

December 2015 Newsletter



Flushing Presbyterian Church

Rev. Teresa Peterson, Pastor



The Angel Tree is now 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 must be at the church no later than December 13th.** If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Lescelius.



November 29 - December 6

Prayerfully consider how you can help

Needed: Volunteers on Sunday, December 6th to transform the bedrooms back to classrooms. Please contact Pat Bemis if you are willing to help.



A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6th, immediately following the worship service for the purpose of hearing the report of the Nominating Committee and electing elders and new members for the Nominating and Memorial Committees. Please plan to attend this important meeting.



We will be holding a Blood Drive on **Monday, December 7**, 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).



Advent

Pause to:

Reflect. Refocus. Be Encouraged.

Join with others as scripture speaks to us in a Taize style worship service on **Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 PM.**

Just like any coach who calls "Time out!" to settle down the players and help them refocus, Advent is about keeping our eyes focused on the Christ Child.

Take the time to be refreshed by the Lord.





Sunday, December 13th, 10:30 AM, will be a special worship service featuring a Choir Cantata/Christmas Pageant. Please join us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.



The Flint Concert Band will be performing a Christmas concert in our sanctuary on **Friday, December 18th, 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. **MANY dozens of cookies are needed for the reception following the concert. If you would be willing to provide cookies, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.**



December 24th at 9:00 PM, family and friends are invited to join us for our annual Christmas Eve worship service. 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. We hope your family will be a part of this special worship service.



There will be no Youth Sunday School on the following dates: December 13th and 27th, January 3rd.

There will be no Adult Sunday School December 13th - January 3rd.

All classes will resume on January 10th.



The "Believers" Youth Group invites everyone in the congregation to go caroling with us on **Sunday, December 20th**. Your singing ability does not matter ... the more the merrier. If you are interested please contact Scott or Sandy Tucker for time and place.

youth group

SCHEDULE

December 20 - Christmas Caroling Followed by Party at the Howe's house

December 27 & January 3 - No Youth Group

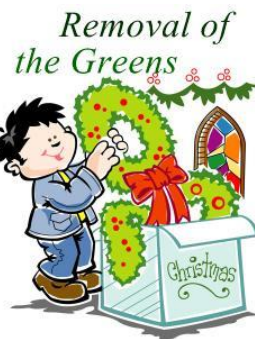
January 10, 2016 - 6:00 PM - Youth Group Resumes

Reminder

All Session Members: The December Session Meeting will be held at 6:45 PM on Monday, December 21.



The Church Office will be closed
December 24, 25, 28 & 31, and January 1.



The Removal of the Greens will take place on Sunday, January 3rd after the worship service. All who are willing and able are asked to provide help taking down the decorations and putting them away. Thanks so much in advance!



This year, give something more than a present – give opportunity.

Gift giving has become a large part of the Christmas spirit we celebrate each year. We give our family and friends presents to show our love for them, following in the tradition of the wise men the very first Christmas. It is through these actions that we are reminded of those in need, especially during the Advent season.

The Christmas Joy Offering is a way for you to do more than simply give a gift; it's a way to improve the lives of those who are struggling. 50% of all funds raised for this Offering are given to both past and current church workers who need a little boost to get over life's obstacles. The other 50% goes toward providing quality education to students seeking higher learning and leadership development at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Thanks to your generosity, we can support those in need.

“Keep Christ in Christmas”

“Your Savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)

As I write this, the world is still reeling from the attacks in Paris and subsequent other attempts and threats. The world is on edge and looking for easy answers to complicated and determined religious extremists. It is at such times that we are lured into using “bumper sticker theology” – short phrases that sound good but lack depth. These phrases are everywhere, vying for our attention. At times, I feel like the one who says it the loudest, longest or in the most “in-your-face” manner is the one who “wins.” Social media is one such venue in which these phrases and sentiments get over-used. No doubt they are well intended and are done in a manner which hopes to convey to a list of family and friends one’s inner most thoughts. But do they?

Take the phrase, “Keep Christ in Christmas” or “Jesus is the reason for the season” – two widely used catch-phrases during this time of year. While Christians should keep the Christ child the central focus of Christmas celebrations, is promoting this ideology to the world in this format really following Jesus’ example? Jesus came into the world in humility, led by serving others, ministered to the outcast of society, and drew crowds because he spoke to each person in a very personal manner. The crowds he drew were not what he was seeking. He never “rallied the troops” to persuade or overthrow any entity. But led by talking with people and changing their hearts, showing compassion. When Jesus meet evil (Satan), he stood firm and strong in his beliefs and then took action defending others.

