



# 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://1stpresb.pawpawmi.us>

Volume 80, Issue 5

June-July 2011



## From Tom's Study

*“O Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.” Psalm 105:1-6*

Bringing hope to our broken and hurting world; that I believe is the focus of the Revelation John received from God. The Revelation invites us to be participants in God's hopeful witness, in God's overcoming of evil, and in God's transformational work. The question is will we choose to answer God's call? Will we choose to join in God's hopeful, transformational work? Perhaps a better question is why wouldn't we?

I would challenge all of us to truly spend some time reflecting on that question. Why wouldn't we join in God's hopeful, transformational work?

Most of us can probably come up with a number of reasons, but are they good reasons?

For generations followers of Jesus have joined the great cloud of witnesses, pointing people to the work of God. For the last 50 or 60 years, however, the idea of being a witness or participating in evangelism has fallen out of favor with many people in many mainline churches. Those of us in the church have created a host of “good” reasons to keep our faith to ourselves. But isn't that the ultimate oxymoron; to have a “good” reason for keeping our faith to ourselves? I believe that is the case and I believe Scripture supports that. Evangelism, sharing our love of God should be a natural outpouring as we live our lives in response to God's saving grace. It should be impossible for us to hold back from sharing our love of God.

The elders and deacons have begun studying the book, “Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism”. The author, Martha Grace Reese, wrote the book after leading a significant study of mainline churches and evangelism. Reese defines Evangelism as: “Anything you do to help another person move closer to a relationship with God, or

into Christian community.” When we think of Evangelism in that way it seems hard not to want to participate.

As Reese challenges us to reflect on evangelism she asks some key questions. I would encourage all of us to spend some time responding to these questions:

1. What difference does it make in your life that you are a Christian?
2. What's at the heart of life with God?
3. Why does it matter that other people become Christians?
4. How could being a Christian matter in someone else's life?

I think Reese states it clearly, “Great evangelism arises out of vivid faith lives.” Until we have a sense of why faith matters to us, evangelism will never make sense or become a natural part of how we live out our lives.

Our lives are so full that often we don't have time to reflect on why a relationship with God matters to us, or how it matters to someone else. As summer arrives maybe we will have a bit of space to consider these important questions. A matter of fact, I would challenge each of us to create some space, so that we can join with the Psalmist sharing with the world the wonderful work of God that we have known in our lives. Why wouldn't we?

In Christ's Service – Pastor Abbott

**REPENTANCE &  
FORGIVENESS  
.....of SINS  
will be PREACHED  
in his  
NAME  
to all nations...  
LUKE 24:47**

## Exciting Upcoming Events

**Baccalaureate:** Come and worship as we celebrate with the graduating seniors of Paw Paw. The community will gather at 7:00 p.m. at Red Arrow Ministries on Wednesday, June 1, at 7:00 p.m.

**Super Senior Sunday:** It is a tremendous gift to recognize and give thanks for all the faithful ministry of those who have been members of the church 50 years or more. Don't miss Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Young Life Golf Outing:** Do you enjoy golfing? Do you like supporting the youth of our community? If those two things describe you, then you should check out the Young Life Golf Outing on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Grab one of the flyers lying around the church or ask Pastor Abbott for more information.

**Pastor Jonas Returns:** If all works out Jonas will be in worship on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Don't miss this opportunity to hear an update on the work of Christ's church in Brazil not to mention the opportunity to reconnect with Jonas.

**Vacation Bible School:** The community VBS is back. Don't miss this amazing opportunity for ministry from July 25-29. We need your help. We need everyone's help to make this a success. Come and help us share the love of God with our children.

**All Church Retreat:** Don't miss the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual all church retreat. Put September 17 and 18 on your calendar. Last year was a blast. Don't miss the fellowship, fun, spiritual growth, and community building. We look forward to being together again out at Van Buren Youth Camp.

**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 final Monday Night Study for the summer will be June 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. in the library. Come and enter the discussion.

