

Pennfield Press

March 2023 Newsletter

Growing in Christ Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

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www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

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Dear Friends,

The recent ice storm turned trees into breath-taking ice sculptures while many people lost power. The severe weather affected our worship schedule also and led to changes.

We will be celebrating a postponed Ash Wednesday service this coming **Sunday, March 5 with the imposition of ashes** and communion. On that day, the men will be meeting for the **Men's Breakfast** at 7 a.m. in Fellowship Hill for breakfast, followed by a study of the sermon text.



Since last week, we have been officially in the season of Lent. The word comes from the Old English word "to lengthen," because our days grow longer. Perhaps you are already knee-deep into a Lenten discipline, such as giving up sweets or adding a form of service and sacrifice to your routines. If you have, the days may indeed feel like they are stretching on and on.

Traditionally, Lent has been a time for Christians of fasting and alms-giving. We do less and we do with less. The result of such simplified living is that we have more time to be resting in the presence of our Lord which, in turn, is bound to heighten our time in prayer.

This year, the Lenten journey will extend to the **adult education hour on Sundays at 11:15 a.m.** We meet in the sanctuary for an immersive Lenten experience, led by Lois Shubert, Trish Steele, and Christine Ayres.

This experience will culminate on **Sunday, March 19** with a worship service of new beginnings where we write on a slip of paper a particular attitude or unpleasant habit or behavior we wish to be set free from and then allow the Lord to "burn it away."

I trust that you make Lent a time of prayerful meditation and weekly worship. "You know, Father, how hard it is to be honest to God in prayer," writes the Rev. David Redding, "when I am not that way elsewhere. But I have to begin someplace--why not here in your house?"

See you in church!

Pastor Annemarie

Adult Education Classes

--The Wired Word/Contemporary Issues Class

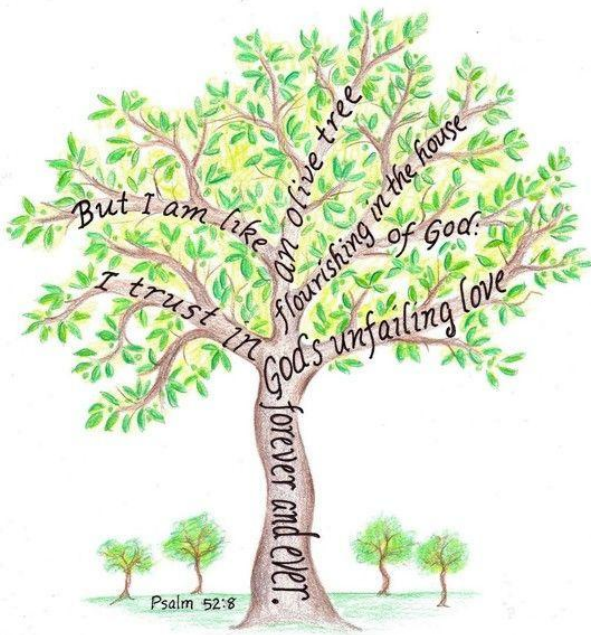


This class addresses topics of current interest in the areas of social, economic, and political areas which are examined through the lens of the Christian faith. You will receive the articles with discussion questions beforehand.

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.

--Immersive Lenten Experience on Sundays at 11:15 a.m.

During three Sundays in Lent, we will be journeying into the wilderness with Jesus. The Lenten experience with its offerings of music, scripture, and prayer will take place in the sanctuary and will be facilitated by Lois Shubert, Trish Steele, and Christine Ayres. The study on Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton will resume after Easter.



Congregational Retreat on Saturday, May 6

Four years ago, the Session scheduled a congregation-wide retreat with the Rev. Jake and Dawn Kaufman. The results of this retreat provided fresh direction and vision for the church and creative ways of connecting with the community. After working on our 2022 Self-Study, the Session felt it was time to have another congregational retreat to brain-storm ideas in moving ahead.

We are delighted that the Rev. Jake and Dawn Kaufman are again available to lead us in this experience. The Kaufmans have read our 2022 Self-Study and they have met with several elders and the pastor to plan for the main points to be addressed during this retreat.

We will gather in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, May 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** with a brief bagel and coffee/tea break in between. Please put this date on your calendars.

Copies of the 2022 Annual Report and the 2022 Self-Study

Many hours went into the research and writing of both of these reports and we hope you will make an effort to read both documents. Additional copies of the church's self-study and the 2022 Annual Report are available in the Narthex. Please remember that we are allocating one copy per household.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 13: Joy Thomas

16: Jeff Jarrard

18: Kent Elliot

21: Jim Fleming

23: Helen Smith; Roxie Perry

27: Cassie Cope

31: Marcia VanVleet; Kathy Garms

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 10: Jesse and Cathy Boyer

Fellowship and Evangelism



Thanks to all who made our first potluck since Covid a great success, especially the setup and cleanup crews!

