

Pennfield Press

November 2021 Newsletter

Growing in Christ Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

pennpresBC@gmail.com

www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

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Dear Friends,

The start of this month is marked by a celebration of the saints. The saints are those who have died in the Lord and whose labors follow them. So, we ask that you submit to the church office the names of friends and relatives **who have died this last year**. You may call the church during office hours on Mondays or Tuesdays; you may send an email to the church office; or, you may submit it in writing directly to the church office. We need your names **by Monday, Nov. 1** at noon.

On **Sunday, Nov. 7**, we will celebrate **All Saints Day** by reading the names of those you have submitted. It is also Communion Sunday, so we can truly envision them joining us at table for the feast that our Lord has prepared. In addition, the men will meet for the **Men’s Breakfast at 7 a.m.** and Bible study on the day’s preaching text.

That same day, we will begin our Stewardship campaign. As before several members will be sharing their own stewardship practices during worship. They are Woody Booher, Jessica Harvath, Joy Thomas, and Lois and Mick Shubert. I am always impressed by these testimonials and I look forward to hearing them as they give witness of the power of the Holy Spirit at work.

On **Sunday Nov. 21**, we will celebrate **Stewardship Sunday**. Please bring your commitment or pledge cards to church, where during worship we will commit them to the Lord as a symbol of a sacred offering for the coming year.

And on **Sunday, Nov. 28**, we begin the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparing for the arrival of the Christ child. On that day, we will be decorating the church after worship. Plan on staying that day and enjoying a time of fellowship while setting up trees, hanging garlands and ornaments, and stringing lights.

As we celebrate the saints who have given us inspiration and courage in our walk with Christ, let’s try to do the same for others. Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving!

With joy and gratitude,

Pastor Annemarie





Property and Finance

As of this month, our Memorial Garden is now open to the public while continuing to serve our own members. Bruce Newhard drew up the plans, we had a glossy brochure printed, and Pastor Annemarie took the brochure to most funeral homes in town. If you are interested in purchasing a plot for yourself or a loved one, please take a brochure or talk to Lois Shubert or Darrell VanVleet.

Last month, the children's wooden fort was updated. Wood was stained and the old slide, a big blue plastic tube, is being replaced. This "Twin Tower Dynasty" was originally a memorial in memory of baby Charlie Stults. The new slide and accessories have come from the Burrell Stults Memorial Fund. A big thank you goes to all who helped assemble the new equipment.

Our committee oversees the clean up of the grounds and many jobs are waiting. Limbs will need picking up, leaves will need raking, bushes need one last trimming, hoses need rolling up, patio furniture is waiting to be put away, and flower beds are in need of weeding. Please let me know if you can help.

We continue to be delighted that during the week, our church is filled with the pitter patter of children's feet and children's and adults' laughter. Jackie Burke meets weekly on Thursdays with her violin students; Paula Krontz-Harris who meets weekly at church on Tuesdays with her piano students; and the "Heart Homeschool Group" meets weekly at church on Fridays.

We are truly blessed for the good use of our facilities, the upkeep by you, and the beautiful grounds.
--Elder Lois Shubert, Chair, Property and Finance Committee

Stewardship Update

Your stewardship committee has been working hard in preparation for our annual request for pledges for the coming year. The theme we selected can be found in Psalms 24 which states "The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants belong to the Lord."

Through your generosity this past year we were able to replace our boiler and install a new sound and video system. But many other projects and ministries were made possible by you outlined in the upcoming stewardship letter.

As in years past, we will have testimonials each Sunday, starting Nov. 7 and culminating on **Stewardship Sunday, which is Nov. 21**. Watch for the letter with pledge card in your mailbox soon.

--Woody Booher
Stewardship and Mission Committee Chair



Adult Education Classes



Note Change of Meeting Time

--Members of **the Contemporary Issues Class** are changing the times and frequency of their meeting.

This class addresses topics of current interest on social, economic, and political issues and examines them through the lens of the Christian faith. You will receive the articles with discussion questions beforehand.

Beginning in November, we will meet virtually via Zoom on the **first Sunday of each month at 1**

p.m. and on the **third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.** If you would like more information about this class, Mark Atma will answer any questions and may be contacted at markatma@comcast.net.