**Chancel Choir:** The choir practices on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. The choir will continue to sing for the first two weeks of June. All are welcome to come and join in the singing and the fun.

**Attention Men:** Men's breakfast will take place on Saturday, **June 25<sup>th</sup>, and July 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 one service at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday of June and July.

**Sacrament of Communion:** We will celebrate communion on June 5<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** We will celebrate the sacrament of baptism on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**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:

*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:** The Session and Deacon meetings will take place on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 p.m.

## Fellowship

**Monthly Potluck:** Invite a friend to join you on Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> & July 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. for potluck. We have great food and a wonderful time together.

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

**Pray and Play:** Will continue to meet each Sunday after service throughout June. We'll take a short break for the summer and resume in fall.

## Youth Ministry



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

**Camp:** It is never too late to go to camp. Contact any leader if you are interested.

**Wyldlife Youth group for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade.**

*June 5<sup>th</sup> – Don't miss our end of school blowout at Red Arrow Ministries at 4:00 p.m.*

**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



**VBS will be July 25-29 at the Paw Paw Middle School.** We continue to have organizational meetings for this summer's Vacation Bible School. 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". Keep your eyes out for potential 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.

**From the Childcare Coordinator:** I would like to thank all of those that have volunteered to cover the nursery and teach Abraham's Tent. Your continued service to our children has been wonderful. Thank you for your time and energy! If you would like to be on the volunteer list, please contact me and I would be happy to put you in the line-up. The more volunteers, the lighter the work! God Bless!  
Danean Baker 436-1944 cell [zamesel@yahoo.com](mailto:zamesel@yahoo.com)



## LOCAL MISSIONS

**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.

**Eleanor's Pantry** wishes to thank everyone from our church for their contributions. \$300 buys over \$3000 worth of food from Feeding America. You may contribute through the Deacons by dropping your check in the collection plate OR you may send your check directly to Eleanor's Pantry at P.O. Box 64, Paw Paw MI 49079

**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.

**Attention gardeners!** Our church's community garden is ready for planting and tending. The garden is located in Paw Paw behind Dr. Allen McNeil's Dental Office. If you are willing to help with the crop planting, tending and/or harvesting please contact any of our friendly community garden liaisons Deb Abbott, Sharon Desimone, or Nancy Turk. All of our garden produce will be given to Eleanor's Pantry for distribution.

**Second Saturday for Service** in the month of June is scheduled for the 11th from 9:00 am until noon. This is a great way to meet church members, have some fun and fellowship and get out into the community in mission. Please make plans to join us.

**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.

## Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Be sure to give your warm congratulations to these graduating seniors:

**Emily Lynn Woods**, Bloomingdale High School. Emily loves many activities and her future plan is to join the U.S. Army.

**Maureen Faul**, Mattawan High School. Her high school activities included National Honor Society, student government and soccer. She plans to study architecture at the University of Michigan.

**Adam Wells**, Mattawan High School. High school activities included National honor Society, basketball, baseball, Junior Achievement and Mattawan Young Life. He plans to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

**John Slater**, Paw Paw High School. His activities included PALS, performing arts, stage crew and choir. He plans to study Political Science at DePaul University then move into U.S. politics.

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## Baccalaureate Service

The Baccalaureate service will be held Wednesday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Red Arrow Ministries.

Please come and support the Paw Paw High School graduates as they venture into their future.

### Gathering Email Addresses

The Membership Commission is working hard on gathering email addresses. Please give yours to Pat Conner or Jan Wilder or simply email a note to the church office to get in our database: [firstpres1@btc-bci.com](mailto:firstpres1@btc-bci.com)

### Poland Mission Trip

On July 4, instead of watching a local fireworks display, Hanna Abbott and I will celebrate our country's birth by traveling to Cieplowody, Poland with a team of young adults. Since 2003, my husband John and I have been leading teams of young adults to Poland. Our first trip was to Kudowa-Zdroj, a small, tourist town in southwestern Poland. A few weeks before we headed over, we found out that we were going to be teaching a summer day camp in two of the local elementary schools. In the evenings, we sang, played our instruments, shared our testimonies, and preached in the downtown park. Our Polish pastor friends and their churches were heavily involved in those impromptu park events.

