

Flushing Presbyterian Church

www.flushingpres.org Office - flushingpc@sbcglobal.net 5010 N. McKinley Road, Flushing, MI 48433 (810)659-5831
Rev. Teresa Peterson, Pastor Pastor - PastorT90@gmail.com



December 2017 Newsletter



"This Year Will be Different" by Ann Weems, from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Who among us does not have dreams
that this year will be different?

Who among us does not intend to go
peacefully, leisurely, carefully toward Bethlehem,
for who among us likes to cope with the
commercialism of Christmas
which lures us to tinsel not only the tree
but also our hearts?

Who among us intends to get caught up in tearing around
and wearing down?

Who among us does not long for:
gifts that give love?
shopping in serenity?
cards and presents sent off early?
long evenings by the fireside with those we love?
(the trimming devoid of any arguing about
who's going to hang what where,
the aroma of cinnamon and nutmeg mingling
with the pine scent of the tree,
and carols gently playing over our idyllic scene)
and the children! the children cheerfully talking about
giving instead of getting?

Who among us does not yearn for
time for our hearts to ponder the Word of God?
moments of kneeling and bursts of song?
the peace of quiet calm for our spirit's journey?

This year we intend to follow the Star
instead of the crowd.

But, of course, we always do intend the best.
(And sometimes best intentions tend to get the best of us!)

This year, when we find ourselves off the path again
(and we invariably will!),
let's not add yet another stress to our Advent days,
that of "trying to do Christmas correctly"!

Instead, let's approach the birth of our Lord with JOYFUL abandon!

And this year
let's do what Mary did and rejoice in God!
let's do what Joseph did and listen to our dreams.
let's do what the Wise Men did and go to worship.
lets do what the shepherds did and praise and glorify God
for all we've seen and heard!

As for the Advent frantic pace, we don't have time for that.
We'll be too busy singing!
This year will be different.





Sunday School classes For All

Before Worship:

8:45 am to 9:45 AM - *Trusting God: A Girlfriends in God Devotional*. This study is designed to deepen women's friendships as they share devotional experiences.

Following Worship:

- *The Wired Word*. Discussions centered around current events and how they are related to Scripture passages. Ages Jr. High through adult. *In the Dust of the Rabbi* class will not meet in December. Please consider joining the discussion in *The Wired Word*.
- *Deep Blue* - For preschool to 6th grade

There will be no classes on December 24th, 31st or January 7th. Classes will resume on January 14th, 2018.

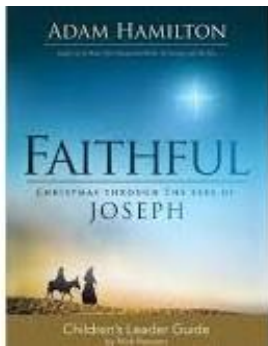


Advent

Happy New Year!! December 3rd begins the new year on the church calendar. We begin the cycle all over, starting with Advent. I remember as a child seeing the "special" candles lit each week at this time of year. It was difficult not to jump right to "Christmas!" The anticipation did build as I counted the days to December 25th. Some years, the days would drag on and on.

Each year we end the Christian year with Christ the King Sunday. The very next Sunday, after remembering that Christ is King, our ruler, we go back to the beginning, preparing for the arrival of God's greatest gift to the world - an infant who becomes our Messiah - Emmanuel, God with us.

The world does not typically understand Advent. Society tends to focus on gift giving and celebrating with family and friends. But why do we do these things? Because we like parties and want our loved ones to know how much we care about them? Can we, do we, find a more profound reason? How do we let others know why we do these things? This year consider how you can be Christ's light shining in the darkness - providing hope in a world filled with too much darkness. Perhaps Random Acts of Kindness is the way to go. Perhaps.



Faithful:
Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph
by Adam Hamilton

Come explore the story of Jesus through the eyes of his earthly father, Joseph. The gospel of Matthew gives us clues about Joseph, but what do we really know about him and what influence did he have on Jesus, our Savior? Our four-week study began on November 26th and continues on Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM through December 17th. Come join the conversation as we explore the life of one of God's humble servants.



