

# Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 91, Issue 9

Sept 2022

## Steady As We Go

Greetings Friends in Christ,  
Steady As We Go!

That's the name of the message I gave on August 21, based on excerpts from the book of 1 Peter. It's a take on a nautical directive, and it applies to our faith too. As we move forward together, we are called to stay a course of discipleship and service in the midst of exciting opportunities, and various obstacles and challenges, that will arise.

In doing so, we look to those who have gone before us in scripture, in the world, and together we discern where and how God is calling us to move forward in this particular place and time.



1 Peter reminds us that following Christ, first and foremost, is a collective journey. Sure, our individual faith is important, but Christ calls us to be his body as a witness to the world. Christianity was never meant to be an individual endeavor. But honestly, at times that can seem more difficult than going it alone. But we were created in God's image to be in relationship with God and with each other. And when we live into this, the rewards are amazing, and in turn we are both a witness to God's world as well as being change agents in a world hungering for God's love and acceptance.

1 Peter instructs us how to move forward in five ways:

1. We are called to humble ourselves— to realize that we don't know everything nor can we do everything alone. We need God and one another. Yet humbleness is difficult work!
2. We are called to cast our anxieties on God, to name them, to pray and give them over to God who can handle all of them. In naming them, there is release and in doing so, we feel and live into the power and peace of Christ.
3. We are called to live into discipleship— to actually practice our faith and grow in our faith individually and together; to not compartmentalize our faith, but to have it be an integral part of all of our life.
4. We are called to keep alert and resist the power and lure of evil— to stay attuned to God and rely on the strength of God to get us through life.
5. We are called to live into hope and the faithfulness of God through the reign and power of Christ, not just in our own lives but in the overarching movement of the Spirit in God's world.

In the midst of challenges and obstacles, which will inevitably arise, we are called to hold one another accountable in love and to live into hope and joy for ourselves and each other for the sake of God's world.

As we move forward as a congregation, I, along with your Session, will do our best to keep you apprised of Session's work. In turn we ask for your support, and know that your input and your questions are welcome.

Finally, I ask that all of us be in prayer for this congregation and for each other as we live into a collective witness of our Triune God.

In Christ's love, light, and hope,  
Gail

# Prayer Partners

## We're Praying for Those at Home

Thelma Bennett	Danna Dent	Ron Geschwendt
Orville Griffith and Marlene Tucker		Royal and Judith Haefner
Helen Reed	Martha Shoemaker	Eilene Summe
Jean Taylor	Diane Triquet	Jim VanWestreinen
Bonnie Walter	Betty Wassman	Mary Wyatt
Jack and Donna Zabonick		

## We're Praying for Those with Cancer

David Adams (Barb Dundon)	Mike (Kathy McCloskey)
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## Our August Prayer Requests

Royal Haefner for health issues.  
Ginny Moore for healing after surgery.  
Adele Walters who is recovering from knee surgery.  
Trevor Smith for ongoing health issues.  
Judith Haefner as she recovers from knee surgery.  
Tom Smith for healing. He had successful back surgery on August 12th. Shoulder issues still remain.  
Patti, who is experiencing health issues and severe pain. (Marge McKee)  
Ben DeYoung for severe back pain. (Pat Conner)  
Nita Bolton, George Bolton's mother. Nita has returned to White Oaks from Bronson. Please pray for God's Will to be done.  
The Vought family for healing from Covid.  
Eilene Summe fell and fractured four ribs. She was hospitalized and has been moved to Bronson Commons. She is being released from Covid isolation on Saturday (8/27) and can have visitors.  
Johnell Cuddeback-Weintraub for healing from Covid.  
Bert Ogden who is awaiting results from a CT Scan and MRI.  
Frank Walters had heart surgery on August 15th and is now at home.  
The Family of Fred Triquet, upon his passing.

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

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

1. E-mail your request to [firstpres120prays@gmail.com](mailto: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.

And we always want to hear how God has answered prayers. Please share when God is Good!



I'm going on my third month with you however I haven't had an opportunity to meet and spend time with as many of you as I would like. So, along with the Deacons, we've set up four Meet & Greet Times in September for groups of eight to ten people where we can get to know each other a bit better. These will be casual gatherings in Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheets will be at church and/or you can call Billie in the office to sign up. Coffee, cookies, and lemonade will be available. Please take a look at what time works best for you, and know I look forward to spending some time with you!

