

Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 89, Issue 5

May 2021

Mourning Our Losses, Healing Our Wounds

Today was a rare 80 degree day in April, blue skies and no showers. I spent my morning with the staff and saints at White Oaks Assisted Living in Lawton, leading a memorial service for a year plus' worth of lives waiting to be mourned, forty-four departed residents, including many who died from Covid-19.

With the help of heart-felt music offered by Kelsey and Marissa (the activities directors who have been Zooming me into the facility for bi-monthly Bible study) we sought comfort in the words of Psalm 103: *as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.* Names were prayed from our hearts, and written on stones laid at the base of a memorial tree.

My afternoon was spent indoors, on a Zoom call with pastors and members of our Presbytery to lay the groundwork for some important and difficult conversations. At the 2020 General Assembly, our denomination drafted a "Statement on the Sin of Racism," which churches are now being asked to study, and which our Presbytery will vote on in June. The Statement names the brokenness that has existed for far too long, and calls for churches and us individually as members to take specific actions to further the work of healing, including: individual and corporate confession and repentance, educating ourselves by listening and responding to the voices of the oppressed, and actively engaging in initiatives aimed at dismantling the sin of racism, such as the PC (USA'S) *Matthew 25* initiative, which has led many churches already to undertake small and large projects promoting justice and equality in our congregations and communities.

It's been a blessed exhausting day, and as I think about what I want to say here in the May newsletter, it's this: We've got work to do, but I can think of no better way to mourn and to heal than through the refining work of turning away from sin and toward Jesus Christ, our savior and our Lord.

Peace, *Pastor Tiffany*

***Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.
– Marty Haugen***



Names were prayed from our hearts and written on stones laid at the base of a memorial tree.



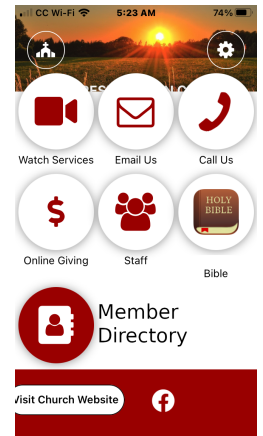
Pastor Tiffany with new White Oaks' resident Per Hagard after the service.

Now More than Ever: Connecting with Each Other

Do you feel out of touch with your friends at church? Now is the time to get back in contact with them and our “Universal Church Directory” on your phone, tablet or computer is the way to do it.

Remember our printed church directory? All those pictures ... addresses ... contact information? Like everything else, it too has migrated to the internet, but now it’s called the “Universal Church Directory.” You download it free from the App Store or Google Play.

On the next page you can see for yourself what you get when you **open the Universal Church Directory**. Yes, it’s the old church directory — plus a whole lot more. It’s really first-class!



Only church members, guests, and staff can access it, however. Once the app has been loaded, contact Andy Thorburn at athorburn65@gmail.com to obtain your unique identifier to open it. After that, of course, it opens with a tap (no password) just like everything else on your phone.

Go ahead, download it to all your devices — tablet, smart phone, computer — and always be up-to-date with everyone at church. Andy is there to help too if you need it. Call him at (269) 207-0242 as well if you want your family photo or contact information updated.

And while we’re talking about computer stuff ...

Church Internet Upgraded for Speed and Security

Thanks to Jerry Miller and Jerry Dundon for installing the upgraded internet router and wireless access for the church. You’ll enjoy new and faster wireless access now.

Separate and faster live streaming and recording of worship services has also been installed.

The old wireless access accounts, along with the old wireless routers, have been disabled and removed. Members and guests will now log into “TPC” at church. You’ll be asked to sign an agreement about using the church internet and given one-day access only, good til 10 pm. A new login is required every day for security purposes.

Staff and live streaming will be separate from the guest access from now on to protect the bandwidth as well as the security of church information.

More information, and the password, are available from Jerry Dundon, Moderator, Building and Grounds Commission, as well as from Billie Brooks, Office Manager.

