

Pennfield Press

April 2021 Newsletter

Growing Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

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www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

Find us on Facebook "Pennfield Presbyterian Church"

Dear Friends,

The early Christians told stories about Jesus long before they wrote them down. They told what he said and did. But most of all, they told the terrible things that happened to him, his suffering, betrayal, and death on the cross.

The story of Jesus' suffering and death takes up the majority of space in the Gospels. But why is that? Why would the Gospels not emphasize the triumphant parts of Jesus' life, the happy times, the miracles, and the small victories?

The early Christians could focus on the insults, rejection, and pain that Jesus suffered and the failures of the disciples because they knew the ending: they knew the resurrected life.

So, if God can take something this ugly, painful, and senseless and transform it into something life-giving and meaningful, then God can take the worst part of me, the worst things that have been done to me, and he can transform them into something beautiful:

"Something beautiful, something good
All my confusion He understood
All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife
But he made something beautiful of my life."

In God's hands, nothing is beyond repair, beyond transformation. That's the Easter promise we receive. And this hope in Jesus' promise makes us an Easter people. We will celebrate the promise of the resurrected life on **Easter Sunday, April 4** with communion. No adult education classes are held that day.

On Sunday, April 11, our worship team and Pastor Annemarie will be on break, so there is no in-person worship; instead, we will post on our church's facebook page a video by our Synod worship team.

And on **Sunday, April 18**, we will kick off at 11 a.m. a new adult education class on the Gospel of John.

Wishing you now a blessed Happy Easter season with resurrection power. And see you in church or online!

Pastor Annemarie





Property and Finance

The sound and video system is operating correctly now. We are still learning how to refine the operations of the camera and sound. Thank you all for being present or online and giving us your input about your viewing experience.

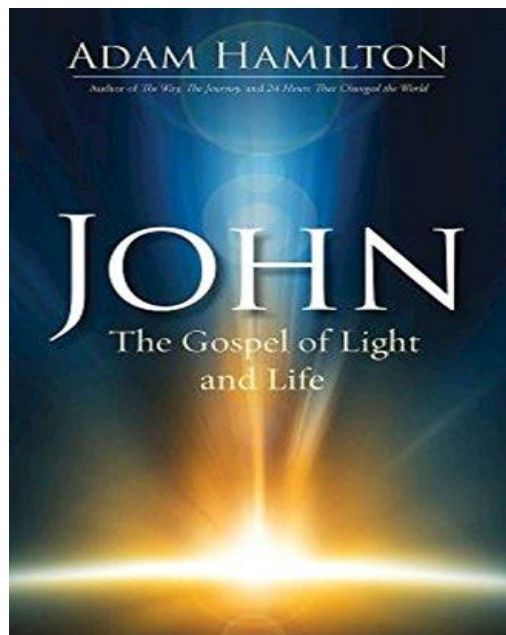
Please know also that we have four hearing devices available to amplify the sound. If you need a hearing device, please see me at 9:30 a.m. prior to the service, so we can set it up.

A big thank you goes to all those who helped clean up the church grounds by raking and removing brush the week before Easter. Our next clean-up day will involve spreading mulch.

--Lois Shubert, Chair, Property and Finance Committee

Adult Education Classes on Sundays

--Contemporary Issues Class This class kicks off again on **Sunday, April 11** via Zoom and meets weekly thereafter. Addressed are topics of current interest in the areas of social, economic, and political areas which are examined 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.



--NEW Book Study on the Gospel of John

Our new book study will kick off on **Sunday, April 18 at 11 a.m.** via Zoom. This seven-week study will be on the Gospel of John, which is quite different from the three other Gospels. In John, the focus is on who Jesus is rather than what he does. Jesus does not perform miracles but “signs.” And it is here that we find Jesus not teaching about the kingdom of God but about the believer’s relationship with him and the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you have been puzzled by John’s Gospel, this is the class for you. We will be using Adam Hamilton’s book John: The Gospel of Light and Life. Books are available at church for \$10 a copy. The class will be taught by Pastor Annemarie. You may pick up

your copy during church office hours on Mondays and Tuesdays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Fellowship and Evangelism

A new ministry has been started: For those attending in-person worship, **prayer cards** are now available on the table as you check in. If you have a prayer request, please fill out the prayer card and drop in the offering plate after worship. The prayer requests will be forwarded to our deacons' prayer chain and will remain confidential.



The next time of fellowship is **Sunday, June 13** where we will have Music in the Park and our Annual Church Picnic, which will be held on the church lawn from noon to 1 p.m. Bring yourself, a friend, a chair, lunch, and bug spray.

Beverages will be provided. Live entertainment will be offered by musician and singer Paul Freeburn.

