

The Circuit Rider

APRIL 2023



Centenary United Methodist Church

PO Box 111
82 S Hancock Street
Pentwater, MI 49449

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

George Winston's "January Stars." However fitfully, winter must be turning into spring. And as it does, the warmth invites us into new, invigorating life: Holy Week, Easter, resurrection stories, Faith by the Lake, and a new summer series for 2023!

Thursday, April 6, at 7:00 PM, we celebrate Maundy Thursday at St. James Episcopal to remember when Jesus took common bread, and told his disciples, "This is my body." Since we have

gathered as Christians, we have celebrated this meal. Join us this Holy Week. On Good Friday at 6:30 we go to St. Paul United Methodist for Good Friday services with St. James Episcopal and Pentwater Baptist. I will share a brief reflection and our quartet will sing. Among the most holy of our days it calls us to that moment in time with God who Became One of Us died with us, that we might live in him.

Easter Sunday, April 9, we will hold breakfast at 9:15. At 10:15, we will begin worship outdoors, on the steps of the church with singing and the reading of Scripture, and proceed in carrying the light. The service will tell Easter's story with Scripture, special offerings of music, and congregational singing. If you would like to purchase tulips or lilies, please contact the church office.

Throughout most of April and May, we will tell the stories of the post-resurrected Christ, and the disciples he met as he travelled from Jerusalem back to Galilee before celebrating one of my favorites: Pentecost! Which brings us to Worship on the Green.

Worship on the Green is a special time of year for us at Centenary, and this summer will be no different. This year's summer series will be The Faith We Sing. Each Sunday we will focus our service and message on a specific song ranging from classical hymns to Gospel and contemporary Christian music. We will sing songs that go back to the 500's and others not even fifteen years old. Keep your eyes out for the upcoming schedule and invite your friends!

The Pastor's Pen continued

Saturday, June 10, will be a special day: Faith by the Lake. We are privileged to worship alongside people who have gone deep into their life with God and agreed to share that life with us. We will hold a half day of workshops that focus on topics ranging from healing to the Beatitudes to faith in music. I will lead a session on local theology, how we live out our faith together at Centenary United Methodist. It will be held here at Centenary, but all from the community and surrounding churches are welcome!

And somewhere in the midst of that, some of us will be going to annual conference in Traverse City. We are springing into summer!

Be the Breath, **Pastor Vaughn**

CUMC Holy Week 2023

Palm Sunday

Sunday April 2, 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. David Kersten
Centenary United Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday Service

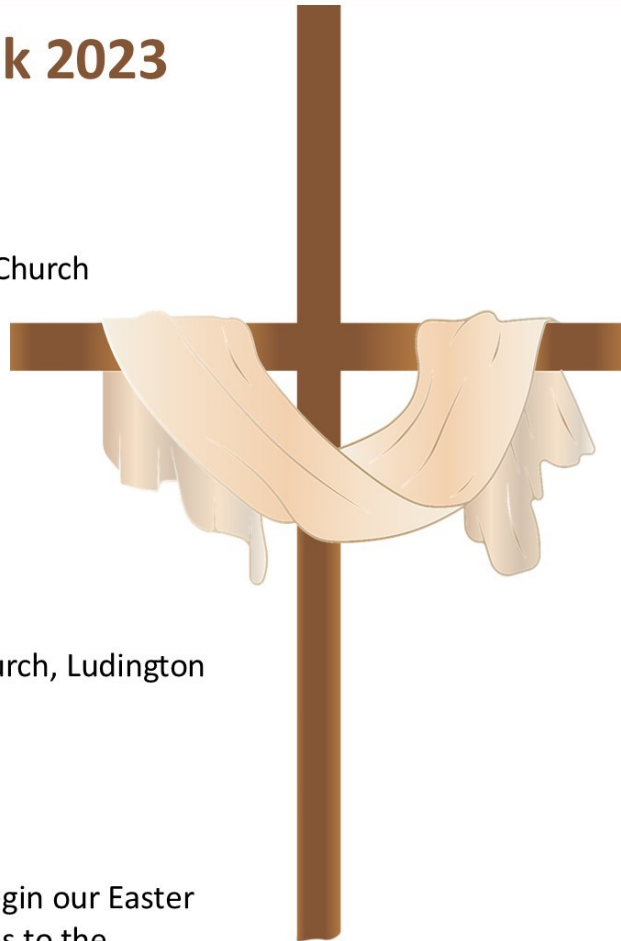
Thursday April 6, 7 pm
St. James Episcopal Church

