

Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 91, Issue 3

March 2022

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Ash Wednesday, March 2

Stay as long as you wish. Come in for a few minutes or many.

March 2 is Ash Wednesday. Our church sanctuary will be open from noon until 2 pm for any who wish to come and meditate, sit quietly, read scripture, pray on their own, or pray with Reverend Amber Nettleton. Reverend Nettleton will also be prepared to mark our observers with the traditional ashes that signify the beginning of Lent.

Worship and Music Commission

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will begin March 2 and go through April 17. For over 70 years this special offering has provided our church a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. There are three programs

supported by this offering - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of people. These programs all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. Special envelopes are provided in the monthly giving boxes. "Gracie the Fish" boxes are also provided for your One Great Hour of Sharing donation. The boxes are located in the narthex. Your donation will restore hope, feed the hungry and empower the oppressed.

The total amount for the **Christmas Joy** special offering totaled \$700.00. This donation goes toward supporting the Assistance Program for the Board of Pensions, Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges and Racial Ethnic Leadership Development.

Thank you for supporting these special programs.

Eleda Zygodlo

Mission Commission Chairperson

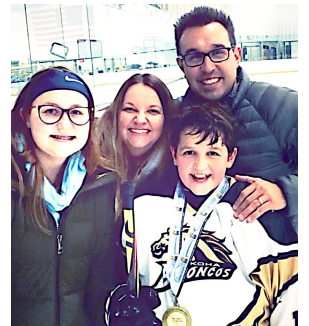
Session seeking interim pastor

It is with gratitude that we thank Reverend Amber Nettleton for her service to our congregation in this time of pulpit supply. Reverend Nettleton has been in pulpit enough for us to get well acquainted with her and to build some friendships with our congregation. Reverend Nettleton will be here for Ash Wednesday service on the 2nd of March. After that she will be leaving us for the next two months but there are hopes to have a return leadership stint in May and perhaps June. In the meantime we will be led by a number of very capable pastors from around the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. In March we will welcome Reverend Liz Candido to our pulpit on the 6th and 20th. The 27th of March will see the return of Reverend Mary Van Andel to lead us. Presently the 13th of March is unfilled, but ordained minister or not we will hold worship and several other good leadership options still exist.

The days of pulpit supply will eventually come to a closure point as the Session seeks an interim pastor for our church. This search can take a while but The Presbytery of Lake Michigan is assisting us in the process of locating an interim. The field is limited as interims have to fulfill training requirements designed to help guide churches in transition.

Good news on the music front. Chris Gray has been polling our choir members to see if they are ready to return to practice and sing in worship. We have missed them. We should have more information from Chris soon. If you were, or wish to be, a choir member please check in with Chris if he has not reached out to you yet.

You may be wondering where Brandon Mattson has been. Brandon and Brenda's son Brendan is a hockey player and his travel team has been busy. Many of their games are on Sunday and Dad and Mom along with Braelynn faithfully follow the hockey circuit. We will see Brandon more in weeks to come. Enjoy the photo sent us by Brandon.



In God's Peace,
The Worship and Music Commission

Could you save someone's life?

You could if you were trained to operate an AED unit.

An automated external defibrillator, or AED, is a medical device that restores heart rhythm to normal.

Training sessions are coming this spring on our new AED unit. Classes will be given by Laura Wells.

Call Jerry Dundon for information at 269-615-3541.

Congregational Meeting

At the Feb. 27, 2022 Congregational Meeting the Annual Report was accepted, the 2022 Budget was accepted, and both Session nominations and Deacon nominations were presented and accepted.

For Session, new Elders are Craig Hess, Class of 2022; also Wendy Mickle, Jerry Miller, Harold Schuitmaker, and Adele Walters, all Class of 2024.

New Deacons, all Class of 2024, are Sue Martin, Kristen Welling, Bill Welling, Laura Wells, and Jan Wilder.