From that very first trip, God gripped our hearts for the people of Poland. We witnessed a society that was awash in superstition and fear. In addition, we saw our Polish friends working so hard (with little tangible fruit) to share the love of Jesus with their friends and neighbors. We knew that God was calling us to partner with them.

Eventually, our "fun" school camps became engaging, structured high school English camps that garnered the support of local school districts and governments. We continue to work with our Polish pastor friends in the facilitation of these camps as well as with evening ministry events. This past summer, we also introduced a worship/music camp for the high school students. Last year, our English program averaged 65+ students and the worship camp had 15-25 students, depending on the day.

One of the strategic ways God has used our teams is to earn legitimacy for our Polish pastor friends. The evangelical churches in Poland have struggled against the claim that they were cults, since they did not adhere to Roman Catholic doctrine. This issue had closed many doors in the community to those congregations. However, our American teams were able to serve those communities in a manner they were not expecting to see, and we won their hearts, one by one. Once the mayors, principals, parents, and superintendents could see that we loved their children and wanted to bless their communities, their hearts not only opened up to us, but to our Polish pastor friends who had been tirelessly serving the people of these cities for years.

2011 will mark the seventh time we have led a team to Poland (and the eighth time overall a team has gone from this area). We will once again be teaching an English camp for the communities of Cieplowody and Zabkowice. We will also be teaching a worship/music camp again for these communities as well. Our trip will last 14 days. The Poland 2011 Team has been meeting, praying, strategizing, and fundraising and will continue to do so until our departure. Would you be willing to pray for us as we prepare during this next month as well as pray for us while we are ministering in Poland? We need your prayers! *Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in [Poland] as it is in heaven.* If you are interested in finding out more information about this trip and how you could partner with us in other ways, please contact Hanna or myself. Bog jest dobry! (God is good!)

Tami Flick  
Music Director



- 06/03 Dustin\* Lee
- 06/05 Susan\* Dent Rhodes
- 06/05 Todd\* Walker
- 06/05 Anella Cooper
- 06/07 Nate\* Pursley
- 06/07 Mary Jane Driscoll
- 06/08 Brett Baney
- 06/08 Maggie Crawford
- 06/09 Tom\* Burkett
- 06/09 Ryan Walters
- 06/10 Mary Alice\* Gregory
- 06/12 John\* Taylor
- 06/14 Laurie Cooper
- 06/14 Kylie\* Cusumano
- 06/18 Frances\* McCue
- 06/18 John Bonter
- 06/18 Julia\* Payne
- 06/23 Orville\* Griffith
- 06/24 Frank\* Walters
- 06/24 Susan\* Paynich
- 06/24 Karen\* Racette
- 06/25 Jan\* Emmons
- 06/25 Sierra\* Rhodes
- 06/25 Sarah\* Rhodes
- 06/26 Tyler Rhodes
- 06/27 Sydney\* Roth
- 06/27 Gretchen\* Gilbert
- 06/27 William\* Outman
- 06/27 Stephen Johnson
- 06/27 Katherine Griffin
- 06/28 Jim\* Brinkman
- 06/30 Bobbie\* Long
- 06/30 Justin Plankenhorn
- 07/01 Virginia\* Miller
- 07/01 Amanda Butler
- 07/02 Clint\* Baney
- 07/03 Allegra Greenland
- 07/04 Fred\* Triquet
- 07/05 Bonnie Walter
- 07/05 David Martin
- 07/06 Loretta\* Brunner
- 07/07 David Martin
- 07/07 Kevin\* Garceau
- 07/14 Leandra Vantzelfde
- 07/15 William\* Cutting
- 07/17 Shannon VanDenBerg
- 07/19 Nicholas\* Bolton
- 07/19 Toby Noora
- 07/20 Helen Mears
- 07/20 Billiann Bonter
- 07/20 Heather Yeider
- 07/20 Zachary Rhodes
- 07/21 Jordan\* Brown
- 07/22 Richard\* Haefner
- 07/22 Leslie\* Buhl
- 07/22 Joe\* Woods

