

Pennfield Press

September 2023 Newsletter

Growing in Christ Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

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www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

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Dear Friends,

As we are about to move out of summer into fall, I am grasping at the last sunny and balmy days. And so I rush to take one more bike ride, one more swim, one last trip to the lake. But of course, other good things are to come. This fall, at the request of our members, I will be offering a new adult education class on the Apostle Paul, whose life and letters we will be studying. In addition, I am very excited to welcome a colleague in ministry to our church. The Rev. Thomas Ott, who is familiar to many of you as the former pastor at First Congregational Church of Battle Creek. He will present in October three classes on the intersection of spirituality and therapy.



And since we had so much fun at three outings in August, we will schedule a few more.

On Sunday, Sept. 10, we are repeating the Garden Tour at the home of Gayla Metzger since so many were unable to attend. We will leave after fellowship time and carpool as needed. You probably already heard the rave reviews of those who visited her gardens, and they are all true. Gayla is a master gardener and she cultivates acres of perennial and vegetable gardens, replete with a bubbling creek,

wooden bridges, hidden pathways, prairie land, horses, and wildlife. Please wear comfortable shoes for our visit and walk. The Metzger family live at 3100 Halbert Road.

On Sunday, Sept. 17, we will begin the new study on the Apostle Paul, which will meet in the sanctuary at 11:15 a.m. No book is needed and a Zoom link will be made available upon request.

On Sunday, Sept. 24 we will meet at 2:30 p.m. at Lila Arboretum for registration at the CROP Walk. The walk raises funds to end hunger locally and throughout the world.

And on **Sunday, Oct. 1**, which is World Communion Sunday, we will have our Pig Roast. Please bring a dish to pass as meat will be provided.

So let us seize these last summer days, ever grateful for being part of Christ's body, the church.
With joy and peace,

Pastor Annemarie



Adult Education Classes

--The Wired Word/Contemporary Issues Class

This class is taking a break for the summer and will reconvene in the fall. If you would like to be notified directly in the future, please contact Mark Atma at markatma@comcast.net.

--The Pastor's Class will start on Sept. 17

We will meet at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary to study the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul, along with several of his letters. No book will be needed, only bring your Bible and a notebook. There will be no class on Oct. 1.

--Preview: The Rev. Tom Ott's Class will start on Oct. 8



We will meet at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary to hear about a relatively new model of therapy, called Internal Family Systems Therapy. This class will meet for three weeks total and end on Oct. 22. Please bring a notebook.

The Rev. Tom Ott is a retired pastor and psychologist. He lives in Battle Creek Michigan with his wife Patrice, a retired art teacher. Tom was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1981 and has served churches in New York and Michigan. As a therapist he has worked with adults and couples in community mental health settings and private practice to facilitate healing. He enjoys reading, biking, kayaking, and cross-country skiing, and is a long-suffering Detroit Lions fan.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 7: Lyra Elliot; Keri Shaffer Hayes
9: Mark Baxter; Jesse Boyer
18: LaJean Hewitt
20: Mitch Hull
22: Dorothy Stevens; Trish Steele
27: Sam Van Boven

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 7: Jeff and Trish Steele
9: Darrell and Marcia VanVleet
11: Mick and Lois Shubert
15: Richard and Kathy Adler



Fellowship and Evangelism



This has been an eventful month for our church. Attendance is up and everyone is enjoying participation in worship and in our recent activities. Many thanks to Gayla Metzger for the Garden Tour on her beautiful property. And special thanks to Trish Steele for the afternoon of painting. The month concluded with an outing to The New Holland Brew Pub for lunch with over thirty people in attendance.

As we continue our fellowship activities, I hope you will also consider inviting a friend. We want our church to continue to grow in numbers as well as in faith.

So be aware of the various activities coming up. **On Sunday, Sept. 10**, we will have a repeat of the garden tour at Gayla Metzger's for those unable to attend previously.

And **on Sunday, Oct. 1**, we will have a potluck and pig roast. Please bring a dish to pass and some sweet treats. The meat and beverages will be provided by the church. We will need you to make reservations through the month of September, so we have an idea how much meat to order.



Please remember to use the church's business cards, available on the table in the narthex, to invite friends to worship. It is good to share Christ with others and invite them into our community of faith.



Thank you to all the greeters and refreshment hosts. You make us a welcoming church. And your hospitality and warmth is very much appreciated.
--Sara Galloway, Chair

Greeters

Sept. 3 Laurie Riley and Carla Stine-King
Sept. 10 Susan Jordan and LuAnne Pierson
Sept. 17 Darrell and Marcia VanVleet
Sept. 24 Steve and Saskia Phillips

Refreshments

Laurie Riley and Carla Stine-King
Don and Carolyn Hammond
Dennis and Sandy Shaffer
Joann Preston and Jean Smith

Stewardship Update and Online Giving

We are grateful for your generosity in giving of your time, talent, and financial contributions. Also, please remember that you can give online by going to our website, www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org. A Give Now button will take you to the giving page, where you designate how you wish to give and from where to draw the funds. You can also set up regular contributions by creating a log-in profile. There is also a hyperlink posted on our live worship videos on Facebook that will take you directly to the giving page of our church.

Property and Finance

We are pleased to share that at this time \$4,000 have been donated to the Leon White Memorial Fund. This fund was created in coordination with the family to honor Pastor Emeritus Leon White, who served our church for twenty-five years. Only the dividend can be drawn from it so that the fund will continue in perpetuity. You may contribute to this fund anytime. And thank you to all who have contributed.

