

PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 88, Issue 6

June 2020

MORE OPEN NOW THAN EVER

“When will the church re-open?” As the weeks and months of “sheltering in” roll on, the inevitable question of when our building will ‘re-open’ has led many to some profound realizations about the church:

- The church is not a building; it’s a community of faith; it’s relationships and caring. Closing our doors has not kept us from being community.
- The church doesn’t have a mission; God has a mission. Although we are called to be a part of that mission, it is carried out in homes and hospitals and over the phone and so many places beyond the walls of the church.
- The Holy Spirit is in charge. In giving up our agendas, our schedules, plans, events and routines, we have opened our lives to the Spirit’s leading now more than ever.

Our Session continues to follow the Governor’s Executive Orders, and under the guidance of the Presbytery, we will plan for our own gradual return to gathering in our building that meets the needs and concerns of our congregation. At this time, we continue to keep our building closed to all but staff and church officers, and will now allow Narcotics Anonymous to resume meeting in the lower level of our building on Thursdays and Sunday evenings (the Governor’s most recent order allows addiction support groups to resume meetings of up to 10 people).

Do I miss seeing you all in the sanctuary? Singing with you? Feeling the energy as we pray, and as we share the Lord’s Supper? You have no idea how much! But we have been anything but closed to one another or God during this time. Through the modern advances of technology and the age-old power of prayer, we are connected, and connecting to others in new ways.

Until we meet again, wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart.

Peace,

Pastor Tiffany



GLASS SEPARATES; SMILES CONNECT. So thankful I got to wish Marion a happy 99th birthday! Marion is Chuck Williams’ mom. Per Haggard also received a few balloons for his 95th—see pictures of all our Nifty Nineties on pp. 5-6.

FAMILIES & FORMATION NEWS

Congratulations 2020 Grads! Whether it be high school, pre-school, college or grad school, the graduating classes of 2020 deserve our prayers, support and appreciation for what they have been able to achieve despite the challenges of distance learning. So hats off to:



Nicole Mroczek, Mattawan High School. Nicole will attend Eastern Michigan University in the Fall majoring in vocal music and arts and entertainment management. Nicole is a recipient of a 2020 Marian Handley Lumm Music Scholarship from our church, and has also been awarded an Arts Scholarship from the Mattawan Public Education Foundation.

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Logan McCafferty, Paw Paw High School. Logan will attend Western Michigan University in the fall, and is the recipient of a WMU merit scholarship and a 2020 Marian Handley Lumm Scholarship. Logan has not picked a major yet, but plans to stay involved in vocal music and choir.



Nolan Beck, Paw Paw High School. Nolan had an amazing football season his senior year! He

is considering a future in the armed services.

Ross Beck, Elmhurst College. Ross earned his bachelor's degree this year and plans to go into the trade of pipefitting.



Kendall Welling, Michigan Tech. Kendall earned her bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and got to study abroad at La Universidad Politècnica de València (UPV) in Valencia, Spain. Kendall has an engineering job waiting for her in Texas.

Although no Paw Paw community baccalaureate service was held this year, our graduates will be offered a blessing in our May 31 worship service. Additionally, the Marney Lumm Music scholarship will be presented by Rev. Nelson Lumm to Nicole Mroczek and Logan McCafferty during that worship service.

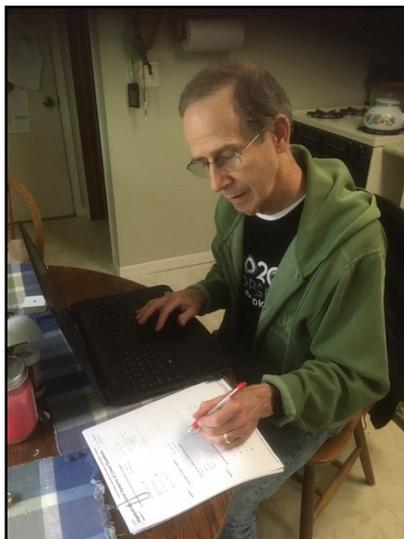
Congratulations to all our graduates! Our prayers go with you wherever life takes you.

AND HERE'S TO THE PARENTS!

Kudos and praise are due to all parents and caregivers for just getting their children through this unbelievably challenging school year. Our whole congregation is asked to be in prayer for those moms, dads and other adults who will now roll right into summer vacation without the assistance of day camps, libraries or even public playgrounds being open.

Several of our parents have also gone above and beyond both as parents and in their jobs as teachers and medical caregivers:

Teacher **Stephen McCloskey** had no idea how important technology would be to his students at Marcellus High School when he applied for a grant to purchase Chromebooks after attending a conference that encouraged him to go out on a limb and seek funding.



