

# PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

Volume 88, Issues 9

September 2020

## BEING TOGETHER WHILE STAYING APART

*I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.*

—Paul's letter to the Romans 1:9-11

Like the early church that worked so hard to stay in touch through letters carried across miles of missionary journeys, the church today faces challenges to stay connected and grow our faith with one another. How have you found ways to be with church friends? What kind of connection do you need to sustain you and help you grow in faith?

One way to renew your connection with the church might be to join a SMALL GROUP that will meet in the mode or manner that fits your needs. Whether you are a long-time member or brand new to our community, someone who can Zoom like a pro or someone who would rather talk on the phone, there are others who communicate in the same way who need connection too. Please complete the enclosed SMALL GROUP PARTICIPATION SURVEY and return it to the by September 11, and we'll give you and others with similar responses suggestions about how to meet and what to do or talk about. You can also take the survey on-line with the Survey Monkey link posted on our website: [pawpawpres.org](http://pawpawpres.org).

Whether it's a group for prayer, study, service and social justice work, or simply good company that you need, our community of faith has room for all. If you have other ideas about how to stay connected, or need pastoral care for you or your family, please let me know—I'm always just a phone call away!

Peace,

*Pastor Tiffany*  
(269) 657-3111 church office  
(614) 596-1995 cell/text

*\*P.S. My "office hours" have been a bit irregular since our building closed, and may be more so as I transport 3 kids to 3 different schools on 3 different schedules, so please don't hesitate to call or text my cell—that's the best way to reach me!*

***Sitting outdoors and enjoying the beautiful summer weather has been the perfect way to connect with church family near and far. How will we stay connected when winter comes?***



## WHAT SESSION WANTS YOU TO KNOW

After taking the usual break for the month of July, Session met August 18 to review summer business and plan for fall. Here are the highlights:

**WORSHIP PLANS:** Session continues to review the recommendations of our Presbytery Leadership and current data about the COVID infection rate in our area, and will continue to make decisions about resuming in-person worship and other activities in our church building based on that information. As of now, we will refrain from holding in-person worship in our sanctuary for the next several weeks, but we will have some opportunities to gather outdoors on September 6 and 20. Please call the church to reserve your place as seating will be socially distanced and limited.

**PC(USA) WEEK OF ACTION:** Session members shared openly a variety of views and feelings about the issue of racism, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the PC USA's week of action. All observed and agreed that we need to find ways to listen to one another and deepen our relationships with one another and Christ as we work through these challenging issues.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of July 31, income to the church's General Fund checking account was \$97,983. A gift of stock currently valued at approximately \$9,000 is also held in an investment account and will be deposited into our General Fund checking later this year, all of which brings our total income to date to \$106,983. Expenses year to date are \$101,003 resulting in a surplus of \$5,980 as of July 31, 2020.

Thanks to all for keeping your pledges up to date - as of July 31, pledged giving was under by just \$1,791, based on the increased pledged giving amount of \$152,281 that resulted from our Close the Gap cam-

paign. Since almost all households are current on their pledges, we will NOT be sending out mid-year giving statements. However, if you have any questions about your contributions or would like a giving statement mailed to you, please contact the church office or email Joan Ford at [fpcbookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:fpcbookkeeper@gmail.com).

## STEWARDSHIP 2021

The last time you heard from the Stewardship Commission was March 1, 2020 at the annual meeting. Dave Nielsen and Mary Ellen Smith gave you an update on the financial situation of our budget. We shared with you a deficit of \$25,000.00 and ask those of you who could to help us bridge that gap by rethinking your pledged giving. Many of you answered that call and we feel blessed that you did.

We now find ourselves in the middle of a pandemic and headed into another stewardship campaign. Tiffany, Sue, our custodian Monica, musicians, sound and video technicians and many dedicated volunteers have continued to work so that we can all stay connected to First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, church services and meetings in our building have been limited, but we still need to maintain our building, finish our west entrance and parking lot project, do general maintenance, tweak our new sound and video system and reach out to all of you.

