

Pennfield Press

February 2024 Newsletter

Growing in Christ Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

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Dear Friends,

In many areas of business, February is one of the slowest months of the year. For us at church, it's among the most active and involved. Here are the dates to keep in mind:



On Sunday, Feb. 4 at 7 a.m. the men of the church will meet for the monthly **Men's Breakfast** and afterwards study the preaching text of the day with the pastor. To be added to the calling list, please contact Mick Shubert. It's also Communion Sunday in worship.

On Sunday, Feb. 11, we will reflect on what it means to profess Christ in our circle of friends and among our relatives. On that day we will also have available copies of the 2023 Annual Report.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14** (Valentine's Day!) with our **worship service at 7 p.m.** I am happy to share that the First Presbyterian Church will be joining us this year. The service is contemplative in nature and will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. After a long hiatus, we continue the tradition of worshiping together on that day. (The Session of First Presbyterian Church also inquired whether they would be welcome to join us for our Maundy Thursday service in March, and of course we said Yes!)



Our **Annual Meeting** will take place immediately after worship on **Sunday, Feb. 18.** This is a time when we joyfully receive the reports of our Session committees, deacons, and various boards. We will vote on the 2023 congregational meeting minutes. And we will receive the 2024 Budget as approved by our Session. After the Annual Meeting, we will have a **Lenten Soup and Salad potluck** in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to let us know what you can bring. Sorry, no desserts or cookies since it's Lent!



And on **Sunday, Feb. 25,** Pastor Annemarie will be away with the Rev. Brent Folkema preaching. Let's enter this month then with a sense of expectation as we prepare ourselves for the 40-day journey through Lent.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Annemarie

Adult Education Classes

--The Wired Word/Contemporary Issues Class

This class is might be starting up again during Lent. If you would like to be notified about meeting times and dates, please let Mark Atma know at markatma@comcast.net.

-A Study of the Apostle Paul

This class will meet on Feb. 4 and 11 at 11:15 in the sanctuary. We will briefly review the life and writings of the Apostle Paul and begin the study of the oldest of Paul's letters in the New Testament, First Thessalonians. Please bring your Bibles and invite a friend to join.

Fellowship and Evangelism

On **Sunday, Feb. 18**, we will have our Annual Meeting, followed by a **Lenten Soup and Salad Potluck**. Please sign up in the Narthex for what you plan to bring and remember, no desserts.



Also on **Sunday, Feb. 18**, our committee will sponsor an outing to the **musical "Footloose"** at the Franke Center for the Arts in Marshall. The performance will begin **at 2:30 p.m.** This is a performance of the Youth Theater ensemble. Most exciting is that one of our youth, Joey Steele, will be part of the cast. You may purchase tickets at the church at \$16 a piece by Feb. 11. We will carpool from church at 1:45 p.m. Please see me for more details.

--Christine Ayres, Chair

NEW Coffee Fund

With the cost of coffee having gone up, we are asking for your help. We now have a basket next to the coffee during Fellowship time and welcome any loose change. 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!

Greeters

Feb. 4 Steve and Saskia Phillips
Feb. 11 Linda and Mark Baxter
Feb. 18 Susan Jordan and LuAnne Pierson
Feb. 25 Kathy Lyon and Donna Teichman

Refreshments

Dennis and Sandy Shaffer
Joann Preston and Jean Smith
Karen and Bruce Newhard
Joan MacGregor and Chris Beaver

Stewardship and Mission

Thank you for turning in your Stewardship card on Stewardship Sunday or after that. So far we have received 38 pledges for the 2024 fiscal year. If you have yet to pledge, please mail your pledge card to the church or simply call the church office with your pledge information. We rely on your pledges to balance our budget and continue the important work and mission of the church.

"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

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.



Currently, we would appreciate help with shoveling the ramp and doorways on Sunday mornings. Monday and Tuesday morning may also need shoveling by the office door only if there is abundant snow. If you are available on Sunday or weekdays, please contact Mick Shubert.
--Lois Shubert, Chair of Property and Finance

Worship and Music



These subzero temperatures remind me of the many lambs we had to bring from the outside into our kitchen. There we penned off an area by our old cook stove to keep them warm and we bottle-feed them there.

Even though snow and ice prevented us from meeting in person on one Sunday last month, I trust that you were able to access our worship videos on Facebook or attend worship in other ways.

I'm grateful to our excellent musicians and singers. If you or someone you know would like to share a talent whether it's singing, playing an instrument, or liturgical dancing, please let us know. We welcome your contribution.

