

Presbyterian News

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 92 Issue 6

June 2023

ONE YEAR AND A **SERENDIPITOUS** NEW DIRECTION

Greetings Friends in Christ,

This month, I'll have been with you one year! Time sure passes quickly! Yet we've accomplished a lot in a year, and there's still more interim/transitional work to be done. Please know I remain excited and feel privileged to be working with you as your interim pastor.

In one year, we've moved forward with the recommendations of the Presbytery's Administration Commission and are now living into them. Part of that report required a restructuring of our Church Organizations. (See last month's newsletter article.) This will take some time and various tweaks, yet we have purposely set up our church for the realities of our size and a changing culture. I say "we" because my job has been one of a facilitator as the Transition Team and Session worked out the details.

Moreover, a serendipitous new direction is our newly "yoked" relationship with First Pres Decatur where I am spending 1/4 time with them and 3/4 time with you. I now preach on Sundays in Decatur at 9am and here at 11am. We're still living into this exciting arrangement and monitoring how it's all working, but it is a blessing for both churches.

One of my practices as Interim Pastor is to give a monthly report to our Session telling them what I've been doing and what my priorities are. I thought I'd share my May Session report with you and some of what summer will bring.

Following is my *Pastor's May 2023 Session Report*:

Greetings Session,

Decatur/Paw Paw Relationship: Already my weekly flexible schedule has changed. I now plan to be at Decatur church each Monday afternoon and conduct a 2PM Review/Preview time where we talk about last Sunday's worship and look at scripture for the coming Sunday. Both churches are welcome. I plan to be in the office/available for Paw Paw Tuesdays and Wednesdays; on Thursday work remotely, when possible, have Fridays off. However, I am going to try harder to drive down only four times per week, so if I'm at the Paw Paw/Decatur on a Thursday, I'll work remotely another day – same with Friday and Saturday.

Teams have been established from both Sessions to periodically assess how things are going. I will continue to reach out to various Elders in “yoked” situations in the denomination to get input from them. I met with Andy Thorburn and Joan Pohl on May 4 to revise the current task/job responsibilities for me. (This is available for anyone who wishes to see it.)

Session: Leadership development with Elders and committees remains a top priority. I'd like to set a session retreat to go over Elder expectations or in Session Focus time. As we move forward working on a Congregational Mission and Mission Study for the church (part of my interim tasks), we need to update our Mission and Vision Statement and also take into consideration our relationship with Decatur.

Preaching and Worship remains a top priority! as well as **Congregational and Pastoral Care.** I will continue to work closely with ShareNet on this. We will also look for times for both churches to worship together. I will continue to try to plan one day a month to work on worship planning.

Transition Taskforce (Craig Hess, Wendy Mickle, Tom Shoemaker, Bill Welling, Laura Wells): This has been a fantastic team! I'll see how many from this team will be willing to stay on and help guide the rest of the interim work that needs to be done, including focus groups and a Mission/Church Study. If some people want to switch off, I can select other wonderful people from the congregation.

Church Finances: This also remains a top priority. I had an excellent meeting on May 8 with Andy Thorburn, Pat Peters, Laura Wells, and myself to go over finances and various reports as Laura takes over as chair and Andy transitions to Clerk of Session. Since the “yoked” relationship with Decatur, our deficit has dropped nearly \$18,000 to \$27,755. Stewardship and Finance will be talking how to address this shortfall and bringing recommendations to Session, any recommendations are welcome.

Personal info: I plan to take Sunday June 4 off for my grandson's Confirmation. I will be on vacation Wednesday June 21-27 for my brother's wedding with Sunday June 25 off. Vacation Monday July 17-28 with Sun, July 23 off. I am scheduled for knee surgery on Wednesday Aug 9 and will be out for at least two weeks and two Sundays. (My contract requires four weeks' vacation, and two weeks Continuing Education, and I receive – like many pastors – an additional week for Spiritual Renewal for a total of seven Sundays off.)

Each month my Session Report varies a bit, but it is a way I keep the Session leadership of the church informed and if you ever want to see these reports, I'd be happy to share them with you.

In this season of Pentecost, may we live into the power of the Holy Spirit which brings winds of change, opportunities, renewal, and blessings into our lives so that we might better share and live into Christ's love.

In Christ's love, light, and hope,
Gail
Rev. Gail E. Monsma
revgailfpcpawpaw@gmail.com



And All Plants Find a New Happy Home

Wow, what a day! And what fun we had. Of course, when you get 30+ members & friends along with some of their kids all working together a successful sale and a good time is bound to happen.

A huge thanks is in order to Bert & Jan Ogden who let workers invade their barn and yard for over 3 weeks as we potted plants from their yard, marked and labeled, sorted and resorted and potted some more as people brought plants to add for the sale.

At this point we have earned over \$3,400.00 and expenses for the sale were less than \$30.00. All profits from this sale have been pledged to the church for the 2023 church budget.

A side note, the few plants that were not sold were shared with the Lawrence Garden Club who added them to their plant auction that they hold each spring – so all plants have found a new happy home.

Again thank you one and all for your donations of time, snacks, trailers, plants, garden equipment, planting, potting, getting out the advertising with Facebook and the media as well as the signs, marking and all the things that helped make the sale a success. **Now keep your ears tuned to the announcements and your eyes on the newsletter and the messages on your phones for the next fun adventure at First Presbyterian Church in Paw Paw.** Jan Wilder



United Christian Services

of Eastern van Buren County

600 E Michigan Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079

269 415 0767

May 1st, 2023

Dear Partners,

I wanted to send a THANK YOU for your support for Project Connect. Thank you for organizing the collection of items for the Personal Care Bags. I asked and YOU delivered, as always. I am so grateful to you!