Good Friday Service

Friday April 7, 6:30 pm
St. Paul United Methodist Church, Ludington

Easter Sunday Service

Sunday April 9
9:15 am Breakfast
10:15 am Worship. We will begin our Easter Service outside on the steps to the Sanctuary entrance.
Centenary United Methodist Church



Centenary United Methodist Church

April 2023

Month of April at a Glance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Key: Centenary Activities Community Activities						1
2 10:30 am Worship Communion Sunday 11:30 Fellowship Time	3 10 am Senior Stretch	4 10:30 am Program Coordination Team 1 pm PSC Board mtg 2 pm Meditation Group	5 Community Dinner 4:30 - 5 pm Take out 5 - 6 pm Dine in 6:30 pm Bell Choir	6 10 am Senior Stretch 4 pm Zoom Lent Study 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service, St. James Episcopal Church	7 10 am Prayer & Squares 6:30 pm Good Friday Service, St Paul's UMC Ludington	8
9 9:15 Easter Brunch 10:15 am Worship	10 10 am Senior Stretch 11:30 am Finance & Operations Team	11 10:30 Worship Team 6:00 pm Friends of PTW Cemetery 6:30 pm Euchre	12 Community Dinner 4:30 - 5 pm Take out 5 - 6 pm Dine in 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 Property Mgt	13 10 am Senior Stretch 11:30 am Service Club 7 pm Jr. Women's Club 7 pm Zoom Lenten Study	14	15 11:00 am Michigan Dunes NSDAR
16 9:15 United Methodism Study 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Time	17 9 am Caregivers Support 10 am Senior Stretch 6:30 pm Lake Assoc'n	18 9 am UWF Board 2 pm Meditation Group 6 pm Church Council 6 pm West MI SAIL 6:30 pm Euchre	19 4:30 - 5 pm Community Dinner 6 pm Brownie Troop 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 Property Mgmt	20 10 am Senior Stretch 11:30 am Service Club 7 pm Zoom Lenten Study	21 10 am Prayer & Squares	22
23/30 9:15 United Methodism Study 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Time	24/31 May Circuit Rider articles due 10 am Senior Stretch 1 pm PSC Board 6:30 pm Lake Assoc'n	25 6:30 pm Euchre	26 Community Dinner 4:30 - 5 pm Take out 5 - 6 pm Dine in 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm Brownie Troop	27 10 am Senior Stretch 11:30 am Service Club	28 10 am Prayer & Squares	29 9 am Council & Ministries workshop

“Dance, dance, wherever you may be. I am the Lord of the Dance said He. And I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be. I’ll lead you all in the dance, said He.”

A Spring Blessing

Blessed are you spring, bright season of awakening.

You gladden our hearts with
opening buds and returning leaves
as you put on your robes of splendor.

Blessed are you, spring. You invite us to sing songs to the
frozen regions within and to bless the lessons of winter
as we become your partner in a new dance.

Blessed are you, spring, season of resurrection, sacrament of promise.

Like Jesus, you rise up out of the darkness, leaving around you
a wake of new life. - *Joyce Rupp*

“We address God in the quiet of our hearts, in hymns and psalms, in dance and chant—with tears, with pleas and rejoicing.” - *Desmond Tutu*

