

# Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 91, Issue 8

Aug 2022

## Followers of Christ

Greetings Friends in Christ,

As followers of Christ, growing in our faith and discipleship is something we are all called to do throughout the scriptures. As we enter these dog days of summer before the rush of fall begins, I encourage you to practice the Daily Examen Prayer which you will find on the next page.

I shared this prayer in my first sermon with you in June but thought I'd reshare it. This prayer goes back to the 16th century and is attributed to St Ignatius. It is simple in practice, yet brings us into a deeper relationship with God. It calls for honesty and vulnerability, and at the same time assures us of God's presence and faithfulness. I encourage us together to practice this prayer as we also sense God leading us together as people of God.

**Our denomination's 225th General Assembly met this summer.** There are copies of the summary of their actions outside of the sanctuary, but [here is a link](#) or you can search "GA225 summary" at [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org) as well.

Watch for an educational time when we can get together and talk about the actions that were taken. Some of the topics covered are: Israel/Palestine, Fossil fuel divestment, Immigration, Gun Violence, Ukraine, Race and other issues.

In the meantime, take a look and prepare any questions you might have. As always, there might be things you agree with and others you don't, but that is part of being a connectional church. Yet, I praise God for the work of the General Assembly and all the time spent in discernment.

Finally, I want you to know how much I am enjoying getting to know many of you, and I look forward to meeting more of you. You are a faithful and resilient congregation and I am excited to discern with you where God is calling us.

In Christ's love, light, and hope,

Rev. Gail E. Monsma (Gail)

Cell Phone: 269-275-6998

Email: [revgailfpcpawpaw@gmail.com](mailto:revgailfpcpawpaw@gmail.com)

# The Daily Examen

St Ignatius of Loyola taught the examen as a way of connecting with the presence of God in our lives and discerning the direction in which we should go.

The simplest form of the examen consists in asking two questions:

For what moment today am I most grateful?

For what moment today am I least grateful?

These questions help us identify moments of consolation – that for which we are most grateful – and desolation – that for which we are least grateful. Ignatius expected that God would speak to us through these moments of deepest feelings and yearnings. We should aim to do more of what brings us consolation and joy, and to listen to and respond to what brings us desolation. Done regularly over a period of time, the examen can guide our lives and help us to make wise choices.

Doing the Examen:

1. Find a quiet place where you can sit and relax. Take a moment to quiet yourself and to breathe deeply. You may want to say a short prayer or light a candle to remind you of the presence of God.
2. Ask God to bring to your mind the moment for which you are most grateful. Reflect on what made it so special. Stay with this moment and thank God for it.
3. Ask God to bring to your mind the moment for which you are least grateful. Reflect on what made it so difficult. Stay with your feelings and ask God to fill you with God's love.
4. End by thanking God for the blessings of the day – both the joys and difficult moments.

Christians who practice the Examen have found that they begin to realize and notice God is present with us in all things, often without us even being aware of it at the time. With practice, we can become more conscious of the presence of God in the midst of everyday experiences. This helps us see and hear God working in our daily lives and choices.

To explore and find more information on spiritual practices go to: [www.presbyterianmission.org](http://www.presbyterianmission.org).

# Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

*"For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace." Isaiah 55:12*

The **Peace & Global Witness Special Offering** will begin September 4 and end on World Communion Sunday, October 2.



Through the Peace & Global Witness offering, we connect with each other to confront systems of injustice and promote reconciliation in places around the world and within our own community. 25% of this offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community; 25% goes to our mid council and joins with other congregation's gifts to support peacemaking work in our region; 50% goes to support the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians around the world. As we work to share Christ's peace with one another, let us share that peace with those beyond our doors, beyond our communities and beyond our borders. The **Peace & Global Witness Offering** provides the tools and resources for us as we join together, connected as active peacemakers.

Thanks to your contributions to the Pentecost Special Offering we were able to give to PCUSA \$441.00 and \$294.00 to Van Buren County Department of Health & Human Services to sponsor children in foster care and children's services an opportunity to attend summer camp.

The next Mission Commission meeting is August 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Library. Mission meets every fourth Wednesday of the month.

Eleda Zygadlo  
Mission Commission Chairperson

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## Mulch needed for landscape areas

If anyone knows of a good source for inexpensive (or free) mulch, please contact Jan Ogden, 269-270-9693, or Jan Wilder, 269-352-1450, as the weeds are winning the battle in the un-mulched areas and the hot summer days are very stressful on our plants. Thank you.

## Wine and Harvest Festival

Please plan to join us on Sunday, September 11th at the Maple Lake Amphitheater. Mark your calendars now! Our Church is contributing to the ecumenical worship day filling the 10:00-10:40 am time slot with joy and song.



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



He's at the Laurel Creek Conservation Area in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada with Dave and Marlene Suter and friend.



Martha Shoemaker with our flat friend.