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 by 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 10th.** If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Lescelius or the church office.



Hanging of the Greens

We will complete the Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 2nd at 11 AM. The main focus will be the Chrismon Tree. Many hands make light work. Please plan to help if you can.



A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 10th, 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, and to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call. Please plan to attend this important meeting of the church.

Inter-Generational Christmas Pageant December 17, 10:00 AM

A CHRISTMAS
to believe in

Be sure to be here for this very special service!!



December 17 - 24

Family Promise Guests are here
Prayerfully consider how you can help



Volunteers are needed for the following:

- December 24 Morning Worship Service - Ushers, Welcome Desk
- Christmas Eve Worship Service (9:00 PM) - Communion Servers, Ushers, Welcome Desk
- December 31 Worship Service - Ushers

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



CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00 AM: Join together in worship as we focus on the story of Christmas Carols we love with a meditation to encourage us. The season is sometimes too brief to include all those favorites. This year we will attempt to include a few more beloved carols as we worship.

9:00 PM: Family and friends are invited to join us for our annual evening Christmas Eve worship service. Come wrap yourself and your family in the story of the coming of the Christ Child as we hear scripture and sing carols. 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.





SPECIAL SERVICES

Intergenerational Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17
10:00 AM Worship Service
A Christmas to Believe In

Christmas Eve Morning Worship Service

Sunday, December 24
10:00 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, December 24
9:00 PM

New Year's Eve Morning Worship Service

Sunday, December 31
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

Removal of the Greens



The Removal of the Greens will take place on January 7th, immediately following 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!



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Every Christmas, we express our gratitude for the birth of our savior by supporting the **Christmas Joy Offering**. The 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.



We will be printing an updated church directory in January. 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 14th, so that the new information can be included.

Save the Date



Saturday, January 27, 2018, we will be having another "Progressive Dinner." Mark your calendar for this fun event. Details will be in the January Newsletter.



Flower Calendar

The new Flower Chart for 2018 has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you sign up to provide flowers for a Sunday morning worship, you are responsible for ordering what you want. Both Flushing Florist and Village Florist have keys to the church and will deliver flowers if you so choose. You are welcome to take your arrangement home after the service. If you are remembering or honoring a loved one, be sure to mark that on the calendar or call the church office by **Wednesday** noon prior to the Sunday you are providing flowers.



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 10th



*This
Month's
Schedule*

December 3

Communion Preparer: Carol Dulin
Communion Servers: Carole Noye, Dan & Flora Radspieler, Dennis Sanborn
Fellowship Hosts:
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Carol Dulin, Karen Howe, Loretta Hudson, Lisa Judson
Lay Leader: Chris Albert
Welcome Desk: Julie Socha
Acolytes: Kaitlyn & Megan R

December 10

Fellowship Hosts: Blanton Family
Flowers: John & Luella Daig
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Vonnie Koehn, Kathy Lescelius, Kathy Miler, Carole Noye
Lay Leader: Sylvia Keeler
Welcome Desk: Shirley Albert
Acolytes: Handbell Choir

December 17

Fellowship Hosts:
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Mike & Sylvia Keeler, Dan & Flora Radspieler
Lay Leader: Lilly S
Welcome Desk: Deb Bayer
Acolytes: Sochas

December 24

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



Christmas Eve Service

Communion Preparer: Margaret Meehle
Communion Servers: **Volunteers Needed**
Sound Board Operator:
Ushers: **Volunteers Needed**
Welcome Desk: **Volunteer Needed**
Acolytes: **Volunteers Needed**

December 31

Fellowship Hosts: Fred Prause
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Steve Howe
Ushers: **Volunteers Needed**
Lay Leader: Bill Churchill
Welcome Desk: Sharon Donaldson
Acolytes: Nancy Young



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 2017 Collections	\$3,019
Average October Collections	\$3,029
Average 2016 Collections	\$3,230
Average needed for 2017 Budget	\$3,663



Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC)

We are very grateful for the variety of cereal we received during November. So many families benefited from your generosity. This month we are asking for donations of chunky soup.

