

September 2016 Newsletter



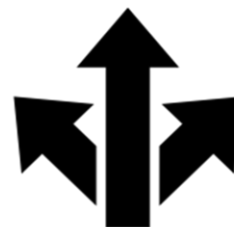
GATHER

in worship



GROW

in small groups



GO

into the world

Church Growth Conversations

#1: Why Are We Not Growing Faster?

Sunday, August 28th, we had the first in a series of conversations around church growth. Session has been reading the book, *Lasting Impact*, by Carey Neiuwhof, senior pastor of Connexus Church. We like this book because it is practical and we have heard truths.

Sunday, we quickly went over 10 common reasons congregations do not grow. A few which stood out for us were: seeing the culture as the enemy; being more in love with the past than the future; and being afraid to risk what is for what might be. There were others which were discussed, but this gives you a feel for some of the thoughts expressed.

We then moved to discuss ways churches grow: Having a mission, vision and strategy which connects with people and effectively fulfills the church mission. Easy enough, but most churches fall short in strategy, "how" you carry out the mission and vision.

Our mission: To know Jesus Christ and make His love known to others around us.

Session asked: How do we do this? How do we bring others to Christ and how do we ourselves grow?

Session believes we do well "Gathering" to worship, but need to do better providing "Growing" in faith opportunities. Thus the reason we will now have worship followed by small group learning opportunities. Choir will be able to participate for the first time ever in this time of learning on Sunday.

The group also provided ideas for enhancing our strategy - the way in which we "Go Out" into and be a part of the community. More on that another time.

Conversation #2: How Do We Respond As People Attend Church Less Often?

October 9, 2016

12:15-1:15

With Lunch



The Heidelberg Catechism says that our faith in Christ comes from the Holy Spirit, who produces it in our hearts "by the preaching of the holy gospel" (Q&A 65). And believers must use their gifts so that "others may be gained to Christ" (Q&A 86). This year, Spiritual Growth and Session want to encourage the sharing of the gospel message and bringing friends, family and others from the community to worship together.

Each week in September we will have a new focus:

Week 1, September 4th: Member Sunday: "Renewed Commitment"

Week 2, September 11th: Friend Sunday: "Best Friends"

Invite a friend to join you for worship and explore a class together afterward.

Also, bring your backpack! Blessing of the backpacks during worship.

Week 3, September 18th: Family Sunday: "David & Abigail"

Pack a pew with family members. Let's see who can fill the most pews. Single? Family is out of town?

"Adopt" family members and introduce your "adopted" family!

Week 4, September 25th: Sundae Sunday: "Celebrate!"

Help us invite the community in as we "Celebrate!" community and the work we do together.

We hope you will do your part in making this a successful adventure and a great start to our fall kickoff.



CHECK OUT ONE OF OUR FALL CLASSES.

Small group time is THE BEST, because we grow and learn most during these times.

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.

Preschool-6th Grade

4) Deep Blue: Engaging, animated characters who tell the Biblical story from a kid's perspective. Plus more!!



Our new choir year will be beginning soon. Chancel Choir has rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:15 PM beginning September 8th and Handbell Choir rehearsals will begin on September 13th at 7:00 PM. Come join the fun and be a part of this spirited music ministry!!



HERE!!

September 11 - 18

Needed:

Evening Hosts 7 PM - 9 PM
Overnight Hosts (various nights)
Saturday Host 2 PM- 4 PM
Contact: Sandy Tucker

Set Up: Noon, September 11th
Reset: 7 AM, September 18th
Contact: Tim Judson

Family Promise TRAINING

So we are better Hosts!!

**Thursday, September 8th
6:15 PM**

Sandy Tucker will lead our discussion as we look at some of the changes we are making AND review the duties and expectations of the various jobs.

If you volunteer for Family Promise, please plan on attending this important meeting.



Sunday, September 11th, during worship

Bring a backpack, satchel, tool kit, sewing bag, work bag or representation as we ask God to bless our efforts in daily life. **BRING A FRIEND!!**



IT'S BACK!!

Beginning September 11th, coffee hour resumes. Hosts are needed. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. Instructions are provided.

Coffee and doughnut holes (or other snacks) will be set up so you may "Grab 'n Go" as you head to your class and catch up with friends.

Thanks for your help and support of this much appreciated service.

Please note that we will have Coffee Hour PRIOR to the worship service on Sunday, September 4th. Join us at 9:30 AM for coffee and conversation in honor of "Member Sunday."



