

Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 91, Issue 7

July 2022

Greetings Friends in Christ

It's been a wonderful beginning as your Interim/Transitional Pastor. I've enjoyed getting to meet some of you, and look forward to meeting more of you. I especially enjoyed my first Sunday with you and the incredible welcome you gave me after the service—Thank You! I carried a huge basket of gifts and cards out to my car with Joan Pohl—we each needed to grab hold of the handle and waddle to my car! Then upon arriving at my home, I got to open all the gifts and goodies. Again, thank you—what fun!

I have certainly felt the love and warmth of Christ among you. I hope you also sense the excitement of a new beginning, but I realize new beginnings come with a bit of anxiety and questions on how we move forward together.



Jan Ogden, Bert Ogden, Todd Pohl, Rev. Gail Monsma, and Dave Wilder at the reception in Fellowship Hall following the June 19 Sunday Service.

So, in these next few months I'll try to spend time with you, get to know you better and give you opportunities to get to know me. Watch for some opportunities for small groups of people to meet with me. And remember, we are on this interim journey together as we seek to serve God.

A fresh model of Interim/Transitional Ministry focuses on five "Focus Points" as we work together for the life and health of the congregation during this time of transition. They are as follows:

- **Heritage:** What is your history, what has worked, what not so much?
- **Mission:** What is God calling you to do in this time and place and in the future?

(Continued next page)

- **Leadership:** What is needed, what needs to change? We will review and establish best practices so when an installed pastor is called, they can enter a healthier system.
- **Connections:** The PCUSA is a connectional church; we'll explore this together.
- **Future:** How is God calling this congregation to move forward? What needs to be left behind and how can we be open to new possibilities and ways of doing "church" in order to best serve God and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Dr. Rev David Sawyer, an expert of church leadership and conflict, writes: "According to this model, the church organization will focus on each of these focus points in their own unique ways. The transitional leader's role is to coach, guide, or encourage the outcomes as they emerge. This is not a linear process, but it is important to be aware and address these focus points, realizing some will require more attention than others."

Know that I will be working closely with your Session on leadership and organizational tasks, but first and foremost, your Ruling Elders are called to be the spiritual leaders of the church, so we'll spend a lot of time in this area too. Session will work with each other and the congregation!

My goal is for Session and myself to communicate and be transparent in what we are doing and how we are moving forward.

As your Interim Pastor, I plan on being here Sunday through Wednesday, and to work out of my home on Thursday on sermon preparation and planning. Fridays and Saturdays are supposed to be my days off, but that won't always happen as planned. My days in Paw Paw will also take me out on hospital visits, pastoral calls, or meeting with various folks. I also hope to be out in the community to some extent. So, the best way to assure that we can meet is to call or email in advance to set up a time.

That said, I am only a cell phone call or text message away, and I can check my office messages at home. I frequently check my email too. I'm usually able to get back to you within an hour or so, unless I'm in an extended meeting. If it's not urgent, I may not respond in the evening or on a Friday or Saturday, but I will always respond to something that needs immediate attention! If it is urgent, the fastest way to get hold of me is to call my cell phone or text message me. My information is at the bottom of this article.

In the few days I've been with you, I am witnessing the incredible rhythm of life that is lived out within this congregation as you follow Christ. I also know there is hurt and pain present, but there is also love, deep faith, and hope. Additionally, we are all living within the trauma that the Covid pandemic has brought to our lives. Yet I sense you are resilient and have the best interests at heart for each other and this congregation! It is my deepest hope that this will be a time of purpose and spiritual growth as together we move forward discerning God's call in a world in desperate need of Christ's light.

In Christ's love, light, and hope,

Rev. Gail E. Monsma (Gail)

Cell Phone: 269-275-6998

Email: revgailfpcpawpaw@gmail.com

News from Montana de Luz

Due to the pandemic it has been a long time since we have heard from Montana de Luz and I am happy to announce that all are doing well. I received the following from Anna Jackson about how Erick and Loida are doing.

“Loida has been spending extended time with her family members as we prepare to fully transition her from Montana de Luz. We’ve not yet fully transitioned her because she is still in middle school and we want to be sure that she completes school. We use funds from her sponsorship to pay for her tuition, school uniforms, school supplies, and whatever is leftover goes to her aunt and grandma who are in charge of taking her to her medical appointments. We have communication with her doctors to assure she is attending these appointments and so far they are doing an amazing job. Loida’s family loves her so incredibly much and everyone is eagerly awaiting the day when she can live with them full time. She is in the equivalent of 7th grade and she loves school. She has some learning delays due to her early days, but she works so hard and loves to be in the classroom. She also loves to be the center of attention, so she easily makes friends.

