



PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

120 Pine St – 269-657-3111 – firstpres1@verizon.net – <http://1stpresb.pawpawmi.us>

Volume 78, Issue 4

May 2010

From Tom's Study



Joel 2:28

"It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life, I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

Most people reading this are somehow connected to First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw. In other words, we are people who have chosen to become a part of Christ's Body. We do not have to make that choice. We are free to make other choices. Why have you chosen to become connected to this part of Christ's Body?

Now as Paul suggests here, when we choose to become a part of the church, we are choosing to follow the way of Jesus. To use Paul's words, "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." That is quite a radical idea that when I choose to follow the way of Christ, it is no longer Tom living this life, but Jesus living through me. That thought suggests to me, that we need to be both conscience and deliberate about the living of our lives. We need to be extremely intentional about learning the ways of Jesus then live them out each day.

Of course, this is equally true in our life together as a community of faith. As a church family we are choosing to be Christ in our world. In his book, A New Kind of Christianity Brian D. McLaren comments on how the church often loses sight of its calling. He suggests that we together pray this prayer:

"Lord, we acknowledge that we have made a mess of what Jesus started. We affirm that we are wrong and Jesus is right. We choose not to defend what we have done and what we have become. We understand that many good Christians will not want to participate in our quest, and we welcome their

charitable critique. We acknowledge that we have created many Christianities up to this point, and they call for reassessment and, in many cases, repentance. We choose to seek a better path into the future than the one we have been on. We desire to be born again as disciples of Jesus Christ. Now grant us wisdom and guide us in our quest, and create something new and beautiful in and among us for the good of all creation and to your glory, Living God."

For several months now we have been reflecting on what it is to be the church, and how we live out this role that God invites us into. I appreciate McClaren's prayer. It is important for us to take a moment from time to time to admit our shortcomings in being the church. This humble posture will help us tremendously as we seek to be a beacon here in Paw Paw.

I also appreciate McClaren's notion that we are on a quest. I find that image helpful as I think about our life together. McClaren suggests that our quest is to have a beautiful impact on the world. I think that is a marvelous description of our mission. We want to be living our life together in a way that it creates a beautiful impact on the world around us. How would you say we are doing that right now? Where is our life together not creating a beautiful impact?

As we continue to pray, ponder, plan, and live out life together as the church, let us be the church, in ways that make a beautiful impact on our world. Let that be our quest.

In Christ's Service – Pastor Abbott



Please welcome our new members Ariel Woods, Angel Woods, Walker Woods, Max Schiffman, Sherry Eggleston, Emily Woods, Karen Christensen, Joe Woods.

Exciting Upcoming Events

Interested in Learning about Church

Membership? Do you have any interest in learning more about church membership? If so, please give Pastor Tom a call at 657-3111.

Promotion Sunday: Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 16th. On that Sunday we will celebrate our Christian Education program and our children.

Confirmation Sunday: We have a group of teenagers who have journeyed with a mentor through the confirmation process. On Sunday, May 16th, those who wish to join the church will be making that step in their journey. Please don't miss this important day in the life our church family.

Senior Recital: On Saturday, May 22nd, Samuel Abbott will give his Senior Violin Recital, 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church. Samuel invites you join him in this milestone.

High School Graduates: On Sunday, May 23rd, we will recognize our high school graduates and anoint them in prayer as they launch into the next stage of their lives. Please join us for this special time of worship.

Giving Thanks to our Veterans: On Sunday, May 30th, we will have a special worship service recognizing everyone who has served in the Armed Forces. This will also be the Sunday that we begin our summer worship schedule. We will have one service at 10:00 a.m.

Adult Small Groups

Sunday School: Royal and Judy Haefner will be leading a study of Matthew's Gospel in the Library at 9:30 a.m. Tom Shoemaker will be leading a study in the Lounge. Tom's class is beginning a series focusing on the topic of love and respect in marriage. Please risk getting involved in one of these opportunities for spiritual growth.

Monday Night Study: The Monday night study continues at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. We will not meet on **May 3** or Memorial Day, **May 31st**. Come and join us as we look ahead to the Scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday morning.

Attention Men: Men's breakfast will take place on Saturday, **May 22nd**, 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: In May we will have two services at 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on May 2, 9, 16, & 23rd. We will shift to our summer worship schedule with one service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 30th.

Sacrament of Communion: We will celebrate communion on Sunday, May 2nd.

Youth Sunday: The youth will be leading worship on Mother's Day, May 9th. Come ready for a different worship experience. Don't be afraid!

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: Some commissions will meet on May 18th, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate in our commissions.

Session & Deacon Meetings: The session and deacon meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. on **May 18th**.

Mission Opportunities

Joint Food Pantry: If you have any questions about how you might help with the pantry please connect with Wendy Charles (674-3827). I am sure we can find a niche for you.

Sound Person: Sue Reynnells is working to coordinate the running of the sound booth. If you would be willing to help please contact her at 674-3195.

Technology: We want to be hearing your feedback about the projection equipment. What is working, what needs to be improved, what needs to be changed? We would particularly be interested in finding people to help match Scripture passages with both picture images and video clips. If you would be interested in this kind of adventure please give Andy Thorburn a call at 624-6901.

