



December 2016 Newsletter

Advent



For anyone outside of mainline Christianity, "advent" is an uncommon word. Even for us who know it is the four weeks before Christmas and the beginning of the Church liturgical year, it is difficult to understand.

The first two weeks of Advent, when the candles of "Hope" and "Peace" are lit, we hear readings which focus on the promise of Jesus' return - his Second Coming. Wait!! Aren't we preparing for the "coming" of the Christ child? Why then, do these readings focus on Christ's return?

The word Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, which means "coming." It is unclear exactly when Advent first began to be celebrated. By the 5th century there were certainly traditions being established. The monks were encouraged to fast, pray, and ponder special readings the 40 days before Christmas as they prepared for Christ's "coming." When we pull back a bit and hear the history, we more easily understand how the focus can be two-fold.

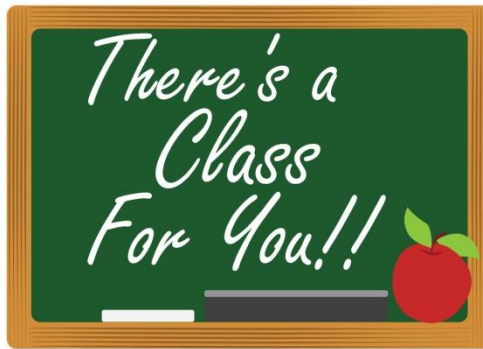
As we continue the tradition of preparing for the "coming" of Christ, we wait....and wait.....and wait. So the question for us is: Do we experience the coming of Christ? It's important to make the proper preparations so we are ready. To have the celebrations. To share gifts. To express our love and care toward one another. Because that is a part of "waiting" for Christ's coming.

Some of us have had the precious experience of getting ready for special events in our lives - babies, weddings, new jobs, new relationships, renewing old relationships, celebrating family and friends. So we prepare.

During this season of Advent, consider Christ's coming into the world - not just what it meant that first time, but what if the second coming were to take place? Are we ready?

May the Light of Christ burn brightly into the darkness.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**STOP IN AND CHECK ONE OUT AFTER WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!!
(CLASSES ARE ON-GOING: START ANYTIME!)**

Youth & Adult Options

- 1) Promised Land: Filmed on location, hear and see Biblical stories come to life, then discuss their relevance today.
- 2) Nooma: Short films which explore our world from Jesus' perspective and invites us into the conversation.

For Adult Learners

- 3) The Legacy Journey: Learning how to leave a Biblical financial legacy - what that means and how to do it.

This Class will conclude on December 11th

Beginning January 15

The Wired Word: Focusing on current events

Preschool-6th Grade

- 4) Bible Superheroes: Our favorite heroes from the Bible.

**There will be no Christian Education classes from December 18th through January 8th.
All classes will resume on Sunday, January 15th.**



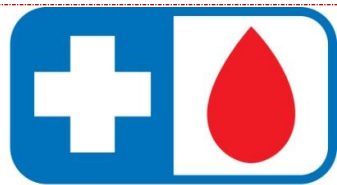
The Angel Tree is now up in the narthex in order to provide Christmas gifts to children in need in the Flushing area. If you wish to participate, please select an angel and sign your name after the appropriate number on the sign-up sheet next to the tree. If you would like to participate, but are unable to shop, you may make a donation for a gift. Please indicate "Angel Tree" on the memo line of your check. **All gifts must be at the church no later than December 11th.** If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Lescelius or the church office.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

On Sunday, November 13th, about eight people gathered to discuss the Prayer Shawl ministry. It was noted that Thursday mornings currently do not seem to be the best gathering time. The group is in the midst of reorganizing. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, December 7th at 10:00 AM.** We will go over "How to make a prayer shawl" plus bring in other ideas around Prayer Quilts/Blankets and hopefully, see a Prayer Cross.

For those interested but unable to attend a daytime meeting, please let the office or Pastor Teresa know of your interest.



GIVE
Blood

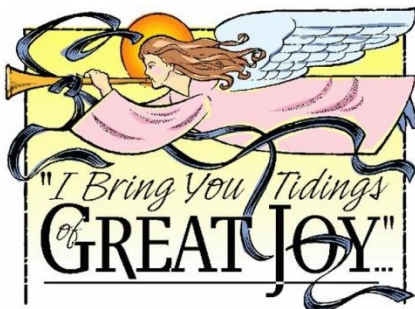
We will be holding a **Blood Drive on Monday, December 5**, from 12:00 - 5:45 PM. To schedule an appointment, log onto redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: Flushing Community or call 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767).

Christmas Music



Sunday, December 11th, 7:00 PM. Come enjoy an evening of holiday music performed by the Flint Concert Band. To those who are able, your help in rearranging the platform after the morning worship service in preparation of the concert would be appreciated.

Refreshments will be served following the concert. If you can provide cookies, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board. Help with set-up and clean-up will also be needed.





SPECIAL SERVICES

Intergenerational Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18
10:00 AM Worship Service
Celebrate the Christmas Story!!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Saturday, December 24
9:00 PM

Christmas Day Worship Service

Sunday, December 25
10:00 AM
Bring the family! Come Casual.

New Year's Day Worship Service

Sunday, January 1
10:00 AM

Celebrate the season with your family at one or all of these special services.

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Can You Step In?

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Christmas Eve Worship Service (9:00 PM) - Communion Preparer, Communion Servers, Ushers, Welcome Desk
- Christmas Day Worship Service - Ushers, Welcome Desk
- New Year's Day Worship Service - Communion Preparer, Communion Servers, Ushers, Welcome Desk

Please contact the church office to volunteer to serve at these special services.



