



Centenary United Methodist Church

PO Box 111

82 S. Hancock St.

Pentwater, MI 49449

The Circuit Rider

NOVEMBER 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

As the days grow shorter I am reminded of a prayer found on Pdraig O' Tuama's Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community:

"We welcome the dark of the night. We make space for it, and we mark our place in it. We remember that you, Jesus of Nazareth, lived through nights of consolation and desolation. And you walked into the nights of those people you met inviting them to justice and truth, love and life. We welcome the night, and we welcome you into all our nights. We

pray for those who work by night, whose day is marked by moon, cloud and stars. And we pray for those whose nights are desolate, that they may have the consolation of prayer, peaceful solitude and community."

We are a people in love with the light and warmth of summer. We play in its sun; we dance in its brightness. No shadows creep. No cold chills. We are summer's children. This prayer invites us to embrace the darkness when it comes, to make our home in it, because creation began in darkness. It's there God speaks everything into existence. It's in the darkness Jacob dreams of God, and in the night when the Holy's voice speaks to Samuel. The Son is knit together in the darkness of Mary's womb. God makes his home in dark places. And so, as the clouds hide our sun, and the cold empties our streets, receive its grace. The grace of quiet, of stillness, and even not knowing. Receive the gift of those places that sometimes untie the knots of our old beliefs. Nothing meets us in these places that we don't meet with the Holy.



Welcome new members Roy Martens
and Tim Barany (center)

The Pastor's Pen continued from page 2

I think that's why All Saints and Advent fit so well in our autumn calendar. Each is a place of wonder and mystery that escapes easy explanation. We celebrate All Saints Sunday, October 29 and will give thanks for the lives of those who made their life light for us. Advent begins Sunday, December 3. We will go on a pilgrimage through the places that tell the Christmas story: Nazareth, Babylon, Jerusalem, and the Shepherd's Fields, until we finally come to Bethlehem. If you would like to participate in our Christmas Eve service by reading or playing a special piece of music, please let Pastor Vaughn know.

In the meanwhile we continue our journey through the Lord's Prayer. I hope this has been as meaningful for you as it is for me. This is the prayer Jesus gives us to pray with him. It isn't just a model prayer. It is how the Son prays through us. If you haven't I invite you to go back to our Facebook page and scroll through the variety of ways it's been written and re-written through time. The Arabic version may be closest to my own heart right now as it is the closest to the language of Jesus.

As you peruse this issue of the Circuit Rider, you may notice a new selection titled "View from the Pew," an addition to our newsletter that offers a bit of reflection on our life together with together from one of you. This month Sandy Schaefer reflects on what makes for peace. I hope you take a little time to enjoy both it and the Quiet Corner.

Be the Breath,

Pastor Vaughn



World Communion Sunday

Month of November 2023 at a Glance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For the most up to date schedule and details, go to pentwaterumc.org/calendar						
<div>5</div> 9:15am - Small Group Study 9:30am - Education Team, 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Fellowship Time	<div>6</div> 10am - Senior Stretch @	<div>7</div> 9am - Community Dinner 9am - UWF Board Meeting @ 10:30am - Prog Coord'n 1pm - PSC Board @ Wesley 2pm - Meditation Group @ 6:30pm - euchre @ Wesley 7pm - Share & Prayer @	<div>8</div> 9am - Community Dinner 5pm - Community Dinner 6:30pm - Bell Choir @ Music 6:30pm - Property	<div>9</div> 9am - Frozen Meals 10am - Senior Stretch @ 7pm - Jr. Women's Club @	<div>10</div> 10am - Prayers Squares @	<div>11</div> 9am - Church Workday
<div>12</div> 9:15am - Small Group Study 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Fellowship Time	<div>13</div> 10am - Senior Stretch @ 10:30am - Finance & Op's	<div>14</div> 9am - Centenary, SPRC @ 9am - Community Dinner 10:30am - Worship Team @ 6:30pm - Euchre @ Wesley 7pm - Share & Prayer @	<div>15</div> 9am - Community Dinner 5pm - Community Dinner 6:30pm - Bell Choir @ Music	<div>16</div> 9am - Frozen Meals 10am - Senior Stretch @	<div>17</div> 10am - Prayers Squares @	<div>18</div> 11am - Michigan Dunes
<div>19</div> 9:15am - Small Group Study 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Fellowship Time	<div>20</div> 9am - Cargiver's Support 10am - Senior Stretch @ 6:30pm - Pentwater Lake	<div>21</div> 9am - Community Dinner 2pm - Meditation Group @ 6pm - Church Council @ 6pm - Council Zoom Link @ 6pm - West Michigan SAIL @ 6:30pm - euchre @ 7pm - Share & Prayer @	<div>22</div> 9am - Community Dinner 5pm - Community Dinner 6:30pm - Bell Choir @ Music	<div>23</div> 9am - Frozen Meals 10am - Senior Stretch @	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>
<div>26</div> 9:15am - Small Group Study 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Fellowship Time	<div>27</div> <div>Circuit Rider Articles Due</div> 10am - Senior Stretch @	<div>28</div> 9am - Community Dinner 6:30pm - euchre @ Wesley 7pm - Share & Prayer @	<div>29</div> 9am - Community Dinner 5pm - Community Dinner 6:30pm - Bell Choir @ Music	<div>30</div> 9am - Frozen Meals 10am - Senior Stretch @ 10am - Service Club @ 6pm - Audubon Potluck @		