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, Joint Food Pantry – Eleanor's Pantry, and United Christian Services. If you have any questions about any of these please contact Pastor Abbott at 657-3111.

Spring Concert

The Paw Paw Community Chorus, sponsored by the Paw Paw High School Choirs, will present its Tenth Annual Spring Concert on Sunday, May 2nd, 4 p.m., at the Paw Paw High School Performing Arts Center located at 30609 Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw. The chorus, under the direction of Theresa Vaughn and accompanied on piano by Lisa Gardner, will perform a variety of musical selections including "Homeward Bound," "Ain't Misbehavin'," "You'll Never Walk Alone," "Appalachian Celebration," "Steppin' Out On Broadway," and "Gershwin Showcase." We hope you will be able to attend this free concert.

Mission Commission News

In spite of our best efforts to stay up with the demand, there is still a need for laundry soap and toilet paper at the community food pantry. We have accepted the dubious honor of being the church that provides these commodities and we are calling upon our good membership for help. The next trip you make to the store please pick up either of these items and leave them in the narthex on Sunday morning. If you are not a regular shopper but want to help you can leave a check or cash donation in a pew envelope and mark it "Food Pantry Supplies" and one of our veteran shoppers will do the shopping for you.

The commission has also deemed May as the month to increase awareness about recycling. We have adopted the project name of "May – We Recycle". During the month of May members of the commission will be in the kitchen washing dishes so that we are not creating additional non-biodegradable waste to put into our trash cans and eventually into the landfills. Styrofoam is our particular target since it takes so long to reduce back to a natural state. As the mission commission attempts to model good stewardship of our resources we hope that many other congregants will be inspired to do the same.

The Decatur Homeless Shelter continues to be an ongoing project. Recently Andy Thorburn, Bert Ogden, and Jake Pursley traveled to Grand Rapids and picked up a donated yard play area. The outdoor play set is presently in pieces at the shelter. We will be scheduling a Saturday to reassemble it for children who are in temporary residence there to use. If you are willing to help in assembling the set contact Bert, Andy, or Tom Shoemaker.

The community garden is a particularly exciting and promising activity. Julia Payne and Deb Abbott have been taking the lead in this endeavor. Our church has been able to partner with the Van Buren ISD to receive plants and seeds for use in our garden this year. If you have a green thumb, or a thumb of any other earth color, and are willing to help out in raising crops for our church membership and the food pantry please contact Julia or Deb.

The mission commission welcomes Susan Erion as a new member at large from the

congregation. We have many ongoing projects and we are thankful for the energy she brings to the group.



Presbyterian Women Thrift Sale

The 2010 Thrift Sale is over and over \$3,000 has been earned for the Presbyterian Women's work in the church on a local as well as global level. Your response once again was fantastic.

Again this year mission work occurred as the sale was being 'put together', as the sale was going on and as the crew cleaned up and distributed items that were not sold. We had the opportunity to help a family begin to refurbish their home who had lost everything, winter coats were taken to the Gospel Mission in Kalamazoo to be saved for next years use with the homeless and needy during the winter months, the shelter in Decatur (supported by the Mission Commission & Deacons) received some cooking utensils, linens, children's toys and clothes and the Paw Paw Hospice Thrift Store was given items for resale in their store. Your donations are reaching into the community.

There is no way to let you know how much your support for this project is appreciated. Our sale continues to grow and it is because of help and support of the many who participate both in donations and work. This year over 50 different members and friends of this congregation pitched in during the 3 day event. And once again we know we can not do a sale without the help of the MEN OF THE CHURCH. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

May Birthdays

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
 05/18 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
 05/25 Barbara* Dundon
 05/26 Kelly Nichols
 05/26 Sara Vlieg
 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

May Anniversaries

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

Thanks to...

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

Our sympathy to

The family of Naomi Juk, who died in April.
 The family of Shirley Johnson.

Welcome to new members

Max Schiffman and Sherry Eggleston, Karen Christensen, Angel, Walker, Ariel, Joe and Emily Woods.

Star Award

The congregation is pleased to applaud Dick and Sally Schallhorn as they were honored with a Star Award on April 22. They were recognized at a breakfast at the radison along with many other area residents. All the recipients were nominated for their sharing of time and resources with their communities. Lunch with Friends and the Community Thanksgiving Dinner are but two of the Schallhorns' many community services. Congratulations on this achievement, Dick and Sally.

Church Directory Update

Work on the **Church Directory** is progressing with the final day of photos y Olan Mills Studios scheduled for May 3rd.

If you have photos of church events from the past year that you would like to share for possible use on the events pages, drop them off to the church, marked **Directory** and the committee will add them to the selections of photos to consider. Be sure to mark each photo with your name & phone number if you would like to have them returned as they will be shuffled during the selection process.

Thank you to all who have taken the time to have your photograph recorded so our directory will be a reflection of those who consider First Presbyterian Church their place of worship. We appreciate your response, it has been great. **THANK YOU!**



Potlucks: a time of meeting and sharing for our entire church family

Whether it's fellowship after service, the monthly Wednesday evening potlucks or a special occasion, our socials are well attended and an integral part of our communal life. Please come whenever you can and enjoy a chance to spend time with your congregation.

