

# Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 89, Issue 8

August 2021

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.**

*Hebrews 12:1-2*

Ten years ago, I joined a cloud of cycling witnesses, taking my place in a peloton – a community that rides together – and striving towards my goal to complete a 50-mile ride, one pedal at a time. The collective goal of the community known as Pelotonia is to end cancer. And while the number of people I personally know who have experienced some form of cancer illness has only increased since that first ride, so have the stories of healing, hope and survival.



**Pastor Tiffany (back, left) with members of her 2012 Peloton. To learn more about Pelotonia and support Pastor Tiffany's fundraising efforts this year, go to <https://pelotonia.org/profile/TK0006>**

Sure, the ride is challenging – particularly the years when I worked up to completing 100 miles in one day, on a route that saves the toughest hills for last! But riding a bicycle is nothing compared to the striving that those with cancer undergoing various forms of treatment must endure. My personal cloud of witnesses includes the forever 27-year-old neighbor who first inspired me, many friends and family who have survived and some who have not, and now my father-in-law, well over a year into his treatment and supported all the way by my mother-in-law, his sole caregiver during the pandemic.

It's been exhausting for them – my in-laws – but my mother-in-law draws strength from her faith. She's not angry; she doesn't stop to think too long to feel regret or worry. She just takes every day, every appointment, every moment of care-giving in stride, keeping her eyes on the one who has always brought her great joy and peace. Her faith is being perfected, one pedal at a time.

This August 7, I will once again join that community of faith and hope, riding the 50 mile route (plus a short detour by my in-laws house). I will miss worshipping with you the next morning, but know that I will be resting well, having run my leg in the race set before us all, and in the Spirit that makes us one.

Peace,

*Pastor Tiffany*

# Paw Paw Community Chorus Plans Return to Singing

Paw Paw Community Chorus welcomes all Southwest Michigan singers for Christmas concert practice beginning Sept. 13, 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 120 Pine St., Paw Paw, Michigan.

The Christmas Concert will be presented on Sunday, December 5th, 4 p.m., at Paw Paw High School, 30609 Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw. The chorus, under the direction of Theresa Vaughn, will be accompanied on piano by Evonne Heystek.

Chorus selections are "Can You See the Star?" by Sally K. Albrecht and Jay Althouse, "When Will He Come?" by Don Besig & Nancy Price, "Come on Down to Bethlehem" by John Parker & Joel Raney, "By Candlelight" by Ruth Elaine Schram, "The Little Cradle Rocks" by Jay Althouse, "The Snow Begins to Fall" by Andy Beck, "A Family Christmas Spectacular", "Home for Christmas (I'll Be Home for Christmas & There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays)" by Douglas E. Wagner, and "The Twelve Days After Christmas" by Frederick Silver.

Singers, please call Jil Hoekstra at 269-657-6382, Anna Vervoort at 269-657-1205, Jan Ogden at 269-270-9693, or Theresa Vaughn at 269-668-4631 for all the exciting details.

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## Youth and Staff Back at Montaña de Luz

This year Montaña de Luz is officially 20 years old. Montaña de Luz opened its doors as a hospice in 2001 before any HIV medication was even available in Honduras. It has grown and transformed in a beautiful way, saving and changing countless lives.

But the last year and a half have been trying as Honduras recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic plus two back-to-back category 4 hurricanes plus record levels of unemployment. Children's homes are seeing an increase in referrals across the country as desperate families seek support from homes like Montaña de Luz. There is nothing that compares to the love of family which Montaña de Luz provides for the children.

Now, after 15 months away from the mountain where Montaña de Luz is located, the staff and

youth are back. During the pandemic the children had been cared for at the homes of Montaña de Luz staff. But now they're back.

Montaña de Luz has developed a program called **Healthy Families Honduras**. It's mission is to keep families together by providing resources the children need at home to be successful and healthy. This will combat the orphan crisis in Honduras and ultimately decrease the need for institutional child care.

**Thanks to the contributions of Paw Paw Presbyterian Church** we once again will be able to help Erick and Loida achieve a successful and healthy life through Montaña de Luz.

Eleda Zygadlo  
Mission Commission Chairperson

# We Have Returned to Worship

It is so good to see the smiles on faces and hear the sounds of laughter and greetings on Sunday morning.

At Sunday Service we are still observing safe practices and doing our best to keep up with changing regulations, while we had resumed singing in worship and did not require social distancing or masks in June or July, **recent Van Buren/Cass County Health department guidance recommends mask wearing and social distancing in all public places once again.** Session will continue to monitor Health Department Guidance and Covid rates in our county, and will update our policies as needed. We hope to soon return to allowing vaccinated folks to be in our building without masks, and to resume singing.

- The Sacrament of Communion will take place with efforts taken to administer the elements in the safest possible manner. Congregation members are encouraged to bring their own elements if they wish.
- Offering envelopes are to be placed in a plate(s) located at the back of the sanctuary until Session decides otherwise.
- Fellowship time at the conclusion of worship in the Fellowship Hall will continue with coffee only.

