



March 2023 Newsletter



Flushing Presbyterian Church

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

Rev. Paul J. Pfeuffer, Pastor
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“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17

“In my experience there’s no such thing as luck.” Obi-Wan Kenobi, *Star Wars*

March is upon us, friends. There are *many* reasons why this is your pastor’s favorite month of the year. I was born in March, the vernal equinox takes place and marks the time of spring as we come in like a lion and go out like a lamb...and of course, there is also St. Patrick’s Day. Now, I don’t usually partake of corned beef and cabbage like many of my ancestors; I never developed a taste for it. I’m not particularly a fan of dyeing a beer green. Sometimes I’ll do something fun like make Rowan green eggs and ham, but those days have become increasingly spare as he’s become more and more picky about food. The tradition I cling to, however, is searching for a four-leaf clover.

Four-leaf clovers are associated with luck because, as is oft-cited, finding one on the first try is usually 1 in 10,000 odds, or 0.01%. Some sources vary on this detail and claim that the odds of finding a clover with four leaves is in fact 1 in 5,000, or 0.02%. Either way, finding a four-leaf clover is very, very rare. It’s also commonly confused with a shamrock, but the two things aren’t the same. Our English word “shamrock” comes from the Irish “*Seamog*” or “*Seamair Og*” meaning “young clover.” And the three leaves of the shamrock are what Saint Patrick used to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish in the 5th century.

I think there’s a world of difference between these two concepts. We often bid people “good luck” without thinking anything of it because well, it’s a common English idiomatic phrase. But what is luck, really? Luck is fortune, a random event or series of events that befall us. And if we claim that God is sovereign, and that all good things come from above (according to the short James quotation at the top of this page) then really, our modern sense of luck has no room in how we view the world. One of my favorite characters in all of fiction, the wizened Obi-Wan Kenobi, says “In my experience there’s no such thing as luck.” He relies on a power greater than himself and to him, there’s no such thing as accident or coincidence. No such thing as luck.

I’ve seen some people use the word “Godspeed” in place of “good luck” because “Godspeed” carries with it the same emotion of “may you prosper on your way” but there’s an element of the Divine to it. The word is a little archaic and out of use, sure. But much of language is cyclical, with words going out of style and eventually making their way back into popular use. But make no mistake:

**God works through all things and in all things, with nothing random.
On God’s green earth, friends, nothing is left to chance.**



Family Promise will be hosting a Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, March 18th, at 11:00 AM at Goodrich United Methodist Church, 8071 S. State Road, Goodrich. The cost to attend is \$75 per person. During the event, participants will have the opportunity to see the new Mobile Housing Crisis Center. Carol Dulin and Shirley Sanborn are sponsoring a table at the breakfast. If you are interested in attending to support Family Promise in their efforts to help families in our own county, please contact Carol or Shirley for information.



A huge thank you to our generous congregation for your support of our Souper Bowl of Caring on February 12th. \$200 was donated and has been sent to the Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) for their hunger programs. A special thank you to those that made the delicious soups for the fundraiser: Deb Bayer, Carol Dulin, Mary Beth Hawes, Kathy Lescelius, Kathy Miller, Milly Prause, Pastor Paul and Shirley Sanborn. A big thank you also to Dennis Sanborn for running the dishwasher afterwards. Forty of our members, including Pastor Paul & Darrah's extended family, stayed following the worship service and enjoyed 8 different flavors of homemade soup. In addition to the cash donations, we also collected 115 cans of soup, which have been delivered to FCOC. Thanks to all of you, this year's Souper Bowl was an all-around success.



The Spiritual Growth Team is excited to let you know that in Pastor Paul's absence on March 19th, Darrah Bird will be preaching in his place. We're blessed to call upon Darrah and look forward to her leadership during our worship service.



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.



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.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 6 – 6:00 PM

Good Friday Service
Friday, April 7 – 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 and Palm Sunday services. If you would be willing to volunteer to be a reader, please contact Pastor Paul.





Save Your
Items for Our
Rummage Sale

The Member Care Team is currently planning to have a Rummage Sale on May 19 and 20. Be sure to start setting aside items for the sale as you clean out your closets and begin your spring cleaning. Watch for more info in upcoming Newsletters.

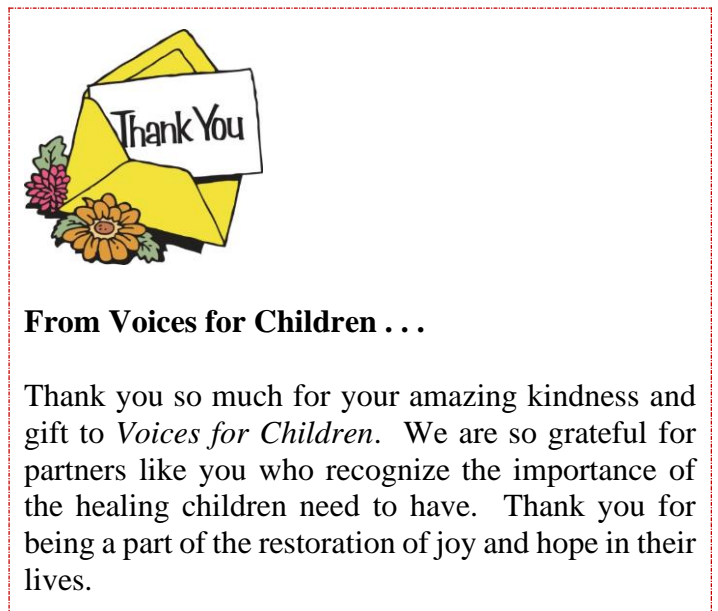


**SAVE THE DATE
FOR THESE
UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Building will take place on Saturday, May 6, at the Flushing Masonic Center
- Family Promise will be hosting a Golf Outing on Saturday, July 23

