

# Pennfield Press

## September 2021 Newsletter

*Growing Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship*

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

Find us on Facebook "Pennfield Presbyterian Church"

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Dear Friends,

After our church picnic this summer, we will gather again this month on the church lawn for food, fellowship, and musical entertainment for our "Annual Pig Roast." Instead of roasting a whole pig, we will have pulled pork sandwiches, especially made for us, along with ready-made salads and beverages. The "Pig Roast" will be held on **Sunday, Sept. 26 at noon** with food being served at 1 p.m. You need not bring any food, only a lawn chair. Hope to see you there!



Earlier this month, on **Sunday, Sept. 5 at 11**

**a.m.**, we will celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mick and Lois Shubert. There will be a recommitment ceremony with their marriage vows they made fifty years ago and with hymns and prayers, followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall to which you all are invited. What a milestone to celebrate! (Note that their anniversary reception will take the place of fellowship time after worship.)

Finally, adult education classes will kick off on **Sunday, Sept. 12**. The Pastor's class will meet at **11:15 in the sanctuary** and will be also available via Zoom. As before, a Zoom link will be sent to you on Friday or Saturday. Otherwise, you may choose to attend in person while practicing social distancing. We will have to experiment to see how this "hybrid" experience goes.

The Contemporary Issues class will meet strictly **via Zoom at 12:30 p.m.** and a Zoom link will be sent out earlier in the day. Please contact Mark Atma if you are not currently receiving an email with the link.

Finally, I want to encourage you to remain cautious regarding this pandemic and the Delta variant. Personally I think it wise to wash hands frequently, wear a mask in enclosed spaces, and practice social distancing without shaking hands or hugging. Starting this month, I will be at church in addition to Sunday morning also on Mondays and Tuesdays, while continuing to do most of my work from home.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

Pastor Annemarie

**PS: See also the special section on the last page on our church being recognized by Presbytery, Synod, and on the national level.**

## Property and Finance



At this time, the patio brick work has been completed. We hired Jessie Harvath, son of Jessica, to do the work and he did a beautiful job.

Also, we encourage you to take a look at the beautiful colors in the flower beds around the patio and along the driveway.

The committee that oversees the Memorial Garden falls now under Property and Finance, which is working hard on updating the guidelines for use and burial.

After months of experiencing issues with the sound and video equipment, it appears that these have been resolved. Our tech company, Battle Creek Sound and Stage, has been a tremendous help. Also, a screen had to be installed to deflect the bright light during livestreaming so the preacher is not “in the dark.”. And currently we have two sound/video operators who are working the sound and video board under the direction of Lois Shubert. They are Jessica Harvath and Kevin Elliott. They will take turns on any given Sunday. In addition, we are grateful to have Christine Ayers blending in the comment sections during the livestreaming, so that people watching can follow along with the prayers and hymns.

Finally, we are excited to report that the two TV monitors in the Nursery and Fellowship Hall are working and connected so additional room is provided in case of overflow.

As always, I want to encourage you--even if you have attended worship in person--to go back and click “Like” on the worship video, add a prayer request in the comment section, and share our video. Thank you to all who help maintain God's house!

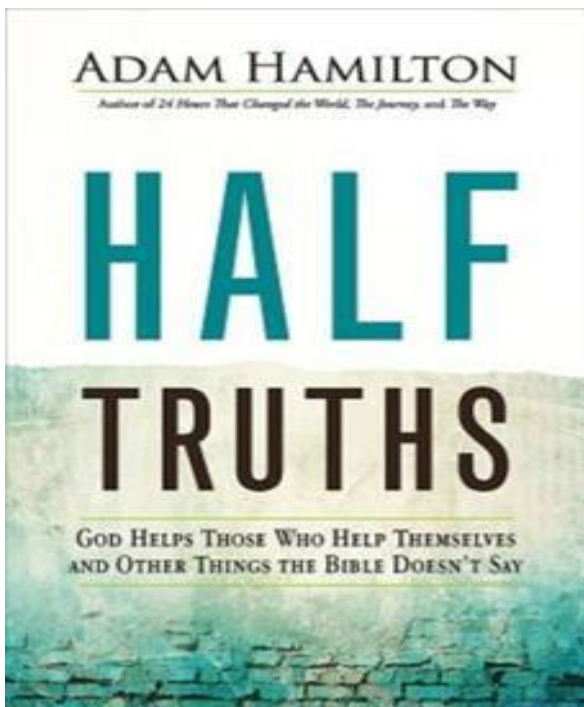
--Lois Shubert, Chair, Property and Finance Committee

## Adult Education Classes on Sundays

--**Contemporary Issues Class** will kick off again on Sunday, Sept. 12 at 12:30 p.m. This class addresses topics current interest in the areas of social, economic, and political areas which are examined through the lens of the Christian faith. If you would like more information about this class, Mark Atma is currently fielding any questions and may be contacted at [markatma@comcast.net](mailto:markatma@comcast.net).



of



### --Half Truths: What the Bible Doesn't Say

The popular write Adam Hamilton explores sayings among Christians that are popular but not biblically correct. "God doesn't give you more than you can handle," is one of these sayings; another one is that "God helps those who help themselves." We will explore a total of six sayings and discuss their shaky theological thinking and negative consequences on how we view God.