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

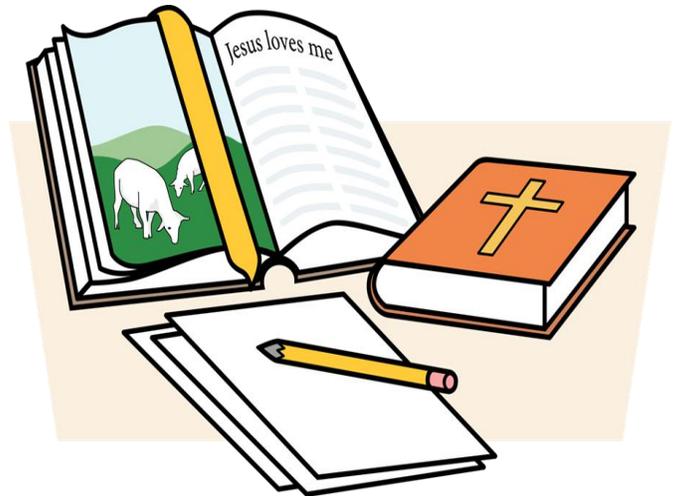
We continue studying pious Christian sayings, which Adam Hamilton calls Half Truths. They are popular but not really biblically or theologically sound. "God doesn't give you more than you can handle," is one of these sayings; another one is that "God helps those who help themselves."

We will explore a total of six sayings and discuss their shaky or even negative consequences on how we view God.

The class meets weekly via Zoom AND in person in the sanctuary.

(It does not meet on the first Sunday of the month.)

The class is facilitated by Pastor Annemarie.



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, our financial secretary, will be there from noon to 1 p.m. as well as being at church for a few hours on either Thursday or Friday.

Fellowship and Evangelism

Each Sunday prayer cards are available, which you may fill out and drop in the offering plate after worship. The prayer requests will be forwarded to our deacons' prayer chain and will remain confidential.

We decided to forego a Thanksgiving dinner this year, but continue to have coffee and conversation after church. Thank you for volunteering as a greeter and for coffee hour.

--Trina Sleper, Chair, Fellowship and Evangelism Committee

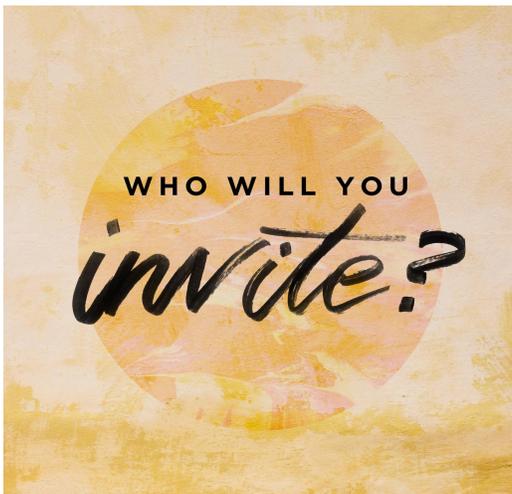
Greeters by the main door on Sundays are:

Nov. 7--Laurel Riley
(with R. Hahn and W. Booher
providing refreshments)
Nov. 14--Jay and Sally Moore
Nov. 21--Kathy Lyon
Nov. 28--Bruce and Karen Newhard



Greeters on all Sundays except the first one of the month will also provide coffee and water in Fellowship Hall after worship.

Church Business Cards



Inviting a friend or neighbor to church is now made easy. We have church business cards, which list our worship time in person (at 9:50 a.m.), our livestream time (10 a.m.), our church's address with directions, phone number, email address, and webpage.

You may pick up a stack on the table in the narthex.
Happy Inviting!

Deacons' Corner

The Deacons are keeping busy this fall. We continue to extend care to members and friends who are ill, are nearing death, or are grieving the loss of loved ones. In addition, we are also keeping in regular touch with both members and friends.

For the rest of the year, we had to reshuffle deacon assignments for various reasons, so that you may get a call or card from a different deacon than before. But we should be back on track once the new "crop" of deacons is assigned.

We had a fabulous "harvest" from our CROP Walk in September as so far over \$860 was donated by our church. By comparison, the entire funds raised here in Battle Creek were \$4,379. Many thanks go to Lila Back, who recorded the number of donations and guarded the giving. The money will be used to fight hunger, with 25 percent of its donations staying here in Battle Creek. Local recipients include food programs at Second Missionary Baptist Church and at Urbandale Seventh Day Adventist Church, along with the SHARE Center, whose mission is: "To provide a mutually-supportive, safe space with resources for the recovery of vulnerable people who are experiencing issues with homelessness, mental health, hunger, or addiction."

Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, the Deacons decided to adopt families and just give gift cards for both food and family gifts for the Christmas season.