Allegan Event Coming March 20

"Allegan Event" is an indoor activity center at 439 River St. in Allegan that features:

- Large Indoor Rope Course
- Vertical Drop Slide
- Sky Trail®
- Fresh New Take on Indoor Climbing
- Arcade Games



Families should respond by March 4th to join our outing to the Allegan Event. Please call Pat Conner at 760-2076 or Kathy Vought if interested.

Spring plant orders

The Deacons invite you to order your spring plants now. The plants will cost \$10.00 each. You may buy them in memory of a loved one, to honor someone or just for yourself. The order forms are in the church narthex. You may request a form to be emailed to you by contacting Billie in the office. The order deadline is Sunday, April 3, 2022. The plants will be here for you to take home, deliver to a friend or let us deliver to a church member on Sunday April 10, 2022.

St. Patrick's Day Potluck

The next Deacons' Potluck is on March 17th at 6:00 pm. Bring a dish to pass and your own silverware, plates and cups. Coffee will be provided. It will be St. Patrick's Day so bring something Irish. Bring a friend!!!!

Game Night

Deacons invite you to Euchre night March 26th at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share. Hey folks! Don't forget to make a date to join us.

A wonderful event, thanks to all



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY was a wonderful event, thanks to all who participated. We served and delivered about 60 lunches. We all felt such a warm sense of community and it was heartwarming to watch everyone chatting together. Thank you to all the Deacons and Sharenet members. They all came and worked together to treat the congregation in an act of kindness.

Great addition



The Noah's Ark display was donated to the church by Barb and Jerry Dundon. It was part of Bernie Albright's estate and Jerry thought it would be a great addition to our church.

Please thank them and be sure to check it out if you haven't already.



In Defense of Kindness Book Study

The month of February saw us reading **In Defense of Kindness**, a book by Dr. Bruce Reyes-Chow, a Presbyterian Minister from Palo Alto, California. The activity was sponsored by the Worship and Music Commission. At the beginning of February forty books were distributed to those wishing to participate by reading four chapters a week about making kindness and why it matters. You may have noticed the kindness poster in the narthex or the videos available for viewing. We also had the opportunity to chat using our new Realm software. *BE KIND* buttons were handed out to any who wished to take one.

On Wednesday, February 23rd we were able to have a Zoom meeting with the book's author. The meeting took place in Fellowship Hall with pizza and cookies before the Zoom meeting began. It was attended by thirty of our readers and friends. Dr. Reyes-Chow gave us a brief introduction to himself and the book. After that he answered a number of questions and responded to comments about the book.

Each chapter in the book ends with a Reflection and a *TRY THIS* suggestion for the reader. The easy read included, but was not limited to, chapters titled Kindness Defined, Kindness and Conflict, Kindness and Those Closest to Us, and Kindness and the Everyday. The 45 minute meeting was well received and Dr. Reyes-Chow closed it out with prayer. Thanks to Catey Bolton and Wendy Mickle for organizing the event and for providing us calendars for Kindness activities in March. Please pick one of these attractive calendars up at church.

Social Media at First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw

FPC is active once again on Facebook. For those of you not familiar, here is a brief explanation.

Facebook allows people to connect with like-minded people on the internet. It allows these people to share pictures, music, videos, and articles, as well as their own thoughts and opinions. Organizations use Facebook to spread information about their activities and events.

To give an example of how it can be useful, on Facebook I "follow" the Van Buren County Road Commission, the U.S. Weather Service in Grand Rapids, the Van Buren Conservation District and Wedels in Kalamazoo for news and info.



Are you using Facebook?

Go to **facebook.com/1stprespawpaw** and follow our church. Give us a thumbs up when you see a

new post. Comments are welcome! Even if you don't use social media, if you have some ideas for short topic postings and/or pictures of church activities, please pass them along to me at debbywms@gmail.com.

Bowls of Blessing

United Christian Services of Van Buren County invites everyone to their Bowls of Blessing Banquet on March 10, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, at 600 E. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. They're raising funds to help families in crisis in Van Buren County.

Many of us Presbyterians painted bowls for this event!