What Kind of Peace?

There are many degrees of Peace. Under Stalin there was “peace” because he got rid of dissenters and minorities. When all dissent is stifled, poisoned, imprisoned, hunted, or killed, is there peace? What about justice? There was “peace” in the Confederate states during slavery. Can there be peace without justice? Jesus ran afoul of the occupying forces in his country because he taught about justice.

What kind of peace are we praying for? Appease

the bully to keep things quiet? In WWII, appeasing the bully encouraged him to become more genocidal and grasping. The bully likes pacifists: they stay out of his way. Ukrainians show us every day what it costs to get rid of a bully who wants what they have.

The Bible is not clear on self-defense. Does self-defense include stockpiling guns in our homes? Refusing common sense laws? Should our government support corporations which make and market guns? Weapons? And as to the donations from arms manufacturers to influence our law makers, what is the Christian stand?

Hard Peace includes physical safety, and protection from: terror, military attack, gang attack, death threats by internet/phone/mail, hacking, identity theft; destruction of infrastructure such as energy grid, violence, brutality, contamination of water/air/soil, toxic food, and the destruction of landmarks.

Hard Peace is about physical safety: in schools, stores, churches, theaters, homes; safety of elected/appointed leaders, and our possessions and identity. Hard peace must be maintained by laws and regulations, and they must be enforced. When Hard Peace is in place, Soft Peace can exist.

Soft Peace includes safe social interactions and a sense of well-being. It means protection from: threatening words (written, spoken, signaled, coded); shunning, isolation; social attacks (bullying, name-calling, put-downs, shaming, mobbing, doxing); apartheid, condescension, intimidation; propaganda, misinformation, fear-mongering media, and the withholding of vital information and skills.

Soft Peace requires: critical thinking, recognizing propaganda, maintaining a safe orderly environment, and protecting the weak. Soft Peace ensures freedom to: learn facts, history, science; to read; think our thoughts, ask questions, be involved with solutions and problem solving, care for creation, protect eco-systems and beauty, to gather in communities of all kinds, and to take part in harmless fun and enjoy our lives. Soft Peace is maintained by regulations which keep us safe and are enforced.