**"Meet and Greet with Rev. Gail Monsma" Times:** *Please sign up at church or call Billie in the office.*

**Wednesday, Sept 7 at 10am**

**Tuesday, September 13, at 3pm**

**Tuesday, September 27 at 7pm**

**Wednesday, September 28 at 10am**

I hope to see many of you, and know we can always schedule more times! *Grace and peace, Gail*

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## Let It Be

This time last year we were on the precipice of what would become probably the most upsetting and disruptive year in our history. As more and more information trickled down folks became angry, disheartened, and untrusting. It was hard to absorb all the murmurings, the rumors, and the facts. It was difficult to keep our eye on the ball (that being a healthy church) and the Covid epidemic just added to our inability to support each other face to face.

The reactions to all this "noise" were many and varied. Some members did not tithe for the 2022 year, and some members reduced their tithes significantly. Not knowing how to react to the situation, they showed their unhappiness through their pledging, which sent a very pointed message that improvements needed to be made.

It seemed to be the year that would never end.

But here we are 12 months later. We have new leadership in the pulpit providing us with a clear message and undeniable hope. The committees are doing their work for the church. We have had a successful fund raiser in the form of the thrift sale, and even a fund raiser for international

mission. The choir returned, men's breakfast returned, folks are in the pews on Sunday, and Fellowship after church is beginning to feel normal. It's wonderful to be with each other on Sundays, and our way seems much clearer.

We are in a bit of a financial pickle due to a reduction in tithing last year, so if you are so inclined to underwrite the direction in which we are moving, it would be great to get some additional financial support for this last quarter.

The Session is being asked to budget what they dream to see for us for 2023, so that will also be a decision for each family.

I find a lot of solace in music, and in lyrics. Many times over the past several months I have listened to ["Let it Be" by the Beatles](#). The lyrics have spoken to me. We need to remember this past year so we never find ourselves in this situation again, but we also need to learn from the past and move on. We have been brokenhearted. Words of wisdom are being spoken to us. Let us be present in our faith, in our work together, and in our dreams.

- Wendy Mickle

# Worship and Music

September brings us a few different worship events. Let's look at them week by week.

September 4 – Regular worship service at our church.

September 11 – We are planning an event at the bandshell on Maple Lake. Our church has the 10 to 10:45 time slot. Join the Sleepy Hollow Band for some Bluegrass Gospel.

September 18 – “Blessing of the Animals” will be our theme. We plan to worship outside on the west side of our building. Dr. Kathy Vought and Reverend Gail will lead worship.

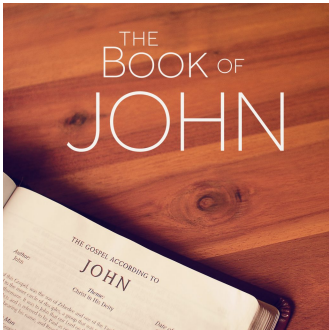
September 25 – Back to our regular worship indoors. This is the traditional start day to our Church School program.

Our musicians will be taking turns accompanying our services. Choir has not resumed yet.

Offering plates have been repositioned. Two are in the rear of the sanctuary near the entrance doors, and one is on the communion table in the front of our sanctuary. They are more visible as a reminder to each of us that our financial stewardship is primary in keeping our church and its ministry healthy.

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## Bible Study Resumes via Zoom



Bible Study has been a part of our spiritual formation program for many years at First Presbyterian. Recently Dave Nielsen and Tom Shoemaker have been leading the class that met via Zoom every Sunday during the school year.

Dave and Tom plan to start up again with their study of the book of John. The study has dug deep into the message of John's Gospel and is now in the closing chapters. **Classes will start up again on September 25 at 11:45.** Tom will host the Zoom sessions. If you were a member of the study group previously you will receive an invitation. If you have not been part of the class and would like to join then contact Tom Shoemaker or the church office to be put on the Zoom invite list.

### Part-Time Bookkeeper

Do you have a few hours a week to spare and a passion for working with numbers and generating reports? Applications are being accepted for a Part-Time Bookkeeper for our church. This position will record, maintain, and report the financial records of the church using automated software. The job will require approximately 6 to 8 hours per week.

Learn more about the position by contacting Joan Pohl at joanellen24@yahoo.com or by calling the church office at (269)657-3111. Applications may be submitted electronically or returned to 120 Pine Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079.

### For Our Internet Fans:

The Sunday 10 am Livestream is moving to Youtube. Watch for new instructions soon.



## September Anniversaries

9/5 Dave and Marlene Suter

9/15 Andy and Randy Thorburn

9/22 Richard and Susan Zygadlo

9/23 Robert and Karen Klimp



## September Birthdays

9/1 Craig Hess

9/5 Dan Hulst

9/5 Jeff Wells

9/7 Johnell Cuddeback-Weintraub

9/8 Bill Buhl

9/10 Greg Vantzelde

9/13 Wendy Mickle

9/17 Fran Kubicek

9/17 Bert Ogden

9/19 Harold Schuitmaker

9/20 Richard Baker, Jr.

