

# Pennfield Press

## February 2021 Newsletter

*Growing Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship*

[pennpresBC@gmail.com](mailto:pennpresBC@gmail.com)

[www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org](http://www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org)

Find us on Facebook “Pennfield Presbyterian Church”

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Dear Friends,

Perhaps you are relieved that a vaccine has become available to protect against the Corona virus. Many people I know have already been vaccinated and are slated for the second run. Others, and I am one of them, are waiting to get their first shot, which may be as late as May or June. A third group is objecting to taking the vaccine for personal or political reasons, even saying that it will do little to protect us long-term.

Such disparate opinions and attitudes make me think of the early church and its divisions. Some Christians insisted that Jesus was their ultimate “vaccine,” their Savior who protected from eternal separation from God; others said that they wanted to wait and see how the “vaccinated” would fare, how they would act, whether they gave proof positive of the fact that things “were working.” And still others were on the lookout for a different “vaccine,” a different savior figure that would better meet their expectations.

The writer of Hebrews says that “faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for” (Heb. 11:1-2). I wonder, how would our Lord gauge the strength of our faith, how would we rank in his sight?

This month, we will enter the season of Lent on **Ash Wednesday**, which falls on **Feb. 17**. However, we will not meet in person for the imposition of ashes. Instead, we hope to have ready for pick-up some “home kits” to use for your own personal administering of the ashes. (Details will be published in the mid-February newsletter.)

Please consider engaging this year in a Lenten practice, which could be either giving up something that you enjoy consuming or doing, or adding service time to your schedule, or doing both.

This year, I am asking you to send me your personal Lenten discipline. We will “collect” these practices and publish them (without your name) in the mid-February newsletter. This is to help one another with ideas and also to create a sense of accountability. Please mail your Lenten practice to me at [annemariesk59@gmail.com](mailto:annemariesk59@gmail.com) by **Friday, Feb. 12**.

Wishing you a fruitful Lenten season,

Pastor Annemarie





### 2021 Stewardship Campaign Overview

Thanks to the overwhelming response and participation from our congregation we were able to complete yet again a successful stewardship drive resulting in a “BALANCED BUDGET” for 2021! We are all truly blessed to be part of such a caring and loving church family.

- We received a total of 43 Pledges for \$101,908
- 16 Members increased their pledge for a total amount of \$3,866. An average of \$242 per Pledge.
- There were 5 New Pledges for a total amount of \$5,120. An average of \$1,024 per Pledge.
- 2 Members will give as they can.
- 3 Members decreased their pledge for a total amount of \$960
- 5 members who Pledged in 2020 did not Pledge for 2021 for a total amount of \$5,020. (3 of those will give when attending).
- Follow-up Letters will be sent to 8 members the week of February 1st.

### Stewardship Drive Numbers

2021 Pledge Summary	2020	2021	2021 Pledges				
	Pledges	Pledges	Same	Increased	New	Decreased	Not Renewed
# Pledges	48	43	19	16	5	3	5
Total Amount \$	\$107,442	\$101,908	\$52,784	\$35,604	\$5,120	\$8,400	\$5,020
Average Pledge \$	\$2,238	\$2,370	\$2,778	\$2,225	\$1,024	\$2,800	\$1,004
Median Pledge \$	\$2,040	\$2,000	\$2,040	\$1,500	\$480	\$2,400	\$300
Change Amount \$	NA	NA	NA	\$3,866	NA	-\$960	NA
Average Change \$	NA	NA	NA	\$241.63	NA	-\$320	NA

### Investment of Funds

Over the last two years, we received several large-sized memorial funds. An Investment Committee was formed composed of the chairs of Stewardship and Mission, Administration, Worship, Property and Finance, the Treasurer, and the Pastor. The Committee recommended to invest \$150,000 in an 8-year annuity at 3.25% interest rate, and the investment was approved by Session.

Tom Beaver, Elder  
Stewardship and Mission Committee Chair



### **Property and Finance Committee Update**

Our boiler is up and running, using a minimum of energy. The second leaking pipe will have to be repaired yet. We hope that our insurance company will cover the cost of replacing this second pipe.

The sound and video system is fully installed and we plan on using it starting this month. The advantage will be better sound quality along with different views of the preacher, musicians, and our sanctuary.