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Communion 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play 4:00 Community Chorus Concert	3 Directory Sittings	4 Directory Sittings	5 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends Directory Sittings 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 Youth Sunday 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	10 7:00 Bible Study	11 10:30 Sharenet	12 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 6:30 Potluck 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 2¢ a Meal Promotion Sunday Confirmation 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	17 7:00 Bible Study	18 6:30 Commissions 7:30 Joint Worship 8:00 Session/Deacons Meetings	19 8:00 TOPS 9:30 PW Bible Study 10:30 Presentation for PW 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21	22 8:00 Men's Breakfast 2:00 Samuel's Senior Recital
23 Graduates Sunday 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	24 7:00 Bible Study	25 10:30 Sharenet	26 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 9:00 Prayer Time 10:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	31					

Presentation on Wednesday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary hosted by Presbyterian Women

Carol (Kaltenbach) Staub and Marthyann Brandt will present her show, "Letters from Lebanon". The show is based on letters she wrote to her mother during her time as a student at the American University in Beirut in the 1950's.

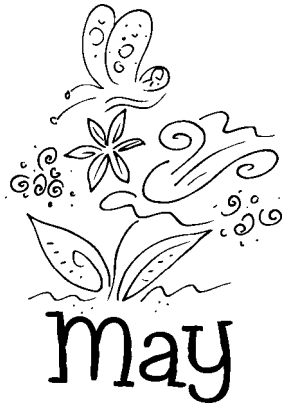
Monthly Fellowship

Regular Potluck: May 12th, at 6:30 p.m. Invite a friend and bring some food to share and your own table service. Potlucks will continue all summer. We will have some fun special events so please keep coming every second Wednesday of the month. See you there!

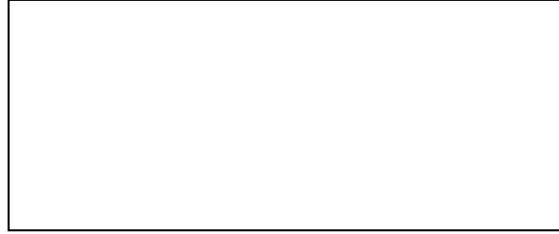
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Return Service Requested



May Sermon Schedule

May 2 – 5th Sunday of Easter - Communion

Scripture Reading: Psalm 42, Luke 7:36-8:3,
Galatians 2:11-21

Sermon Title: “Hypocrisy and Law”

Synopsis: Peter got caught up in the hypocrisy of the law. We all have legalistic ideas about different aspects of life that create a short-sightedness within us. How is that true for you and for us?

May 9 – 6th Sunday of Easter – Mother’s Day – Youth Sunday

May 16 – 7th Sunday of Easter – Confirmation Sunday

Scripture Reading: Psalm 19, Galatians 3:1-14,
Galatians 3:15-22

Sermon Title: “Belief Brings Miracle”

Synopsis: What would you say have been the miracles of your life? What led to those miracles? Paul reminds the Galatians that belief brings miracles rather than works? What do you think about that idea?

May 23 – Pentecost – Promotion Sunday & Senior Sunday

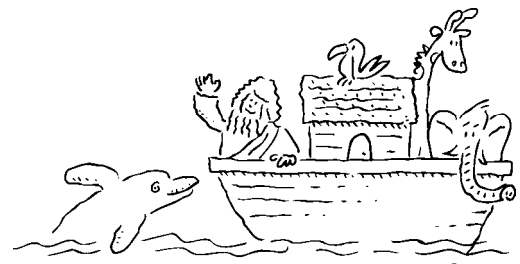
Scripture Reading: Psalm 43, I Kings 19:9-14,
Galatians 3:23-4:7

Sermon Title: “The Freedom of Inheritance”

Synopsis: Have you ever inherited anything of value? How did that change your life? Did you feel a bit more free to live? How does it strike you to inherit the title and position as “Child of God”? Does that reality set you free?

May 30 – Trinity Sunday – Memorial Sunday

The *Kalamazoo Parade of Homes* is coming up the beginning of June and once again our church will be hosting a home. Although dates and location are not known at this time, we have been notified that we will be responsible for one of the remodeled homes which means we will need people for one week-end only. More information will follow, meanwhile if you are interested and willing to welcome people to this home, contact Jan Wilder or check out the announcements at church.



Join Us At VBS!

Vacation Bible School
July 26-July 30
Paw Paw Middle School
An Ecumenical event

The theme is “High Seas Expedition—Exploring the Mighty Love of God”. We will have more information about place, times and our needs. If you’re interested in volunteering to help, please contact Cheri Duncan at 674-3962 or 415-0500. The more people who help, the lighter the work. You may learn more about the program or sign up via a link at our church website. Go to <http://1stpresb.pawpawmi.us> and click on the Vacation Bible School icon.

Thought for the Month
Spring...

Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seeds, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with seed in it,” and it was so.

Genesis 1:11

Seasons change but God never does.