



PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

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“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.”
Galatians 6:9-10

When is life the best?

I encouraged all of us to be contemplating that question through the summer. How is your contemplation going?

As we have been studying Galatians, Paul has suggested that our life is best when we choose to use our God given freedom to love both God and neighbor in a sacrificial way. How is that sitting with you by now?

At the end of his letter to the churches in Galatia, Paul wrote, “So let us not grow weary in doing what is right.” I love the honesty of Scripture. Paul knew from his own life that loving God and neighbor can wear a person down and even wear them out.

As we all know doing what is right is not always easy. Doing what is right may get us in trouble. Doing what is right may go unnoticed. Doing what is right may strain friendships. Doing what is right may take longer or cost more. Doing what is right may wear us out. At the same time doing what is right may make life its best ever! It really depends on the attitude of our heart. It really depends on the strength of our trust in God. It really depends on whether we have learned that the greatest joy comes as we produce fruit for the Kingdom of God.

While I was fishing in Canada with my dad I slept really hard. It wasn't because the bed was great. It definitely wasn't because of the peace and quiet (I had three older male roommates who snored, really loud.) I slept hard because I was weary. Following Jesus is hard work, but the joy that comes from the work is overwhelming. I love being a pastor. I give thanks every day that I have been called into this role, but I still get weary, just as we all do, just as Paul did.

I think it is also true that we get weary as a community, as a whole church. We live in an extremely challenging time to be the church.

Thankfully God's Spirit provides us with some powerful gifts for the journey, and each other, for encouragement and support.

I think one of the aspects of our life together that may feel particularly wearisome, as I think it does for many mainline churches, is reaching out to younger generations. Since arriving here almost eight years ago that has been a tremendous need for our community. Churches, like ours, that have aged in population have an extremely difficult time reaching out to younger generations. Even though that is the case we know that we are called to reach out to everyone. Jesus clearly stated, “Let the children come to me.” It only makes sense that at the last elder/deacon visioning retreat ministering to children, youth and their families was clearly expressed as our greatest need. We all know that. So how do we move from where we are?

I want to mention several aspects to this great ministry challenge.

First, hospitality! All of us need to love kids, youth, and their parents. We need to embrace kids and youth for who they are, rather than expecting them to embrace us for who we are. We need to engage kids and youth. We need to go to them and get involved in their lives. We need to develop relationships with them. We need to sit with them. We need to join in their games. We need to love them well.

Second, we need to invest our energies into ministering to children and youth. We need to make our children's ministry and our youth ministry our top priority. In other words, we should all be spending time in the nursery, teaching Sunday school, helping with the youth groups. As I stated in a sermon several months ago we need to come out of retirement.

Third, we need leaders to step up and make a commitment. We need people with passion, creativity, energy, grace, and love to commit a significant amount of time helping develop and carry out a significant ministry to our children and youth.

Fourth, we need your financial support. We need to financially invest in ministering to our kids and youth. Over the last few years our budget for youth and children's ministry has been slashed. We also need money for salaries. We need a staff person or two who can help us with this critical ministry. Right now ministering to our young people is about 1% of our budget. If we truly want to have an impact on the children, youth and families of this community that probably needs to be 20 or 30%. That is a huge change.

On September 18 and 19 we will be gathering together for an all church retreat at Van Buren

Youth Camp. That retreat has the potential to be a great jumping off point as we throw off our weariness and pour ourselves into the ministry that lies before us.

I hope you will begin praying and reflecting on how you can help us as a congregation reach out to the children, youth, and families of Paw Paw. Then I hope you will set aside September 18 and 19 so that we can truly pour ourselves into the ministry to which we have been called.

In Christ's Service – Pastor Abbott

Exciting Upcoming Events

Pastoral Resident: We are excited to announce that we will again have the privilege of hosting a pastoral resident in conjunction with the Presbyterian Churches of Schoolcraft and Benton Harbor. Our Pastoral Resident this year will be Jason Mariano and he will primarily be in Paw Paw during the months of November and December. Jason just graduated from Western Theological Seminary. He is married with two daughters 5 and 2. We look forward to Jason's time with us.

Interested in Learning about Church Membership? We will have a four week church membership class beginning Sunday, September 26. The class will either meet during the Sunday school hour or after the second service depending on the wishes of the participants. If you find yourself interested please give Pastor Tom a call at 657-3111.

Pictorial Directory: As of mid-July we're expecting the proof back for corrections then it will be sent to production. Expect a finished directory in September.

Adult Small Groups

Monday Night Study: The Monday night study continues at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. We will only meet on August 2nd. During this study we look at the Scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday service.

