



# PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

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Volume 80, Issue 3

April 2011

## From Tom's Study

*"Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches." Revelation 2:29 (The Message)*

Last month I shared a wonderful list of all we celebrate as a congregation, plus a list of our greatest needs. At the top of that list of needs was a staff person to work with our youth. As a congregation we simply have not had people with the time, nor the calling to reach out to our youth. At the same time, however, we have sensed God's Spirit calling us to minister to our youth and children with greater energy, imagination, and love. The session and I think the whole church has ached for the ability to have a staff person to reach out to our young people. It has been a tremendous felt need.

Because one of the powerful ways to connect with youth is through music the session decided to investigate if we could find someone with the gifts to lead our present music program, while also expanding our outreach to youth and children through music. This also seemed congruent with the congregation's long history of a strong music program. If you have been in worship over the last couple of weeks then you are aware of the great news that the session recently hired a new music/youth director, Tammy Flick. The search committee, the administration commission, the elders and deacons are excited that this long-time dream has become a reality. I pray that together we can celebrate this wonderful new beginning as we continue to grow the brightness of our beacon here in Paw Paw. I hope all of us will do everything in our power to support Tammy as she begins this new role. So take some time to get to know Tammy and ask her how you can support her as she begins ministering with us, among us, and through us. (Please read Tammy's biography and learn more about her.)

I also want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Pat McKinney. Pat has been a wonderful gift to our congregation as she led the choir, helped plan worship, and worked with our kids in the gathering group. Pat we hope you know you will always have a home here, so don't be a stranger. Thanks again and we look forward to running into you at the pantry or around town.

Finally, I want to say a brief word about Lent. When you receive this newsletter we will be halfway through the forty day period, (the forty days does not including Sundays) that leads up to our celebration of Christ's resurrection. Resurrection is the theological truth that life follows death. It takes a lifetime to open ourselves to that great truth. Life follows death! Life follows death! Lent is a season to help us wrap our arms around that truth a bit more.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Through scripture ashes are a common symbol of mourning and penitence. But the ashes for Ash Wednesday are not just any old ashes; they come from the burned palm branches of Palm Sunday. Those Palm Sunday ashes remind us of the celebration of that day when Christ made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem; the grand entrance into that death that would forever open the door to life. Ash Wednesday is our triumphant entrance into Lent where we prepare our hearts to live into the glorious truth of Easter, that Christ has risen, that death does not have the last word. Through Lent those ashes silently sing the joyous choruses of Easter, reminding us that life follows death.

So how is your Lenten journey progressing? How are you growing in your understanding of that powerful resurrection truth that life follows death? How is that truth transforming your life? How is that truth transforming our life as a congregation? I pray that we will continue to listen to the "Wind Words", the Spirit speaking truth to us as we move closer to our glorious celebration of life on Easter morning.

In Christ's Service – Pastor Abbott

## Exciting Upcoming Events

**Service Saturday:** The first Service Saturday will take place on April 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Thrift Sale:** The Presbyterian Women's annual Thrift sale will take place on Saturday, April 16.

**Crop Walk:** May 1<sup>st</sup>. Get signed up early so you can procure as many sponsors as possible.

**Interested in Learning about Church Membership?** If you find yourself wondering about the church give Pastor Abbott a call at 657-3788.

## Adult Small Groups

**Monday Night Study:** The Monday night study will meet each Monday night of April. We meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Each time we are together we will look at the Scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday.

**Chancel Choir:** The choir practices on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to come and join in the singing and the fun.

**Attention Men:** Men's breakfast will take place on Saturday, **April 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men are invited and we would love to have you join us for this time of food, fellowship, and study.

## Worship Opportunities

**Sunday Worship Times:** We will have two services at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. all through April.

**Sacrament of Communion:** We will celebrate communion each Sunday in April, plus during the 12:30 p.m. Holy Week prayer services and the Tenebre Service on Thursday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m.

**Holy Week Prayer Services:** Monday through Thursday, April 18-21, we will have a prayer and communion service from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Tenebre Service:** We will have a Maundy Thursday Tenebre service on April 21 at 7:30 p.m.

**Community Good Friday Service:** We will be hosting the Community Good Friday Service at 1:00 p.m. on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Help us get the word out.

**Invite a Friend:** One of the ways we can be a beacon in our community is by simply inviting people to join us in worship. People's spirits are thirsty. Let us invite them to the well that never runs dry. Make sure to offer to pick them up.

