

Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 89, Issue 10

October 2021

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven

Ecclesiastes 3:1

FALL is a season of change, but this year it comes at a time when we've had nothing but change for far too many seasons! Still, God is faithful and true. We must have faith that everything happens according to God's timing.

As a church, we'll be doing some things on a slightly different schedule. Our Fall Congregational Meeting will still happen on October 31, but instead of electing new deacons and elders to begin serving in January, we first need to elect four church members to serve on the nominating committee. If you are someone who is called to the art of prayer and discernment (and are not currently serving as a deacon or elder – those spots will be appointed) please consider putting your name on the slate by contacting me or Clerk Kathy McCloskey. The Nominating Committee will begin meeting in early 2022 with plans to have new elders and deacons called in April/May of 2022.

It's always a good time to be building up confidence in our church leaders' financial management, and to that end, we will hold our Annual Financial Review of 2020, which has been postponed since last February. The Financial Review will be conducted according to our usual procedures by the Administration/Finance Committee, and interested parties may attend and observe, (please RSVP to the church office by October 18 if you wish to attend so we can ensure space for social distancing).

It's also time to prayerfully consider your commitment of financial support to our church in 2022. While our church operating budget continues to have a slight surplus, we hope to resume our choir, children's programming and increase our building use in 2022, which means we need to re-grow our pledge base to support those programs and activities. As noted by our Treasurer's letter in your stewardship packet that you should have received in the mail at the end of September, a 5% pledge increase from everyone will help us reach that goal (pledges are due October 24).

For me, it will soon be time to rest. As you will be hearing in a separate letter from some of our Session members, I have been granted sabbatical leave this coming winter and will be focusing on wellness and self-care during the months of December - February 2022. Session is putting a plan in place to provide for worship leadership and pastoral care in my absence with guidance from our Presbytery.

One thing I hope we will all hold on to during this season is our trust in God, and our commitment to our relationships with one another. These have been trying times for many, whether we grow weary from our longing to be together, or frustrated from the tensions that occur when we finally do get in the same room. But God is always calling us back together, and is with us in the work of healing and reconciliation.

Peace,

Pastor Tiffany



A sure sign of fall - mums at Tuttles!
Enough money was raised to pay for five new statues for Paw Paw Memorial Park!

Sharing a Warm Greeting in Worship

At our most recent commission meeting we discussed how much we longed for the simple joys of seeing one another's smiles and sharing a warm greeting in worship. We stated openly how we feel that many of the personal connections that bind us as believers are being tested. One of those personal connections is the offering of prayers in worship.

After continued discussion we decided to recommend the reintroduction of prayer cards during worship. The cards and weekly bulletins will be placed on a table in the narthex for congregants to pick up as they enter the sanctuary. Prayer cards can be filled out and placed in the offering plates which will be delivered to the minister at the end of our offertory meditation. Offering plates are still not being passed so prayer cards will need to be personally delivered to the plate.

PRAYER CARDS & BULLETINS ARE BACK!



As we wait for better news and a return to worship as we knew it, I am reminded of the book of Lamentations.

Together we lament the loss of our closeness and personal contacts. The author of Lamentations, thought to be Jeremiah, laments the destruction of Jerusalem. In Lamentations, after several verses of mourning his loss, the author writes in 3:(22-24):

**Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.**

**²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.**

**²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."**

I am reminded that we too must wait. As people of community, we long for the time when we will resume our traditional form of worship. As believers, we know that the Lord is our portion and we find our comfort in that knowledge. Until we all gather freely again, we will not be consumed by loss but hold on in faith.

Wishing you all strength for the journey,

Tom Shoemaker – Worship and Music Chairperson

TAILGATING WITH THE DEACONS



Largest turnout for September event! Looks like folks are eager to meet and greet! We'll do it again on the third Thursday in October (weather permitting).

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Worship with us every Sunday, 10 am, at 120 Pine St., Paw Paw, Michigan

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In October, Pastor Tiffany will continue to explore the Narrative Lectionary readings, and connect the lessons of God's people with our lives NOW.

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At our Nov. 7 All Saints Service, your departed loved one's name can be read aloud if you like. Please get the names of your loved ones to the church office by November 3 by calling 269-657-3111.

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Learning God's Word and Growing Faith

Are you seeking comfort in God's word? Walk-ins are always welcome at our Bible Study Groups and Worship Service!

