

February 2023 Newsletter

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



⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Ah, February is upon us. And within the dead of winter, when the snow and ice are at their fiercest, we come upon the observance of Valentine's Day. It's an opportunity to celebrate the concept of love in general, and to celebrate our loved ones in particular. I also remember very fondly the day *before* Valentine's Day because that's the anniversary of my proposal to Darrah! And of course, I can't forget the day *after* Valentine's Day because that marks the date Juniper was born (geez, has it really been a year ALREADY?!?)

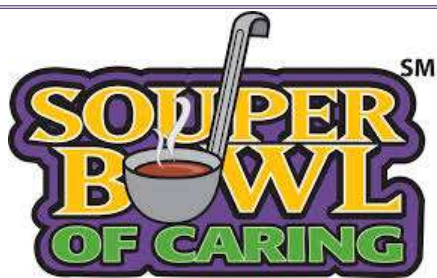
There are all sorts of tangible, visible tokens that mark this occasion – cards, flowers, boxes of chocolate. All things you can hold, touch and see. Speaking of things we can observe, take a look at the image printed above. If the above image is unfamiliar to you, allow me to explain what it is. That's the famous "LOVE" sign located in Philadelphia, PA (otherwise known as, the side of the state opposite the side your pastor is from). Did you know that the city gets its name from one of the Greek words for "love"? Namely, that word is *philia* – the type of affectionate love or friendship, usually between two equals. Hence, Philly's nickname is what its full name actually means: "The City of Brotherly Love."

Also, notice that I said "one of" the words for love. There are two others in your Greek New Testament – *eros* and *agape*. The first of these deals with romantic love, or the appreciation of beauty within one's romantic partner. The last one, *agape*, features heavily in this familiar passage from Paul. And the odds are pretty good that you've seen this passage or heard it preached on several times throughout your life. This is the one that gets trotted out on wedding days. And why shouldn't it? It mentions love an awful lot, right?

I would argue that while we appreciate this passage, we do so for the wrong reasons! The *agape* mentioned here is not the romantic love of partner to partner, spouse to spouse. Rather, it's used here to denote the unconditional love of God for God's children. *Agape*, then, is modeled to us by how deeply God loves us and how God offers that love to us with no strings attached.

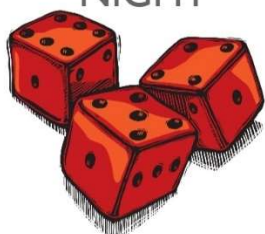
So as you get ready to celebrate love this month, please remember that love is not constrained or limited to one person's or a few people's definition of the concept. Love is so much broader and grander than we can ever completely conceive. It's so big that it takes more than one word to capture its nuances. Celebrate *eros*, yes, but also remember to throw some recognition to *philia* and perhaps most importantly, *agape*.

--Pastor Paul



After a two-year absence, the Souper Bowl of Caring will be back on Sunday, February 12th. Plan to stay after church to enjoy a lunch of a variety of homemade soups, including one made by our Pastor! The Outreach Team will host the event and donate the proceeds to Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) for hunger programs. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated; take out will be available if you are unable to stay. We are also collecting canned soup to be donated to FCOC – there is a collection table set up in the narthex.

BUNCO NIGHT



We will be having a Bunco Night on Saturday, February 18th 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.



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.



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.



The Member Care Team would like to see if there is any interest in holding another “Chunky Blanket Workshop”. If you would be interested in attending a workshop, please contact the church office or Shirley Sanborn. If there is enough interest, we will probably schedule a workshop some time in March or April.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Family Promise will be hosting a Brunch/Fundraiser on Saturday, March 25
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Building will take place on May 9 at the Masonic Temple
- Family Promise will be hosting a Golf Outing on Saturday, July 23

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



Per Capita

- Per capita is a **per member** apportionment for the operating budget of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.
- 2023 per capita is \$29.77 per member
- Members are asked to pay this amount over and above their pledge amount
- Congregations pay per capita for each member.
- Flushing Presbyterian Church pays per capita for each member whether the member helps offset the cost or not
- If members help offset per capita cost, more dollars are available for church projects, mission, etc.

