

# Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 89, Issue 6

June 2021

## Now Playing: Summer ~~Sermon~~ Movie Series!!

My friends, after such a long and intensely stressful time, wouldn't we rather sit back, relax and enjoy some light summer movies?? Instead of a sermon series on the "theological explorations of the Apostle Paul," or some other heavy topic, this summer's worship services will be based on movies that include scenes of scripture readings, worship services, or that are otherwise church-related.

Hollywood doesn't always get the theology right, but movies do give us some pretty good examples of human

relationships. Relationships with one another and with God is the key theme of our Covenant Bible Study, so we'll be looking to some of those lessons to get the most out of films like *Footloose*, *Because of Winn Dixie*, *Places in the Heart* and more (but NOT *Pulp Fiction*, although Samuel Jackson's reading of Ezekiel 25 will certainly put the fear of God in anyone!).

What popular movies have surprised you with quotes from scripture? What memorable movie church scenes come to mind? If you have a movie suggestion for this sermon series, please let me know. We'll start with *Footloose* June 13, and continue with different movies through the first Sunday in August.

And yes, virtual attendees can snack on REAL popcorn during worship. (In-person worshippers will have to enjoy VIRTUAL popcorn!) Read more about our plans to resume in-person worship on page 3.

See you on the big screen,

Peace, *Pastor Tiffany*



According to the ReFace App, this is what I would look like if I (and not Nicole Kidman) had starred in the blockbuster movie *Moulin Rouge*!





# Our volunteer clean-up crew shakes it up for church re-opening

Making Paw Paw Pres Sparkle



After Jerry D's famous pancakes and after fellowship, the gang sets a plan and then gets right to work on all public spaces for clutter, weeds, dust, everything accumulated over the past year. Cleaning sanctuary, narthex, Fellowship Hall, sprucing up front and rear landscaping. In Fellowship Hall, supplies had previously been pulled out of storage for renovation and now must be put out-of-sight again.





**Office Manager Billie Brooks is ready to take your reservation to attend in-person worship – call 657-3111 or email [firstpres120@gmail.com](mailto:firstpres120@gmail.com)**

# **Sanctuary Reopens June 13!**

Great News!! Our Session has set Sunday, June 13th as the day for our return to in-person worship. It has been a long time since we gathered in our beloved sanctuary for worship together. There are conditions of course, but the joy of being back together and the daily news of decreasing cases of Covid along with the loosening of restrictions is giving us all increased hope. Many of us have had our vaccines and feel much safer now. It is time to worship together as a family of faith.

So, what are we asking of those who wish to return to worship on the 13th? Our Session has decided that we are to follow the guidelines provided by the State of Michigan. At this time we ask that **all those who wish to attend wear a mask**. We also ask that you **contact the church office (657-3111 or at [firstpres120@gmail.com](mailto:firstpres120@gmail.com))** if you plan to attend so that we can track the number in worship for that day. Our maximum capacity at this time is 40 persons. This includes all those who are worship leaders and tech team members. There will be 30 additional spots open each week for those who wish to attend.

Worshippers may sit with their family units but we ask each group to be socially distanced. This means we are reserving every other pew and keeping a safe distance between groups. Ushers will be present in the sanctuary to help those in attendance in finding an appropriate seat. At this time the congregation will not sing during worship.

There will not be fellowship after worship for the time being and people leaving the sanctuary will be asked to go directly out of doors to exchange greetings. The Session feels that it is better at this time to follow the strongest of guidelines for returning to in-person worship. We anticipate further relaxation of policies as time passes. Things are changing rapidly and we will do our best to communicate the changes each month as Session sees fit to make them.

It has been a long time and I know we have missed the opportunity to gather together as the body of Christ and join with one another in corporate worship. We will continue to live stream and record our weekly services for those who might not feel ready to return to in-person at this time. All our worship services can be viewed on the church [Facebook](#) page and at our website, [pawpawpres.org](http://pawpawpres.org).