Church leadership will continue to review local Covid numbers in making future plans for worship. As always, decisions on procedures for safe worship will be made by our Session after hearing input from multiple sources. Presently the Building and Grounds Commission is sanitizing the sanctuary and other public access areas inside the church on a regular basis, including every Sunday after worship. We hope that the practices we have in place encourage all of our worship family to return to Sunday morning services confident that we have their health and safety in mind.

Our new parking area is complete and the west entrance is open. You may enter at the Kalamazoo Street east doors (our normal entry point) or through the NEW west entrance. Greeters will be ready to welcome you. Worship begins at the usual hour of 10 AM. It is time to fill our church with the heartwarming sounds of worship again. I hope you make plans to join us soon.

Part of our regular practice was the use of bulletins and prayer cards for worship. We have delayed the return of those items until Session feels it best to allow their use. As for our Chancel Choir it is our fondest hope that soon we will be hearing their voices lifted in song. The conversation is going on as to how to best bring them back to provide additional joy to our time of praise to our God.

Sharing our love for one another as Christians is part of our spiritual journey. We are called to be a community of faith encouraging and supporting one another in our service as disciples of our Savior. Our body of believers is slowly and steadily returning to Sunday worship as their comfort level allows. It is with joy that we welcome them back. I hope to see you in worship soon.

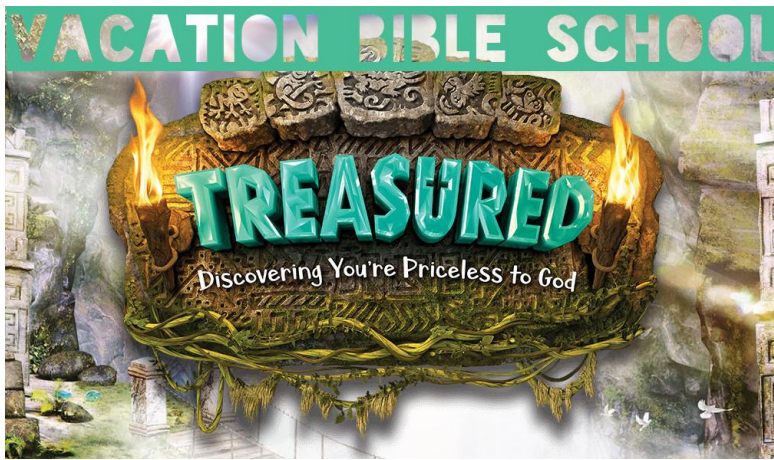
Grace and Peace to you,

Tom Shoemaker – Worship Commission Chair



Jerry Dundon and Bert Ogden work on the parking lot: Two separate boxes, per code, left box for electricity plus internet, right for water. *Any volunteers for landscaping?*





August 9-13, 5:30 pm to 8 pm

Paw Paw Presbyterian Church

120 Pine St., Paw Paw, MI

269-657-3111

Kids entering 1st-5th grade are invited to our exciting summer Vacation Bible School called *Treasured*. Registration is limited and there will be no in-person registration, so sign up now! Online registration is easy at

[vbspro.events/p/pawpaw](https://vbspro.events/p/pawpaw)

For more information, call Cheryl Duncan 251-9042

## *And a Special VBS Thank You ...*

To our wonderful *Treasured* Vacation Bible School activity leaders: Tom Shoemaker (Bible Stories); Connie Nielsen (Kid Vid Cinema); Pat Conner (Crafts); Dick & Sally Schallhorn and Marge McKee (food); Joan Pohl (opening & closing); Cheri & Emily Duncan (organizers).



What's everyone been doing? You can catch up too at the next **Men's Breakfast Aug. 28, 8 am.** For the July meetup there were 15 attendees and we still had left over pancakes.



## *Covid 19 Changed How We Lived Our Lives And How The Church Did Business*

"Let us use our gifts", our stewardship theme in 2021, sustained and expanded our building, our grounds and most importantly our staff, members and guests who supported Paw Paw Presbyterian Church through the trial of Covid 19.

And now we look to a bright 2022: The Stewardship Committee plans to kick off the 2022 effort on September 27, 2021 and continue the stewardship drive til October 24, 2021, Dedication Sunday.

Meanwhile, we pick up the pieces.

The Building and Grounds Commission stayed active during the pandemic and were able to pursue the Property Improvement-Parking Lot & West Entrance project. They also replaced air conditioning units, furnaces, and installed a new sound and video system. Many things were accomplished simply because the church was, basically, empty (with the exception of the office area).

Pastor Tiffany used her social media skills to communicate with us on line while our musicians, liturgists, staff and dedicated volunteers worked both in front and behind the camera through the magic of internet video.

Deacons and Session have continued to meet and do the work of the church by Zoom and, although it worked, we are totally ready to meet again in person.