The Session met on August 18, 2020, in in-house, some on Zoom. This format takes patience and humor to accomplish our goals. Some new members have volunteered to serve on the Stewardship Commission: THANK YOU, Kathy McGuire, Mike Seymoure, Jerry Dundon, Tom Shoemaker and Andy Thorburn, we will do our best to make this an easy productive campaign.

**MORE TO COME!**  
— Mary Ellen Smith

## PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT— UPDATES ON THE NEW WEST ENTRY WAY

Despite the pandemic, progress is continuing on the new west entrance. Thanks to the hard work of several volunteers, we have a new roof and doors on the garage, and will soon have new siding. Landscaping is also being worked on.

The next step will be to remove dirt and three feet off of the east side of the existing parking lot, then install the new storm retention tank. Then the gravel will be hauled in and compacted. This work could be completed in October at an estimated cost of \$11,000. Final paving could take place next spring, and is estimated at \$9,100.



Long Range Planning (LRP) members were very happy with that schedule because we would like to gravel to settle through winter. So where does that leave us?

Since this project began, the Property Improvement Fund (PIF) has received contributions from 40 households and organizations for over \$53,000. All but about \$1,000 was spent on completing Phase 1—the new entry. We need to again ask for about \$25,000 in contributions to cover the work mentioned above, finish the landscaping and prepare for a dedication and grand re-opening, which we hope could take place by next summer.

Upon recommendation of the Administration/Finance Commission, Session has approved a request for funding to complete Phase II of this project as part of our 2021 Stewardship Campaign. Our General Fund takes priority as we need to be able to cover our expenses, but please consider what you can give to help us complete this project in 2021. Donations can be made any time—designate to “PIF-West Entrance.”

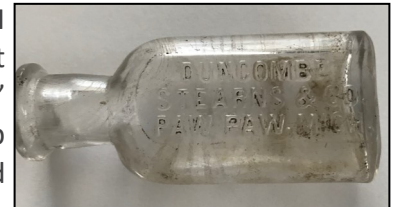
Donations to the 2021 Capital fund will also be important, as Building and Grounds recently approved an estimate to replace some of our HV/AC units that are out of date and not working well. If this money is raised, it is anticipated that we could use the new west parking lot this winter.

Many thanks to all for your past contributions of money and time.

***Long Range Planning/Property Improvement Chair,  
Jerry Dundon***

A few ironic notes below—while landscaping, the following items were found:

- As I looked down I saw this bottle, picked it up and saw “Dun,” WHAT?? I cleaned it up - it said “Duncombe and Stearns, Paw Paw, MI.”



Like us, the church has been here a long time.

- Sunday morning, I came down to see how much dirt was left. Looking at the pile I saw this rock. It is a pudding stone. A bunch of little stones together making one. Like our congregation, a bunch of us working together. Turning the rock over, Barb said it's an eye. Somebody's keeping an eye on us!





## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Our children and youth have been active all summer. Vacation Bible school took a different format this summer of monthly, one-on-one visits with our church school families at their homes. This allowed for quality time with minimal germ exposure. We learned that “happy are the feet of the messenger” who brings God’s word, along with other ways we can use our feet, hands, voices and hearts to serve God.



**Juliann Bradish with Amelia, Adeline and Andrew enjoy a VBS visit at home.**

Confirmation class met in many ways - by Zoom, in person outdoors, and inside with masks and social distancing. Highlights of summer activities included a visit to the Grand Mere dunes for beach cleaning, and performing a one-act play about the history behind Juneteenth for our summer Cruise-in in the church parking lot.



**Sam Vought, Braelynn Mattson and Bridget McCafferty perform “ACT FREE” by Idris Goodwin.**

Our High School students and their families gathered at Amore’s for an outdoor dinner, and then took a tour of the Community Learning Garden, where Patrick McCafferty has served as Garden Manager this Season.