Books are available at the church office for \$10 a copy. Or you may order your copy directly from an online bookseller.

### Fellowship and Evangelism

We would like to remind those of you who attend in-person worship that prayer cards are available on the table as you enter the narthex. If you have a prayer request, please fill out the prayer card and drop it in the offering plate after worship. The prayer requests will be forwarded to our deacons' prayer chain and will remain confidential.

Please join us on **Sunday, Sept. 26**, at noon for Music in the Park and our **Annual Pig Roast** on the church lawn. Lunch and beverages will be provided and we will eat 1 p.m. We are also fortunate to have with us again for live entertainment musician and singer Paul Freeburn. Also you need to bring is a lawn chair.

We are planning a wave-a-thon and a bonfire at church for October. Look for details in the October newsletter.

Greeters to greet you at the main door on Sundays before worship are:

Sept. 5--Bill and Sandi Rothney

Sept. 12--Mark Atma and Ruth TenBroek

Sept. 19--Woody Booher and Rosemary Hahn

Sept. 26--Sara and Erin Galloway



## Musical Talent to Be Featured in September

On Sept. 5, Gayla Metzger and Jackie Burke will be leading us musically. They will also take part in the recommitment marriage celebration of the Shuberts' fiftieth wedding anniversary. On Sunday, Sept. 12, we will have **Paula Harris** joining us at the piano and **Carla Stine-King** in song.

On Sunday, Sept. 19 **Franklin Ballard** will be leading us at the piano and in song. And on Sunday, Sept. 26, **Gayla Metzger** will lead us at the piano and in song and **Jackie Burke** on the violin.

## 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 no later than 9:50 a.m.** If you need a hearing device, please contact Lois Shubert beforehand. Livestreaming will begin at 10 a.m.



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

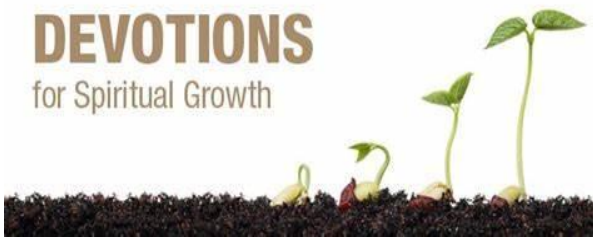
Jessica Harvath, our administrative assistant will be there from 9 a.m. to noon, and Jean Smith will be there from noon to 1 p.m. as well as being at church for a few hours on either Thursday or Friday.

## Online Giving

If you would like to give online, please go to the church website, [www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org](http://www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org). Click on the Give Now button, and you will be guided to our Giving Page. 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!

## DEVOTIONS

for Spiritual Growth



## Livestreamed Weekly Worship and Facebook Devotions

We livestream our worship service from Pastor Annemarie's facebook page at 10 a.m. If you are early, you may have to refresh the page. 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.

## Administration and Personnel--Regarding Church Keys

The Session has passed a church key policy at its August meeting. It has been deemed necessary for the people occupying the following positions to have a church key:

1. Pastor
2. Clerk of session
3. Session members
4. Treasurer(s)
5. Lawn maintenance crew
6. Musicians
7. Custodian
8. Secretarial staff



If anyone has a church key and is not presently in one of these positions, please return the key to the church office. Thank you.

--Bart Sleper, Chair, Administration and Personnel

## Hannah Circle to Start New Year



Going back to Circle after summer break is more fun than going back to school! The study guide will be, “What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus.” The study author, Merryl Blair, is from Australia and has taught in Zambia. The artist, Cody Miller, lives in Columbus, OH. So we’ll get perspectives from near and far!

Due to the level of transmission of Covid being “High” in our area and the CDC recommendation for masking indoors under that circumstance, we will be continuing to meet on Zoom at least for a few months. Hopefully we will be back face to face again during the year.

Deanna Stults will be ordering the study guides. Watch for an email for availability. If you have not attended circle lately, or ever, and would like to join, please let Deanna or Marie Hull know. Our first meeting, via Zoom, will be:

Hannah Circle: **Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 1 pm.**

## 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 continue to be below our income. For your current giving record, please call our financial secretary, Jean Smith, during office hours.

## Pastoral Care and Deacons' Ministry

### Deacons Announce 2021 CROP Walk

CROP Walks raise funds to fight hunger: "Around the block. Around the world." Funds help farmers grow various crops to nourish their families, provide filters to give clean water, and support a healthy future for children. The photo is of a family in the Dominican Republic.



