



Pickford Presbyterian Pages

From the Pastor...

Merry Christmas! As we are in the midst of the Christmas season until Epiphany on January 6th, I hope you are able to continue to celebrate the gift of Christ in your life. This gift, given to us by God, is offered freely to all; may we rejoice in that fact!

During the Christmas season, we also begin the New Year. Many of us will look back over the past year, things we did or didn't do, and make resolutions for how we might live in 2017. Often those resolutions revolve around things we want to fix—need to go to the gym so we lose weight and tone our bodies; need to eat better for the same reasons; need to be more joyful because everyone is telling us to be happy and not so sad; and so on. The issue with these resolutions is that they focus on our flaws, on what we or what society perceives to be wrong with us.

What if instead we focused on our gifts? Ellen Goodman puts it this way, “We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential” (<https://www.scrapbook.com/quotes/doc/19069.html>). God created us as we are and loves us exactly as we are. God asks us to use our gifts to serve God and share God's love and grace with the world. That can be a difficult thing to do if we're always focusing on our flaws or what we've done wrong or how we've messed up. Instead, we need to look at our potential, our gifts. How can they be used in service to God? Then we can go through the New Year being amazed at all God can do through us, instead of worrying about our flaws.

This is true of all people. When we see others, we are called to see their potential and help them to live out their gifts. Instead, so often we see previous failures or mistakes or flaws and we judge the people we meet for what they've done wrong in the past. The blank slate of a New Year calls us to refocus our gaze and look at potential—both ours and others. Paul reminds us, “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us” (Romans 12:4-6a, NIV). May we all accept God's gifts!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jessica

January 2017
Volume 27, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Things to Note	2
Annual Meeting	2
Financials	3
Sunday Morning Rotations	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4

OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Thursday
starting @ 9 a.m.

THINGS TO NOTE...

WELCOME JESSICA BJUNES!

Please welcome Jessica Bjunes to the staff of Pickford Presbyterian Church! Jessica has accepted the position of Secretary/Treasurer and will start on Tuesday, January 3rd. Jessica is a native of Pickford and graduated from Pickford Schools before attending Lake Superior State University for Office Administration. She began her career working for War Memorial Hospital before transitioning to some small business opportunities so that she would be able to stay at home and raise her children. Jessica and her husband, Charlie, have two children, Dylan and Abbey. Jessica is very excited to be able to get back into an office setting and to pursue her original career path. She also greatly enjoys photography and spending as much time as possible outdoors. Please make sure to extend a warm welcome to Jessica as she begins her time here.



OFFICE HOURS AND CHANGES

In celebration of the Christmas holiday, the office will be closed Monday, January 2nd and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd. Please **note**, beginning on Tuesday, January 3rd the office hours are going to change slightly. Office hours will be: **Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

DOWNING OF THE BROWNS

What goes up, must come down and so on Sunday, January 8th we will be downing the browns. You are invited to stay after worship that morning to help take down and put away until next year all of our Advent and Christmas decorations. We hope to see you as we down the browns!

CHOIR AND BIBLE STUDY

Worship and Bible Study and Choir practice resume on Wednesday, January 4th at 6:15 P.M. and 7:00 P.M., respectively.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2017 offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Please pick up your envelopes to help us reduce mailing costs. If you need a box and there isn't one with your name on it, please see Sharon Cottle.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKS AVAILABLE

The winter edition of *These Days* is now available in the literature rack.



The **Annual Meeting** of the Pickford Presbyterian Church will be held on **Sunday, January 22, 2017** following worship with a dinner after the meeting.

Committees, treasurers, etc. should have their information to Jessica no later than **Thursday, January 5th**. Annual reports will be available for review on Sunday, January 17, 2016.

Financial Updates:

As of November 30, 2016

	Operating Fund	Investments	PI – Regular	PI – Roof	Sunday School	Youth	Memorial
Cash on hand	52,757.61	12,000.00	5,600.73	17,834.19	178.49	1,158.77	6,994.40
Income	9,233.71	0.00	163.00	40.00	72.00	0.00	0.00
Expenses	(8,235.40)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(25.00)	0.00	0.00
Ending Bal	53,755.92	12,000.00	5,763.73	17,874.19	225.49	1,158.77	6,994.40