This season rather than using catch phrases about the season, let’s follow Jesus example and

- Care for others – there are so many ways (presence, assistance, phone calls.....)
- Seek reconciliation
- Be a calm, assuring presence
- Share & show compassion
- Serve with humility

Yes, let’s keep Christ in Christmas. Let’s try to do it as he has shown us.

May Christ bless you and yours during this season when we remember how much God loved us through Christ.

Pastor Teresa





Seniors And Law enforcement Together

If you live in Flushing you may be familiar with this organization. S.A.L.T. is a volunteer organization that started in 1998 and continues to serve the City of Flushing under the direction of the Flushing Police Department.

Just a few of the services our volunteers provide are:

- Vacation Home Checks
- Safe Home items for seniors free of charge
- Traffic Control for parades, etc. as requested
- Monitor parking lots for possible handicap parking violations

We are currently attempting to recruit new members. If you are 52 years or older and live within the Flushing School District, you are eligible to join our organization.

If you are interested or would like more information, please call our office - (810)396-3011. (Because we are volunteers the office may not be staffed when you call. Please leave a message and we will contact you.)



Remember that candy commercial declaring, “Big things come in small packages”? The prophet’s message to tiny Bethlehem is similar: “Though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel” (Micah 5:2, NIV).

We’ve all felt too small for a certain role: too little to play with the big kids ... too skinny to make the football team ... short on the skills needed for a choice assignment. Perhaps we fear our gift of money is too little to make a difference, or the small amount of time we can volunteer isn’t even worth it.

But God brings big things out of “small packages.” From a newborn baby — merely six to eight pounds of helplessness — God brought salvation for the whole world. Rest assured, he’ll do big things through you, too.

--- From the Newsletternewsletter



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 6th

*This
Month's
Schedule*



December 6

Communion Preparers: Kathy Miller
Communion Servers: Darla Arn, Dona Ballard, John & Carol Dulin
Coffee Hour Hosts: Fred & Milly Prause, Larry & Carol Brownell
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Sandy & Scott Tucker, Laura Widman, Mary Ellen Zellers
Lay Leader: Mike Keeler
Acolytes: Elyse & Marie S
Welcome Desk: Natalie Lucas

December 13

Coffee Hour Hosts: Brett & Chris Albert
Flowers: Luella & John Daig
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Brett, Gary & Shirley Albert, Darla Arn
Lay Leader: Laura Widman
Acolytes: Lilly & Max S
Welcome Desk:

December 20

Coffee Hour Hosts: Don & Mike Rowley
Flowers: Mary Graham
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Dona Ballard, Pat Bemis, Bill & Denise Churchill
Lay Leader: Carol Dulin
Acolytes: Elle B & Marie S
Welcome Desk:

December 24

Communion Preparers:
Communion Servers:
Sound Board Operator:
Ushers:
Acolytes:
Welcome Desk:

December 27

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Carol & John Dulin, Dave Finley, Loretta Hudson
Lay Leader: Louise Elleman
Acolytes: Elyse & Marie S
Welcome Desk:



December

- 2 Ray Hagan
- 10 Carol Sawatzki
- 12 Tim Stein
- 17 Katy & Robert Churchill
- 23 Robert Churchill
- 26 Mary Graham, Margaret Meehle
- 27 Sherry Bradish
- 29 Larry Brownell, Emilie Wiley



| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Average 2015 Collections | \$3,298 |
| Average October Collections | \$3,926 |
| Average 2014 Collections | \$3,306 |
| Average needed for Budget | \$3,744 |





Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC)

Your generosity of donating food to FCOC directly benefits our Flushing neighbors who are hungry. This month's request is spaghetti and/or spaghetti sauce.

God bless!
Terry Bigelow
FCOC Program Manager

If you can help by purchasing spaghetti and/or spaghetti sauce or any other non-perishable food items, there is a collection basket for the FCOC in the shelving unit just outside of the kitchen.



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



From Shirley Albert...

Thank you to everyone for all the cards and prayers following my recent surgery. It's wonderful to have such a great church family.