We look forward to the return to in person worship and time together as disciples of Christ. There are challenges indeed but we are strong in faith and will continue to preach, hear and live the message of hope that is gifted us through our faith in the risen Lord.

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship and Music Commission

***Come Join Us in the Fall***

# **Adult Bible Study Explores the Beauty and Complexity of the Gospel of John**

Adult Bible Study has met nearly every Sunday at 11:30 am to 12:30 pm via Zoom during our pandemic isolation time. Despite the Covid pandemic we have managed to meet and be together to pray, discuss scripture, explore the Word of God and invite the Holy Spirit to guide us in our study together. Since the fall, we as a group have explored the Gospel of John. This month we have arrived at a good point in the Gospel to recess until next fall.

Our group has numbered between 8 and 15 members and especially during this time of isolation we have enjoyed the fellowship that being together via Zoom has given us. We feel blessed to be active participants and partners in our journey of faith together even though we are not physically in church; nonetheless we are church together via technology.

Tom Shoemaker and I led the study and discussion each Sunday. We have loved the Gospel of John. Because we have Zoom and the internet, we have explored the scriptures often in a multi-media way. That is, we have used resources like Google Earth to explore Israel at the time of Jesus. We know where Jerusalem is and how far Jesus and the disciples traveled from Galilee to Samaria and on to Judea and the Jordan River. We know where archaeologists have figured out where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. We have studied where the wedding at Cana took place and how far Jesus and his disciples traveled first by foot then by boat to a place near ancient Bethsaida where Jesus fed the 5000 which we learned was actually like upwards of 15000. In our study we sometimes use video

productions on YouTube to illustrate a part of John's Gospel then we discuss it and importantly we explore how the scripture applies to us today in our faith life and in our secular life.

We also strive to understand how it is that the Old Testament scripture points ahead to Jesus and the events of his life and ministry. In that regard we use time lines of Jewish history and time lines of Jesus' ministry to get a better understanding of how and why it's important to understand the connection between the Old and the New Testament. For example, we learned that the Festival of Dedication is what we know as Hanukkah and how it relates to the Maccabean overthrow of a cruel Syrian King 160 years before Jesus was born.

We have learned that the Gospel of John is both relatively simple on the surface and deeply complex in layers of detail. This Good News truly is inspired by the Holy Spirit and through the words of John, the plan of our salvation through Jesus' messiahship is revealed. We will continue to explore these scriptural complexities in the fall.

Thank you to all those who participated in the Bible Study. Your contributions and discussions are so appreciated.

We invite you to join us. Both previous members and new members. We will be deciding where and how as the events of Covid wind down, God willing. We love being together in this study and we invite any and all to be part of this adventure.

Grace and Peace to All,  
Dave Nielsen and Tom Shoemaker



# You gotta rise when the Spirit says rise

Live?", talks about "scary change". Brown, of First Presbyterian Church of Holland and also a Camp Greenwood counselor, is describing the almost overwhelming hopelessness he and others felt last spring as Covid quickly shut down non-essential businesses and services and especially church.

"With the closure of all non-essential businesses and services," Brown said, "we saw all of our church doors close and moved to an online service. For many of us, church is more than just a building where we listen to our pastors preach and the singers sing. It is a place of community, always filled with the love of Christ. A community that allowed us to see the smiling faces of many of our friends and family after the stress of a long, busy week. Taking a couple of hours to be reminded of the love of God, with loved ones. When the doors of the church closed, and I'm speaking for myself but I'm sure others can relate, I was hurt. Those couple weeks after the initial closing were the hardest. Everybody was scrambling to move online and spread the word about how worship would be held and since then church service has never really felt the same."

Brown goes on to recount Ezekiel 37:1-14 and then says, "I see this pandemic as our valley of dry bones."

