

# Pennfield Press

## January 2022 Newsletter

*Growing in Christ Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship*

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

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Dear Friends,

Christians have two calendars--that of the church year beginning with Advent and the secular one starting this month. The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted with two faces. One face looks back, the other ahead. We too might do the same. What has this past year brought us? What were its highs and lows? What are we looking forward to?



Therapists say that it is difficult to move forward in hope and anticipation until we have come to terms with our past. National magazines and television typically give us a digest of the Year in Review. What might such a year in review look like for you? How has the pandemic affected you, your social life, your frame of mind? What alternative venues have you sought out to stay in touch with family and friends? And how successful were you in navigating this altered reality on a daily basis?

We will begin this month with a **Communion worship service on Sunday, Jan. 2** that offers us the opportunity to look back. We will hear a Reading of the Law, the Ten Commandments. We will examine our conscience and confess our sins. And we will place at the foot of the cross the habits and wrong-doing we wish to be rid of and for which we seek forgiveness. We will do so by writing them on a piece of paper, dropping the paper in a box up front, and later burn them outside on the patio as a symbol of their being forgiven by our Lord. Due to the private nature, this service will not be livestreamed.

**On Sunday, Jan. 16**, a congregational meeting has been called for the purpose of electing officers. The Nominating Committee will be presenting a slate of five new elders. There are also currently two open slots for the office of deacon. Please let me know if interested. We will also take down decorations after worship. So please stay and help and have fellowship.

**On Sunday, Jan. 23**, the newly elected officers will be ordained and installed during worship. Please note that a portion of this service will be on Zoom. Due to the rising number of Covid 19 infections in our state of Michigan, we ask that you wear a mask in church.

Wishing you a blessed New Year and see you in church. With much joy and love,

Pastor Annemarie

## Adult Education Class

--**The Contemporary Issues 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.

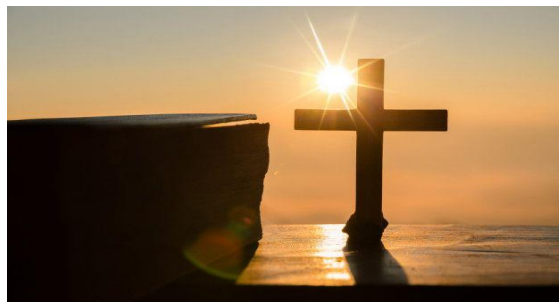


at [markatma@comcast.net](mailto:markatma@comcast.net).

For the next few months, we will continue to meet virtually via Zoom on the first Sunday of each month at 1:00pm. And then again we meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 pm. You will receive a Zoom link via email prior to the class. If you would like more information about this class, Mark Atma will answer any questions and may be contacted

## Worship: In-Person and Via Facebook Live

We meet for in-person worship and we livestream 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.

Jean Smith, our financial and office secretary, is in the church office from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays**, along with a few hours on either Thursday or Friday.

## Fellowship and Evangelism

Each Sunday prayer cards are available to 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 continue to be cautious about fellowship times, so and coffee and conversation will be on hold at this time.

Greeters are:

Jan. 2--Mark Atma and Ruth TenBroek

Jan. 9--Christine Ayres and Martie Dull

Jan. 16--Cathy and Jesse Boyer

Jan. 23--Woody Booher and Rosemary Hahn

Jan. 30--Steve and Jeanette Higgs

## Property and Finance

Many good things have been happening in the last few months.

For starters, our new boiler, for which you so generously contributed, is cooperating with the new thermostats that have been installed throughout the church. New thermostats mean we can control the heat in individual rooms, rather than heating the entire building as was the case before. The season of winter has allowed us to test-drive each zone and I am delighted to report that there are no pressure irregularities. In the coming weeks, three more thermostats will be installed, which should complete the job.



We have a fabulous snowblower that is looking to be operated. If you can help out on any snow days to make sure that the entrance doors and ramp are cleared, we would truly appreciate it. Please let Shuberts know of your availability.

The outside of our church, both building and landscaping, have never looked better. Thank you, all helpers who weeded, raked, blew leaves, and trimmed. Also, a big thank you to those who strung lights outdoors and decorated the church's interior.



We plan on taking down the decorations on **Sunday, Jan. 16 after church**. Hoping you can stay to help dismantle the Christmas trees and garlands inside and outdoors.

Our giving numbers have been holding steady and we have been in the black for the past three years. This is due in large part to your generosity and no less so to our treasurer, Bill Rothney, who has been monitoring expenses, keeping our numbers straight, and having our bills paid.

While this is not imminent, we would like to know if you would be willing to help with our mowing in the spring. If you are interested in riding the lawn mower and like to spend a few hours atop of one, please contact Mick Shubert.



I am so grateful to everyone who has been helping this past year and know that you would want to keep God's house looking at its best.

