

# Pennfield Press

## October 2024 Newsletter

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

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Dear Friends,

After thirty years in church ministry (nearly half of my life), I am retiring at the end of this month. It has been a journey through occasional dry lands with thistles and thorns that stung. It has also been a journey that has led me into rich pastures with lush vegetation and verdant growth. All began in 1985, when I entered Southern Seminary in Louisville. While there I was able to work as a church planter in Battle Creek. After graduating with an M.Div. and Ph.D., I started worshiping and teaching adult ed classes at the First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo. In 1995, I enrolled as an inquirer for ordination, served the First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek as a pastoral assistant, and promptly fell in love with the people. Ordained in 1998, I served seven more churches in four different presbyteries until one day in 2018 I heard of an opening back in Battle Creek. Yes, I lived in Ann Arbor and would not be able to relocate. Yes, I would only be hired part-time. And yes, I would have to make adjustments, as would the congregation of Pennfield, so as to manage time and responsibilities and be faithful to the call. What a gift this should turn out to be!



Who would have thought that my part-time position as your transitional pastor would last six years? And who could have anticipated the many changes throughout this time? We restructured the board of deacons who now keep in regular contact with our people. We went from paper to electronic communication. We trimmed expenses and sought to be responsible stewards of our office supplies, property and grounds, and funds and investments. We implemented active pastoral home visitation. And with many of our seasoned saints departing, we have also drawn new members--four in just the last two months--and several others who worship with us regularly either in person or online.

Please know you will always be in my heart as the crown of my ministry to the church. Currently I am working on handing off the various "jobs" I held. As you move forward, different preachers will be filling the pulpit. Adjustments will need to be made for months to come. And fewer adult ed programs or other offerings may be available. Still, I want you to know that you, of all churches, have more than enough reason to be hopeful and joyous. For you are a strong church, a healthy and generous church, and most importantly, you are a people in whom Christ is alive.

My last Sunday with you will be **Sunday, Oct. 20**. I hope to see you there for a heart-felt blessing and hug.

With gratitude and abiding love,

Your Pastor Annemarie



## Adult Education

Our Pastor's study at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary will continue from **Sunday, Oct. 6 through Oct. 13**. We are 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. Additional copies are available on amazon.com. It is recommended that you have read the chapters prior to class but not absolutely.

The book explores the spiritual practice of solitude, charts its history in the church, and offers practical examples in spiritual formation. To judge by our first session with its vigorous and lively discussion and fabulous turnout, we will continue to have engaging conversations on this topic.

## Two New Members Joined

On Sunday, Sept. 15, we welcomed two new members to our church. Karen Barnes had 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 a former real estate broker. She and her husband, Jack, have four grown children. Karen likes to garden, bake, and cook.

We also welcomed Evelyn Strait, who has been worshipping with us since May when her mom, Elder Kathy Lyon, died. Evelyn has been living in California, but is now moving here because she enjoys our church family and wanted to join before I left. Evelyn grew up in our church and was confirmed here. She is an IT professional and, I think, has already been roped in to help in this and other areas.

We are so fortunate to have both women join us. Please welcome them with open arms.



## Fellowship and Evangelism

On Sunday, Sept. 8 about two dozen members went to Clara's on the River for brunch after church. And on Sunday, Sept. 15 we welcomed Evelyn Strait and Karen Barnes as newest members.

### October Happenings

Oct 5 - PW Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian Church 9:30—1 p.m. Lunch provided. Guest Speaker Rev. Amber Nettleton. RSVP by Oct 1.

Oct 10 - Charitable Union 4-6 p.m. Open House 85 Calhoun St. Light refreshments and tour of the facility.

Oct 11 - OctoberFest @Festival Market Square. Friday night 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Farm vendors, food trucks and live music.

Oct 12 - Fall & Winter Craft Show 10 a.m.-4 p.m. B.E. Henry Bldg. 615 S Marshall St, Marshall, MI. Free admission

Oct. 20 Retirement Open House for Pastor Annemarie Kidder 11 a.m. -1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall following worship, hosted by Presbyterian Women and Fellowship Committee. We extend a warm welcome to all members and friends who want to see her off and wish her well. This is also her last Sunday in the pulpit with worship at 9:50 a.m.

November Happenings

Nov 6-16 Holiday Sale at Charitable Union Gift Shop. Their biggest sale of the year.

November 10 - Kick off for Stewardship Sunday plus Thanksgiving Dinner after church for all family and friends. Will have a sign up sheet in the narthex for attendance and food you are bringing.



With so many things happening from now to end of year, if you know of something coming up that might be of interest please let me know and I will post in our newsletters. Thanks.

