



December 2023 Newsletter



Flushing Presbyterian Church

Worship: 10:00 AM Year-Round

Rev. Paul J. Pfeuffer, Pastor

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Long lay the world, in sin and error pining

'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices

Be honest: did you complete the above verse of O Holy Night in your head as you read those lines? Were you hearing Josh Groban when you did it? Or maybe it was more of an old school crooner, like Nat King Cole? Everyone hears their favorite version. As an unabashed enjoyer of Christmas carols (even when I find it impossible to do them justice with my meager musical talents), I start listening to Christmas music in my Kia when the week of Thanksgiving hits.

Every time I come back to O Holy Night, a new line jumps out at me. There is such power in the idea of the weary world rejoicing. What do you like to do when you are weary? My guess is the last thing you think of doing is rejoicing. I prefer to curl up on the couch and invite the cat to lay down on top of me and sooner rather than later, he and I both fall asleep together.

And perhaps most pointedly: what happens when that weariness hits at the end of the year? The end of the calendar year comes with a few holidays in quick succession – Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years are all crammed into about 5 weeks! If you're given enough time, maybe you pause and reflect. And the year-end review may be filled with memories of loss, regret, mourning of missed opportunities. In the midst of a season of warmth, there come moments of melancholy. There are times when joy feels so distant.

I would like to invite you to our Blue Christmas service at 10:00 am on Sunday, December 24. While we will have our normal service at 7:00 pm complete with bells, choir and the news of the birth of the Christ child, our morning time will be reserved for something a bit different. This is a time to acknowledge that our world is fundamentally broken, and many of us are hurting around the holidays. We will pray for God's healing, be anointed with oil, and cast our cares upon the Lord.

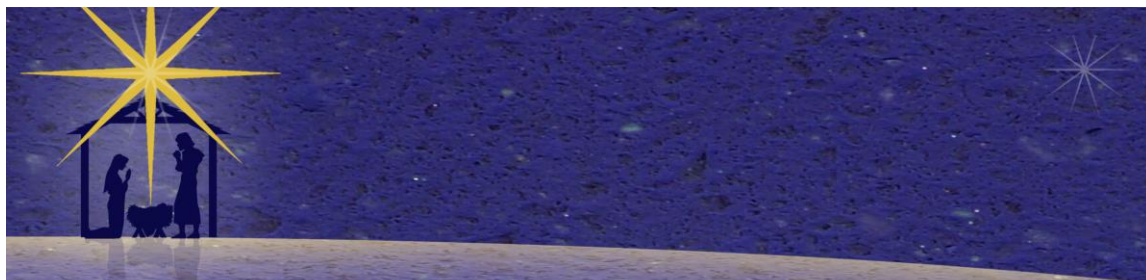
In spite of your weariness, rejoice. In spite of your weariness, know that you are loved. We will turn to the source of light in the midst of darkness, the bright spot of hope for us who live in a weary and war-torn world. We will pray *marantha* – come, Lord Jesus. And we will remember to whom we belong...and that it's always darkest just before the closing line of the first verse of O Holy Night:

for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!

O night divine! O night when Christ was born

--Pastor Paul





The Angel Tree is now up 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. Please wrap all gifts and put all gifts for each child in one bag (with handles). **The deadline for returning gifts is December 10.**



Sunday School News

Sunday School will take place December 3rd & 10th and January 14th and 21st. Kids will be dismissed from the service after collecting prayer requests. If interested in teaching the children, please contact Julie Socha. A curriculum that is easy to follow is provided.



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. The Wired Word will meet the following evenings in December: 3rd, 10th, and 17th. We will be on recess from December 24th through the month of January, resuming on February 4th. That's an excellent time to make good on a New Year's Resolution to join a Bible study!!!! Contact Julie Socha if you need help logging in with us.



Advent Bible Study

ANGELS – What are they and why are they here? Sure, we decorate our trees and our nativity sets with them. They figure into a bunch of stories in both the New and Old Testament, usually carrying a message that starts with “Be not afraid!” One doesn’t have to look too far into the history of art to see how they dot the landscape and have captured the artists’ imagination for centuries. We may think we know all there is to know about angels, but what does scripture *really* say about them? Join Pastor Paul on Sunday mornings or Thursday afternoons in December as he digs into scripture and tries to get to the bottom of our fascination of angels and what makes them tick.



We are proud to announce the addition of three new members to the FPC family! On December 17, join us as we welcome Kaye Kaufherr, as well as Nickolas and Takita Bovitz into the ranks of FPC membership! We will also be baptizing Nick and Takita’s three children – Tovi, Tessa, and Daisy! We will hold a special coffee hour in their honor after the service. We hope you can attend!



The Church Office will be closed December 21 - 26, 28 and January 1.



Storage Clean-out Giveaway

You may or may not know that the Family Promise program has changed and will no longer be sending families for host churches to house inside their buildings. They have acquired a large house and two recreation vehicles for emergency housing. Therefore, we no longer have a need for the large collection of items used for hosting families. We have decided to give those items back to the congregation.

