



Centenary United Methodist Church

PO Box 111

82 S. Hancock St.

Pentwater, MI 49449

The Circuit Rider

OCTOBER 2023



Centenary United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Vaughn W. Thurston-Cox, Pastor



Church Office: (231) 869-5900

Office Hours: Mon - Thur, 9am - 12pm

Email: pentwaterumc@gmail.com

Website: pentwaterumc.org

Facebook.com/5H20centenaryumc



Scan to connect to
CUMC Facebook news

Our Vision: To be the Breath of God in Community

Our Values: Loving God, Serving Others, Welcoming All

Circuit Rider



The Pastor's Pen

Rev. Dr. Vaughn Thurston-Cox

her new grandchild. That is important time, and you made it possible. I know commitment cards are already beginning to come in as well. Thank you for getting those in as we move from the warm, hazy days of summer to Autumn's crisp and color.

It is a time for transition. Many of the people who call Centenary home have left or will be leaving for warmer climates soon. As you do so, it's helpful to remember that our services remain available on Facebook. If you miss the livestream, they remain posted there for a long while afterward. Please check your information with our office, to make certain we have the most up to date information: mailing address, phone number, and email. We want to make certain we can stay



Pastor Vaughn & Leonie - Foreign Exchange Student from Germany

in touch while you are away. This is especially important if you want to continue to receive our weekly emails, newsletters, or Monday sermon mailings. Some of you may also want to set up auto-draft for your weekly or monthly tithe. I did this throughout Covid, and it made it much easier to keep giving, even when I wasn't there to put my offering in the place. And, if you haven't, take some time to complete your pledge card and get it to your office.

Like I said Sunday, it is a helpful tool for our finance team, but I hope it is a spiritual tool for you, a practical way for you to think about how you give of your time, your talent, and your treasure. Because, sometimes, we get busy, and in the busyness we don't take the time we need to reflect on those kinds of questions, and each shapes our life in community. My special interest is in how we choose life together,

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Fall is a very busy time at Centenary with community dinners relaunching, students going back school, and charge conference paperwork. To everyone who has peeled potatoes, quartered chicken, typed notes, scanned, printed, and stapled documents, you are appreciated. I also want to give my thanks to everyone who subbed in the office while Kyle was away to see



Chad Sampson, newly hired social studies teacher and lifelong Methodist

to be Centenary United Methodist Church, and not simply worship there.

A small reminder, October 8, we begin Sunday morning small group and will focus on Learning from Jesus. We are called to be his disciples, to become his presence in this world. We do this best by reflecting on his life and breathing him in through prayer. You can find a link to buy the book on our Facebook page or call the church office.

Attached to this article are pictures from Purple and Gold Sunday that I think show us at our best, making room for everyone in our community. In one, you will see me standing beside our German foreign exchange student, who will be leading us in the Lord's Prayer on World Communion Sunday. In another you will see Chad Sampson, newly hired social studies teacher and lifelong Methodist, at our lectern talking about the intersection of faith and education. And in the last a group picture of teachers (active and retired), administrators, and students. They even let a board member in.

Now let's have a great fall!

