



May 2024 Newsletter



Flushing Presbyterian Church

Worship: 10:00 AM Year-Round

Rev. Paul J. Pfeuffer, Pastor

5010 N. McKinley Road, Flushing, MI 48433

Phone: (810) 659-5831

www.flushingpres.org

“When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

² But the more they were called,
the more they went away from me.

They sacrificed to the Baals
and they burned incense to images.

³ It was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
taking them by the arms;

but they did not realize
it was I who healed them.

⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness,
with ties of love.

To them I was like one who lifts
a little child to the cheek,
and I bent down to feed them.

Hosea 11:1-4, New International Version

The very merry month of May is upon us, and with it comes the annual celebration of Mother’s Day. With that comes the opportunity to examine how we look at God’s relationship with us as a parental figure. Of course, there’s the common image and reference of God as Father; Jesus even referred to the Lord with the Aramaic word ‘*abba*, which is more of a familiar title of affection than a formal “father.” And, given the patriarchal nature of society in biblical times, it is only natural for writers and the priesthood to think of the Divine in male terms. After all, we tend to think that God looks a lot like us! And since most of the literate members of society -- the ones who held power as clergy and scribes -- were male, they saw in God a lot of their own features.

In spite of this, there was room in the biblical imagination for God as a feminine! The passage above illustrates that quite nicely, in fact. It comes to us from the minor prophet Hosea and serves as a metaphor for God’s relationship with the wayward child, Israel. God’s people had done wrong in the sight of the Lord and God’s disappointment is palpable. How many of you have had similar experiences as parents? When you try to do right by your kids and for some inexplicable reason they make decisions to their own detriment. I think this is something of a universal experience for parents, and yet we try to love them through such experiences to the best of our ability.

God’s ability to love far surpasses ours, and yet I imagine God gets exasperated by our choices at times. In the passage above God is the speaker, listing all the things that the mother does for a child in the Ancient Near East – teaching the child how to walk and feeding him as well. The reference in verse 4 “To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them” is one that heavily implies the act of breastfeeding! More crucially than the focus on God as feminine, however, is the underlying emphasis of this passage is the parent’s stubborn and unyielding love – a love that simply will never let us go.

--Pastor Paul



Graduation is just around the corner and we want to be sure we recognize ALL of our graduates--college or high school. Please let us know of your accomplishments, so we may celebrate and honor you.

A display board of graduating seniors, composed of photos and biographical information, is typically displayed. Please bring in or mail a senior photo (no larger than 5 X 7) and a few lines regarding post-graduation plans by May 9. We will prepare the display and honor all our graduates at our Sunday worship service on May 19.



Due to changes beyond the director's control, hosting Family Promise guests is changing from sleeping on-site to providing dinner, Monday through Friday only. There will be no overnight guests. Families will arrive at our church around 5:00 p.m. and leave around 8:00 p.m. Our week to host will be May 6 – 10. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for volunteers to provide dinner or to host for the evening. At this point, we don't know how many guests we will have, but will before our host week (maximum of 11). If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Sanborn (810-659-6192) or Carol Dulin (810-487-3007).



“Wood” You Like to Learn Woodcarving?

Members of the Michigan Woodcarving Association have formed a woodcarving club that meets here at Flushing Presbyterian Church. The club meets on Thursdays from 6 pm to 8 pm. No previous woodcarving experience is necessary to attend the club. Members will work with all levels of carvers. There is no cost to attend a meeting. For folks wishing to try woodcarving, a knife can be borrowed during the meeting and a piece of bass wood will be provided. It is advised to wear cut resistant gloves while carving, especially to those new to woodcarving. This club is not set up as a class setting, but rather a place to learn to carve one on one without any pressure, from experienced carvers in a friendly environment. Kids can attend a meeting if mature enough and strong enough to control a very sharp woodcarving knife and are **always** accompanied by a parent or guardian. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Bemis at 810-423-3093.



The Wired Word Bible study officially ended for the summer on April 28th. The Spiritual Growth Team will be considering over the summer what to offer for Bible studies in the fall. If you have any input in terms of subject matter, time, date, or place, please contact any member of that team (Mike Keeler, Kelli Peter, Sandy Tucker, Julie Socha, Chris Albert and Pastor Paul).



