

# Pennfield Press

## September 2024 Newsletter

*Growing in Christ Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship*

[pennpresBC@gmail.com](mailto:pennpresBC@gmail.com)

[www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org](http://www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org)

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Dear Friends,

For nearly six years I have been with you as your transitional pastor and it's time to say goodbye. We have gone through the COVID years, a self-study, and many new programs that have added to the life and health of our church. There are so many good things that have happened. As of this year, we have added three new members to our rolls, have engaged in thoughtful educational opportunities, had fun at our Men's Breakfast, and enjoyed congregational fellowship events and weekly treats after worship.

Ever since I turned 65 last February, I have asked myself and colleagues and friends how they knew it was time to retire. And always the answer was the same: "You'll know." And so, at this point, I have to say that I know it's time for me to retire. You have been the love of my pastoral life, and I believe that saying so is no exaggeration. From the moment I met you, from the moment I preached my first trial sermon back in November of 2018, I knew that you were the church and the people for me. The building was impeccably kept up, the landscaping was a dream (for a passionate gardener), and you couldn't have been more welcoming and hungry for hearing and studying the Word of God.



I am so grateful to you for having made me a better pastor, a better listener, a better teacher and equipper of souls. How many times I have bragged about you to those who wouldn't even have an interest in church and yet were fascinated by my stories about you. How many times I visited our people in nursing homes, hospitals, retirement communities, and in homes scattered throughout Battle Creek, and everytime and every week I visited, I did so with great joy on your behalf.

As you are aware, I was close to your previous pastor, the kind and gentle Rev. Nettleton, who has been such a support and nurturing presence to me throughout my time with you. And you also know that your long-time pastor emeritus Rev. Leon White was my trusted colleague and mentor for all these years until his death. I count myself fortunate to have stepped into their big shoes, and it feels good to say that I am the third pastor in a row, after both of them, to retire from Pennfield Presbyterian Church, which says a lot about you, dear friends.

I am grateful for your affirmations in my ministry, the celebration of my 25<sup>th</sup> ordiversary, the many lovely notes, and the generous support from our elders and deacons. They work hard and are guided by a love for our Lord. I pray that you will work with them and affirm them as you have affirmed me.

My ministry with you ends on Oct. 31 and my last Sunday with you will be **Sunday, Oct. 20**. I hope to see you off and for you to see me off with a blessing and a heart-felt hug that's full of love.

With joy and gratitude,

Your Pastor Annemarie

## Adult Education

Our Pastor's study at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary kicks off on **Sunday, Sept. 22** and will continue for four weeks until **Oct. 13**. We will be studying one of my books, titled The Power of Solitude: Discovering Your True Self in a World of Nonsense and Noise. I wrote the book a number of years ago, but I believe its spiritual principles remain true and pertinent, especially today. For those who wish to participate in the study, I have copies available in my office at \$10 each (half of its regular price on amazon).

The book explores the spiritual practice of solitude, charts its history in the church, and offers practical examples in spiritual formation. The author of The Message, Eugene Peterson, wrote the foreword, and the book has been used as an adult ed study in several other churches.

I look forward to leading this study as my farewell gift to you.

## New Member Joining

The session has approved receiving of our newest member, Karen Barnes. Karen has been attending our church for several weeks after having visited several Presbyterian churches in the vicinity. She comes to us as a full-fledged Presbyterian and we will receive her into membership during worship on **Sunday, Sept. 15**. Please stay for refreshments and welcome Karen.



## Fellowship and Evangelism

God's house was full of family and friends as we mourned the loss and celebrated the life of our dear sister in Christ, Deanna Stults. Thank you to all who helped with all that was needed to be done to make it an easier day for her family. They deeply appreciated everything. Deanna will be sorely missed.

## Upcoming Events

**September 8** after church service we are going to Clara's on the River, 44 McCamly, Battle Creek, at Noon. Sign up sheet is in the narthex. Need to RSVP by Sunday the 4th.

Brunch is 17.99 or you may order off the menu. Invite another person to come along and enjoy with us. Great time for fellowship. If you aren't sure you may still come. They will try to accommodate. If you miss signing up please give me a call by Monday the 5th. Thanks.

Children's Musical, "Fish Tales!" Saturday, Sept 7th, 6 p.m. & Sunday Sept 8th, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. At Garrison Wesleyan Church 195 Bradley St. BC, MI

Admission is Free, however would appreciate a non-perishable food item to be donated to our local Food Pantry. Laurel Riley's granddaughter Aleigha Elliott will be singing several solos.

Farmers Market at Market Square, 25 McCamly S. Every Wednesday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Support our local farmers and crafters. Live music provided by a local musician for your pleasure.

Evangelism: proclaiming the Gospel - spreading the good news about Jesus Christ. There are business cards on table in narthex. Please take a few to carry with you. Let's all make an effort to hand out at least 2-3 a week and spread the Word! Invite them to come join us in worship.