Please consider using your per capita envelope to submit \$29.77
for each person in your family who is a member of the church
(or simply indicate "Per Capita" on the memo line of your check).



LOVE THAT WELCOMES ALL

Actor Tom Hanks once said, “There’s no substitute for a great love who says, ‘No matter what’s wrong with you, you’re welcome at this table.’” Although I don’t know that quote’s context, those words could well describe Jesus and Holy Communion, as well as God’s unconditional love.

For when Jesus first invited his followers, “Take and eat; this is my body. Take and drink; this is my blood,” he didn’t exclude Judas, who would betray him, or Peter, who would deny him, or any of the others, who would abandon him as he was arrested and executed.

Indeed, no matter what’s wrong with us — what sins we’ve committed, what flaws we try to hide — Jesus welcomes us to the communion table. And he’ll welcome us to the great heavenly banquet at the end of time. For the great love of God declares, “You’re all welcome at my table.”

—Heidi Hyland Mann, from the March 2022 Newsletternewsletter

Notes of Thanks

Dear Flushing Presbyterian Church,

From Major Rob & Katy Churchill . . .

Thank you for your wonderful donations to our Welcome Home project for the Silver Lions! Your generous contributions had a direct impact on the soldiers who received them. All 250 single soldiers received a toiletry bag with over twelve different hygiene items, a bath towel, hand towel, washcloth, pillow, and food bag with a Gatorade and eight varieties of snack packs. Our soldiers traveled over 30 hours, had multiple layovers, and most flights landed around midnight. These simple bags were a large reminder that our soldiers are thought of and remembered across our country. It would not have been possible to build these Welcome Home Bags without your support. The leaders of the 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment thank you for helping us take care of our soldiers.

(Note: Be sure to check out the photos on the bulletin board)

From the Family of Fred Kellett

Thank you all so much for putting on the luncheon in honor of Fred Kellett. The Presbyterian Church was part of his past and he recently started to attend services again. He said it felt like he was home again. Thank you for all the love and support.

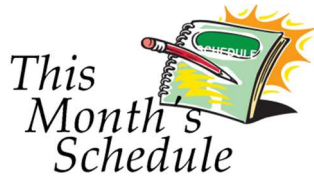


From Sleep in Heavenly Peace . . .

On behalf of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Inc. (SHP), its members, sponsors, volunteers and bed recipients, we would like to thank you for your generous donation. Many people don't know there are so many kids sleeping on the floor or in other uncomfortable situations and SHP aims to solve this crisis. This would not be possible without your generosity. Our mission is to see that NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN! Again, we greatly appreciate your love and support for our cause and hope that we can continue to work with you in the future.

From the Shelter of Flint . . .

Thank you for your generous gift. Your gift will allow us to make sure people who are struggling, who are living outside, who are survivors of domestic violence, who are veterans, who are vulnerable, who are children, and who have nowhere else to turn, get the help they need. Because of you, Shelter of Flint will be here to provide not only shelter, but care and support until clients have safe housing, independence and stability. There are many causes and many faces to homelessness. We know that most families are one financial mishap or one or two missed paychecks away from homelessness; that untreated mental illness can leave someone floundering and without a home; that the sudden death of the family's breadwinner can completely change the landscape for a happy middle-class family; and that even when paying rent regularly, a tenant can find themselves suddenly asked to leave and not have the funds they need to move into a new home. Like one of our clients said, Shelter of Flint is "like a warm hug" for individuals and families who have lived through the jarring experience of suddenly and unexpectedly being without a home. Your support helps us provide that hug. On behalf of our clients, especially the 34 children who will sleep in our shelter tonight, thank you for helping to create a community where everyone has the opportunity to live in safe, sustainable housing.



