



December 2013 Newsletter

Rev. Teresa Peterson, Pastor

Flushing Presbyterian Church

December brings a frenzy of activities and celebrations leading up to THE DAY of Christmas. Through the centuries the focus of Christmas, the gift of the Savior to the World, has gotten farther and farther removed from society's thinking. It has been replaced with commercialization and the time when the business world comes into "the black" - think "Black Friday."

In recent years there has been a push for Christians and their families to reclaim and reorient themselves back to "the gift of the Christ Child" and unplug from the frenzy of "Christmas."

This year, consider taking the Christmas Pledge. There are, of course, variations of this pledge, but this is one we would encourage for this year:

THE CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

Believing in the beauty and simplicity of Christmas, I commit myself to the following:

1. To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
2. To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
3. To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
4. To examine my holiday activities in light of the true spirit of Christmas.
5. To initiate one act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.

-from *Unplug the Christmas Machine*, by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY



MUSINGS FROM THE PASTOR

Advent. The time we "get ready", "prepare", "anticipate" the coming of the Christ Child. We have a wide variety of ways to do this: quiet reflection, prayer, and meditation as well as calls to action - showing the world what the Christ Child came to accomplish. So which way will I go this year, because I can't do it all? --I have a family and we are very involved and busy; there is not one minute left over. --I just don't have the stamina to do it all. --I just can't put that kind of energy into my faith development right now. --Fill in your own circumstance. All of the above scenarios are real. God gets what it is like for us as we live life here on earth. The greater challenge is: what are we - each of us - doing to develop that relationship with our Lord and Savior.

So we can't do it all, but we can choose to do something. As I think about preparing for the arrival of a child, I remember all that we did. There was much book reading about the whole development process, birthing classes, nursery preparations, as well as emotional changes. And even as we were in the process of doing these things, we still were not ready - our first decided to come early - we were not ready.

As I am now in middle age, I think of preparing for the arrival of a child in a different way -- opening my heart to love someone who will be new to the family (no, I am not announcing that I'll be a grandmother, just thinking ahead). While it is still preparing, it's done in a different way.

As we go through life stages and encounter the recurring Advent Season, we have the opportunity to experience the excitement of "getting ready" to welcome the Savior into the world. What that means will be slightly different for each of us, but we still need to prepare our hearts and be as ready as we can be to welcome the Savior as if it's for the first time.

May this Advent Season be an especially meaningful time as you grow in your faith.

--Pastor Teresa

Isaiah 40:3 "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"



Advent Prayer Corners



The Spiritual Growth Team is encouraging you to take time each week to consider the four themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy.

In each corner of the sanctuary there will be an advent prayer station set up. At each station will be a brief reflection and prayer. You are invited to visit each station and bring your own prayers.

Example of what you will find at a prayer station:

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23

The lighting of a candle on the first Sunday of Advent is traditionally associated with the hope that Jesus' birth brings.

Write your own prayers of hope - for yourself, people you know, our local area, world situations, etc.

Prayer: Jesus, who brings hope into hopeless situations, we thank you for your heavenly rescue mission, which we remember at Christmas. This candle reminds us of the hope that you bring. We offer up our prayers of hope, knowing that you care deeply about each and every one of these situations. Amen.



When Christmas Hurts: A Blue Christmas Service... Sunday, December 1st at 7PM, a reflective worship service will be conducted in the sanctuary. This service is to gather us as a community remembering that, while we celebrate the coming of the Christ child, Christmas brings a variety of emotions. This night, we will acknowledge that not all are happy and joyous, but have pain connected with this season. Join us as we pray for ourselves and others, that Christ's love and peace be in our hearts and minds during this Advent and Christmas time.



We will be holding a Blood Drive on Monday, December 2nd, from 12:00 - 5:45 PM. To schedule an appointment, log onto redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: Flushing Community or call 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767).



REMINDER:

Presbytery Meeting HERE!!

Tuesday, December 3 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

10:00 AM Worship Service

(Join us during this joyous occasion when
Pastor Teresa will be installed as
the Moderator of the Presbytery)



All children/youth (and adults!!) 4th grade and older are invited to join us in playing handbells at the Sunday, December 15th worship service. Rehearsals will be held on **Wednesdays, December 4 and December 11 from 6:00 until 6:45 PM.** If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Schmoak. Come join the fun!!



The Flint Concert Band will be performing a Christmas concert in our sanctuary on **Sunday, December 8th, at 7:00 PM.** This concert has long been a special part of our Advent season. Invite your friends and bring your family. A reception with refreshments will follow the concert. It is a great way to get in the holiday spirit. **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.**



Pioneer Kids (along with parents and any other adults!) will be going Christmas caroling on **Wednesday, December 11th.** Meet at the church at 4:00 PM and join us as we sing for the residents at Elmcrest & Cedarwood. Please address any questions to Rosie Nicholas.