**McCloskeys, McCaffertys and Wellings at the Learning Garden, a ministry with United Christian Services.**

Several of our High School Students - Deacon Keelin McCafferty, Logan McCafferty and Nathaniel McCloskey - have helped to support our technology for our live-stream worship services, and also joined Pastor Tiffany for a send-off lunch with some of our College Students.



**Please pray for our college students as they head back to campus: Nicole Mroczek—Easter Michigan U; Lauren Mroczek, - Grand Valley State; Brandon Mroczek—Michigan Tech; Emily Duncan, Matthew Mroczek & Logan McCafferty—Western; (not pictured, but still prayed for: Conner Wellings—Michigan Tech, and Ben Hulst—GVSU.)**

## **SPIRITUAL FORMATION, CONTINUED —**

Looking forward, establishing small groups in a variety of communication styles will be essential to keeping our formation ministry going through the fall and winter:

- Church School lessons will continue to be available to families through socially distanced visits, videos and via Zoom. Please contact Pastor Tiffany to request lessons in a manner that works for your family.
- Middle School Youth can participate in a weekly Zoom call on Thursdays at 3:00 led by Pastor Tiffany, diving into more “Big Questions,” about God, faith and life.
- Middle & High Schoolers will be invented to “connect” in a variety of ways for socially distanced events and service opportunities.

Dave Nielsen and Tom Shoemaker return this fall to lead a study on the Gospel of John. The Bible Study group will meet by ZOOM. If you would like to participate, be sure to get your e-mail address to Tom or Dave directly or by contacting the church office.

The Prayer Study Group, which last met on March 9, 2020, has been postponed ever since due to the COVID-19 pandemic and hopes to start in 2021. The Formation Commission and class leaders continue to pray for the continued good health and safety for all our members, all healthcare workers, all essential workers, all educational workers as schools reopen, all our Church Staff, and all our governmental leaders as they continue to grapple with the weighty decisions that must be made in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sadly, the changes to our Church School format and suspension of our need for childcare on Sunday mornings resulted in the resignation of Meg Waddell from the position of Church School Coordinator. We wish Meg all the best and look forward to staying connected with her as a member of our church family.

If you have any further questions about Formation activities at our church, please contact Steve

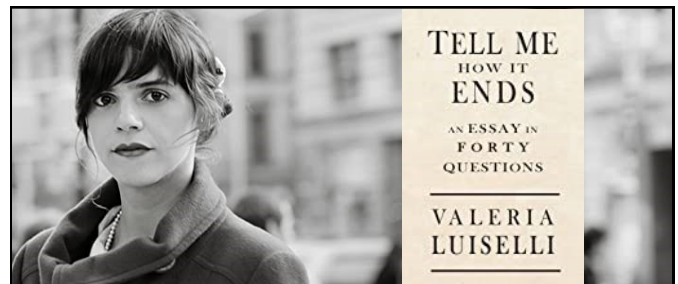
McCloskey at 269-657-5882 or [mccloskeys59@gmail.com](mailto:mccloskeys59@gmail.com), or Pastor Tiffany at [tkomccaff@gmail.com](mailto:tkomccaff@gmail.com).

**Stephen McCloskey,**  
**Formation Commission Chair**

## **READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY??**

Our church building may be closed, but the GOOD FAITH LIBRARY is open. You can view the catalog online at <https://goodfaithlibrary.librarika.com>. A link is also available on the church’s website, [paw-pawpres.org](http://paw-pawpres.org). Books can be checked out by calling the church office to arrange for pick up. Returned books are cleaned and quarantined for at least 3 days before being lent out again.

THE GOOD FAITH library has all kinds of books—fiction, biography, kids’ books, books about health, grief, life lessons, bible studies, and of course, faith! If you have read anything that’s been good for your faith, consider donating a copy to the GFL so others can grow in faith as well. Or better yet—start a book group on something you’d like to read. Our new SMALL GROUP ministry can help find a way to do that!