Starting after worship on Sunday, December 10 through Wednesday, December 13, items will be available in Heaven's Highway for you to take home! This is a free giveaway! Many of you donated these items in the first place and all items are used. Of course, any donations will be accepted and used for continued support to Family Promise, but are not expected.

Available: bedding, rugs, towels and washcloths, drying racks, alarm clocks, bedside tables and lamps, plus much more!

Come and help us clean out that storage room!!



A Called Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 17, 2023, immediately following the worship service for the purpose of hearing the report from the Nominating Committee and voting on the slate of nominees presented.



Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24th at 10:00 AM
(A Blue Christmas Service)

Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 PM
(Traditional Candlelight Communion Service)



Removal of the Greens



The Removal of the Greens will take place on Sunday, January 14th, 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 28th**, so that the new information can be included.



From Kathy Miller . . .

Thanks so much to our church family for all the wonderful prayers, cards, and well wishes for my recovery from knee replacement surgery. They are all so much appreciated and mean a great deal. Have a wonderful holiday season in God's love.



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 Perfect Gift

Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday — or ours. Christmas is about the perfect presence of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it's his birthday, after all!

In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* (Abingdon), Slaughter writes, "How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends — the people who seem to have everything — and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you — your time, your talent and your treasure — used in service to others."

From the December 2017 Newsletternewsletter



December 31

Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Volunteers Needed
Lay Leader: Sylvia Keeler
Streaming: Scott Smith

December 3

Communion Preparer: Kelli Peter
Communion Servers: Gary Albert, Pat Bemis, Denise & Bill Churchill
Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Shirley Sanborn
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Kelli Peter, Dan & Flora Radspieler
Lay Leader: Lynette Daig
Streaming: Randy Socha

December 10

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Mary Beth Hawes
Sound Board Operator: Gary Stuber
Ushers: Dennis Sanborn, Randy Socha, Sandy Tucker
Lay Leader: Ed Davison
Streaming: Mike Keeler

December 17

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Shirley Delbridge
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Karen Howe, Gary & Jerry Stuber
Lay Leader: Joyce Hudson-Freeman
Streaming: Kelli Peter

December 24 (AM)

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Volunteer Needed
Sound Board Operator:
Ushers: Volunteers Needed
Lay Leader: Mike Keeler
Streaming: Volunteer Needed

December 24 (PM)

Communion Preparer: Shirley Sanborn
Communion Servers: Volunteers Needed
Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Volunteer Needed
Sound Board Operator:
Ushers: Volunteers Needed
Streaming: Volunteer Needed



FLUSHING CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

The special focus items requested by the Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) for December are cereal, paper towel, toilet paper and kleenex. 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 3: Isa. 64:1-9 and Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 10: Isa. 40:1-11 and Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Pet. 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 17: Isa. 6:1-4, 8-11 and Ps. 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24: 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16 and Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps. 89:1-4, 29-26; Rom. 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38; *Christmas Eve:* Isa. 9:2-7 and Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 31: Isa. 61:10 – 62:3 and Ps. 148; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



Financial Highlights

Average 2023 Collections	\$2,862
Average October Collections	\$2,768
Average 2022 Collections	\$3,212
Average needed for 2023 Budget	\$3,676



Upcoming Communion Dates . . .
December 3 & 24 (Evening Service)

Blood DRIVE

The Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive at our church on Monday, December 4, 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

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES



The Book Club meets at 12:00 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 10:00 AM on Thursdays, at Flushing Community Church on West Pierson Road.

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.



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

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 659-583



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church Office Closed	2
3 Communion 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom	4 12:00 PM – Blood Drive	5	6 8:30 AM - Men’s Fellowship-Liberty 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Chancel Choir	7 12:00 PM – Bible Study 6:00 PM – Wood Carvers	8 Church Office Closed	9 2:00 PM – Smith Birthday Party
10 Noisy Offering 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom	11 6:00 PM - B & F 6:30 PM – Girl Scouts	12 9:00 AM – North End Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM – GFWC (Flushing Women’s Club) 6:30 PM – Property	13 8:30 AM - Men’s Fellowship-Liberty 9:30 AM - Community Outreach @Carol D’s 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Chancel Choir	14 12:00 PM – Bible Study 6:00 PM – Wood Carvers	15 Church Office Closed	16
17 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom	18 6:45 PM – Session	19	20 8:30 AM - Men’s Fellowship-Liberty 12:00 PM – Book Club - Liberty Restaurant 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Chancel Choir	21 Church Office Closed 12:00 PM – Bible Study 6:00 PM – Wood Carvers	22 Church Office Closed	23
24 10:00 AM – Blue Christmas Service 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 Merry Christmas Church Office Closed 	26 Church Office Closed 6:00 PM – GFWC (Flushing Women’s Club)	27 8:30 AM - Men’s Fellowship-Liberty 6:30 PM - Chancel Choir	28 6:00 PM – Canasta Club 6:00 PM – Wood Carvers	29	30
31	1 Church Office Closed	2 Church Office Closed				

Please note that the church office is closed on Fridays