

Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 90, Issue 1&2

February 2022

Welcome New Grandbabies!



Maris Bolton



Lucas Shoemaker



Sawyer Thorstenson



Penelope Cooper

Session Wants You to Know

On January 9 a special congregational meeting of our church was held after worship. Since many of our members were not present for the meeting Session feels it is important to keep as many as possible of our extended worship family informed. At that meeting Session brought a motion to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Reverend Tiffany McCafferty. The motion to dissolve was confirmed by members of our congregation who were present. The dissolution of our six year time with Pastor Tiffany comes with a mixture of feelings and Session wishes to share the wording of the motion and what next steps might be. Session asks that all concerned be held in prayer as we proceed to work out details of our dissolution and work with Presbytery to find interim leadership.

Following is the motion with a brief explanation presented to the congregation on January 9:

At our annual duly called Congregational Meeting on November 14, 2021 the congregation voted not to affirm Rev. Tiffany McCafferty's terms of call for 2022, as presented and recommended by the Session. As a result, the Session had a special called meeting on November 18, 2021 in order to consult with the Committee on Ministry of the Lake Michigan Presbytery about next steps. These next steps, as presented by Rev. Jerry Duggins, a Presbytery of Lake Michigan COM representative, were:

Option 1: Call a Congregational Meeting to dissolve the pastoral relationship. Rev. McCafferty's Sabbatical Leave would continue to March 1, 2022 and, per Presbytery COM policy, Rev. McCafferty would be paid a six-month severance from March 1, 2022.

Option 2: Renegotiate the Terms of Call, call another Congregational Meeting and present the revised Terms of Call to the congregation.

Option 3: Do nothing. The present Terms of Call would continue until otherwise negotiated and approved by the congregation.

Given it was the Advent season, the Session chose to remain in prayer and discernment about our three options until our December 14 regular meeting, also understanding that Rev. McCafferty would also be meeting with COM representatives.

On December 9, I, as Clerk of Session, received a letter from Rev. Tiffany McCafferty dated December 8, 2021, which I

then forwarded to the session for consideration and discussion at our December 14, 2021 Session meeting.

The December 8 letter from Rev. McCafferty requested dissolution of the called pastoral relationship with First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw because "a work environment persists that inhibits effective ministry..."

At the December 14 regular meeting of the session, the Session acted to receive the December 8 letter from Rev. McCafferty and consider the three options presented to us by COM at the November 18 meeting of the Session. After prayer and further conversation, the Session opted to call a special Congregational meeting on January 9, 2022, to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Rev. McCafferty effective March 1, 2022. Following due process and procedure, this was done by publishing announcements at worship services on December 19 and 26, 2021. In addition, three Session Members volunteered to contact Tiffany to offer support and continue conversations about her request.

Tiffany's letter of request for dissolution includes allegations of a hostile work environment, gender discrimination, sexual harassment and lack of respect for pastoral authority. Session is working to understand, investigate and address Rev. McCafferty's allegations. We are not prepared to share the details of the allegations with the congregation without some verification of the allegations and a plan to move forward.

