

# Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 89, Issue 11

November 2021

**"Come to me, all you who are weary and  
carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."  
--Matthew 11:28**

When it comes to caring for pastors, our denomination takes these words of Jesus to heart. Sabbatical leave of three months or more is regularly offered to PC (USA) pastors in their 5th - 7th years of ministry. In addition to paid leave, pastors may also receive grants to support study, recreational travel and time away for personal and professional renewal.

The theme of my 2021 sabbatical proposal is spiritual wellness and laying a foundation for restoring right relationships. I have already begun the study component, an eight-month course led by Rev. Martha Creek ([marthacreek.com](http://marthacreek.com)) studying the work of Byron Katie - particularly her book, "Loving What Is." (For more on that, check out [www.thework.com](http://www.thework.com)).

My travel will focus first on reconnecting with my extended family, including taking my whole household (including the dogs!) to Rochester, NY to attend my nephew's senior recital at Eastman School of Music, then flying out for a long weekend with my daughter-from-another-hemisphere and her partner in Maine. I'll enjoy my first Christmas Eve off in six years, and then in January head down to Florida for a guided cycling tour through the Everglades and the Keys.

Upon my return, I'll begin an intensive pain management program at Mary Free Bed to help me cope with recently diagnosed fibromyalgia, a condition that has become rather pronounced under stress. Throughout all these activities, I will look for time to play: to make music, paint, bake, and reconnect with friends and family far and near.

But the one person I will focus on reconnecting with the most is the one who led me here to Paw Paw, the one who laughingly and lovingly called me to ministry over a decade ago, the one who knew me before I was born and claimed me in baptism thirty-five years later, who journeys with me in this life as shepherd, teacher, redeemer and friend. Get ready Jesus, here I come!

I pray that my time away brings peace and renewal to our church and each one of you as well, and I look forward to reconnecting with you in March 2022.

In Christ

*Pastor Tiffany*



**New friends get to know our church family on a lovely fall afternoon at Verhage Cider Mill.**

## **Worship leadership during Advent – Welcome Rev. Amber Nettleton!**

Pastor Tiffany McCafferty will be taking vacation time and a sabbatical during the Advent season and beyond. The Worship and Music Commission has been in conversation with Presbytery representatives to secure leadership for our worship services and pastoral care needs in that time. Pulpit leadership will be provided by a mixture of lay leaders, guest worship leaders, and ordained pulpit supply.



**Rev. Amber Nettleton leading worship during Lent 2021 at First Presbyterian of Kalamazoo.**

We are pleased to have a commitment from the Rev. Amber Nettleton for leadership during 5 Sundays in the Advent season. We look forward to her presence in our pulpit during this time of anticipating the birth of the Christ child. Rev. Nettleton will lead us in worship starting on November 28 and continuing each Sunday through December 26. Rev. Nettleton has previously served congregations at Pine Island and an interim call to Schoolcraft Presbyterian Church. Rev. Nettleton also serves as a [commission moderator for the Presbytery of Lake Michigan](#).

## **Worship and Music Commission: We miss you!**

**“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42**

In Acts 2 the story of the early church is told. A marker of that early church is the joy that each new convert had in being together in fellowship and worship. Early followers of “The Way” encouraged each other in their faith as they met and broke bread.

Covid has taken its part in stealing from us the joy of meeting one another to worship and confirm our friendships as believers. For those who have returned to worship, mask wearing and the elimination of fellowship time after worship have lessened the pleasure of greeting our church family. Still, the call to worship together speaks loudly to them. It is hard for some to find the worship experience that they long for when activities feel altered and restricted. Still, the need to be in worship encourages them. Many in our church family have returned to in person worship because they feel the need to be with other believers in Christ giving praise and prayer.

If you have not yet returned to church, it is time to consider why. You are missed by many and your presence encourages the entire family of believers. It is important for us to support one another in this challenging time. Our church is waiting patiently for those who have not yet returned to our pews on Sunday morning. Truly, your presence in worship makes us all more fully the body of Christ.

Tom Shoemaker – Chairperson of Worship and Music

# Let's Magnify the Light this Holiday Season

Once again, our church will sponsor local families in need during the holiday season. Instead of bringing all the gifts to the church to be wrapped, we will ask church members to “adopt” a local family, and purchase, wrap and deliver gifts themselves. Watch for details in the next newsletter and in Sunday service in the coming weeks. Tell Nancy Turk thanks too because she really puts it all together.



**MTL 2020: The McCloskeys load up their trunk and prepare to deliver gifts to a local family.**

Magnify the Light, basically, is Christmas gifts for local families who could use a little help. Families are referred to us by DHHS, with lists of sizes and gift requests for each family member. Think about how you might help a neighbor in need this December.

## ShareNet is back

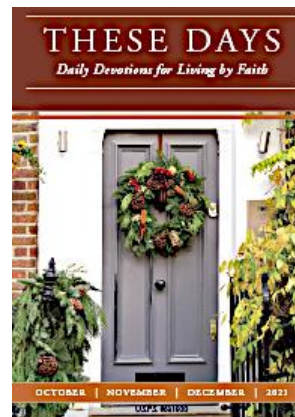
ShareNet is starting up again and will meet **Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 10 a.m.** at the church to regroup. If you would like to join us for the first time or rejoin, now is the time!

