

# Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 88, Issue 10

October 2020

**“Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, gravity and sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us.” --Titus 2:6-7-8**

Titus was the closest person that the Apostle Paul ever had to a co-worker. Titus did the detail work, managed the daily duties of the congregations Paul founded in Crete, and dealt lovingly with the varied needs of the congregation, which were a bit challenging at times (they didn't call them "Cretans" for nothing!)

It was Titus who Paul tasked to remind the Cretans of the rules and procedures of the congregation, to "speak evil of no one, to avoid quarelling, to be gentle and to show every courtesy to everyone." Without Titus's help and leadership, Paul's relationship with the Cretans would have fallen to ruin, and the congregations themselves may not have survived. Paul valued and appreciated Titus, whom he called "his loyal child in the faith we share."

I am no Apostle Paul, and Titus can hardly compare with the faithful service of Sue Winter to our congregation over the past 6+ years. Sue knew you before I did, helped me learn the ropes of our congregation, has counseled me on a daily basis, and worked diligently to do whatever I need or ask, no matter how confusing. Throughout it all, Sue has shown me abounding grace. As a pastor, I am humbled regularly by Sue's gifts of compassion. I have seen her take money from her own purse to help someone in need, offer up prayers for someone she doesn't know, and give of her time and talents above and beyond her job duties again and again. Sue has served us with her very best, and I am going to miss her terribly.

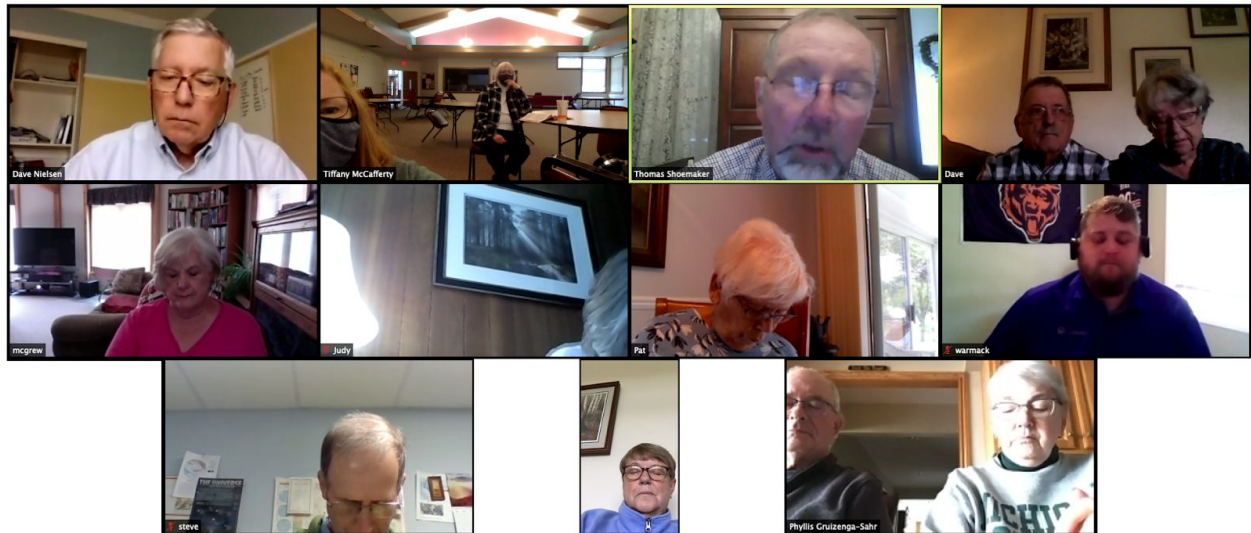
Please join me in making the month of October 2020 a "Celebration of Sue" as we count down the days to her retirement on Friday, October 30. The Deacons and Presbyterian Women will host a outdoor reception and retirement party for Sue from 4 - 6 p.m. on October 30, more details to come.

Sue continues to work most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 - 3:30, so be sure to give her a call in the church office at (269) 657-3111 and appreciate her smile and kindness for as long as we have her.