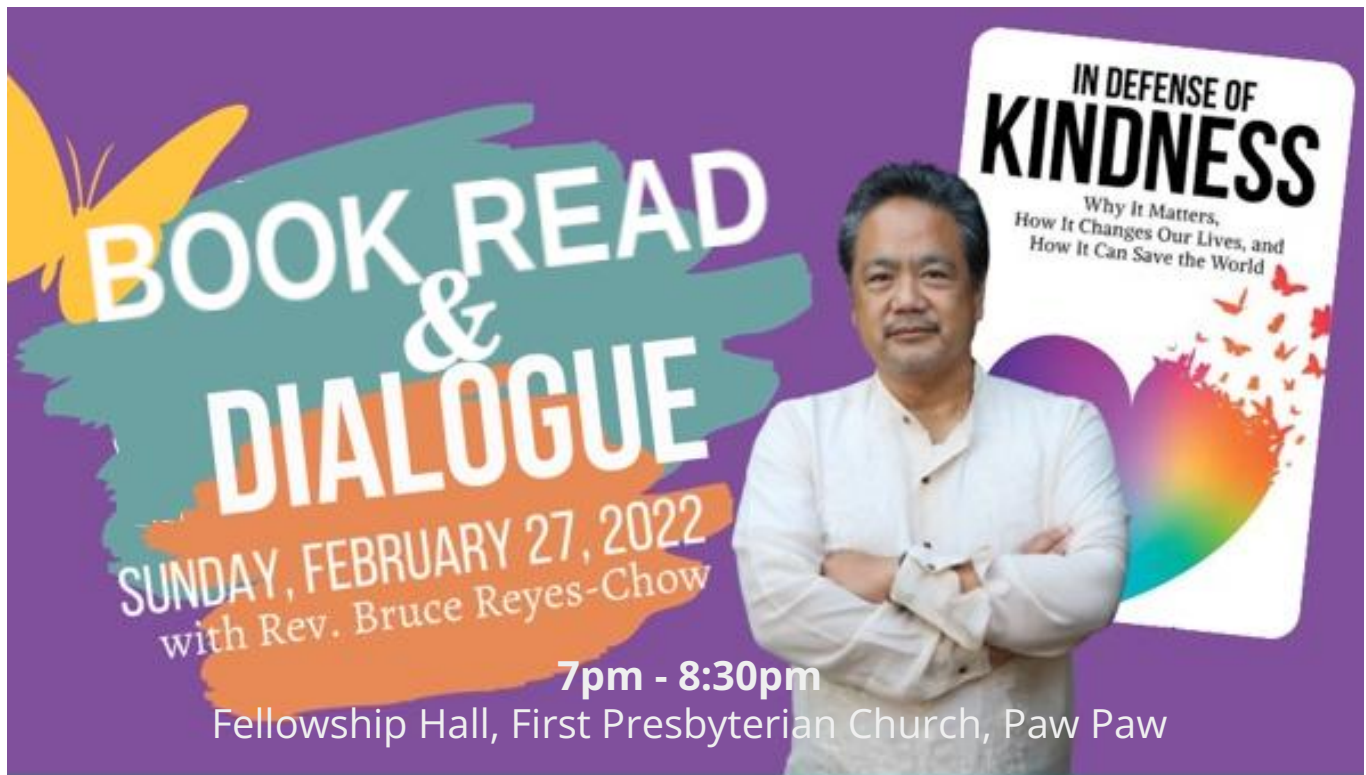
On behalf of the Session, we are asking the congregation to vote on whether to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Rev. Tiffany McCafferty effective March 1, 2022, and a severance agreement will be negotiated.

This is an act of the congregation, and the Session is placing this motion before you.

Session has met since then to hear a report from the team that met with Pastor Tiffany. Another meeting with the team has been scheduled for early February to further discuss her requests and Session's response.

Session has discussed, and will likely ask Presbytery to bring in an Administrative Council as a third party to meet separately with Session, members of the congregation, and Reverend McCafferty in order to determine validity around the previously mentioned allegations. This process could take as much as six months. Session will make efforts to keep our congregation informed.

Author and Presbyterian pastor speaks on his most recent book



With a playful spirit, tender heart, and unwavering commitment to justice, "kindness enthusiast" Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow explores the many ways in which kindness can bring about healing, wholeness, and hope in ourselves and the world. Through unfiltered sharing of his own experiences, Bruce invites the reader into an adventure of discovery and rediscovery of kindness of heart, mind, spirit, and action.

We can virtually join Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, California, when he speaks on ***In Defense of Kindness: Why It Matters, How It Changes Our Lives, and How It Can Save the World***. Contact Catey Bolton early so she can have everything ready for you on Feb. 27, 2022 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall.

Bruce is an author, speaker, parent, consultant, coach, podcaster, and pastor. He hosts the podcast BRC & Friends and speaks and writes on issues of faith, technology, race, parenting, and church culture. He can be found on most social media sites via @breyeschow.

When did kindness become a sign of weakness?

What if kindness actually has the power to change the world? Culture is at a crossroads when it comes to kindness. These days we either view kindness as an inert act based on the absence of being a jerk, or we see acts of kindness as heroic and herculean, beyond the reach and capability of mere mortals. Choosing kindness is also exhausting. The public and private back-and-forth exchanges of hatred and de-humanizing that is more about ratings, retweets, and winning than relationships and community is taking a toll on our motivation to even contemplate kindness as a valid response. ***In Defense of Kindness*** makes a case that we each can choose kindness as a way to experience community and wholeness in new ways.

Learn more! Search **In Defense of Kindness by Bruce Reyes-Chow** at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)



Paw Paw Presbyterians Go Christmas Caroling



Beginner Computer Volunteer Opportunities

Here's several church activities involving computers where adult members can volunteer. Beginners are welcome! Visitors, guests and fans: Contact us and we'll find a place for you too.