--Christine Ayres, Chair Fellowship/Evangelism

### **Greeters**

Sept. 1 Laurie Riley and Carla Stine-King  
Sept. 8 Susan Jordan and LuAnne Pierson  
Sept. 15 Mark Atma and Ruth TenBroek  
Sept. 22 Jean Smith and Joan MacGregor  
Sept. 29 Sandra and Dennis Shaffer

### **Refreshments**

Laurie Riley and Carla Stine-King  
Clara's Restaurant Outing  
Mark Atma and Ruth TenBroek  
Joann Preston and Jessica Harvath  
Don and Carolyn Hammond

### **Property and Finance**

Thank you to all our workers who have kept up with mother nature's grass and weeds. What a year! We have been busy keeping up the mowing and the weeds that don't stop growing. When the weather cools down we will have an organized weed pulling morning.

The children's play area had a few landscaping timbers replaced. Thank you Steve Phillips and Mick Shubert. A big thank you to all our volunteer janitors who keep God's house at its best.

A complementary update to our Guardian Alarm System resulted in reducing our monthly bill. Our whole building is under the alarm and we are secure. Updating our internet also was complementary with a new modem and a lower monthly bill.

--Lois Shubert, Chair of Property and Finance

### **Memorial Garden**

Did you know that the Memorial Garden is a sub-committee under Property and Finance? A committee was formed during Covid and oversee the grounds. The cabinet going to the Fellowship Hall has the layout of the grounds. Near the circle of bricks is members and friends of the church. Monuments mark our newest interments in the members area.

New markers ' A ' and ' B ' mark the Public Memorial Garden. If you have a friend or family who needs more information, please inquire with Lois Shubert, Chair.

### **Presbyterian Women**

September 16 is our first Fall meeting to organize our commitment to the church through our activities and missions. All women are invited, whether you are on the board or not. Bring a small salad or dish for our potluck at 12 noon. Hope to see you there!

--Lois Shubert, Moderator



### **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study**

**Sunday, Oct. 6** will be our first breakfast. I will be calling you to remind you. Hope you will mark your calendars.

--Mick Shubert, coordinator

## Stewardship and Mission

Thank you for your faithful giving. We rely on your financial contributions 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, Clerk of Session and Chair of Stewardship and Mission

## 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

Sunday worship in person starts at 9:50 a.m. with current announcements and pastoral prayer requests. We livestream worship each week from Pastor Annemarie’s Facebook page at 10 a.m. Please comment and like. Each

Wednesday the Pastor posts a devotion and on Fridays the preaching text for the upcoming sermon.



## Facebook Worship Address Change

Please be aware that starting in November the worship service will be livestreamed directly from the church’s facebook page.

--Harry Scheuffele, Chair of Worship

## Hannah Circle Bible Study of Presbyterian Women

The Hannah Circle Bible study has scheduled the first meeting for the 2024-2025 year on **Tuesday, September 3rd**. Fellowship time will begin at 12:30 and circle will begin at 1 p.m. We will meet in the library. The theme for this study is "Let Justice Roll Down." Study books have been ordered. Regular print are \$11 and large print \$16. Carla Stine-King has agreed to present the first lesson. Thank you, Carla.

--Sara Galloway, Circle Coordinator

## Northeast Food Pantry News

Meijer Simply Give 2024 Fall campaign Double Match Day will be September 14. Your \$10 donation becomes \$30 when matched with \$20 from Meijer. The Northeast Pantry is in need of fragrance free baby wipes, toilet paper, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soup, meat, and spaghetti sauce. We can also use boxed cereal, macaroni/cheese, crackers, mayo, mustard, ketchup, flour, salt, cooking oil, dish soap and spaghetti noodles. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant are also always welcome. Thanks for all you do to support the pantry.

--Laurel Riley, Coordinator



## Deacons' Corner

Although you cannot tell from the temperatures outside, summer is winding down and fall will soon be upon us. I hope you are all keeping cool and enjoying the beautiful days.

While late summer is often a time for travel and other busy events, know that your Deacons are always here for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at any time with any comments, concerns, needs or questions.

Listed below are the Deacons and their assigned church families.

Sandi Rothney will serve Adler - Beaver  
Karen Newhard will serve Boyer- Goll  
Joan MacGregor will serve Halbert-Jarrard  
Jessica Harvath 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 any prayer requests or needs, please contact Susan Jordan at [dancerj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dancerj@sbcglobal.net) or Karen Newhard at [newhardkl@gmail.com](mailto:newhardkl@gmail.com)

--Susan Jordan and Karen Newhard, Deacon Co-Moderators

## Battle Creek CROP Walk on Sunday, Sept. 29

The Battle Creek CROP hunger walk takes place again at Leila Arboretum in Battle Creek. It is a fund raiser to relieve hunger in our area, sponsored by the Deacons. Registration opens on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 2:30 p.m. and the walk will begin at 3 p.m. You may make a donation directly to the walk by seeing me at the table in the Narthex.

--Mark Baxter, Deacon Coordinator



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sept. 7: 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

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





### **The Session**

The Session, composed of six elders and the pastor, governs every area of church ministry, including the work of the deacons.

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

Fellowship and Evangelism--Christine Ayres (Chair)

Christian Education--

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), Harry Scheuffele (Elder), Christine Ayres (Elder)

Clerk of Session: Aaron Jordan

Moderator: The Rev. Dr. Annemarie S. Kidder