**Valet Parking:** Our program is up and running. If you need someone to park your car, drive under the portico and Pat Conner will find you a driver.

**Parking on Sundays:** If you don't mind walking a bit, we would encourage folks to park on the street leaving the parking lot for folks who have a hard time walking, visitors, and parents with a car full of kids.

## Hermitage News

The Hermitage is a local Spiritual Retreat Center. ([www.hermitagecommunity.org](http://www.hermitagecommunity.org).) If you are looking for a place to get away and focus on your

relationship with God you might find one of these retreat opportunities a wonderful gift.

**Stations of the Cross Walk:** Open during Holy Week from April 17-23.

**Wounded Lover Retreat:** For men, May 13-15, Cost \$135. The Wounded Lover retreat will create a safe container for men to talk with other men about the beauty and pain of sexuality. It is an opportunity for you to give sacred attention to your experience as a sexual and spiritual being through personal reflection, communal rituals and group interaction. You are invited to join a company of men seeking God's grace, healing and love for wounds of the lover.

## Meetings

### Commission Meetings:

*Administration Commission:* Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in various locations. Contact Wendy Mickle for details 657-6738.

*Education Commission:* Meets the Sunday before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday after the 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service.

*Mission Commission:* Meets the Sunday before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday after the 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service.

*Membership/Worship Commission:* Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

*Properties Commission:* Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

**Session & Deacon Meetings:** Session and Deacon meetings will take place on Tuesday, April 19, at 8:00 p.m.

## Fellowship

**Monthly Potluck:** *Change in Date!!!* In April the monthly potluck will take place on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 p.m. preceding the Tenebrae worship service. Invite a friend and come join the Holy Week journey.

**Weekly Fellowship:** Stick around and enjoy building relationships with each other after every service of worship. The food is always good as well.

**Stay and Play:** We continue to meet after 11:00 service and fellowship to play games on Sunday afternoons. Now there's Bingo! Please stay for this fun time of socializing with your church family.

## Youth Ministry

**Young Life:** Attention all high school folks. Here is the scoop. Check your Facebook page for details.

*April 11* – Scavenger Hunt Club – downtown Paw Paw.

*April 18* – All area Olympics Club at a Mattawan location.

*April 25* – Easter Egg Hunt Club

**Wyldlife** (Formerly known as Middle School Youth Group): We will meet on April 17 at 4:00 p.m. at Red Arrow Ministries. We will also have our first Wyldlife Club at the middle school on Friday, April 29, 2:30-4:00 p.m. Get your friends together and come to club. Now is the perfect time to get involved.

**Summer Camp:** High School Young Life Camp has two dates. Canoe camp begins June 17 and Castaways camp begins July 2. Wyldlife camp for the middle school students begins July 26. These are life changing opportunities. If you have any interest please connect with Deb or Tom Abbott.

The Presbytery camp, Camp Greenwood also has a wonderful selection of summer camps for all ages. We would love to help you find out the information you want.

## Children's Ministry

**Sunday School:** There will be no Church School on April 3 or 10 due to spring break. Classes will resume on April 17.



We continue to have organizational meetings for this summer's Vacation Bible School. We have requested the Middle School for the last week in July. It looks good that we will get that date, but I haven't gotten the official word yet. Five churches are on board so far. The theme is PandaMania—"Where God is wild about you!" Our church has volunteered again this year to lead the snack time "Treetop Treats". While spring cleaning for the thrift sale, keep your eyes out for potential jungle decorations—bamboo, silk leaves, paper lanterns, paper umbrellas & stuffed panda bears. If you wish to volunteer to help in any way, contact Cheri Duncan, 674-3962.



Our New Music Youth Director, Tami Flick

Tami Flick was born and raised in the Chicago area until the age of 11, when her family (parents & three brothers) moved to the countryside outside of Baltimore, Maryland. Her father was a Lutheran pastor for her early years and both parents were very involved in ministry inside and outside the church.