Worship Service

Can you help us Sunday morning? A person is needed to advance Powerpoint slides by pressing a button.

Church Newsletter

The church newsletter needs an at-home person to place stories and pictures on pages. Everything is on the Internet now and we use Google Docs which is much easier than the old way.

Facebook

On the church Facebook page we need at-home volunteers to post interesting things about the church and reply to comments.

Web Site pawpawpres.org

At-home volunteers needed to update the church web site. It's super easy because it uses the same buttons we all use to write emails, like "bold", "italic", "font", and "size", etc.

Email Blast

In a handful of simple steps you send an email to 200 church friends and members. Sweet!

Training Included!

We can train in-person, by Zoom, email or phone. Some of the training, like for Worship Service, requires special equipment at church. We'll train as long as it takes til *you're* comfortable with the skill. Later on you can always call with more questions.

For adults, new computer skills take practice. Can you write an email? Use a cell phone? I'll bet those took lots of practice at first, didn't they? As you can see in the list above, our church has many volunteer opportunities for people with your computer skills.

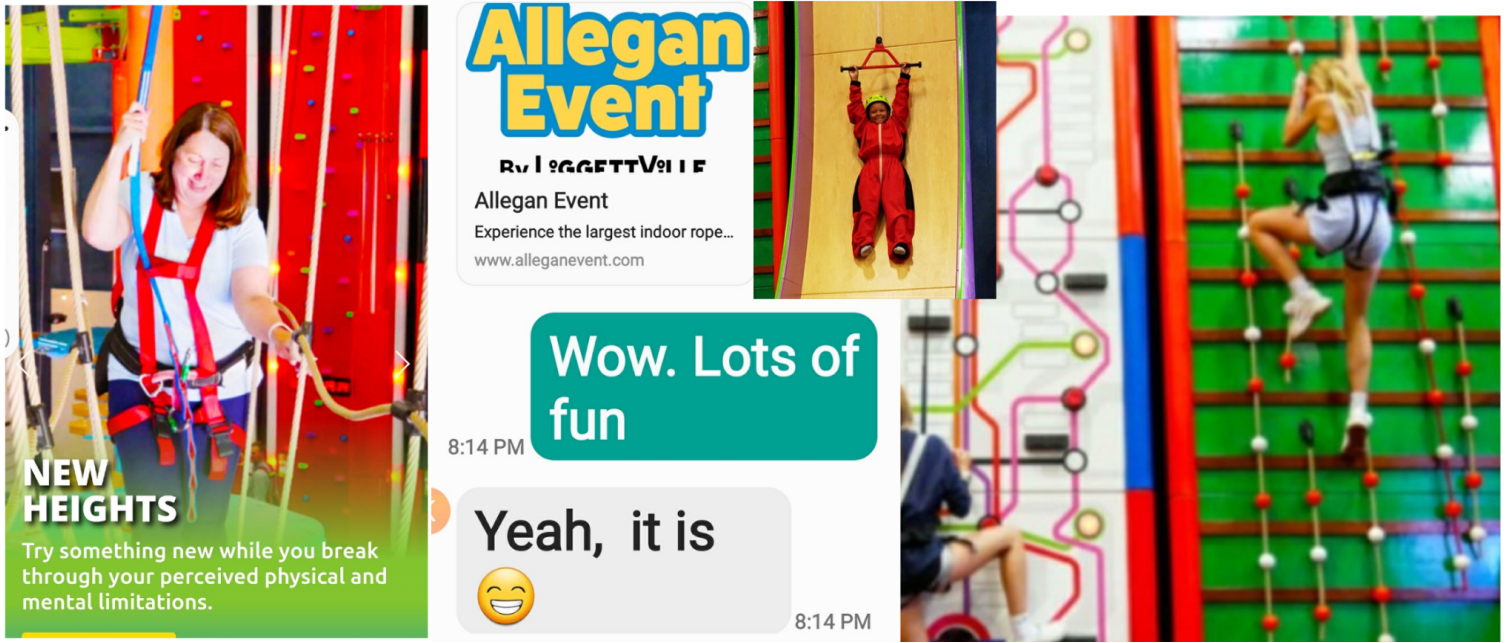
Our computer operators send out videos, newsletters, Facebook posts, web site stories, and email blasts to people all over Southwest Michigan and beyond. We don't work alone, however. Our church elders, session, clergy and commissions authorize us to perform these tasks. As Presbyterians, this is an important relationship. We press the buttons but they control the message. *And we're all God's messengers.*