And so a new voice is heard. [What does he mean? Listen to his full worship message now.](#)

*Have you discovered any new gifts in the last 15 months?*

Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021 introduced the first youth-led, virtual worship service of Presbytery of Lake Michigan's Youth Strategy Team led by our very own Reverend Tiffany McCafferty. Called "Together We Rise", it streamed to churches throughout the Presbytery on Pentecost and can still be seen on [YouTube](#).

Thirty-three different middle, high school, and college students participated, representing Jonesville, Mason, Muskegon, Detroit, Holt, Brooklyn, Holland, Camp Greenwood, and Paw Paw. Additionally, the PC(USA) Office of Presbyterian Youth and Triennium and the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Youth Strategy Team contributed. Also featured were the Rise Choir and Paw Paw Worship Musicians.

The liturgy was written by Rev. Tiffany McCafferty and the worship video editing chores were performed by Jacob Dayringer and Tiffany McCafferty.

Pastor Tiffany admits, however, in the worship service introduction, that the project faced unprecedented challenges but, she goes on to say, with challenge also comes opportunity: "New gifts are discovered, voices are heard, and we all find more and more reasons to place our faith in God and not in ourselves or our individual efforts."

## Worship Message

Elijah Brown's worship message, "Can These Bones

# Taking a fresh look at that old racism problem

"Whatever happened to all the Indians?" Debby Irving, writing in her book [Waking Up White](#), asked her mother when Debby was a child.

"Oh, those poor Indians," her mother said. "They drank too much. They were lovely people who became dangerous when they drank liquor."

"Dangerous from drinking?" Debby asked.

"Yes, it's so sad. They just couldn't handle it, and it ruined them really."

Much later, as an adult and writing her book about racism, Debby learned that her mother had been told the same story herself and of course believed it. What Debby's mother didn't tell her, and didn't know, was that the White colonists had purposefully introduced alcohol to Native Americans to weaken, subdue, and coerce them into signing over land and rights.

## Presbyterian Church

There is a movement today within the [PC\(USA\)](#) to forcefully address racism. Did you know that [Reverend Francis Makemie](#), who organized the first American presbytery in 1706, was a slave owner? Or should we, too, only recognize the polite shared Presbyterian history of ours?

## Lake Michigan Presbytery

[The Sin of Racism](#), the proposed Presbytery of Lake Michigan Statement which could be formally adopted at the June 8, 2021 Stated Meeting, discusses this issue in detail. It says, bluntly, that it is not enough to tell ourselves that we are not racist, and that, today in 2021, we can do better, and that the PC(USA), "must end its complicity in supporting and perpetuating racism in all its forms."

Let's face it, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are not going anywhere and neither are us White folk. So unless we want to simply pass the buck for the racism problem to our descendants, this is where, for us as Presbyterians, the healing begins.

Will you read [Waking Up White](#), Debby Irving's book? A Lake Michigan Presbytery official recommended it at a recent "Sin of Racism" meeting I attended and I'm reading it now. I think her book introduces the modern analysis of this old problem very well.

Racism isn't going to simply solve itself. Let me know what you think by emailing me at [aroundvanburen@gmail.com](mailto:aroundvanburen@gmail.com) or calling/texting me at 621-5359.

- Chuck Williams, newsletter editor

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## Camp Greenwood is open this summer and registering now

Adventure camp, family camp and more! Go to [campgreenwood.org](http://campgreenwood.org) to register. Scholarships available -- contact Pastor Tiffany for information.

Call the camp 616.754.7258 for details. ***Celebrating God's Creation, Growing in Christ, and Experiencing Community.***



# Here's an immigration success story we can all be proud of

Immigration isn't easy. Our church has been working with a family of Syrian immigrants for the last three years, a family arriving here without English-language skills, helping them with common problems such as:

Employment    ❤    Health appointments    ❤    Major purchases (car, house)

The father, a welder back in Syria, has been employed steadily as a welder in Kalamazoo for almost three years at the company our team originally put him in touch with. To help him get to work, several years ago, a grant from the Presbytery was arranged for him to buy his first car. Now the family is working on purchasing a nice house in a nice neighborhood.