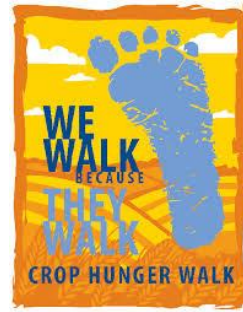
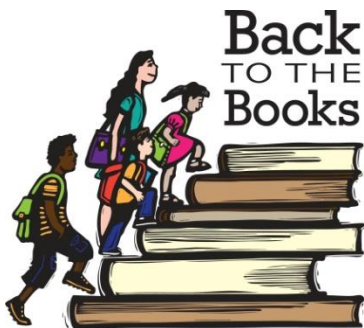
Tuesday, September 20th
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
HERE!!

Volunteers Needed for:

Greeting - See Karen Howe
Serving Morning Refreshments - Julie Socha
Lunch: Set Up & Clean Up - Natalie Lucas
Ushers/Communion Servers: Pastor Teresa



We are in need of adults to teach Kinderchurch (Pre-school - 3rd Grade) during our Sunday morning worship service. Please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry for the youngest members of our congregation (even just one Sunday a month). We will supply you with everything that you need. Contact the church office if you are willing to help.



CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

For nearly half a century, CROP Hunger Walks have ensured that more people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food sources. From combating droughts in Nicaragua to providing agricultural training in Indonesia to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks help end hunger by raising funds to support local food programs and the international anti-hunger work of Church World Service.

This year's Crop Walk will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 2nd, at West Court Street Church of God (2920 W. Court Street, Flint). 25% of all funds raised will be shared by 4 local agencies: Love Inc, Crossover Ministries, Family Promise, and North End Soup Kitchen.

Come join us as we walk to end hunger!! Contact Mike Keeler if you have any questions.

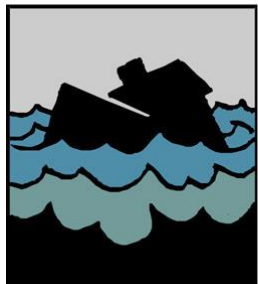


We will be holding a Blood Drive on Monday, October 3rd, from 12:00 - 5:45 PM. To schedule an appointment, log onto redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: Flushing Community or call 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767).



*"All who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves."
(1 Cor. 11:29)*

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to "discern the body" when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. One is not to go hungry while another is drunk! (1 Cor. 11:21). This is scandalous behavior opposed to the Way of Christ. Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.



Flood Relief

You Can Help!

Catastrophic flooding has damaged tens of thousands of homes in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has responded by deploying members of the National Response Team to assess the damage and to begin organizing both immediate and long-term responses in affected communities. If you would like to donate to the relief effort, please make your check payable to Flushing Presbyterian Church and indicate "Flood Relief" on the memo line.



From Jeanne McClellan...

Many, many thanks to all of you who attended Mac's memorial service on July 16th. Also, thanks for all the cards in remembrance of how much we all loved him. We missed spending 65 years together by just two months.



With Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of

Ed Spomer

Departed from us, he rests with God.





PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Setting the table of peace

Every day, we are witnesses to conflict. We read news stories of violence and supposedly irreparable divides. Angry rhetoric fills our airwaves, inboxes, and social media feeds. We see conflict tear apart communities, families, even people we know. Surrounded by this strife, it's easy to see the world through a dark lens of discord. We may even come to share the doubt expressed in Psalm 78:19: "Can God spread a table in the wilderness?"

Yet our faith tells us despite our doubts, sins, distrust, or even anger, God not only sets a table, but invites us to join it and partake in an abundance of peace.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering challenges us to look at the world not as a place where conflict is inevitable, but where Christ's peace is possible. The programs supported by the Peace & Global Witness Offering help to bring people tables of peace, justice, and reconciliation even in the wilderness of war, violence, and division. In places of abiding conflict, the Peace & Global Witness Offering supports the work of Presbyterian mission co-workers to bring together former enemies and begin healing the spiritual wounds of war. In congregations closer to home, support from the Offering enables efforts to turn back the tide of gun violence that claims too many American lives. In other communities, it's facilitating a transformative dialogue about the difficult subject of race to find new common ground. And everywhere, this Offering supports witness, because by sharing the abiding love and mercy of Christ, more people can find their way to a seat at God's table.

Your support of the Peace & Global Witness Offering acknowledges that a wilderness of conflict may surround us, but we are not abandoned there. If we open our eyes to the possibilities of peace, we see God has set a table for anyone willing to take a seat.