Attention Men: Men's breakfast will take place on Saturday, August 28th, at 8:00 a.m. Each month we share a wonderful meal, spend some time reflecting on God's Word (presently we are studying 2 Corinthians), and sometimes we do a bit of work around the church or in the community. We would love to have you join us.

Worship Opportunities

Sunday Worship Times: Through August we have one worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Communion: We will celebrate communion on Sunday, August 1st.

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. Holy Week is a great time to invite some one to join you in worship. Make sure to offer to pick them up.

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.

Meetings

Commission Meetings: Please check with your chairperson for meeting times in August.

Session & Deacon Meetings: There will be no Session or Deacon Meeting in August. Various Commissions will meet per the instructions of the chairperson of that commission. Deacons will be working on updating instructions for ushers.

Sharenet: We are working to create a current list of people willing to provide food for families who have suffered illness or a death in the family. We also wish to create a database of drivers willing to transport people who can no longer drive to doctor appointments.

Fellowship

Monthly Potluck: August 11th, at 6:30 p.m. is the day and time. Don't miss it and please bring a friend, or two, or three, some food to share and your own table service.

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women meeting on August 24 is going to be a luncheon potluck at Jan Wilder's home. This meeting is open to all women of the church whether they usually come to the meetings or not. Jan is a wonderful hostess and we have a great time. Just bring a salad or dessert. We will have a short meeting at 11:30 with lunch immediately following.

If anyone needs a ride or directions, please call Jan at 657-6161 or Kathy at 624-1445. Jan would like to have a count of the ladies who will be there so she can have enough seating for everyone.

Mission Opportunities

Thank You: We offer a huge thank you to Wendy Charles. Wendy served as the volunteer coordinator for Eleanor's Pantry for its first year of existence. Wendy did a fantastic job getting the pantry up and running. So that she can begin a new job at the Lawrence schools, Wendy has turned over the reigns to Sue Miller. Thanks again Wendy.

Thanks Tom and Tonda Shoemaker, Dave and Jan Wilder for hosting the 6 volunteer workers with the Synod Health Van.

Thanks to Jan Wilder for organizing our portion of the Habitat for Humanity food booth, and thanks to ever body who volunteered.

Eleanor's Pantry: In June the pantry served more people than any month besides January. With unemployment benefits coming and going and the job market still shaky many people need help with this most basic necessity of food. Please remember to share some of your resources with the pantry.

Joint Food Pantry: 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 Pastor Abbott at 657-3111.

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.

Looking for a rewarding opportunity and also:

- Get some exercise
- Enjoy being outdoors with others
- Create family bonding
- Do something constructive

Van Buren County Garden Project (L.E.A.N.) needs your help. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 9:00 to noon and evenings Monday through Friday, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. An hour or so of your time would be greatly appreciated. The garden is located in Paw Paw behind the mental health building off Hazen Street. For more information call Bob Clark, 269-366-8308.

We need weed chasers, watering angels, rototilling tigers. We're growing tomatoes, squash, eggplant, potatoes, peppers, okra, watermelon and corn. Much help will be needed with harvesting and delivery soon.

St. Vincent DePaul Storage

Donations to our storage room in Gobles are passed along free of charge to those in our general area as needed. We need furniture of all kinds, small and large appliances, pots and pans, etc. All items should be in reasonably good, useable condition. We do not want clothing as these items are best donated to the Pine Grove Seventh Day church on the first and third Tuesday mornings. We will do our best to pick up household items.

Mission Commission News for August

The church-sponsored community garden that has been in the planning and then in the planting is now in the producing stage. (see other article)

We encourage the use of dishes and silverware for fellowship. By doing so we help conserve by placing less in the trash and recycling bins. If you are doing fellowship and don't know how to use the dishwasher please ask for assistance. Pat Conner, Tom Shoemaker, Jake Pursley or Bill Welling would be happy to show you how to operate the user friendly Presbyterian dishwasher.

Eleanor's Pantry is seeing regular use and is a success in many ways. Thanks to all those who volunteer their time and energy to help provide food for those who come through Eleanor's Pantry doors. There are many items that are needed to keep the shelves stocked. Among those items most in need are laundry soap (liquid or powdered), toilet paper and dish soap. Empty 1 lb. coffee cans with the plastic lids are also in demand for distributing smaller amounts of powdered soap. If you can provide any of these items just bring them to church and leave them in the narthex. If you would prefer to make a cash donation to the pantry please mark the memo line and place it in the offering plate.