“Erick is still at Montana de Luz full time and will remain with us indefinitely. Unfortunately, he has a complicated relationship with his family and they are not interested in being part of his life. He has experienced a great deal of discrimination and we are prepared to care for him as long as needed. Because of his relationship with his family, Erick has some understandable sadness. He works very closely with our social worker and psychologist to help understand some of his feelings. Of all our kids, Erick is perhaps the most academically gifted. He is tremendously smart and we know he will be successful at whatever career he chooses. Right now he is just 13, but is on track to attend a very good university. He also recently joined a soccer league and has practice every day after school, so he is very busy. It’s been helpful for him to meet new friends and have a social circle outside of Montana de Luz.”

Anna goes on to tell us how much they appreciate our sponsorship of these two young people for all these years. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation we are able to help them to become productive and loving people.

Eleda Zygadlo, Mission Commission Chairperson



More from our Senior Celebration Service:

This is Emma Marie Imus. She graduated Paw Paw High School, Class of 2022 and her activities included

AP English, AP Biology, and Choir. Emma’s future plans are to attend Southwestern MI College with a focus on Biology and Zoology.



Grandkids: Here’s Dick and Sally Schallhorn’s and Judy and Dave Comb’s.

Welcome Gail to First Presbyterian

June was quite a busy month at First Presbyterian. We kicked it off with honoring our senior graduates in a service led by Joan Pohl with video communion provided by Reverend Amber Nettleton. On the following Sunday we whooped it up with the Sleepy Hollow String Band during a service put together by Wendy Mickle. Our choir, led by Chris Gray, joined in with an inspirational medley of favorite hymns. Following the service we continued in Fellowship Hall for more fun, music, and food. On the third Sunday of the month we welcomed the Reverend Gail Monsma to our pulpit. Gail will be our interim pastor and we are thrilled to have her with us in our journey as disciples. We celebrated with Gail after worship with social time in our fellowship hall and a gift basket to welcome her. Gail led us in worship again on the final Sunday of the month as we settled in to a more predictable summer schedule. Combine that with the annual thrift sale, sunflower fund raiser, God sighting moments, and the introduction of flat John Calvin, and we had quite a month.



Sleepy Hollow String Band

It has been a long journey for us with pulpit supply and different pastors and lay persons leading worship each week since mid-November. Our congregation has been gracious in their support of the Worship and Music Commission in their efforts to keep us connected to the mission of our church. Our worship home and meditating on the preaching of God's Word is so much a part of our being. We need to be spiritually fed. Through all these days of uncertainty we have longed for something consistent and comforting. This journey has helped us realize that the people are the church and how they support one another is critical to our understanding of God's presence in our midst.

Worship Commission says ***Thanks to Many!!***

During this time of pulpit supply there have been many who have kept us moving ahead through their giving. Many gave time, talents, and financial support to our ministry here at First Presbyterian. Here are some but not all. Each and every effort named or not named here is deeply appreciated.



Chancel Choir with Director Chris Gray

Thank you to the Chancel Choir and our musicians, Chris Gray, Terry Vaughn, and Brandon Mattson for their flexibility and presence in worship, to our tech team of Chuck Williams, Jerry Miller, Nathaniel McCloskey, Andy Thorburn, and Tom Shoemaker for keeping our service aired each week. Deep gratitude to Billie Brooks our Office Manager for the myriad of regular duties and special requests she takes care of. The Reverend Amber Nettleton deserves our heartfelt thanks for her leadership and presence with us. Special thanks to Marge McKee, Catey Bolton, and Dave and Connie Nielsen for their service on the Worship and Music Commission in planning and preparing for worship each week. Thanks Pastor Gail Monsma.

All this we do to let our community and the world know that we are faithful disciples of our Lord and Savior. We are all called to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

- Your Worship and Music Commission

Hello, Friends, how do you do?
 It's John Calvin with some news for you.
 I don't remember just quite how it happened,
 But when I woke up today I saw I was flattened!
 So I hopped in a car and went for a ride-
 Going to your house to be by your side!
 Now that I'm here, there's so much to see
 So bring me along and explore with me!
 Show me all of the places you go,
 Or send me to family and friends
 that you know!
 As we explore, ask your family real nice,
 With a "please" and a "thank you"
 and some extra good spice,
 To take pictures of us in the places they find
 And share with the Church—I hope you'll be kind.