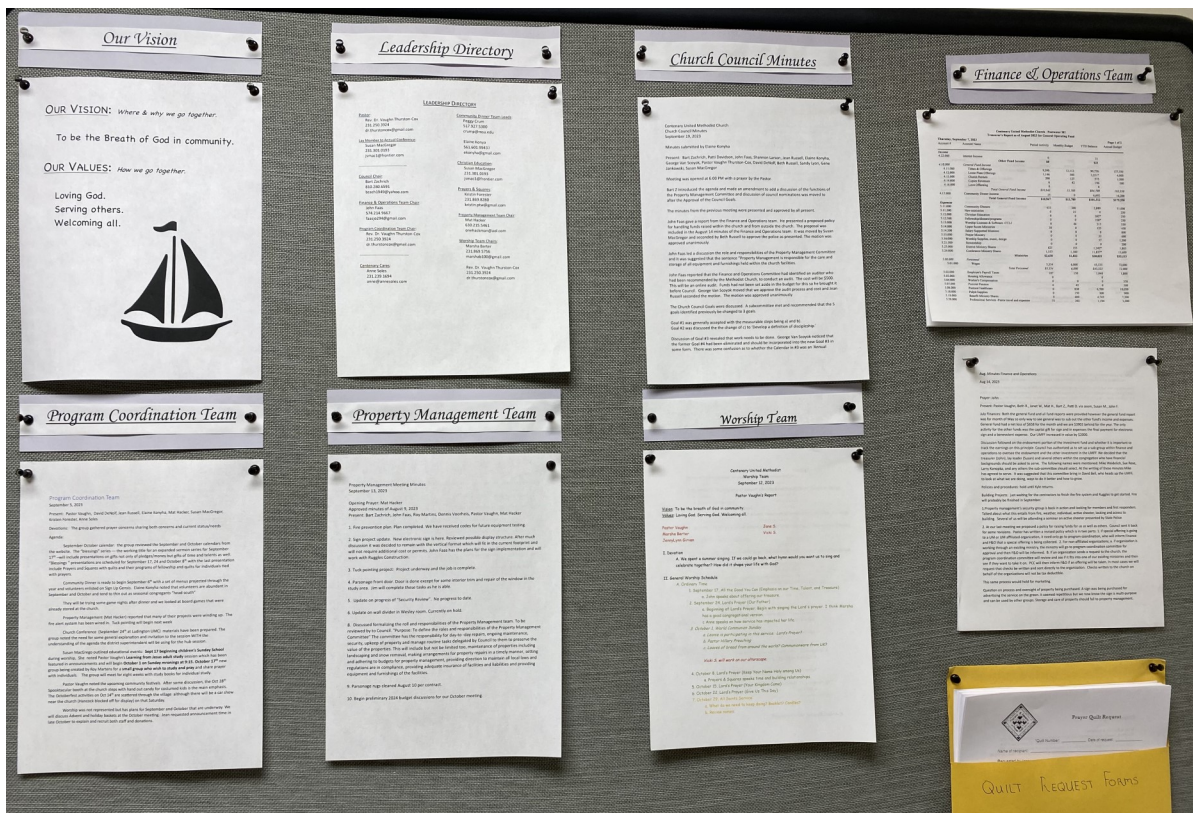
View from the Pew continued from page 5

A country at peace has in place a safety net, which provides essential needs for all, and is maintained by laws which allow maximum freedom within a minimum of limits. Do we want this?

BUT Methodists like wading into issues, so let's tackle the challenge of Peace. We know there are problems around the globe and at home. First, what kind of peace are we praying for? For whom? What will we tolerate? What will we confront? We can venture into the arena where change takes place. Decent folks together can accomplish important goals. We start small, like strengthening our skills for critical reasoning, conflict resolution, strategizing, and making sure students are learning these, too. Let's get ready for the Good Fight. Now, let peace begin with you and me.

Sandy Schafer

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.

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

Praying with the Elements of Wind, Water, Fire and Earth



Are you taking time to really feel the rain falling on your face, the autumn winds filling your lungs—time for warming your fingers and toes near the first November fire in the fireplace or woodburner, or bonfire—time to lay on a pile of leaves or on the sand at the beach looking up at the sky and the stars?

These elements of water, wind, fire and earth can help bring you to an increased awareness of God's presence—closer to your Creator God—to the ground of your being—IF you take the time for this kind of prayer and presence. The Celtic Christian tradition has developed this understanding of the natural world as a window into the divine; nature is considered to be an essential source of revelation about God. The metaphor of air or wind offers us a variety of ways to understand your experience of God: as life-breath, as inspiration, as enlivener, as directional guide, as powerful force, or as the current that supports flight. May you be blessed by the heart of God pulsing through all of creation.

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
of water flowing, rising and falling,
sometimes advancing, sometimes receding...
May the stream of your life flow unimpeded!
Deep peace of the running wave to you!



Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
which fans your face on a sultry day,
the air which you breathe deeply, rhythmically,
which imparts to you energy, consciousness, life.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you! —*Celtic Prayer*



Related books you might love: water, wind, earth & fire by Christine Valters Painter, Beauty by John O'Donohue, The Book of Nature by Barbara Mahany

Music: Deep Peace from Songs for the Inner Child by Shaina Noll, Church of the Earth from Heaven Below by Peter Mayer

May you be inspired and enlivened by nature —and be thankful.

Sandy Lyon



Historical Pentwater Icon Might Ring a Bell

By Peter Rexford

Pentwater has a good deal in common with New England. Both have an abundance of maples providing ample sap for syrup and extraordinary autumn colors. The surrounding lands abound with wildlife in rolling hills that ebb from woodlands to endless expanses of cool water and were once populated by countless American Indians. And, akin to every settlement in the glens and valleys of the eastern seaboard, when entering the halcyon village of Pentwater, a towering church steeple and bell have been welcoming icons.

Almost 150 years ago, that lone Pentwater steeple rose above the wooden shingle roof tops. Belonging to the Centenary Methodist Church it was the first and, then, sole house of worship in the village. The first official church building was a wooden structure on the site of the current church at Hancock and First Street. Centenary's history began a bit earlier, in 1856, when a particularly compelling sermon was delivered in a different building.

Photo Courtesy: Pentwater Historical Society



The early village men led a hardscrabble life working in lumber, fishing, brick-making and shipbuilding. They were predominantly of white descent so one might suspect the presence of racial discord toward the resident native Indians, of which there were plenty.

By 1857, over 800 Ottawa, Potawatamie and Chippewa Indians called Pentwater their home. First-hand accounts from the lakeshore recall the sight of dozens of nightly Indian campfires visible in the woods and hills surrounding Pentwater Lake.

Happily, the racial sentiment was predominantly positive. Evidence of that came during that 1856 sermon. Prior to the wooden church being built, it was delivered in the village boarding house to a crowd of 100 or so men by a Methodist clergyman named Joseph Elliott – himself a full-blooded American Indian. The crowd listened intently and even offered tithes and donations in the form of meat and potatoes. Elliott had been adopted at a young age by a wealthy white family and received a Boston college education. During his adult years in Cass and Mason counties, Elliott returned to Pentwater to preach to both white and Indian congregations.

Services continued in the wooden Centenary church. During the Civil War, Pentwater was a notable port on Lake Michigan where, when sailing into the channel to the safe harbor of Pentwater Lake, sailors saw the reassuring sight of the church just up the hill to the northeast. By 1874, a parsonage was added behind the church. Today, the steeple of Centenary Methodist remains visible through the trees from the east end of the channel.

Barely a year later, on April 23, 1875, the first of several setbacks struck when a fire broke out at 1:00AM. Rudimentary firefighting was no match. In no time, the church, parsonage and a nearby hotel were lost to the flames. An initiative was immediately launched to raise funds to rebuild the church building. The groundswell of support was significant. Less than two months later, a cornerstone for a new "gothic-style" church was laid.

By that December, a basement foundation in the same location had been established. A "fireproof" structure of brick would replace the former wooden church. (Speculation remains as to the actual source of the bricks used. Bricks on the church match the yellowish hue of the other buildings in and near Pentwater, said to have been made at the Pentwater Brick Factory located on what is now Lake Street in town. Yet, some contend those bricks were of a different type. Others are adamant the church bricks, those of the old Village Hall, Ships Store, Gustafson Building and other homes and structures are absolutely "Pentwater Bricks." However, a September 18, 1875 story in the Pentwater News stated, "The brick from Spring Lake, which have been contracted for the new Methodist Church, have already begun to arrive." Ergo, unless the bricks for every other building in town also came from Spring Lake – near Grand Haven – it remains a mystery.)