Our Bible Study Groups meet in-person Mondays at 7 pm and Wednesdays at 3:30 pm. The Zoom Bible

Study Group now meets Sundays at 11:45 am. For details contact us ★★ ★ *please leave a message* ★★ ★ at 269- 657-3111. And our church service, of course, meets every Sunday at 10 am.

Jesus is Our Chain Breaker

The Paw Paw Presbyterian Mission Commission invited representatives from Wings of God to talk at our last meeting.

Susan Zygodlo, a board member of Wings of God, and two of the Pearls, Amy and Kim, were our guests. Susan told us about the purpose of Wings of God and how it impacts the lives of the women who come there.

Kim and Amy told us how they happened to come to the home, what it has meant to them, and how it has changed their lives.

Read this heart warming story: [A Day With the Pearls from the Perspective of the House Manager.](#)

Thanks to our congregation for helping to support this home over the years. 25% of our special offering, Peace and Global Witness, will go to Wings of God this year to help these women achieve a better life through Jesus Christ.

You are invited to the next Mission Commission meeting on Tuesday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the church library.

Eleda Zygodlo Mission
Commission Chairperson



[In Lawton - Register online at wingsofgodinc.org](https://wingsofgodinc.org)

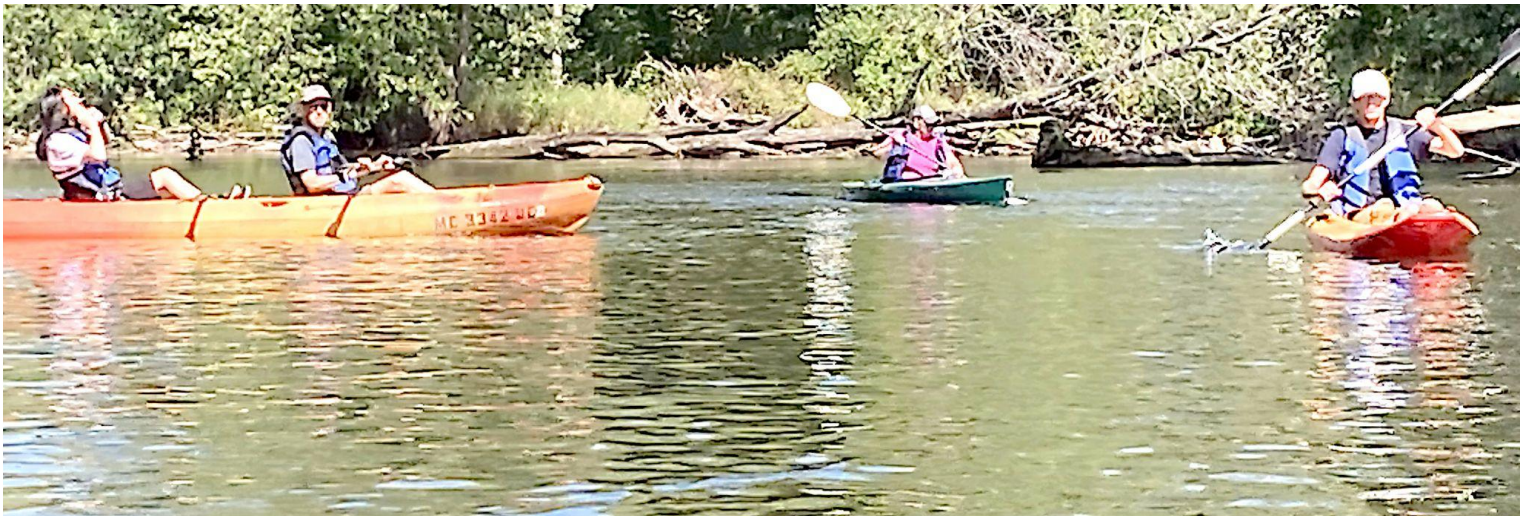
See current and past Pearls testify "Jesus is our chain breaker"



Braelynn and Grandpa Chuck managed to stay dry the whole trip.

Reporting on our youth activities for September and October

PICNIC AND PADDLE IN PLAINWELL - Our Formation Commission sponsored a fun, family-friendly outing for six households of kayakers from 9 to 70+ on the third Sunday in September, capped off with a stop at Plainwell Ice Cream. None of our kids tipped over, but be sure to ask our music leader Brandon if the water in the Kalamazoo River is still warm!



