

# Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 89, Issue 1

January-February 2021

## ***Come, Live in the Light!***

The Season of Epiphany is upon us once again. After the fog and darkness of the previous year of navigating never-before levels of uncertainty in the church, our lives and our world, the invitation to walk in the light takes on new meaning. It is a time to sweep away the ashes of the chaff of the past, and see what remains. January 2021 is a time to clarify our mission — what does it mean for us to be Christians today? What is the call of the church in this time and place?

As we'll hear in our scripture readings from the Gospel of Luke this month, Jesus' mission was clear:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

*(Luke 4:18-19 quoting Isaiah 6:1-1)*

Jesus' mission arises straight from his Baptism; it is both a call to action and a claim to an identity that will consume his life.

For me, this season means taking stock of my own baptismal vows and my ordination to the ministry. With the support of our church Session and Personnel Committee, I have begun a new continuing education experience: working with a coach from Clergy Coaching Network. This nationally-recognized organization provides guidance to pastors seeking to be more self-aware in their leadership, and to re-discover that personal and prophetic mission to which God has called us. The lessons and skills I am learning will translate to the mission of our church and call of our church leaders as well.

What action is God calling us to do, and who are we called to be, as Christians, as Americans and as the First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw? Are we still the ones with Good News to be shared, or is it our turn to listen more and preach less? In what ways can we proclaim release to the captives, with not only words, but also with votes, dollars and empowerment? Are we the blind leading the blind, or humbled like Paul to let the scales fall from our eyes? May 2021 be a year to proclaim the Lord's favor to all!

Peace and Happy New Year,

*Pastor Tiffany*



Braelynn Mattson receives the sacrament of Baptism by water and spirit, and her parents' hands own hands, as Pastor Tiffany presides at a Covid-safe distance.



Olivia, Eleda Zygadlo, and Jacob

As 2021 was a very different year for all of us, it was also for Magnify the Light. This project is usually organized by our youth but with the Church closed they weren't able to meet. Instead of filling the narthex with tags of needed items, a request was put out to our congregation to adopt one or two of the 10 families assigned to us by the DHHS.



Sam Vought makes his Magnify the Light delivery

You were AMAZING!! You stepped up, and all ten families had sponsors in the first week! Thanks to: Eleda Zygadlo, her daughter Carrie and grandkids Olivia and Jacob, Nancy Turk, Pat Peters, Jan Wilder, the Voughts, the McCloskeys, the Wellings, Sue Martin, Rhonda Riegle, and a new family that wants to be a part of our family, the VanderMolens. The Domani Family also received gifts, and the Connors and Tom and Mary Ellen Smith shopped for two more families whose requests came in later.

# Amazing: *Magnify the Light* Breaks Through



Kathy, Steve and Nathaniel McCloskey fill their car with gifts to be delivered to a sponsored family.

Also very generous cash donations were given by the Hess's, Mary Adams, Eilene Summe, the Haefners, the Pohls, the Triquets, Todd Kocian, Nancy Beck, and Susan Zygadlo, which were used to purchase gift cards to use for food. Several hand-knitted scarves and hats were donated by Randy Thorburn's brother and sister-in-law, Mike and Diana Bryne. Big thanks to Nancy Turk for organizing everything.

In other Formation news, Pastor Tiffany continues to offer weekly Zoom classes for the middle school kids every Wednesday, and offers Zoom classes every other Wednesday with Covenant Bible study and White Oaks Bible study. Tom Shoemaker and Dave Nielsen continue to study the Gospel of John every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Anyone is welcome to join these classes - contact the office for the Zoom links.

Pat Connor

# ***Thank you for worshiping with us this week***



Thank you for your continuing interest in worshiping with us each week. Whether you tune in to our [live stream at 10 on Sunday morning](#) or watch the [recorded version](#) during the week your abiding interest in continuing to be the body of Christ here at First Presbyterian is deeply appreciated.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Pastor Tiffany will be offering a worship service at noon that will be available [on-line](#) only. You are invited to have some ashes on hand if you wish, or to explore other ways to mark yourself ready for the season of Lent.

If you are looking for a Lent devotional opportunity the Worship Commission is offering a series, by email, that comes from Presbyterian Outlook. If you wish to have your name added to the list of subscribers please contact the church office at 269-657-3111 or email [firstpres120@gmail.com](mailto:firstpres120@gmail.com) and ask to add your name and email address to our list.