Construction took over three years to complete. On July 13, 1879, the new brick church was open for services. Eight years after that, the iconic steeple created expressly for the Centenary church was installed. Inside the steeple was housed the large, resonant church bell heard throughout the village and beyond. It regularly signaled the beginning of worship services to the community. It also became the audible village harbinger for other events of note. In 1918, when the Spanish Flu swept the nation killing 675,000 – more deaths than in all foreign wars in which the US was involved – Pentwater wasn't immune. By that November, everyone hoped the epidemic was beginning to wane. The public was still justifiably wary. On Sunday, the citizens were told to listen for the Centenary church bell. If they heard it ring, it would signal the flu ban was lifted and services were to be held. The bell rang.

A quieter setback took place in the early 1930s. Attendance at all area churches had plummeted. For a while, Centenary Methodist was the only church in the village to hold regular services and Sunday school. Other churches were open only sporadically – some just in the summer. Attendance was so scant local businesses were solicited for donations to pay the minister. The "Great Depression" had taken its toll.



This reproduction of the article can be difficult to read.
Copies are available on the church bulletin boards or you can request a copy at the church office.

In 1837, an inspired young minister named Oliver Drake was assigned to the church. Upon arrival he found mainly empty pews, no Sunday school and even less enthusiasm. Drake was determined to regain and rally his congregation. He reorganized the former faithful and compelled them to return including teenagers in a Youth Fellowship program. He reinstituted Sunday school with volunteer teachers and resurrected the Ladies Aid Society. Once again, a damaged church began to rise from the ashes.

The year 1954 marked a third challenging setback when lightning struck the wooden bell tower and steeple which had stood for three-quarters of a century. The powerful bolt splintered timbers and shingles causing considerable damage. The harm was significant enough to require the dismantlement of the steeple beam by beam. It was replaced by a distinctly unremarkable and uninspiring flat covering. No one was impressed.

Fast-forward to 1981, it was decided to again crown the classic brick edifice with a traditional, pronounced and recognizable steeple. The one to grace Centenary included a fitting housing for the historic bell serving both a visual and audible beacon for the community. Adding to the charm would be an electronic carillon to play canticles and seasonal carols to the community. Upon wise reflection, the cross at the top of the spire was retrofitted to discreetly house a lightning rod and minimize any future "heavenly" episodes.



Over the years, expansions to the once solely rectangular building have been made. To the west, the addition of Fellowship Hall and a full kitchen. An entire wing with offices, meeting rooms and activity areas was added to the north. On the south, an elevator was installed to help worshipers travel from street level to the sanctuary on the second floor.

The steps in front once led directly up to the door from Hancock Street. When the street was widened and more room needed for the village sidewalk, the steps were reconfigured at the angle they are today. At the top are the original wooden doors

and entry vestibule.

Extant also is the stained glass. Colorful windows grace both sides of the sanctuary – some dedicated to early members. One from 1915, at the front entryway, is dedicated to the US Coast Guard which has served the community and sailors over the decades.

Finally, the pews inside the sanctuary. The small, wooden shield-plaques with numbers in relief on the ends belie logic. They are in no discernable order and skip multiple rows. That's due to their being acquired in 1879 from a previous – albeit unknown – church. Consequently, the pews predate even the church where they still serve.

During Christmastime, parishioners assured a tree would be colorfully decorated and laden with presents for the children of the village. Such distributions and accompanying Christmas parties became a regular tradition.

Soon to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its cornerstone and construction, Centenary has endured into the 21st century despite many challenges. The church entered the digital age by adding streamed Sunday services online. Naturally, that can result in less in-person attendance and, potentially, lower donations without an in-person plate passing.

A robust summertime crowd contrasted with an aging population and thin winter residency creates another enigma – particularly in the form of young families. Nevertheless, the historic church has been unwavering. Attendance by regular parishioners is, just that, regular. So too are community outreach programs that are both charitable and sociable.

From autumn through spring, Centenary has shouldered responsibility for a weekly supper program offering cost-free dinners in Fellowship Hall to whomever wishes or needs them. For some, it's an economic necessity... For others, an invaluable regular communal time. In the summer, Centenary is also present on the Village Green where it holds outdoor services open to all.

It's been said that a church should be a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints. That makes sense. Yet, with an account as rich as Centenary Methodist, along with the legacy of a building of almost 150 years, it not only continues its original mission but offers a literal trip back in time. Saintly or not, that's a heritage any museum would be proud to boast.

