

Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 91, Issue 4

April 2022



Pentecost Special Offering & CROP Hunger Walk

The Pentecost Special Offering will begin April 18 and go through June 5. This church-wide effort is to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church. Our church retains 40% of the offering to support ministries with children and youth in our church community. 60% goes to Presbyterian Church (USA). This organization uses the offering to support ministries with youth, young adult volunteer experiences and advocates for children at risk. This special offering helps to establish a foundation during childhood to ensure lifelong faith and service. Your contribution to this special offering will be greatly appreciated and will nurture the faith of those who are the church to come.

It is time for the CROP Hunger Walk! The walk will take place on Sunday, April 24 at 2:00 p.m. at Paw Paw United Methodist Church. Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. This is the 40th year for the walk to take place in eastern Van Buren County. This walk is through downtown Paw Paw and is almost a 5K. If you are interested in participating please see Eleda Zygodlo for information and packets. Hope to see you there!

Our church has reached the goal for Montana de Luz. This year we raised \$782.00 which will cover our commitment to support Erick and Loida. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Eleda Zygodlo
Mission Commission Chairperson

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



1. Select a rock. This rock represents your burdens, all that you want to leave behind, and all that you want to be forgiven.
2. Travel through Lent with your stone. Feel it in your hand, in your pocket, in your shoe. Pray. Trust God's heart.
3. Carry your burdens through Lent and in the glory of Easter. Place them at the foot of the cross.

News from Worship and Music

Thank you for your patience in waiting for us to relax the recommendations on masking for worship in our historic sanctuary. As of the March Session meeting, the mask policy for worship was changed to optional for all fully vaccinated individuals. We ask that you still honor social distancing and give space to any who wish to continue masking for health reasons. Session, Worship and Music, and Building and Grounds continue to monitor Covid numbers in the area and CDC guidance.

Great news on the music front. Our choir has resumed practice with hopes to have an anthem ready for our Easter worship service. Chris Gray, our talented choir director, returns to lead our vocalists. We are most blessed to have so many individuals with good voices in our membership and their willingness to share them in song.

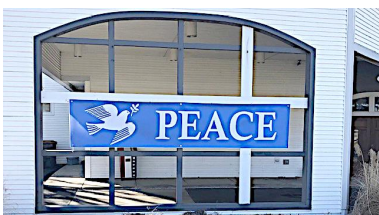
Worship leadership at Paw Paw First Presbyterian for the month of April promises an exciting line up of guest pastors. On April 3, the Reverend Fran Lane-Lawrence will be in our pulpit. Reverend Lane-Lawrence is well known throughout our area for her previous service as Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Niles and her current role as Transitional Co-Leader/Stated Clerk of Presbytery. Reverend Fran has previously led us in worship as pulpit supply.

On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we will welcome the Reverend Cal Bremer. Reverend Bremer serves the Presbytery as a Transitional Co-Leader. In 2020 Reverend Bremer worked with Reverend Lane-Lawrence and the Synod of the Covenant to produce a series of on-line Advent worship services available for churches or worshippers.

On April 24 we plan to introduce you to the Reverend Gail Monsma. Session and The Presbytery of Lake Michigan are presently finishing the details of an agreement that will bring Reverend Monsma here as our interim leader. Reverend Monsma will be video taping an introduction and welcome for us followed by a recorded sermon from a recent worship service.

Plans for May through mid-June are still being formed. If all goes according to plan Reverend Monsma will be here to lead us in worship on the 19th of June. We have had a number of worship leaders since November. Thank you to all our members for your faithful attendance and support. The Worship and Music Commission trusts that as we move forward in faith we will continue to be blessed to find leaders willing to answer the call to bring to our congregation the word of God.

*In faithful service –
Worship and Music Commission*



On Page 1:

Beautiful banner with awesome message!!
Thanks to Rick and Mary Diemer.

New! Prayer Partners

You may be wondering what happens with the Prayer Requests that come in to the church. ShareNet has taken responsibility for managing this most important aspect of our life in faith. We have evaluated current and past processes, and believe that we have come up with a system to stay current with requests and manage the finite space we have in the bulletin. We now have an e-mail account that will be used to send and receive prayer requests that are submitted to the church. The ShareNet committee has piloted the system for six weeks, and we think we have the "bugs" worked out.