And we have a new part time office manager, Billie Brooks, who works on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. A new treasurer, George Bolton, too. Thank you David Neilson for your time spent in the Treasurer position. Joan Ford is our bookkeeper and typically works on Monday and Thursday, and of course Pastor Tiffany is here most days except Friday when she can still be reached by cell phone for emergencies.

This year as we design our pledge card we are asking support for the following funds:

1. General Fund
2. Capital Fund
3. Per Capita

**Please remember, friends, that the Capital Fund needs attention.** Finally, we need to pursue a new chair for the Stewardship Committee. Although I am willing to write or supply input for the letter, stuff and stamp envelopes to send to the congregation, and support however I can, my term is up at the end of December, 2021. We need someone to follow through for 2022. What about you?

Mary Ellen Smith  
Chair, Stewardship Committee





July 7, 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw  
ATTN: Congregation of Designated Funds  
120 Pine Street, PO Box 435  
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Dear First Presbyterian Congregation:

Words cannot express how much we appreciate your recent donation of \$300 to Wings of God! We always know we can look across the street and see a beautiful church that supports our mission and participates in carrying it out.

Currently we have a full house. One of our eight Pearls is only 15. Evelyn is staying at Wings of God with her mother, waiting for a felon friendly affordable apartment/home to become available. That has been a challenge but we stand in faith and praise God for First Presbyterian Church as your investment allows us to offer this safe and blessed opportunity!

We would love to come and share with your congregation some time. We could even bring a current Pearl who is led to share with you.

Please pray for Kimberly, a current Pearl, who is having brain surgery July 12, 2021. Thank you for your prayers.

And thank you, again, for teaming with us.

In His Joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karina", written over a light background.

Karina Lamorandier  
Executive Director

A large, detailed illustration of a bald eagle in flight, facing right, with its wings spread wide. The eagle is rendered in a realistic style with fine feather details.

FACILITATING POSITIVE LIFE CHANGES FOR PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED WOMEN

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"*

*Matthew 6-21*

## Everything Has Its Time

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven:  
A time to be born,  
And a time to die;  
A time to plant,  
And a time to pluck what is planted;  
A time to kill,  
And a time to heal;  
A time to break down,  
And a time to build up;  
A time to weep,  
And a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn,  
And a time to dance;  
A time to cast away stones,  
And a time to gather stones;

A time to embrace,  
And a time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to gain,  
And a time to lose;  
A time to keep,  
And a time to throw away;  
A time to tear,  
And a time to sew;  
A time to keep silence,  
And a time to speak;  
A time to love,  
And a time to hate;  
A time of war,  
And a time of peace.



**One thing that has stood out as fundamental to the life of First Presbyterian Church Paw Paw is the number of people who return their blessings to the church in the form of a pledge and are loyal with keeping that pledge.**

Thank you. You are the financial backbone upon which First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw operates. The loss of physical worship, fellowship and all the other challenges of a global pandemic did not stop your commitment to maintaining the viability of God's work in Paw Paw done in the Presbyterian tradition.

This manifestation of the treasure of your heart has kept our operations up and running despite the shut down to in-person activities. Many changes have happened to the building and grounds during shut down that will require our continued care. Additional areas have been added and will need to be maintained. There are more windows to wash and greater areas of parking that will need to be cleared of snow and ice.

Please remember these improvements and their additional costs as we prepare for the upcoming stewardship drive later this year.

George Bolton

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

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### What's Happening in August

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

**Sunday church service at 10:00 am.** In person worship has resumed, no reservations required. **\*Per local health department recommendations, ALL PERSONS** must wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Please do not come to church if you are sick, have a cough, sore throat, fever or other symptoms of contagious respiratory illness. Worship livestream will continue through [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pawpawpres), with videos posted afterwards to our website, [pawpawpres.org](http://pawpawpres.org)

**TREASURED VBS August 9 - 13, 5:30 - 8 pm.** Spots are still available for children entering 1st - 5th grades to participate in a wonderful, hands-on vacation Bible School with crafts, story time, music and more! Dinner will be provided every night. [Register through the link at pawpawpres.org](http://pawpawpres.org), or call the church office, 657-3111.

**PICNIC AND PADDLE, Sunday August 15 - noon.** Join Pastor Tiffany after worship at noon for a picnic lunch on Maple Isle, and then take a kayak or paddle board out on the lake. Lunch will be provided to High School and College-age students, and kayaks/paddle boards are available at a group rate of \$15 per person BUT YOU MUST RSVP by August 9!!! [tkomccaff@gmail.com](mailto:tkomccaff@gmail.com)

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

**Volunteer Nights @ Michelle's Community Garden, Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-8 pm,** 811 Hazen Street, Paw Paw. Join Farmer Patrick and friends from [UCS](https://www.ucsuniversity.org) and other area churches preparing beds, planting, weeding and enjoying God's creation.

**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 the office 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

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

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

(269) 657-3111 – Church Office  
[firstpres120@gmail.com](mailto:firstpres120@gmail.com) – Office

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