Peter Rexford is a nationally syndicated newspaper columnist who writes about collectibles and related history. He is also a radio host and the author and contributing author of several books. He makes his home in Pentwater near where the old Pentwater Bick Factory once stood as well as in St. Louis, Missouri.

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Update from the Treasurer

To all of Centenary's members and friends,

It has been a while since I last shared in writing how we are doing financially as a church, our resources, what we have accomplished over last couple of years and some upcoming thoughts.

First our financial picture for 2023. We have just passed the third quarter and our income for the year is \$116,457 vs expenses of 124,855 for a net loss of \$8,398. For the last few years, we have made up this difference in the last three months. Last year we were \$6,822 behind at this same time so I have high hopes that we will do the same this year, but I still worry. I know I need more faith.



At the writing of this letter, we are in the process of collecting pledge cards for what you think you might give financially, time and talent wise for 2024. I sure hope more pledges have come in before you read this. I think for most of us we have a reasonable idea of how much money each of us has to live on and can budget accordingly. When I am putting together the church budget, expected to be around \$180,000, your pledge cards tell me how much the church can reasonably expect for income, the rest is guess work, along with giving history. If anyone would like to take over the treasurer job, let me know.

Now for the fun part. We have just finished another capital fund campaign to replace and expand the fire/smoke alarm system to cover the whole church and have it directly patched into 911 for 24/7 coverage. In addition, we had the old brick work regouted where needed and sealed, plus had a new electronic sign built utilizing Pentwater brick. It should be operational at the time you are reading this. The best part is, it is all paid for, thanks to all of you. We also received a large gift to our endowment fund, the earnings of which can help fund future projects.

What is next? I know that property management is looking at better security/safety for our building and us. The parsonage is getting old. A new roof and siding are going to be needed in a couple of years. There are several smaller projects, that thanks to several designated gifts, we can probably fund. That's it for now. As always, the financials are posted outside the church office, and you can ask Janet Waidelich, Assistant Treasurer, or myself any questions concerning them.

John Faas, Treasurer

Prayers & Squares

“You are not the cause of anything you see; you are the conscious solution dwelling in every heart.”

- Author unknown

“I will praise God’s name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.” - Psalms 69:30

Living in harmony. Adjusting to expansion. Embracing change. Finding solutions. Loving our neighbors. These can all be counted as themes for this past month. Our ministry shares space with the music ministry and we have watched as we both have added new items to enhance the quality of our offerings. It can be challenging to find space for everything! But, a little bit of organizing can make a huge difference...and that’s exactly what we did.

As we worked to go through our bins of fabric and accessories, tossing what no longer is useful and becoming ‘spacially efficient’, we created for ourselves the ability to appreciate all the exciting ways Centenary UMC has grown! Rather than compete for space it has become an exercise in holding space... for each other.



Other examples of ‘loving our neighbor’ include providing lap quilts to Jeff and Rhonda. Rhonda is the sister of Vicki Spears whose daughter is struggling with alcohol addiction and Jeff is our ‘neighbor’ who often joyfully serves us lunch on Fridays when our group eats at Good Stuffz. He is in treatment for cancer.

Barb Davidson and I were particularly rewarded when we visited Lake Michigan Senior Center one day. We took a bunch of Pocket Squares and distributed them to residents and staff. We visited with each resident as we handed them a ‘Square’. The response to our visit was wonderful! We got to spend some time with Bill Bluhm. He was in good spirits. He joked with us and gave us each a hug when we left. It was rather sobering to witness the impact visits make on the residents. Barb and I plan to visit other nursing facilities in Hart soon to distribute Pocket Squares.



So much to be thankful for. It’s fitting that Thanksgiving is upon us this next month, to prompt us to be fully conscious of “giving glory to God”. And to be aware of the gifts of our Creator. I know that I am truly blessed in being part of a ministry that gives so generously of its time...and has so much fun, to boot!

May November bring you Abundant life. Blessings... **Carrie Roberts**

Share & Prayer

You are invited to a new caring small group at Centenary. Roy & Robin 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.