Watch for more info about these events in future Newsletters and Bulletins.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in the aftermath of the 7.8 magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks in Syria and Turkey. Over 45,000 are reported dead and countless others injured. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged. PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience. Years of recovery lie ahead for the people affected by this catastrophic earthquake. You may donate to PDA through our church by making your check payable to Flushing Presbyterian Church and indicating "Earthquake" on the memo line.



From Voices for Children . . .

Thank you so much for your amazing kindness and gift to *Voices for Children*. We are so grateful for partners like you who recognize the importance of the healing children need to have. Thank you for being a part of the restoration of joy and hope in their lives.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



March 5

Communion Preparer: Steve Long
Communion Servers: Carole Noye, Kelli Peter, Dan & Flora Radspieler
Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Shirley Sanborn
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Karen Howe, Gary & Jerry Stuber
Lay Leader: Annette Nickel
Streaming: Randy Socha

March 12

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Sylvia Keeler
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Mark Jacobson, Margaret Meehle, Randy Socha
Lay Leader: Julie Socha
Streaming: Kelli Peter

March 19

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Kathy Lescelius
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Bill & Denise Churchill, Steve Long
Lay Leader: Kelli Peter
Streaming: Mike Keeler

March 26

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Kathy Miller
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Gary Albert, Mike & Sylvia Keeler
Lay Leader: Sandy Tucker
Streaming: Scott Smith



FLUSHING CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

The special focus items requested by the Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) for March are juice 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.



March

- 1 Jim Wiley
- 7 Mitchell Albert
- 8 Shirley Delbridge
- 9 Norma Smith
- 12 Diane Tuttle-Smith
- 15 Mary Beth Hawes, Fred Prause, Michael Whitman
- 17 Leone Burwell
- 19 Paul J. Pfeuffer
- 20 Nelly Warda
- 21 Vivian Whitmire
- 22 Barb & Kip Hogan, Katie Whitman
- 23 Jarold Stuber
- 25 Steven Howe
- 31 Deborah Bayer

Lectionary Readings

March 5: Gen. 12:1-4a and Ps. 121; Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

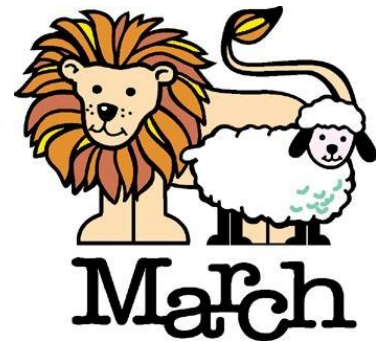
March 12: Ex. 17:1-7 and Ps. 95; Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 19: 1 Sam. 16:1-13 and Ps. 23; Eph. 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 26: Ezek. 37:1-14 and Ps. 130; Rom. 8:6-11; John 11:1-45



Upcoming Communion Dates . . . March 5,
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).



Financial Highlights

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Average 2023 Collections | \$3,134 |
| Average January Collections | \$3,134 |
| Average 2022 Collections | \$3,212 |
| Average needed for 2023 Budget | \$3,676 |

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 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





March

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| | | | 1 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir | 2 11:00 AM – Bible Study 4:00 PM – Member Care | 3 Church Office Closed | 4 |
| 5 Communion 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom | 6 | 7 6:30 PM – Handbell Choir | 8 11:00 AM – Roy Rhoads Funeral Service 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts | 9 11:00 AM – Bible Study | 10 Church Office Closed 5:00 PM – Girl Scouts | 11 |
| 12 Noisy Offering 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom | 13 6:00 PM - B & F 6:30 PM – Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth | 14 9:00 AM – North End Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM – GFWC (Flushing Women’s Club) 6:30 PM – Property 6:30 PM – Handbell Choir | 15 9:30 AM - Community Outreach 1:00 PM – Book Club – Liberty Restaurant 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts | 16 | 17 Church Office Closed | 18 |
| 19 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom | 20 | 21 6:30 PM – Handbell Choir | 22 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts | 23 11:00 AM – Bible Study | 24 Church Office Closed | 25 |
| 26 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom | 27 6:45 PM – Session | 28 6:00 PM – GFWC (Flushing Women’s Club) 6:30 PM – Handbell Choir | 29 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts | 30 11:00 AM – Bible Study 6:00 PM – Canasta Club | 31 Church Office Closed | |

Please note that the church office is closed on Fridays