In Christ, *Pastor Tiffany*

## Bible Study Meets Both In-Person and Zoom



With the start of the church school year in place, Dave Nielsen and I would like to invite any in our congregation who are interested to participate in our Bible Study class. Our class is meeting for an hour every Sunday from 11:30 until 12:30 via Zoom.

We are just beginning a look at the Book of John. John the Apostle is widely credited with the authorship of several books of the New Testament and his writings in the Gospel of John help us understand the nature and divinity of Jesus.

Last week we talked about John's well known opening verse, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God".

Since we are conducting our class via Zoom you can meet with us in the comfort of your home.

However, if you do not have the necessary technology we would welcome any who might like to join us from Fellowship Hall. Pastor Tiffany has offered to make that space available and have the necessary connections ready for use. If you have missed your church family and wish to join the many familiar faces already attending then make your wishes know to either Sue our Office Manager or send an email to me at [tommyshoe@yahoo.com](mailto:tommyshoe@yahoo.com) and I will add you to our list.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship, Tom Shoemaker

---

## Enjoying Our September Parking Lot Cruise-In



# Dedicated to helping children, youth and families affected by HIV/AIDS in Honduras

Montaña de Luz is a faith based organization dedicated to helping children, youth and families affected by HIV/AIDS in Honduras. The facility was founded in 2000 and began as a hospice for children with the disease whose parents had died or had become too ill to care for them. They range in age from pre-school to young adulthood. There are 16 children now living at Montaña de Luz.



## **Erick is in the 6th grade now.**

Our church has been a supporter for two children, Erick and Loida. This month we focus on Erick. Erick has been at Montaña de Luz since he was 4 years old. He is in the

6th grade now and is an excellent student. He likes to study math and science. Next year, Erick says

he wants to “study engineering.” He has many extended family members and loves to spend time with them. However, because of COVID-19 that has not been possible. Erick likes to work in the vegetable garden, play soccer and watch superhero movies.

Thanks to your contributions made to the “quarter jars” in February, we are able to help Erick. Talk to Eleda Zygadlo about doing this. You can visit [montanadeluz.org](http://montanadeluz.org) for more information on other opportunities to support this mission to create a home and family for these children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Mission Commission meets on the first Thursday of the month. Please join us on Zoom or in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. Next meeting is November 5.