December 11th will be the last meeting date of the semester for Pioneer Kids. We will resume on Wednesday, January 8th.



Sounds of the Season

Friday, December 13th, "Rock of Ages Big Band" Christmas Benefit Concert for Family Promise of Genesee County will be held at 7:00 PM at Calvary United Methodist Church, 2111 Flushing Road, Flint. At 6:30 there will be a Day Center Open House. You may also tour the Day Center during intermission, as well as after the concert. A free will offering will be taken, with all proceeds going to Family Promise of Genesee County.



The Angel Tree is up in the narthex in order to provide Christmas gifts to children in need in the Flushing area. If you wish to participate, please select an angel and **sign your name after the appropriate number on the sign-up sheet next to the tree.** All gifts will need to be delivered to the church by **December 15.** If you would like to participate, but are unable to shop, you may make a donation for a gift. Please indicate "Angel Tree" on the memo line of your check. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Lescelius.



Sunday, December 15th, 10:30 AM will be the traditional telling of the Christmas story. This year the play is entitled "*Christmas Letters*". Children, youth and a few adults are needed. Please contact Rosie Nicholas if you are willing to participate. **Rehearsals will be held on Saturday December 7th and 14th, from 10:00 AM - Noon.**



December 24th at 9:00 PM, family and friends are invited to join us for our annual Christmas Eve worship service. There will be familiar readings and carols will be sung as we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child. Special music will be provided by our Chancel and Handbell Choirs. The service will conclude with communion and the lighting of candles - celebrating the "light which comes into the darkness" through the birth of Jesus. Please schedule your family's time to be a part of this special worship service.



Good News of Great Joy

The Christmas Joy offering is split evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and scholarship funds for Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Help us support these faithful servants and students in their hour of great need and great promise. Look for the Christmas Joy Offering envelope, and then please give generously.

Thank You!

Removal of the Greens



Please join the Spiritual Growth Team immediately following the worship service on **Sunday, January 5th**, for the "Removal of the Greens" in the Sanctuary, Narthex and Fellowship hall.

youth group

SCHEDULE

December 1 - Angel Tree Shopping

December 8 - Cookie Baking

December 15 - Christmas caroling and Youth Group Christmas party. The Youth Group invites everyone in the congregation to go caroling with us. Your singing ability does not matter ... the more the merrier. See Sandy Tucker for more details

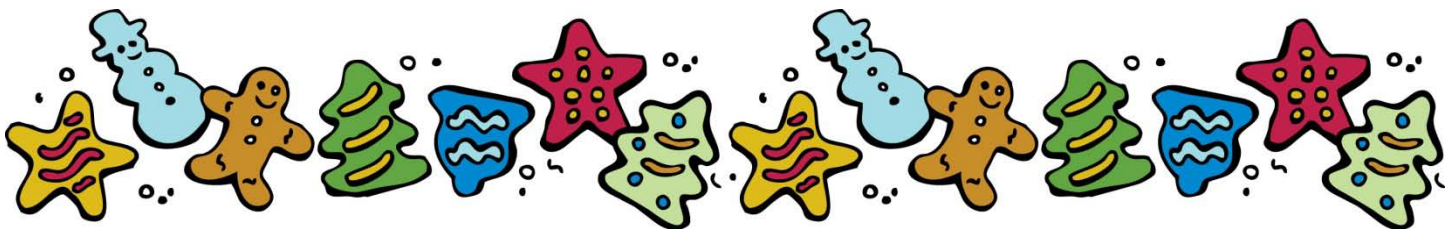
December 22 - January, 5 2014 - No Youth Group

January 10 - Youth Group Resumes

Please Note!!

There will be no adult Sunday School on December 1st, 22nd or 29th

There will be no children's Sunday School on December 1st, 15th or 29th.





Stay connected with Weekly Updates from the Pastor

If you would like to receive weekly email updates from Pastor Teresa about prayer requests and upcoming events, please contact the office with your current email address or connect directly @PastorT90@gmail.com



***Please note that Pastor Teresa has a new email address: PastorT90@gmail.com



A group from our church goes to the North End Soup Kitchen in Flint on the second Tuesday of each month. On November 12th the group made 100 sack lunches "to-go" and served 80 people in the dining room!! If you would like information about joining this group in the important work that they do to provide food for the hungry, please contact Mary Ellen Zellers.



Super Typhoon Haiyan left monumental devastation when it struck the central Philippines on November 8. The storm, which has been identified as one of the worst storms in recorded history, has left many dead, hundreds of thousands displaced, and extensive damage. All PC(USA) mission workers in the area are reported safe. If you would like to contribute to aid efforts, please make your check payable to Flushing Presbyterian Church and indicate "Philippines" on the memo line.