Thank you to Catey Bolton for donating a copy of “Tell Me How It Ends,” by Valeria Luiselli, a book about migrant children and the challenges faced by Migrant families. This book will be the focus of a public discussion on the issues facing migrant workers in our community on September 15 at 6. p.m. The discussion is sponsored by Interfaith Action of Southwest Michigan. People can join the Zoom discussion at <https://bit.ly/3iTxfsC>. More information can be found on the Facebook page: [Interfaith Action – SW Michigan Peace & Justice Collaborative](#).



## LIVESTREAMING WORSHIP:

### HARDER THAN IT LOOKS!

Technology upgrades continue to take place in our sanctuary. When we first started recording our worship services, Pastor Tiffany was using her phone to record video and audio for worship services. The video portion was good but the audio needed some quality improvement. It was determined that to improve sound quality we needed to send the audio to the sound board and then out to the livestream. A new software application, a device called a “switcher” that mixes camera view with the worship slides have been added and now we are able to livestream our worship service.

Our Worship Technology Team—including students Keelin McCafferty, Logan McCafferty and Nathaniel McCloskey, along with Andy Thorburn and Tom Shoemaker—received training from Jerry Miller on the features of our much-improved system.



*Keelin, Logan and Nathaniel enjoy some Amore's pizza after learning about vMix, a software application for livestreaming. Be sure to thank them for getting up early on Sunday mornings to make sure we can still worship together even while we are apart! Want to learn this system and join our crew? contact Keelin at keelinmccaff@gmail.com.*

We hope that you keep 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings as your church worship hour and join us **LIVE** from the sanctuary on the First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw Facebook page (you do not have to have a Facebook account to view the livestream). Recordings will also be sent out afterwards by e-mail.

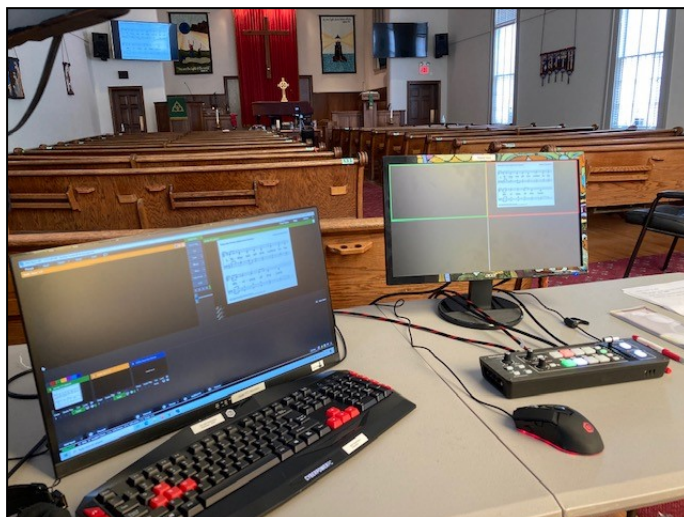
## THANK YOU JERRY MILLER!

The person most responsible for the upgrades to technology is Jerry Miller. Jerry started working with a small group of church volunteers last year when we switched over from projection to monitors for worship in the church sanctuary. Jerry possesses the knowledge needed to guide our church in making necessary technology improvements.

Jerry has generously put in countless hours of his time to work with our volunteer groups guiding them through the hardware and software needs that would allow us to better live stream and/or record our worship experiences. He has given his time in training others to use new production software as well.

In addition to our live streaming upgrades Jerry is also taking the lead on the installation of cameras and remote entry hardware for our church entrances. We owe Jerry a huge debt of gratitude for all he has patiently done in leading us through the change process. Without his help and guidance we would not have been able to complete a project of this magnitude. Jerry has volunteered all of his time saving our church the cost of hiring a company to come in and make needed changes. We have been blessed to have Jerry working with us.