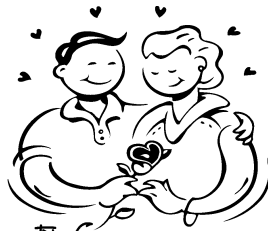
Tami attended the Baltimore School for the Arts for her last two years of high school and then headed to James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA to earn a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance ('96). After she finished her degree, she came to Kalamazoo, MI in order to study flute at Western Michigan University for a Master of Music ('98). She headed back to WMU in 2002 in order to pursue a second master of music in conducting ('04). While in Kalamazoo, she ended up becoming involved with the worship and prayer ministries at Kalamazoo First Assembly, where she ended up meeting John Flick, who was serving as the administrative pastor at KFirst. He asked Tami to help him minister to college students at WMU as part of the Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship. She joined him and their friendship eventually turned romantic. They were married in 2001. God added to their family with a daughter (Ellie Joy) in 2006 and a son (Robert Andrew) in 2008. Tami's most recent ministry position was at KFirst where she served as the worship director from 2007-2010.

Tami has also taught as part-time faculty at WMU, Lake Michigan College, Andrews University, and Lamar University (Beaumont, Texas). She played principal flute with the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra for six seasons and associate principal flute with the Symphony of Southeast Texas for one season. She continues to sub with area orchestras.

Tami enjoys cooking, baking, discussing the deep things of God with friends, and running. She is training for the 2010 Kalamazoo Marathon.



- 04/01 Shawn Dundon
- 04/02 April Miller
- 04/03 Sarah Diemer
- 04/04 Susan\* Erion
- 04/04 Jerry\* Miller
- 04/05 Sharon\* Soule
- 04/06 Brad Martin
- 04/06 Kaitlyn Walters
- 04/07 Kristen\* Welling
- 04/07 Lizzie Grate
- 04/07 Jenna Connolly
- 04/08 Mary\* Adams
- 04/08 Wyatt\* Boothby-Shoemaker
- 04/09 Susan Elise Cutting
- 04/10 Scott\* Beck
- 04/11 Randal Rhodes
- 04/11 Daniel Vought
- 04/12 Max Crawford
- 04/13 Emily\* Woods
- 04/13 Luke Pursley
- 04/14 Timothy\* Combs
- 04/15 Betty\* Faul
- 04/15 Lauren Sherburn
- 04/19 Kathleen\* Weisner
- 04/20 J.B.\* Thorstenson
- 04/22 Lily Imus
- 04/23 Lon Frazier
- 04/24 Rachel\* Kube
- 04/24 Don\* Weaver
- 04/27 Brooke Taylor
- 04/29 Scott\* Smith
- 04/30 Clyde\* Maylath



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 04/03 Crecia & Bob Tiffany
- 04/05 C. Sue & Fred Martin
- 04/06 Eilene & Frank Summe
- 04/10 Freida & Harold Durringer
- 04/13 Carie & John Faul
- 04/15 Jan & Bert Ogden
- 04/25 Colleen & Doug Stiles

## Thanks

To Johnell Cuddeback Weintraub, Freida Durringer, Pat Peters and Barb Kruse for folding the March newsletter and to Jim vanWestrienen for folding Sunday bulletins.



## New Church Facebook Page

Ric and Danean Baker set up a Facebook page for the church. We are excited and hope you are too! Do a search for First Presbyterian Church Paw Paw at Facebook.com and it will pop up.

## Could you give us a Saturday morning for mission?

Coming soon from your Mission Commission we are happy to announce "Service Saturday". In the upcoming months the commission will be sponsoring multi-generational opportunities for volunteer projects in our community. **April 9<sup>th</sup>** will be our first venture into this church wide opportunity. Plans are in the offing for different choices of service based on skills and interests.

We plan to meet at the church at 9:00 AM as a starting point and then disperse to the service site. All projects will be wrapped up by noon. Check the message scroll that runs prior to our worship services for more information. If you have ideas for us or are in need of this type of help yourself share your opportunities with Tom Shoemaker, Jake Pursley or Deb Abbott.

## Be good stewards of the gifts we have been given!

Your friendly Mission Commission reminds you to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Our recycle containers are clearly labeled and easily found in our kitchen area of fellowship hall.

## Mission Opportunities

**Eleanor's Pantry:** Don't forget to shop for the pantry when you are at the store. Or if you are able, help the pantry out with a financial gift. Looking for a gift for that special someone? Make a donation to the pantry in their honor. Everyone will be grateful. If you have any questions about how you might help with the pantry please connect with Sue Miller (657-4601). I am sure we can find a niche for you.

**Tremendous Need:** We truly need people who are interested in learning how to run the sound system and the video projection system. If you have such an interest please connect with the church office.