# Christmas Pageant, Your Turn: What Do You Think?

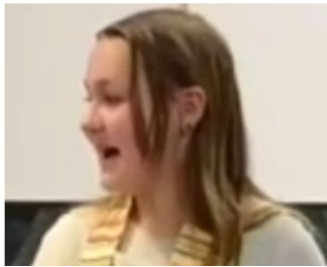
It starts with a surprise visit to a young woman named Mary. With that simple introduction, Paw Paw Presbyterian debuted its first virtual Christmas Pageant as part of its streaming Christmas Eve service.

Watch it again at [pawpawpres.org](http://pawpawpres.org) under the [Worship Videos & More](#) tab.

But was it as much fun to produce as it was to watch? Let's talk with two pageant youth to get the real story.



Sam Vought



Braelynn Mattson

Playing Mary was Braelynn Mattson, 7th grade, of Texas Corners, and playing Joseph was Sam Vought, 6th grade, of Antwerp Township. Sam thought it turned out good and Braelynn says it was fun to do.

An extra benefit was in-depth learning about the Biblical Mary and Joseph story, Braelynn said.

It took just under four weeks beginning with a get-acquainted meeting after which players received their scripts and then soon the filming began. Although a few computer problems popped up and some scenes had to be filmed again, overall

it progressed smoothly. Many scenes were filmed once holding scripts and once without scripts.

After the project got underway Braelynn wanted more appropriate costumes and this set off some searching which finally led them to get stuff from the church storeroom. But everything was done contact-less wherever possible.

Sam Vought also played Augustus Caesar, and for that part Sam said he just took a few deep breaths and dived into it. Since the pedestal Casesar stood at actually held Sam's script, the scene was easier for him.

"It was fairly simple to do over Zoom," Sam said. What would Sam do different next time? "No Covid."

[IllustratedMinistry.com](http://IllustratedMinistry.com) provided the virtual backgrounds, script, and instructions. Pastor Tiffany McCafferty produced the project for Paw Paw Presbyterian Church.

There will be more church pageant productions taken from the Bible and the life of Jesus featured in our worship services. Our next "scripture enactment" will be for Transfiguration Sunday, to be presented on February 14. Do you know anyone who would participate? Actors of all ages are invited to join our "Word Alive" theater troupe, which as of now meets by Zoom. Contact Pastor Tiffany at (614) 596-1995 or [tkomccaff@gmail.com](mailto:tkomccaff@gmail.com) to join. Finally, and most importantly, was the Christmas Pageant popular at your house? Tell us now — email your thoughts to the church newsletter editor at [aroundvanburen@gmail.com](mailto:aroundvanburen@gmail.com).


# *It is our duty* as Christians to help those in need

The Presbyterian Hunger Program is celebrating the faithful work of Presbyterians responding to the biblical call to alleviate hunger and end its causes. We here at our church are working to achieve this goal within our own community as well as the world.

Through our Cents-Ability offering taken on the third Sunday of each month we contribute to United Christian Services and the Food Pantry. This summer once again United Christian Services had a "Learning Garden" where people could learn how to raise some of their own food. The Food Pantry provides free food to those in need within our community. Due to Covid-19 the community churches were unable to have the Crop Walk in the spring. Hopefully we might be able to sponsor it this year. The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering which begins in February also provides food for the hungry.

It is our duty as Christians to help those in need not only in our own community, but around the world.

Every February we start our Montana de Luz special offering "Quarters in a Jar." This year due to Covid-19 we are going to postpone the drive until we are able to meet in church. However, at any time you can send a check into the office and specify on the check "Montana de Luz." Our goal again for this year is \$750.00 to support Erick and Loida in Honduras.



**MISSION COMMISSION** meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Once again due to Covid-19 we are meeting by Zoom. If you would like to participate please call the church office, 269-657-3111, to have your email put on the meeting list.

Eleda Zygadlo  
Mission Commission Chairperson

## Annual Meeting Postponed

At its December meeting, Session decided to set aside the church by-laws and postpone the February Congregational meeting until later in the year when we can hopefully meet in person.

Typically, items of business at the February meeting are limited to the presentation of the Annual Report, which the congregation then votes to receive.

A 2020 Annual Report is still being prepared and will be distributed to the congregation in February. Questions about it can be directed to our Session by contacting the Office Manager at (269) 637-3111 or firstpres120@gmail.com.

---

## Deacons' Snowman Contest



Let it snow! When it does, tell a Bible Story with snowmen and send a picture to Deacon Moderator Pat Peters at pipeters.1040@gmail.com.

***Fabulous prizes  
will be awarded  
in multiple categories!***

## 2 Opportunities 4 U

### #1) Liturgist Opportunity

Marge McKee has been faithfully recruiting individuals each week to serve as liturgists. She would like to invite any who are willing to get in touch with her and make known your joy at being able to help lead in worship as a liturgist. You can leave your name either with Marge or by calling or emailing the church with news that you are willing to be called upon to offer your voice.

