

Pennfield Press

December 2022 Newsletter

Growing in Christ Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

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www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

Find us on Facebook "Pennfield Presbyterian Church"

Dear Friends,

The season of Advent is a time of preparation. We prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus, God's coming to us in the flesh. Early in Christian history, Advent was also a time of fasting and taking on a spiritual discipline. This year we commend to you a spiritual discipline: We ask that you invite to church one person each week. To help make things easier, you will receive a card to hand out to potential visitors. Please pray about who God is truly placing on your hearts, then act. After all, we are not doing it to make the church look fuller; we are doing it to expose someone to the message of the Gospel and the saving presence of Jesus Christ.



You may have heard about the new movie *The Chosen* that just premiered in theaters nationwide. It is a movie about Jesus' life and continues the crowdfunded series by the same name. Against all odds, *The Chosen* has become the most heralded and top-rated Jesus movie of all times. Why do I mention it? Because it goes to show that people are open to finding meaning and a concrete hope in Christ.

On Dec. 4, the Men's Breakfast meets at 7 a.m. The men of our church will eat breakfast in Fellowship Hall and then engage in a Bible study with Pastor Annemarie on the sermon text for the day. All men are invited, and we hope that this month especially **you'll bring a friend.**

On Sunday, Dec. 4 we will also celebrate communion and light the second candle on our Advent wreath. And we will continue our **adult ed study at 11:15 a.m.** in the sanctuary

on the nature and purpose of the Bible.

The Christmas Eve service will be on **Saturday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.** It will be a candlelight service with lessons, carols, and a brief meditation, where several musicians will lead us. The Christmas Day worship service on **Sunday, Dec. 25** will be led by our elders. We will sing Christmas carols, read lessons, and have prayer. Since many churches will be canceling worship that day, don't be surprised if we have visitors.

Please be aware that there will be no service on **New Year's Day, Jan. 1.** Like last year, we will celebrate the New Year with a service of **New Beginnings on Sunday, Jan. 8.**

Wishing you now a fruitful Advent Season, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Pastor Annemarie

Adult Education Classes

--The Wired Word/Contemporary Issues Class

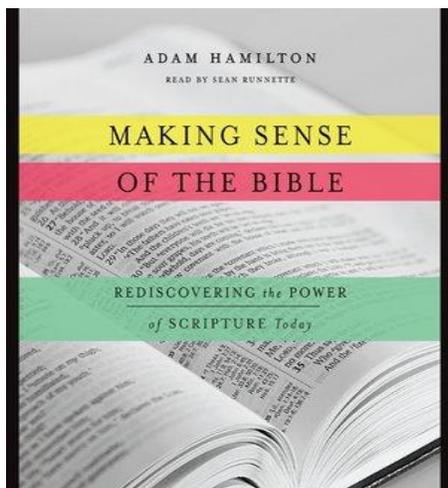
This class addresses topics of current interest in the areas of social, economic, and political areas which are examined through the lens of the Christian faith. You will receive the articles with discussion questions beforehand.



The next meeting will be **Friday, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m.** in the church library. We will then take a holiday break and meet again in January 2023. If you would like more information about this class, please contact Mark Atma at markatma@comcast.net.

--Book Study: “Making Sense of the Bible” by Adam Hamilton

On three Sundays in December, (Dec. 4, 11, and 18) we will be studying Adam Hamilton’s book, titled Making Sense of the Bible. The class meets on **Sundays at 11:15 a.m.** in the sanctuary and is facilitated by Pastor Annemarie.



If you still need a book, you may order it online or from your local bookstore.

If you need a Zoom link, please let me know by Friday morning of the week.

--Ecumenical Bible Study at Second Missionary Baptist Church

You are invited to a mid-week Bible study. The Rev. Roxie Perry is leading an on-going Bible study on **Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.** at Second Missionary Baptist Church at 485 N. Washington Ave. In Battle Creek. This class has been meeting continuously since 2011. Materials and snacks will be supplied. We have been studying the books of the Bible and are about to begin the epistle of 1 Thessalonians. Please join us!



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
on Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.**

Join us for a festive service of lessons, carols, a meditation, and the lighting of our candles from the Christ candle. And remember to invite a friend!

Following worship, we will meet in Fellowship Hall for wassail and cookies.

