

Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

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Make it your discipline to grow in faith

We are now in the season of Lent. Lent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter. This year Lent began on February 22, Ash Wednesday. During the forty days of Lent many Christians observe a period of moderation, self-denial, fasting or spiritual discipline. The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on our Christian lives as disciples of Jesus — to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, and resurrection.

Our journey to the cross as believers here in Paw Paw will include events at our church and in the community. Christians who observe Lent typically make a commitment to fast or to give up something — a habit that is not healthy or a type of food or beverage. Some Christians take on a Lenten discipline like reading the Bible and spending more time in prayer to draw nearer to God.

During Lent the Reverend Gail Monsma will be leading a Book Study on Jesus of the Disinherited by Howard Thurmond. You can

also go to the PCUSA website and choose a Lenten devotional series. Make it your discipline to grow in faith.

The 40-day period of Lent is based on two episodes of spiritual testing in the Bible. Moses wandered for 40 years in the wilderness with the children of Israel after the exodus from Egypt. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting before his ministry. There are numerous other references to 40 days that make it a special number in scripture. However you choose to honor these forty days, let it be one that keeps your heart and mind set on growing closer to God.

Worship and Music Commission invites you to join us in worship live at 10 am Sundays, by live stream at facebook.com/1stprespawpaw, or the recorded service at pawpawpres.org. We encourage all our church family to use this time of Lent to draw closer in spirit to Christ our Lord.

Tom Shoemaker
Worship and Music

"Souper" Bowl Sunday - What a Fun Time



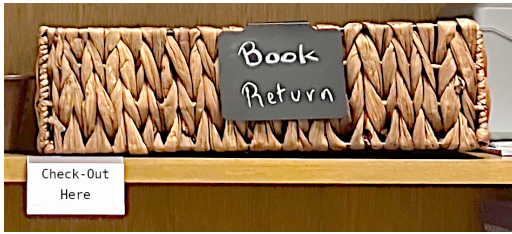
What a fun time as approximately 45 people gathered for Soup & Fellowship provided by the Deacons on Super Bowl Sunday. With 10 different soups and plenty of blueberry dessert there were options for all.

In addition to members and friends of the church we were joined by families of the Boy Scouts of Troop #169. First Presbyterian Church has sponsored this troop for nearly 70 years — the past few years in connection with the Lions Club of Paw Paw. During this time over 110 young men have reached the Eagle Rank in Scouting.

- Jan Wilder

The Deacons will be decorating the Church with Spring flowers and lilies for Easter. If you wish to have a flower placed in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone, please fill out an order form along with your payment by March 26, 2023. Plants are \$10 each. Order forms will be available on Sunday March 5 or you can pick one up at church. Any questions, contact Marge McKee 269-341-2949.

- Marge McKee



The Library is Open Again!

Last spring I wrote that I was going to close the library for a few months to do an inventory. Well, here it is almost a year later and it is finally ready to be reopened. So, what happened?

There is a database with “all” our books in it. **Well, not really.** Some books were in it that could be located on the shelves, some books on the shelves were not in the database and there were some books in the database that couldn't be located. *So the database now contains records for 240+ resources that I have personally touched and updated.*

I made a few other changes along the way. Each book has been assigned the appropriate Dewey Decimal number that most, if not all, of us should be familiar with for book classification. That should group books together naturally by topic. Additionally, I put Biographies (“People”), Fiction, Children/Youth and Audio/Visual in their own groups. There is also a Reference section with books that should stay in the church building. The shelves in the library have hanging tags on them to indicate what is there.

All check-outs are for three weeks. The process is the same as before: write your name, telephone number or email address, and the due date on the circulation card. Drop it in the basket and take a bookmark to write your due date on. There are return book baskets in the library and on the kiosk.

If you want to browse the database you do not need a User ID to look around. Go to the website goodfaithlibrary.librarika.com and on the right hand side of the page there is a section called Library Resources. If you select Database A-Z you can browse titles alphabetically. If you want to do a deeper dive into the database, I can set up a User ID and password for you.

The kiosk will return and each month will hold highlights of our collection. I was amazed at the resources we have available for any of us to access. I still have a few hundred more books to inventory, but I think the books that people will be most interested in are now available. Check it out and if you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.