Eleda Zygadlo,  
Mission Commission Chairperson

---

## **“Tell Me How it Ends” has no ending**

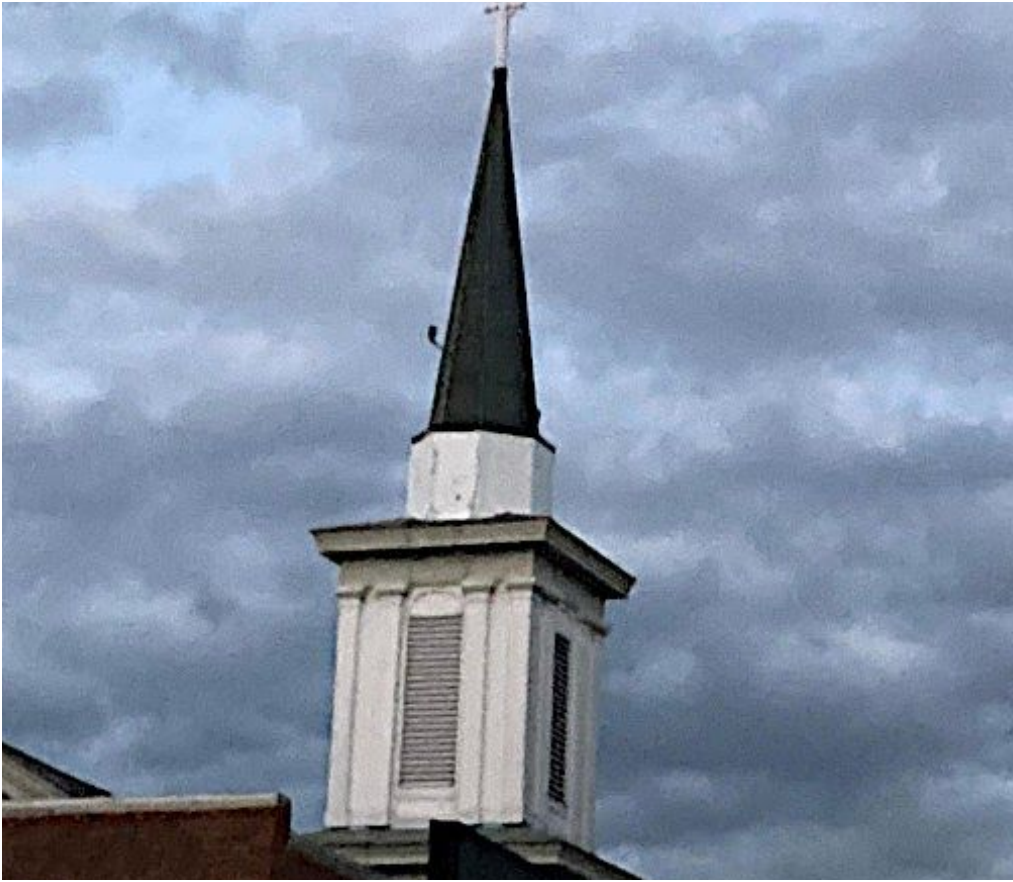
“Tell Me How It Ends: an Essay in Forty Questions” by Valeria Luiselli is a book about the ongoing plight of Latin American children immigrating from places such as Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico and Honduras. Luiselli tells about the children’s stories she hears as a translator for the New York federal immigration court system. She asks them forty questions about why they came to the U.S. Their answers are nothing less than heartbreaking.

These children are escaping poverty and violence. Many children are raped, robbed or even killed along the way. One will learn what La Bestia means, the gangs MS13 and Calle 18, and about the Coyotes whose job is to bring the children to the U.S. and then leave them to be on their own at the border. Once the children reach the border to be picked up by the Border Patrol their second journey to freedom and peace is just beginning.

The immigration crisis was declared in 2014. Until then minors seeking immigration status were sent to find a lawyer. Now the children have only 21 days to do this. The book shows the inadequacies of our immigration system and the barbaric indifference to the children’s plight. Many of these children are deported back to their country or simply get lost within the U.S. “Tell Me How it Ends” has no ending. The tragedy of undocumented children continues today and will continue until people acknowledge that it exists and are willing to make a change.

--Eleda Zygadlo, Mission Commission Chair





# Our Church Exists For Times Like This

The stewardship letter was mailed last week and most of you should have received it by now. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider filling out and returning the enclosed pledge card on or before dedication Sunday, October 25, 2020.

We reached out to Presbytery for some guidance on stewardship during this pandemic and they listed 10 “Do’s” and one “Do Not.” Number one is pray, YES, IT IS WHAT WE DO. The one Don’t is, Do Not cut your budget. Our church exists for times like this. We do not know what or when things will return to normal so we go back to PRAY. We might forgo some expenses such as the printing of Sunday morning bulletins, or building use. We still have to maintain our building and staff and be ready when things get better. Pastor Tiffany, staff, Elders, and Deacons have continued to meet by Zoom and small, socially-distanced groups to do things that need to get done. This is the time of year we do stewardship so we are reaching out to all of you asking for Prayers and commitment to help us do that.

Members of the committee are busy this week putting together videos to share with you how we are meeting the goal of keeping you informed. We hope that you will tune in and enjoy what we have to share about the church leaders, volunteers and employees. We want to make sure those of you who are fearful because you may have lost income, jobs, or are ill, that you loved and supported. The church is here for you, praying for you and letting you know what is needed to sustain us now and in the future.

“The Stewardship Committee and your Session”

## Key Fobs Improve Security

The Building and Grounds Committee has completed changing the locks on all exterior doors of the church building.