Poinsettias Given to the Glory of God for Christmas Eve

In Memory of:

Family and Friends by **Lila Back**

Jack Newton and Nelson M. Dull by **Martie Dull**

Harden and Dorothy Hoffman and Frank and Marie Higgs
by **Steve and Jeanette Higgs**

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

Lynn Strait by **Kathy Lyon**

Garry Lines and Walt McFadden by **Judy Lines McFadden**

Don Preston by **Joann Preston**

Our Loved Ones by **Bill and Sandi Rothney**

Marjorie and Jarrad Scheuffele and Millie Smith
by **Harry Scheuffele**

Our Loved Ones by **Mick and Lois Shubert**

Alice and Donald Stine by their **Loving Daughters**

Loved Ones by **Deanna Stults**

Loved Ones by **Donna Teichman**

Douglas Edward VanVleet and Parents

by **Darrell and Marcia VanVleet**

Our Family in Heaven by **Harry Scheuffele**

And in Honor of:

Those in the Military by **The Baxter Family**

The Rev. Leon and Lois White by the **Rev. Annemarie Kidder**

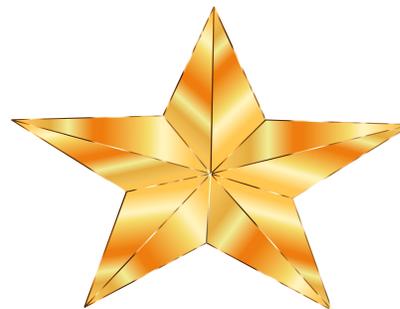
Please pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve worship service.



Fellowship and Evangelism

This month, we would like to focus on being a welcoming and open church for the community.

The greeters will be distributing cards to give to a friend or stranger, inviting them to join us in worship. Both Advent and the Christmas season are a wonderful time to start a new tradition.



On Christmas Eve after worship we will be hosting the congregation for the traditional Wassail and Cookie celebration. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know. We expect a good turnout! Cookie donations are needed. There will be a sign-up sheet posted. Items will need to be individually packaged. Hobby Lobby has the little individual packaging materials available.

As always, thank you to all the greeters and those who host Coffee and Conversation.
--Sara Galloway, Chair

Greeters

Dec. 4 Bill and Sandi Rothney
Dec. 11 Mark Atma and Ruth TenBroek
Dec. 18 Chris Beaver and Joann Preston
Dec. 25 Bruce and Karen Newhard

Refreshments

Debbie Trayer and Christine Ayres
Steve and Jeanette Higgs
Darrell and Marcia VanVleet
No coffee hour

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women in the Congregation, or PWC, would like to thank everyone who helped with the program on **Sunday, Nov. 28**. The church looks now so festive and ready for Christmas. The Thank Offering was very abundant and will be well used by the PW world-wide mission programs. The luncheon and the bake sale were a great success. Thank you all for participating, and special thanks to the clean-up crew who made light work of a big job.

Currently you may have noticed the **hat and mitten tree** in the Narthex. That's because we are collecting hats, gloves or mittens, scarves, and socks for the Charitable Union, who will distribute them in the community. Since this year we had a generous bedding blitz offering, we were able to get a head start on filling the tree. But it is just a start. By Christmas we would like it to be overflowing!



Ladies, also please know that we have been graciously invited to Advent Tea at the First Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m.** A musical program, "A Christmas Portrait", will be followed by cookies and wassail in the parlor. Please join them for this lovely pre-Christmas celebration.

--Sara Galloway, Moderator



Hannah Circle

The Hannah Circle will not be meeting during the month of December. We hope to see everyone in the New Year on **Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023 at 1 p.m.** We will be studying Lesson Four, "Sabbath and Surrender," based on Exodus 16. The chapter invites us to trust God to provide for our needs and to surrender our unhealthy striving for more wealth, more stuff, and more success so as to know when to say, Enough!

Study books are still available in the library at \$10. All women of the church are invited to join us.

We wish you now a most blessed Christmas as you remember "The Reason for the Season."
--Deanna Stults and Marie Hull, Bible Study Facilitators

CROP Walk Funds Raised

The total of donations to the 2022 CROP Walk for Pennfield Presbyterian was \$475. Thanks to all who donated. --Marie Hull, Co-Facilitator

Property and Finance

This year, winter started for us on Nov. 19 with over one foot of snow. Our snowplowing contractor, Rex Pascal, who has worked with us for over twenty-five years, came through and cleared the driveway and parking lot in record time.

I also want to thank all those on the mowing leaf blowing crew for their work. We could not have such beautiful grounds without you. This year the fall leaves were mulched, so we did not need to hire a company to haul them away. Thank you so much, Team!



Our cleaning crews continue to do a great job. We have one crew who works each week, another that comes in on an as-needed basis. Since we need to spruce up the church for Christmas, we'll do some dusting and vacuuming on Saturday, Dec. 10, 12, and 15. Let me know when you are available.

I'm surely blessed to have you as my brothers and sisters in Christ and call you my family. May your hearts be filled with much love and excitement as we prepare for the birth of our loving Savior Jesus Christ.

--Christine Ayres, Chair of Property and Finance

Worship: In-Person and Via Facebook Live

We meet for in-person worship and we livestream via facebook. If you attend in person, 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.

Men's Breakfast

The men of the church and friends will meet for breakfast and Bible Study on **Sunday, Dec. 4 at 7 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall.