For \$25 you choose a hand-painted bowl, enjoy unlimited delicious soup and bread, and hear testimonies about the impact United Christian Services is making in the community.

Thanks Scouts!



Scout Sunday was Feb 20 and our local Scouts helped out with greeting and worship.

Please pray with the Scouts as they continue to work toward being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Help Wanted

Building and Grounds would like to get a group organized to do small repairs around our church. Possibilities would be to meet after Men's Breakfast or another scheduled time for a couple hours. NO HEAVY WORK. See or call Jerry Dundon, 269-615-3541.



Thank You

A heartfelt thank you for the kind wishes, thoughts, prayers and much appreciated soup! The soup provided nourishment both to my body and my soul!

I continue to ask myself daily, how did I get so lucky to get to be an 'adopted' member of this congregation! and then I remember who is leading us on our daily paths.

Billie Brooks, Office Manager

Four ways to get the Presbyterian News

Here's four ways to get your copy of the church newsletter:

1. In your browser, go to pawpawpres.org/news-and-info-13
2. Postal mail: Ask the church office to add your name to the monthly newsletter mailing list. If the postage, paper cost, and office work concerns you, add \$2 a month to your giving.
3. Email: A link to the newsletter is included in the weekly email blast that announces the Sunday Worship Service video.
4. At church: Several tables and bulletin boards around the building offer free literature. Help yourself to a copy of the newsletter, take it home and share it.

PRINTED COPY ONLY. By the way, this month's postal mail edition is a little different. Let us know what you think by calling Chuck Williams at 269-621-5359 (leave a message). There's no staple because we think the staple is interfering with the post office machinery. But without the staple you can more easily post the calendar (on page seven) to your bulletin board!

Recycling program ends

Thank you to everyone for all the contributions for recycling. We are discontinuing this program, so we will no longer be asking for donations of ink cartridges, batteries etc. Thank you for a successful program!



Ruth Heinzen was a quilter.

The Heinzen family gave the church these two beautiful quilts of hers.



March Anniversaries

March 17 David and Patricia Conner
 March 19 Tim and Jennifer Combs
 March 19 Fred and Diane Triquet
 March 22 Jeff and Laura Wells
 March 26 Alan and Nicole Colgren
 March 30 Jim and Sally Brinkman



March Birthdays

3/1 Thomas Smith
 3/2 Marlene Tucker
 3/3 Phyllis Sahr
 3/4 Andy Thorburn
 3/8 Lexis Fath
 3/8 Theresa Yarbrough
 3/11 Ann McGrew
 3/12 Thomas Conner
 3/14 Harvey Hop
 3/14 Kathy McGuire
 3/15 Danna Dent
 3/15 Steve McCloskey
 3/18 Jeff Brown
 3/18 Jean Taylor
 3/20 Carrie Willard
 3/26 Alex Frazier
 3/29 Wayne Martin
 3/29 Dick Schallhorn
 3/29 Colleen Stiles
 3/30 Nathaniel McCloskey

Lenten Floriography at facebook.com/1stprespawpaw



Floriography is the secret language of flowers. It bloomed first in eighteenth-century northern Europe, drawing on the fascination with flowers that cut across cultures, times, and places.

In many churches, the word, “Alleluia” (which means, “Praise God!”) is buried, or put away, on Ash Wednesday. It’s not meant to be spoken until the end of Lent. This makes sense because the 40 days (plus Sundays) of

Lent are a time of prayer and quiet reflection, a time of fallowness and rest and longing, a time for growing deep. On Easter, all those buried Alleluias sprout up everywhere, in all the prayers and songs.

They flower on the tongue.

The same is true for flowers. In some churches, all flowers are removed from the sanctuary during Lent. Then, on Easter morning the sanctuary blooms with a party of tulips and daffodils, hyacinths and lilies — potted Alleluias! The perfume of life spills down the aisles and out the front door. A glimpse of the garden of Eden is restored. Resurrection is spread through the world like pollen on the wind, and Christians head out like bees covered in good news to spread it everywhere they go.

