

Pennfield Press

May 2021 Newsletter

Growing Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

pennpresBC@gmail.com

www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

Find us on Facebook “Pennfield Presbyterian Church”

Dear Friends,

The month of May spells out transition: the days are getting longer, trees and lawns greener, the climate warmer. At church we transition also from restricted worship attendance to being fully open to the public, with proper safety precautions in place.

For many of us, being vaccinated means having more freedom to meet. While still cautious, we finally get to see friends and family in person again. We get to share a meal. We can talk face to face.

There is something invigorating about a face encounter. I can watch movies with my favorite actors, listen to concerts by my favorite bands and performers, but it's different when I can see them on stage, hear them live, be in the same room with them, even if I can only see them as a tiny speck from where I sit. As much as I appreciate facetime, Zoom, and livestream, they are not a true substitute for being “there.”

The Bible also talks about the difference between mediated experience and seeing face to face. “Now we only see as through a glass darkly,” says the Apostle Paul, but on the last day and the final consummation “we will see Christ face to face.” Now we experience God and truth as mediated through the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit; but then we will see and know God fully without barrier or blur.

So, let's savor the “live” moments with one another. It may make us more appreciative of our senses, of all the ways we can feel and see and hear and taste and smell and know.

On **Sunday, May 2**, we will celebrate Communion Sunday and “taste and see that the Lord is good.” Please have a piece of bread ready and some juice if you are planning on watching us online.

On **Sunday, May 9**, we will celebrate Mother's day and offer a special prayer for our mothers and all those who are mothers or wish to be. Please note that there will be no adult ed class at 11 a.m. that day.

On **Sunday, May 23**, we will celebrate Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the gathered followers of Christ. We will have a little gift ready for those attending in person.

And on **Sunday, May 30**, we will celebrate Trinity Sunday in honor of the Holy Trinity, the mystery of a God in three persons. Wishing you a blessed of Pentecost season with many “live” moments,

Pastor Annemarie



Property and Finance



We experienced some glitches with the camera portion of our system, so we will be livestreaming from the iPad for now, though we continue to enjoy the fabulous quality of sound and new mics.

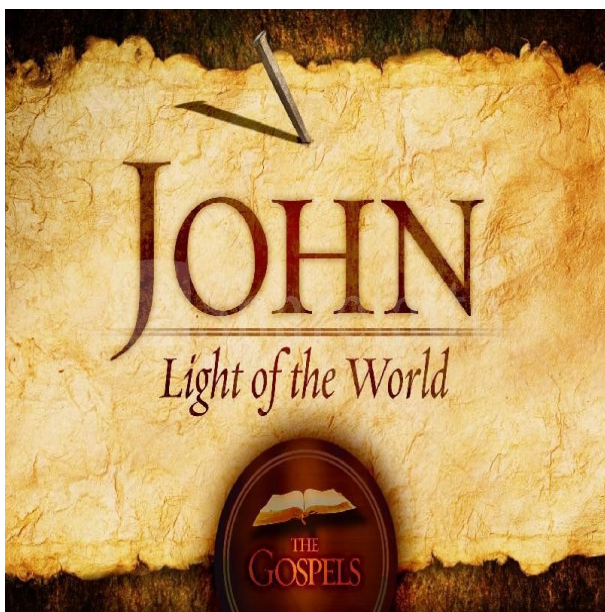
Please know also that we have hearing devices available to amplify the sound. If you need a hearing device, please see me at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays, so we can set it up.

A big thank you goes to all those who helped clean up the flower beds around the church by weeding, planting, and spreading mulch.

--Lois Shubert, Chair, Property and Finance Committee

Adult Education Classes on Sundays

--**Contemporary Issues Class** This class currently meets each Sunday **at noon** via Zoom. 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 more information about this class, Mark Atma is currently fielding any questions and may be contacted at markatma@comcast.net.



--Study on the Gospel of John

This class meets Sundays **at 11 a.m.** via Zoom. The Gospel of John is quite different from the three other Gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In John, the focus is on who Jesus is rather than what he does. Jesus does not perform miracles but “signs.” And Jesus does not teach about the kingdom of God but about the believer’s relationship with him and the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As discussion starters, we are using Adam Hamilton’s book John: The Gospel of Light and Life. But you do not need a book to participate in the class; a Bible in current English will do just fine. A Zoom link is sent each Saturday.

Fellowship and Evangelism



be available for sale.

We are in the second month of our prayer cards ministry, and are very pleased with the response. These cards are available on the table as you check in on Sunday morning. 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.

We hope you will join us for Pentecost Sunday on **May 23**, where we also have a little gift ready as a reminder of the Holy Spirit's power.

The next fellowship time is **Sunday, June 13** for Music in the Park and our Annual Church Picnic, which will be held on the church lawn from noon to 1 p.m. Bring 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

Please remember to share on facebook the worship service video along with the Friday scripture reading in preparation for Sunday that Pastor Annemarie posts on her timeline. Cards are at church to hand to friends and neighbors advertising our live Evening Prayer on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Musical Talent to Be Featured in May

On May 2, the musicians leading us in worship will be **Gayla Metzger** at the piano and in song and **Jaclyn Burke** on the violin. (Please see the liturgy at the end of the newsletter.)

