carol Alday
16: Mike Carlson 1966
20: Jim Carter
21: Rosemary Hahn
23: Carolyn Hammond
25: Carla Stine-King
26: Martie Dull
28: Kevin Adler
29: Don Farrington
Mary Rose



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jan 29: Dennis & Sandy Shaffer

Comment Section with Communion Liturgy for Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021

(Please print out for livestreamed worship)

Opening Prayer (in unison):

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

And the glory of our God has risen upon us.

O God, you made us all one.

And by a star you led the way to Emmanuel, God with us.

Enable us to recognize your presence in our midst,

so that we will not keep silent about your light and truth.

Amen.



Hymn after Sermon:

#63 "As With Gladness Men of Old"

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,

as with joy they hailed the light, leading onward, beaming bright;

So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,

there to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore.

So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;

so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,

all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

As the magi offered their gifts, so do we. We bring what we can.
We offer what we have set aside for your work through your body,
the church.

We dedicate ourselves and our gifts for service in the world.

May our light shine on the poor and needy, the victims of
oppression and violence, and all those who live in places in need
of your light.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.

Communion Service

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.



Communion Music

Prayer after Communion (in unison)

You have sown a light in our midst, o Lord.

You have given yourself to each one of us in body and spirit.

Take ownership of who we are so we may bear light to others. Amen.

Benediction (in unison)

Great and good God,

give us pure hearts that we may see you,

humble hearts that we may hear you,

tender hearts that we may serve you,

faithful hearts that we may live in your will,

reverent hearts that we may worship you,

today and this year, and all the years to come. Amen.