Friday, May 31, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Saturday, June 1, 9:00 AM – Noon

Proceeds to
Voices for Children and Motherly Intersession

Collection Dates

You may start bringing your sale items into the church beginning May 1st. Items can be delivered during the times that the church is normally open - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Monday-Thursday, or immediately following the worship service on Sunday. If you have a key and a passcode, you can deliver your items at any time that is convenient for you. If you do not have a key and are unable to get your donations to the church during regular office hours, please contact Shirley Sanborn to make alternate arrangements.

Sale Dates

- Friday, May 31, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
- Saturday, June 1, 9:00 AM - Noon

MANY volunteers are needed before the sale to sort items, and during the hours of the sale. Sign-up sheets are located on the table in front of the Bulletin Board for all those willing to help during the sale. Please sign up so that we will know if we have all the hours covered!! Help is also needed following the worship service on Sunday, May 19, to set up tables for the sale, and Monday, May 20 – Thursday, May 30, to sort sale items. Please come when you can to help out.

Contact Shirley Sanborn with any questions, to request delivery assistance or any other needs.



Dear Flushing Presbyterian Church,

From Diane Tuttle-Smith . . .

Thank you for the prayers, cards, words of encouragement and calls following my recent surgery. Also, thank you to the Member Care Team for the palm cross and the wonderful meals; they were very much appreciated. You all truly put the “family” into Church Family. I could not be more grateful for God’s blessings you have all shown me.



From Gail Barnhart . . .

I wish to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and well-wishes following my surgery and during my recovery. I appreciate you all very much.

From Carriage Town Ministries . . .

Thank you for your generous gift to Carriage Town Ministries! We cannot express how humbled we are that you chose to contribute to our efforts to minister to the homeless and hurting men, women and children in Flint. The needs in our community are constantly growing. Your generous gift will help provide shelter, hot meals and Christ-centered care for those who find themselves at our doorstep in the coming months. Please keep us in your prayers! We are humbled and honored to partner with you as we share God’s love with the hurting.

From Genesee County Habitat for Humanity . . .

Genesee County Habitat for Humanity wishes to thank you for your recent donation. Your generosity is very much appreciated, as it helps provide stable homes for Genesee County families. Homeownership, homebuyer education, financial counseling, critical home repairs and operation of the ReStore are some of Genesee County Habitat for Humanity’s impacts in the community only possible through the support of people like you.

Because of your generosity, we are able to address these areas of need and yearly build or rehab 4 – 6 affordable homes for Habitat homeowner partners in Genesee County and provide approximately 200 Genesee County homeowners with critical home repair services. Your gift also helps us invest in numerous neighborhood improvement projects throughout the City of Flint, 27 in the past fiscal year. Your gift helps provide free financial housing counseling services to approximately 125 residents, along with homebuyer education to area residents through our HUD approved program. Additionally, when customers make a purchase in the ReStore, that money goes back into the community by helping to provide our services to Genesee County residents. Your support has made us an anchor in the community and will ensure that we can continue to serve by bringing people together to build homes, community and hope. You truly make a difference.



PENTECOST OFFERING: INVESTING IN OUR GREATEST RESOURCE - OUR YOUTH

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support youth ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency: Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth, Children-at-Risk.

This year we are designating our 40% to Voices for Children Advocacy Center, voicesforcac.org. There are flyers in the narthex if you would like more information on the organization.

*Please consider using your Pentecost Offering envelope to make a donation,
or simply indicate "Pentecost" on the memo line of your check.*



Per Capita

- Per capita is a **per member** apportionment for the operating budget of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.
- 2024 per capita is \$29.50 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 \$29.50
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).



May 5

Communion Preparer: Julie Socha
Communion Servers: Gary Albert, Kip Hogan, Mike Keeler, Randy Socha
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator:
Ushers: Pat Bemis, Mike Keeler, Randy Socha
Lay Leader: Ed Davison
Streaming: Kelli Peter
Nursery: Kathy Miller

May 12

Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Kathy Miller, Carole Noye, Dennis Sanborn
Lay Leader: Lynette Daig
Streaming: Mike Keeler
Nursery: Sandy Tucker

May 19

Communion Preparers: Sandy & Scott Tucker
Communion Servers: Karen Howe, Kathy Miller, Annette Nickel
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Karen Howe, Sandy & Scott Tucker
Lay Leader: Joyce Hudson-Freeman
Streaming: Scott Smith
Nursery: Mary Beth Hawes

May 26

Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Kip Hogan, Mark Jacobson, Margaret Meehle
Lay Leader: Mike Keeler
Streaming: Randy Socha
Nursery: Lisa Judson



FLUSHING CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

The special focus items requested by the Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) for May are cereal, snacks, saltines and liquid hand 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.