Please contact me for church volunteer computer duties. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Chuck Williams – text & voice 269-621-5359 – aroundvanburen@gmail.com

Chuck Williams is a member of the Tech Committee along with Tom Shoemaker, Andy Thorburn, Nate McCloskey, and Jerry Miller

We are planning "The Allegan Event" for families



Allegan Event
R. J. GGETTVILLE
Allegan Event
Experience the largest indoor rope...
www.alleganevent.com

NEW HEIGHTS
Try something new while you break through your perceived physical and mental limitations.

Wow. Lots of fun
8:14 PM

Yeah, it is
8:14 PM

Please call Pat Conner, 760-2076, or Kathy Vought by Feb. 15, 2022 if interested.

Visiting friends in nursing homes ...



"A Mountain of Light"

Montana de Lus, also known as "a Mountain of Light", is a faith-based organization dedicated to helping children, youth and families affected by HIV/AIDS in Honduras. Our congregation has sponsored two children, Erick and Loida, for many years. Once again we hope to sponsor both of these children at Montana de Lus by contributing to the "50 cents a Day Jars." We have increased the amount to keep up with the higher costs of goods and services at Montana de Lus.

Today the majority of youth at the children's home are ages 15-20. The focus of Montana de Lus is to help them transition successfully into adulthood. Support and resources are provided to help them secure employment, enter university or reintegrate with their family. Younger children are still being helped, but in their family home setting or foster care.

The global Covid pandemic has forced Montana de Lus to pause and reassess its future. The Honduran government has ordered all children's homes to start transitioning towards a family-based care model. Transitioning out of institutional care and into life in Honduras is extremely difficult. The support of the family makes all the difference.

Montana de Lus is up to the challenge. Thus Montana de Lus' focus in 2022 is to invest in the families of the children being helped at the facility. Families will be able to come to Montana de Lus and meet the staff to get the support they need so that their child never has to be separated from them. Montana de Lus will provide meals, transportation and information to help these families cope with HIV/AIDS. The program is called "Healthy Families Honduras."

"Retool the Mountain" is a new project at Montana de Lus that will expand and upgrade its programs

and make needed repairs and upgrades to the facility. One program is offering training sessions in a refurbished computer lab.

Most families served at Montana de Lus are not computer literate. This program will help them in finding jobs that require workers to be confident when using a computer. Another program is to renovate the pharmacy to create a safe, better equipped area with expanded resources.

This year our hope is to once again help support Erick and Loida. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

"....Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ....."

1 Peter 4:11

Eleda Zygadlo

Mission Commission Chairperson



UNITED CHRISTIAN SERVICES

PLEASE HELP UNITED CHRISTIAN SERVICES RESTOCK THEIR SHELVES

Operation Spa

Personal Care & Laundry Product Drive

February 1st 2022- March 31st 2022

Suggested Items

- Shampoo & Conditioner-Body Wash
- Deodorant ~Toothpaste ~ Lotion
- Men & Women's Razors~ Shaving Cream
- Laundry Soap~ Dish Soap ~ Toilet Paper

(WE PREFER NOT FAMILY OR TRIAL SIZES PLEASE)

Per Capita: What's in it for me?

from an article by Dr. William McConnell in PresbyterianMission.org

As a connectional church, our work is maintained, sustained and funded by a financial system called "Per Capita." In this system, each governing body above the local congregation's session determines how much it will cost to do what the Book of Order and the next higher governing council require. Each body also calculates what it will cost to do the ministries it believes God is calling it to do. And the General Assembly determines the cost of maintaining the structures and systems at the national level that support the internal work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its relationships with other faith communities around the world.

Has your congregation ever benefitted from Per Capita payments made to your presbytery, synod or the Office of the General Assembly? Before you say no, let me ask you to consider the following questions:

What is Per Capita

Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

- It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better ruling elders, teaching elders and deacons, and ministers.
- It is how Presbyterians are helped to discern God's call in their lives.
- It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the wider church by serving on General Assembly committees and commissions, regardless of distance or financial resources.
- It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with "all persons in every nation" (Book of Order, G-4.0101)

Has your pastor ever consulted with presbytery leadership for guidance?

Have you ever searched for a new pastor?