This year's Project Connect was the first one since pre- COVID. In previous years we have run Project Connect alongside the Veteran Stand- Down. However, it was decided that in order to serve our low income families better we would separate the two events.

We had approximately 23 agencies attend the event, which was great! We served a free lunch, and gave away personal care bags, the contents of which were supplied by churches, individuals,

and agencies. I am enclosing some pictures to show you what they looked like!

We had about 20 families represented and in total 63 people were served. Not the 200 we were hoping for. But the good thing is those people were able to receive good information and direction for their needs. Not only that but the agencies (including UCS) were able to reconnect face to face with each other too, which is refreshing in these times. I felt that I had some good information from my colleagues, with whom we partner, made some new contacts and collected information helpful for us moving forward. We will of course hope for more people next year.

We DID have leftover personal Care bags left which were shared between the HARA/ SMCAA, DHHS and UCS to get them into the hands of people who are most in need. Ours will be given away through the Closet.



All this to update you, and to say I am grateful to you, I appreciate you and Thank You for once again honoring God by helping those in need!

Many Blessings!

Alison

United Christian Services demonstrates the love of Jesus through care for those in need of emergency assistance while offering pathways to self -sufficiency.



JUNE 23-24
217 Drew St.

Fundraiser

Paw Paw
9am-3pm

Garage Sale

Pat Conner

**Very Nice, Name-Brand, 0-4 reg
& petite WOMEN'S CLOTHING**

Purses * Shoes * Maternity

▶ **NEW KIDS CLOTHES**

▶ **\$5 Rack Clothes**

Kitchenware, Pots and Pans

Newly Upholstered Chairs

Portable Crib * led Monitor

Snow grippers * Mailbox

Aquarium Canister Filter

Bathroom Delta Grab Bar

Band Saw Blades * Golf Clubs

Boat Fender Racks

Coin Sorting Machine

OVERFLOW PARKING AT ELEANOR'S PANTRY NEXT DOOR!

All proceeds go to Paw Paw Presbyterian Church!

June 2023

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
W1	28 • 11am Worship Service • 7pm NA • 9:45am Bible Study	29 • 2pm Review/Preview	30 • 9:30am Yoga • noon AA	31 • 7:45am TOPS • 6pm Boy Scouts Troop	1	2 • 10am Yoga • NOON AA	3 • 7pm AA
W2	4 • COMMUNION • 11am Worship Service • 7pm NA • 9:45am Bible Study	5 • 2pm Review/Preview	6 • noon AA • 9:30am Yoga	7 • 6:30 Deacons • 7:45am TOPS • 6pm Boy Scouts Troop	8 • 5:30 Community Dinner • Noon Rotary	9 • 10am Yoga • NOON AA	10 • 7pm AA
W3	11 • 11am Worship Service • 7pm NA • 9:45am Bible Study	12 • 7:00pm Boy Scouts Comm • 2pm Review/Preview	13 • 6:30 Bld&Grds • noon AA • 9:30am Yoga • 3:45 WOG	14 • 4:30 Worship & Spiritual Formation • 7:45am TOPS • 6pm Boy Scouts Troop	15	16 • 10am Yoga • NOON AA	17 • 7pm AA • 10am Quilters
W4	18 • 11am Worship Service • 7pm NA • 9:45am Bible Study • CENTSIBILITY Sunday	19 • 2pm Review/Preview	20 • noon AA • 9:30am Yoga • 6:30pm Session Meeting	21 • Newsletter Deadline • 4pm Mission • 7:45am TOPS • 6pm Boy Scouts Troop	22 • NOON ROTARY	23 • 10am Yoga • NOON AA	24 • 8am Men's Breakfast • 9am Garage Sale - Drew St • 7pm AA
W5	25 • 11am Worship Service • 7pm NA • 9:45am Bible Study	26 • 6:30 Pub Theology • 2pm Review/Preview	27 • 10am ShareNet • 5:30 Single Ladies • 9:30am Yoga • 3:00 Personnel Meeting • noon AA	28 • 7:45am TOPS • 6pm Boy Scouts Troop	29	30 • NOON AA • 10am Yoga	1 • 7pm AA



First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw
pawpawpres.org/calendar

Building Reminder — All light switches "off" when building is empty! Unsure if you're the last one out? Just scan the parking lot. All outside doors locked too.
 -Jerry Dundon

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw
P.O. Box 435
120 Pine Street
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Return Service Requested

Presbyterian News

youtube.com/@1stprespawpaw

facebook.com/1stprespawpaw



Church Office 269-657-3111 † firstpres120@gmail.com † Office hours Tues-Wed-Thu 9 am - 3 pm
Rev. Gail Monsma † 269-275-6998 † revgailfpcpawpaw@gmail.com

JUNE Anniversaries

June 3	Bob and Theresa Yarbrough
June 7	John and Margaret McNeil
June 12	Dick and Sally Schallhorn
June 19	Jack and Donna Zabonick
June 24	Bill and Les Buhl
June 27	Mike and Deb Walters
June 29	Frank and Adele Walters
June 30	Dave and Jan Wilder



JUNE Birthdays

6/3	Kris Vanderveen
6/4	Connie Nielson
6/12	John Taylor
6/18	Julia Payne
6/24	Suzy Paynich
6/24	Karen Racette
6/24	Frank Walters
6/25	Jan Emmons
6/25	Eleda Zygadlo
6/27	Kallie Pena
6/28	Jim Brinkman
6/30	Bobbie Long