--Marie Hull, Moderator

Online Giving

If you would like 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. 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 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.

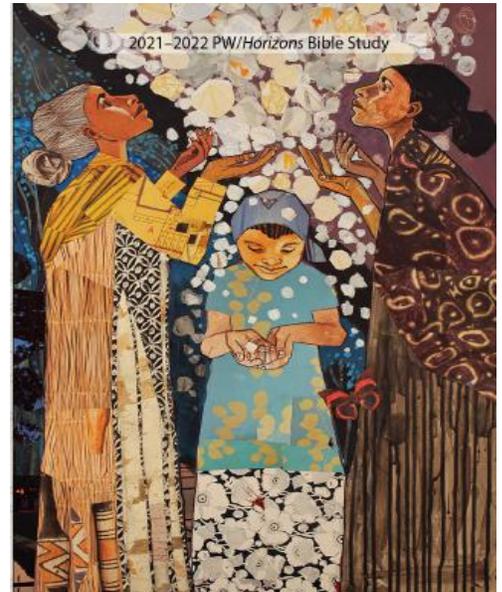
Hannah Circle--Presbyterian Women

The Hanna Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 1 p.m. both in-person in Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent to you by Marie Hull.

We are on Lesson Two (Genesis 38) in our Horizon Bible Study, titled "What My Grandmothers Taught Me." The lesson is on the story of Tamar, a powerless but resourceful outsider, whose actions will be a strong lesson for the patriarch, Judah, and will contribute to the continuation of the family line that leads to David, and ultimately to Jesus.

If you still need a book, which is \$10, please contact Kathy Lyon. Hoping to see many of you there, either in person or via zoom.

--Marie Hull, Facilitator



Presbyterian Women Launches Bedding Blitz

This month, we are holding our annual Bedding Blitz to help supply bedding for those in need. We are collecting new and gently used bedding and monetary donations to purchase new pillows. Bedding may be placed in the area next to the stairs to the Fellowship Hall. Collections will be accepted through **Sunday, Nov. 14.**

This year's Thank Offering will benefit the worldwide Presbyterian Mission and it will be collected during the month of November. Envelopes will be available beginning on Sunday, Nov. 7. As our 2021 year comes to a close, we are looking for members for the coordinating committee for the 2022 year. This is a great opportunity for all women. Our next general and moderating committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Nov. 8 at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

--Sara Galloway, Moderator

Financial Giving

Thank you for your regular financial contributions and for keeping your pledge up to date. Our expenses for the year continue to match or are below our income. For your current giving record, please call our financial secretary, Jean Smith, during office hours.

Northeast Food Pantry News

The holiday Meijer Simply Give campaign still runs through Jan. 1, 2022. The double match day will be Dec. 11, 2021. On that day a \$10 donation becomes \$30 for the Neighborhood Food Pantry Ministries. If you have any questions, see Laurie Riley.

At this time, the pantry is in need of cereal, soup and canned vegetables. You may drop off your donations at church. Thank you!

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



Thank You Notes

Thank you very much for recently reaching out to see how I am doing. I am very fortunate and doing well. My job with NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, OH has allowed me to work from home since March 2020. . . I look forward to being able to worship in person with you. May God's blessings be with you.

Sincerely yours,
Jim Akers

So nice to receive a phone call from one of the congregation's deacons. We shared in conversation and got acquainted while sharing our past and present involvement in the life of the family of Pennfield Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for that call,
The Rev. Leon White, Pastor Emeritus

A very special Thank You to all who have sent cards and who attended the renewal of our vows upon our 50th wedding anniversary. You all made it a most memorable event.

Blessings,
Mick & Lois Shubert

In Christian Sympathy

Our prayers go out to the family of Nelson Dull, who joined the Church Triumphant on Oct. 19.
Please keep in your prayers his wife, Martie, and Nelson's family.

Our prayers also go out to the family of Donald Preston, who joined the Church Triumphant on Oct. 20.
Please keep in your prayers his wife, Joann, their children, and the family.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nov . 7: Steve Phillips
11: Sally Moore
Hayden Elliot
17: Maggie Goll
19: Noah Brown
20: Erin Galloway
Peter Atma
Todd Paul, Jr.
26: Laura Nettleton
28: Judy McFadden

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

24: Bart and Trina Sleper

Deacons

Moderator: Marie Hull
Deacons: 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: Marcia VanVleet, et al.
Pierce to Schlubatis: Session Elder
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