

Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 89, Issue 9

September 2021

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

—Proverbs 16:3

As summer comes to a close, I reflect on completing six years in ministry with you, serving as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw. While I came here knowing not much other than to trust in God to make clear the way in a new place, I could never have imagined the depth of both the challenges and the great joys I have experienced being your pastor. While six years is still just a baby step or two in the overall process of what God is doing with my life here and with our church, I reflect with gratitude on my learning here thus far, and the way my relationship with Christ has affirmed so many teachings:

- Trust in God in all times and all places, and lean not on my own understanding
- Do not underestimate the power of God to heal and bring hope
- Seek and offer forgiveness 7 x 70 x 777 x 7,777,777
- Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God, especially when the need for justice, love and mercy seems to great to comprehend

I always pray that the last days of summer fade slowly, and even more so as this season comes to close. Each day I pray, pause and strive to empty myself of any ego, agenda or expectation; to stay humble to the lessons gifted to me, and to trust more and more in God's grace and almighty power to carry us all out into the world and forward into the next years together.

God is our rock and our salvation; in God alone can we trust. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Pastor Tiffany



Six years worth of memories, thank-yous, words of encouragement and love show through the overlapping layers of friends and family on my office pinboard.

We are patient and prayerful

Patience while we wait is our present mantra. We are not alone in these times that challenge us. Congregations all over our Presbytery are grappling with how to come together in worship with the safety interests of congregants and worship leaders in mind. While we long for a return to singing and mask-free worship our knowledge that God is with us is our comfort. Regardless of where we are we can be faithful to His word in scripture and joyful as followers of Christ. There are not any Covid exceptions to our faithful response to God's message. We will endure and we will press forward in hope.

The Worship and Music Commission has recommended to our session that we continue our mask wearing policy while in worship. Likewise, it is recommended that we not sing during worship, other than in our hearts. Passing our offering plates, prayer cards, and bulletins are worship practices that are still on hold. Coffee time after worship has been placed on hold. These recommendations are based on our concern for the well being of all our faith family.

Whether you choose to come to worship in person or join us through live stream on our Facebook page we trust your faith has not diminished. We pray that each of our church family members has found their own way to grow close to God. The Holy Spirit, our companion and comforter, is present with us and walks these uncertain roads with us. Now is the time for renewed hope not the loss of it. Now is the time for us to respond faithfully in the best way we can. Now is the time to show our love and compassion for one another even in the midst of challenge.

Peace to all,

Tom Shoemaker – Worship and Music Chairperson



Learn about the “Earth Care Congregation” program at

presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment

Are you concerned about the environment and what Paw Paw Presbyterian can do to help? Start the journey now!

★ presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey

★ surveys.pcusa.org/s3/Earth-Care-Congregation-Application

TREASURED VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



TREASURED VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It was so fun and exciting. Although very HOT! The kids didn't seem to mind though.

The August 2021 Vacation Bible School, with its theme "Treasured", filled the halls and parking lot of Paw Paw Presbyterian with laughter and joy.

Sharon Desimone served a great light meal each night at 5:30 pm and even the parents stayed to eat with us. It was good to get acquainted with them.

And Joan Pohl had such an exciting opening and closing.

Of course each day Tom Shoemaker told a breathtaking Bible story accompanied by Sam Vought and Emily Duncan as Bible figures David and Ester.

Have you ever searched for Bible verses? The kids looked up the Bible verses that Connie Nielson sent them seeking. Connie also presented the Kid Vid Cinema. Our youth enjoyed searching for Bible verses.

Turned out the kids are great at crafts too. Each day crafts were taken home to remind them of the day's theme. Blessings to our Craft Activity Leader Pat Conner.

You know who you are: **THANK YOU to everyone** who supported, prepared and presented. Thanks to organizers Sherry and Emily Duncan and Chuck Duncan who did the backdrops and helped set up and tear down each day. It wouldn't have been possible without you! Big thank you to Tom and Tonda Shoemaker who provided the huge tent allowing our Vacation Bible School to be outside. To Dick and Sally Schallhorn too.

"Treasured -- Discovering You're Precious to God" welcomed local first through fifth graders to five nights of fun and Bible-learning at church. That's a nice turnout too especially considering the registration was exclusively on-line.

Can we all do it again next summer?



Sherry and Emily Duncan



Dave Nielson, Chuck Duncan



Tom Shoemaker



Joan Pohl



Peace and Global Witness is our special offering beginning September 5th through which we help in conflict resolution, provide nurturing reconciliation, and support all people because the peace of Christ belongs to everyone.

Reconciliation – to restore friendship or harmony, especially between God and human beings. Proverbs 14:9 **"Fools make fun of guilt, but the Godly acknowledge it and seek reconciliation."**

Peacemaker – one who makes peace, a state of tranquility or quiet. James 3:18 **"and those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness."**

Your donations are used for peace education and training for children, help for families in need (teenage mothers, things that food stamps do not cover, backpack program for school children), assistance for teen and young adults in correctional facilities and community care and engagement (educational assistance for veterans, suicide prevention, support for males transitioning out of prison and homelessness, begin a senior companions program).

