

# Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 89, Issue 12

December 2021



**Through the power of the  
gospel of Jesus Christ that we  
share, bring to completion the  
good work that you began in us,  
and let our love for you  
and for one another  
overflow in abundance.**

*- Presbyterian Advent Prayer*

# Welcome Advent Guest Reverend Amber Nettleton

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw will be host to a guest pastor during the season of Advent. The Reverend Amber Nettleton will be in the pulpit from November 28 through December 26 while Reverend Tiffany McCafferty is on sabbatical. All are welcome to join in worship at 10 am each Sunday through the Advent season. For more information contact the church office at 657-3111.



Reverend Nettleton was born and raised in “Cajun country” where the Louisiana phrase “laissez les bons temps rouler” (Let the good times roll) greatly influences her life and ministry. Amber earned her M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary in 2012 and has served churches in the Cascades and Lake Michigan Presbyteries. She currently serves the Presbytery as a Member-at-Large, is moderator of the Presbytery Committee on Nomination and Representation, and is the president of the Kalamazoo Area Medical Alliance.

Amber is a stay-at-home mom to 5-year-old Natalie, 3-year-old James, and 1-year-old Ethan. When she isn’t guest preaching or working with the Presbytery, she can be found blowing bubbles and drawing with chalk in her driveway, cooking vegetarian meals in her kitchen, washing never-ending piles of laundry, or hiding from her children to read historical fiction novels.



“My last Tuesday morning Bible study for a while. Thank you dear friends at White Oaks for growing my faith! Your smiling faces sustain me (and all the good vibes from Buddy!).” - Pastor Tiffany McCafferty, Nov. 16



# News from the Worship Commission



As we move the calendar year into the season of Advent, we must admit we have been through, and continue on, in a time of longing. Years ago, the Jewish community was also in a time of longing. The children of Israel longed for the promised Savior who would free them from Roman bondage. We long today for the removal of the bondage of Covid restrictions. We have learned how to adapt but the cost has been telling. The smiles of friends when passing the peace, the freedom to embrace one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, the time spent in fellowship with one another around tables, are all missed by many. We have lost those moments of shared connections. Some of our church family is still reluctant to return to in person worship.

Yet as those who waited over 2000 years ago, we too must wait with patience for our desired freedom from the virus that has changed our lives. We too are weary and oppressed by an external force that we did not invite into our lives. Eventually the virus will be conquered and we hope to return to a more normal way of living. Until that day we should not let our enthusiasm for gathering as Christians diminish.

Session has approved the return to singing during worship with masks on. Also approved is the return of a coffee time after worship. The tables in fellowship hall have had some chairs removed to allow for more spacing between those seated. If you are fully vaccinated and comfortable with sharing time and conversation, we welcome you to join us.

Starting in December we will have our nursery open again. We will take all precautions to provide a safe and caring environment for the children in our worship family.

Advent is a time of waiting. As a congregation we have waited a long time to gather and share with one another. We are still taking measures to make worship safe for all. It is our hope that during this special season in the church you will renew your commitment to share in the life of our church and find hope as you watch and wait for the promised Savior.

Wishing you blessings,  
Your Worship and Music Commission

# Magnify the Light Season is here!



*Last year, Kathy, Steve and Nathaniel McCloskey fill their car with gifts for a sponsored family.*

The Deacons have decided to proceed with the Magnify the Light caring project as we did last year. It worked well for us and the families were happy to have something under the tree for their children.

Magnify the Light, basically, is Christmas gifts for local families who could use a little help.

We have six families this year as well as the Domani family. Five families have two or three people listed on their form and one family has six. Our goal is a

gift for each person listed. Two families only listed children. It would be up to you if you want to get something small for the parent filling out the form too.

Please feel free to adopt a complete family or go together with someone to adopt a family. If you want to donate money, we will do the shopping for you. No food will be collected this year, but Kristen Welling is coordinating with the Lion's Club for Christmas baskets.

Call Pat Conner or Nancy Turk as soon as you decide how you want to participate. We can answer your questions as well as give you information on your chosen family. We have two families in Mattawan and four in the Paw Paw area.

We had a very successful Magnify the Light last year. Let's make this one just as successful!

Thank you for helping with this mission project.

Nancy Turk – 269-251-8291

Pat Conner – 269-760-2076



**Our Daily Bread Ministries** is a Christian organization with over 600 employees in Grand Rapids. They began their ministry in 1938. Learn about their devotional publications, including *Our Daily Bread*, at [odb.org](http://odb.org) or by writing them at Our Daily Bread Ministries, PO Box 2222, Grand Rapids, MI 49501. Their mission is to make the life-changing wisdom of the Bible understandable and accessible to all.