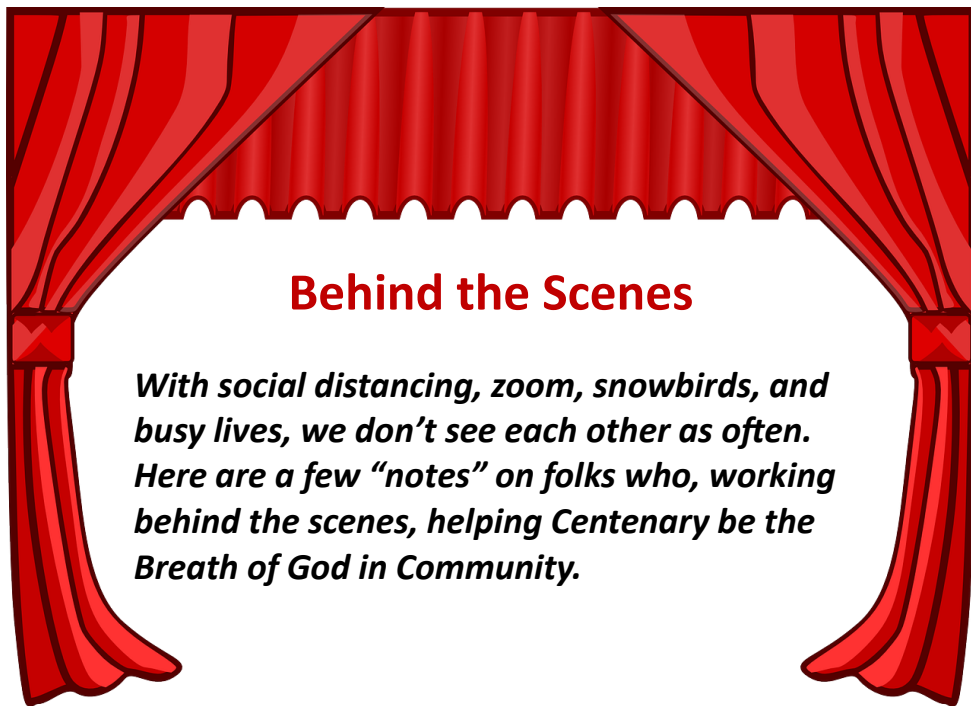
“The Light will overflow your soul and dance with radiance in your life.” - *Meister Eckhart*

“God wants to lead you in the heavenly dance.” - *Mechtild of Magdeburg*

“Why am I afraid to dance, I who love music and rhythm and grace and song and laughter? Why am I afraid to live, I who love life and the beauty of the living colors of the earth and sky and sea? Why am I afraid to love, I who love love?” - *Eugene O’Neill*

“Our dance —a wholehearted interplay with life—happens when we quench our thirst with the Spirit, when we see with our heart. when we taste with our imagination, when we touch this moment—the sacrament of the present moment—with our delight.” - *Terry Hershey*

Compiled by *Sandy Lyon* - I hope you dance!



Behind the Scenes

With social distancing, zoom, snowbirds, and busy lives, we don't see each other as often. Here are a few "notes" on folks who, working behind the scenes, helping Centenary be the Breath of God in Community.

Our behind the scenes crew this month involves a freezer and taking four doors apart.... including the double outside doors on Hancock. We have a new freezer thanks to a couple of generous donations and our resourceful volunteers **Jim Crum, John Faas, Mat Hacker, Ken Konyha** ...hopefully no one has been left out.... who managed the maneuver. Thank you!

Not unprecedented - taking the large heavy wooden doors off - **Richard SaintDenis** commented

"Oh yeah, we had to do that with the first freezer" Thanks to that crew as well!

We also honor two Centenary work crew members, good friends who worked together, **Jerry Egermaier** and **Ron Hamelen**. Jerry, in an assisted living home in Chicago, died Friday night. Ron, in the Margaret Fuhring unit of the Oceana Medical Care Facility, died Saturday night. **Gloria Egermaier** and **Madeline Hamelen** are remembered as they plan celebration services for these two wonderful men and friends.

And a special salute to our mystery cookie baker **Shirley Anthony**. Shirley brings us cookies each week because she loves to bake and loves to contribute. Living alone, Wednesday dinners have taken on a new role for her and luckily for us as well.

We appreciate **Susan MacGregor, Elaine Curtis** and the **United Women of Faith** who organized the mitten and glove collection for Pentwater School Elementary kids!

Anne Soles



From the Prayers & Squares group

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” - Matthew 6:21

When busy preparing quilts and pocket squares...or any productive venture for that matter...the “doing” can often trump the “being”. Forgetting to take time to take in new learning, new ideas, or new ways of doing things can result in becoming stale.