- 07/22 Jared Yarbrough
- 07/23 Robert\* Tiffany
- 07/23 Matthew Cooper
- 07/25 John McNeil
- 07/27 Tori Miller
- 07/27 Maureen\* Faul
- 07/28 Jan\* Wilder
- 07/28 Steve\* Racette
- 07/30 Tom\* Shoemaker
- 07/30 Cheri\* Duncan
- 07/30 Denise Wyatt
- 07/31 Courtney Buhl
- 07/31 Dillon Ruess
- 07/31 Connor Ruess



- 06/02 Andy & Judy Thorburn
- 06/03 Bob & Theresa Yarbrough
- 06/07 John & Margaret McNeil
- 06/08 Eleanor & Marlow Pardike
- 06/08 Sue & Russell Reynnells
- 06/12 Dick & Sally Schallhorn
- 06/13 Laurie & Matt Cooper
- 06/17 Richard & Theresa Walters
- 06/18 Gretchen & Jack Gilbert
- 06/19 Jack & Donna Zabonick
- 06/21 Cindy & Frank Marcelletti
- 06/24 Les & Bill Buhl
- 06/26 Fred & Catherine Smith
- 06/27 Debra & Mike Walters
- 06/29 Adele & Frank Walters
- 06/30 Dave & Jan Wilder
- 06/30 Pat & Dick Beach
- 06/30 Carrie & Wayne Hopson
- 06/30 Don & Sue Vantzelfde
- 07/02 Dave & Judy Combs
- 07/02 Mike & Susan Paynich
- 07/05 Dick & Betty Faul
- 07/06 Brad & Susan Dent Rhodes
- 07/08 Wendy & Mike Major
- 07/12 Rachel & Bill Kube
- 07/13 Bill & Kristen Welling
- 07/16 Jean Taylor & Jim Dutcher
- 07/19 Ruth & Bill Johnson
- 07/19 Nelson & Jan Nowak-Lumm
- 07/22 John & Sarah Smith
- 07/24 Seth & Susan Kaiser Greenland
- 07/30 James & Wendy Charles

## Thank you

To those who prepared the May newsletter, Freida Duringer, Pat Peters, Barb Kruse and Johnell Cuddeback Weintraub, and to Jim vanWestrienen for folding Sunday bulletins.



## Altar Flowers Needed

During the summer we encourage people to bring in garden flowers for worship. It is not necessary to purchase flowers unless you want to, but garden flowers are very welcome. If you don't have a garden and want to contribute flowers consider bouquets from the Farmers Market, they can also be very beautiful. Check the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

## Thought for the Month

June - Psalm 19:14  
 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable to you. O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

July – Psalm 40:11  
 Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me. Let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

