



# PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

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## From Tom's Study

*"Then another Angel, carrying a gold censer, came and stood at the Altar. He was given a great quantity of incense so that he could offer up the prayers of all the holy people of God on the Golden Altar before the Throne. Smoke billowed up from the incense-laced prayers of the holy ones, rose before God from the hand of the Angel." Revelation 8:3-4 (The Message)*



Prayer. What is your view of prayer? In this image from Revelation our prayers are an offering made to God, that then wafts up to the throne as incense. We may or may not have much experience with incense, but incense can be a rather potent smell. We live in an era filled with the smell of clean. That would not have been the case in Jesus' day. Back then the world would have been filled with smells of the earth and humanity, not disinfectants and perfumes. Incense would have provided a pleasant, longed for change from the often acrid aroma of daily life. In other words, what this passage suggests is that God receives our prayers as a pleasant gift, in the midst of the world's messiness. Is that how we think of our prayers as we offer them?

As we go through this month of May, I would challenge us to consider our prayers in this way, as a pleasant gift to God. As we consider that possibility, our prayer offerings may naturally change in content. How might that be the case for you personally and for us as a congregation?

With this image for prayer in mind, how might we pray for ourselves, each other, the church, and the world? Together let us consider the motives behind our prayers. Let us be a people who make our prayers as a pleasant offering to God.

In Christ's Service – Pastor Abbott

## Exciting Upcoming Events

**Crop Walk:** We walk on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please gather at the Methodist church before 2:00 p.m. Even if you haven't gathered sponsors we would love to have you walk. Please come and join us as we walk for those who have no other choice but to walk, or who cannot walk.

**Youth Sunday:** Our high school students will be leading worship on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Come enjoy the gift of their leadership.

**Promotion Sunday:** On May 15<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate another year of wonderful Christian education for our children and our youth. Come say thank you to everyone who has provided leadership.

**Senior Sunday:** On May 22<sup>nd</sup> we will recognize our graduating seniors and surround them with prayer. Please join us for this special day.

### Interested in Learning about Church

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



**Sunday Worship Times:** We will have two services at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. We begin our summer one service worship schedule on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 10:00 a.m.

**Sacrament of Communion:** We will celebrate communion on May 1<sup>st</sup> at both worship services.

**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.



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.

**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.

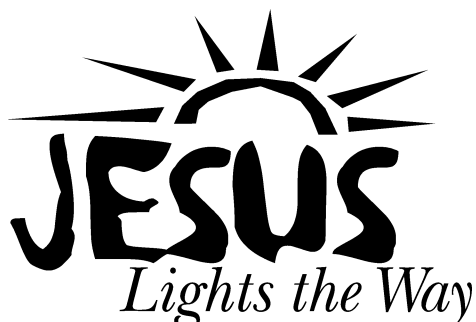
*Education Commission:* Meets the Sunday before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday after the 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service.

*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, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 p.m.



**Monthly Potluck:** Invite a friend to join you on Wednesday, May 11<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:** We will continue to meet through June. Please stay after 11:00 service any Sunday to play board games, cards or bingo. We all have a great time and hope to see new faces there.

## Presbyterian Women Thrift Sale

When 74 people gather together with one purpose in mind, good things can happen. Such was the result of this year's Thrift Sale with over \$4,200 earned. Again members and friends collected, sorted, priced and sold an unbelievable array of goods, clothes, tools, sporting equipment, kitchen wares, household goods, craft materials, holiday decorations, books, movies, tape decks, T.V.s, furniture, children's toys and furniture, baked goods, garden plants and just about anything else a person might need. It was a great sale, buyers were in line waiting for the doors to open at 8:00 a.m., the same time that over 45 Presbyterians were there ready to help them with their purchases with another 20 showing up throughout the day. This no longer is a Women's only event, 18 men and 3 young people helped make this year's sale a success, a total of 38 workers on Thursday, 45 on Friday and 62 on Saturday, Many of those working all 3 days of preparation, selling and cleaning up the church after the sale.