Thank You Notes

From Kathy Lescelius...

Thanks for all the prayers, cards and visits following my surgery. All is very much appreciated.

From Eleanor Bejcek...

I want to thank all of the members that sent cards with good wishes and prayers. They are very much appreciated.

From Kaye Barnett...

Thank you for the cards, prayers and kind thoughts following my recent surgery.

From Jerry & Loretta Hudson...

Thank you for all of your kind thoughts, cards and especially the prayers. We are truly blessed having friends and our church family reaching out during difficult times. Blessings to all of you.



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 \$15.00 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 \$15.00 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 8th

This Month's Schedule



December 1

Communion Preparers: Bev & Bob Blair
Communion Servers: Bill & Virginia Churchill, Helen Dickenson, Kathy Lescelius
Coffee Hour Hosts: Carole Noye
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Butch, Gary, Shirley & Mitchell Albert
Lay Leader: Sylvia Keeler
Acolytes: Elyse & Marie S
Acolyte Leader: Isabella B

December 8

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Flowers: Luella & John Daig
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Darla Arn, Bob & Gail Barnhart, Ashley B
Lay Leader: Steve Howe
Acolytes: Marie S, Sydney S
Acolyte Leader: Michael R

December 15

Coffee Hour Hosts: Property Team
Flowers: Gary & Shirley Albert
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Bev & Bob Blair, Dave & Jeanne Blanton
Lay Leader: Ed Davison
Acolytes: Kaitlyn & Megan R
Acolyte Leader: Logan H

December 22

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Flowers: Mary Graham
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Pat Bemis, Sarah B, Bob Chase, Dave Finley
Lay Leader: Mike Keeler
Acolytes: Lilly & Max S
Acolyte Leader:

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Communion Preparers:
Communion Servers:
Sound Board Operator:
Ushers:
Acolytes: Elle B, Lilly S
Acolyte Leader: Bella B

December 29

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Steve Howe
Ushers: Bill & Virginia Churchill, John & Luella Daig
Lay Leader: Shirley Baker
Acolytes: Elyse & Marie S
Acolyte Leader: Logan H



December

- 2 Ray Hagan, Janet (Daig) Tweddle
- 7 Lyle & Muriel Laidler
- 9 Mary Daig
- 10 Carol Sawatzki
- 14 Brianne B
- 17 Katy & Robert Churchill
- 18 Ella Carlson
- 23 Robert Churchill
- 24 Joe P
- 26 Mary Graham, Margaret Meehle
- 27 Sherry Bradish
- 29 Larry Brownell, Emilie Wiley
- 30 Rayna Roddie



Financial Highlights

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Average 2013 Collections | \$3,379 |
| Average October Collections | \$3,865 |
| Average 2012 Collections | \$3,734 |
| Average needed for Budget | \$4,202 |

Lectioary Readings

December 1: Isa. 2:1-5; Ps. 122; Rom. 13:11-14; Matt. 24:36-44

December 8: Isa. 11:1-10; Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12

December 15: Isa. 35:1-10; Ps. 146:5-10 *or* Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt. 11:2-11

December 22: Isa. 7:10-16; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; Rom. 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25

December 29: Isa. 63:7-9; Ps. 148; Heb. 2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23



The email address for the church office is flushingpc@sbcglobal.net

If you would like to send an email directly to Pastor Teresa Peterson, her email address is: pastorT90@gmail.com



The Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) is requesting support from member churches to help them provide personal needs items to their clients. In order to do so, they have decided to request one personal needs item each month. Currently, they have a desperate need for toothpaste, so for December this will be the "focus item" that they are asking us to collect. If you can help, please bring in un-opened toothpaste and place it in the bin provided outside the kitchen. Non-perishable food items are still needed and always appreciated!!



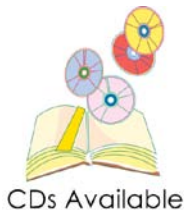
You Eat, We Earn!!

Olio's Cafe & Grill (1072 Elms Road) offers a program that pays our church 10% of the cost of your dinner. Just let your server know that you want your check credited to Flushing Presbyterian Church and they will take care of it. A win-win situation - you enjoy a meal out AND earn money for our church!

ONGOING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



Book & Breakfast Club meets at 9:30 AM on the first Friday of the month at Liberty Restaurant on Pierson Road. All are welcome!



CD copies of our worship services are available to those who are unable to attend worship on Sunday. Please contact the church office. You can also listen to the sermon on our website, flushingpres.org.

Card Ministry



Card Ministry...Sympathy, Get Well, Thinking of You and blank note cards are collected for our ongoing card ministry. Please deliver cards to the church office.



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 by the kitchen door.