On vacation with Sally Ann Brinkman on Lake Charlevoix. What a beautiful lake!



Look who showed up to witness the placing of the commemorative beam for the new Paw Paw Fire Hall! Why it's Flat John Calvin!



Now he's in Debby Williams' garden?



Bringing good cheer to Betty Wassman.



Where is Flat John Calvin now? He is with Kristin and William Welling in the church library.



As Flat John Calvin visits the garden of George Bolton, we are reminded of our salvation with the Christmas Holly and beautiful Easter Lily.



Where is Flat John Calvin today? In Marlene Suter's garden in Lawrence Michigan!

**Where will  
 Flat John Calvin  
 visit next?**



# From Your Worship and Music Commission ...

Reverend Gail Monsma is getting settled in with us as our interim leader. It is a welcome gift to have her in the pulpit each Sunday. Looking ahead to August and September there will be a few new opportunities in worship. Gail has asked for Sunday, August 7 as a day off and so on that day we welcome the Reverend Mark Pawlowski a retired pastor from Three Rivers to our pulpit. Mark will deliver the message that morning and lead us in communion. Gail returns for the next two Sundays but has a day off planned for the 27th. On the 27th we welcome back the Reverend Amber Nettleton to our church to lead us in worship. Worship Commission is planning a 10 AM service at the community amphitheater on Maple Lake for September 11, the weekend of the Wine and Harvest Festival. More on that to come. Later in September we will be holding the popular worship service where we "Bless the Pets". We look forward to seeing you and sharing the gift of God's love in our midst as we worship as a family in Christ.



## Passing the Plates and Communion

The Worship Commission continues to wrestle with the timing on returning to passing the collection plates during worship.

After careful deliberation, communion has been brought back into practice. It is important to each of us as a church family that we share in that meaningful sacrament. The concern over Covid and the health of our worshipers continues to guide our decisions. Collection plates are presently at the back of the sanctuary. Giving to the mission and support of our church and its role in being the hands and feet of Christ is a part of our individual Stewardship. We are blessed to have a supportive congregation that has seen us through times that were both good and not so good. Whether you give weekly, monthly, or quarterly, your gift is needed as we share the joy of being called to share the mission of our church.

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## Thank You Members of First Presbyterian

As usual your love for these women and men and their children shines brightly. Shelby will love her quilt and the microwave is perfect for the men's dorm.

Your generosity, prayers, and care are so very much appreciated.

*Susan Zyglado for the Wings of God and the families who benefit from your care.*

## Plant Sale - Spring 2023

For your information: A PARKING LOT PLANT SALE is in the talking and planning stage for spring of next year. So as you enjoy your garden, perhaps you could identify and mark any excess plants you would be willing to share for this event. We will be asking that all plants be labeled with the name of the plant along with being potted (except for bulbs and tubers). Save any of your containers left over from this season. More information will be coming closer to the event time.

# Prayer Partners

## We're Praying for Those at Home

Thelma Bennett	Danna Dent
Orville Griffith and Marlene Tucker	
Helen Reed	Martha Shoemaker
Jean Taylor	Fred and Diane Triquet
Bonnie Walter	Betty Wassman
Jack and Donna Zabonick	

Ron Geschwendt  
Royal and Judith Haefner  
Eilene Summe  
Jim VanWestreinen  
Mary Wyatt

## We're Praying for Those with Cancer

David Adams (Barb Dundon)

Mike (Kathy McCloskey)

## Our July Prayer Requests

Orville Griffith who is recovering from pneumonia.

Hunter Schabes who had cardio version to help keep his heart in sinus rhythm. Also please pray for Hunter's mother Shelly, his primary support person. (Pat Conner)

Ben DeYoung for healing from surgery. (Pat Conner)

Dick Schallhorn as he recovers from heart surgery.

Teresa for her safety and to find the courage to return "home". (Susan Zygadlo)

Tom Smith for relief from physical pain.

Wayne and Mary Martin as they recover from Covid.

Jerry and Sue Miller upon the passing of their son Dan Miller.

To join Prayer Partners, send an e-mail to [firstpres120prays@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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!

# Sunflowers for Ukraine

Thank you all for your participation in the Sunflowers for Ukraine fundraiser! It ran from Memorial Day weekend until the 3rd of July and I wish I had some idea how many sunflowers were sold. The original order was for 300, but more and more were planted, so more and more were sold!

Thanks to all the purchasers, the folks who donated without purchasing, to the cookie makers (see picture below – so many cookies that all would not fit on an 18” platter, so overages were packed in containers and sent also!), and to all who sent prayers for a positive experience so we could help our overseas neighbors.



The biggest thanks, however, go to Midwest Garden Center. They not only grew the flowers but

advertised our mission on their sign. The staff was supportive and kind, and our display was placed right near the front of the building. It was wonderful to partner with this organization for our first-time experience of using flowers as a fundraiser. They refused any monetary remuneration for all their efforts, so we showered them with homemade cookies which appeared to be very much appreciated.