The Memorial Garden is now ready to receive cremains from the public. It is located near the brick circle, replete with a bench and flower pots. The burial plots can be individually marked with a granite marker sized 8" by 10". If you or friends and family are interested in purchasing a plot, please let the church office or Lois Shubert know. Brochures are also available in the Narthex and the ground layout map is posted in the display case outside Fellowship Hall.

Boiler Fund--Help Needed!

All broken pipes have been replaced and new heat pumps have been installed. At this time, we still owe \$11,000 to our heating technician. The Session has voted to begin a capital campaign to raise the funds. So, if you can contribute toward the outstanding balance we would be very grateful. Please be sure to mark your check "Boiler Fund."

--Lois Shubert, Chair of Property and Finance



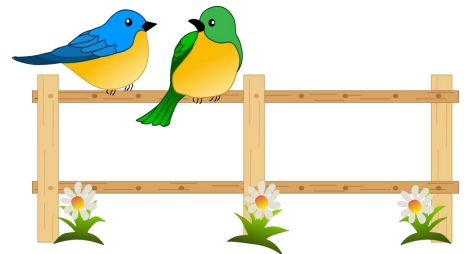
Worship: In-Person and Via Facebook Live

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. The first ten minutes prior to the live broadcast will include announcements, sharing of information, and personal prayer requests.

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 posts are also on our church's FB page and remain there.

Office Hours: Mon.-Tue. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

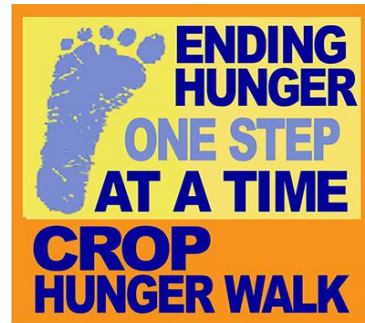
Jean Smith, our financial/office secretary, is at church from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays, along with a few hours on Thursday or Friday.



Deacons' Corner

Our Deacons are sponsoring the CROP walk on **Sunday, Sept. 24**. If you would like to contribute to relieve hunger nationwide, you may contact either Susan Jordan or Mark Baxter on Sept. 17 or Sept. 24, which is the day of the walk.

We are also excited to report that starting this month, the **Salvation Army** is going to provide us with meat for **our monthly meal on the last Tuesday of the month**. Every month our volunteers of Pennfield Presbyterian Church purchase, prepare, and cook meals for up to 150 people.



DOING
THE MOST
GOOD®

A week ago we had approached the Salvation Army directly since our budget was getting low and food prices were going up, putting us in bind. We are now on much better footing. Thank you to everyone who has been giving to the deacons' fund so far.

Currently, we are also hoping to partner up with one other church who might wish to help underwrite this mission in our local community. We trust that God

will lead us to that church.

The **CROP walk will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 24** at Leila Arboretum. Registration is at 2:30 p.m., the walk at 3 p.m.

Here is the 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

If you have a prayer request, please contact me at jessicaharvath1964@gmail.com.

--Jessica Harvath, Deacon Moderator

Northeast Food Pantry News and Food Pantry Trailer

The trailer you see in our parking lot belongs to the Northeast Food Pantry. It has been used for many years to pick up food from the Food Bank of South Michigan. Eric Eisen had it made to carry produce from his brother's farm near Watervliet to the five food pantries here in Battle Creek. When he was no longer able to make the trip, he donated the trailer to the pantries. It will continue to be used each week to bring food to the Northeast Food Pantry and has now found a home here at Pennfield Presbyterian Church.



Northeast Food Pantry News

The Northeast Neighborhood Food Pantry has had a very busy summer serving an average of 900 clients for each month between June and August. Now that schools are back in session and all school kids can receive free breakfasts and lunches, it will be interesting to see what our numbers are. The pantry is very grateful for all that our church does, such as food donations, money donations, and volunteer time. You are a great help to our mission in providing food for our neighbors in need. The next Double Match Day for the Beckley Meijer Simply Give fall campaign is Saturday, September 9. This is another fantastic way to help our pantry.



I will again be taking Simply Give donations given to me to Meijer that day.

Currently the Northeast Pantry can use donations of bar soap, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, crackers (those packaged in sleeves), spaghetti noodles, and sauce.

Thank you for your help!

--Laurie Riley, Coordinator

Presbyterian Women (PW) and Hannah Circle Bible Study

All women of the church are part of the Presbyterian Women. We have a board to carry out our local activities and mission. And we welcome you to our fall meeting on **Monday, Sept. 18** at noon with a potluck lunch. Beverages will be provided. This gathering will kick off the fall planning and we need your ideas.

--Lois Shubert, Moderator



The Hannah Circle would like to thank Martie Dull for making arrangements for us to meet at North Pointe Woods last month. We certainly enjoyed catching up on the summer, and finishing the last two chapters of last year's Horizon Bible Study.

Our new Bible Study books have arrived and are available for pick up in the library. If you pick up your copy, please sign your name and pay \$10 in the envelope available by the books. The new study is called Sacred Encounters and features biblical characters meeting Jesus in the Gospel of Luke.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, Sept 19 at 12:30** in the library. Please bring your own lunch and drink. Our study will begin at 1 p.m. with Lesson One, titled "Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter" (Luke 1: 1-24; 39-45). The main idea of this lesson is that God calls us to make ourselves available for God's purpose. We welcome all women of the church. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

--Deanna Stults, Bible Study Facilitator

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.

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

