

Pennfield Press

January 2023 Newsletter

Growing in Christ Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

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www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

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Dear Friends,

For Christians the great mystery of faith is the incarnation: God assumed human form. God came to us in the flesh. The Almighty Creator of this universe became a vulnerable, weak infant which required feeding and help. God chose to make himself as weak and vulnerable as we are, thereby truly becoming one of us, Emmanuel, God with us.

No year is complete without the celebration of the mystery of Christmas, the birth of God in our midst.

Since we were unable to meet on Christmas Eve due to a blizzard and ice, we will be celebrating Christmas during our regular worship hour on **Sunday, Jan. 8**. There will be singing of carols, Scripture reading, and a brief meditation. And as we would normally do, we will have wassail and cookies after worship. Communion will be moved to Jan. 15.

Please note that **the Men’s Breakfast will not meet in January**. Also, there will be no Pastor’s study on Jan. 8 and 15.

On Sunday, Jan. 15, which will also be **Communion Sunday**, our newly elected deacons, Mark Baxter and Susan Jordan, will be installed during worship. Afterwards we will be taking down the Christmas tree and decorations. Please be prepared to stay and help put back in crates and boxes both greenery and ornaments. Refreshments will be waiting for you in Fellowship Hall.

The service of New Beginnings planned earlier will be held in February at the start of Lent.



As we begin a New Year in January, we may recall that the Greek god Janus is depicted with two faces. One face is looking back, the other ahead. So, this month may we be bold in looking back and taking stock of the good that came our way and the cornucopia of experiences and blessings. And may we be passionate in looking ahead to what God wishes to do in us and through us for his sake and to his glory.

Happy New Year and much joy and peace in Christ our Lord,

Pastor Annemarie



Adult Education Classes

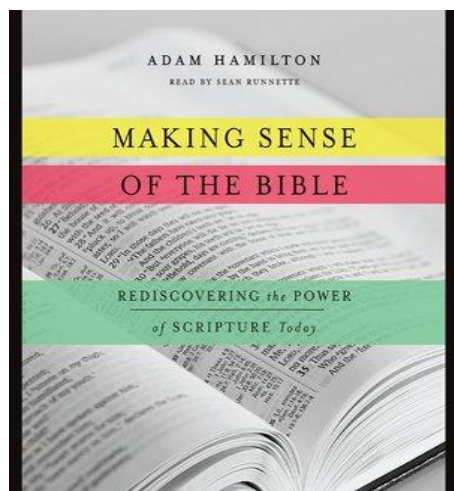
--The Wired Word/Contemporary Issues Class

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.



An email will be sent prior to the next class meeting this month. 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 two Sundays in January (Jan. 22 and 29) 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 4: Gabriel Case
2: Carol Alday
16: Mike Carlson
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



Fellowship and Evangelism

As originally planned we will be hosting the congregation for the traditional Wassail and Cookie celebration on Christmas, which we will be celebrating on **Sunday, Jan. 8** after worship. Please, don't forget to bring your Christmas cookies!

Also, we are looking for suggestions for and new members of the Fellowship and Evangelism Committee. Please let me know if interested. As always, thank you to all the greeters and those who host Coffee and Conversation.

--Sara Galloway, Chair

Greeters

Jan. 8 Christine Ayres and Jessica Harvath
Jan. 15 Mitch and Marie Hull
Jan. 22 Mark Atma and Ruth TenBroek
Jan. 29 Steve and Jeanette Higgs

Refreshments

Fellowship Committee
Lila Back and Kathy Heath
Richard and Kathy Adler
Chris Beaver and Jessica Harvath



we

Poinsettias Given to the Glory of God for Christmas

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 worship on Jan. 8.

Presbyterian Women

Thank you for your donations to the **hat and mitten tree** in the Narthex. The tree was overflowing with hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs, socks, and even ear muffs. Your donated clothing items will be taken to the Charitable Union, who will distribute them in the community.

--Sara Galloway, Moderator



Hannah Circle

The Hannah Circle will be meeting again 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!

Since we are only a third of the way through our study, we invite all women to join us for this time of fellowship and Bible study. We now wish you a Happy New Year!

--Deanna Stults and Marie Hull, Bible Study Facilitators

Our "Membership Fees" to the PC (USA)--Per Capita for 2023



Any church that is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) pays a "membership fee" based on the number of members. We currently have 103 members and each member will "cost" the church this year \$39.10. This cost is an increase of about 9% based on a cost of living adjustment. The total cost to our church for the year of 2023 is \$,4,027.30.

We would appreciate it if you could pay your per capita of \$39.10 soon. You may add it to the payment of your pledge. Or you may write a separate check.