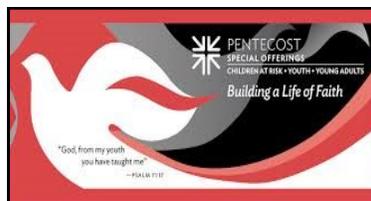
Marcellus High School teacher Steve McCloskey says the differences in access in technology is "one of the biggest inequities in education in the last 20 years."

Steve had never written a grant before, and after receiving a few donations from family and friends, he was pleasantly surprised that the majority of his project was funded by a single donor: Sonic Restaurants, through its "Limeaids for Learning" program, that looks to fund technology for students. Steve has worked long hours to prepare his on-line classes and meet the needs of his students.

Brandon Mattson has been working hard to provide fresh video curriculum daily to his students at Watervliet Elementary School, and also made some recordings for our Church School kids. Brandon has been home-schooling his own two children, Braelynn and Brendan, while mom **Brenda Mattson** continues to work as a nurse at Bronson Commons. Braelynn is very proud of all her mom has done to keep the Bronson Commons patients safe during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Josh and Juliann Bradish also have worked commendably in their healthcare jobs and parenting their four kids (and at times the parenting has involved more healthcare than their jobs!) And Pfizer employees **Rob Vought** and **Laurie Mroczek** have made their kids super-proud by all that they have been doing to help Pfizer's Kalamazoo facility prepared to manufacture a potential COVID-19 vaccine.

MISSION COMMISSION



*Giving a gift can open doors
Proverbs 18:16*

The Pentecost Special Offering ends May 31. This church-wide effort is to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church. Our church retains 40% of the offering to support ministries with children and youth in our church and community. This year's local ministry recipient will be Camp Greenwood. The other 60% goes to PCUSA ministries with youth and young adults and for child advocacy/children at risk. Your contribution to this special offering will be greatly appreciated and will nurture the faith of those who are the church to come.

Eleda Zygadlo
Mission Commission Chairperson

SHARING THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST ONLINE



Our church has been worshipping “virtually” for eleven worship services as of May 31. Maybe “virtually” is not the right word - we’ve been worshipping in different times and different places, but gathering around the same word, singing the same hymns, praying the same prayers and the individual prayers in our hearts just as we would in worship. But can we celebrate the Lord’s supper if we are not literally eating from the same loaf and drinking from the same cup?

At its May meeting, the Worship Commission affirmed my inclination to give on-line communion a try in June. I had been unsure about this practice, but was moved by a recent conversation in the clergy community stemming from an article by Diana Butler Bass called, “On Hoarding Eucharist in a Hungry World.”

Bass, an author and preacher with a PhD in religion, urges clergy to see on-line communion as another opportunity for the church to “reform and always be reforming.” She’s concerned of what might happen if churches deny their congregations the body of Christ for logistical reasons: “I’ve worried that in withholding communion, the church has been, in effect, hoarding the bread and wine, restraining the healing beauty of Eucharist when hungry people most

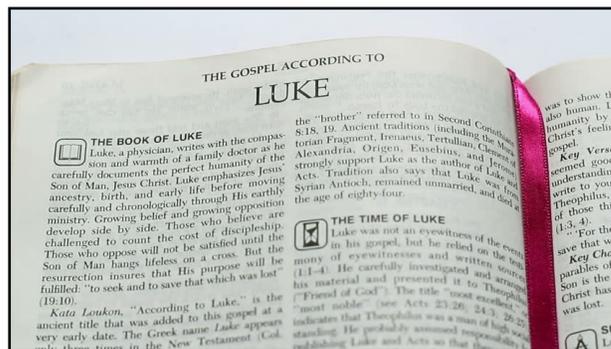
need to feast. (For more, see Bass’s article published on the ChurchAnew blog at churchanew.org/blog/2020/05/01/butlerbass1).

After much prayer, I came to the realization that the power of the Spirit to unite us with Christ through the sharing of the elements is not dependent on me or the elements or any of us being together physically. The celebration of Christ’s supper has always been about overcoming the limitations of place and time; it’s about being united on a spiritual plane with Christ and with all believers, and what matters there is not the consistency of the bread and cup, but the connection of our hearts.

I look forward to breaking bread with you on June 7. Please plan to have some bread and grape juice or wine, or even water, so we can once again renew our connection through the Spirit, and through Christ who makes us one.