On Sunday, May 9 we look forward to **Paula Harris** joining us at the piano and **Carla Stine-King** in song. On Sunday, May 16, **Franklin Ballard** will be leading us at the piano and in song.

On Sunday, May 23, which is Pentecost, **Gayla Metzger** will lead us at the piano and in song. And on May 30, we will have **Franklin Ballard** again at the piano and in song.



Worship: In-Person and Via Facebook Live

We 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. There is no fellowship/coffee hour at this time. Thank you all for working together!

Administration and Personnel

Starting on May 3, we welcome to our office staff Jessica Harvath. Jessica was raised in our church and has recently joined the church as a new member and is on the Fellowship and Evangelism Committee. Her mom is Sandra Prince. Jean Smith, our financial secretary, has reduced her hours from ten to five. Jean will continue to be responsible for the financial part, such as recording giving and issuing giving records. Jessica will take over the other five hours of administrative responsibilities, though both Jean and Jessica will be working together. All last month, Jean has been training Jessica in her new role. We are excited about this new development and wish her well.



Office Hours Changed to Mo.-Tue. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Beginning in May, the **church office hours will be again 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday.** Jean Smith will also be in the office for a few hours on either Thursday or Friday.

Financial Giving

Thank you for your regular financial contributions and for keeping your pledge up to date. We as a church are very fortunate that our expenses for the year have been below our income. If you need your current giving record or have questions about your contributions, please call our financial secretary, Jean Smith, during office hours.



Online Giving--for Contributions Only

Please note that our online giving is set up for receiving financial contributions only. If you wish to purchase a book, flowers, or other items from the church, please mail in a check to the church office. This keeps things smooth for accounting purposes. Thank you for understanding.

To give online, please go to the church website, www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org. Click on the Give Now button, and you will be guided to our Giving Page where one can enter either the 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 improvements or the deacons. Thank you for giving!

Livestreamed Weekly Worship

If you are uncomfortable joining us in person for worship, please go to Pastor Annemarie's facebook page shortly before 10 a.m. If you are "friends" on facebook, a red dotted notification will pop up when we are live. Click on the red dot, then click on the notification window and you will see the live video. Otherwise, you will have to refresh the page for the video to appear. Please leave a comment on the video page and a like, or share the video on your timeline. Each Wednesday Pastor Annemarie posts a devotion and on Fridays the scripture on which the upcoming sermon is based.

Monthly Evening Prayer on May 5 at 6 p.m.



This month we meet **on Wednesday, May 5 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 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.

Pastoral Care and Deacons' Ministry

Please continue to check in with one another during this time of physical/social distancing. Our deacons are available to take your prayer requests or offer some help in other ways. Please see the last page of this newsletter for who your assigned deacon is.

Deacons Continue Prayer Ministry

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, as will any requests submitted on prayer cards.



During our April meeting, Marie Hull played the video clip cited below for Deacons' consideration. The purpose was to help us encourage others considering vaccination. "...The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) says it's up to each individual to decide whether they will or won't. The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, says he's talked with individuals on both sides of the question, some in support and others saying no. Last week, [in February] he was vaccinated in Frankfort as part of a group of religious leaders who stand in favor of vaccinations. Nelson says he based his decision on what was best for his neighbor." See video at: <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2021/2/8/think-about-your-neighbors/>



Hannah Women's Circle

We will continue to meet via Zoom. The next meeting is **Tuesday, May 18 at 1 p.m.** If you'd like to participate but have not been getting the link, please contact Marie Hull.

Our lesson from the Horizon Bible Study "Into the Light" will be Lesson Seven: "Creation Lament." Join us, please!

Northeast Food Pantry News

Thank you for your gifts of food items and financial contributions to the Food Pantry.

You can continue to support the Food Pantry by making a donation at Meijer. Their Simply Give Campaign from **Sunday April 11 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

- May 3: Jack Hagist
4: Sara Galloway
10: Joan Van Orman
14: Phillip Jarrard
15: Joan Williston
18: Franklin Ballard
19: Sandi Rothney
Sue Hagist
25: Douglas Edema
30: Tom Beaver
Becki Monroe

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- May 1: Mike and Becki Monroe
7: Marie and Mitch Hull
12: Jack and Sue Hagist
17: Phil and Elise Jarrard
18: Tom and Chris Beaver
19: Gayla & Ron Metzger
23: Carolyn and Don Hammond
26: Tom and Laurel Riley
30: Christine and Stewart Ayres



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 (elder)

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

Jessica Harvath, Administrative Assistant

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 May 2, 2021

(Please have some bread and juice ready if joining us via facebook live.)

Opening Prayer (in unison):

Empty us, Great God, from preoccupation with ourselves.

Empty us, Lord, of pride and prejudice.

Empty us, Jesus, of reckless use of word and thought.

And fill us anew with a knowledge of you, the Truth. Amen.

#419 "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call:
to live according to your word, and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear,
if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.

We mark your saints, how they became in hindrances more sure,
whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.

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 Hymn #513 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees;

let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees.

Let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us break bread together on our knees;

let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Prayer after Communion

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and forget not all God's benefits.