December 24th, at 9:00 PM, family and friends are invited to join us for our annual Christmas Eve worship service. This night we will hear familiar readings and sing familiar carols as the Christmas story is told of the Christ Child. 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.



CHRISTMAS MORNING -- 10:00 AM -- 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 10:00 AM 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.

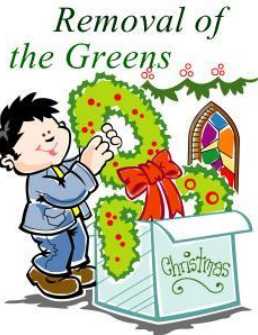


CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The annual Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. Gifts to the offering are distributed 50/50 to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Thus, the offering assists past and present church workers in need and students in their time of promise. 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.



January 1 - 8, Family Promise Guests are here
Prayerfully consider how you can help



The Removal of the Greens will take place on Sunday, January 8th 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!



Plans are being made for an auction to take place in late February or early March. **Donations are needed to make this auction a success.** Consider what you might donate to such a project. All proceeds will go to a specific ministry yet to be determined. Plan on joining the fun!!



From the family of Ruth and Ed Spomer...

Words cannot express our gratitude to this congregation for the love and support that our family has received in the recent passing of our Mom. To say that our hearts are broken is an understatement. The loss of both of our parents so close together is difficult, but there is comfort in that also. This church and its people were close to Mom & Dad's hearts for over a half century. They formed many close bonds and put in a lot of time serving the Lord here. Thank you to Pastor Teresa for her visits and her part in their services.

From Denise and Bill Churchill...

Thank you for the beautiful cards and kind words of support after the passing of our sister, Jennifer. We truly appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers for us and our family!

From Tim and Sherry Bradish...

Thank you for your prayers, cards, words of encouragement and/or presence at the service for Tim's father. We are finding comfort in the love we have received and our faith that C.R. and Josephine are reunited with a loving God.

From Gary Albert...

The Flushing Presbyterian Church Family has been a true blessing for many of my own family members over the last quarter century. I want to thank all who attended my Uncle Butch's funeral service, especially those who provided service and food. I also thank all who sent us sympathy cards - comforting thoughts during a tough time. The service was a great celebration of a wonderful life.





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 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7th



December 4

Communion Preparers: Kathy Miller, Erna Coxworth
Communion Servers: Carole Noye, Dan & Flora Radspieler, Dave Finley
Fellowship Hosts:
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Carol Dulin, Sandy & Scott Tucker, Bill Weiss
Lay Leader: Ed Davison
Welcome Desk: Shirley Albert
Acolytes: Kaitlyn & Megan R

December 11

Fellowship Hosts:
Flowers: John & Luella Daig
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Brett, Gary & Shirley Albert; Dennis Sanborn
Lay Leader: Louise Elleman
Welcome Desk:
Acolytes: Elyse & Marie S

December 18

Fellowship Hosts:
Flowers: Mary Graham
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Dona Ballard, Bob & Gail Barnhart, Sharon Donaldson
Lay Leader: Mike Keeler
Welcome Desk: Steve Howe
Acolytes: Lilly & Ben S

December 25

Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: **Volunteers Needed**
Lay Leader: **Volunteer Needed**
Welcome Desk: **Volunteer Needed**
Acolytes: **Volunteers Needed**



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



Financial Highlights

Average 2016 Collections	\$3,156
Average October Collections	\$2,994
Average 2015 Collections	\$3,347
Average needed for 2016 Budget	\$3,814



The Church Office will be closed
 December 23 - 26 & 30, and January 2.



Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC)

God bless all of you cheerful givers. The FCOC shelves are once again filled with cereal! December's request is for canned or bottled juice.

Matthew 25:35, 40

³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

God Bless,
Terry Bigelow
FCOC Program Manager

If you can help by purchasing juice, 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.



**Stay connected
with Weekly Updates
from the Pastor**

EMAIL UPDATES

If you would like to receive weekly email updates from Pastor Teresa about prayer requests and upcoming events, please contact the office and verify that we have your current email address. You will then be put on the email list. Emails are not published or given out without the owner's permission.

Lectionary Readings

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

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

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

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

Flushing Presbyterian Church 2016 Session

Budget & Finance

Dick Barnett
Bill Churchill, Jr.

Community Outreach

Pat Bemis
Natalie Lucas

Member Care

Loretta Hudson
Sandy Snyder

Property Team

Don Rowley
Scott Tucker

Spiritual Growth

Karen Howe
Julie Socha

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.



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

Music Opportunities...The **Chancel Choir** (Vocal choir) has rehearsals at 7:15 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.



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.



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.

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.



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.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule 10:00 AM - Worship Service 11:15 AM - Christian Education - All Ages				1 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	2 9:30 AM - Book & Breakfast Club - Liberty Restaurant	3
4 Communion 3:30 PM - Girl Scouts 6:00 PM - Youth Group	5 12:00 PM - Blood Drive	6 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir	7	8 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 2:00 PM - Community Outreach 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	9	10
11 Noisy Offering 6:00 PM - Youth Group 7:00 PM - Flint Concert Band	12 1:00 PM - Member Care 6:00 PM - B & F 6:30 PM - Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth	13 9:00 AM - North End Soup Kitchen 6:30 PM - Property 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir	14	15 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 1:00 PM - Priscilla Circle 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	16	17
18 10:00 AM - Christmas Pageant No C/E Classes 6:00 PM - Youth Group	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir	21	22 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	23 Church Office Closed	24 9:00 PM - Christmas Eve Worship Service
25 Merry Christmas 	26 Church Office Closed 6:45 PM - Session	27 6:30 PM - GFWC - Flushing Women's Club	28	29 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant	30 Church Office Closed	31