**Are you looking for a place to serve?** Are you looking for a place to use your gifts? Please be thinking about involvement in these local mission opportunities: *Lunch with Friends, Habitat for Humanity, Restorative Justice, Eleanor's Pantry, The Decatur Shelter and United Christian Services.* If you have any questions about any of these please contact Pastor Abbott at 657-3111.



## CROP WALK

Sunday, May 1. Sign up at the Middle School at 1 p.m., walk at 2 p.m

# April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Communion 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship No Children's Church School 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	4  7:00 Bible Study	5	6 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	7 9:00 PALS  Noon Rotary Club Meeting  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	8	9  9:00 Service Saturday
10 Communion 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship No Children's Church School 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	11  7:00 Bible Study	12  10:00 Sharenet	13 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends <b>No Potluck</b> 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 9:00 PALS  Noon Rotary Club Meeting 2:00 Thrift Sale Prep 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	15  8:00 Thrift Sale Prep	16  8:00-3:00 Thrift Sale
17 Communion 2¢ a Meal 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Spaghetti Dinner for Wings of God Pray & Play 3:00 Wyldlife	18 12:30 Prayer Communion 7:00 Bible Study	19 12:30 Prayer Communion 6:30 Commissions 7:30 Joint Worship 8:00 Session/Deacons Meetings	20 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 12:30 Prayer Communion 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 12:30 Prayer Communion  6:30 Potluck 7:30 Tenebrae Service	22  1:00 Good Friday Ecumenical Service	23  8:00 Men's Breakfast  Eagle Court of Honor
24 Communion Easter Sunday 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	25  7:00 Bible Study	26  10:00 Sharenet	27 8:00 TOPS 9:30 PW Bible Study 10:30 PW Meeting 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 9:00 PALS  Noon Rotary Club Meeting  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	29  2:30 Wyldlife	30



**Spaghetti Dinner**  
Palm Sunday, April 17  
after 11:00 service

Proceeds go to *Wings of God*



The monthly potluck will be Thursday, April 21 at 6:30, rather than the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday. The potluck will be followed by Maundy Thursday service at 7:30.

Please join us for this wonderful time of fellowship followed by contemplation of Christ's great sacrifice.

First Presbyterian Church  
120 Pine St., Paw Paw, MI 49079

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Permit No. 97

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Volume 80, Issue 3  
April 2011



Return Service Requested



## April Sermon Schedule

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent - Communion**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 89:5-7, 15, Revelation 4, Revelation 5

**Sermon Title:** “Hope & Worship”

**Synopsis:** Why do you come to worship? What is your motivation? What is going on inside you as you worship? What are you thinking? What are you feeling? What are the tensions and struggles? What is the hope? How does our understanding of worship connect to our sense of hope?

**April 10<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent - Communion**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 74:9-11, Revelation 6, Revelation 7

**Sermon Title:** “Hope & Evil”

**Synopsis:** What is evil? Where do we experience evil? How do we experience evil? Why does evil exist? How are we involved in evil? How does evil tend to suck the hope out of our lives, our communities, our world?

**April 17<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday - Communion**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 118:26-29, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 21:1-11

**Sermon Title:** “The Lord Needs Them”

**Synopsis:** What if someone came up to you and said, “The Lord needs your car.” How would you respond? Would you give the person the car? What are we really willing to give up so that the work of God is glorified in our midst?

**April 18-21 – Holy Week Prayer Services at 12:30 p.m. - Communion**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> – Maundy Thursday Tenebre Service - Communion**

**April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Community Good Friday Service**

**April 24<sup>th</sup> – Resurrection of the Lord - Communion**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 188:19-24, Matthew 28:1-10, I Corinthians 5:6-8

**Sermon Title:** “A New Batch”

**Synopsis:** What do we need to let go of, so that we can truly live in the glory of God’s love? What do we need to die to so that we can know God more fully? What is holding us back from living as witnesses of the living Christ? Life follows death. How can we grasp that a bit more fully this day?



## Spring Thrift Sale

Saturday, April 16

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Your past treasures can be someone else’s pleasures. We need merchandise, baked goods and volunteers to work.

Thursday, April 14, 2-8 p.m.

Friday, April 14, 8-4 p.m.

Need assistance moving merchandise/furniture? Call Jan Wilder at 657-6161. Also let Jan know when you can volunteer on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Volunteers are needed for clean up after the sale at 3:00 on Saturday.

To contribute bake sale items, call Marge McKee 375-0518 or 341-2949.

### *Thought for the Month*

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to work humbly with your god.