Debby Williams - 269-621-5477 - goodfaithlibrary@gmail.com

Happy 100th Birthday, Martha Shoemaker!

Friends at First Presbyterian Church,

Martha Shoemaker will be 100 years old on Sunday, March 19. Her family is planning an Open House that afternoon at the First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw in Fellowship Hall. You are invited to come. The Open House is from noon until 3 PM. Light refreshments and cake will be served. There will also be a gathering on Friday afternoon the 17th at Maple Lake Senior Living from 3 until 5 PM. You are invited to that as well. Maple Lake's address is 677 Hazen Street in Paw Paw, MI 49079. If you are unable to attend but wish to send a card to Martha, she is in Room 7 at the mentioned Maple Lake address.



If you have questions or wish more information contact Tom Shoemaker at 269-808-3240 or email at tommishoe@yahoo.com. We hope you can stop by and help celebrate with us.

Tom Shoemaker

Thank You Presbyterian Volunteers!

About 150 people attended the Feb. 11 Wings of God fundraiser breakfast. Chuck Williams



A lovely evening of food and fellowship took place on January 24, 2023 at Brewsters when the Single Ladies group stepped out. photo Joan Pohl

The Personnel Committee would like to announce that annual staff reviews took place for all staff hired before June of 2022 and were given increases beginning January 1, 2023. Additionally, Sally Howe, bookkeeper, had her 60 day review and Gail Monsma, interim pastor, had her 6 month review. Please see any of the Personnel Committee members (Dave Suter, Bill Welling, Joan Pohl) if you have questions.
Joan Pohl, Chair

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March 2023

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
W1	26 • 10am Worship Service • NA • 8:45 Bible Study	27 • 6:30 Pub Theology • 7pm Community Choir Practice	28 • 10am Yoga • noon AA • 3:00 Personnel Meeting	1 • 6:00pm Boy Scouts Pack • 7:45am T.O.P.s • 4:30 Worship&Music • 6:30 Deacons	2 • 5:30 Lenten Book Study	3 • 10am Yoga • NOON AA	4 • 7pm AA
W2	5 • 10am Worship Service • NA • 8:45 Bible Study • 11am Annual Members Meeting	6 • 7pm Community Choir Practice	7 • 10am Yoga • noon AA	8 • 6:00pm Boy Scouts Pack • 7:45am T.O.P.s	9 • 5:00 Community Dinner • Noon Rotary	10 • 10am Yoga • NOON AA	11 • 7pm AA
W3	12 • 10am Worship Service • NA • 8:45 Bible Study	13 • 7:00pm Boy Scouts Comm • 11AM ADMIN/FIN • 7pm Community Choir Practice	14 • 6:30 Bld&Grds • 10am Yoga • noon AA • 10AM SHARENET	15 • 6:00pm Boy Scouts Pack • 7:45am T.O.P.s	16 • 5:30 Lenten Book Study	17 • 10am Yoga • NOON AA	18 • 7pm AA • 10am Quilters
W4	19 • 12-4pm Martha Shoemaker • 10am Worship Service • 8:45 Bible Study	20 • 7pm Community Choir Practice	21 • 10am Yoga • noon AA • Newsletter Deadline • 6pm Session Meeting	22 • 6:00pm Boy Scouts Pack • 7:45am T.O.P.s	23 • NOON ROTARY • 5:30 Lenten Book Study	24 • 10am Yoga • NOON AA	25 • 7pm AA • 8am Men's Breakfast
W5	26 • 10am Worship Service • 8:45 Bible Study	27 • 7pm Community Choir Practice • 6:30 Pub Theology	28 • 10am Yoga • noon AA	29 • 4pm MISSION • 6:00pm Boy Scouts Pack • 7:45am T.O.P.s	30 • 5:30 Lenten Book Study	31 • 10am Yoga • NOON AA	1 • 7pm AA



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Return Service Requested

Presbyterian News

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Rev. Gail Monsma + 269-275-6998 + revgailfpcpawpaw@gmail.com



Bowls of Blessing Banquet + Silent Auction

March 9, 2023

6:30 – 8 PM

600 E Michigan Ave, Paw Paw – Entrance A

Enjoy a soup supper with friends and neighbors,
Hearty soup, fresh bread and good company.

Cost is \$25 per ceramic bowl purchase which
includes unlimited soup!

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