The group will eat, followed by a Bible study, led by the pastor, on the sermon text of the day.



Worship and Devotions

We livestream worship each week from Pastor Annemarie's Facebook page at 10 a.m. Please leave a comment and like. Each Wednesday the Pastor posts a devotion and on Fridays the scripture on which the upcoming sermon is based. All worship services and devotions are also on our church's FB page and remain there.

Deacons' Corner: Deacons' Fund Drive

The deacons keep in touch with members and friends. They are Sandi Rothney, Karen Newhard, Harry Scheuffele, Carla Stine-King, Lila Back, Jessica Harvath, and Steve Phillips. For prayer requests, please contact jessicaharvath1964@gmail.com. All prayer requests are being kept confidential.

--Jessica Harvath, Deacon Moderator

Pennfield Presbyterian Church also has a dedicated group of volunteers that prepare and **serve a meal at the soup kitchen once a month**. This has been an on-going commitment by our church family and is such a blessing to our community. Our deacons' fund supports our volunteers in purchasing the supplies for the **delicious meal** that they prepare. **December is the big month to support this mission by giving**. In addition, the deacons minister to our homebound members by delivering May flowers and poinsettias during Advent, and they adopt several families over the Christmas season with gift cards. Please consider contributing to the **deacons' fund** during our December drive.



--Carla Stine-King, Deacon

Northeast Food Pantry News



The Northeast Food Pantry was fortunate to be able to purchase turkeys from the Food Bank at 19 cents a pound. Our allotment was 15 turkeys. Because of the generosity of a few of our volunteers, some items from our shelves and these turkeys, Northeast Pantry was able to provide a complete turkey dinner to 15 of our regular clients with large families for Thanksgiving. God is good.

A reminder that the Meijer Simply Give 2022 Holiday campaign double match day is Dec. 17. Our partner store is the one on Beckley Road. I will collect and take in any money people would like to donate. Meijer is doing a great service to help the community in need.

The pantry is in need of several specific items. Maybe when you are out shopping for the holiday, you could add a few of these items to your gift-giving list. Bring them to church and put under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. The items needed are:

canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soup,
canned tuna, jelly/jam, crackers (any kind),
cereal, spaghetti or macaroni pasta,
bar soap, toilet paper,
individually wrapped snacks like cookies, chips, granola bars, pop tarts, breakfast bars, etc.

Blessings and thank you for all you do for the Northeast Food Pantry and the families in need in the Pennfield community.

--Laurie Riley, coordinator

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 3: Kathy Adler
4: Beth Tucker
5: Sandra Shaffer
6: Karen Lewis; Darrell VanVleet; Jo Van Boven
9: Kathy Lyon
10: Aaron Jordan
12: Elsie Page; Karen Newhard
13: Jeanette Higgs; Micha Luckett
17: Sandy Prince
18: Cathy Boyer; Elijah Brown
19: Christine Ayres
21: Allison Baxter; LuAnne Pierson
29: Joshua Tucker
31: Jameson Elliot; Franklin Ballard



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 19: John and Linda Baxter

Self-Study Update

Members are working hard at completing the church's self-study. They hope to have it finished and out to the congregation by the end of January.

Congratulations to Our New Officers

At the congregational meeting on Sunday, Oct. 30, the congregation elected the following officers: For deacons Class of 2023 Harry Scheuffele and for the Class of 2025 Susan Jordan, and Mark Baxter, with Jessica Harvath staying on for a three-year term; for Elders Class of 2023 Mike Monroe and for Class of 2025 Lois Shubert.

We thank the outgoing deacon Sandi Rothney for her dedicated work these past six years. And we thank elder Marie Hull for her dedicated work on session this past year.

The members of Nominating Committee from the congregation at large are Chris Beaver, LuAnne Pierson, Carolyn Hammond, and Steve Higgs. Gratitude galore and congratulations to them all!

Our Session

The Session is composed of six elders who govern every area of ministry in our church. The Session also oversees the work of the Deacons. The Pastor is the teaching elder who teaches, equips with resources, and calls forth by preaching and teaching those called by God to serve.

Property and Finance--Christine Ayres (Chair), Mike Monroe (Elder)

Fellowship and Evangelism--Sara Galloway (Chair)

Christian Education--Marie Hull (Chair)

Stewardship and Mission--Aaron Jordan (Chair), Marie Hull (Elder), Christine Ayres (Elder), Mike Monroe (Elder)

Worship and Music--Kathy Lyon (Chair), Aaron Jordan (Elder), Christine Ayres (Elder)

Administration and Personnel--Lois Shubert (Chair), Christine Ayres (Elder), Kathy Lyon (Elder)

Clerk of Session: Kathy Lyon

Moderator: The Rev. Dr. Annemarie S. Kidder



From our Session, the Deacons, and Members of the Staff