



April 2023 Newsletter



“Death is something empires worry about, not something gardeners worry about. It's certainly not something resurrection people worry about.”

-Rachel Held Evans, *Searching for Sunday*

Throughout the four gospels, the disciples of Jesus exhibit their worries: over status and which one of them will be the greatest, who's going to have the place of honor next to Jesus, how the people Jesus hangs out with might reflect poorly on them, how the group's money is used...And note that this list is not exhaustive! Make no mistake, however, some of the worries are founded. Others, not so much.

It's very easy to worry, especially in this particular pandemic/post-pandemic time period. We worry about the fluctuating rate of transmission, masks vs. no masks, the ongoing issues with supply chains and availability of goods and services. I'm *still* waiting on the market for used vehicles to drop its prices to buy a second car and I feel like I've been waiting *forever!*

Worries just seem to be a part of our everyday living. To compound these fears and concerns, there's the ever-present concern over mass shootings, tragedies and events that occupy such space within our collective consciousness that hope for something better seems very, very distant. How do we offer a word of grace in a world that seems so unforgiving, so punishing?

Sometimes, it's difficult for us to be a resurrection people. At times things seem so hopeless, and we have the audacity to espouse hope?!? Of all things, hope! But it's into that hopeless world that Jesus comes. He didn't die for just the good and the upright, the blameless and those who come to church every Sunday and tithe with fervor. Jesus died for the sinful, for the broken, for the people and systems who both oppress and are oppressed. Jesus died for your nosy neighbor who won't stop judging how you decorate your front yard. Jesus died for the politician in the party whose policies you don't like. It's not all about working out your individual salvation with the Lord, so let's stop viewing Jesus' death and resurrection as something that took place for one or a few.

Jesus died and was raised for one and all. The great audacity of hope is that our God leaves no one behind. There is room at God's table for every one of us. Please recall that each time we celebrate communion here, for example. We remember Christ's dying and rising once again. Think very hard about who was at the table with Jesus. His disciples were all there with him. *All twelve*. Please remember that this means Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus over to the authorities, was at the table as well. Jesus made room for an enemy, for someone who worked against his mission in the world. And please remember that Jesus took the time to wash his disciples' feet in an act of servanthood, before having supper with them. Yes, even Judas' feet. What does that mean for us? Are we meant to view this world with contempt, condemning it to hell and consigning it to the scrap heap? Absolutely not. We must meet the trials and tribulations of this world with love, no matter how tempting it may be to harden our hearts or become numb to the pain in the world around us.

We are gardeners toiling in God's beautiful creation, not an empire. We are resurrection people called to offer the best of news – that Christ the Lord is risen, not just 2000-plus years ago, but every day. Each day, the light dawns and the sun shines anew on this world that God deemed good enough to love and good enough to save. Never forget that.

Pastor Paul

Flushing Presbyterian Church

Worship: 10:00 AM Year-Round
5010 N. McKinley Road, Flushing, MI 48433

Rev. Paul J. Pfeuffer, Pastor
Phone: (810) 659-5831 www.flushingpres.org



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 6 – 6:00 PM
Followed by a Prayer Vigil until Midnight

Good Friday, April 7
Prayer Vigil - 6:00 AM - Noon
Worship Service 6:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 9
Early Service – Memorial Garden – 8:00 AM
Easter Morning Breakfast – 8:45 AM
Easter Morning Worship – 10:00 AM



Prayer Vigil

From the end of the Maundy Thursday service until midnight, and from 6:00 AM until noon on Good Friday, members and friends of Flushing Presbyterian Church are asked to participate in a prayer vigil. The prayer vigil is a time of personal meditation, prayer and scripture reading. The vigil is divided into half-hour segments. People of the congregation are asked to fill these segments so that at least one person is present in the sanctuary praying, reading and/or meditating during the hours of the vigil.


A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. You may take more than one segment. Prayerfully consider participating in this meaningful time of watching, waiting, and praying.



Readers are needed for the Maundy Thursday worship service. If you would be willing to volunteer to be a reader, please contact Pastor Paul.



In addition to the Good Friday service held at our church at 6:00 PM, St. Paul Episcopal Church in Flint invites everyone to their Ecumenical service at noon. All are welcome to attend.



Lenten Bible Study

Please join us as we continue our Lenten Bible Study following the worship service on Sunday mornings or at 11:00 AM on Thursdays.



Advocacy Center Collection

You may have heard Nyse Hollman’s presentation during the March 26 Minute for Mission. For those of you that did not, *Voices for Children* provides restorative services for abused and neglected children; protects our vulnerable children through advocacy, and prevents abuse and neglect in our communities through education. They serve approximately 200 children each month.