--Christine Ayres, Chair Fellowship/Evangelism

**Greeters**

- Oct. 6 Erin and Sara Galloway
- Oct. 13 Bill and Sandi Rothney
- Oct. 20 Bruce and Karen Newhard
- Oct. 27 Jean Smith and Gary Gammons

**Refreshments**

- Bruce and Karen Newhard
- Mick and Lois Shubert
- Chris Beaver and Jessica Harvath
- Sara and Erin Galloway

**Property and Finance**

We will have a **Fall Clean Up on Monday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m. to noon.** We hope you can help weed around our flower beds and patio, around the electronic sign, the children’s play area, and along the entry drive area where the large rock is located. Bring your own gloves and gardening tools. A wheelbarrow is stored behind the garage. (You may also come on any day convenient for you.) Once we are done weeding, we will spread bark on the beds. Looking forward to seeing you!

--Lois Shubert, Chair, Property and Finance



**Memorial Garden**

Several members and friends have recently bought lots and/or monuments in our Memorial Garden. Please note that the Memorial Garden is open to both church members and friends, as well as the public. If interested in learning more about available services, please see me.

--Lois Shubert, Coordinator

**Presbyterian Women**

The Presbyterian Women will be hosting, together with the Fellowship and Evangelism Committee, a retirement celebration and open house for Pastor Annemarie.

It will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

If unable to attend, please send a card.



The PW October Mission Project is our **“Bedding Blitz.”** You may donate gently used and new bedding for Charitable Union. Money donated will purchase new pillows. You may contribute by seeing either Christine Ayres or Lois Shubert.

And our next PW Board meeting with potluck will be on **Monday, Nov. 4** in Fellowship Hall.

--Lois Shubert, Moderator

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

All men are invited to the Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study **on Sunday, Oct. 6.** This will be our first breakfast this fall. I will be calling you the week before we meet. See you there.

--Mick Shubert, Coordinator



### **Stewardship and Mission**

We are quickly approaching November, which means our stewardship campaign is right around the corner. This year's theme will be gratitude.

As we get closer, we will send pledge cards for the 2025 fiscal year. Please prayerfully consider what you are grateful for at Pennfield Presbyterian Church, and what you might be able to pledge for the 2025 year. We rely on these pledges and offerings to continue the vital mission of the church.

--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 will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 1 in the church library at 1 p.m. We will be studying Lesson 2 of the Horizon Bible Study book, titled "Let Justice Roll Down." We will join for fellowship at 12:30 p.m. (bring your own snack) and begin Bible study at 1 p.m. Books are available in the library at \$11 per copy.

--Sara Galloway and Marie Hull, Coordinators



## Library News

Christian author Judy C. Lafler has donated eight of her novels to the Church Library. She is the daughter of LaJean Hewitt, who was a long-time church member and has recently passed away. Judy is active in her church. Her novels promote faith in God and encourage those who are looking for answers to faith questions. Judy's novels may be borrowed from the library.

--Linda Baxter, Library Coordinator

## Northeast Food Pantry News

As always, the Northeast pantry remains busy and will probably get busier as the holidays approach. The pantry is in need of cereal, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, toilet paper, bar soap, and fragrance free baby wipes. We are also always in need of toothbrushes and toothpaste.

The next Meijer Simply Give Double Match Day will be **Saturday, Dec. 14**. This means that your \$10 donation is matched with \$20 from Meijer for a total of \$30. Northeast's partner store is Meijer on Beckley. Thanks for all you do for those in need in the Pennfield Neighborhood.

--Laurel Riley, Coordinator



## Deacons' Corner

We have been taking donations as well as signing up volunteers to participate in the CROP Walk held on Sept. 29. We will update you next month. As usual, even with the changes coming, please know that your Deacons are here for you. 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 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



## Deacons' Ministry: Soup Kitchen

The members of Pennfield Presbyterian Church have been cooking and serving meals at the Salvation Army's Soup Kitchen for over fifty years. Needless to say, this mission has been very important to our church. Throughout this time, the cost of the food has come from the Deacon's Fund. Over the last couple of years, however, the Deacon's Fund has dwindled. Even though we typically raise money for this fund in December, we would appreciate your making a donation sooner than that so we can continue this mission.

Thank you in advance from your Deacons and the Soup Kitchen Crew!

--Sandi Rothney, Deacon and Crew Member

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Oct 4: Saskia Phillips

8: Kristi Shaffer Park

14: Ron Metzger

16: Jim Jordan

20: Christy Halbert

24: Kathy Yost; Rick Harvath

25: Christy Cope

26: Jean Smith

27: Justin Pierson; Tyler Pierson

29: Luke Atma

30: Susan Jordan



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Oct 9: Steve and Jeanette Higgs

11: Sandi and Bill Rothney

15: Jay and Sally Moore, Sr.

24: Jeff and Michelle Jarrard

25: Tom and Karen Lewis

## 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--Vacant

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