Be the Breath,

Pastor Vaughn



Teachers (active and retired), Administrators, and Students

Month of October 2023 at a Glance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>World Communion Sunday</div> <div>10:30am - Worship @</div> <div>11:30am - Fellowship Time</div>	<div>8am - PSC Caramel Corn @</div>	<div>9am - Community Dinner</div> <div>9am - PSC Caramel Corn @</div> <div>10:30am - Prog Coord'n</div> <div>2pm - Meditation Group @</div> <div>6:30pm - euchre @ Wesley</div>	<div>9am - Community Dinner</div> <div>5pm - Community Dinner</div> <div>7pm - It Takes a Village @</div>	<div>9am - Frozen Meals</div> <div>10am - Service Club @</div> <div>7pm - Bell Choir @ Music</div>	<div>10am - Prayers Squares @</div>	
<div>All The Good You Can Sunday</div> <div>9:15am - Small Group Study</div> <div>10:30am - Worship @</div> <div>11:30am - Fellowship Time</div>	<div>10:30am - Finance & Op's</div>	<div>9am - Community Dinner</div> <div>10:30am - Worship Team @</div> <div>1pm - PSC Board @ Wesley</div> <div>1pm - UWF General Meeting</div> <div>6:30pm - Euchre @ Wesley</div>	<div>9am - Community Dinner</div> <div>5pm - Community Dinner</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir @ Music</div> <div>6:30pm - Property</div>	<div>9am - Frozen Meals</div> <div>7pm - Jr. Women's Club @</div> <div>7:30pm - Crystal Valley SPRC</div>		
<div>9:15am - Small Group Study</div> <div>10:30am - Worship @</div> <div>11:30am - Fellowship Time</div>	<div>9am - Cargiver's Support</div> <div>6:30pm - Pentwater Lake</div>	<div>9am - Community Dinner</div> <div>12pm - Garden Club @</div> <div>2pm - Meditation Group @</div> <div>6pm - Church Council @</div> <div>6pm - Council Zoom Link @</div> <div>6pm - West Michigan SAIL @</div> <div>6:30pm - euchre @</div> <div>7pm - Share & Prayer @</div>	<div>9am - Community Dinner</div> <div>5pm - Community Dinner</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir @ Music</div>	<div>9am - Frozen Meals</div>	<div>10am - Prayers Squares @</div>	<div>11am - Michigan Dunes</div>
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<div>9:15am - Small Group Study</div> <div>10:30am - Worship @</div> <div>11:30am - Fellowship Time</div>	<div>Circuit Rider Articles Due</div>					

For the most up to date schedule and details, go to pentwaterumc.org/calendar

Quiet Corner - *Thoughts and Prayers for a Praying Community*



Autumn is a wondrous metaphor for the transformation that takes place in the human heart each season. When we notice a subtle change of light outside our windows, we know the dark season is near. Autumn calls us in from summer's playground and asks significant questions about our own harvest: What do we need to gather into our spiritual barns? What in our lives needs to fall away like autumn leaves so another life waiting in the wings can have its turn to live?

“Eternal one, teach me about Earth’s natural cycle of turning from one season to another. Open me today to the teachings of the season of autumn.

When I refuse to wait with the mystery of the unknown, when I struggle to keep control rather than to let life evolve,

wrap me in the darkening days of autumn and encourage me to wait patiently for clarity and vision as I live with uncertainty and insecurity.

When I grow tired of using my own harvest of gifts to benefit others,

take me to the autumn fields where Earth shares the bounty of summer and allows her lands to surrender their abundance.

When I neglect to care for myself and become totally absorbed in life’s hurried pace,

give me courage to slow down as I see how Earth slows down and allows her soil to rest in silent, fallow space.

When I fight the changes of unwanted, unsought events and struggle to keep things just as they are instead of letting go,

place me on the wings of traveling birds flying south, willing to leave their nests of comfort as they journey to another destination.

When I fail to say “thank you” and see only what is not, instead of what is,

lead me to gather all the big and little aspects of my life that have blessed me with comfort, hope, love, inner healing, and courage.

Maker of the Seasons, thank you for all that autumn teaches me. Change my focus so that I see not only what I am leaving behind, but also the harvest and the plenitude that my life holds. May my heart grow freer and my life more peaceful as I resonate with, and respond to, the many teachings this season offers to me. Amen.”