Since there will not be a centralized walk due to the pandemic, First Presbyterian Church has kindly invited Pennfield Presbyterian to their retreat center to walk. Here are the details:

When: **Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 3 pm.**

Where: First Presbyterian Retreat Center,  
20398 Waubascon Road, Battle Creek, MI 49017

To donate online to our team, go to: [Crophungerwalk.org](https://crophungerwalk.org). Select "Donate" in the blue ribbon at the top of the page. Then in the "Search for..." box, type "Pennfield" and a list will appear; choose Pennfield Presbyterian and follow directions.

To donate by check, please watch for directions at church or call Marie Hull.

Please note: Prayer Cards are available on Sunday morning at the church's main entrance. Please fill out with name and contact info and drop in the offering plate. They will be shared with our deacons.

### Northeast Food Pantry News--A Personal Note

"Thank you to the congregation of Pennfield Presbyterian Church for all you do for the Northeast Food Pantry--the grocery donations, the money sent to the Food Bank Challenge, the Family Fare receipts, the Simply Give campaign, the donations of your volunteer hours, and the prayers

You are a true blessing to our neighbors in need.

Thank you for your generosity in helping do God's work here on earth."

Please note also that all coins and small change can be dropped into the offering plate on any given Sunday and will go toward the Food Pantry.

--Laurie Riley



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 7: Keri Shaffer Hayes

Lyra Elliot

9: Mark Baxter Jesse Boyer

14: Rev. Barbara A. Edema

18: LaJean Hewitt

20: Mitch Hull



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 5: George and Kathy Garms

8: Rick and Emily Harvath

9: Darrell and Marcia VanVleet

11: Mick and Lois Shubert

15: Richard and Kathy Adler

29: Anthony and Megan Mead

## 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: Woody Booher (chair), Darrell VanVleet (elder), Karen Newhard (elder),  
Lois Shubert (elder)

--Administration and Personnel: Bart Sleper (chair), Darrell VanVleet (elder), Karen Newhard (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 and Franklin Ballard, Pianists; Lois Shubert, Worship Coordinator;

Joy Thomas, Custodian

## Special Recognition Received of Pennfield Presbyterian Church

1. In the August newsletter of the Presbytery, our church has been recognized as one of only sixteen churches total in our Lake Michigan Presbytery for consistently and faithfully supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing by making annual contributions for the last 20 years.

We even received a certificate from our Presbytery clerk.

2. We are a certified Earth Care congregation. There were 276 Earth Care Congregations certified or re-certified during 2021, including five from the Presbyterian of Lake Michigan. They are:

- [Westminster Presbyterian Church](#) of Portage – first certified in 2014
- [First Presbyterian Church](#) of Buchanan – first certified in 2018
- [First Presbyterian Church](#) of Richland – first certified in 2018
- [First Presbyterian Church](#) of Grand Haven – first certified in 2019
- [Pennfield Presbyterian Church](#) of Battle Creek – first certified in 2019

3. We are featured in the July/Aug. Issue of our national magazine, **Presbyterians Today**, where Pastor Annemarie had an article published about our church. This was also posted on our church's facebook page and by the Synod of the Covenant with a lovely photo. .

## Michigan church sponsored a garden show to raise funds for property improvements

*By Annemarie S. Kidder / Presbyterians Today*

A progressive garden tour of some of Pennfield Presbyterian Church's members' gardens followed a garden show that was held at the church.

When [Pennfield Presbyterian Church](#) in Battle Creek, Michigan, wanted to relandscape its flowerbeds and memorial garden in 2019, the Rev. Annemarie S. Kidder knew it would "take money." The church sits on 5 acres of hillside and has expansive 20-foot-wide flowerbeds. A garden show was created as a fundraiser, and with several garden lovers in the congregation, the show expanded to include walks through those members' beautiful gardens, Kidder said.

For the garden show, the church collaborated with landscaping supply companies and nurseries, as well as the local Farm Bureau. A local radio host who has a garden talk show was invited to speak at the church. Annuals and flower baskets were available for sale the day of the show. Proceeds from donations by businesses also benefited the church's landscaping project. The garden show and walk raised about \$6,000.

Additional contributions also came in, making it possible for the church to replace a portion of its long, curving driveway and reseal the parking lot.

After the show at Pennfield Presbyterian, four church members hosted a progressive garden walk, which was coordinated by the fellowship and evangelism committee. Each garden was unique as the tour included one house on a lake, another two in newly built subdivisions with expansive gardens, and one in a parklike, wooded hill setting. "We came away with many new ideas for gardening projects," said Kidder, "and some garden envy." The garden show and walk took about two months to plan. The congregation hopes to hold it again in 2022.