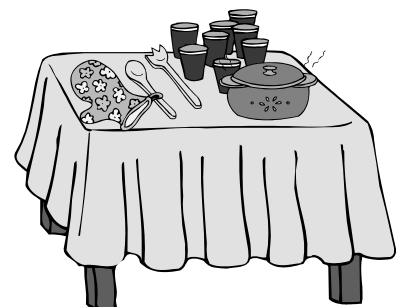
# June 2011

| Sun  | Mon                          | Tue                  | Wed   | Thu               | Fri | Sat                            |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
|  |                              |                      | 1<br>Noon Lunch<br>With Friends<br><br>7 p.m.<br>Baccalaureate                    | 2<br>Noon Rotary  | 3   | 4                              |
| 5<br>9:00 Prayer Time<br>10:00 Worship<br>Fellowship<br>11:15 Gathering<br>Group<br>Stay and Play  | 6<br><br>7:00 Bible<br>Study | 7                    | 8<br>Noon Lunch<br>With Friends<br><br>6:30 Potluck                               | 9<br>Noon Rotary  | 10  | 11<br>9:00 Service<br>Saturday |
| 12<br>9:00 Prayer Time<br>10:00 Worship<br>Fellowship<br>11:15 Gathering<br>Group<br>Stay and Play | 13                           | 14<br>10:00 Sharenet | 15<br>Noon Lunch<br>With Friends  | 16<br>Noon Rotary | 17  | 18                             |
| 19<br>9:00 Prayer Time<br>9:30 Gathering<br>Group<br>10:00 Worship<br>Fellowship<br>Stay and Play  | 20                           | 21                   | 22<br>9:30 PW<br>Bible Study<br>10:30 PW<br>Meeting<br>Noon Lunch<br>With Friends | 23<br>Noon Rotary | 24  | 25<br>8:00 Men's<br>Breakfast  |
| 26<br>9:00 Prayer Time<br>10:00 Worship<br>Fellowship<br>Stay and Play                             | 27                           | 28<br>10:00 Sharenet | 29<br>Noon Lunch<br>With Friends  | 30<br>Noon Rotary |     |                                |

## Young Life Golf Outing

June 15<sup>th</sup> Thornapple Glen. Join us for a great golf outing for Young Life supporters and friends. This is an annual event raising funds necessary for the ministry of Young Life.

Registration will begin at 7:00 am. Shot-gun start at 8:30 am



## Potlucks Continue

On the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. We'll be continuing throughout the summer so please be sure to come, bring a dish to pass and table service.

# July 2011

| Sun   | Mon       | Tue   | Wed  | Thu                      | Fri       | Sat                        |
|---|-----------|---|--|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| 3<br>Jonas visiting from Brazil<br>9:00 Prayer Time<br>10:00 Worship Fellowship | 4         | 5   | 6<br>Noon Lunch With Friends<br><br>7 p.m. Baccalaureate               | 7<br>Noon Rotary         | 8         | 9<br>9:00 Service Saturday |
| 10<br>9:00 Prayer Time<br>10:00 Worship Fellowship                              | 11        | 12<br>10:00 Sharenet  | 13<br>Noon Lunch With Friends<br><br>6:30 Potluck                      | 14<br>Noon Rotary        | 15        | 16                         |
| 17<br>9:00 Prayer Time<br>10:00 Worship Fellowship                              | 18        | 19<br>6:00 commission<br>7:30 Worship<br>8:00 Session/Deacon Meetings | 20<br>Noon Lunch With Friends<br><br>7:00 Wings of God Benefit Concert | 21<br>Noon Rotary        | 22        | 23<br>8:00 Men's Breakfast |
| 24<br>9:00 Prayer Time<br>10:00 Worship Fellowship                              | 25<br>VBS | 26<br>VBS<br>10:00 Sharenet   | 27<br>VBS<br>Noon Lunch With Friends                                   | 28<br>VBS<br>Noon Rotary | 29<br>VBS | 30                         |
| 31<br>9:00 Prayer Time<br>10:00 Worship Fellowship                              |           |   |  |                          |           |                            |



## *Wings of Life Benefit Concert*

Wednesday, July 20  
7:00 p.m.  
In the Sanctuary

## Wings of God Brunch Fundraiser

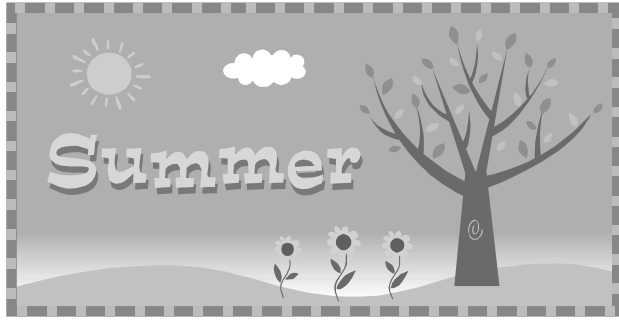
Thanks to all for the overwhelming support of our brunch fund raiser for the Wings of God. We raised over \$300, and this does not include the monies from the folks who took pre-addressed envelopes to send in their donation directly. We are certainly honoring our mission of being a Beacon as we all gather to support this very worthy project! Again, thank you for your attendance, and your support – watch the newsletter and listen to the announcements for more opportunities to show God's love for all!