I have sent a note to Session to let them know we will be meeting and have asked for input from them as to what role ShareNet might play during this period.

Please share any thoughts or ideas you might have with me and keep in touch in case there's any last minute change of plans.

Thanks for your continuing prayers and support and even though we are separated in space we can be united in our beliefs and love for our church family.

Jan Wilder  
269-352-1450  
jan.wilder@comcast.net



## Get "These Days" daily devotional in your mailbox

"These Days" are daily devotions for strength- ening your faith.

Each issue features:

- Scripture suggestions
- Thought-provoking daily reflections written by clergy and lay leaders
- Inspiring prayers
- Adult coloring pages
- Colorful artwork on the outside covers with poems, prayers, and songs

Call the church office if you would like a quarterly copy of “These Days” mailed directly to your home.

[Read sample devotions for November 2021 by clicking here.](#)



# 90 Minutes Well-Spent

Which would you choose: 90 minutes or 90 months? Because in 90 minutes at the church financial review presentation, I learned as much about Paw Paw Presbyterian's business practices as I ordinarily would in 7-1/2 years (90 months) of hanging around. Really! At a previous church, and being the nosy person I am, I picked up much of the same information over the course of that many years.

This meeting, held on Oct. 20, 2021, was interactive too. We were given a handout with spaces for answers and then during the presentation Debby and I took turns writing yes or no – or our own notes – in the blanks. Kind of like the score card at a baseball game. *Another nice feature.*

There's nothing anyone can do about boring financial meetings, unfortunately.

[Watch it now at the church website  
pawpawpres.org](https://pawpawpres.org)

This financial review covered the 2020 fiscal year and it was delayed, til now, for Covid reasons. It followed the [PC\(USA\) guidelines](#) for financial reviews. Presbyterian churches can choose to have an independent audit or use the PC(USA) checklist and Paw Paw Presbyterian switched to the checklist method about five years ago.

Words like thorough and tough come to mind. Our bookkeeper and review committee members are, well, grilled for 90 minutes specifically on the well-documented actions of our church between January 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020. Spread across the table are many binders of monthly ledgers which they reference. Occasionally they must do

some digging through the ledgers and some explaining too. I liked the explaining part the best.

*The Financial Review Committee (Andy Thorburn, Mary Ellen Smith, Nancy Beck and Rev. Tiffany McCafferty) review the work of*



*Treasurer Dave Nielsen, Designated Funds Treasurer Frieda Durringer and Bookkeeper Joan Ford for the year 2020.*

As I look across the internet at Presbyterian and non-Presbyterian advice for financial reviews, I'm struck by how many similar checklists there are. If you plan to attend the next financial review presentation, request your blank checklist in advance so you can prepare for the meeting. Your advance copy may be missing the final numbers.\*

Another aspect of the review that struck me: Processes change year-by-year and this one was something of a snapshot of the procedures in place during 2020.

Oh, by the way, they passed the 2020 financial review in the lay opinions of the four attendees.

Thank you to our Administration/Finance Commission members Andy Thorburn, Nancy Beck, Mary Ellen Smith and Rev. Tiffany McCafferty for reviewing the 2020 work of Treasurers Dave Nielsen, Frieda Durringer and Bookkeeper Joan Ford.

by Chuck Williams

***\*A full copy of the completed review checklist with all financial data is now on file in the church office.***

November	
Su	
7	
14	
21	
28	

# Learning God's Word and Growing in Faith

Church service worship plans for November include:

Nov 7 - All Saints: We'll share the Lord's Supper and remember our loved ones in worship. Please let us know the saints you'd like to hear named worship to the church office at [firstpres120@gmail.com](mailto:firstpres120@gmail.com) or by calling (269) 657-3111.

Nov 14 - Pastor Tiffany's last Sunday before sabbatical; Congregational Meeting after shortened 10 a.m. worship service (meeting @ approx 10:40).

Nov 21 - Christ the King; Cents-ability Sunday

Nov 28 - Advent I, Rev. Amber Nettleton preaches

**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 please ask us at 269-657-3111 (leave a message!).

And our church service, of course, meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. in our sanctuary and Facebook livestream.

## Worship Service video DVDs available

As DVDs of our worship services are now available to anyone who needs them, the office is in need of bubble wrap for sending out DVD's to our folk who have requested them.

If anyone has any of the smaller type bubble wrap, I would be grateful for the donation!

Stay safe, stay well!!

Billie Brooks, Office Manager



## The Deacons are ready to play!



On November 9th eleven of us attended the WMU vs Ball State football game. The weather was warm and sunny, unfortunately the game was not!!! A good time was had by all!!

*In other news:*

Christmas poinsettias may be ordered by December 1st, 2021. They may be purchased as a gift, for your own pleasure, or in memory of someone. Order forms may be picked up at church on Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday when the office is open. They will also be available on Sundays as well.

You may also order how many you want by stating your name and the name of the person you are remembering. Include a check for \$10.00 each.