Liturgists do not always have to be in worship live at 10 am on Sunday morning but can send in a pre-recorded video to insert in our service at the appropriate time.

### #2) Commission Member Opportunity

The Worship and Music Commission works with the pastor and church musicians in planning meaningful worship each week. Meetings take place once a month on the second Thursday.

Are you interested in serving on the Worship and Music Commission as a member-at-large from the congregation? If so contact Pastor Tiffany at church or Tom Shoemaker at tommyshoe@yao.com.

---

### You will find this enlightening and so 1950's

I came upon a very interesting letter written by the custodian at First Presbyterian Paw Paw to a Session member who wondered what his job was. It is from February of 1958 and gives a rather detailed, page-and-a-half, hand-written account of custodial duties at the church. I think it might be fun reading. Look for it in the March issue.

Tom Shoemaker

# Happy Birthday

Jan. 5 - Thomas Baney

Jan. 8 - Rick Diemer

Jan. 10 - Dee Outman

Jan. 12 - Mary Diemer

Jan. 12 - Deklyn Rhodes

Jan. 13 - Kaydee Weaver

Jan. 17 - Connor Welling

Jan. 21 - Gerald Dundon

Jan. 23 - Judith Combs

Feb. 2 - Susan Zygadlo

Feb. 4 - Jan Ogden

Feb 7 - William Welling

Feb. 11 - Karen Wellman

Feb. 13 - Nancy Boven

Feb. 15 - Judith Haefner

Feb. 15 - Chase Simonds

Feb. 25 - Nicole Mroczek

Feb. 26 - Monica Marlowe

Feb. 26 - Anneliese Bradish

Feb. 27 - Kylie Combs

Feb. 28 - Patrick McCafferty

Feb. 28 - Logan McCafferty

## Epiphany Limerick Contest Winner



*There was a pastor  
named Tiffany  
who had an epiphany,  
when she brought  
me the bread,  
with her hair shiny red,  
when I cut into the pieces,  
I found baby JESUS!*

(Submitted by Pat Conner)

## Happy Anniversary!

1/22 Wayne & Mary Martin -  
55 years

1/24 Thomas & Pamela Baney -  
51 years

2/28 Bill & Sandra Henson -  
56 years

Giving Envelopes have been delivered.  
Got yours? If not please contact the  
Office Manager at 269-657-3111.

First Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 435  
120 Pine Street  
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Return Service Requested

## Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

120 Pine Street – 269-657-3111 – firstpres120@gmail.com – [www.pawpawpres.org](http://www.pawpawpres.org)

Presbyterian News  
Volume 89, Issue 1



### What's Happening in January and February

Find more activities at [www.pawpawpres.org/calendar](http://www.pawpawpres.org/calendar)

Weekly Worship - Sundays at 10 a.m. livestream on [Facebook](#) and afterwards at pawpawpres.org. Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders will be included in worship for January 24, **and we'll worship together over Zoom on January 31**. Watch for the link in your email.

**Communion Sunday - February 7 @ 10 a.m.** Have bread and wine on hand to share virtual communion during worship.

**Ash Wednesday Worship - Wednesday, Feb. 17** [livestream](#) at 12 noon, and later through [pawpawpres.org](http://pawpawpres.org)

Gospel of John Bible Study - Sundays at 11:30 - contact Tom Shoemaker at tommyshoe@yahoo.com to get the weekly Zoom link.

Covenant Bible Study - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 12:30. Contact Pastor Tiffany at tkomccaff@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Midweek Youth Chat - Wednesdays at 3 p.m. Bible Study, activities, Zoom plays and blowing off steam with Pastor Tiffany. Email tkomccaff@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

**STAYING CONNECTED IN 2021:** Office Manager Billie Brooks works Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and can be reached by calling (269) 657-3111 or at firstpres120@gmail.com. Our church building remains closed to the public, but you can drop off or pick up items using the Pine Street entrance. Bookkeeper Joan Ford typically works at the church on Mondays and Thursdays, and can be reached at fpcpawpawbookkeeper@gmail.com. **We will continue to offer worship online every Sunday through the First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw [Facebook page](#) and at [www.pawpawpres.org](http://www.pawpawpres.org). Need something else to stay connected? Call Pastor Tiffany to discuss: (614) 596-1995.**

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PAW PAW

P.O. Box 435, 120 Pine Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079

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

(269) 637-3111 – Church Office  
firstpres120@gmail.com – Office

(614) 596-1995 – Pastor's cell phone  
tkomccaff@gmail.com – Tiffany's email