GET ALL THIS AT OUR UNIVERSAL CHURCH DIRECTORY:

Watch church services — Email church — Call church — Donate money — Staff directory
 Read the Bible — Alphabetical directory of members with address, photo, email and phone
 Visit church website — Visit church Facebook page





PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

Building a Life of Faith

**God,
from my youth
you have
taught me.**

— PSALM 71:17

The **Pentecost Special Offering** is in progress right now but it ends soon on May 23. This church-wide effort supports young people in Christ and inspires them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church.

Paw Paw Presbyterian Church retains 40% of this offering and uses the money to support ministries with children and youth both in our own church and with the local community. Last year we gave our portion to Camp Greenwood. The other 60% goes to [PCUSA](#) which breaks down as: 25% supports ministries with youth and 25% goes to young adult volunteer experiences and, finally, 10% advocates for children at risk.

This special offering helps establish a foundation during childhood to ensure lifelong faith and service. **Your contribution to this special offering** will be greatly appreciated and will nurture the faith of those who are the church to come.

And thank you for your past giving: Due to the generosity of our church, **\$575.00** was collected for the Christmas Joy Offering in December 2020. Also, through April 19 2021, One Great Hour of Sharing has collected **\$660.00**.

Eleda Zygadlo
Mission Commission Chairperson

News from Worship and Music Commission



New camera view from high-up. What do you think?

Viewers may have noticed increased clarity in our live stream image and some movements in the camera settings while we are streaming live from the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. That is because we have a new camera that is now mounted in a permanent home and operated with a number of pre-set positions and a hand control option using a joy stick. Our tech team is still learning how to switch images and use the new technology so please be patient as we improve our skills. Jerry Miller and Jerry Dundon, but mostly the former, set this up for us after Session gave the go-ahead for the project. Labor was all donated with the material cost coming to under \$1,500 with the greatest part being the camera expense.

Live streaming has been a great link to our congregation as we enjoy our weekly worship experience. Video capture of our worship is very likely here to stay even after we return to full in-person services.

We long to return to in-person worship

How and when to do so safely is the question.

At their most recent meeting the Worship and Music Commission provided several recommendations for Session to consider as they deliberate

the when and how of in-person worship at First Presbyterian.

Worship and Music Commission is concerned with the worship aspect of safe return like how to welcome worshipers, how many to safely have in worship, and guides for staffing to help with welcoming, seating, and exiting the church.

The decision of when and how belongs to Session but they rely on input from the Worship, Administration, and Building and Grounds commissions.

While we wait to return to in-person worship when we can once again join in corporate praise to our God and encourage one another as we do the work of the church, we are called to exercise patience. Our soul's desire is to worship together and it is important to not lose our charge to be a servant people in spite of the challenges we now face. **Being faithful disciples and stewards of the Kingdom is still our call wherever we are on Sunday morning.**

So, while we wait, we do so with hope and trust remembering that our God is not confined to four walls at the corner of Pine and Kalamazoo Streets. Hold fast in faith knowing that your church leaders are equally eager to return to in-person worship. Pray for understanding and wisdom as we together navigate these difficult waters. It will be all the more joyful when we are again able to meet and worship as the body of Christ.

In Faith,

Tom Shoemaker – Worship and Music
Commission Chairperson

Batter Up!



Does the “crack of the bat” excite you? Does the aroma of hot dogs and popcorn bring back great memories? Do you enjoy spending time outdoors with friends? If so, our next outing is for you. Saturday, June 5th the Kalamazoo Growlers are playing the Battle Creek Bombers in Kalamazoo at 6:35. The Deacons are having a tail gate supper prior to the game. The cost will be \$18.00 per person. Sign up ASAP so we have an idea how many will be there by either texting or calling Pat Peters at 269-352-1340.

Send payment for the event to Dick Schallhorn by May 15th. His address is 58751 CR 671 Paw Paw 49079.

It will be fun to get together socially again!!!

Happy Birthday!