Has a member of your congregation sensed a call to ordained ministry and begun the discernment process?

Has your pastor or Clerk of Session referenced the Book of Order when your session is making decisions?

Have members of your congregation served as commissioners to the General Assembly?

Has a member of the Office of General Assembly staff ever attended your presbytery meeting to help interpret the church's work?

Have you read statements from our Stated Clerk, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, about issues facing our world?

If you answered yes to any of those questions (and there are many more), you and your congregation have benefitted from the dollars you have contributed to Per Capita.

Meanwhile, closer to home at the Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Andy Thorburn, church Elder, says that, locally, Per Capita pays several expenses at the Presbytery of Lake Michigan including salaries for General Executive Presbyter, office manager, bookkeeper, and technical support personnel.

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw is one of 60 churches in the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

Presbytery of Lake Michigan youth programs like Urban Plunge and Triennium, congregational growth programs, and new-church programs are all funded by Per Capita as well.

About Terry Vaughn

I have been playing at the Paw Paw Presbyterian Church since October of 2006. I have so enjoyed being involved in services at church. And for all of the love, support, comfort, and kindness the congregation has shown to me over the years (especially after Steve died). My heart has been deeply touched.

I grew up with lots of music in the house. The folks had many, many 78's and I loved listening to them and so I am also familiar with many older songs.



From what my folks told me, I was very insistent on wanting to play the piano. So, they asked 'Dump' Fredrick to find a good and reasonably priced piano. He found one for \$50.00! It had been a player piano, but the player parts had been removed. Anyway, after Dad reinforced the floor where the piano would sit, the piano made its way into our home. I named it Claude (don't remember why).

My first piano teacher was Mrs. Elsie Roach, the minister's wife. When she felt she'd taken me as far as she could, I switched to the organist/pianist. It was the same story with her, so I ended up with a wonderful but tough lady who actually had a degree in music education from Parsons College in Fairfield, IA. She was my instructor during my high school years and actually played organ for Steve's and my wedding.

Having grown up hearing, playing, and singing hymns in church since I was very young, I feel it gave me the advantage of knowing the lyrics to many, many sacred songs. Being able to recall those lyrics has also given me the opportunity to transfer the feelings those lyrics invoke to my singing and playing. The feelings just kinda bubble up and float out of me. Words are sooooo important!

I was born on June 26, 1952 in Fairfield, Iowa and I

grew up on a farm near Packwood, IA. Attended Packwood Elementary K-8 and Pekin High School. 9-12. My Dad was a Farmer and Carpenter and my mom was a Registered Nurse. I have one older sister, one older brother, and one younger brother.

I have been singing and playing piano since 6th grade. I attended grades K-8 at the Packwood Elementary School in Packwood, Iowa. During those years I sang my first vocal solo and played clarinet in 6th-8th grade. I also sang in a trio that would sing at different area events.

I played my first piano solo at church when I was in 6th grade. I also sang in the Ollie Baptist Church Choir in Ollie, Iowa and the Pekin Area Choir.

When I was at Pekin Community High School I participated in both the choral and instrumental programs. I was a member of the High School Mixed Chorus, Girls Glee, Madrigal, Chamber Choir, plus solos and ensembles, and accompanied the Boys Glee. I was also a member of the Concert Band (clarinet), Marching Band (played bass drum my senior yr.), Jazz Band, Pep Band, many ensembles and belonged to the Lyre Club. I also sang for many weddings, funerals, and other area events.

Since moving to Michigan in 2002, I have directed the Paw Paw Community Chorus and, for nine months, directed at church too. I've sang in the church choir. Since 2006 I've been a part-time pianist/accompanist at church.

I've also sung and played at area events and accompanied students at district and state festival solos. I'm also an instructor in voice and piano lessons.

<< February 2022 >>							
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
W1			1 • ShareNet • White Oaks	2 • T.O.P.s • Counseling	3 • Tech Crew • B&G/LRG Committee • Rotary • Mission Committee	4 • Yoga	5
W2	6 • Worship Service • NA	7 • Yoga	8	9 • T.O.P.s • Counseling	10 Worship and Music on Feb 10 at 4:00	11 • Yoga	12
W3	13 • Worship Service • NA • SOUPER Bowl Sunday	14 • Boy Scouts Committee • Yoga	15 • Admin/Fin Comm • Session • Deacons	16 • T.O.P.s • Counseling	17 • Tech Crew • Potluck	18 • Yoga	19
W4	20 • Worship Service • NA	21 • Yoga	22 • ShareNet	23 • T.O.P.s • Pres. Women • Counseling	24	25 • Newsletter Deadline	26 • Games/Euchre Night • Men's Breakfast
W5	27 Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 27th after worship.	28 • Yoga	1 • ShareNet	2 • T.O.P.s • Counseling	3 • Tech Crew • B&G/LRG Committee • Mission Committee	4	5



It's Souper Bowl Time Again!