Introducing "Prayer Partners"

The "Prayer Partners" are the members of the congregation that have volunteered to pray over the prayer requests sent in to the church. If you would like to become a "Prayer Partner", please send an e-mail to firstpres120prays@gmail.com and you will be added to the e-mail list. When a prayer request is received by the church, you will receive an e-mail regarding the request.

If you have a prayer request, they can be given to the Prayer Partners in one of three ways:

1. E-mail your request to firstpres120prays@gmail.com
2. Call the church office at (269) 657-3111
3. Fill out the green Prayer Card on Sunday and place it in the offering plate or give it to the usher.

If you have a prayer request that is very personal, you can submit the request as an "unspoken request" and we will pray for you.

Each month in the newsletter, we will list "Those at Home" and "Those with Cancer" that continue to need our prayers. On Sunday, the bulletin will list current prayer requests. At the end of the month, the complete list will be re-printed in the newsletter and the bulletin list will start anew.

We are adding another aspect to this process. We also want to share when God is Good! Share with us when prayers are answered. Share with us when there is a special Joy in your life. The re-designed prayer card has room for you to share how He has blessed you or your loved one. Or you can send an e-mail or call the church office as described previously.

We're Praying for Those with Cancer

Julie Schafer (Jan Emmons)
David Adams (Barb Dundon)
Dan Miller (Jerry and Sue Miller)

We're Praying for Those at Home

Thelma Bennett
Rick and Nancy Boven
Marilee Corwin
Danna Dent
Ron Geschwendt

Orville Griffith
Royal and Judith Haefner
Harvey Hop
Helen Reed
Martha Shoemaker
Eilene Summe
Jean Taylor
Fred and Diane Triquet
Jim VanWestreinen
Bonnie Walter
Betty Wassman
Mary Wyatt
Jack and Donna Zabonick

Our March Prayer Requests

Randy Thorburn's brother
Michael, heart surgery
All those who are uprooted and
threatened by aggression in
the Ukraine
Andrew and family fleeing
Ukraine (Catey Bolton)
Strength for Pearls, Wings of
God, especially April and
Kim (Sue Zygadlo)

Annual Thrift Sale

YES! You heard correctly, the First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw **ANNUAL THRIFT SALE** IS back.

Session has given approval to hold the sale on Saturday, April 30 this year. That means we are asking you to start sorting and saving items for us. And also save some of your time to set up, sort, mark, and prep for the sale on the 28th and 29th as well as helping out on Saturday the 30th.

Because some of you haven't been involved in the past, let me share some history and needs in order to make this project a success. Of course, having items to sell is vital, but so is having workers. Our sale actually begins on Thursday as we clear out the round tables and chairs from Fellowship Hall and bring in racks and tables for displaying items (this means men to move things around hopefully in the morning). Rooms for sorting are cleaned as well as setting up the entry and hallway to be ready for the sale. Donations will be accepted starting at 12:00 Thursday, until 7:30 that evening and again from Friday from 8:30 until 3:00. Please bring your items to the FRONT DOOR of the church. Other arrangements can be made if necessary. Pick up for members who are unable to bring items in can be arranged as well if items too large for your vehicle. Clothes will again be part of our sale items. (Pick up trucks and men are needed)

Sorting and marking will begin at noon on Thursday, (lots of help needed here as this is a time consuming job) and will continue until 7:30, resuming on Friday at 8:30 until we are finished.

Saturday the sale starts at 8:30 and runs until 3:00. Lunch is provided for workers. (More workers needed from 8:00 to 3:30 to work the sale, Men and Women). Clean-up begins at 3:00 and it's really great when we can get a fresh crew to help with packing up unsold items, delivering them to the thrift store by 4:00 and getting the building ready for Sundays' Worship service.

It's a busy and time consuming project but it works and a good time is one of the great results with

profits from the sale being available for supporting church projects and needs.

Keep up to date on this event by checking your e-mails from the church.

Looking forward to another great sale.

Add Your Cross to Our Collection



Have you seen the collection of Crosses in our Narthex? As you can see, the large metal cross is the focus of this collection but on display are also other crosses that have been or are displayed around the church and two that are part of our worship service every Sunday. You can learn more about these fascinating pieces of our church history during the month of April as we share their stories during the church services.

Do you have a cross that you would be willing to add to this collection? The crosses will be on display throughout the month of April and your cross would be a wonderful addition. If you bring your cross (or more than one) to share, please add your name and phone number to it for later identification and ease of returning. Please give your cross and information to the head usher and we will add it to the display after it is recorded and identified.