Once more a huge thank-you to all who participated, whether it was doing those things that the men do so well to make our projects work, bringing things in to sell, setting up and pricing, working at the sale, or cleaning up..... the sale was a success because you all cared enough to help.  
THANK YOU

## Mission Commission

**Could you give us a Saturday morning for mission? Join us every second Saturday of the month!**

Come join us for the next "Service Saturday" on May 15. There will be different choices of service based on skills and interests including baking cookies for neighbors, working in the community garden, helping at the Decatur Shelter, trash pick up, visiting shut-ins or praying at the high school.

We plan to meet at the church at 9:00 AM as a starting point and then disperse to the service sites. All projects will be wrapped up by noon. 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.

# Youth Ministry



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

*May 2* – Shaving cream war at Red Arrow Ministries.

*May 9* – Western club at First Presbyterian Church.

*May 16* – All area move-up club.

*May 23* – Carnival club at Red Arrow Ministries.

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

*May 1<sup>st</sup>* – Walk in the cropwalk. Be at the Methodist church by 1:45 p.m.

*May 15<sup>th</sup>* – 4:00-5:30 p.m. at Red Arrow Ministries.

*May 20<sup>th</sup>* – 2:30-4:00 at the middle school.

**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.

**Sunday School:** Don't miss the last few weeks of Sunday school. Join us for promotion Sunday on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Sunday school begins at 9:30. The children will be singing on May 15<sup>th</sup> for Promotion Sunday. Please join with the children in celebrating a year of spiritual growth.

## 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@bc-bci.com](mailto:firstpres1@bc-bci.com)



**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.



## 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.

**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 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.



- 05/01 Frank\* Marcelletti
- 05/01 Hayden Beck
- 05/02 Nanna\* Hagard
- 05/02 Elishia Smith
- 05/05 Eva\* Rodriguez
- 05/06 Marjorie\* McKee
- 05/06 John\* Faul
- 05/07 Zoe\* Schuitmaker
- 05/09 William Fowler
- 05/09 Brett Seymoure
- 05/10 Louise\* Mulrenin
- 05/12 Dave\* Wilder
- 05/12 Aubrey Butler
- 05/13 James\* vanWestrienen
- 05/13 Susan J\* Rhodes
- 05/15 Per\* Hagard
- 05/16 Chloe\* Mesick
- 05/16 John\* Slater
- 05/18 Wendy\* Pursley
- 05/18 Sophie Wilder
- 05/19 Julie Noora
- 05/21 Martha Burkett
- 05/21 Bob\* Yarbrough
- 05/21 Joshua Walters
- 05/22 Jake Rhodes
- 05/24 Emily Duncan
- 05/25 Barbara\* Dundon
- 05/26 Kelly Nichols
- 05/26 Sara Vliek
- 05/27 John Smith
- 05/27 Mallory\* Paynich
- 05/28 Randy\* Silber
- 05/29 Kathy\* McCloskey
- 05/29 Aaron\* Garceau
- 05/30 Kinsey Carr
- 05/31 Richard\* Beach
- 05/31 Patricia\* Beach



- 05/01 Catey & George Bolton
- 05/01 Allen McNeil & Julia Payne
- 05/11 Barb & Jerry Dundon
- 05/12 Denyse & Rocky Sherburn
- 05/14 Tonda Boothby & Tom Shoemaker
- 05/18 Randal & Susan Rhodes
- 05/21 Bob & Thelma Bennett
- 05/24 Matthew & Tiffany Hess
- 05/28 Brian & Kelly Nicholes
- 05/29 Bev & Harvey Hop
- 05/30 Kristen & Tom Garceau

## Thanks

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

### Thought for the Month

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

### Happy Mother's Day.

#### What is "Per Capita" and why should we pay it?

First Presbyterian Church and Members are a part of the larger Presbyterian Church USA. We are related to the 69 churches in the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, the Synod of the Covenant, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA. Per Capita is the means that funds the staff, workshops, consultants and services available to the local church from these bodies.

The cost of Per Capita per member for 2011 is \$24.25 and is distributed to these bodies as follows:

Presbytery of Lake Michigan: \$14.50

Synod of the Covenant: \$3.25

General Assembly: \$6.50

All members of all churches in the Presbytery are asked to pay \$24.25 to their local church for the 2011 Per Capita Apportionment. First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw pays \$6,499.00 for our 268 members to the Presbytery. If you received a box of pledge envelopes, you may enclose a check or cash for each member in your family or pledge unit in the envelope marked "Per Capita" and put it in our Plates of Joy at the entrance / exit of the Sanctuary. If you have not received a box of pledge Envelopes, please put the amount in a pew envelope, mark it "Per Capita" and put it in the Plates of Joy. The Session and Administration Commission asks that you make this payment as soon as possible in support of our denomination.