**—Tom Shoemaker, Technology Committee**



*Sanctuary or studio?? Additional monitors, software and controllers help us bring worship to you at home.*

## DEACONS: A MINISTRY OF COM- PASSION, WITNESS AND SERVICE

Deacons met in fellowship hall on August 26. Many of the usual deacon activities for summer and fall—the church picnic, wine and harvest parade—have not been able to happen due to pandemic concerns. Moderator Pat Peters asked the Deacons to review the definition of Deacon ministry from the Book of Order, and think about new ways to live into the call to compassion and service:

### *G-2.0201 Deacon Defined*

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

Deacons will sponsor another **Parking Lot Cruise-in on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30** (weather permitting). As we did in July, we'll tailgate socially distanced. Bring your own refreshments, chairs and a mask. Restrooms will be available in the church.



*Deacons Keelin McCafferty, Ann McGrew, Rhonda Riegle, Jan Ogden, Dick Schallhorn, Pat Peters, Connie Nielsen and Rick & Mary Diemer pose in front of a new banner created and donated by Rick & Mary's daughter.*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*For we are God's workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God prepared in  
advance for us to do.*

**Ephesians 2:10**

This is the time of year our church begins the quest of finding new elders and deacons to serve our church. We are looking for those who would like to serve the church through various committees and perform various duties to promote the Lord's work in our church. Luci Swindoll, a popular speaker of Women of Faith's nationwide conferences and writer of books on faith said:

"The Creator has made us each one of a kind.

There is nobody else exactly like us,  
and there never will be. Each of us is His special  
creation and is alive for a distinctive purpose."

Each of us has a purpose in life. We may know what that purpose is or we are still searching. Maybe one of your purposes in life is to serve in the church. We all have special abilities which would be of use in supporting our church. The Nominating Committee is looking for these people who will support and guide our church in the years ahead. Those on the Nominating Committee would like to talk to anyone who is interested in becoming an elder or deacon. Please see Eleda Zygadlo, Pat Peters, Bert Ogden, Tom Shoemaker, Nancy Beck or Marge McKee.

*"A church leader is  
a manager  
Of God's house-  
hold . . ."*  
**Timothy 1:7**

**Current and Former  
Elders Jerry and  
Bert know Timo-  
thy's words to be  
true!**





## CAUSE CORNER

Church Members are actively supporting causes that help our community.

With the help of her siblings, third-grader Amelia Bradish raised money for Animal Rescue Project in Kalamazoo by selling flowers and vegetables from the family garden. They raised over \$75 so far!



**Kathy Murphy explains to WWMT's Taravarious Haywood that protecting the right to vote by mail is a nonpartisan issue that should be supported by all citizens.**

In August, member Kathy Murphy organized a demonstration in support of the USPS to keep mail services for our community and protect the right to vote by mail.

This September, Joan and Todd Pohl will again participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Joan's husband, Bob, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2006 and passed away in 2012. Todd's Mom was diagnosed in 2018 and past away in 2019. Joan has supported this organization since

2009 by walking and speaking about being a caregiver/spouse. This year's Walk is a virtual one - participants will walk in their own neighborhoods, which will help to raise awareness. If church members are interested in joining Joan and Todd's team they may do so at [www.alz.org/walk](http://www.alz.org/walk)



## MISSION COMMISSION

September 6 begins the special offering Peace & Global Witness. It is the third of the four special denominational offerings taken during the church year. This offering ends on the first Sunday in October, October 4 this year, to coincide with the World Communion Sunday. 25% of the offering will stay here within our community to support peacemaking and reconciliation. 25% will go to our mid-council, joining other churches in our area to support peacemaking work in our region. 50% will support the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians around the world.

Thank you for supporting the special offerings of One Great Hour of Sharing and Pentecost. One Great Hour of Sharing received \$635.00 and Pentecost received \$535.00 of which 40%, \$218.00 went to Camp Greenwood.

Imad Domani and his family (our refugee family from Syria) have purchased a bigger house for their growing family as Imad's parents are now living with them. We wish them well in their new home.