Sunday, February 13

It's Souper Bowl time again and the Deacons are bringing back the Annual SOUPER BOWL luncheon - modified due to Covid restrictions. In the past we have enjoyed both food and fellowship while sharing a meal and sampling the many tasty crock pots of soup. This year in the mode of safety for all, soups will be available after the church service for you to **TAKE OUT**. Soups will also be shared with some of our Shut-Ins as wishes of fellowship and caring are delivered to them along

with a bowl of soup. This year the "Soup" is a gift to the congregation - may it warm your soul, give you a bit of happiness and bring you back to share in worship and fellowship at 1st Pres of Paw Paw.

February Birthdays

Feb 1 - Ashley Racette Moore

Feb 2 - Susan Zygodlo

Feb 4 - Jan Ogden

Feb 7 - Bill Welling

Feb 9 - Erin Paynich

Feb 11 - Karen Wellman

Feb 13 - Nancy Boven

Feb 15 - Judith Haefner

Feb 19 - Alan Colgren

Feb 25 - Nicole Mroczek

Feb 26 - Monica Marlowe

Feb 28 - Patrick McCafferty

Feb 28 - Dave Suter

Send your March newsletter stories and photos to aroundvanburen@gmail.com by Feb. 25.

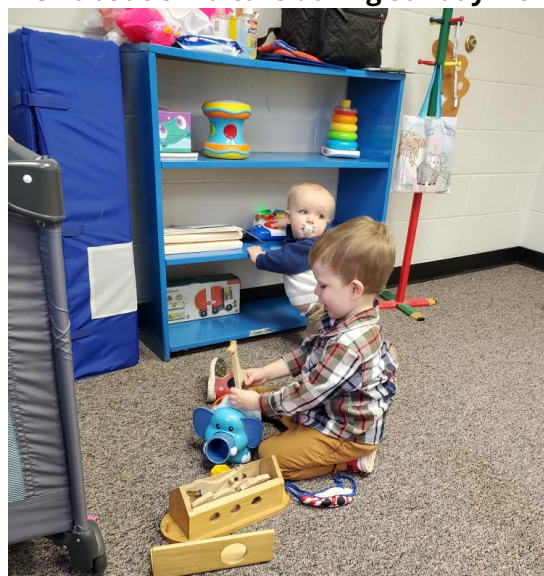


Lake Effect Snow Band by the Shoemaker grandchildren

Spring Cleaning Has Begun!



Ask about child care during Sunday worship service



First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw
P.O. Box 435
120 Pine Street
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Return Service Requested

Presbyterian News

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Find more activities at www.pawpawpres.org/calendar

WORSHIP WITH US EVERY SUNDAY

10 am at 120 Pine St., Paw Paw, MI and livestreamed to our Facebook page.

- After service join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and beverages *with social distancing*.

- Watch the recorded service later at pawpawpres.org or on DVD. Call 269-657-3111 for your free DVD.

CONTACT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PAW PAW

Call the church office at (269) 657-3111 or email us at firstpres120@gmail.com. The church office is staffed Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 am - 3:30 pm however office manager Billie Brooks will be away February 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 to visit new granddaughter Penelope "Poppy" Jane Cooper. Email bookkeeping to fpcpawpawbookkeeper@gmail.com. After office hours if you have a pressing building or grounds emergency please call Jerry Dundon at 269 615-3541. For a Pastoral EMERGENCY after hours, please contact Elder Tom Shoemaker at 269 808-3240.

YOU ARE INVITED: Sunday, February 13

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YOUR DEACONS WANT TO REMIND EVERYONE:

Contact information of relatives and friends who are currently in college or serving in the military are wanted! The Deacons would like to send them Valentine greetings! Please email their name, mailing address and email address to Pat Peters at Pipeters.1040@gmail.com by February 7th. You may also mail information to the church at First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, P.O. Box 435, 120 Pine Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079

GAMES/EUCHRE NIGHT - Saturday February 26 in Fellowship Hall