God Bless,
Terry Bigelow
FCOC Program Manager

If you can help by purchasing chunky soup, 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 3: Isa. 64:1-9; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

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

December 17: Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126 *or* Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24: Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

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

Flushing Presbyterian Church 2017 Session

Budget & Finance
Dick Barnett
Bill Churchill, Jr.

Community Outreach
Pat Bemis

Member Care
Sharon Donaldson
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!

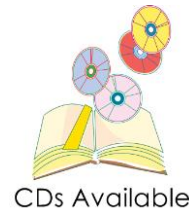


Bread 4 Life is a feeding program that provides weekend food for students that have been identified by the Flushing Schools as needing such assistance. Our church provides a portion of the funds for this project. Volunteers pack the bags at 5 PM on Thursdays, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Coutant 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.



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 7:15 PM on Thursdays and the **Handbell Choir** rehearses at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays (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 at the church at 10:00 AM on the first Wednesday of each month.



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.

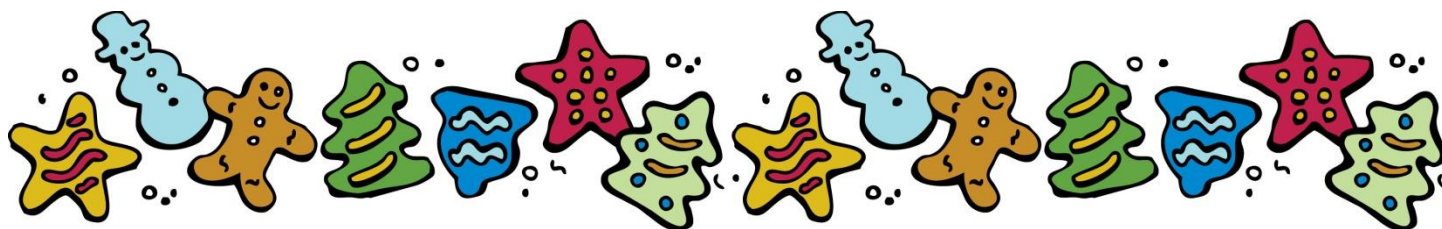


Soup Kitchen...Volunteers work at the North End Soup Kitchen in Flint on the second Tuesday of each month, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.



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 8:45 AM - <i>Trusting God: A Girlfriends in God Devotional Study</i> 10:00 AM - Worship Service & Kinder-Church 11:15 AM - Christian Education - All Ages					1 Church Office Closed 9:30 AM - Book & Breakfast Club - Liberty Restaurant	2 10:00 AM - Hanging of the Greens Continues 4:00 PM - Wreath Making
3 Communion 3:30 PM - Girl Scouts 6:00 PM - Advent Study 6:00 PM - Youth Group	4 12:00 PM - Blood Drive	5 9:30 AM - Presby Mtg - Bay City Westminster 6:30 PM - Handbell Choir	6 10:00 AM - Prayer Shawl Group	7 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	8 Church Office Closed	9
10 Noisy Offering 11:00 AM - Congregational Meeting 3:30 PM - Girl Scouts 6:00 PM - Advent Study 6:00 PM - Youth Group	11 1:00 PM - Member Care 6:00 PM - B & F 6:30 PM - Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth	12 9:00 AM - North End Soup Kitchen 6:30 PM - Property 6:30 PM - Handbell Choir	13	14 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	15 Church Office Closed	16
17 Christmas Pageant 6:00 PM - Advent Study 6:00 PM - Youth Group	18 Newsletter Deadline 6:45 PM - Session	19 6:30 PM - Handbell Choir	20	21 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	22 Church Office Closed	23
-----Family Promise-----						
24 10:00 AM - Morning Worship Service 9:00 PM - Candlelight Service	25 	26 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir 6:30 PM - GFWC - Flushing Women's Club	27	28	29 Church Office Closed	30
31		Church Office Closed				

*****Please note that the church office is closed on Fridays*****