Flat John Calvin visits our June Sharenet meeting. Where will he go next?

Flat John Calvin

We've been talking about kindness
 All through the year
 I wonder how many smiles will appear?

Directions: Pick up Flat John Calvin at Church or if you're reading this on the Internet then print him from page 6 of this issue. Take a picture (Selfie) with him on your travels or as you are doing kind deeds. Get as creative as you want!

Are you on Facebook? Post your picture to Facebook, make it Public and Tag @1stprespawpaw to share with our Church followers. Not on Facebook, send your photo in an email to firstpres120@gmail.com and we will take it from there.

We can track our kind smiles all across the map!

Sponsored By Your Worship and Music Committee

GROWLER BASEBALL GAME
 and All You Can Eat Buffet
TICKET ORDER
JULY 22, Friday evening @ 6:30
BATTLE JACKS VS KALAMAZOO GROWLERS

NAME _____

PHONE # _____

OF TICKETS _____ @ \$20.00 EACH _____

Check made payable to: Presbyterian Church Deacons

Mail to PO Box 435 or put in Pine St Drop Box.

Deadline to order.....Sunday, July 17th, 2022

Any questions, call Pat Peters 269-352-1340

SAVE THE DATE!!

Come to the Growler Baseball game Friday evening, July 22, 2022! For \$20.00 you each will receive a ticket to the game, all you can eat buffet available through 4th inning AND fireworks!!!! Please fill out your ticket order and mail to PO Box 435 or put it in the Pine Street drop box or in the collection plate any Sunday. Deadline is July 17th.

Pat Peters

John
Calvin



clipart courtesy FCIT at
<https://etc.usf.edu/clipart>

Prayer Partners

We're Praying for Those at Home

Thelma Bennett	Rick Boven	Marilee Corwin
Danna Dent	Ron Geschwendt	Orville Griffith
Royal and Judith Haefner	Helen Reed	Martha Shoemaker
Eilene Summe	Jean Taylor	Fred and Diane Triquet
Jim VanWestreinen	Bonnie Walter	Betty Wassman
Mary Wyatt	Jack and Donna Zabornick	

We're Praying for Those with Cancer

David Adams (Barb Dundon) Dan Miller (Jerry and Sue Miller)

Our June Prayer Requests

Teresa to stay well and true to her goals. (Susan Zygadlo)
Pat Conner, for physical healing following heart surgery.
Sue Zygadlo for healing of a fractured sternum.
Tom Smith for ongoing health concerns. (Adele Walters)
Ken Guettler for ongoing health issues. (Steve and Kathy McCloskey)
Sharon Vlieg for healing from breast cancer. (Leonda Shroyer)
Upon his passing, the family of Harvey Hop.
Upon her passing, the family of Nancy Boven.

To join Prayer Partners, send an e-mail to firstpres120prays@gmail.com

If you have a prayer request, they can be given to the Prayer Partners in one of three ways: E-mail your request to firstpres120prays@gmail.com; Call the church office at 269-657-3111; 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. And we always want to hear how God has answered prayers. **Please share when God is Good!**



One of our favorite parts of teaching Sunday School each week was **"God Sightings."** At the end of class, we asked the children to tell us where they saw God: In the colors of the sky. In a dog. But also... in my friend, in my mom, in a snack, in a hug.

Maybe you've had God Sightings... in that moment in the hospital room, in the compassion of a doctor, or in a moment of connection with a friend, or perhaps in singing of a hymn.

We love the practice of God Sightings because it reminds us that there is more to this world than we often think. It reminds us to pay attention. It reminds us that even in the valleys, in the wilderness of life, God is still present. God comes to us, sometimes in simple acts of hospitality or words of blessing.

And so we want to leave you with some homework. This week, we invite you to notice and then write down at least one God Sighting, at least one moment when you sense God's presence in or through someone else. And then just one more thing, may you please bring it to Church to share?