--Lois Shubert, Chair  
Property and Finance Committee

### **Adult Education Classes on Sundays**

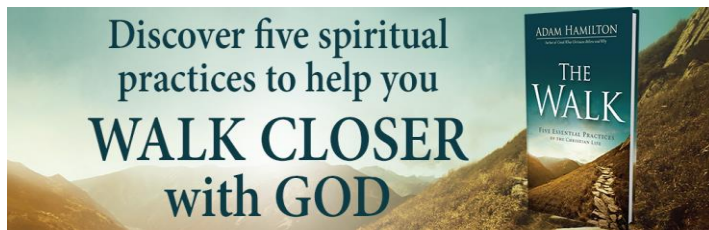
#### **--Contemporary Issues Class**

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](mailto: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?



We are currently studying the five essential practices of the Christian life, taught by Pastor Annemarie. The book we are using is Adam Hamilton’s The Walk, which is well-written and accessible. A few books are still available at church for \$12. The class will meet again on **February 7, 14, and 21.**

(No class on Jan. 31 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

We switched to having unmarked and undated boxes of offering envelopes. If you would like to have a box dropped off at your house or mailed to you, please contact the church office.

## 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](http://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 February

On Sunday, Feb. 7, we welcome back **Jaclyn Burke** on the violin, accompanied by **Gayla Metzger**.

On Sunday, Feb. 14, **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 Feb. 21 **Franklin Ballard** and look forward to his energetic and Spirit-filled musical leadership in worship.

And on Feb. 28, we will feature a video for worship that is sponsored by our Synod of the Covenant.

## Livestreamed Weekly Worship

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.







## Monthly Evening Prayer on Feb. 3 at 6 p.m.

We meet again **on Wednesday, Feb. 3 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.

## Pastoral Care and Deacons' Ministry

Please continue to check in with one another during this time of physical/social distancing. Our deacons have 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 Co-Moderator of Deacons

The Deacons would like to welcome the newest members to the Deacon board. Lila Back, Rosemary Hahn, Steve Phillips, Joy Thomas and Marcia VanVleet. They are excited about being a Deacon and ready to join into the activities.

We would also like to thank Ruth TenBroek and Mark Baxter for their tireless work as Deacons, they worked very hard on the committee and both recently completed 6 year terms. They will both be missed greatly.

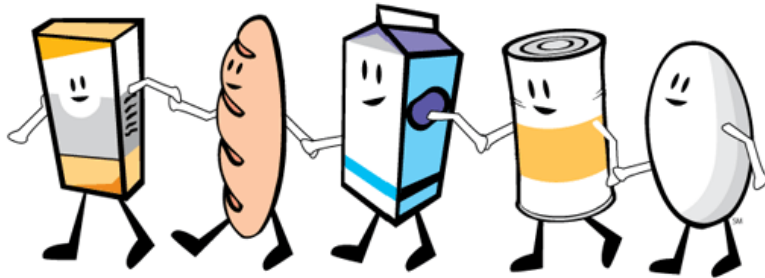
If you have any prayer requests you would like to bring before the Deacons there are several ways to do this, you may 1) contact 'your' Deacon who will pass along the information, 2) contact AnneMarie and ask her to pass along the information to the Deacons or 3) contact one of the Co-Chairs of the committee Marie Hull (217) 791-1278 or Susan Jordan (269) 317-9615. Your request will remain confidential within the Deacons and the prayer request will be added to our prayer chain.



Susan Jordan  
Board of Deacons, Co-Moderator

## 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.**



### Northeast Food Pantry News

The Meijer Holiday Simply Give campaign was a tremendous success raising \$6,490 to be divided among the six pantries in the Neighborhood Food Pantry Ministries (Northeast, Franklin, Love Thy Neighbor,

Urbandale, Parkway and Lakeview). Thanks to everyone who contributed helping to make this campaign so successful. In order to make sure the pantries have funds to put food on their shelves, Meijer is having a first time ever Simply Give winter campaign. This campaign will run from Sunday, February 14-Saturday, April 10, 2021. There will be two double match days Saturday, March 13 and Saturday, April 3. On double match days Meijer will contribute an additional \$20 for every \$10 contributed by the public. The cards will be available at the registers at the Meijer on Beckley during the entire winter campaign time. Thanks to everyone who is willing to contribute to make this campaign as successful as the holiday campaign. This is another opportunity to help your neighbors in need. I am again willing to take any donations to Meijer that people want to send to me.