We also need to know if you want to take them home with you or want to leave them so the Deacons can distribute them to some of our congregation members. Remember the church address is PO Box 435. If you have any questions please call Marge McKee 269-341-2949.

As soon as the church will be available for Fellowship gatherings we are anxious to plan potlucks, game nights, Christmas caroling and after church socializing.

Pat Peters. Deacon Moderator

---

## Responsible Stewardship Begins With Your Pledge. If you haven't already, fill out this Commitment Card, detach it, and return it to church.

### First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw 2022 Commitment Card

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I value the ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw and commit financial support for 2022 as follows:

**GENERAL FUND:** for salaries, education programs, worship, building upkeep, utilities and office expenses,

I/we pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per: week month quarter year (please circle one)

**CAPITAL FUND:** for building improvements, repairs and equipment purchases,

I/we pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per: week month quarter year (please circle one)

**PER CAPITA:** estimated at \$37 per member, I/we pledge to pay final *per capita* for \_\_\_\_\_ adult members.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we would like the church to provide payment envelopes

### 2022 Commitment to First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw

P.O. Box 435, Paw Paw, MI 49079

*Please detach and keep for your records.*

General Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_

Capital Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_

\*Per Capita: x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of adult members)

*\*Exact per capita will be billed in 2022*



## West Entryway & Parking Lot Dedication



You have seen many pictures of our new West entryway and parking lot throughout the year which has been supported by donors and volunteers too numerous to name. Because of you, and generous gifts from Loretta Bruner, the Pardike Family, Bob Cassada and his family, Bernard Albright, and so many others, our church was able to complete this project without any loans or credit, paying as we went, and we'll now close out the special fund created to manage this project.

Lounsbury Construction was instrumental in bringing the project to completion. Jerry Miller was too; Jerry installed our new keyless door locks and video cameras.

The Building and Grounds Commission is grateful for the sharing of talents and the many hours put into bringing completion to this long dreamed of project. Three individuals stand out for recognition in this project however, and their names should not go unmentioned. Jerry Dundon, Bert Ogden, and Dave Wilder worked countless hours from the start of the project until the end.

We are grateful to be able to open our doors more easily and more safely, to provide access to more people to the different areas in our building, and for the humility and perspective we have gained

from having all of this occur at the same time that Covid has taught us that our church - the living body of Christ - must dwell outside these walls as much as in it.

This new portion of our building was officially dedicated to God's purpose and God's will on Oct. 31, 2021, as we turned, once again, to the words of King Solomon:

**May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. Hear the supplication of your servants and of your people when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.' 2 Chronicles 6:20**

**-- 1 Kings 8:29-30**

---

## Faith and Doubt Nov. 10

You are invited to attend [PC\(USA\) Presbyterian Mission's](#) Nov. 10, 2021, 7 pm online seminar, ***The Way of Spiritual Fortitude: Faith and Doubt*** with host Jonathon Tran.

Frederick Buechner famously said, 'doubt is the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving.' Yet doubt in ministry can be looked at as a failing or a lack of faith rather than an essential part of it. What danger does doubt present, and how does faith and fortitude depend on those dangers? Are the ways we think about faith, belief, and trust complex enough to actually make sense of our lives? In what ways does doubt nourish a life of faith? Explore these critical topics with us as we build The Way of Spiritual Fortitude together.

**[Register Here!](#)**

An online event from PC(USA)

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)

Presbyterian News  
Volume 89, Issue 11



### What's Happening in November

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

**Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Mondays at 7** Prayer study led by Bob Klimp meets in Fellowship Hall.

**Nov. 3, 10 - COVENANT BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays at 3:30.** We'll finish up our look at the Psalms and begin Job before taking a break until spring.

**Nov. 6 URBAN PLUNGE** Pastor Tiffany and students from our church will join youth from our Presbytery at Brooklyn PC for a day of service, worship and fellowship.

**Nov. 7 ALL SAINT'S WORSHIP 10 a.m.** Share the Lord's Supper and have the names of your departed loved ones read in worship (please get names to the church office by November 5!)

**Nov. 14 WORSHIP, CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** Pastor Tiffany's last Sunday leading worship before sabbatical; Congregational Meeting to Elect Nominating Committee and approve Pastor's Terms of Call immediately after a shortened 10 a.m. worship service.

**Nov. 21 CHRIST THE KING Sunday Worship 10 a.m.** and Cents-ability Sunday; Tom Shoemaker preaches.

**Nov. 25, 26 THANKSGIVING** Office closed Thursday & Friday

**Nov. 28 ADVENT BEGINS** Worship at 10 a.m. with our Advent Preacher, Rev. Amber Nettleton!

IN PERSON WORSHIP HAS RESUMED Every Sunday at 10 a.m. (masks required) and online live through Facebook, or at pawpawpres.org. STAY CONNECTED If you are not receiving emails or have a new email, address or phone number, please call the church office to update your contact info. PASTOR TIFFANY will remain available through November 16, call: (614) 596-1995. After Nov. 16, call the church office at (269) 657-3111 for assistance, or to request pastoral care from a minister or church member. The church office is staffed Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 - 3:30 p.m.

### 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 – Office

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