Our church team consists of Dave Suter, Marlene Suter, Sue Miller, and Randy Thorburn and they provide the family with invaluable support. Sue Miller, for example, currently takes the five kids to doctor and dental appointments.

All their children will be in school next year as the youngest enrolls in kindergarten. Including the mother, the father, their five children, and the grandparents who arrived a year-and-a-half ago, there are nine of them in Kalamazoo. Our church also prepares Christmas gifts for the family every year.

"All's going well with them," Sue Miller is happy to report.

*Can you **help with either this project or an upcoming, new immigrant project?** Contact Pastor Tiffany now.*

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## Happy Birthday!

06/08 Baney, Brett  
06/28 Brinkman, Jim  
06/25 Emmons, Jan  
06/23 Griffith, Orville  
06/30 Long, Bobbie  
06/04 Nielsen, Connie  
06/14 Olson, Kylie  
06/18 Payne, Julia  
06/24 Paynich, Susan  
06/27 Pena, Kallie  
06/24 Racette, Karen  
06/04 Reed, Helen  
06/12 Taylor, John  
06/03 Vanderveen, Kristina  
06/24 Walters, Frank  
06/02 Zabonick, Kevin  
06/25 Zygadlo, Eleda

## Happy Anniversary!

06/24 Buhl, Leslie & William  
06/28 Heinzen, Russ & Ruth  
06/07 McNeil, John & Margaret  
06/12 Schallhorn Sr.,  
Richard & Sally  
06/29 Walters, Adele & Frank  
06/30 Wilder Sr, Dave & Jan  
06/03 Yarbrough, Bob & Theresa  
06/19 Zabonick, Donna & Jack

## Next two newsletter deadlines are June 25 and July 23

Email aroundvanburen@gmail.com with your feature articles as always. Members and visitors, tell us about your faith journey and send your favorite picture of church life too if you can.

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## What a crew! Thanks again for clean-up work May 24

Dave & Marlene Suter, Chuck & Debby Williams, Rich Corwin, Andy Thorburn, Tom Shoemaker, Jerry Dundon (our chef), Nancy Beck, Marge McKee, Phyllis Sahr, Tom & Mary Ellen Smith, Dick & Sally Schallhorn, Bert & Jan Ogden, and Dave & Jan Wilder.



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Return Service Requested

## Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

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### What's Happening in June

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

**Kalamazoo Growlers June 5th, 6:35 pm** Join Deacons for tailgating and watching baseball. Call Pat Peters at 269-352-1340 for details.

**Graduate Sunday is June 6 at 10 am.** We'll honor the Class of 2021 in worship, viewable online.

Limited **in-person church services resume Sunday, June 13 at 10 a.m.** Limited to 40 persons, social distancing and masks required. Call the church office or visit [pawpawpres.org](http://pawpawpres.org) to reserve your space. Livestream will continue.

Pastor Tiffany will be out at **Camp Greenwood** serving as **Pastor in Residence June 20 - 25**, still reachable by cell ((614) 596-1995) and email: [tkomccaff@gmail.com](mailto:tkomccaff@gmail.com) To register for camp, go to [campgreenwood.org](http://campgreenwood.org).

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 by email at [fpcpawpawbookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpawpawbookkeeper@gmail.com)

**TUESDAYS from 6 - 8pm** will be **volunteer night at Michelle's Community Garden**, 811 Hazen Street, Paw Paw. Join Farmer Patrick and friends from [UCS](http://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](http://www.pawpawpres.org) or call the church office at 657-3111 to request a DVD.

**STAYING CONNECTED** — Access to the church building is resuming **\*church groups that wish to meet soon, or want to hold a spot to resume meetings this fall, should contact Billie ASAP.** 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](mailto:firstpres120@gmail.com); Bookkeeper Joan Ford at [fpcpawpawbookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpawpawbookkeeper@gmail.com) or Pastor Tiffany at [TKoMcCaff@gmail.com](mailto: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

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