Pastor Tiffany & the Worship Commission

Bible Study Wraps Up



The Sunday morning Bible Study group took the past year to journey with the Gospel writer Luke through his accounts of the life of Christ. Dave Nielsen and Tom Shoemaker took turns leading discussion and narratives on each chapter of the book. Classes will resume in the fall with the next biblical text yet to be determined. Dave and Tom wish to thank all the group members for their faithful participation and positive support.

—Tom Shoemaker

NIFTY NINETIES

Special prayers and greetings to our Nifty 90+ year old friends. We miss your smiling faces!



Mary Adams



Thelma Bennett



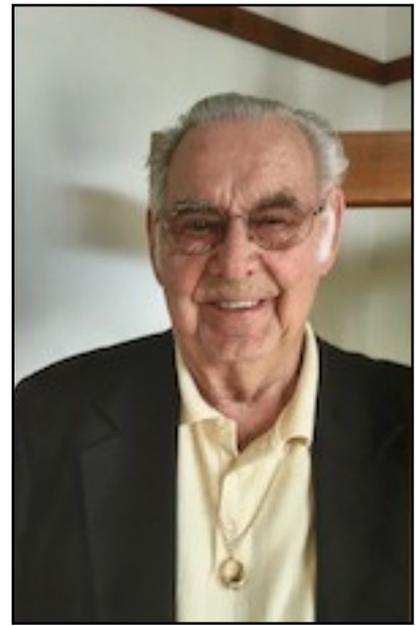
Dave Conner



Harold Duringer



Per Hagar



Harvey Hop

NIFTY NINETIES

We miss your smiling faces!



Madelyn Randall



Happy Birthday Per!



Helen Reed



Martha Shoemaker



Eileen Summe



Betty Wassman

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/03 Kristina Vanderveen
 06/04 Connie Nielsen
 06/08 Brett Baney
 06/18 Julia Payne
 06/23 Orville Griffith
 06/24 Susan Paynich
 06/24 Frank Walters
 06/24 Karen Racette
 06/25 Eleda Zygadlo
 06/25 Jan Emmons
 06/28 Jim Brinkman



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES



06/03 Bob & Theresa Yarbrough
 06/07 John & Margaret McNeil
 06/12 Dick & Sally Schallhorn
 06/19 Jack & Donna Zabonick
 06/21 Jeff & Cynthia Marcelletti
 06/24 Bill & Les Buhl
 06/27 Michael & Debra Walters
 06/29 Frank & Adele Walters
 06/29 Dave & Jan Wilder

Editor's Note: The birthdays and anniversaries are computer-generated. If we are missing your special day or our information is incorrect, please notify Sue in the church office at 657-3111 or email: firstpres1@btc-bci.com.

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER

There are many ways that you can be involved in worship even while we are not gathering in our sanctuary. Pastor Tiffany is seeking **virtual liturgists** to help lead worship from home. If you can ZOOM or record yourself on a phone or tablet, or if you consider yourself low-risk and are willing to come into the sanctuary, please contact her to sign up for a worship service: tkomccaff@gmail.com.

Fresh flowers are still needed for the chancel. Home-grown bouquets are the best! If you would like to provide flowers for an upcoming worship service, please contact the church office to sign up: (269) 657-3111. Flowers should be delivered to the church by Wednesday afternoon. As always, we will recognize your flowers in honor or memory of whomever you wish, and after worship, we can return the bouquet to you or deliver it to someone else.



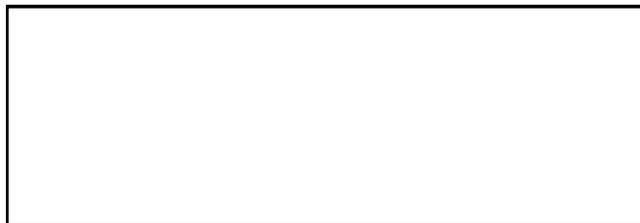
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Return Service Requested

Presbyterian News

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STAYING CONNECTED - JUNE 2020

- **May 31 - NA meetings will resume and meet downstairs at noon each Thursday and at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings.**
- **May 31 - Pentecost worship and Graduation Sunday (on-line).**
- **June 7 - Worship with the Lord's Supper (on-line).**
- **June 7 - Long Range Planning meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot. Masks and social distancing applicable.**
- **June 16 - Session & Deacons Meet, 6:30 p.m. via zoom.**

WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY. Worship videos will be posted on Facebook and on the VIDEOS page at www.pawpawpres.org (link will also be sent out by e-mail). If you would like to receive printed copies of the Sunday service sent to you in the mail, please call the church office at (269) 657-3111 to request a weekly worship mailing.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PAW PAW

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