In October our third Sunday outing will be a trip to a local cider mill after church.

Whether you're a family with young kids or just young at heart, all are welcome to join us! Contact Pastor Tiffany for details: tkomccaff@gmail.com

URBAN PLUNGE '21

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Host Church: Brooklyn Presbyterian

What is Urban Plunge? An annual event that brings together youth groups from around the Presbytery for mission, worship, and lots of fun!

When is Urban Plunge? Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, 9 am to 8 pm.

Cost? \$20 per person includes an event t-shirt and meals including breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Register at <https://vbspro.events/p/urbanplunge> by October 17, 2021.

Contact Jody Thompson at jodyt9023@gmail.com or 517.403.3204 with any questions.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Annual Financial Review — Wednesday October 20, 2021, 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Conducted by our Treasurers and Administration / Finance Committee. All interested parties are welcome to attend and observe.

Fall Congregational Meeting — Sunday October 31, 2021, 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. To participate via Zoom link, please contact the church office at (269) 657-3111.

Planting Day: Big Fun, Big Success

Planting Day, Saturday, Sept. 18, was a fun day of work and camaraderie and guess what, the parking lot project is now 95% complete. Twenty-five people working 9 to 6 really made the difference.

Bushes and flowers planted, new dirt, mulch, weed control. The lawn towards Pine Street was reseeded. The west side of Fellowship Hall was relandscaped with bulbs. An automatic irrigation system was installed in the divider between the parking lots.

Thanks to everyone for the great help. Special thanks to Deacons and Presbyterian Women who covered the Planting Day project costs.

Does anyone have landscape stone for around the shed for us? Call Jerry Dundon if you do. A trench has been dug and fabric is down and now we just need the stones to fill it.

Hard to believe the whole parking lot project began just a few years ago.

Photos from top left: (1) Bridgette Fath, the daughter of Brian and Lexie Fath and grand daughter of Tom Shoemaker shows up ready to help plant. (2) Bert Ogden and Jerry Dundon sift stones from top soil. (3) & (4) Some of the many workers preparing and planting.



"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul." – Psalm 19:7



Oct. 27, 2021

You are invited to attend [PC\(USA\) Presbyterian Mission's](#) Oct. 27, 2021, 7 pm online seminar, ***The Way of Spiritual Fortitude: Contemplative Spirituality*** with host Therese Taylor Stinson.

Much of our understanding of mysticism and contemplative spiritual practice has come from a European outlook. What can we learn from the indigenous and black contemplative experience? And how does it call us to better know ourselves that we may then serve others? Come learn how this practice can build The Way of Spiritual Fortitude in your own life as we reflect on its resurgence in the life of the church.

[Register Here!](#)

An online event from PC(USA)

Happy Birthday

5/10 - Jennifer Combs
5/10 - Nicole Colgren
6/10 - Bobby Yarbrough
7/10 - Kristen Garceau
7/10 - Todd Pena
8/10 - Kathy Vought
12/10 - Brandon Mroczek
12/10 - Lauren Mroczek
12/10 - Matthew Mroczek

12/10 - Pat Peters
17/10 - Adele Walters
21/10 - Mary Ellen Smith
22/10 - Diane Triquet
22/10 - Mike Walters
25/10 - Theron Walker

Happy Anniversary

4/10/58 - Judith & Royal Haefner
4/10/97 - Gene & Phyllis Sahr
14/10/00 - Kathy & Robert Vought
19/10/19 - Joan & Todd Pohl
24/10/98 - Karen & Steve Racette
27/10/18 - Caitlin & Dan Stanowick

First Presbyterian Church
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Return Service Requested

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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 October

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/pawpawpres), with videos posted afterwards to our website, pawpawpres.org

YOUTH/FAMILY CIDER MILL OUTING OCTOBER 17 (rain date 10/24). Contact Pastor Tiffany for details.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW Wednesday October 20 @ 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall; Conducted by our Treasurers and Admin/Finance Committee. All interested parties are welcome to attend and observe.

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday October 31 @ 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary; those who wish to participate via Zoom link should contact the church office to request a link.

URBAN PLUNGE November 7 This Presbytery-wide youth service outing will be a one-day event hosted by Brooklyn PC. See page 5 for details and registration link.

STAYING CONNECTED — Access to the church building is resuming ***church groups that wish to meet in our building should contact the office to get your meeting on our building use schedule.** 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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