SUNDAY MORNING ROTATIONS

Date	Liturgists	Greeters	Ushers	Nursery
1/1/2017	Dick Morrison	Chuck & Mary Jane Bennin	Paul Harrison & Don Stirling	Denice Portice
1/8/2017	Bob Slater	Jim & Karen Rye	Jim Quinnell & Don Stevenson	Mandy Stec
1/15/2017	Cindy Smith	Jodi Soeltner & Denice Portice	Bill & Curt Beacom	Denice Portice
1/22/2017	R.B. Smith	Emory & Judy Schwiderson	Jim Rye	Kristin Taylor
1/29/2017	Pat Hunter	Jerry & Christy Thurmes	Emory Schwiderson & Family	Carol Wallis

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The January 5, 2017 meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. with main course provided. Main course will be provided. The business meeting will begin at approximately 1:30 as usual.

THANK YOU SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you to Shaunna MacDonald, Jill Halsey, and all those who participated in a wonderful Christmas program. It was neat to hear the stories of the animals.

Also, thanks to all the teens and parents who helped out with the cookie decorating party and to the people who donated cookies and decorations.

THANK YOU

Thank you doesn't begin to cover the appreciation I have for all who helped me celebrate my retirement. I was overwhelmed with the love shown. I would like to thank the ladies who prepared the food (Pat and Elaine), Pastor Jessica and Alice Halsey for their kind words, Dick and Sarah for the special song, and all who gave me gifts and money (judging by the nature of the gifts, you all know me pretty well!). I am excited to start this new chapter of my life and love that I'll still see my church family each week! Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Cindy Smith

Thank you to everyone who made my Advent and Christmas such a special time with cards, well-wishes, and gifts. It is such a joy to serve as your pastor and make my home here in Pickford. All of your gestures of hospitality, grace, and appreciation make it even easier and more welcoming. Thank you again.

Pastor Jessica

Thank you to each of "you" cookie makers. We enjoyed your cookies very much. They were very good. Merry Christmas to each of you.

Cal & Roberta Hall

Thank you for the Christmas cookies. They were delicious.

Gloria Smith

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The beautiful poinsettias decorating our church during the Advent Season have been given in memory (or honor) of the following:

Rachael Hassen
by Emory and Judy Schwiderson and family

Leo Nettleton and Avalynn Keeway
by Irene Nettleton & Family

Jack Nettleton
by Illa Mae Nettleton and family

**George and Janet Slater; David Slater;
and Robbie Slater; Isaac and Signia Mattson**
by Bob and Elaine Slater and family

**Harry Smith, Bert and Ellen Smith
Elmer and Gladys Rutledge**
By Gloria Smith and family

**Fritz and Judy Lehmann;
Chris Lehmann; Jane Lehmann**
by Sarah Morrison

JANUARY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARIES



1/2 Paige Hassen
Rena Leese
1/4 Victoria Dickinson
1/5 Adreana Duema
Roger Morrison
1/6 Matt Storey
Pam Zamora
1/8 McKinley Portice
1/10 Evan Godfrey
Bruce Rye
1/12 Dean Hillock
1/13 Diane Morrison
Stan Schmitgal
1/16 Ian Nettleton
1/19 Kennedy Boal

1/20 Nikki Cottle
Jana Franke
Illa Mae Nettleton
Lori Reich-Secor
Aidric Slater
Daniel Waybrant
1/21 Emma Giddings
Megan Hunter
1/22 Christopher Nettleton
Kristin Taylor

1/23 Braydee Raden
1/24 Alexa Blumenthal
Megan Hill
1/25 Vincent Klamerous
Edyn Nettleton
1/26 John Morrison
Sharon Portice
1/27 Ethan Brown
Roberta Hall
Sierra Nettleton
1/28 Mary Sue Stirling
Alan Wise
1/29 Jamie Nettleton
1/30 Lyle Ames
1/31 Sharon Cottle
Donna Rye
Bailee Stec



1/1 Ron & Pat Knox
1/22 Bill & Lynn Hauptmann
1/24 Curt & Karen Beacom
1/28 Bob & Dianne Nettleton

Pickford Presbyterian Church
PO Box 266
Pickford, MI 49774

906-647-2595
ppc@centurytel.net
www.pickfordpresbyterian.org

Church Services: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School:
Immediately after Children's Sermon

Adult Sunday School: Sundays at 11:00 a.m.



For last year's words belong to last
year's language, and next year's
words await another voice. And to
make an end is to make a beginning.

- T. S. Eliot, "Little Gidding"