25% of the offering stays within our own community to support peacemaking and reconciliation. Last year our church gave the offering to Wings of God.

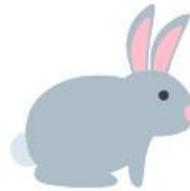
25% will go to our mid-council, joining with other churches in our region to support peacemaking work.

50% will support the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians around the world.

[Peace and Global Witness](#) is the third of the four denominational offerings taken during the church year and it concludes with World Communion Sunday, October 3, which is an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian unity.



Eleda Zygadlo
Mission Commission Chairperson



At our annual no-frills pet blessing service

Thanks again to Sam and Dr. Kathy, Brandon, and all who came out with their pets on a HOT but happy morning. For any of you with your pets at home, if you can just hold them in your lap, reach out and pet them, and just feel that presence of God within them and give thanks. And for many of us who remember pets that gave us great comfort in our lives and have crossed the rainbow bridge, we lift those pets, we give thanks for them, for the way they have touched our lives and will always be a part of us.





Happy Anniversary

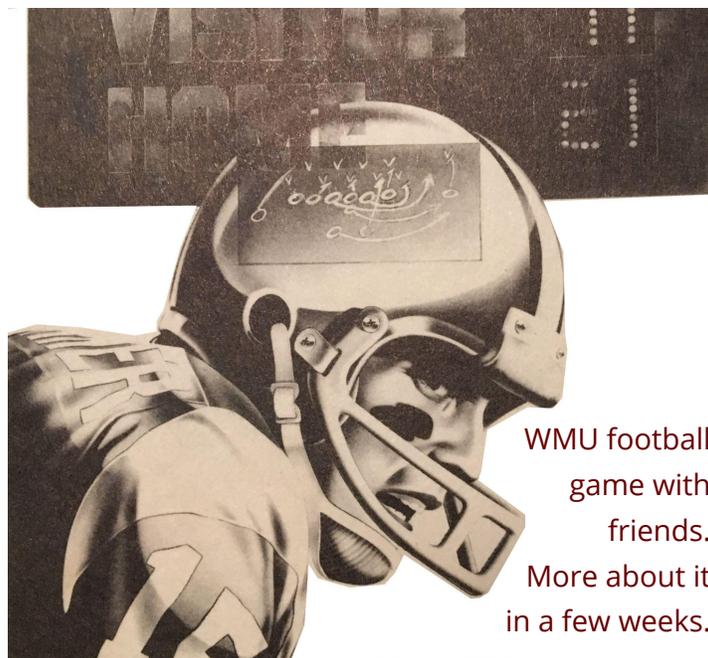
Dave & Marlene Suter - 09/05
Rick & Nancy Boven - 09/11
Andy & Randy Thorburn Jr. - 09/15
Robert & Karen Klimp - 09/23



Happy Birthday

Sally Brinkman - 09/24
William Buhl II - 09/08
David Combs - 09/22
Johnell Cuddeback-Weintraub - 09/07
Craig Hess - 09/01
Daniel Hulst - 09/05
Brandon Mattson - 09/22
Wendy Mickle - 09/13
Bert Ogden - 09/17
Harold Schuitmaker - 09/19
Jeff Wells - 09/05
Jack Zabonick - 09/23

COMING SOON



WMU football game with friends. More about it in a few weeks.

The Deacons are planning a group outing at a Western Michigan University Broncos football game. Watch for details coming soon.



Thank you, picnic and paddling partners! Prayers for all our college students as you return to campus, and don't forget to hit up Pastor Tiffany for lunch whenever you're in town - and that offer's open to anyone who needs a meal or a listening ear!

First Presbyterian Church
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Return Service Requested

Presbyterian News

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What's Happening in September

Find more activities at www.pawpawpres.org/calendar

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10 AM In person worship has resumed, no reservations required. ***Per recent 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), with videos posted afterwards to our website, pawpawpres.org

TAILGATE PARTY hosted by our Deacons on Thursday September 16th at 6:30 p.m. Come one, come all!! Bring your chair, bring your own food and drink, bring YOURSELF!! We'll gather outside in the church parking lot. We look forward to seeing as many smiling faces as we can!

Volunteer Nights @ MICHELLE'S COMMUNITY GARDEN, Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-8 pm, 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. Harvest has begun! Help us pick crops before the deer devour it all!

YOUTH AND FAMILY MONTHLY OUTINGS CONTINUE as our College/High School lunches expand to include Middle Schoolers and Elementary aged kiddos with parent chaperones. Stand by for details on a family lunch & canoe/kayak outing in September, a meet-up at the apple orchard in October and a special one-day URBAN PLUNGE at Brooklyn Presbyterian Church on November 6. *Email Pastor Tiffany at tkomccaff@gmail.com to make sure you get all the info.

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; 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

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