Children come to the Center daily and we are collecting the following items for them during the month of April:

- Snacks and Beverages: juice boxes, water bottles, hot cocoa packets, Keurig coffee pods, chips, fruit snacks, cookies, pop tarts, etc.
- Gift Cards from fast food restaurants.
- Court Support Items: coloring books, colored pencils and markers.

There will be a bin in the narthex for your donations.




SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Building will take place from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 6, at the Flushing Masonic Lodge, 349 S. Seymour Road. Come and join with other members of our community to build beds for children that don’t have one of their own. All skill levels welcome and no tools are needed. Ages 10-100; all children 10-18 must be accompanied by an adult.



Rummage Sale

Our Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, May 19 and Saturday May 20. You may start bringing your sale items into the church after the first of May.

The Wired Word
An Adult Curriculum

The Wired Word on-line study group meets via Zoom on Sunday nights at 7:00 PM to discuss current events and how we can relate and deal with them using our faith and the Bible. We would love to see some new faces join us for the Wired Word in 2023!!! Contact Karen Howe if you need information about logging in with us.



Graduation is just around the corner and we want to be sure we recognize ALL of our graduates--college or high school. Please let us know of your accomplishments, so we may celebrate and honor you.

A display board of graduating seniors, composed of photos and biographical information, is typically displayed. Please bring in or mail a senior photo (no larger than 5 X 7) and a few lines regarding post-graduation plans. We will prepare the display and honor all our graduates at a Sunday worship service in May (date to be determined).



Family Promise will be hosting a Golf Outing on Saturday, July 23. Watch for more info in future Newsletters and Bulletins.



One Great Hour of Sharing: Why We Give

In Mark 12, Jesus explains that the two most important commandments are to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) responds to these commandments by helping our neighbors in their time of greatest need. Whether we're offering relief in the wake of a devastating storm, providing food or access to clean water, or assisting in the empowerment of our oppressed and marginalized brothers and sisters, One Great Hour of Sharing is an annual opportunity for us to show our love globally to our neighbors in a very tangible way. You may use the special envelopes available in the pews, or simply make your check payable to Flushing Presbyterian Church and indicate "One Great Hour" on the memo line.



WHEN WE CAN'T FIND EASTER

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns — however rousing — fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's *wrong* with me, that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay. *You're* okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus Road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us — if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed — and you shall be too.

—Heidi Mann, *From the April 2017 Newsletternewsletter*



April 2

Communion Preparers: Sandy & Scott Tucker
Communion Servers: Gary Albert, Sandy & Scott Tucker
Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Frank Hawes
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Kaye Kaufherr, Sandy & Scott Tucker
Lay Leader: Bill Churchill
Streaming: Randy Socha

April 9 (Easter)

Communion Preparer: **Volunteer Needed**
Communion Servers: **Volunteers Needed**
Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Karen Howe
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Bill & Denise Churchill, Shirley Delbridge
Lay Leader: Chris Albert
Streaming: **Volunteer Needed**

April 16

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Shirley Delbridge
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Dan & Flora Radspieler, Dennis Sanborn
Lay Leader: Lynette Daig
Streaming: Mike Keeler

April 23

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Mary Beth Hawes
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Karen Howe, Mark Jacobson, Steve Long
Lay Leader: Ed Davison
Streaming: Kelli Peter

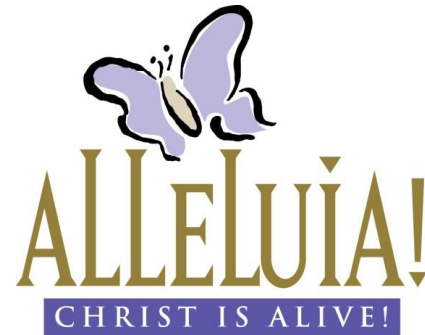
April 30

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Karen Howe
Sound Board Operator:
Ushers: Kathy Miller, Carole Noye, Randy Socha
Lay Leader: Joyce Hudson
Streaming: Scott Smith



FLUSHING CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

The special focus items requested by the Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) for April are **canned fruit and toothpaste**. 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.