This step was taken to ensure the security of the building and safety of our staff, especially now that building use is more

sporadic, and because many old keys have never been returned. Instead of issuing new keys, building users will be issued key “fobs” that will allow them to access the church through the new west entrance.

As part of the addition and exterior renovations supervised by our Long-Range Planning Committee, a key fob reader has been installed near the new entry way, along with video monitors and entry buzzers in the pastor’s office and the church office. Visitors can be seen on the monitor and talked to before they are buzzed in. Key fob holders simply pass

their fob in front of the fob reader, and the door unlocks.

If you are a regular user of our building, such as an Elder or Deacon who regularly holds meetings in the church, you may request a key fob through the church office. While replacing the locks due to a lost key would cost the church hundreds of dollars, replacing a key fob is easier and less expensive as the fob itself can simply be deactivated. Thanks again to our Building and Grounds and Long Range Planning Committees and technology installer Jerry Miller for their work on this project.

---

**Spiritual Formation:** In September, three families -- spanning three generations -- spent a peaceful afternoon canoeing and kayaking down the St. Joseph River near Mendon.





## ***Spiritual Formation***

# **How Students Are Overcoming The COVID Challenge**

Spiritual Formation takes on many forms this fall. High School and local college students shared the first of many Third Sunday Lunches, meeting at Bilbo's close to Western Michigan's campus. Two of our High School students are also enrolled in KVCC through the Middle College program, and all had much to talk about with our Western Michigan students. Our students seem to be handling the switch to hybrid learning well (that's some on-line and some in person classes), and although some of the Western students have had to quarantine or get tested for COVID, thankfully none have had the virus and all are committed to staying healthy.

Middle Schoolers meet by Zoom every Wednesday at 3 p.m. for a "Mid-Week Chat" with Pastor Tiffany. We have students from Mattawan and Paw Paw who compare notes on online school versus in-person with masks on. Our class topics have included passages from the Old and New Testament, and the revelation that "the Bible is like a guidebook for our lives!"

Church School visits to our K-5 families in September featured lessons from Genesis and Exodus about Joseph and his brothers, and the story of Passover and how it connects to the meal we celebrate to remember Jesus.

Spiritual Formation also includes building relationships among families and across generations. In September, three families spanning three generations spent a peaceful afternoon canoeing and kayaking down the St. Joseph River near Mendon. In October, we hope to gather for pumpkin carving and more fall fun.

## **OCTOBER \*YOUTH CONNECT\* EVENTS**

10/6 and every Wednesday at 3 p.m. Mid-Week Middle School Check-in with Pastor Tiffany.

10/10 - Gator Shuffle 5K Run/Walk at Camp Greenwood.

10/11 Church Families trip to Schultz Farms in Mattawan. Meet Pastor Tiffany at the picnic tables at 4 p.m. for cider and donuts.

10/15 - All-Church Parking-Lot Cruise-In and Tailgate.

10/18 - High School and Local College Lunch meet up.



11/7 - Urban Plunge ReMIX 2020 is COVID-safe this year. We'll gather at the church at 9 a.m. for some local service projects, then have a socially-distanced dinner and connect over Zoom with other Presbytery youth groups for worship. Share the Urban Plunge Youtube video at [youtu.be/oEoWDRYCotY](https://youtu.be/oEoWDRYCotY)

For links and more info on any of these youth/family-friendly events, email Pastor Tiffany at [tkomccaff@gmail.com](mailto:tkomccaff@gmail.com) or check out the new Youth Connect page at [pawpawpres.org](https://pawpawpres.org).