LIFT (Ladies In Fellowship Together) is a group that meets for fellowship among all ladies of the church. Trips are planned for all ages to enjoy.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship/Bible Study...This group meets for breakfast and study at 8:30 AM on Thursdays at Liberty Restaurant on Pierson Road. (September through May) All men are welcome.



Music Opportunities

Music Opportunities...The **Chancel Choir** (Vocal choir) has rehearsals at 7:00 PM on Thursdays and the **Handbell Choir** rehearses at 7:00 PM on Tuesdays (September through May). Please contact Marilyn Schmoak for information on these choirs.



The Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering is collected by the children of the congregation on the second Sunday of each month. This offering is part of "Two Coins a Meal" that funds hunger programs.



Pioneer Kids ... Our new after-school Program for K-7th graders offers a proven kid's ministry program that is Bible-based, Christ-centered, relationship-focused and fun for kids and volunteers. There is no charge for this program. Vest and patch rewards are given as they learn about Jesus, being Christian and working with others. Pioneer Kids meets on Wednesday afternoons at 3:45 during the school year.



The Priscilla Circle meets at the church at 9:30 AM on the fourth Thursday of each month for fellowship and study. All women are invited to attend.



The Perpetual Book Sale...Gently used books can be donated for this sale. Proceeds will be given to local missions. Refer questions to Carol Dulin or the church office.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Group meets in the church library at 9:30 AM on the second Thursday of each month. Contact Bev Blair with any questions, or if you would like instructions.



Ronald McDonald House

Aluminum tabs from beverage 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.



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. Contact Mary Ellen Zellers with any questions.

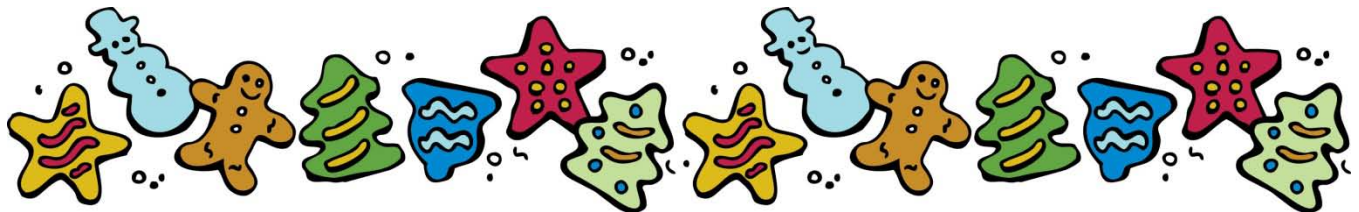


VG's "Cash for Class" A program that will allow participants to raise money for our church. This program will be tied to their "Yes" card and requires that you link your card to Flushing Presbyterian Church. If you shop at VG's and would like more information, please contact Carole Tucker or the church office.



Youth Group (The "Believers") is for teens in grades 7 through 12. They meet at 6:00 PM on Sundays for fun, fellowship, study and mission projects. Contact Sandy or Scott Tucker.

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





December 2013



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 Communion 4:00 PM - Girl Scouts 6:00 PM - Youth Group 7:00 PM - Blue Christmas Service No Sunday School | 2 12:45 PM - Blood Drive | 3 9:30 AM - Presbytery Meeting 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir | 4 3:45 PM - Pioneer Kids 6:00 PM - Children/Youth Handbell Rehearsal | 5 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant | 6 9:30 AM - Book & Breakfast Club - Liberty Restaurant | 7 |
| 8 Noisy Offering 6:00 PM - Youth Group 7:00 PM - Flint Concert Band Christmas Concert | 9 6:30 PM - Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Community Outreach 6:30 PM - Member Care 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth | 10 9:00 AM - North End Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM - GFWC - Flushing Women's Club 6:30PM - Property 7:00 PM - B & F 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir | 11 3:45 PM - Pioneer Kids - Christmas Caroling 6:00 PM - Children/Youth Handbell Rehearsal | 12 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 9:30 AM - Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM - Chancel Choir | 13 | 14 |
| 15 10:30 AM - Christmas Pageant 4:00 PM - Girl Scouts 6:00 PM - Youth Group No Children's Sunday School | 16 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 PM - Boy Scout Court of Honor 6:45 PM - Session | 17 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir | 18 | 19 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 9:30 AM - Priscilla Circle 7:00 PM - Chancel Choir | 20 | 21 |
| 22 No Adult Sunday School | 23 | 24 9:00 PM - Candlelight Communion Service | 25  | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> -----Church Office Closed----- </div> | | | | | | |
| 29 No Sunday School | 30 | 31 | 1 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Sunday Schedule 9:30 AM - Christian Education (All Ages) 10:30 AM - Worship Service 11:30 AM - Fellowship Hour </div> | | |
| | | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> -----Church Office Closed----- </div> | | | | |