



February 2024 Newsletter



Everything You've Wanted to Know About "The End" (but were too afraid to ask)

I hear hurricanes a'blowing
 I know the end is coming soon
 I fear rivers overflowing
 I hear the voice of rage and ruin

Creedence Clearwater Revival – Bad Moon Rising

Let me cut to the chase instead of meandering around for a few paragraphs -- there are some off-the-wall and zany things in our Bible; this was the entire reason I started our Thursday morning Bible study. Starting this February, we'll be doing a deep dive into the last book of our Bible, *Revelation*. Okay, good. Now that I have your attention (and hopefully haven't scared you away by the mere mention of the book), let me invite you all to the next chapter of our Bible study.

Beginning on February 1, we will be embarking on a six-week journey through Ronald Allen and Robert Cornwall's *Second Thoughts About the Second Coming: understanding the end times, our future, and Christian hope*. We'll be taking a look at what it means to live as Christians in a culture that has co-opted some of our scriptures for its own gain – fearmongering, exploitation of others, and having little to no regard for God's Creation. We'll also look at how different sects of the Church itself have treated the book, from clinging *too* closely to it, to treating Revelation with utter embarrassment.

What does it mean to be a people of the book? It means accepting even those parts that evoke morbid curiosity and stunned speechlessness. It means learning to embrace parts of our faith and our scriptures that make us uncomfortable, that make us question things about that faith itself. Rather than holding Revelation at arm's length and attempt to disassociate from it, we should be asking what its relevance is to us today. How does God want the community of believers to act toward each other and toward a world that is at times hostile to the gospel message of Christ's love?

Rather than gnashing our teeth at the things we don't understand easily, we should look at this as an opportunity to drink more deeply from the wellspring of emotion and thought that is our scripture. So come, all you who are weary and heavy-laden with questions. Come and seek the answers to the difficult questions. And drink deeply.



Souper Bowl of Caring will be held on Sunday, February 11th. Plan to stay after church to enjoy a lunch of a variety of homemade soups, bread and desserts! The Community Outreach Team will host the event and donate the proceeds to Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) for hunger programs. It is our goal to raise \$500 this year. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated.

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



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our Men's Fellowship/Bible Study group meets on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 at Liberty Diner on Pierson Road. Our focus is on how the Bible relates to current events by using lessons from the Wired Word. Besides that, the food is good and the discussions are always stimulating. Come and join us.



Our annual Ash Wednesday service will be held Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00 PM. This will be a traditional service with ashes and communion by intinction.



Mark your calendar! We will be having a Bunco Night on Friday, March 22nd at 6:00 PM. All are invited for a night of fun playing this dice game – No prior experience needed! Watch for details in upcoming bulletins.



WANTED: Gently Used Nursery Items

Calling all parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents! FPC is in need of gently-used toys, books, and baby furniture as we look to overhaul our nursery for the year of 2024. Please prayerfully consider donating to this cause and helping us to foster a welcoming and caring environment for our littlest people of the faith. Thank you!



The Book Club will now be meeting at 12:00 PM on the **second** Wednesday of the month at Liberty Restaurant. All are welcome and invited to join us.



The Wired Word On-Line Bible Study resumes again on Sunday, February 4th at 7:00 PM, **although we will take Sunday, February 11th off for the Super Bowl.** Want to join but don't know how to get on a Zoom call? Feel free to call Julie Socha at (810)444-3911; she will be happy to help you figure it out. Class discussions will be led by Pastor Paul, Karen Howe, Julie Socha and Mike Keeler on a rotating basis. The more perspectives, the heartier the discussion!! Please consider joining us.





February 4

Communion Preparers: Scott & Sandy Tucker
Communion Servers: Gary Albert, Pat Bemis, Bill & Denise Churchill
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Gary Albert, Bill & Denise Churchill
Lay Leader: Sandy Tucker
Streaming: Mike Keeler

February 11

Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Kathy Miller, Randy Socha, Sandy Tucker
Lay Leader: Chris Albert
Streaming: Kelli Peter

February 18

Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Mark Jacobson, Carole Noye, Scott Tucker
Lay Leader: Bill Churchill
Streaming: Scott Smith

February 25

Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Karen Howe, Kaye Kauffher, Margaret Meehle
Lay Leader: Lynette Daig
Streaming: Randy Socha



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



FLUSHING CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

The special focus items requested by the Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) for February are **juice boxes and paper towel**. 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.



Upcoming Communion Dates . . .
 February 4 & 14 (Ash Wednesday)



February

- 1 Angela Shaw
- 2 Ashley Smith, Bob Blair
- 3 Max Hayden, Marty Williams
- 4 Dennis Sanborn
- 7 Bob Chase
- 8 Randy Socha
- 10 Linda Bemis, Liz Maguire
- 14 Bill Weiss
- 15 Juniper Bird-Pfeuffer
- 19 Milly MacMain-Prause, Jean Weirauch
- 20 Kimberly Schmoak
- 24 Loretta Hudson, Barb Kanaar
- 28 Sharon Donaldson

Lectionary Readings

February 4: Isa. 40:21-31 and Ps. 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 11: 2 Kings 2:1-12 and Ps. 50:1-6; 2 Cor. 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 18: Gen. 9:8-17 and Ps. 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

February 25: Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16 and Ps. 22:23-31; Rom. 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

Spring training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season “spring training for Christians.” This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God’s favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we’ll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, “Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed” (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.



Financial Highlights

Average 2023 Collections	\$3,008
Average December Collections	\$4,014
Average 2022 Collections	\$3,212
Average needed for 2023 Budget	\$3,658



Flushing Presbyterian Church 2024 Session

Budget & Finance

Ed Davison
Bill Churchill

Community Outreach

Kathy Miller
Sylvia Keeler

Member Care

Shirley Sanborn
Sandy Snyder

Property Team

Randy Socha
Gary Stuber

Spiritual Growth

Mike Keeler
Kelli Peter

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES



The Book Club meets at 12:00 PM on the second 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 659-5831



February

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

Please note that the church office is closed on Fridays