At **facebook.com/1stprespawpaw** this Lent season we’re taking a Lenten journey that’s full of flowers. Just at the time of year when things seem most barren and flowerless, we hope you’ll join us in considering the lilies, as Jesus asked us to do. And not just the lilies, but the tulips, the forget-me-nots, the snowdrops, the weeds, and the corpse flower too, to see what they might have to teach us about life and death and resurrection on Easter morning.

During this Lent you are invited to participate in a series of readings, reflection and prayer at **facebook.com/1stprespawpaw**.



REFLECT

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Noon AA CEK 6:30 Personnel FH	2 7:30 TOPS FH 11-12 Counseling Nar	3 9 Blg&G/LRP FH	4 Noon AA CEK	5 7 AA CEK
6 10 Worship Sanc 7-8 NA CEK	7	8 10-11 ShareNet Lib Noon AA CEK	9 7:30 TOPS FH 11 Admin/Fin Comm FH 11-12 Counseling Nar	10 12-1 Rotary FH 3 Tech Comm Sanc 4-5 Worship/Music FH	11 Noon AA CEK	12
13 10 Worship Sanc 7-8 NA CEK	14 6:45-9 L Boy Scouts	15 Noon AA CEK 6:30 Session FH	16 7:30-8:30 TOPS FH 11-12 Counseling Nar	17 6 Potluck FH	18 Noon AA CEK	19 7 AA CEK
20 10 Worship Sanc 7-8 NA CEK	21	22 10 ShareNet Lib Noon AA CEK	23 7:30-8:30 TOPS FH 11-12 Counseling Nar	24 3 Tech Comm Sanc	25 Noon AA CEK Newsletter Deadline	26 7-10 FH Men's Breakfast 7pm FH Games Night 7 AA CEK
27 10 Worship Sanc 7-8 NA CEK	28	29 Noon AA CEK	30 7:30-8:30 TOPS FH 11-12 Counseling Nar	31	LEGEND: FH=Fellowship Hall L=Library Sanc=Sanctuary Nar=Narthex LO=Lounge AW=Admin Wing CEK=Downstairs Kitchen KIT=Kitchen (upstairs)	

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw
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Return Service Requested

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Volume 90, Issue 3



**IN DEFENSE OF
KINDNESS**

Why It Matters,
How It Changes Our Lives, and
How It Can Save the World



Bruce Reyes-Chow

Every day, be kind!

Thank you to all who attended our In Defense of Kindness Zoom Meetings with Dr. Bruce Reyes-Chow in Fellowship Hall. When leaving a Kindness Note, please discreetly include the Church phone number, 269-657-3111. Remember, Substitute Kindness Activities are always welcome.

Every day in March, shower a little kindness wherever you go! For March 1, Tell someone they are AWESOME. March 2 through 31 follow:

- (2) Tell someone, "I wish there were more kind people like you in my world." (3) Hand out chocolate. (4) Give compliments freely. (5) Pray for someone. (6) Thank others for their time. (7) Pay for someone's coffee. (8) Send a card of thanks to a soldier or veteran. (9) Donate to Wings of God. (10) Bring a friend a candle that smells really good. (11) Leave a kind note in a library book. (12) Be Kind to Yourself! (13) When you believe in someone, tell them directly. (14) Smile and make eye contact. (15) Hold the door. (16) Allow someone to go ahead of you in line. (17) Offer to be the designated driver. (18) Write a note to your doctor thanking them for their service during the pandemic. (19) Tell people their idea is really cool. (20) Be Kind to Yourself. (21) Reward someone for their Kindness. (22) Let someone sleep in late. (23) Leave a snack for your postal worker. (24) Leave coins at the laundromat. (25) Take microwave popcorn to the library and/or Redbox machine. (26) Donate to Eleanor's Pantry. (27) Invite a friend to Church and bring them. (28) Become an organ donor and/or donate blood. (29) Only make positive comments on social media. (30) Give compliments freely. (31) Ask a friend to go for a walk.

And here's one more from the Bruce Reyes-Chow book: "Take a moment to get to know someone else's story."

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