--Christine Ayres, Former Chair

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

With the beginning of a new year, we welcome our new deacons, which are Joan MacGregor, Luanne Pierson, and Sandi Rothney.

Listed below are the deacons assigned to our church families. If we can help you in some way please let us know.

Sandi Rothney will serve: Adler - Beaver
Karen Newhard will serve: Boyer - Goll
Joan MacGregor will serve: Halbert - Jarrard
Jessica Harvard will serve: Jordan - Metzger
Susan Jordan will serve: Monroe - Prince
Carla Stine-King will serve: Riley - H. Smith
Luanne Pierson will serve: J. Smith - Thomas
Mark Baxter will serve: Trayer - Yost

If you have a prayer request, please contact either Susan Jordan at dancerj@bcglobal.net or Karen Newhard at newhardkl@gmail.com.
--Karen Newhard and Susan Jordan,
Deacon Co-Moderators



Northeast Food Pantry News

When the Pennfield and Battle Creek Schools are closed because of weather, Northeast Food Pantry is closed also. We had a couple of rough weeks due to either snow, frigid temperatures or both, while trying to provide food for our clients in need.

The Meijer Winter Simply Give campaign, which began in January, continues through March of this year. There will be two Double Match days, one on March 2 and the other on March 23, which means that with every dollar given by us we can provide twice the amount to the Pantry.

The non-profit Sprout has been very generous to the pantries by providing us with hamburger and fresh produce weekly and occasionally with milk, all of which are hard-to-come-by items.

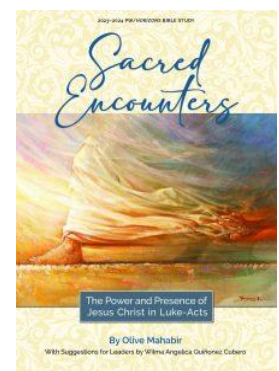
We are always in need of toilet paper, cereal, canned fruit, and spaghetti noodles. Our church does a very nice job supplying the Northeast Food Pantry with these items. Thanks so very much!
--Laurel Riley, Coordinator

Presbyterian Women (PW) and Hannah Circle Bible Study

On **Monday, Feb. 19** at noon the Presbyterian Women (PW) will meet for a potluck lunch and Planning meeting. Please bring a dish for 12 people. If you wonder what we do and plan, come join us!

Hanging of the Greens was a great success. Thank you to all who helped decorate in Advent and take decorations down again after Epiphany.

--Lois Shubert, PW Moderator



The Hannah Circle will meet on **Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 12:30 p.m.** in the church library. This month, Susan Jordan will be leading us in Lesson Six. The Lesson is titled "A Person With a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus" and is based on Acts 3:1-10. All women of the church are invited!
 --Deanna Stults, Bible Study Facilitator

Easter Flower Orders



You may order your Easter flowers throughout the month of February. Forms are available from the greeters on Sunday morning or at the church office. Please complete the form and put in the offering plate or mail to the church office along with payment, **by Sunday, March 3.**

Item Cost per plant:
 6" pot of Lilies \$12.00 _____
 6" pot of Tulips \$8.00 _____
 6" pot of Hyacinths \$8.00 _____
 Total enclosed \$ _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given By: _____

NEW: Joint Officers' Retreat set for Saturday, March 9--9:30 a.m. to Noon

Each year our deacons and elders meet as a group to learn about their roles as officers in the church and to brainstorm about new (and time-tested) ways of being church and doing ministry together. Please know that this retreat is important to attend. Please let Pastor Annemarie know if you are not available, so we can schedule a make-up session.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- February 1: Jeff Steele
- 2: Ruth TenBroek; Kaylee Tucker
- 5: Donna Teichman
- 6: Joan Jarrard
- 7: Mike Monroe
- 8: Gayla Metzger
- 11: Chloe Paul; Samantha Elliot; Trisha Elliot
- 14: Dennis Shaffer
- 21: Kelly Shaffer
- 26: Lois Shubert; Mark Atma; Don Hammond
- 27: Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder
- 28: Lois Fleming



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- February 14: Steve and Saskia Phillips
- 24: Ross and Joan Jarrard

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--Christine Ayres (Chair), Kathy Lyon (Elder)

Christian Education--Kathy Lyon (Chair)

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

Worship and Music--Harry Scheuffele (Chair), Christine Ayres (Elder), Aaron Jordan (Elder), Lois Shubert (Elder)

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

Clerk of Session: Aaron Jordan

Moderator: The Rev. Dr. Annemarie S. Kidder