We will have a **Lenten potluck on Sunday, March 19** after worship. And since we are still in the season of Lent, it will be a simple luncheon of soup, salad, and bread. Please sign up in the Narthex to indicate what you plan to bring. And don't forget to invite a friend to church that day. The free will offering will go to the food pantry.

Thank you to all the greeters and refreshment hosts. You make us a welcoming church.

--Sara Galloway, Chair

Greeters

Mar. 5 Bruce and Karen Newhard

Mar. 12 Lila Back and Chris Beaver

Mar. 19 Martie Dull and Christine Ayres

Mar. 26 Richard and Kathy Adler

Refreshments

Kathy Lyon and Donna Teichman

Darrell and Marcia VanVleet

Jeff and Trish Steele

Mark Atma and Ruth TenBroek

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.

Property and Finance

After the break of a boiler pipe shortly before Christmas, our boiler engineer has been able to circumvent the ruptured buried pipe by installing new copper pipe that runs into the bathrooms and three smaller classrooms downstairs.

The result of the broken pipe was that there was no heat in the lower level. To prevent debris from entering the costly furnace pump, Shuberts have been attending to the furnace twice a day every day since Dec. 20. They had to monitor the boiler in case it shut off and debris was clogging up the system.



At this time, it appears that the new pipe is working and rooms on the lower level have been heating up. As mentioned before, the old pipe that was buried in the cement floor had to be abandoned and a new pipe was installed that was visible and easily accessible.

The project consisted of three sections. Two of these have been completed, with the third one possibly being completed this week.

We have received a check covering about one third of the actual cost for materials and labor from our insurance company. And we hope that more will be covered.

Again, we want to thank also our cleaners, both those working weekly and those on an as-needed basis. They are doing a terrific job in keeping God's house sparkling clean.

Thank you for supporting our ministries and mission.
--Lois Shubert, Chair

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.

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

A big thank you to the deacons for doing such a great job. Here is the updated list of which deacon is assigned to which members.

Jessica Harvath will serve: Adler - Carter

Karen Newhart will serve: Cope- Heath

Harry Scheuffele will serve: Hewitt- Metzger

Susan Jordan will serve: Monroe - Riley

Carla Stine-King will serve: Rose - Stevens

Mark Baxter will serve: Stine-King - Walker

Lila Back will serve: Joan Preston, Jay and Sally Moore, Rev.

Roxie Perry and Franklin Ballard

Steve Phillips will serve as our handy man for repairs and running errands and deliveries.



Please contact the deacon moderator if you have not heard from your deacon yet.

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 Meijer store on Beckley Road will have two Double Match days on March 4 and 25. Another way of helping the Pantry is to collect your Family Fare receipts and bring them to church. There is a basket on the table in the Narthex where you can drop them off. Thank you for all your help.

--Laurie Riley, Coordinator



Presbyterian Women (PW)

Our next meeting is on **Monday, March 20 at 12:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. It will be a potluck and we hope you could bring a dish to pass. After that we will plan for the next few months, including the **Salad Supper on Monday, June 12.**

--Lois Shubert, Moderator

Hannah Circle

We will be studying Lesson 6 from our Horizon Bible Study titled, "Sabbath and Hospitality." The scripture is Exodus 20:8–11 and Deuteronomy 5:12–15. The key idea in this lesson is that something in the very nature of Sabbath demands sharing. Accepting the gift of Sabbath also involves a commitment to hospitality.

All women of the church are invited to join us, as we gather **Tuesday, March 21 at 12:30 p.m.** in the church library. Please bring your own lunch and drink. Our study begins at 1 p.m.

--Deanna Stults and Marie Hull, Bible Study Facilitators

Christian Sympathy



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the **Rev. Leon White (Feb. 11, 1932-Feb. 17, 2023)**, who served our church for over twenty-five years and was our church's pastor emeritus. A Memorial Service will be held on **Sunday, June 4 at 2 p.m.** at Pennfield Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Annemarie Kidder officiating. Memorial contributions may be sent to Pennfield Presbyterian Church or to Silver Maples Silver Lining Fund of Chelsea, MI.

Condolences may be sent to his children:

Jennifer White Joseph
4 Vintage Circle, Apt 1313,
Pleasanton CA 94556

Peter and Joanne White
4256 Westhill Ave
Montreal QU H4B 2S7 Canada

The Session

The Session, composed of six elders and the pastor, governs every area of ministry in our church. It also oversees the work of the Deacons. The Pastor is the teaching elder who equips and calls forth by preaching and teaching those willing to hear and respond to God's call in service.

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

Fellowship and Evangelism--Sara Galloway (Chair)

Christian Education--Kathy Lyon (Chair)

Stewardship and Mission--Aaron Jordan (Chair), Lois Shubert (Elder), Christine Ayres (Elder), Mike Monroe (Elder)

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