Board of Deacons

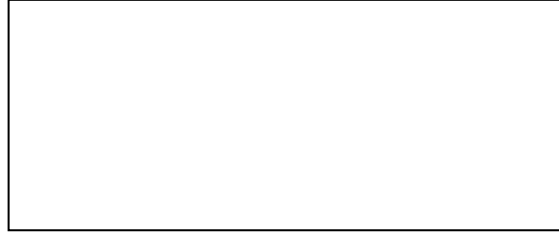
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## June/July Sermon Schedule

### June 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter/Super Senior Sunday - Communion

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:67-80, Hebrews 2, Revelation 19 & 20

**Sermon Title:** “Hope & Salvation”

**Synopsis:** Salvation. What does the word salvation mean to you? How is salvation related to your life? To our life together? How is Jesus related to salvation? How is salvation related to our brokenness as humans? Does your heart long for salvation?

### June 12<sup>th</sup> – Day of Pentecost

**Scripture Reading:** John 3:11-21, Revelation 21:1-14, Revelation 21:15-22:5

**Sermon Title:** “Hope & Heaven”

**Synopsis:** Heaven. What is your understanding of heaven and eternal life? How does that understanding affect your daily life? How does that understanding affect your relationship to other people? How does that understanding affect your witness?

### June 19<sup>th</sup> – Trinity Sunday

### June 26<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### July 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – A Conversation with our friend Jonas from Brazil

### July 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### July 17<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 15:13, Romans 8:25, Romans 5:1-5, Revelation 22:6-21

**Sermon Title:** “A Final Word on Hope”

**Synopsis:** Hope. How has your understanding of hope changed, expanded, been transformed by the book of Revelation? How may you and we be an ever brightening light of hope in the world.

### July 24<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 8:26, 27, 31, 37-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

**Sermon Title:** “Make Known His Deeds”

**Synopsis:** When have you had an experience that you could not stop telling people about? What about that experience made that the case? When did your excitement wear off? Why? If there is a God who loves us, who knows us by name, who aches to be in relationship with us, why would we ever stop telling people about that God?

### July 31<sup>st</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 14:13-21; Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15

**Sermon Title:** “My Steps Have Held Fast to Your Paths”

**Synopsis:** David pleads his case before God, he boldly speaks of his faith and his faithfulness. How about us? Do we speak boldly of our faith and our faithfulness? Like David can we say, “My steps have held fast to your paths”? Do we even want to?

## Fall Kick-off Retreat

The Christian Education Commission is planning the Second Annual Fall Kickoff Retreat at Van Buren Youth Camp on **September 17th and 18th**. Please mark your calendars. This is a great week-end with wonderful fellowship. The CE Commission will be keeping you informed as we get closer.

## Administration Commission

In an attempt to get a jump on the budgeting process, the Administration Commission is currently in the process of facilitating staff evaluations. If there are any questions, comments, concerns, or accolades for our wonderfully accomplished staff, please feel free to direct these to any member of the Administration Commission. We hope to have the process wrapped up by June 15<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, our staff includes, Tom Abbott, Bonnie Davidson, Fran Kubicek, Bobbie Long, Danean Baker, Ann Hague, Jim vanWestrienen, Terry Vaughn, Tami Flick, and Monica Marlowe.

Ric Baker  
Tom Baney  
Fran Kubicek  
Wendy Mickle  
Andy Thorburn