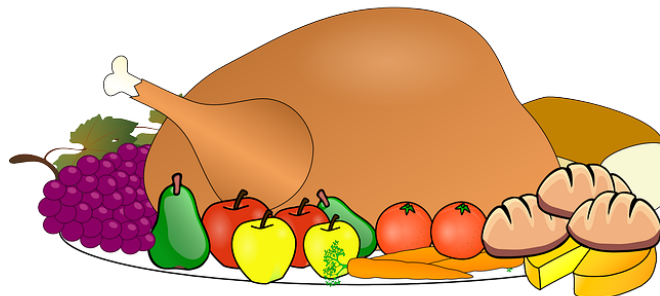
It is important to recognize that this support group is not counseling but a group for listening and support.

The 8 week session began October 17,
7 to 8:15 pm in the church library.
Feel free to drop in any Tuesday.

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



After joining us at the Community Dinner traditional thanksgiving feast, November 22, you may want to enjoy Thanksgiving with the SaintDenises. Richard and Karen will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner at their home, on Thanksgiving Day, for anyone who will be home alone this year. Please RSVP to Karen by November 15, text or call 231-923-3260.





SAVE THE DATE

What: Community Christmas Caroling
When: December 17, 2023, 4:00 pm
Where: On the Green

Let's kick-off the Christmas Season as we join together to sing your favorite carols, accompanied by musical instruments. Refreshments provided.

Senior Stretch Class Starts November 2nd

Hello everyone! Thank you so much for your support and prayers for Mark & I as he recovers.

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 am 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.



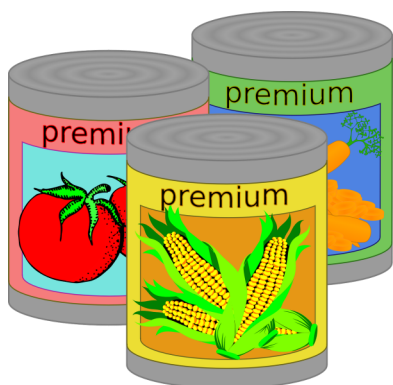
Linda Hundt-Trierweiler

Community Dinner November Menus



November 1	Spice-rubbed Baked Chicken Mashed Butternut Squash Buttermilk Biscuit & Celery Walnut Salad Broccoli Cheddar Soup (Dine in) Delicious Donated Desserts
November 10	Polish Sausage Haluski (Buttery Cabbage with Noodles) Carrot Raisin Salad Village Soup with Cornbread Crouton (Dine in) Delicious Donated Desserts
November 15	Chicken Enchilada Mexican Rice Marinated Vegetable Salad Green Chile Soup or Tortilla Soup Monterey Delicious Donated Desserts
November 22	Roast Turkey & Bread Dressing Mashed Potatoes and Turkey Gravy Praline Yams & Green Bean Casserole Cranberry Sauce Delicious Donated Desserts
Thanksgiving Menu	
November 29	Turkey Salad Homemade Cranberry Muffin Fresh Melon Cup Chickpea and Tomato Soup (Dine in) Delicious Donated Desserts

Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets



It's time to plan for our Basket Program. Again this year we will deliver baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas to around 30 families.

There will be an anonymous list of family sizes posted on the food table in the office entryway off Hancock St. The congregation is asked to sign up to furnish all the food for a Thanksgiving dinner except the Turkey, which the church will furnish.

The food should be placed in the appropriate box (boxes will be numbered and physically spaced out in the Fellowship Hall) on the Sunday before Thanksgiving so the baskets can be checked and be ready for delivery the following Monday.

For Christmas, there will be an anonymous list of the children from these same families giving the age and sizes and the congregation has the opportunity to buy a Christmas gift for the child. The church will furnish all of the food for the Christmas Dinner.

The gifts should be placed in the appropriate boxes, (again boxed will be identified and spaced out in the Fellowship Hall) on the Sunday before Christmas for delivery before Christmas.

At this time of the year, there are canned food sales. We ask that you purchase a case or half a case of fruits or vegetables and bring them to the church for the Christmas dinner. Leave the food in the fellowship Hall or in the Hall in front of the church office and a committee member will put it in storage for Christmas. If you would prefer, you can place a check in the offering marked for the Christmas dinner and we will get the canned goods.