The Mobile Health Fair sponsored by the Synod of the Covenant provided almost 300 health screenings for adults and children in the migrant population in VanBuren County on July 15 and 16. The services were provided in conjunction with the Van Buren ISD's summer migrant program in Lawrence. Vision, hearing, blood sugar, blood pressure, and dental screenings were done. Results of the screenings were shared with migrant staff who hope to provide avenues for follow-up treatment with local health care agencies. Thanks to Doctors Ed and Sue Liebenenthal of Hartford for providing free dental assessments and Dave and Jan Wilder for hosting the screening team of 6 college age students during their stay here.

August Birthdays

08/01 Eleanor* Pardike
 08/01 Cynthia* Marcelletti
 08/01 Cal Beck
 08/01 Michael Major
 08/02 Will Pugsley
 08/02 William McNeil
 08/03 Rick Boven
 08/05 Sue* Vantzelfde
 08/06 Robert* Byrne
 08/06 Kendall Welling
 08/08 Ruth* Campbell
 08/09 Gene* Sahr
 08/10 Derrick Wyatt
 08/10 Hollie* Hulst
 08/11 Ruth* Johnson
 08/11 Lesley* Cronenwett
 08/12 Rebecca* Vantzelfde
 08/14 Kimberly* Gaedeke
 08/14 Douglas Diemer
 08/15 Crecia* Tiffany
 08/15 Angel* Woods
 08/16 George* Bolton
 08/16 Joshua* Mitchell
 08/16 Ross Beck
 08/18 Eilene* Summe
 08/19 Bruce Cutting
 08/20 Taryn Welling
 08/20 Kristopher Carr
 08/21 Kimberley Dunkerly
 08/22 Shea Buhl
 08/24 Sally* Brinkman
 08/24 Thomas Abbott
 08/24 Brooke Beattie
 08/24 Brianna Goodman
 08/26 Nancy* Turk
 08/27 Sadie Imus
 08/29 Tammy* Hulst
 08/29 Evan Nowak
 08/30 Edie* Myers
 08/30 Tara Burkett
 08/31 Debra* Abbott

Our Sympathy to

The Kaukola family on the death of Robert Kaukola. Gene & Phyllis Gruizenga Sahr on the death of her mother Phyllis Judy.

Thanks

To all who helped prepare the June/July newsletter: Johnell Cuddeback Weintraub, Freida Durringer, Pat Peters and Cheri Duncan.

August Anniversaries

08/02 Kathy & Steve McCloskey
 08/04 Craig & Lynn Hess
 08/07 Nate & Wendy Pursley
 08/10 Tom & Mary Ellen Smith
 08/10 Kathy & Wayne Weisner
 08/11 Greg & Sheryl Walker
 08/12 Jeff & Kathy Murphy Brown
 08/13 Danean & Ric Baker
 08/16 Sue & will Pugsley
 08/16 Chet & Shannon VanDenBerg
 08/20 Harold & Zoe Schuitmaker
 08/22 Heather & Ryan Jahr
 08/22 Corine Price & David Sipes
 08/24 Stephen & Heather Smith Johnson
 08/31 Jacob & Susan Bolton
 Celebrating their 25th Anniversary
 08/10 Tom & Deb Abbott
 08/10 Deb & Gary Goodman

Storage Closet Use

Please Note:

The storage closet across from the elevator is shared by several organizations. In addition to our church, the Boy Scouts and Rotary Club keep things there. Before you borrow anything such as an easel or bulletin board for use in some church project, make certain it belongs to us and not another organization.

Thought for the month

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

All Church Retreat Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 18-19 At Van Buren Youth Camp

Kickoff of the 2010-11 Church School Year, fellowship and fun!

Family and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw

- **Activities begin at 11:00am. Please bring your own picnic lunch for your family on Saturday.**
- **Available activities include swimming, craft, hiking, games, meditation, group dynamics course and Vespers (led by Tom).**
- **Dinner will be served at 5:30. Hot dogs/brats and chips will be served.**
- **Sunday will begin with a continental breakfast with Sunday School beginning at 9:30 for all ages. Kids can wear their jammies!**
- **The worship service will begin at 11:00 am at the campfire bowl.**
- **After service there will be a pig roast/pot luck. Please bring a side dish or dessert to pass.**

Please bring a lawn chair for the campfire and a dish to pass for the fellowship luncheon on Sunday.

The camp website is www.vbyc.org if you would like to see what they have to offer!

