

**Mid-Month Newsletter, February 2020**  
**Pennfield Presbyterian Church**  
Battle Creek, MI 49017

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Dear Friends,

We will begin the Lenten season of forty days with a brief live Ash Wednesday prayer service at my facebook page, Annemarie Kidder, on **Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 6 p.m.**

Our worship team has assembled a good number of packets with ashes and a prayer card. They are available at church. You may pick up a packet this coming Sunday after worship, or on Monday or Tuesday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Our deacons have already begun distributing these packets to our homebound members. If you are a deacon and have yet to do so, please pick up your packet at church to take to your homebound member(s). The ashes are for self-imposition on one's forehead, followed by the prayer.

Looking forward to "seeing" you online.  
With joy and peace,

Pastor Annemarie

### **Lenten Practices of Our Members and Friends**

The practice of keeping Lent for forty days prior to Easter has a long tradition. It was implemented by the bishops of the early church in the fourth century to help us get back to basics, to do less, and to do with less. In our own time, we might cut back on certain foods or comforts. We might also add some hours of service or study and give "extra" in terms of volunteering or making a financial contribution.

Last month I had asked about the particular Lenten practice you intend to keep this season. Here are some examples you submitted. Thank you to all those who provided us with inspiration and spiritual creativity!

I'm sure as you read through these practices, you will be as amazed and encouraged as I am.

Here they are:

- I will daily read the scriptures.
- I will increase my time of mediation.
- I will eat healthy.
- I will spend half an hour daily listening to God.
- I will read the Upper Room devotional guide daily.
- I will do a liquid fast once a week.
- I will change the way I feed my body so as to eat sacrificially rather than indulgently.
- I will be giving up my views on politics.
- I will become more aware of God's presence in my daily life.
- I will make more time for daily Bible reading and prayer.

- I will be less negative about people's short-comings.
- I will be practicing healthier eating and exercise daily.
- I will write a personal note of encouragement to people in my life at least five days per week.
- I will spend more time reading and studying the Bible since I am not as self disciplined as I could be.
- I will spend as much time with the Bible as I do playing games on my phone. This will be a real challenge for me!

This list (and any other comments that may come in later on this week) will also be posted on our church's facebook timeline. Feel free to comment and like and share.

### **Worship Online**

Please join us on facebook for our live worship service at 10 a.m from fb Annemarie Kidder. If you are online, please let us know that you are by posting a greeting in the comment section or clicking like. You might also like to share the video on your timeline; to do so, click the Share button beneath the video and it will post to your timeline. While the video is live, please do not call the church or facetime the worship team.

If you have problems signing on or finding us on Sunday morning on facebook, please contact your deacon. Our goal as a church is to be connecting in worship with every member.

### **Worship in Person**

We continue to meet in person for worship. The same rules apply in church as in stores or public buildings. We do a temperature check at the door and have a sign-in sheet. Please keep at a safe distance from one another and wear a mask for the duration of the service. After worship, please depart without delay. Also, please arrive at least fifteen minutes before 10 a.m. so as to avoid sound interference and keep our musicians and worship team focused.

### **Deacons Meeting**

Please note that the deacons are scheduled to meet via Zoom on **Monday, Feb. 15 at 4 p.m.** The deacons' minutes will be sent prior to the meeting. Pastor Annemarie will send out a Zoom link on Monday morning.

### **Session Meeting**

Please note that the Session is scheduled to meet via Zoom on **Monday, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.** Session minutes have been sent to elders by our Clerk of Session, Cathy Walsh Boyer. Pastor Annemarie will send out a Zoom link on Monday morning. Please submit minutes of Session committees to all members of Session prior to the meeting.

### **Giving Online**

Please consider giving online to our church. Setting up a giving plan is easy. Go to our website and click the Giving button.

You will be directed to enter your bank account or credit card number.  
You may set up a regular giving plan or give at your own convenience.

For questions in how to set up the account, please contact Elder Tom Beaver, chair of Stewardship and Mission Committee. Otherwise, please mail your contribution to the church at Pennfield Presbyterian Church, 7979 St. Mary's Lake Rd., Battle Creek, MI 49017.

### **Pastor on Study Leave**

Pastor Annemarie will be away Feb. 22 to 28. For non-emergency pastoral care, please contact your deacon; for prayer requests for the deacons' prayer chain, please contact Susan Jordan.

### **Church Leadership**

Following the election and installation of new officers, here are the roles they fill in our church:

#### **Session Committees**

Moderator: The Rev. Dr. Annemarie S. Kidder

Clerk of Session: Cathy Walsh Boyer

Property and Finance: Lois Shubert (chair), Karen Newhard (elder), Darrell VanVleet

Worship and Music: Darrell VanVleet (chair), Lois Shubert (elder), Woody Booher (elder)

Stewardship and Mission: Tom Beaver (chair), Woody Booher (elder)

Administration and Personnel: Bart Sleper (chair), Darrell VanVleet (elder), Tom Beaver (elder)

Fellowship and Evangelism: Trina Sleper (chair), Lois Shubert (elder)

Christian Education: Kathy Heath (co-chair), Laurel Riley (co-chair)

#### **Deacons**

Co-Moderators: Susan Jordan and Marie Hull

Deacons: Susan Jordan, Marie Hull, Sandi Rothney, Steve Phillips, Rosemary Hahn, Joy Thomas, Marcia VanVleet, Lila Back, Harry Scheuffele

Deacon Assigned to Members:

(Deacons serve a group of members and friends based on last name; to look up your deacon, please consult the list below.)

Adler to Beaver: Sandi Rothney

Booker to Fleming: Marcia VanVleet

Fox to Heath: Harry Scheuffele

Hewitt to Kidder: Joy Thomas

Lewis to Monroe: Marie Hull

Moore to Phillips: Lila Back

Pierce to Schlubatis: Susan Jordan  
Shaffer to Teichman: Rosemary Hahn  
Thomas to Yost: Steve Phillips

### **Adult Education**

The class on spiritual practices at 11 a.m. will meet two more times, namely on **Sunday, Feb. 14** and **Sunday, Feb. 21**. No class on Feb. 28. A Zoom fellowship hour will meet on March 7 at 11 a.m.

The Contemporary Issues class at noon will continue to meet for the month of February, until further notice. If you would like to be put on the Zoom list, please contact Tom Beaver.