Please contact Jean Russell, 231-740-5927, bobthewoodcarver@frontier.com or the church office, 231-869-5900, pentwaterumc@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Jean Russell

Deck the Halls Wednesday and Thursday November 29 & 30, 9 am



Time to sign up to help decorate the church for the holidays. We need 5 teams of 2-4 people to put up and decorate the trees, wreaths, railings, etc. All levels of ability from sit down to climbing ladders needed. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by the church office. Coffee and banana bread will be available.

This year we will try two dates, Wednesday and Thursday, November 29 and 30. Questions, please contact Vicki Poplstein at 231-869-5242, vicki@basslakemi.com



Christmas by Candlelight

7pm, December 3, 2023,
Centenary UMC Sanctuary

Join the United Women of Faith
for an evening of music to open the
Advent Season.

All are welcome!

**We also welcome musicians, singers, readers,
anyone who would like to perform, present, or
contribute to our candlelight service.**

Contact Susan MacGregor, jsmac1@frontier.com, 231-869-4364,
if you would like to be a part of the service.



We are now using **SignUp Genius** 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.





Church Workday November 11, 9 am

We have scheduled a workday to clean up the church yard for the winter season. Bring a rake, work gloves, and come and join us in service keeping our church property a beautiful downtown landmark.



Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2023

Centenary United Methodist Church, Pentwater MI

Minutes submitted by Elaine Konyha

Present: Bart Zachrich, Patti Davidson, John Faas, Shannon Larson, Elaine Curtis, Jean Russell, Elaine Konyha, Pastor Vaughn Thurston-Cox, Beth Russell, Sandy Lyon, Susan MacGregor

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

Bart Z introduced the agenda, with an addition of the Church Kitchen by Beth Russell and the Quarterly Treasurer's report by John Faas. The Agenda was approved unanimously.

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

John Faas gave the Quarterly Budget report. After reviewing the numbers on the report he concluded with the comment that we are a little behind the budget but that is generally the case at this time of year and that we generally catch up to the budget by the end of the year.

Official Bank signatures were discussed. It was proposed that Beth Russell, John Faas, and Janet Waidelich will be the three people who can officially sign checks for the church. A motion was proposed by Susan MacGregor and seconded by Patti Davidson that the council approve these three as signatories. The motion passed unanimously.

Beth Russell advised the Council that the Pentwater Service Club has been ordered by the Health Department to obtain their own license to produce caramel corn to sell to the public. Since they use our kitchen, they need the approval of Council and a signature showing that approval from a church official. The Council approved the use by the PSC of the kitchen and Beth will get a signature from Patti Davidson on Wednesday.

The Church Council Goals were presented to the Council for approval. After discussion, Patti Davidson moved and Jean Russell seconded that we approve and accept the 3 goals for the council for 2023 and 2024 with one change to #2 so that it would read, "Solicit and assist in the development of at least on idea from each ministry..." The motion was passed unanimously.

Shannon Larson raised a concern that our present AED machine was too far away from the sanctuary to be effective. She asked that the Council consider purchasing one for the sanctuary. After discussion, Council agreed to send the concern to property management committee with the comment that funds to purchase the AED had been raised in the Council meeting. The meeting was ended with a prayer from the Pastor at 7:35PM.



Evelyn Jacks (granddaughter of George & Jane Van Scoyoc, who fell mountain climbing and broke her ankle)
 Don Palmer (upcoming heart surgery)
 Bert Jeffries (recovering from hip surgery)
 Friends and Family of Mike Overla
 Winter Vaughn
 Bill Bluhm
 Kristen Forester

Mark Trierweiler
 Mat Hacker
 Kaycee Bylsma

Cancer Treatments

Jeff Klein (of Good Stuff's)
 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

Trudy Bergsten	11/05
Jane Nelson	11/06
Judy Miller	11/07
Anne Konopka	11/10
Mary Jane Crimp	11/17
Jim Crum	11/18
Elaine Konyha	11/24
Lloyd Hartsuiker	11/25
Terry Cluchey	11/26
Stan Roose	11/28



Anniversaries

Richard and Jane Nelson	11/21
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