And flower baskets from Pennfield Gardens will be available for sale.

Also, please remember that many people are in the digital world, so this is where we meet them these days. Let's share the Sunday worship service on our own timeline. You might also want to share Pastor Annemarie's pre-sermon post on Fridays. Plus, we have prayer cards available at church to announce live Evening Prayer on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Musical Talent to Be Featured in April

On Easter Sunday, April 4, the musicians leading us in worship will be **Gayla Metzger** at the piano and in song and **Jaclyn Burke** on the violin.

On Sunday, April 11, there will be no in-person worship. Instead, a video will be posted on our church facebook page produced by the Synod of the Covenant. Much gratitude goes to our Synod exec, the Rev. Chip Hardwick, for making available these videos.

On Sunday, April 18, we look forward to **Franklin Ballard** leading us at the piano and in song.

And on Sunday, April 25, we welcome back **Paul Freeburn** on the guitar and in song.



Worship: Meeting In-Person and Via Facebook Live

We 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. If you need a hearing device, please be in church by 9:30 a.m., so we can make the adjustments needed.

Livestreaming will begin at 10 a.m. Entry will be at the main church door only. Please wear a mask while in the building. Thank you all for working together!

Please note: No in-person worship on April 11.

Easter Flowers

Thank you for sharing your flowers during the Easter season. You may pick them up after **Easter worship, April 4.** Flowers left will be planted in our church gardens.



Flowers Given in Memory of:

Jeanne Booher by Woody Booher

Loved Ones by Cathy and Jesse Boyer

Delores E. Dull and Jack G. Newton by Nelson and Martie Dull

Mark Donald Hull and Lib Hull by Marie and Mitch Hull

Loved Ones by Ross and Joan Jarrard

C.C. "Bud" and Virginia Wascher and David Jordan

by Jim, Aaron, and Susan Jordan

Bertha Glaser and Bertha Schuh by the Rev. Annemarie S. Kidder

Dortha and Bob Daly, Lynn Strait, Linnie McConnohie

by Kathy Lyon

My Loved Ones who are now with our Father God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit by Char Pierce

Rishanna and Family Members by Don and Joann Preston

Our deceased loved ones by Bill and Sandi Rothney

Marjorie Scheuffele and Millie Smith by the Scheuffele Family

All our loved ones before us by the Shubert Family

Marjean Kay Sleper, Linda Ann Sleper, Dorothy Phillips and

Ruth Anderson by Bart and Trina Sleper and Family

Ray Smith, Roger Hodge and our loved ones who are gone

by Jean Smith and Val Hodge and Family

Loved ones gone before us by Deanna Stults

JoAnn by Donna Teichman

Betty Henk, Helen Becknell and Marilyn Bohl

by Joy Thomas and Family

Douglas VanVleet by Darrell and Marcia VanVleet

Flowers Given in Honor of:

Our Parents by Nelson and Martie Dull

Jann Tonyan by Joy Thomas and Family



What is the 2021 Per Capita?

The Per capita is a set amount of money sometimes referred to as “apportionment” per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church PC USA. It is like a community fund that holds Presbyterians together. Because we share in the benefit of the PC (USA)’s system of government, the expenses of that system are shared by everyone.

The amount or “membership dues” are set by each Presbytery individually. We as a Session only have input on the distribution amounts.

For 2021 the per capita rate per person is **\$35.23**. The recommended distribution of this amount is:
Presbytery of Lake Michigan 61% General Assembly PC USA 38% Synod of the Covenant 1%
At the February Session meeting the above distribution was reviewed and approved.

This is where we need your help: Our church needs to collect the **\$35.23** from each member individually. The amount is not included in the general pledge. You may pay your per capita by making a check out to the church with “Per Capita” on the memo line. We appreciate receiving this membership contribution at the beginning of the year as we have to make the payments to our Presbytery early on.

Thank you and bless you for your continued support.

Tom Beaver, Chair of Stewardship and Mission



Financial Giving

We appreciate your keeping your pledge up to date. If you have questions regarding your contributions, please hold off until later in the month as our financial secretary, Jean Smith, will be still recovering from surgery. In the meantime, the church office will be covered by volunteers during the hours of Monday and Tuesday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. A big thank you goes to those covering the church office and answering phones, namely Jessica Harvath, Lois Shubert, and Trina Slepser.

Online Giving

A quick and easy way to give is through our church website, www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org. Click on the Give Now button and you will be guided to our 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!

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. (The “like,” “comment,” and “share” buttons can be found directly beneath the video. You can click at any time during the live broadcast or afterwards.) These “clicks” serve as our worship attendance pad. Each Wednesday Pastor Annemarie posts a devotion and on Fridays the scripture on which the upcoming sermon is based.