To be in a state of “becoming” helps us to avoid entrenched and rigid beliefs about how the world operates. To be open to ‘the new’ is a way to maintain what Father Richard Rohr refers to as “beginner’s mind”. This is akin to what Jesus talked about when referring to the need for people to come to him with the mind and heart of a child in order to truly understand his teachings.

With that said, Kristin brought her iPad to one of our meetings, all excited about a new online class she’s taking about quilting techniques. I just had to take a pic of the group all huddled around the iPad absorbed in watching one of the lessons! There were gasps of amazement from even the most seasoned quilters! Who knew how these ‘tips’ could add ease and efficiency to the craft?! Always something to learn...

So now, as April greets us our ministry is eager to handle the new quilt requests coming in. There has also been a surge of pocket square requests. Madeline Hamelen asked for 15 to give to the nurses and doctors involved in her daughter Ronda’s upcoming surgery. Barb Davidson sent 25 to a nursing home in Holland, MI.

As we welcome the ‘rains’ of April, I invite you to take stock of the new life being generated as a result. Consider those out there who’d take comfort in having a prayer quilt. Contact the office or Pastor Vaughn if someone comes to mind.

Blessings - **Carrie Roberts**





United
Women
in Faith

Lenten Brunch

Our guests enjoyed a delicious
brunch, great fellowship, and an
uplifting presentation from
Rev. Sue Beckman



Camp Scholarships Available

Centenary United Methodist Church has scholarships available for summer camp for kids. Contact the office for more information, 231-869-5900 or email pentwaterumc@gmail.com





Confirmation Retreat

Students in 6th-12th grade who are ready to make their confirmation will enjoy a weekend at **Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat**. Share the journey of faith with other students. A fantastic weekend led by United Methodist pastors from local churches is planned and meets all the criteria for confirmation. Students can then be confirmed at their home churches. To learn more, [click here](#). Parents are invited to join their students for lunch Sunday. \$50 per student. Contact [Erik Bengston](#), 231-869-5627.

Centenary is partnering with area churches and planning a Vacation Bible School this summer. Mark your calendar for July 25-27, 4 to 7 pm, at Shelby UMC.



*The West Shore Community
Concert Choir and
The United Methodist Church
Bell Choir Presents a...*



Lenten Concert

*The Parish Family
of St. Joseph and St. Vincent invite you
to JOIN us during Holy Week for a Lenten Concert*

*Tuesday, April 4, 2023
7:00 p.m.*

*At St. Joseph Catholic Church (Weare)
2380 W. Jackson Road, Hart*

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Centenary United Methodist Church - Pentwater Church Council - Minutes - March 21, 2023

In attendance: Bart Zachrich, Vaughn Thurston-Cox, Elaine Curtis, Elaine Konyha, Gene Jankowski, Patti Davidson, Sandy Lyon, Jean Russell, Susan McGregor and Shannon Larson (via Zoom).

Pastor Vaughn started the meeting with a prayer.

The Minutes of the last meeting were presented. A Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Elaine Curtis and seconded by Patti Davidson. Motion was passed.

Pastor Vaughn presented a continuing lesson from Theory U. This week's emphasis was to work on a movement from being absent to being present.

Bart then directed discussion to the Ministries Workday on Saturday April 29, 2023. The program will consist of a general discussion, breakout teams discussing directed topics, a meal together and finally to reassemble to review the discussions. John Faas has experience with this type of meeting and will be the facilitator.

The workday attendees will consist of 1-2 people from each ministry team. Attendees will be invited.

The goal of the workday is for each ministry team to focus on the 3 values of the church and record how they are working towards these values. Goals might be set at this time but is not the primary focus of the workday. The result of this meeting will be to have written statements from each ministry so that coordination with other ministries will follow.

An added benefit of the written values is to help Kyle create Rack Cards for the church entryway that will describe what our church values and is working on.

Patti requested that the comments from the September 18, 2022 workday be circulated to the Church Council so that these suggestions can be addressed at the April 29th meeting. Bart agreed to distribute these by email.