Upcoming Communion Dates . . .
May 5 & 19



May

- 2 Karen & Steve Howe
- 3 Riley R
- 6 Ernie Thrapp
- 7 Bob Barnhart, Addison Peter
- 9 Gary & Shirley Albert, Carrie & Larry Younkin
- 10 Kathleen Rhoads
- 11 Jim Crawford
- 15 Tim Stein
- 16 Joan Finley, Lillian Socha, John & Luella Daig
- 18 Brett & Chris Albert
- 19 Matt Bemis
- 20 Donald Rowley
- 23 Annette Nickel
- 24 Cathy Blight & Ed Davison
- 26 Madeline R
- 28 Carrie Younkin

Lectio **Readings**

May 5: Acts 10:44-48 and Ps. 98 or Gen. 35:9-15 and Ps. 101; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 12: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 and Ps. 1 or Jer. 10:1-10a and Ps. 108; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 19: Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek. 37:1-14 and Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 26: Isa. 6:1-8 and Ps. 29; Rom. 8:12-17; John 3:1-17



Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It's now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.

Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, "Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared."

From the May 2009 Newsletter



The Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive at our church on Monday, June 3, from 10:00 - 3:00 PM. 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 2024 Collections	\$2,864
Average March Collections	\$2,492
Average 2023 Collections	\$3,008
Average needed for 2024 Budget	\$3,861

Flushing Presbyterian Church 2024 Session

Budget & Finance

Ed Davison
Bill Churchill

Community Outreach

Kathy Miller
Sylvia Keeler

Member Care

Shirley Sanborn
Sandy Snyder

Property Team

Randy Socha
Scott Tucker

Spiritual Growth

Mike Keeler
Kelli Peter

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES



The Book Club meets at 12:00 PM on the third Tuesday 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 10:00 AM on Thursdays, at Flushing Community Church on West Pierson Road.

Card Ministry



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.



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 6:30 PM on Wednesdays and the **Handbell Choir** rehearses at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays (September through May). Please contact Chris Albert for information on the chancel choir and Marilyn Schmoak for info on the Handbell 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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30 AM - Men's Fellowship -@ Liberty 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	2 10:30 AM – Member Care 12:00 PM - Bible Study 6:00 PM - Wood Carvers	3 Church Office Closed	4
5 Communion	6	7 6:30 PM – Handbell Choir	8 8:30 AM - Men's Fellowship @ Liberty 9:30 AM - Community Outreach 6:00 PM – Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Chancel Choir	9 12:00 PM - Bible Study 6:00 PM - Wood Carvers	10 Church Office Closed	11
----- Family Promise, 5:00 – 8:00 PM -----						
12 Noisy Offering	13 6:30 PM - Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Spiritual Growth	14 9:00 AM - North End Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM - GFWC Banquet 6:30 PM - Property	15 8:30 AM - Men's Fellowship @ Liberty 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts 6:30 PM - Chancel Choir	16 12:00 PM - Bible Study 6:00 PM - Wood Carvers	17 Church Office Closed	18
----- Rummage Sale Collection & Set-Up -----						
19 Graduation Sunday	20 6:00 PM - B & F	21 12:00 PM - Book Club - Liberty Restaurant	22 8:30 AM - Men's Fellowship @ Liberty 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	23 12:00 PM - Bible Study 6:00 PM - Wood Carvers	24 Church Office Closed	25
----- Rummage Sale Collection & Set-Up -----						
26	27 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	28 6:45 PM - Session	29 8:30 AM - Men's Fellowship @ Liberty 6:00 PM - Girl Scouts	30 12:00 PM - Bible Study	31 Church Office Closed 9:00 AM – Rummage Sale	1 9:00 AM – Rummage Sale
----- Rummage Sale Collection & Set-Up -----					----- Rummage Sale -----	