



December 2021 Newsletter



Flushing Presbyterian Church

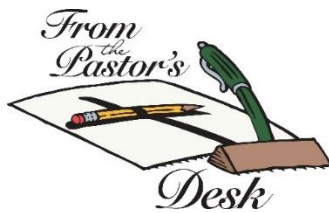
Worship: 10:00 AM Year-Round

Rev. Paul J. Pfeuffer, Pastor

5010 N. McKinley Road, Flushing, MI 48433

Phone: (810) 659-5831

www.flushingpres.org



The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-5

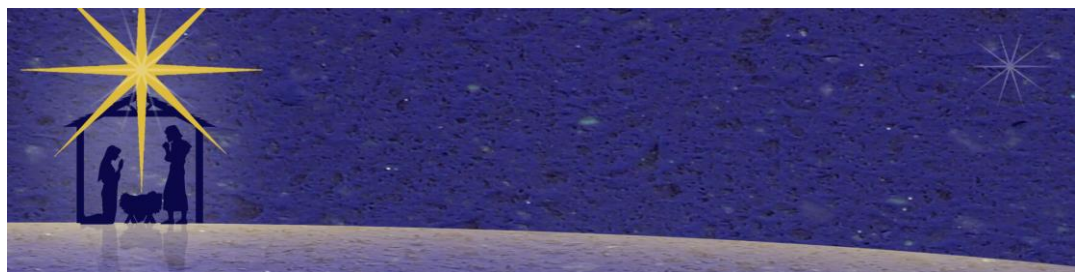
¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

You see that passage up there? Right above this line. Read the final verse to yourself one more time. Take as much time as you need; read it until you can recite it from memory. The above lines of scripture are taken from John's first chapter, an account of the creation of the universe. It may not resemble the account of God's seven-day creation from Genesis. It also doesn't look anything like the birth narratives in Matthew or Luke. But this passage serves as a grand introduction into the story that unfolds before us. There is a both-and about the beginnings of the Christmas story. Jesus is both the creative Almighty God as well as the cherubic, tiny infant born in Bethlehem.

Now, notice something very important in that last verse. The verb tense switches from the past to the present. While that may not *look* like much at first, it's an affirmation that Jesus' presence is still shining – more than two millennia after the birth of the baby in a lowly manger stuffed with straw. I look around and I see plenty of darkness that remains in this world today: divisiveness, violence, greed. There is temptation to fall into despair. And when I feel that tug, that overwhelming anxiety that I simply cannot take one bit of bad news more...I remember verse 5. Remember that the light *still* shines in the darkness. Remember also that the darkness still has not overcome it.

Read that verse over and over again to yourself. Do not let your heart grow weary or dark. Because

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”





A **Called Meeting of the Congregation** is scheduled to take place on **Sunday, December 5th**, immediately following our worship service for the purpose of electing officers for the 2023 Class AND to vote on the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2022. The 2023 Class slate of names are: Ruling Elders: Carol Dulin (Community Outreach), Pat Bemis (Member Care), Mike Keeler (Spiritual Growth), Gary Stuber (Property) and Debbie Bayer (Budget & Finance). Memorial Committee: Dick Barnett and Dennis Sanborn. Nominating Committee: Kathy Miller, Scott Tucker, Gary Albert.



We will be holding a **Blood Drive on Monday, December 6th**, from 12:00 - 5:45 PM. Appointments are required at this time: to schedule an appointment, log onto redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: Flushing Community or call 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767). **This is our month to provide volunteers. If you are willing to help, please contact Kathy Miller.**

**Angel
Tree**



The Angel Tree is now up in the narthex in order to provide Christmas gifts to children in need in the Flushing area. If you wish to participate, you will need to select an angel and sign your name after the appropriate number on the sign-up sheet next to the tree. **All gifts must be at the church no later than Sunday, December 12th. Please wrap all gifts and put all gifts for each child in one bag (with handles).** If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Lescelius or the church office.

Christmas Music



The Flint Concert Band will be performing a Christmas concert in our sanctuary on **Sunday, December 12th, at 3:00 PM.** Invite your friends and bring your family to this wonderful evening of Christmas music. A reception with refreshments will follow the concert. **If you would be willing to bake cookies for the reception following the concert, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.**





*Come, let us
adore him!*

**Christmas Eve Service
Friday, December 24th at 7:00 PM**



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Every Christmas, we express our gratitude for the birth of our savior by supporting the **Christmas Joy Offering**. This offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (which provides critical financial support to church workers and their families) and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges (which provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage). Please give generously to Christmas Joy this year by using the special envelopes in the pews or by indicating "*Christmas Joy*" on the memo line of your check.



The Church Office will be closed December 23, 24, 27, and January 3.

Removal of the Greens



The Removal of the Greens will take place on Sunday, January 9th, immediately following the worship service. Please plan to lend a helping hand after the worship service as we pack away the Christmas decorations.



We will be printing an updated church directory in February. If you have had a change of address, phone number or email address in the past year (or have one that you would now like to have added), please notify the office by **Sunday, January 23rd**, so that the new information can be included.