9/22 Dave Combs

9/22 Brandon Mattson

9/23 Jack Zabonick

9/24 Sally Brinkman

9/25 Greta Taylor

9/28 Donna Rook

## SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 15

Deacons invite you to  
SAVE THE DATE!!

On October 15th @ 3:00 we want you to join us for a WMU Bronco football game and tailgate party.

The cost will be approximately \$20.00 ..... depending on our seats. Signup and join us!!

Contact Pat Peters.

269-352-1340.



Thank you Eleda Zygadlo, chairwoman of the Mission Commission, for leading the food drive for Wings of God.

# Our Crosses



Adult Bible Study has been part of this church for many years. Often Bible Study was led by our clergy. Lay leaders took their turn as well. For example, those who have worshiped here for a while will remember Jim Boss.

When Tom Shoemaker joined Bible Study it was led by Royal Haefner. Royal's love of scripture was obvious. He helped us peel back the layers and reveal deeper truths in the divinely inspired writings.

We also know Royal was a craftsman. In his extensive home workshop he made the baptismal font that we use in worship. Some create beautiful works on canvas or with voice but Royal did so with wood.

This cross was made by Royal in his shop and presented as a gift once Tom Shoemaker took over leadership of Bible Study class from Royal.

Royal still attends our Zoom Bible Study each week and provides a highly respected spiritual depth to our understanding of God's word.



Erick Shufeldt and crew says, "Thank you First Presbyterian Church for having us on our retreat!"

We loved having you! It was great having you guys in church. Thank you for making us a part of your ministry.

God bless your ministry.



Church outing to Growlers game.



Brunch bunch welcomes Flat John Calvin

# September 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
W1	28 • 10am Worship Service • NA	29 • 10am Yoga	30 • Noon AA	31 • 7:30am T.O.P.S.	1 • 7pm Choir Practice	2 • Noon AA • 10am Yoga	3 • 7pm AA
W2	4 • 10am Worship Service • NA	5 • 10am Yoga	6 • Noon AA	7 • 7:30am T.O.P.S.	8 • 7pm Choir Practice	9 • Noon AA • 10am Yoga	10 • 7pm AA
W3	11 • 10am Worship Service • NA	12 • 7pm Boy Scouts Admin • 10am Yoga	13 • Noon AA • 6:30 Bld&Grds • ShareNet	14 • 5pm Worship & Music • 6:30 Deacons • 11am Admin/Fin Comm • 7:30am T.O.P.S.	15 • 7pm Choir Practice	16 • Noon AA • 10am Yoga	17 • 7pm AA • 9am Quilters
W4	18 • 10am Worship Service • NA	19 • 10am Yoga	20 • Noon AA • Session Meeting	21 • 7:30am T.O.P.S.	22 • <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> • 7pm Choir Practice	23 • Noon AA • 10am Yoga	24 • 7pm AA • 7am Men's Breakfast
W5	25 • 10am Worship Service • NA	26 • 10am YOGA	27 • Noon AA • 6:30 Personnel	28 • 6:30 Mission • 7:30am T.O.P.S.	29 • 7 Choir Practice	30 • Noon AA • 10am Yoga	1 • 7pm AA

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

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Return Service Requested

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### Our Dear Summer Friend

## We Say Farewell To Flat John Calvin on Sunday September 4th

(Read to the tune of Auld Lang Syne with apologies to Robert Burns!)

My time with you  
Has been so great  
I really hate to go  
The summer of 2022  
Our memories we did sow  
Your eagerness to share with me  
Made lots of smiles appear.  
The folks at First Presbyterian  
Spreading love, and hope and cheer.  
We've run about the hills, my friends  
We've paddled in the stream  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
For auld lang syne  
Your kindness through our travels  
Reminded me we're friends  
Please join me on September 4  
Our summer it will end.



Flat John Calvin was present at the July Euchre night. Lots of snacks, fun and fellowship as we played with new friends and Dee (new player). Dee was the winner!

Marge is a great euchre instructor, so please join us for the next Euchre night. Players were Bert, Bob, Pat, Marge, Dee, Jan, Barb, Mary, (Marge's friend), Jim (Bob's son in law).

See [pawpawpres.org/calendar](https://pawpawpres.org/calendar) for the next Euchre/Games night. You're invited!

**Church Office 269-657-3111 + [firstpres120@gmail.com](mailto:firstpres120@gmail.com) + Office hours Tues-Wed-Fri 8 am - 3 pm**  
**Pastor Gail 269-275-6998 [revgailfpcpawpaw@gmail.com](mailto:revgailfpcpawpaw@gmail.com)**