## Come Caroling With Us!

Deacons are inviting everyone to join them for caroling on Sunday, December 19th. We will meet at the church at 4:00 pm and caravan to the homes and places where we will sing. Brandon will lead us. A chili/soup supper will be ready for us in Fellowship Hall when we return to church.

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Fellowship Time has resumed.

Beverages are served after worship - stay and visit!

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### Urban Plunge News



Such a blessing for Pastor Tiffany, Logan and Avery to be able to represent our church at our Presbytery's Urban Plunge event on Nov. 6. Brooklyn Presbyterian Church did a fantastic job hosting over 60 youth and leaders for a day of fellowship, service, games, meals, worship and mission work.

Brooklyn Presbyterian says, "Thank you ... to all of those who donated items and lifted us up in prayer. It was a glorious day!"



## *Your gifts to Eleanor's Pantry do, indeed, make a difference*

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Donations accepted by mail: Eleanor's Pantry, PO Box 64, Paw Paw, MI 49079.

You can also visit them at 221 Drew Street, Paw Paw. Call first: 269-415-0444.

Eleanor's Pantry provides care for those in need in the Paw Paw and Lawton area.

Learn more at their website [eleanorspantry.org](http://eleanorspantry.org) and find them on Facebook too.

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## Curious about the church Audio Visual System?

It fills space at the back of the nave with equipment. It has grown to include broadcasting to the Internet and recording church service for later distribution. The A/V system controls sanctuary microphones too.

Curious about it? A brief tour is available after Sunday service by contacting Chuck Williams at 269-621-5359.

# 2022 Stewardship Update

We are at the same place we were last year at this time in our pledge giving commitments. 44 pledges have been received totalling: \$99,141 for General Fund, \$15,055 Capital Fund, and \$2,470 for Per Capita.

Thank you to all who have pledged! If you're considering, there's still time. Print this 2022 Commitment Card (cut it out) and mail it to First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 435, Paw Paw, MI 49079.

## 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*

November 28 - December 19, 2021

## Christmas Joy

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

### Your Impact: Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders

**The Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



# ***Thank You***

## ***Jim vanWestrienen***

Jim vanWestrienen was recently recognized as Organist Emeritus at Paw Paw Presbyterian. The church organist til March, 2020, Jim began playing in 1967, although early on he substituted.

Born May 13, 1933, he is still proud to live at his Paw Paw home with able assistance from daughter Kathy McCloskey and family. He moved here from Custer, Michigan, in the Ludington area, in 1961, and became a First Presbyterian member on Nov. 5, 1961.

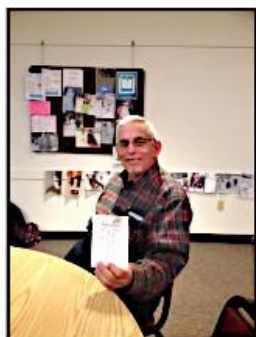
The current church organ is the third one owned by the church during his tenure. "They wear out, you know," he said.

The 2020 Annual Report notes, "Organist Jim vanWestrienen played Sunday worship right up until the shutdown in March, and remains eager to return to the organ bench when conditions allow." Unfortunately for us, the continuing Covid threat changed those plans.

*Two fun notes from the (Internet) archives:*

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### **Euchre Night Winner February 25, 2017**



Jim vanWestrienen was the winner of the night, with 26 points. Congratulations Jim!

The Paw Paw Courier-Leader, April 8, 1988 issue, reporting a local marriage ceremony at First Presbyterian, states, "The Rev. Nelson E. Lumm performed the 2 p.m. ceremony, with music provided by the organist Jim vanWestrienen and soloist Anita Uhler, with Kathy vanWestrienen on the guitar."

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](mailto:firstpres120@gmail.com) – [www.pawpawpres.org](http://www.pawpawpres.org)

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### What's Happening in December

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

***We are grateful to have Rev. Amber Nettleton with us for Advent Sunday Services including Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24, at 7:00 pm.***

**SUNDAY WORSHIP, DEC. 5, 12, 19 and 26, AT 10:00 am --** In-person worship at 120 Pine St. continues (wear masks!) along with safe and socially-distanced fellowship afterwards. Worship with us “livestream” on our Facebook if you prefer or participate later by watching the worship video at [pawpawpres.org](http://pawpawpres.org). Get the DVD video of the Sunday Service by calling 269-657-3111.

**CAROLING DEC. 19, 4:00 pm --** Meet at church and then caravan through the community to homes and places where we will sing. Oh what fun!

**DECEMBER 24 at 7:00 pm --** Christmas Eve Service. You are invited.

**DECEMBER 25 --** Christmas

**STAYING CONNECTED** — Access to the church building has safely resumed. The church office is staffed **Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am - 3:30 pm**. You may leave a message for staff at any time at 269-657-3111 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). For all care requiring the pastor please call the church office (leave a message) at (269) 657-3111.

### 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