With many Blessings,

--Lois Shubert, Chair of Property and Finance

## Deacons' Corner



The Deacons assisted six families with Christmas cheer in December. Due to the pandemic, we decided to give gift cards including amounts for each family member and for food shopping. Family size ranged from 3 to 5, with 11 adults and 11 children. Thanks to Rosemary Hahn for providing cute gift bags for the cards, and to Marcia VanVleet and Sandi Rothney for shopping and distributing. The people were very grateful, and as always, we invited them to join us in worship.

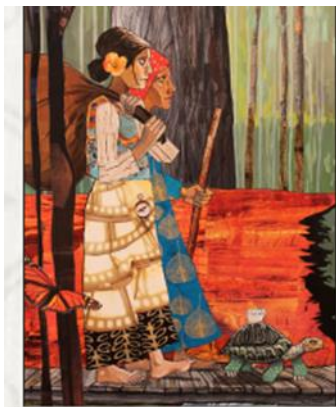
Thank you to all who delivered the Christmas poinsettias to members and friends of our church. Jessica Harvath stepped up as a Deacon-elect to make a number of stops. Lois Shubert helped organize the distribution.

Thank you for your donations to the Deacons' Fund last month. These gifts will carry us through this coming year. The funds provide assistance to the Food Pantry, gift baskets to needy families in our community, along with May flowers and poinsettias to our members.

On a personal note, I would like to say a big Thank You to my fellow Deacons, including Susan Jordan, who served in 2021. Among other services, many prayers were made to our loving Lord on behalf of members and other children of God. May God bless you in 2022 and always!

--Marie Hull, Moderator

## Hannah Circle to Study the Book of Ruth--Presbyterian Women



LESSON FOUR  
Ruth and Loyal Love

Our study book, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus," has given us fascinating perspectives on lesser-known women. In January, Lesson Four will focus on a more familiar story, that of Ruth and Naomi.

Our gathering will be via Zoom on **Jan. 18, 2022 at 1 pm**. Marie will be online by 12:50 pm. One good thing about meeting virtually is that we do not have to be concerned about driving if the weather is bad!

Please join for a good time of fellowship, study, and discussion. It is not even necessary to have a study book to participate. Let Marie Hull know if you would like to be on the Circle list but have not been receiving the emails. She will send the Zoom link before the meeting.



## Online Giving

You may give online from our church website, [www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org](http://www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org). Click on the Give Now button, and you will be guided to our Giving Page. Thank you for giving!

## Livestreamed Worship and Facebook Devotions

We livestream worship 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 and like and share.

Each Wednesday Pastor Annemarie posts a devotion and

on Fridays the scripture on which the upcoming sermon is based. All worship services and devotions are also posted on our church's FB book and remain there.



## Northeast Food Pantry News

Thank you to everyone who brought gifts for the Northeast Pantry and put them under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. These canned goods and boxed items have been placed on the shelves at the pantry and probably already been given away to our neighbors in need. The food pantry is currently in need of cereal, peanut butter, jelly and canned meat (tuna and/or chicken).



The winter Meijer Simply Give campaign runs from January 2, 2022 through Saturday, April 2, 2022. The double match days will be Saturday, March 5, 2022, and Saturday, March 26, 2022.

Again for anyone who doesn't shop at the Meijer on Beckley (which is our partner store) or can't make it one of those two days, I will gladly take your donation to the store to gain the benefit of the double match, your \$10.00 donation is worth \$30.00 on one of those two days because of Meijer's match.

Keep bringing to church your Family Fare receipts. We are only about \$1500 away from reaching our goal of \$150,000 worth of receipts to get \$1000 in cash from Spartan Nash for use at the Northeast Pantry. (The entire receipt is needed. Make sure it says Direct Your Dollars.) We are using these funds to purchase toilet paper, bar and laundry soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrushes/toothpaste, hand lotion, and deodorant. These are all necessary items for families but expensive for those who are struggling to feed their families.

A big thank you goes to Esther Rayburn whose donation has allowed the pantry to hand out a total of 263 dozen eggs during 2021.

Thank you PPC family for all you provide for the Northeast Food Pantry. You are a blessing to our work.

--Laurie Riley, coordinator

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

January 4: Gabriel Case  
7: Elinor Thorpe  
12: Carol Alday  
16: Mike Carlson  
21: Rosemary Hahn  
23: Carolyn Hammond  
25: Carla Stine-King  
26: Martie Dull  
27: Dennis Trayer  
28: Kevin Adler  
29: Mary Rose

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

January 29: Dennis and Sandy Shaffer

**Wishing You a Very Blessed and Happy New Year**

Annemarie S. Kidder      Jean Smith      Jessica Harvath      Bill Rothney  
Gayla Metzger      Franklin Ballard      Lois Shubert      Kevin Elliot



After Christmas when the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
And the work of Christmas begins  
To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to  
bring peace among brothers and sisters, to make music in the heart.  
--Howard Thurman