Session Highlights

Session Highlights:

- Our Tech Intern, Jonathon, will be finishing his internship with us at the end of the month. Please join Session in giving him a word of thanks for the assistance and help he provided us during his time at Flushing Presbyterian Church and wish him well in his future endeavors!
- Don't forget there will be a Called Meeting of the Congregation immediately following worship on December 5th to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call.
- Rev. Max Hayden will be leading us in worship on Sunday, December 26th while Pastor Paul is away. Please join us in welcoming Pastor Max back for that Sunday.
- Upon finding a few extra storm damaged trees, more than we originally thought we had, the cost to us to take care of them would have been \$800; however, once again The Lions Club, through Dick Barnett's help, took away the burden for us to meet this cost. This is in addition to the \$3,890 that they covered for the first trees that were found damaged!! THANK YOU!
- Hopefully you noticed the new blue table covering at the front of the sanctuary. Spiritual Growth is in the process of transitioning our paraments for Advent to blue rather than the traditional purple we are used to seeing. This is a newer trend in churches to visually distinguish between Advent and Lent. Isn't it stunning? Especially with our gorgeous blue banners that are hung at the moment. Look for more to come.



From Barbara Browne . . .

Thanks to you all for the cards, calls, food and prayers. I appreciate your visits and the phone calls. I'm progressing, but it's slow. The flowers from the altar on Sunday were very special, as was the visit. Thanks for your prayers and caring.



Help Needed at Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC)! The FCOC has just opened a large clothing center on Pierson Road in Flushing and would love to have you serve alongside of them as they provide free clothing to our friends in need. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Terry Bigelow at 810-487-2223.





Christmas Floral Decorations

Our sanctuary is traditionally and beautifully decorated for Christmas. You can help with this by purchasing poinsettia(s) in honor or memory of persons dear to you.

Complete the form below, enclose your check for \$18.00 per plant, and place in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail to the church office.

Acknowledgments of contributions will be printed, as you have designated, in the worship bulletin for the Christmas Eve service. Poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Eve Worship Service.

IN HONOR OF _____

Relationship (if any) _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

Relationship (if any) _____

I would like _____ poinsettias at a cost of \$18.00 each.

(Please indicate color preferred. The florist has been having difficulty getting pink and white poinsettias the last couple years. If they are not available, red will be substituted.)

_____ Red _____ Pink _____ White

YOUR NAME _____ *PHONE NO.* _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING POINSETTIAS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th



This Month's Schedule

December 5

Communion Preparers: Scott & Sandy Tucker
Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Shirley Delbridge
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Gary Albert, Mike & Sylvia Keeler
Lay Leader: Bill Churchill

December 12

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Kathy Lescelius
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Karen & Steve Howe, Mark Jacobson
Lay Leader: Ed Davison

December 19

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Shirley Sanborn
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Kaye Kaufherr, Kathy Miller, Dennis Sanborn
Lay Leader: Joyce Hudson

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service

Communion Preparers:
Sound Board Operator:
Ushers:
Welcome Desk: Kathy Miller

December 26

Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Natalie Lucas, Carole Noye, Bill Weiss
Lay Leader: Lynette Daig



December

- 10 Carol Sawatzki
- 12 Tim Stein
- 17 Katy & Robert Churchill
- 20 Ed Lannon
- 23 Robert Churchill
- 26 Margaret Meehle
- 27 Sherry Bradish
- 29 Emilie Wiley



*A Season
for
Sharing*



Financial Highlights

Average 2021 Collections	\$3116
Average October Collections	\$3,449
Average 2020 Collections	\$3,069
Average needed for 2021 Budget	\$3,173



FLUSHING CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

The special focus items requested by the Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) for December are chunky soup and shampoo. If you can help by providing these items, or any other non-perishable food or personal care items, there is a collection basket for the FCOC in the shelving unit just outside of the kitchen.



Card Ministry



Card Ministry...Sympathy, Get Well, Thinking of You, Birthday and Christmas cards are collected for our on-going card ministry. If you have any cards you are willing to donate, please deliver them to Margaret Meehle or the church office.

Lectionary Readings

December 5: Mal. 3:1-4 and Luke 1:68-79; Phil. 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 12: Zeph. 3:14-20 and Isa. 12:2-6; Phil. 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 19: Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:47-55 or Ps. 80:1-7; Heb. 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

December 26: Isa. 52:7-10 and Ps. 98; Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14



Flushing Presbyterian Church 2021 Session

Budget & Finance

Brett Albert
Steve Howe

Community Outreach

Carol Dulin
Sylvia Keeler

Member Care


Denise Churchill
Shirley Sanborn

Property Team

Scott Tucker

Spiritual Growth

Julie Socha
Carrie Younkin

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	2 1:00 PM - Member Care 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	3 Church Office Closed	4
5 Communion 11:15 AM – Advent Study	6 12:00 PM - Blood Drive 6:30 PM – Boy Scouts (Pavilion)	7 6:00 PM – Boy Scout Court of Honor 6:30 PM - Handbell Choir	8 10:00 AM - Community Outreach 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	9 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	10 Church Office Closed	11
12 Noisy Offering 11:15 AM – Advent Study 3:00 PM – Flint Concert Band	13 6:00 PM - B & F 6:30 PM - Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth 6:30 PM – Boy Scouts (Pavilion)	14 1:00 PM – Tuesday Book Club, Kathy’s Restaurant 6:00 PM - GFWC (Flushing Women’s Club) 6:30 PM - Property 6:30 PM - Handbell Choir	15 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	16 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	17 Church Office Closed	18
19 11:15 AM – Advent Study	20 6:30 PM – Boy Scouts (Pavilion) 6:45 PM - Session	21 6:30 PM - Handbell Choir	22	23 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	24 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 
				-----Church Office Closed-----		
26	27 Church Office Closed	28 6:30 PM - Handbell Choir 6:30 PM - GFWC (Flushing Women's Club)	29	30	31 Church Office Closed	1
				-----Church Office Closed-----		

Please note that the church office is closed on Fridays