Please give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Use the special offering envelopes available in the pews or just indicate "Peace Offering" on the memo line of your check. The offering will be collected until October 4th (World Communion Sunday).



THE TABLE IS SET

This Month's Schedule

September 4

Pre-Worship Coffee Hour Hosts: Spiritual Growth Team

Communion Preparer: Carol Dulin

Communion Servers: Loretta Hudson, Dan & Flora Radspieler, Kathie Rhoads

Flowers:

Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert

Ushers: Bill Weiss, Laura Widman

Lay Leader: Carol Dulin

Welcome Desk:

September 11

Coffee Hour Hosts: Spiritual Growth Team

Flowers: Tim & Lisa Judson

Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker

Ushers: Brett, Gary & Shirley Albert, Dona Ballard

Lay Leader: Darla Arn

Welcome Desk: Shirley Sanborn

September 18

Coffee Hour Hosts: Spiritual Growth Team

Flowers: John & Luella Daig

Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha

Ushers: Bob & Gail Barnhart, Pat Bemis, Carol Dulin

Lay Leader: Gary Albert

Welcome Desk: Julie Socha

September 25

Coffee Hour Hosts: Spiritual Growth Team

Flowers:

Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker

Ushers: Bill & Denise Churchill, Gordon Hall, Loretta Hudson

Lay Leader: Dona Ballard

Welcome Desk: Laura Widman



September

- 1 Michael R
- 6 Sandy & Scott Tucker
- 10 Scott Tucker
- 11 Maxine Allen
- 13 Joan Russell, Emily & Jim Wiley
- 14 Blair A
- 15 Steven & Christine Cooper
- 17 Samantha Allred
- 18 Dave Blanton
- 19 Beverly Gatenby, Carole Tucker, Angie & Jay Shaw
- 24 Barb Hogan, Mary Ellen Zellers
- 25 Kaye Barnett, Sue Gauger, Shaina Walther
- 26 Gina & Jeff Rumsey
- 27 Shirley Sanborn
- 29 Katilyn R, Nancy Young



Financial Highlights

Average 2016 Collections	\$3,191
Average July Collections	\$2,455
Average 2015 Collections	\$3,347
Average needed for 2016 Budget	\$3,814





Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC)

The Flushing Christian Outreach Center is extremely grateful for your food donations last month. For September, we are collecting canned or bottled juice. May God bless you for your selfless generosity.

God bless you,
Terry Bigelow
FCOC Program Manager

If you can help by purchasing canned or bottled 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.

Lectio Readings

September 4: Jer. 18:1-11; Ps 139:1-6, 13-18; Philem. 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

September 11: Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28; Ps. 14; 1 Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 18: Jer. 8:18 - 9:1; Ps. 79:1-9; 1 Tim. 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 25: Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15; Ps. 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Tim. 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

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!

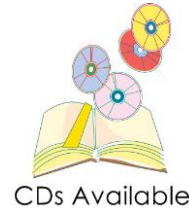


Bread 4 Life is a feeding program that provides weekend food for students that have been identified by the Flushing Schools as needing such assistance. Our church provides a portion of the funds for this project. Volunteers pack the bags at 5 PM on Thursdays, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Coutant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



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.



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





September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule 10:00 AM - Worship Service 11:15 AM - Christian Education - All Ages				1	2 9:30 AM - Book & Breakfast Club - Liberty Restaurant	3
4 Communion <i>Member Sunday</i>	5 Labor Day - Church Office Closed	6	7	8 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 9:30 AM - Prayer Shawl 2:00 PM - Community Outreach 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	9	10
11 Noisy Offering <i>Friend Sunday</i> 11:15 AM - New Fall Classes Begin 6:00 PM - Youth Group	12 1:30 PM - Member Care 6:00 PM - B & F 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth	13 9:00 AM - North End Soup Kitchen 6:30 PM - Property 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir	14 10:00 AM - Memorial	15 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	16	17
-----Family Promise-----						
18 <i>Family Sunday</i> 6:00 PM - Youth Group	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 9:30 AM - Presbytery Meeting 6:00 PM - AHSGR 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir	21	22 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 1:00 PM - Priscilla Circle 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	23	24
25 <i>Sundae Sunday</i> 6:00 PM - Youth Group	26 6:45 PM - Session	27 6:30 PM - GFWC - Flushing Women's Club 7:00 PM - Handbell Choir	28	29 8:30 AM - Men's Bible Study-Liberty Restaurant 7:15 PM - Chancel Choir	30	