Lectionary Readings

- December 6:** Mal. 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Phil.1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
- December 13:** Zeph. 3:14-20; Isa. 12:2-6; Phil. 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
- December 20:** Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps. 80:1-7; Heb. 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
- December 27:** 1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26; Ps. 148; Col. 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Flushing Presbyterian Church 2015 Session

Budget & Finance
Bill Churchill, Jr., Chair
John Dulin

Community Outreach
Sylvia Keeler, Chair
Natalie Lucas

Member Care
Kathie Rhoads, Chair
Loretta Hudson

Property Team
Brett Albert, Chair
Don Rowley

Spiritual Growth
Karen Howe, Chair
Scott Smith



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!

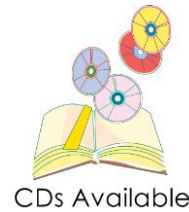


Bread 4 Life is a feeding program that provides weekend food for students that have been identified by the Flushing Schools as needing such assistance. Our church provides a portion of the funds for this project. Volunteers pack the bags at 5 PM on Thursdays, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Coutant Street. If you are willing to help, please contact Dennis or Shirley Sanborn.

Card Ministry



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



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.



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 throughout the year 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...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.



PRISCILLA CIRCLE

The **Priscilla Circle** meets at the church at 1:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month for fellowship and study. All women are invited to attend.



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. 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. Contact Mary Ellen Zellers with any questions.

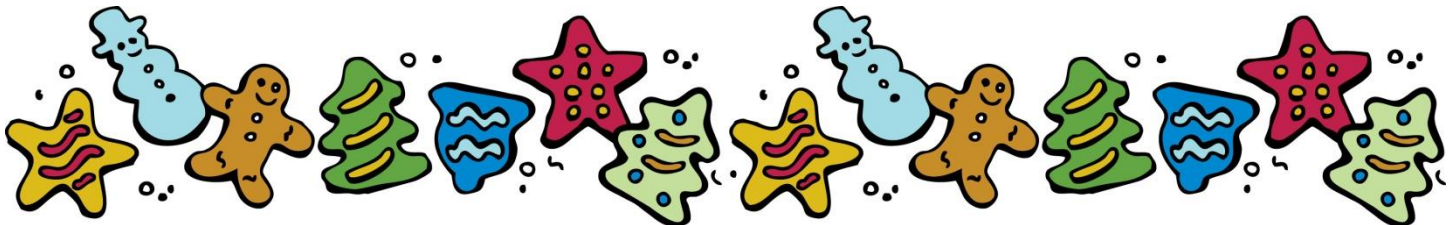


VG's "Cash for Class" A program that will allow participants to raise money for our church. This program will be tied to their "Yes" card and requires that you link your card to Flushing Presbyterian Church. If you shop at VG's and would like more information, please contact Carole Tucker or the church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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Sunday Schedule 9:30 AM - Adult Christian Education 10:30 AM - Worship Service 11:30 AM - Fellowship Hour | | 1 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir | 2 | 3 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir | 4 9:30 AM - Book & Breakfast Club - Liberty Restaurant | 5 |
| | | -----Family Promise----- | | | | |
| 6 Communion 11:30 AM - Congregational Meeting 6:00 PM - Youth Group | 7 12:00 PM - Blood Drive 5:00 PM - Girl Scouts | 8 9:00 AM - North End Soup Kitchen 6:30 PM - GFWC - Flushing Women's Club 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir | 9 10:00 AM - Memorial 6:00 PM - Property 7:00 PM - Advent Service | 10 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 9:30 AM - Prayer Shawl 2:00 PM - Community Outreach 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir | 11 | 12 12:00 PM - Boy Scout Court of Honor |
| 13 Noisy Offering 10:30 AM - Christmas Cantata/Pageant 6:00 PM - Youth Group | 14 1:00 PM - Member Care 6:00 PM - B & F 6:30 PM - Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth | 15 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir | 16 | 17 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 1:00 PM - Priscilla Circle 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir | 18 7:00 PM - Flint Concert Band | 19 |
| 20 6:00 PM - Youth Group | 21 Newsletter Deadline 6:45 PM - Session | 22 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir | 23 | 24 9:05 PM - Christmas Eve Worship Service | 25  | 26 |
| | | | | -----Church Office Closed----- | | |
| 27 | 28 Church Office Closed | 29 | 30 6:00 PM - Billings/Meehle Wedding Rehearsal | 31 6:00 PM - Billings/Meehle Wedding | 1 | |
| | | | | -----Church Office Closed----- | | |