--Laurie Riley

Thanks to everyone who has been collecting and giving the Northeast Pantry your Family Fare receipts. We are working on collecting the last \$40,000 towards \$150,000 worth of receipts. This will be our third set of \$150,000. The pantry receives \$1000 for each set of \$150,000 worth of receipts we turn in. Esther Rayburn has been very gracious in taking on the counting and tallying of these receipts. It is a very time consuming endeavor.

I am also appealing for help in another way. After 19 years of volunteering, John Worthington has retired from pantry work. He had the responsibility of ordering and picking up food from the Food Bank once a week on Monday mornings and delivering and unloading the food at the Northeast Pantry. I am looking for someone who is willing to pick up from the Food Bank and unload at the pantry, perhaps on a rotating basis. Please let me or Elsie Page know if you or someone else is willing to help take on this mission. Thanks.

--Laurie Riley

### Presbyterian Women

After nearly a year of "lockdown", it's time for PW to get back in the swing of things. Traditionally, we have participated in the Charitable Union coat drive in February and March. This year the theme is "Coins for Coats". We have also had a request for gloves for Purdy and North Penn Elementary schools. We will be accepting monetary donations for both programs through March, either through the office or donations at the church. Your support in these efforts is greatly appreciated.

--Sara Galloway, Moderator

## **Hannah Women's Circle**

Our group has continued to meet remotely. Those who have met via Zoom whether with video or by phone have enjoyed keeping in touch in this safe way. It amazes us how apt the study is for this time in our corporate and personal lives: Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament. If you need help with getting on Zoom, please let Kathy Lyon or me know. Everyone is welcome whether or not you have the book. Next meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 1 pm. We will cover Lesson Four, "Lamenting Death."  
--Marie Hull, Co-Moderator

## **Our Sympathy**

Our prayers are with the family of Marshall Hlatko, who joined the Church Triumphant last month. The committal will be private. A memorial service at church is planned for May or June.

## **Thank You Note**

Our family would like to express our most sincere appreciation for your expressions of sympathy prior to, during and following our loss of Burrel. It means so much to us to feel we were cared for by all of you through your prayers, cards, notes, emails, phone calls, food, and other ways.

You are truly "our church family" and we love you.

Deanna, Denny, Dean, Christy and families

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Feb. 2: Ruth TenBroek  
Kaylee Tucker  
5: Donna Teichman  
6: Joan Jarrard  
7: Mike Monroe  
8: Gayla Metzger  
9: Don Preston  
11: Chloe Paul  
Samantha Elliot  
13: Bart Slepser  
Leon White  
14: Dennis Shaffer  
21: Kelly Shaffer  
26: Lois Shubert  
Mark Atma  
Don Hammond  
27: Annemarie Kidder  
28: Lois Fleming



## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Feb. 14 Steve & Saskia Phillips  
Joe & Jean Schlubatis  
24 Ross & Joan Jarrard

## Comment Section with Communion Liturgy for Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021

(Please print out for livestreamed worship)

Opening Prayer (in unison):

Spirit of the living God,  
Free our minds from error and muddled thinking;  
Teach our hearts the living, liberating words of Jesus,  
And inspire our lips to share the Good News  
In word and deed. Amen.

Hymn after Sermon:

#336 "As a Chalice Cast of Gold"

As a chalice cast of gold,  
burnished, bright, and brimmed with wine,  
Make me, Lord, as fit to hold,  
Grace and truth and love divine.  
Let us praise and worship start  
With the cleansing of my heart.

Save me from the soothing sin  
Of the empty cultic deed  
And the pious, babbling din  
Of the claimed but un-lived creed.  
Let my actions, Lord, express  
What my tongue and lips profess.

When I dance or chant your praise,  
When I sing a psalm or hymn,  
When I preach your loving ways,  
Let my heart add its Amen.  
Let each cherished outward rite  
Thus reflect your inward light.

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)

**Lord God, you have given us a foretaste of your glory.**

**We offer ourselves and our lives to your service.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit,**

**To stand with you in your world. Amen.**