Pastor Vaughn closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:15pm and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
Elaine Konyha

Property Management Meeting Minutes

Property Management Meeting Minutes March 22, 2023

Opening Prayer: Mat Hacker

Present: Jane Seelhoff, Bart Zachrich, John Faas, Jim Crum, Mat Hacker

At the beginning of our meeting there was a brief review of the process of decision making on pertinent topics or committee review. Emphases was on reviewing proposals in committee versus individual or small group decision making processes in order to ensure all projects are properly reviewed and examined.

1. John reported on estimates for the electric sign project for the front of the church and possible exterior tuck pointing of the church. The electric sign project is at \$14300 (Ruggles brick work at \$6725 and the sign is at \$7600). The estimate for tuck pointing the exterior of the church is at \$27950.
2. Stain Glass windows: It is estimated this project will be completed in early April.
3. Lower-level window replacement. Will complete painting and outdoor finishing touch-ups this spring as part of our spring workday.
- 4 Parsonage front door. Has been purchased and are waiting on delivery.
5. Update on progress of "Security Review". Progress to date is slow.
6. Update on freezer seal repairs. Seals are here and will be put in 3/23.
7. Update on wall divider in Wesley room. Reviewing options.
8. The list of long-term projects and assignment individuals to get estimates will be discussed further at our April meeting. Presently, Roy will cover items 1 and 2. John will cover item 3 and 8. The Richey's will cover item 4. Mat will cover item 5. Bart will cover item 6. As we get information it will be added to the existing list to be updated and discussed.
9. Jerry has replaced most of the electronic soap dispensers already and will replace all of them as they become empty.
10. Window ledge at the top of the stairway to the sanctuary has been replaced.
11. Lighting of the front exterior of the church was discussed in topic 1.
12. Bart reported there are some significant issues concerning our fire prevention needs for the future. An immediate review is underway soliciting input from several companies. This will require immediate action once estimates and proposals are gathered. We hope to have responses with a week or two.
13. Reviewed the need to purchase an audio system for use on the green and to replace our alternate system for

Continued on page 13

Property Management Meeting Minutes continued

the sanctuary that needs to be replaced. Committee voted to purchase this product and will make that recommendation to the Finance and Operations Committee for purchase from budgeted funds.

PROJECTS TO BE DONE AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE-ALL CURRENTLY ON HOLD

1. Parsonage roof replacement. Cost TBD
2. Parsonage siding replacement. Cost TBD
3. Sound system needs to be updated. Cost TBD
4. Sprinkler system for south side of church.
5. Parsonage deck project. Cost TBD
6. Fire sprinkler system at church Cost TBD
7. Rekeying the church to include electronic locks on the NW entry. Estimate \$4000 to \$20000
8. Electric message screen in the entryway and possible fellowship hall. No estimate.
9. Possible air exchange system for the sanctuary. Cost TBD

Next meeting April 12, 2023, at 6:30.

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.



Carol Cornelison
 Friends and Family of Katee Heath
 Ron Hamelen Family
 Jerry Egermaier Family
 Harold Allmendinger Family
 Lynn Voorheis Family
 Klayton Ruggles
 Jeannie St. Denis
 Kaycee Bylsma
 Lyon's Grandson, Sean



Kitty Kokx
 Mercedes Sayles
 Verna Gregwer
 Ronda Hamelen Jenkins
 Winter Vaughn

Cancer Treatments

Ernie Beavais	Richard Wild
Norm Letsinger	Father of Kim Kokx
Cynthia Williams	Lori Tupper
Therese Williams	Jane Jocke
Dale Trierweiler	Gayle Walker
Suzanne Richey	

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

Birthdays

Susan Hacker	04/01
Diane Gardy	04/03
Ralph Kayler	04/04
Mary Carpenter	04/08
Susan Hall	04/11
Linda Slougher	04/12
Norm Lyon	04/12
Jerry Overla	04/15
Carol Oxford	04/17
Anne Soles	04/17
Sue Johnson	04/20
Sally Jerkatis	04/21
Lucus Grondsma	04/22
Emma Grondsma	04/24
Dave DeNolf	04/28
JR Overla	04/28
Betty Johnson	04/29

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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