Either way we are grateful if you would help defray the cost of being part of a connectional church.

The Session has endorsed the distribution of the Per Capita funds as suggested by our Presbytery. This means that of the \$39.10, \$9.85 will go to General Assembly, \$3.25 will go to the Synod of the Covenant, and \$26.00 will go to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. Thank you for your help!

Stewardship Campaign Update

Thank you so much for your 2023 pledge. We have received a great turnout of pledges for the year, but are hoping that we will receive a few more. If you have yet to turn in your pledge card, please do so by mailing it to the church or dropping it in the offering plate. You may also call the church office directly and let our financial secretary, Jean Smith, know how much you plan to give next year.

Thank you for supporting the mission of our church!



Property and Finance

This December is surely one to remember. We were frozen in our tracks, as was most of the country, for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Even though it was a hard call for us to cancel those services we found it to be the right one. Keeping everyone safe was our major priority on both those dates. The weather did not stop us from celebrating his birth! We did so at home. And we plan on celebrating Christ's birth at church also on **Sunday, Jan. 8** during morning worship.

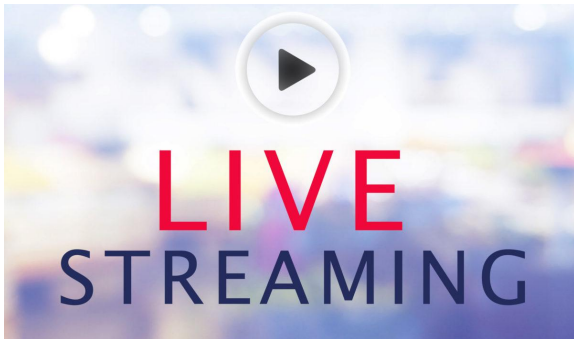
This month has been fairly quiet. Our finances are great. And our Cleaning Crew is working out well. If you would like to join that crew, which is a lot of fun, please let me know.

In addition, we are in need of several volunteers **willing to shovel walkways** during the week or on weekends. The plan is to create a team that can rotate. Please let me or Lois Shubert know if interested.

Also, remember that on **Jan. 15** after worship we will be taking down our Christmas tree, the greenery, and the decorations. Hope you can stay to help.

--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.

Worship and Devotions

We livestream worship each week from Pastor Annemarie's Facebook page at 10 a.m. Please leave a comment and like while online. 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.

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.

Deacons' Corner

Thank you for your generous contributions to the deacons' fund drive in December. The money collected makes possible our monthly meals at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, the May Flowers and Poinsettias to our homebound members, the card ministry, and the Christmas baskets to adopted families.



Last month, we delivered 24 poinsettias to members and friends. And we adopted four families for Christmas. Their names were given to us by Pennfield Schools and Santa's Helpers. We had three families with one single parent and two children each; and we had one family with two parents and three children. Each family received a Meijer gift certificate for the purchase of food and gifts. Each family was also invited to our re-scheduled Christmas service and to worship

in person throughout the year. It was a great joy to see the parents' happiness in response to these gifts. They were so very grateful for our help and I could see in their eyes both relief and tears of joy.

A big thank you to all our deacons for their time and devotion to serve this year.

Also, remember that in addition to filling out a prayer card on Sunday morning for the deacons' prayer chain, you may ask for prayers directly by contacting me at jessicaharvath1964@gmail.com. All prayer requests are being kept confidential.

--Jessica Harvath, Deacon Moderator

Northeast Food Pantry News

The Northeast Food Pantry has had a very busy year, especially the last 5 months. With food prices as high as they are our pantry clients are taking advantage of being able to get food every two weeks. A big shout out to all of the PPC family for your food and monetary donations. They have been put to good use to help provide food for our families in need. I really appreciate the food donations that were put under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and the grocery cart in the church entryway. The Northeast Food Pantry would also appreciate and benefit from a donation to the Food Bank at 5451 Wayne Rd., Battle Creek, MI 49037. Make checks out to SMFB and put Northeast Pantry in the memo line. A huge thank you in advance for any donations to the Food Bank. These donations are tax exempt.



The Meijer Winter Simply Give campaign will begin Jan. 1, 2023 and run through Saturday, April 1. There will be TWO double match days on Saturday, March 4 and Saturday, March 25. Your \$10 donation will be matched with \$20 from Meijer yielding a total of \$30. These cards have been used to purchase canned fruit, margarine, eggs, meat, diapers, wipes and formula. They are another valuable way to help. Meijer has become a great friend to the Neighborhood Food Pantry Ministries and is running continuous campaigns of support.

Blessings for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

--Laurie Riley, Coordinator