July Anniversaries

7/2 Dave and Judy Combs
7/2 Mike and Suzy Paynich
7/7 Make and Christine Lewis
7/13 Bill and Kristen Welling
7/19 Bill and Ruth Johnson
7/28 Todd and Kallie Peña



July Birthdays

7/04 Fred Triquet
7/08 Russ Heinsen
7/19 Nicholas Bolton
7/20 Keelin McCafferty
7/22 Les Buhl
7/23 Robert Tiffany
7/27 Heidi Towle
7/28 Jan Wilder
7/28 Steve Racette
7/30 Tom Shoemaker

My Dear Church Family, Words can't express my heart warming thanks for all who stepped up to help with David's service and beautiful luncheon. So many blessings I have received from so many. I can't begin to thank you all.

Pat Conner

Dear Church Family, Thank you for your generous gift towards our Welcome Home Campaign. Your faith in the mission is an encouragement. Your hope for the future of those we serve inspires. Your love for women who need to be loved as they have never been loved before is cherished.

In His Love from all of us at Wings of God

We Did It



We did it, thanks to all of you, another successful and fun Thrift Sale at 1st Pres.

And that success could not have happened without the great participation of ALL OF YOU. YOU contributed items to sell, loaned equipment we needed (but didn't have), were willing to work - a few hours or/and a few days. YOU participated, as a member and friend of the church.

We were joined by workers from the county, Pearls from Wings of God, Family Fare, as well as neighbors and local people who dropped off contributions for the sale. AND the wonderful men of our congregation (remember the days we did this mostly on our own ladies), their backs will never be the same. To you guys - the Thrift Sale could not exist without you.

THANK YOU ONE & ALL who helped make this years' sale Great and Fun.

- Jan Ogden, Nancy Beck & Jan Wilder

July 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
W1	26 • 10am Worship Service • NA	27 • 10am Yoga	28 • 6PM Session • 10am ShareNet • noon AA • 6:30pm Personnel Comm	29 • 7:30am T.O.P.S. • 11am WOG Counseling	30 • 3 Tech Crew • 7pm Choir Practice	1 • noonAA • 10am YOGA	2 • 7pm AA
W2	3 • 10am Worship Service • NA	4 • 10am Yoga	5 • noon AA	6 • 7:30am T.O.P.S. • 11am WOG Counseling	7 • noon Rotary • 7pm Choir Practice	8 • noonAA • 10am YOGA	9 • 7pm AA
W3	10 • 10am Worship Service • NA • Ice Cream Social	11 • Boy Scouts Committee • 10am Yoga	12 • ShareNet • noon AA	13 • 3pm Worship&Music Comm • 7:30am T.O.P.S. • 11am WOG Counseling	14 • 7pm Choir Practice	15 • noonAA • 10am YOGA	16 • 7pm AA
W4	17 • 10am Worship Service • NA	18 • 10am Yoga	19 • noon AA • Bldg & Grnds Session Meeting	20 • 7:30am T.O.P.S. • 11am WOG Counseling	21 • Newsletter Deadline • 7pm Choir Practice	22 • noonAA • 10am YOGA	23 • 6:30 Euchre/Games Night • Men's Breakfast • 7pm AA
W5	24 • 10am Worship Service • NA	25 • 10am Yoga	26 • 10am ShareNet • noon AA • 6:30 Personnel	27 • 7:30am T.O.P.S. • 11am WOG Counseling	28 • 6:30 Mission Comm • 7pm Choir Practice	29 • noonAA • 10am YOGA	30
W6	31 • 10am Worship Service • NA	1 • 10am Yoga	2 • noon AA	3 • 7:30am T.O.P.S. • 11am WOG Counseling	4 • 7pm Choir Practice	5 • noonAA • 10am YOGA	6

Latest updates always at pawpawpres.org/calendar

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Return Service Requested

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Join us for an Ice Cream Social immediately following worship services on Sunday, July 10th in Fellowship Hall. Potlucks are finished for this year. We look forward to you joining us again when we start back up.

God is so Good! A God sighting for certain! We were trying to locate the owner of the Standing Jewelry Chest that was a Thrift Sale donation and we just learned it belonged to Kathy Weisner's sister that passed away. When they were cleaning out her home in the Kentwood area, the jewelry chest was donated here. Kathy had no idea there were items inside and is grateful to have them returned back to the family.



These crosses are in the church office waiting to be picked up by their owners. Thank you.

Contact Us: 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 pm.

Contact Pastor Gail: Text or voice to 269-275-6998 and by email to revgailfpcpawpaw@gmail.com

Our Thrift Sale Was Incredible!

