

December 2022 Newsletter



Flushing Presbyterian Church

Worship: 10:00 AM Year-Round

Rev. Paul J. Pfeuffer, Pastor

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Phone: (810) 659-5831

www.flushingpres.org

Psalm 118:17-24

- ¹⁷I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.
- ¹⁸The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.
- ¹⁹Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.
- ²¹I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.
- ²²The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
- ²³the LORD has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

Stop what you're doing! Before you read any further into my newsletter entry, I need you to grab a writing utensil – crayon, colored pencil, marker, or pen. Bonus points if that writing utensil is **pink** in color. Don't worry about me; I'll still be here when you get back. Did you grab one? Good. Here's where I see who's paying attention.

The third Sunday of Advent is a bit of an outlier because that's the day we light the **pink** candle instead of one of the purple ones. You see, this is Joy Sunday. This comes to us from the word *Gaudete*, the first word of the Latin mass for this particular time in Advent. *Gaudete* Sunday marks the point at which we turn from somber reflection on God's nature and begin reflecting on the deep wellspring of joy found in the birth of the Christ child.

Recall that there's a difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is fleeting and temporary, an internal human emotion that comes and goes. Joy, true joy, is found only in the nature of the Lord – never-changing, rock-solid, love that knows no end.

Remember that writing utensil? I want you to take it and highlight the “joy words” in the passage above. Don't be afraid to mark this paper up! And certainly don't be afraid to write your own reflections next to the above passage. **What do you give thanks for? How do you show joy in your life? What brings you that joy? Make sure you bring this marked-up sheet, scribbled and covered with the marks of your joy, to church on December 11, the third Sunday in Advent. And make sure you wear pink!!!**

And a few more notes before I sign off:

Bible study	11:15 am	For Advent we're looking at the prophet Isaiah!
<i>Gaudete</i> Sunday	10:00 am	December 11, 2022 (Wear pink for this service!)
Christmas Eve service	7:00 pm	December 24, 2022
Christmas Day service	12:00 pm	December 25, 2022

--Pastor Paul



If you took an angel from the tree, all gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 11th. 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.



A Called Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 18, 2022, immediately following the worship service for the purposes of: 1) Hearing the report from the Nominating Committee and voting on the slate of nominees presented, and 2) Voting on the Pastor's Terms of Call.



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



**CHRISTMAS DAY – 12:00 NOON --
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS**

Not often do we have the opportunity to worship ON Christmas Day. This is one of those years we have an opportunity to do so. We recognize Christmas morning as a time of opening presents and being with family. By Noon we hope you will gather the family up and come on over to church where we will continue the celebration.

Plan now how your family will incorporate honoring the reason we give gifts by coming to worship.



The Church Office will be closed December 22 - 26, 29, and January 2.



The Wired Word will be taking a break during Advent and the holiday season, resuming on January 8th. Please consider joining a class in the New Year on Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM.

Removal of the Greens



The Removal of the Greens will take place on **Sunday, January 8th, 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 22nd**, so that the new information can be included.



WHERE'S YOUR SECURITY?

When *A Charlie Brown Christmas* debuted in 1965, religious references were unheard of on television. Yet the show's climax features the Christmas story verbatim. As Linus begins reciting Luke 2, he's clutching his ever-present blue blanket. Yet, as pastor Jason Soroski points out, Linus drops it right as he utters the words "fear not" (Luke 2:10).

Soroski believes the timing is intentional and that "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schulz sends a simple, brilliant message. "The birth of Jesus separates us from our fears," Soroski writes. It "frees us from the habits we are unable (or unwilling) to break ourselves. The birth of Jesus allows us to simply drop the false security we have been grasping so tightly, and learn to trust and cling to him instead."

From the December 2016 Newsletternewsletter




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.



This Month's Schedule



December 25

Communion Preparer: Julie Socha
Communion Servers:
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker

December 4

Communion Preparer: Kathy Miller
Communion Servers: Karen Howe, Mike Keeler, Kathy Lescelius, Kelli Peter
Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Natalie Lucas
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Kaye Kaufherr, Sandy & Scott Tucker
Lay Leader: Sylvia Keeler
Streaming: Steve Howe

December 11

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Kathy Miller
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Mark Jacobson, Natalie Lucas, Randy Socha
Lay Leader: Sandy Tucker
Streaming: Mike Keeler

December 18

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Kelli Peter
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Karen Howe, Gary & Jerry Stuber
Lay Leader: Lynette Daig
Streaming: Scott Smith

Christmas Eve

Communion Preparer: Kathy Miller
Communion Servers: Gary Albert, Natalie Lucas, Dan & Flora Radspieler
Welcome Desk:
Sound Board Operator:
Ushers: Gary Albert, Dennis Sanborn, Sandy Tucker
Streaming:



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.



December

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

Lectionary Readings

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

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

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

December 25: Dawn: Isa. 62:6-12 and Ps. 97; Titus
3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20 Day: Isa. 52:7-10 and Ps. 98;
Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14



Upcoming Communion Dates . . .

December 4, 24 & 25.



Have a
Blessed
Christmas

Blood DRIVE

The Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive at our church on Monday, December 5, 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).



Financial Highlights

Average 2022 Collections	\$3,599
Average October Collections	\$4,608
Average 2021 Collections	\$3,122
Average needed for 2022 Budget	\$3,811

Flushing Presbyterian Church 2022 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 Kathy's 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 Margaret Meehle or 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 11:00 AM – Bible Study	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 Communion	5 12:00 PM – Blood Drive	6	7 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	8 11:00 AM – Bible Study	9 Church Office Closed	10
11 Noisy Offering	12 6:00 PM - B & F 6:30 PM – Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth	13 6:00 PM – GFWC (Flushing Women’s Club) 6:30 PM – Property	14 9:30 AM - Community Outreach 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	15 11:00 AM – Bible Study	16 Church Office Closed	17
18 11:15 AM – Congregational Meeting	19 6:45 PM - Session	20	21 1:00 PM – Book Club – Kathy’s Restaurant	22 Church Office Closed 11:00 AM – Bible Study	23 Church Office Closed	24 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Worship Service
25 Communion 12:00 PM – Christmas Day Worship Service 	26 Church Office Closed	27 6:00 PM – GFWC (Flushing Women’s Club)	28	29 Church Office Closed 11:00 AM – Bible Study	30 Church Office Closed	31

*****Please note that the church office is closed on Fridays*****