February 5

Communion Preparer: Shirley Sanborn
Communion Servers: Pat Bemis, Karen Howe, Kathy Lescelius, Annette Nickel
Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Kelli Peter
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Karen Howe, Sandy & Scott Tucker
Lay Leader: Ed Davison
Streaming: Randy Socha

February 12

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Kelli Peter
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Mike & Sylvia Keeler, Carole Noye
Lay Leader: Joyce Hudson
Streaming: Kelli Peter

February 19

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Mary Beth Hawes
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Shirley Delbridge, Mark Jacobson, Dennis Sanborn
Lay Leader: Sylvia Keeler
Streaming: Mike Keeler

February 26

Flowers:
Welcome Desk: Sandy Tucker
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Kathy Miller, Dan & Flora Radspieler
Lay Leader: Mike Keeler
Streaming: Scott Smith



FLUSHING CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

The special focus items requested by the Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) for February are **peanut butter and/or jelly and bar soap**. 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.



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 5: Isa. 58:1-9a (9b-12) and Ps. 112:1-9 (10); 1 Cor. 2:1-12 (13-16); Matt. 5:13-20

February 12: Deut. 30:15-20 and Ps. 119:1-8; 1 Cor. 3:1-9; Matt. 5:21-37

February 19: Ex. 24:12-18 and Ps. 2 or Ps. 99; 2 Pet. 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9

February 26: Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-7 and Ps. 32; Rom. 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11



Upcoming Communion Dates . . .

February 5 & 22 (Ash Wednesday)



I PRAY
THAT YOU
MAY... KNOW
THE LOVE
OF CHRIST
THAT
SURPASSES
KNOWLEDGE.

EPHESIANS 3:18-19, NRSV



The Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive at our church on Monday, February 6, from 12:00 - 5:45 PM. This will be our month to provide volunteers for the drive; if you can help, please contact Kathy Miller. 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 2022 Collections	\$3,212
Average December Collections	\$3,029
Average 2021 Collections	\$3,122
Average needed for 2022 Budget	\$3,811

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...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.



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.



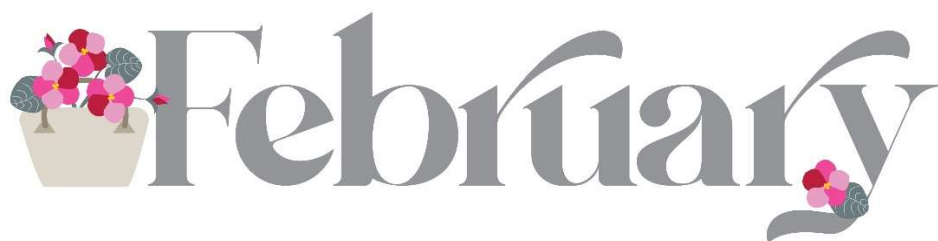
Soup Kitchen...Volunteers work at the North End Soup Kitchen in Flint on the second Tuesday of each month, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.



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 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir	2 9:30 AM – Member Care 11:00 AM – Bible Study	3 Church Office Closed	4
5 Communion 4:30 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom	6 12:00 PM – Blood Drive	7 6:30 PM – Bell Choir	8 9:30 AM - Community Outreach 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir-6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	9 11:00 AM – Bible Study	10 Church Office Closed	11
12 Noisy Offering 11:15 AM – B & F 11:15 AM – Souper Bowl 4:30 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom	13 6:30 PM – Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth	14 9:00 AM - NE Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM – GFWC (Flushing Women’s Club) 6:30 PM – Property 6:30 PM – Bell Choir	15 1:00 PM – Book Club – Liberty Restaurant 6:00 PM – Chancel Choir-6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	16 11:00 AM – Bible Study	17 Church Office Closed	18 6:00 PM – Bunco Night
19 4:30 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – The Wired Word via Zoom	20	21 6:30 PM – Bell Choir	22 Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM – Worship Service	23 11:00 AM – Bible Study 6:00 PM – Canasta Club	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 4:30 PM – Youth Group 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 – Bell Choir				

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