

Pennfield Press

January 2024 Newsletter

Growing in Christ Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

pennpresBC@gmail.com

www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org

Find us on Facebook "Pennfield Presbyterian Church"

Dear Friends,

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus. This god has the ability to hold together both what lies in the past and what lies ahead. Accordingly, Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking back, the other looking ahead. As we begin a new year, we we may do so as well. Let us bless this past year since it's the Lord's, despite the loss or pain we may have experienced. And let us look ahead with hope and confidence in the knowledge that Christ is ever in charge and will prevail.



Hope gives us energy, and our activities certainly reflect this energy. **On Sunday, Jan. 7 at 7 a.m.** the men of the church will meet for the **Men's Breakfast** and afterwards study the preaching text of the day with the pastor. It is also when we will celebrate Communion and **Epiphany, the Feast of the Three Wise Men**, who followed the star and found the child.

On Sunday, Jan. 14, we will recall Jesus' baptism and our own. It's also the day of our **Ritual of New Beginnings** where we will take stock of those areas in our life that need cleansing. As before, we will write on a piece of paper bad habits, flaws, and whatever "stains" we might want to wash out and wipe away. We will then burn these slips of paper outside on our porch.

The Session has scheduled a **Congregational Meeting for Sunday, Jan. 21** following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the report of Nominating Committee and to elect new elders, deacons, and members of the Nominating Committee at large. That day we will also take down our **Christmas decorations** both inside and outdoors. Please plan on staying after church for an hour or so to help with this task.



Finally, our newly elected officers of deacons and elders will be ordained and installed on **Sunday, Jan. 28**.

Let us now rejoice that God has stooped low and become one of us so as to raise us up. And let us thank him for holding in his hands the past, the present, and all that lies ahead.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Annemarie

Adult Education Classes

--The Wired Word/Contemporary Issues Class

This class is currently on a hiatus and may start up again in the New Year. If you would be interested in helping convene or facilitate the class, please let Mark Atma know at markatma@comcast.net.

-A Study of the Apostle Paul--To Start in February

We will pick up our study of the Apostle Paul and his writings in February. We will begin with a review. Please bring your Bibles and invite a friend to join. We will study the timeline of Paul's life and significant events, along with several of his epistles.

Fellowship and Evangelism

Our Christmas Eve wassail and refreshments following our Christmas Eve service were fabulous and delightful treats. And what a great turnout we had both in worship and for fellowship time. Thanks to all who brought goodies, and helped with set up and clean up and serving. Thanks also to all who have faithfully served as greeters and hosted our fellowship time throughout the year.

Coffee Fund to Be Started

The cost of coffee has been going up and our Fellowship budget has been stretched thin. Therefore, we are asking for your help. During Fellowship time we will have a basket next to the coffee being served and we welcome any loose change you may wish to put in it. Just think of what you may pay for a cup at any coffee shop or diner! Every little bit will help. Thank you so much!

--Sara Galloway, Chair



Greeters

Jan. 7 Joan MacGregor and Jean Smith
Jan. 14 Linda and Mark Baxter
Jan. 21 Mark Atma and Ruth TenBroek
Jan. 28 Sara and Erin Galloway

Refreshments

Sara and Erin Galloway
Debbie Trayer and Martie Dull
Mark Atma and Ruth TenBroek
Linda and Mark Baxter

Stewardship and Mission

Thank you for turning in your Stewardship card on Stewardship Sunday. We have nearly reached our goal for our 2024 budget. If you have yet to pledge, you may mail your pledge card to the church or simply call the church office with your pledge information.

“Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son. . . “

--Aaron Jordan, Elder and Chair of Stewardship and Mission



Property and Finance

We are grateful that through your generous financial support, we are ending the year 2023 in the black. We are also grateful that following the pipe breakage in our heating system, the boiler is working well. Thank you again for your help in fully defraying the significant cost for the boiler repair!



Please remember our **church-wide rummage sale in May**. As you start to declutter your home, please let us have your smaller items and bring them to church. They are being put in the room next to the library. No books or clothes, please! Larger items will need coordinating with Lois Shubert or Christine Ayres.

--Lois Shubert, Chair of Property and Finance

Worship and Music

Thank you to all the “elves” who helped decorate our church and donated poinsettias. What a lovely atmosphere was created! During the Hanging of the Greens event we raised \$339 through the sale of baked goods. Thank you, all bakers and money-takers!

I am also grateful for the fabulous turnout at our two adult ed classes on Advent and Christmas traditions, taught by Pastor Annemarie, and the amazing turnout for our worship services in Advent and on Christmas Eve.

As we enter a new year, I hope that you allow Jesus to be your constant friend and guide. For everything is possible with him by your side. And remember to invite a friend or family member to worship. Let’s make an extra effort this year in doing so by introducing them to our beautiful, loving community of faith.

--Christine Ayres, Chair-Worship and Music



Office Hours

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.

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 pastoral 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.

Deacons' Corner

The families we adopted for Christmas were so very grateful for the help we gave them. I would like to thank everyone who donated to the Deacons' fund in December so we can carry out our ministry this coming year. A big thank you goes to all deacons who served so faithfully this past year in caring for their people, along with delivering flowers and poinsettias to our home-bound members. A special thanks to Carla Stine-King for getting goody bags. Here are listed who the deacons are serving:

Jessica Harvath will serve: Adler - Carter
Karen Newhard 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

I am extremely grateful for all your donations for the Meijer Simply Give Double Match Day in December. We raised from you and pantry volunteers at total of \$500, which will translate into \$1,500 in food cards for Northeast Pantry. This is truly fantastic! The pantry uses the food cards to purchase cereal, pasta, soup, canned fruit and vegetables, margarine, and baby needs. The winter campaign starts on Jan. 1 and runs until the end of March. There will be two opportunities for Double Match in March the dates of which I will post in upcoming newsletters.



We have been rather busy this past year, especially in October and November when we served over one thousand people each month.

We appreciate donations of toilet paper, boxed cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, soup, and spaghetti sauce, along with crackers in sleeves. Thank you for all you do for us!

--Laurel Riley, Coordinator

Presbyterian Women (PW) and Hannah Circle Bible Study

Thank you for your donations to the sock, mitten, and hat tree. All donations will go to Charitable Union this month.

--Lois Shubert, Moderator

The Hannah Circle will meet on **Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 12:30 p.m. in the church library.** Last month we combined lessons three and four. This month, Carla Stine-King will be leading lesson five, “A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus”(Luke 17: 11-21). The main idea of this lesson is that Jesus challenges us to overcome our prejudices, embrace others, and invite them into the community of faith. Laurie Riley will begin our study with devotions and Linda Baxter will share a mission report. All women of the church are invited!

--Deanna Stults, Bible Study Facilitator

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 4: Gabriel Case

2: Carol Alday

23: Carolyn Hammond

25: Carla Stine-King

26: Martie Dull

27: Dennis Trayer

29: Mary Rose

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 29: Dennis and Sandy Shaffer



**May you travel toward the light that is Christ.
Wishing you a light-filled and Christ-filled
Happy New Year 2024!**