- *Macrina Wiederkehr from The Circle of Life*

Compiled by: *Sandy Lyon*



Share & Prayer

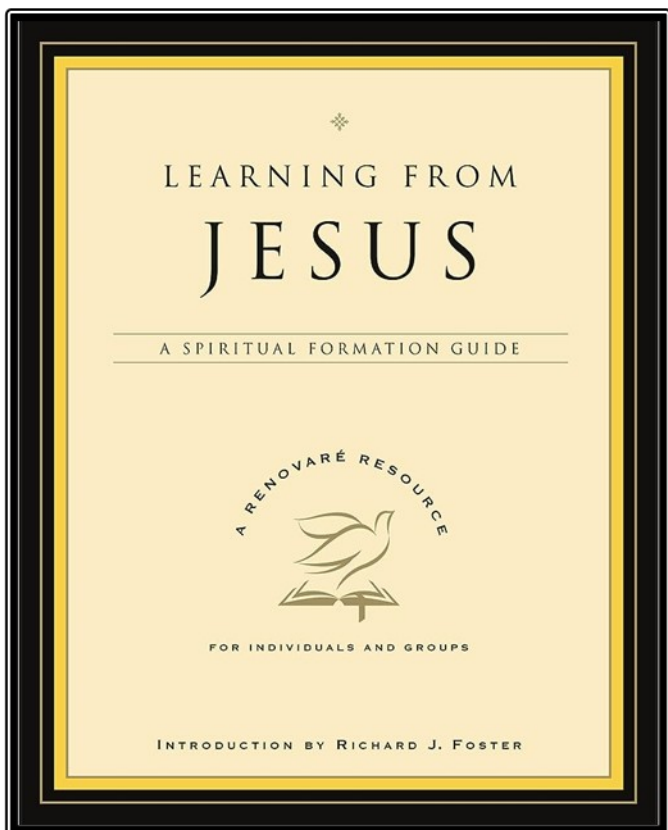
You are invited to a new caring small group at Centenary beginning in October. Rev. Roy Martens will lead the group in study and prayer with an invitation to others who may wish to bring particular and personal concerns as they seek God's direction in a confidential setting.

It is important to recognize that this support group is not counseling but a group for listening and support.

The 10 week session begins October 17, 7 to 8:15 pm in the church library.

For additional information, contact Roy Martens 231-742-3799.





What: Learning from Jesus: A Spiritual Formation Guide

When: Begins Sunday, October 8 at 9:15. There are twelve units. We will go through the material at the group's pace.

Who: Anyone and everyone.

Why: To deepen your understanding of the life and teaching of Jesus and the Gospels, as well as go more deeply into your own life with God.

How: Purchase your book on christianbook.com or amazon.com. Come having completed the first unit on October 8

Senior Stretch Class Starts November 2nd



Hello everyone! Thank you for graciously allowing me to take time out with Mark, as he recovered from heart surgery. He is doing great and is told he will be 100% in another couple of months. Thank you so much for your support and prayers.

I am excited to say that we will soon be back in the swing of things with our Senior Stretch Class! I really missed it and YOU! We will meet in the Wesley Room at CUMC, as usual on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. starting on November 2nd. Easy stretching and light weights (if one chooses to use) are all part of our program centered on and around chairs. We work on muscle and joint strength, balance, breathing, relaxation techniques and easy cardio.

Our friendly class is gentle yet challenging, and all are encouraged to reach their personal best with love and respect. Please call me, (517) 256-2707, if you would like to hear more about what we do.

Linda Hundt-Trierweiler

Community Dinner October Menus



October 4	Spaghetti and Homemade Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Fresh Melon Cup Chickpea and Tomato Soup (Dine in) Delicious Donated Desserts
October 11	Chicken and Dumplings Buttered Corn Broccoli Raisin Salad Ham & Navy Bean Soup (Dine in) Delicious Donated Desserts
October 18	Shepherd's Pie Red Cabbage and Apples Homemade Dinner Roll Butternut Squash Soup (Dine in) Delicious Donated Desserts
October 25	Fluffy Whole Grain Pancakes Strawberries, Syrup, Whipped Topping Sausage Links Applesauce sprinkled with Cinnamon Minestrone Soup (Dine in) Delicious Donated Desserts

The more things change, the more they stay the same.



The Kingston Trio had a cynical song - the words need to be retooled but it still works - about our world today. And this before cell phones, 24 hour news networks, and Facebook pushed into our lives.

Here are the lyrics:

"They are rioting in Africa They are starving in Spain. There are hurricanes in Florida. And Texas needs rain. The whole world is festering with unhappy souls.

The French hate the Germans. The Germans hate the Poles. Italians hate Yugoslavs. South Africans hate the Dutch And I don't like anybody very much!"

Yup! That's the world around us. Change the words a little, easy to do since Ukraine rhymes with so many things, and we have a picture of our tense, worried, troubled world. We could all probably write a verse about our interior world of family worries too. We do - too often - lead lives of quiet desperation. Thank goodness there is good news in Christ for you and for community through small groups.