Thank you for your support. Please see any member of the Administration Commission if you have any questions or would like additional information.



### CROP WALK

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

# May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play 1:00 CROP Walk	2	3	4 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	5 9:00 PALS  Noon Rotary Club Meeting  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	6	7 2:00 Terry Vaughn Recital
8 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	9  7:00 Bible Study	10  10:00 Sharenet	11 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 6:30 Potluck 7:00 Boy Scouts	12 9:00 PALS  Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	13	14 9:00 Service Saturday  12:00 Eagle Court of Honor
15 Promotion Sunday 2¢ a Meal 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Pray & Play 4:00 Wyldlife	16  7:00 Bible Study	17 6:30 Commissions 7:30 Joint Worship 8:00 Session/ Deacons Meetings	18 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	19 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	20  2:30 Wyldlife	21
22 Graduation Sunday 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 11:00 Worship Deacon's Brunch for Wings of God Pray & Play	23	24  10:00 Sharenet	25 8:00 TOPS 9:30 PW Bible Study 10:30 PW Meeting 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	26 9:00 PALS  Noon Rotary Club Meeting  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	27	28   8:00 Men's Breakfast
28 Begin One Service 10:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	30	31				



## Deacon's Brunch

May 22  
after 11:00 service  
Donations for  
Wings of God

Public Hearing for Wings of God  
Tuesday, May at 7:00 p.m.  
At the Paw Paw Township Hall  
Public comments will be taken at the  
hearing or written comment may be  
provided to the Village Offices prior to the  
meeting concerning a special land use  
permit for the Wings of God house.

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

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## May Sermon Schedule

May 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter - Communion

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 141:1-2, Revelation 8, Revelation 9

**Sermon Title:** “Hope & Prayer”

**Synopsis:** How do you understand prayer? How has prayer been a part of your life? How is prayer a part of your life? Paul challenges us to pray without ceasing. How and why would that be possible or a good idea? For you what is the connection between prayer and hope?

May 8<sup>th</sup> – Mother’s Day/Youth Sunday

May 15<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter/Promotion Sunday

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 40:9-10, Revelation 10, Revelation 11

**Sermon Title:** “Hope & Witness”

**Synopsis:** How do we know God exists? What witness do we have to God’s presence with us? Who have been the witnesses to God in your life? How has people’s witness to God been a gift of hope for you? What might it look like for us to live as faithful witnesses?

May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter/Senior Sunday

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 21:23-46, Romans 13, Revelation 12-14

**Sermon Title:** “Hope & Politics”

**Synopsis:** Authority. What is authority? Who has authority in this world? Why? Who gave it to them? Should they have it? Who has authority in your life? Who should have authority in your life? What is positive authority and negative authority? How do we deal with negative authority? What is the relationship between authority and hope?

May 29<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter/Memorial Day Sunday/

**Return to One Service**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 9, Matthew 22:1-14, Revelation 15-18

**Sermon Title:** “Hope & Judgment”

**Synopsis:** Judgment. How have you experienced judgment in your life? What were the feelings that went with feeling judged? How do you think God judges? What is the purpose of judgment?

## Farewell from Lorene

Renewed and refreshed from Easter, we’re left in awe of what Christ has done for us—amazed at His great love for us, aggrieved at His crucifixion, and astonished that His sacrifice takes away our sins and assures us of salvation. Because He is resurrected, we serve a living Lord. This Christ lives in us, fellow believers, on our faith journey. May we retain the awe and astonishment of Easter, and travel wisely and well.

It has been a privilege to walk along side of you for two months, in worship, service, administration, evangelism, stewardship, and instruction. It has been a blessing to participate with you in hearing/reading Scripture, praying, and seeking spiritual direction. Thank you for your hospitality, mentoring, and companionship.

My friends, may you grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Pastor Lorene Duin

## Young Life Golf Outing: June 11th

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