Monthly Evening Prayer on April 14 at 6 p.m. (one week later than usual)



This month we meet **on Wednesday, April 14 at 6 p.m. (one week later than usual)** 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 the lifting up of those we wish to pray for. Simply put your requests in the comment section while we are live. And invite others to join.

Please Note: Pastor Annemarie will be on vacation from April 5 through April 12.

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 with logging in or questions. Please see the last page of this newsletter for who your assigned deacon is.

For prayer requests for the Deacons' prayer chain, please contact Marie Hull or Susan Jordan, co-moderators of the Board of Deacons. For immediate needs, please contact Pastor Annemarie by e-mail, phone, or text, who will pass on your request to our deacons. Requests will remain confidential.



We had an opportunity to provide waterproof mittens and gloves for the Pennfield Elementary Schools. Before the pandemic, they had a shared basket of "handwear" for kids to use while outside for recess. Due to COVID, each child had to have their own pair this year, labeled and left at school. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, the students enjoyed warm, dry hands while getting fresh air on snowy days. We hope they won't need them again this year!

Hannah Women's Circle

We will continue to meet via Zoom. It is not too late to join in! The next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 1 p.m.** If you'd like to participate but have not been getting the link, please contact Marie Hull. Our lesson from Into the Light will be Lesson Six: Lament Over the City. The extra lesson books purchased by PW this year will be donated for use in the jail ministry when groups are allowed.

Northeast Food Pantry News

Thank you for your gifts of food items and financial contributions to the Food Pantry during our Palm Sunday drive-in fellowship time at church.

Please know that you can continue to support the Food Pantry by making a donation at Meijer. In Meijer's continued deep-rooted hunger relief efforts, they will be re-launching the Spring Simply Give Campaign which was unfortunately cancelled in 2020 due to Covid-19. This campaign will run a total of twelve weeks from **Sunday April 11, 2021 through Saturday, July 3, 2021**. The partnering Meijer store for the Neighborhood Food Pantry Ministries is the one on Beckley Road in Battle Creek. During this campaign the **Double Match Day** will be **Saturday, June 19, 2021**. This will result in \$30 for every \$10 customer donation to benefit the pantries.

Please let all of your friends and supporters know. Many thanks for all your contributions!

--Laurie Riley



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

- 1: Isabelle Thomas Link
- 2: Dolores Carter
- 6: Trina Sleper
- 7: Tracy Goll
- 14: Joann Preston
 - Corey Shubert
 - Alanalee Link
- 18: Eric Tucker



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

--no anniversaries on record

Our Church's Leadership in Ministry

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:

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

Staff Members

The Rev. Dr. Annemarie S. Kidder, Pastor

Jean Smith, Financial Secretary

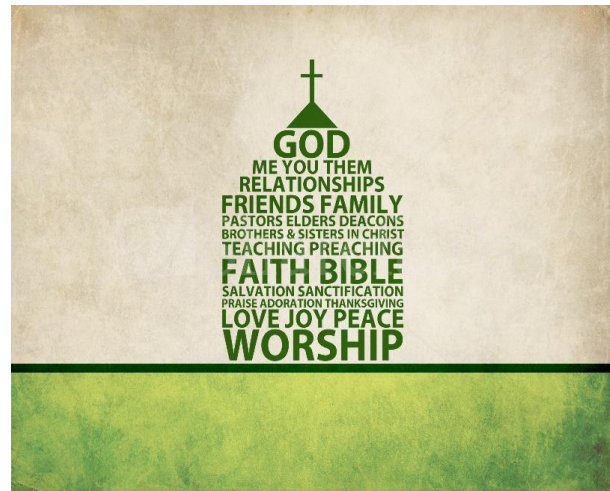
Bill Rothney, Treasurer

Gayla Metzger, Pianist and Organist

Franklin Ballard, Pianist

Lois Shubert, Worship Video Coordinator

Joy Thomas, Custodian



Comment Section with Communion Liturgy for Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

Opening Prayer (in unison):

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Glory to you, O God:

**by raising Jesus from the dead you have won the victory over death
and offered up to us through him life eternal.**

Direct our lives to be a witness to the resurrection.

**And grant us to die daily to sin,
so that we may walk as the new creation in Christ. Amen.**

Hymn after Sermon: #108 "Christ Is Alive"

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

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.

#2108 "O How He Loves You and Me"

O how he loves you and me!

O how he loves you and me!

He gave his life. What more could he give?

O how he loves you. O how he loves me.

O how he loves you and me.

Jesus to Calv'ry did go;

his love for sinners to show.

What he did there brought hope from despair.

O how he loves you. O how he loves me.

O how he loves you and me.



Prayer after Communion (in unison)

Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,

give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow. Amen.