Groups that tackle tasks like property management,
cooking, table decorations,
Groups that offer prayer and support,
Groups that gather to laugh and share a meal,
Groups that study and search for new ideas,
Groups that ask, "how is it with your soul"
These connections - and this invitation to reach out and join - are the defense and the protection against the world around us.

The Kingston Trio song does not have an answer. The idea of an atomic bomb stopped them cold in the 1960's. We go on into more dire predictions. Thank God we have the answer. *"Wherever two or more are gathered in My name, I am with them."* - Matthew 18:20

Please consider a gift of your time, talents, and treasure this fall. You can give to the church; that is how we get things done. *"And your gift will return to you."* - Luke 6:38



Anne Soles



We are now using **SignUpGenius** to sign up and serve in several ways. Please click on the links if you can share your time and talents with us!

[Community Dinner volunteers](#)

[Liturgist](#)

[Children's Time Leader](#)

[Hosting Fellowship Time](#)

[Ushers](#)

You can also sign up using our bulletin board.



Stay in touch with us weekly through our Sermon Mail Service.



Many of you enjoy receiving the Circuit Rider every month. We also provide a weekly mailing which includes the gospel reading, sermon, bulletin, and weekly news. This has been a wonderful way to stay in touch with the church if you are unable to attend services. We would be happy to include you in the mailing. Just send us an email pentwaterumc@gmail.com or call the office 231-869-5900 to let us know you are interested.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2023

Centenary United Methodist Church, Pentwater MI

Minutes submitted by Elaine Konyha

Present: Bart Zachrich, Patti Davidson, John Faas, Shannon Larson, Jean Russell, Elaine Konyha, George Van Scoyok, Pastor Vaughn Thurston-Cox, David DeNolf, Beth Russell, Sandy Lyon, Gene Jankowski, Susan MacGregor

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM with a prayer by the Pastor.

Bart Z introduced the agenda and made an amendment to add a discussion of the functions of the Property Management Committee and discussion of council nominations was moved to after the Approval of the Council Goals.

The minutes from the previous meeting were presented and approved by all present.

John Faas gave a report from the Finance and Operations team. He presented a proposed policy for handling funds raised within the church and from outside the church. The proposal was included in the August 14 minutes of the Finance and Operations team. It was moved by Susan MacGregor and seconded by Beth Russell to approve the police as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

John Faas led a discussion regarding the role and responsibilities of the Property Management Committee and it was suggested that the sentence "Property Management is responsible for the care and storage of all equipment and furnishings held within the church facilities." be used.

John Faas reported that the Finance and Operations Committee had identified an auditor who had been recommended by the Methodist Church, to conduct an audit. The cost will be \$500. This will be an online audit. Funds had not been set aside in the budget for this so he brought it before Council. George Van Scoyok moved that we approve the audit process and cost and Jean Russell seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Church Council Goals were discussed. A subcommittee met and recommended that the 5 goals identified previously be changed to 3 goals.

Goal #1 was generally accepted with the measurable steps being a) and b).

Goal #2 was discussed the the change of c) to 'Develop a definition of discipleship.'