## October Birthdays



10/03 Mary Bolton  
10/05 Jennifer Combs  
10/05 Nicole Colgren  
10/06 Bobby Yarbrough  
10/07 Kristen Garceau  
10/07 Todd Pena  
10/08 Kathy Vought  
10/12 Pat Peters  
10/12 Brandon Mroczek  
10/12 Lauren Mroczek  
10/12 Matthew Mroczek  
10/15 Calvin Turanzas  
10/17 Adele Walters  
10/20 Andrew Bradish  
10/21 Mary Ellen Smith  
10/21 Ric Baker  
10/22 Diane Triquet  
10/22 Michael Walters  
10/31 Patty Kendall



10/04 Gene & Phyllis Sahr  
10/04 Royal & Judith Haefner  
10/14 Robert & Kathy Vought  
10/16 Todd & Joan Pohl  
10/24 Steve & Karen Racette  
10/24 Chuck & Cheri Duncan  
10/27 Daniel & Caitlin Stanowick

Editor's Note: The birthdays and anniversaries are computer-generated. If we are missing your special day or our information is incorrect, please notify Sue in the church office at 657-3111 or email: [firstpres1@btc-bci.com](mailto:firstpres1@btc-bci.com).

---

## Presbyterian News

Editors: Sue Winter, Chuck Williams. Please send articles, information and photos for the November Newsletter by October 23 to: [aroundvanburen@gmail.com](mailto:aroundvanburen@gmail.com).

## A Calling of Compassion

The Nominating Committee is still seeking one person to serve a three-year term as a deacon. If you are a church member and the call has been placed on your heart to act in service in this position, please contact Eleda Zygadlo (269-674-4474) or Pastor Tiffany (614-596-1995). If you are in need of more information as to the duties of a deacon, please feel free to ask any who are currently serving.

Eleda Zygadlo,  
Nominating Committee

First Presbyterian Church  
120 Pine Street  
Paw Paw, MI 49079

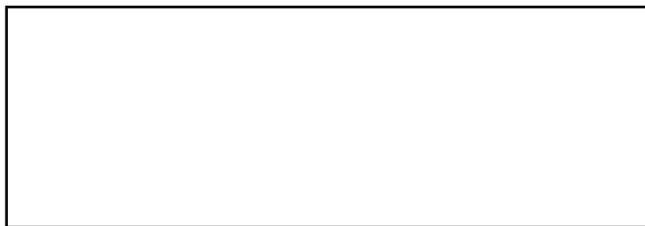
**Return Service Requested**

# Presbyterian News

**First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan**

120 Pine St – 269-657-3111 – [firstpres1@btc-bci.com](mailto:firstpres1@btc-bci.com) – <http://www.pawpawpres.org>

*Presbyterian News*  
Volume 88, Issue 10



## October Happenings

- OCTOBER 4 - World Communion Sunday Worship 10 a.m. in the Church Sanctuary and on Facebook.
- OCTOBER 14 - COVENANT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES at 12:30 in Fellowship Hall and via Zoom.  
Contact Pastor Tiffany for the link and materials.
- OCTOBER 15 - Deacons' Parking-Lot Cruise In (weather permitting). Costumes encouraged - decorate your tailgate!
- OCTOBER 25 - Worship and Congregational Meeting 10 a.m. in the Church Sanctuary and on Facebook and Zoom. Members encouraged to attend by Zoom or in person to vote - we need a quorum! Agenda items to include election of Elders and Deacons, Pastor's Terms of Call, and recognition of Retiring Office Manager, Sue Winter.

**WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY at 10:00 a.m.** Join us for worship in person or via livestream. The link to the live stream is on our website home page, [www.pawpawpres.org](http://www.pawpawpres.org). Worship videos will be posted later on Facebook and on the VIDEOS page of our website, and will also be sent out by email. If you would like to attend worship in our sanctuary, please RSVP by calling the church office or reserving a spot through the SignUp Genius link on our website. Need something else to stay connected? Call Pastor Tiffany to discuss: (269) 657-3111 (church office) or (614) 596-1995 (Pastor's cell phone).

---

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PAW PAW**

120 Pine Street—Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079

**[www.pawpawpres.org](http://www.pawpawpres.org)**

(269) 657-3111—church office (614) 596-1995—Pastor's cell phone  
[firstpres1@btc-bci.com](mailto:firstpres1@btc-bci.com)— office (Sue's) e-mail [tkomccaff@gmail.com](mailto:tkomccaff@gmail.com)—Tiffany's e-mail

---