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 9:00 Prayer Time 10:00 Worship Fellowship	2 7:00 Bible Study	3 6:30 Church Retreat Planning	4 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends	5 Noon Rotary Club Meeting	6	7
8 9:00 Prayer Time 10:00 Worship Fellowship	9	10 10:30 Sharenet	11 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 6:30 Potluck	12 Noon Rotary Club Meeting	13	14
15 2¢ a Meal 9:00 Prayer Time 10:00 Worship Fellowship 4:00 Laurie Hartzell ordained in Benton Harbor	16	17 No Session/Deacon Meeting this month	18 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends	19 Noon Rotary Club Meeting	20	21
22 9:00 Prayer Time 10:00 Worship Fellowship	23	24 10:00 Sharenet	25 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends	26 Noon Rotary Club Meeting	27	28 8:00 Men's Breakfast
29 9:00 Prayer Time 10:00 Worship Fellowship	30	31				

Laurie Hartzell Ordination

Laurie will be ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament and installed as designated pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Benton Harbor at a Presbytery service on August 15, 2010 at 4 p.m. The service will be held at First Presbyterian in Benton Harbor and will be followed by a reception. Everyone is cordially invited to this celebration of God's amazing grace.

Christian Education News

We depend so much on our volunteers to make this learning experience great for the children. Looking forward to next year, we will continue to need teachers for the rotations.

Monthly Potluck

Second Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Please bring a dish to pass, table service and an appetite. This is a great time of fellowship to share with your church family.

Children's Ministry

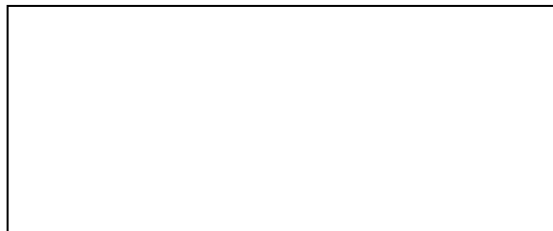
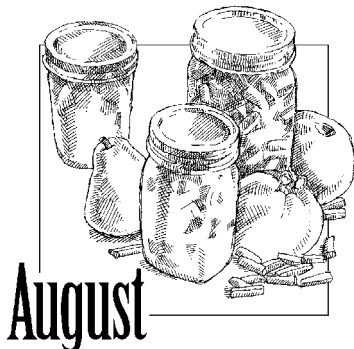
The ecumenical Vacation Bible School was very well attended. Coordinator Cheri Duncan wishes to thank everyone who donated snack supplies, blanket money and their time as volunteers. This was a wonderful week for the kids to learn about God's love and it enriched the adults who were involved in the project, too.

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August Sermon Schedule

August 1 – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Psalm 15, Luke 18:18-30,

Galatians 6:6-10

Sermon Title: “Weary of Doing Right?”

Synopsis: What makes you weary in this life? Do you get weary of doing what is right? What do you think causes us to lose energy for doing what is right? Why do we lose sight of doing what is good for everyone? Paul reminds us to help each other stay focused on what is right. We need each others support and encouragement along the way.

August 8 – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Psalm 5:1-8, Luke 10:1-12, 17-20,

Galatians 6:11-18

Sermon Title: “Becoming a New Creation”

Synopsis: Do you get excited about growing in your faith? Do you get excited about maturing as a human being? Do you get excited about learning to love more fully? Do you get excited about the journey of becoming new? Why are we afraid to become a new creation? What holds us back from giving ourselves to transformation? What is the answer to these questions for you?

August 15 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Psalm 80, Luke 12:49-56, Isaiah 5:1-7

Sermon Title: “What Kind of Grape are You?”

Synopsis: God plants us. God waters us. God provides food for us. With all this nurture and care one would think that we would grow into mature, excited disciples, but often we choose a different path becoming a wild grape instead. What kind of grape have you become?

August 22 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 29 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Have you always wanted to ring? Ecumenical Handbell Choir Forming

The Paw Paw United Methodist Church is sponsoring an ecumenical handbell program and would like to invite your congregation to participate. Anyone in third grade or older interested in ringing is welcome. You do not have to have prior ringing experience. Disciple Bells is our beginning choir and meets at 4pm. Members range in age from third grade to adult, and have no music reading skills.

Wesley Ringers is our intermediate choir ranging in age from middle school to adult. Ringers in this group have some knowledge of music and prior ringing experience. Older youth or adults with no ringing experience but have music reading skills are also welcome to participate. Rehearsals are at 5pm.

Jubellation is our more advanced choir ranging in age from high school through adult. Members of this choir have previous ringing experience and the ability read music. Adults or older youth with strong music skills that want to learn how to ring are also welcome to join us. Rehearsals are at 6:15pm.

All choirs meet on Wednesdays and will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church bell room. If you are interested in ringing or have questions, feel free to contact me. I’m looking forward to creating music and worshipping together!

Sincerely,
Christine M. Mortimer,
PPUMC bell director
655-0119 home 370-6920 cell
dalmatianxing@ontrakcom.com

Choir Practice Resumes
Thursday, Sept. 16 at 7:00 p.m.
New members who love to sing are encouraged. We need your voices and it is a great opportunity to get together with church friends.