Continued on page 11

Church Council Meeting Minutes, continued

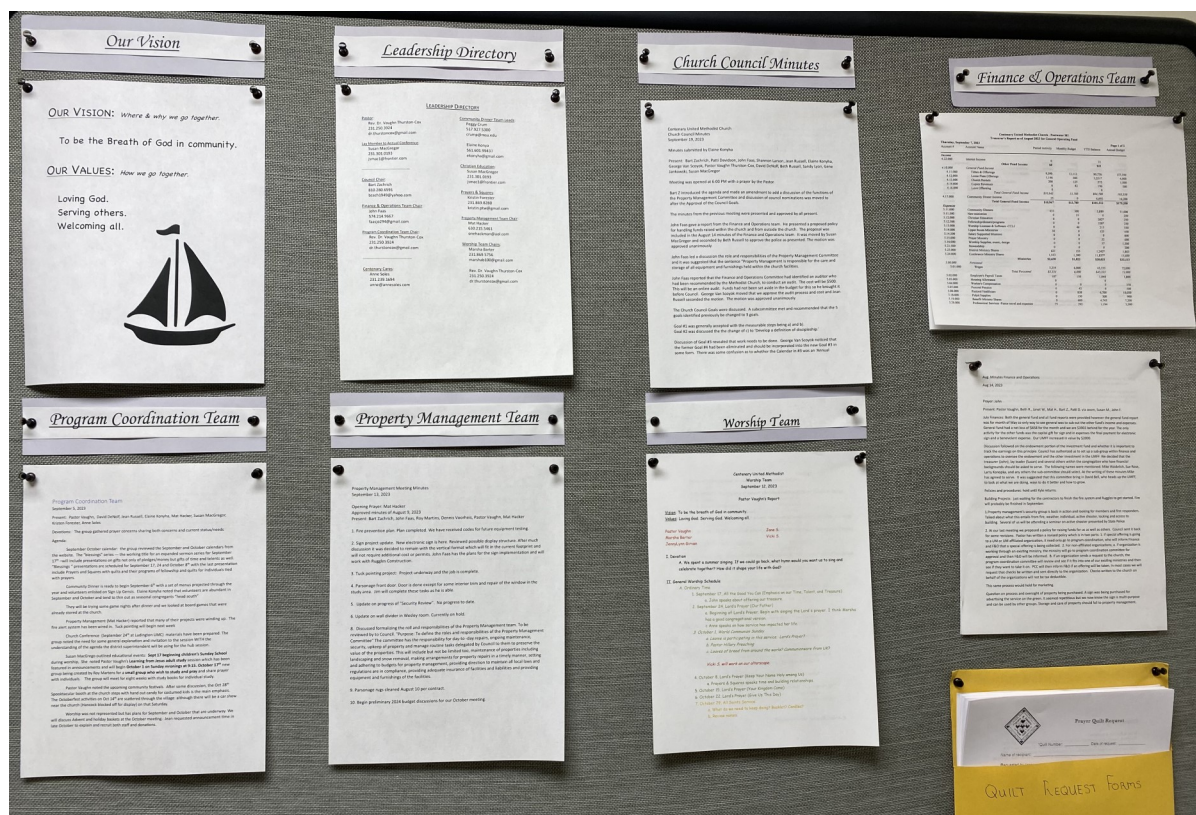
Discussion of Goal #3 revealed that work needs to be done. George Van Scoyok noticed that the former Goal #4 had been eliminated and should be incorporated into the new Goal #3 in some form. There was some confusion as to whether the Calendar in #3 was an 'Annual Calendar' that reflected recurring annual events, or a calendar specific to that particular year. This will be discussed by subcommittee.

The Clergy Compensation Recommendation Report for 2024 was presented. A motion was made to approve by Patti Davidson and seconded by Sandy Lyon. The motion was passed unanimously.

Nominations were not discussed due to lack of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM to prepare for an SPRC discussion on Zoom with the District Superintendent.

Check in with all our ministries and the work they do.....



Are you interested in a specific ministry or the work of our church. Minutes for our Finance & Operations, Worship, Program Coordination, and Property Management Teams are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. You can also request a copy of minutes at the church office.



Kristen Forester
Mark Trierweiler
Mat Hacker
Kaycee Bylsma



Cancer Treatments

Ronda Hamelen Jenkins
Cindy Williams
Ernie Beauvais
Dale Trierweiler
Richard Wild

Names will remain on the list for four weeks and they can be resubmitted. Please submit updates or corrections to the Pastor

Birthdays

Steve Russell	10/01
Peggy Crum	10/04
Larry Konopka	10/14
Vaughn Thurston-Cox	10/15
Judy Jankowski	10/18
Betty Graham	10/24
Jennifer Kruto	10/26
George VanScoyoc	10/27
Mark Trierweiler	10/27
Richard Wild	10/28



Help Us Grow: Give Electronically

Electronic gifts are fast and secure, and they reduce administrative costs, allowing more of every dollar to fund the important work we are called to do.

- Give anytime, anywhere to your favorite funds
- Schedule and manage recurring donations
- Make one-time donations to special appeals
- Pay for events, programs and other activities

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website or contact the church office.



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