April Anniversaries

April 3	Robert and Crecia Tiffany
April 5	Fred and Sue Martin
April 5	Rick and Sally Yarbrough
April 10	Harold and Freida Duringer
April 13	John and Carie Faul
April 15	Bert and Jan Ogden



April Birthdays

4/2	April Miller-Sheeran
4/2	Joan Pohl
4/4	Jerry Miller
4/7	Kristen Welling
4/10	Scott Beck
4/12	Tyler Burns
4/13	Ginnie Moore
4/14	Tim Combs
4/15	Sally Yarbrough
4/19	Kathy Weisner
4/21	Betty Wassman
4/24	Don Weaver

Celebrating Martha Shoemaker's 99th birthday



A very special lady, Martha Shoemaker, Tom Shoemaker's Mother, had a very special day on SATURDAY March 19th! She certainly won't care if the wishes are a bit late, so if you would like to join in sending her birthday wishes her address is: Martha Shoemaker, Maple Lake Assisted Living, 677 Hazen St. Paw Paw MI 49079

Our prayers and thoughts are with her on her special 99th birthday!

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.

APRIL 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>LEGEND: FH=Fellowship Hall Lib=Library Sanc=Sanctuary LO=Lounge AW=Admin Wing Narthex</p>					<p>1 10-11 Yoga FH Noon AA CEK</p>	<p>2 7-8pm AA CEK</p>
<p>3 10 Worship Sanc</p>	<p>4 10-11 Yoga FH</p>	<p>5 Noon AA CEK</p>	<p>6 7:30 TOPS FH 11-12 Counseling NARTHEX</p>	<p>7 Noon Rotary FH 3 Tech Crew Sanc 7pm Choir FH ★</p>	<p>8 10-11 Yoga FH Noon AA CEK</p>	<p>9 7-8pm AA CEK</p>
<p>7-8 NA CEK</p>	<p>★</p>					
<p>10 10 Worship Sanc</p>	<p>11 10-11 Yoga FH 6:30 Boy Scouts Comm. LIB</p>	<p>12 10 ShareNet Lib Noon AA CEK</p>	<p>13 7:30 TOPS FH 11 Admin/Fin FH 11-12 Counseling NARTHEX</p>	<p>14 9 B&G FH 4 Worship/Music FH 7 Choir FH ★</p>	<p>15 10-11 Yoga FH Noon AA CEK</p>	<p>16 7 AA CEK</p>
<p>7-8 NA CEK</p>	<p>★</p>					
<p>17 10 Worship Sanc</p>	<p>18 10-11 Yoga FH</p>	<p>19 Noon AA CEK 6 Session FH 6:30 Deacons Lib</p>	<p>20 7:30 TOPS FH 11-12 Counseling NARTHEX</p>	<p>21 3 Tech Crew Sanc 6:30 Potluck FH 7 Choir FH ★</p>	<p>22 10-11 Yoga FH Noon AA CEK</p>	<p>23 7am-10 Men's Breakfast FH 7pm Games Night FH 7-8pm AA CEK</p>
<p>7-8 NA CEK</p>	<p>★</p>					
<p>24 10 Worship Sanc</p>	<p>25 10-11 Yoga FH</p>	<p>26 10 ShareNet Lib 6:30 Personnel FH</p>	<p>27 7:30 TOPS FH 11-12 Counseling NARTHEX 6:30 Mission Lib</p>	<p>28 ★ * Church Thrift Sale Event Set Up and Sorting begins 8am</p>	<p>29 ★ * Church Thrift Sale Event Set Up and Sorting begins 8am</p>	<p>30 8 THRIFT SALE 4:30 (throughout church building)</p>
<p>7-8 NA CEK</p>	<p>★</p>					

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE APRIL 22

Send calendar changes to firstpres120@gmail.com

Send newsletter content to aroundvanburen@gmail.com

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Return Service Requested

Presbyterian News

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We will be selling greenhouse grown sunflowers for an all-community fund raiser at the end of May. We are raising monies for the ongoing humanitarian efforts supporting our displaced brothers and sisters in Ukraine. The sunflower is Ukraine's national flower due to it's lovely and "happy" face. More recently, the sunflower has become a symbol of the Ukrainian people's resistance to the invasion of Russia, as well as the solidarity of Ukrainian allies.

Watch for more information on our "Sunflower" sale, and make room in your gardens for some beautiful, healthy sunflower plants of different sizes.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Matthew 25:35

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