April

- 3 John Miller
- 5 Kelli Peter
- 6 Vern Shepherd
- 7 Bruce & Deborah Coxworth
- 8 Bill & Denise Churchill
- 13 Kelly & Tim Stein
- 18 Gary Albert
- 22 Rowan B-P
- 25 Jacob S, Marie S
- 27 Paige Albert, Dick Barnett

Lectionary Readings

April 2 (Palm Sunday): Palms: Matt. 21:1-11 and Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Passion: Isa. 50:4-9a and Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11; Matt. 26:14 - 27:66 or Matt. 27:11-54

April 9 (Easter): Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6 and Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Col. 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; Matt. 28:1-10; Evening: Isa. 25:6-9 and Ps. 114; 1 Cor. 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

April 16: Acts 2:14a, 22-32 and Ps. 16 or Ex. 15:1-11 and Ps. 111; 1 Pet. 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 23: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 and Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19 or Isa. 51:1-6 and Ps. 34:1-10; 1 Pet. 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 30: Acts 2:42-47 and Ps. 23 or Ezek. 34:7-15 and Ps. 100; 1 Pet. 2:19-25; John 10:1-10



Financial Highlights

Average 2023 Collections	\$2,939
Average February Collections	\$3,366
Average 2022 Collections	\$3,212
Average needed for 2023 Budget	\$3,676



Communion Schedule

Upcoming Communion Dates . . .

April 2 (Palm Sunday), April 6 (Maundy Thursday),
April 9 (Easter)



The Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive at our church on Monday, April 3, from 12:00 - 5:45 PM. To schedule an appointment to donate blood, log onto redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: Flushing Community or call 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767).



Flushing Presbyterian Church 2023 Session

Budget & Finance

Debbie Bayer
Bill Churchill

Community Outreach

Carol Dulin
Sylvia Keeler

Member Care

Pat Bemis
Shirley Sanborn

Property Team

Randy Socha
Gary Stuber

Spiritual Growth

Mike Keeler
Carrie Younkin

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES



The Book Club meets at 1:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month at Liberty Restaurant. All are welcome!



Bread for Life is a program that provides weekend food for students that have been identified by the Flushing Schools as needing such assistance. Our church provides a portion of the funds for this project. Volunteers pack the bags for this program at 5:15 PM on Thursdays, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Coutant Street.

Card Ministry



Card Ministry...Sympathy, Get Well, Thinking of You, Birthday and Christmas cards are collected for our on-going card ministry. Please deliver cards to the church office.



Digital Church . . . Our Sunday morning worship service is on video and can be viewed via a link on our website (flushingpres.org) or watched live-streamed on Facebook on Sunday mornings or at another time of your choosing.



FLUSHING CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

FCOC (Flushing Christian Outreach Center)
One of the ways we support the Outreach Center is by collecting food and personal care items. The collection basket is located in the shelving unit just outside of the kitchen.



Music Opportunities

The Chancel Choir (Vocal choir) has rehearsals at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays (September through May). Please contact Chris Albert for information on the choir.



The Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering is collected on the second Sunday of each month. This offering is part of “Two Coins a Meal” that funds hunger programs locally and around the world.



Ronald McDonald House

Aluminum tabs from beverage and other containers are collected and donated to the *Ronald McDonald House* in Ann Arbor to help support families who stay there while their children are hospitalized at the Children's Hospital. Collection box is located in the shelving unit in the hall outside of the kitchen.



Opportunities To Serve

Session Teams...All members are invited to serve as “at-large” members on our Session Teams: Spiritual Growth, Community Outreach, Member Care, Property and Budget & Finance. The church office can put you in contact with the team chairperson.



Soup Kitchen...Volunteers work at the North End Soup Kitchen in Flint on the second Tuesday of each month, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.



Youth Group (The “Believers”) is for teens in grades 7 through 12. They meet on Sundays for fun, fellowship, study and mission projects. Contact Sandy or Scott Tucker for information.

Please address questions to the contact person listed or call the church office at 659-5831





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 3:00 PM – Chunky Blanket Workshop
2 Palm Sunday Communion 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom	3 12:00 PM – Blood Drive	4	5 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir-6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	6 Maundy Thursday 6:00 PM – Worship Service	7 Good Friday Church Office Closed 6:00 PM – Worship Service	8
9 Easter Communion Noisy Offering 8:00 AM – Early Service in the Memorial Garden 8:45 AM – Breakfast 10:00 AM – Worship	10 6:00 PM - B & F 6:30 PM – Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth	11 9:00 AM – North End Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM – GFWC (Flushing Women’s Club) 6:30 PM – Property	12 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir-6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	13 11:00 AM – Bible Study	14 Church Office Closed 10:00 AM – Memorial Committee	15
16 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom	17	18 9:30 AM - Community Outreach	19 1:00 PM – Book Club – Liberty Restaurant 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir-6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	20 11:00 AM – Bible Study	21 Church Office Closed	22
23 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom	24 6:45 PM – Session	25 6:00 PM – GFWC (Flushing Women’s Club)	26 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir-6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	27 11:00 AM – Bible Study 6:00 PM – Canasta Club	28 Church Office Closed	29
30 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom		***Please note that the church office is closed on Fridays***				