The total amount raised was \$2,787.00. Since there were no expenses, it all will be sent to World Central Kitchen for their work providing free meals for refugees fleeing from Ukraine, as well as families who continue to live in Ukraine. This amount supports almost 9,000 meals.



It's a beautiful thing to see that even after a tumultuous year, and during a transitional time, that we continue to promote and support a heart for mission – even when that mission extends across the world.

*"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." – Matthew 25: 31-40*





## August Anniversaries

8/2 Steve and Kathy McCloskey  
8/4 Craig and Lynn Hess  
8/10 Tom and Mary Ellen Smith  
8/10 Wayne and Kathy Weisner  
8/12 Jeff and Kathy Murphy-Brown  
8/13 Ric and Danean Baker  
8/20 Harold and Zoe Schuitmaker



## August Birthdays

8/3 Rick Boven  
8/6 Kendall Welling  
8/7 Rhonda Riegle  
8/8 Amanda Conner  
8/9 Gene Sahr  
8/11 Ruth Johnson  
8/15 Crecia Tiffany  
8/16 George Bolton  
8/18 Eilene Summe  
8/18 Debby Williams  
8/20 Taryn Welling  
8/22 Arianna Hamrick  
8/26 Nancy Turk  
8/28 Jean Hatton  
8/29 Tammy Hulst

## A Birthday Card Shower

Eilene Summe, the longest living member of First Presbyterian Church, will be celebrating her 98th



birthday on August 18th. Let's shower her with cards showing our love and appreciation for her 72 years of faithfulness to this congregation. Eileen's address is 4040 Greenleaf Circle #303, Kalamazoo, Mi 49008

Remember: 1.) Share your God-Sightings with us by posting them in the Narthex; 2.) Tag your Flat John Calvin photos on Facebook with @1stprespawpaw.

## Our Crosses





# AUGUST 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 • 10am Worship Service • 7pm NA W1	1 • 10am Yoga	2 • noon AA	3 • 7:30am T.O.P.S.	4 • Noon Rotary • 7pm Choir Practice	5 • noonAA • 10am YOGA	6 • 7pm AA	
7 • 11am Ice Cream Social • 10am Worship Service • NA W2	8 • 10am Yoga	9 • 6:30 Bld&Grds • NO ShareNet today! • noon AA	10 • 11am Adm/Fin Comm • 7:30am T.O.P.S.	11 • 7pm Choir Practice	12 • noonAA • 10am Yoga	13 • 7pm AA	
14 • 10am Worship Service • NA W3	15 • 10am Yoga	16 • 4:30 CPR Training • noon AA • Session Meeting • Deacons Comm	17 • 7:30am T.O.P.S.	18 • 7pm Choir Practice	19 • noonAA • 10am Yoga	20 • 7pm AA	
21 • 10am Worship Service • NA W4	22 • 10am Yoga	23 • 10am ShareNet • noon AA	24 • 7:30am T.O.P.S.	25 • Newsletter Deadline • Mission Comm • 7pm Choir Practice	26 • noonAA • 10am Yoga	27 • 7pm AA • Men's Breakfast • 6:30 Euchre/Games Night	
28 • 10am Worship Service • NA W5	29 • 10am Yoga	30 • Noon AA	31 • 3:00 Personnel Comm • 7:30am T.O.P.S.	1 • 7pm Choir Practice	2 • 10am Yoga	3 • 7pm AA	

Latest updates always at [pawpawpres.org/calendar](http://pawpawpres.org/calendar)

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### News from the General Assembly

Your copy of "A Summary of General Assembly Actions" is now available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The recent 225th Presbyterian General Assembly was held both online and in Louisville, KY.



Key positions in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) were filled during the assembly. The Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace and Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis were elected co-moderators of the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The assembly confirmed Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett's re-election to a second term as president and executive director of Presbyterian Mission Agency.

In 2024 the 226th General Assembly will meet in Salt Lake City, UT with additional committee meetings held online.

**Contact Us:** Call the church office at (269) 657-3111 or email us at [firstpres120@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:revgailfpcpawpaw@gmail.com)

### What is a "Connectional Church" anyway?

Michael Jenkins of Presbyterians Today, writing at [presbyterianmission.org](https://presbyterianmission.org), says, "Church connectionalism is shorthand for saying that we are one body — not because we find one another agreeable or each other's views congenial, but because God in grace and mercy has called us together. Our unity does not lie in us. Our unity is Jesus Christ."

Jenkins continues, "In the Presbyterian and Reformed family of churches, we have long struggled with the forces that seek to tear us apart. In those moments when we have succeeded to reflect the Biblical witness, we have recovered this sense of ourselves, not as an institution held together by our own efforts, but as a living body whose integrity lies in our Lord."