May 1 - Hayden Beck

May 1 - Jeff Marcelletti

May 6 - John Faul

May 6 - Marjorie McKee

May 7 - Zoe Schuitmaker

May 11 - Hannah Moore

May 12 - Dave Wilder Sr

May 12 - Taylor Vanderveen

May 13 - Susan J Rhodes

May 13 - James vanWestrienen

May 14 - Dave Nielsen

May 15 - Per Hagard

May 16 - Braelynn Mattson

May 19 - Todd Pohl

May 21 - Bob Yarbrough

May 25 - Barbara Dundon

May 27 - Mallory Paynich

May 28 - Randy Thorburn

May 29 - Kathy McCloskey

Do You Have a Graduating Child or Grandchild?

GRADUATE SUNDAY IS JUNE 6, 2021.

We'd like to honor them in worship on Sunday, June 6 at 10 a.m.

Please contact the church office with your graduate's name, photo, their achievements and future plans. Email to firstpres120@gmail.com.

Thank You



Many thanks to Marge McKee and Nancy Beck for purchasing Easter flowers for the sanctuary and to Ann McGrew and Pat Peters who delivered some to our parishioners.

Deacon Moderator Pat Peters

Happy Anniversary!

May 1 - George & Catey Bolton IV

May 1 - Julia Payne & Allen McNeil

May 11 - Gerald & Barbara Dundon

May 14 - Tom Shoemaker & Tonda Boothby

May 18 - Randal & Susan J Rhodes

May 26 - Ryan & Emily Turanzas

May 30 - Thomas & Kristen Garceau

Youth Wanted to help lead virtual worship for Pentecost. Contact Pastor Tiffany tkomccaff@gmail.com

Oops! We missed a couple of our 50+ year members. Updated **2020 Annual Report** now available at pawpawpres.org or call 657-3111 to request a printed copy.

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

P.O. Box 435, 120 Pine Street – 269-657-3111 – firstpres120@gmail.com – www.pawpawpres.org

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What's Happening in May

Find more activities at www.pawpawpres.org/calendar

Join the **Sunday Bible Study at 11:30 am** on Zoom. Call 657-3111 for the Zoom link - sent to your email.

May 4, 6:30 p.m. Special Session meeting to consider proposals from Worship and Building & Grounds regarding **reopening our building and resuming in-person worship**. Session members will receive Zoom link by e-mail.

May 15 is the cut-off date for sign ups to our **baseball outing** in Kalamazoo on June 5 at 6:30 pm. Call (or text) Pat Peters "soonest" to sign up so we can plan how many are attending.

May 18, 6:30 Regular monthly Session meeting.

May 23 ends the [Pentecost Special Offering](#) so please give now to the program that nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come.

Get your new church wi-fi password from Office Manager Billie Brooks or Building and Grounds, Jerry Dundon.

Property Improvement Fund Pledge Reminder: Your donation is needed now! Can't remember what you pledged? Contact Joan Ford @ fpcpawpawbookkeeper@gmail.com

TUESDAYS from 6pm to 8pm will be **volunteer night at Michelle's Community Garden**, 811 Hazen Street, Paw Paw. Join Farmer Patrick and friends from [UCS](#) and other area churches preparing beds, planting, weeding and enjoying God's creation.

Recorded and livestream worship services are available on Facebook and at our website www.pawpawpres.org or call the church office at 657-3111 to request a DVD.

STAYING CONNECTED — The church building remains closed to the public. The church office is staffed **Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 - 3:30**. You may leave a message for staff at any time or contact them through email: Office Manager Billie Brooks at firstpres120@gmail.com; Bookkeeper Joan Ford at fpcpawpawbookkeeper@gmail.com or Pastor Tiffany at TKoMcCaff@gmail.com. You can also call or text Pastor Tiffany on her cell (at reasonable times please) at **(614) 596-1995**.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PAW PAW

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

www.pawpawpres.org

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firstpres120@gmail.com – Office

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