**Eleda Zygadlo**  
**Mission Commission Chairperson**



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/01 Craig Hess  
 09/01 Emma Kendall  
 09/02 Rev. Tiffany McCafferty  
 09/05 Jeff Wells  
 09/05 Dan Hulst  
 09/06 Robert Vought  
 09/07 Johnell Cuddeback-Weintraub  
 09/08 Bill Buhl  
 09/09 Rodney Moore  
 09/13 Wendy Mickle  
 09/17 Bert Ogden  
 09/18 Bridget McCafferty  
 09/19 Harold Schuitmaker



09/20 Richard Baker, Jr.  
 09/22 David Combs  
 09/22 Brandon Mattson  
 09/23 Jack Zabonick  
 09/23 Chester Hamrick  
 09/23 Cooper Hess  
 09/23 Charleigh Hess  
 09/24 Sally Brinkman  
 09/25 Joe Thorstenson  
 09/27 Morgan Baker  
 09/27 Arthur Garceau  
 09/27 Reagan Diemer  
 09/28 Kathy Renbarger

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/05 Dave & Marlene Suter  
 09/08 Joe Thorstenson & Wendy Mickle  
 09/11 Rick & Nancy Boven



09/14 Patrick & Tiffany McCafferty  
 09/15 Andy & Randy Thorburn  
 09/23 Robert & Karen Klimp

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](mailto:firstpres1@btc-bci.com).



**SIGNS OF LIFE:** The work of the Deacons' Evangelism includes making the outside of our building welcoming to our community, with displays like this new banner that Rick Diemer will hang in front of our church. Former deacon Pam Baney keeps our church sign up to date with a new message every week. Thanks to Pam, Rick, and all who keep our building looking great!

First Presbyterian Church  
120 Pine Street  
Paw Paw, MI 49079

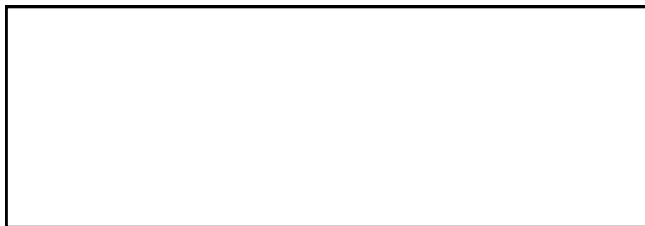
**Return Service Requested**

# Presbyterian News

**First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan**

120 Pine St – 269-657-3111 – [firstpres1@btc-bci.com](mailto:firstpres1@btc-bci.com) – <http://www.pawpawpres.org>

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## SEPTEMBER OPPORTUNITIES TO STAY CONNECTED

- September 6 - OUTDOOR Worship with Communion at 10:00 a.m. RSVP to the church office or through the Signup Genius Link at [pawpawpres.org](http://pawpawpres.org)
- September 10, 17, 24 - MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Pastor Tiffany for the link.
- September 13 - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. via FACEBOOK LIVE (search “First Presbyterian Paw Paw Facebook” for the stream—works even if you don’t have a Facebook account)
- September 13— Bible Study Gospel of John via Zoom begins and will continue Sundays @11:15 a.m. via Zoom. Contact the church office to have the Zoom link sent to you.
- September 17 - Parking Lot Cruise-in @ 6:30 (weather permitting) BYO chairs, refreshments and masks.
- September 20 - Worship Service \*OUTDOORS Pet Blessing. RSVP to the church office or through the Signup Genius Link at [pawpawpres.org](http://pawpawpres.org)

**WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY through Facebook Livestream!** You do not have to have a Facebook account to watch the livestream—just search “First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw Facebook” to find the link when we go live at 10 a.m. Worship videos will be posted on Facebook and on the **VIDEOS** page at [www.pawpawpres.org](http://www.pawpawpres.org) (link will also be sent out by e-mail). You can RSVP for OUTDOOR services by calling the church office or through the Signup Genius link on the church website. Need something else to stay connected? Call Pastor Tiffany to discuss: (614) 596-1995

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PAW PAW**

**120 Pine Street—Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079**

**[www.pawpawpres.org](http://www.pawpawpres.org)**

**(269) 657-3111—church office (614) 596-1995—Pastor’s cell phone**

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