

The Circuit Rider

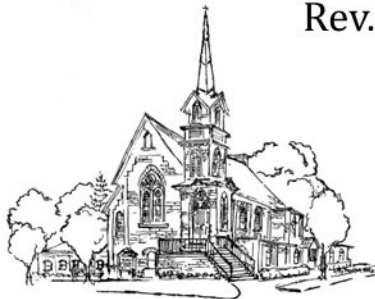
MAY 2023



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

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Website: pentwaterumc.org

[Facebook.com/5H20centenaryumc](https://www.facebook.com/5H20centenaryumc)



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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

He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.

- Psalm 40:3a, NRSVue

Before I could manage my way through a whole message, I sang our faith. A Mighty Fortress is our God. Christ the Lord is Risen Today. The Gloria Patri. Snatches of faith captured in song. They didn't require me to sit and stay quiet, while someone talked on about something I couldn't

follow. At five and six I could sing and be just as much a part of the church as everyone else. Of course I have favorites: Be Thou My Vision, Love Divine All Loves Excelling, O Come O Come Emmanuel. Songs that have shaped my life with God and weave into and out of my whole life's story. I made song a part of my doctoral work: "And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes. They'll know we are Christians." And so, I'm delighted to announce this summer's worship theme: The Faith We Sing.

Each Sunday we will explore a different hymn or song, its history, and how it shapes our life with God together. Some will be very old; others will be very new. Some hymns. Some Gospel. Some purely contemporary. The Beatles will even make an appearance. I encourage you to save date! Worship on the Green launches Sunday, June 25. This is a special summer I know I'm excited for!

Mark your calendars for Faith on the Lake, Saturday, May 24. Five of Centenary's own will lead workshops exploring the spiritual life focusing on topics ranging from grace, to song, and to Scripture. Each workshop will only be about an hour in length. Summer in Pentwater is a great time to watch things grow, and you can grow your soul!

I know some of you have already returned, and others are making plans. In either case, thank you for making Centenary your summer home. We want to be the breath of God in community and in you! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email our office. I'm available for in home or coffee house visits, and enjoys getting to know our summer flock.

Be the Breath, **Pastor Vaughn**

Centenary United Methodist Church

May 2023

Month of May at a Glance

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10 am Senior Stretch 1 pm PSC Board	2 10:30 am Program Coordination Team 2 pm Meditation Group 6:30 pm Euchre	3 Community Dinner 4:30 - 5 pm Take out 5 - 6 pm Dine in 6:30 pm Bell Choir	4 10 am Senior Stretch	5 10 am Prayer & Squares Lake Michigan Camp Workdays	6 Gary Nicholson Celebration of Life Lake Michigan Camp Workdays
7 9:15 am United Methodism 10:30 am Worship Communion Sunday 11:30 Fellowship Time	8 10 am Senior Stretch 10:30 Finance & Operations	9 10:30 Worship Team 6:30 pm Euchre	10 Community Dinner 4:30 - 5 pm Take out 5 - 6 pm Dine in 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Property Mgt	11 10 am Senior Stretch 11:30 am Service Club 7 pm Jr. Women's Club	12 11:30 am Lynn Voorheis Memorial & Luncheon	13
14 10:30 am Worship Communion Sunday 11:30 Fellowship Time	15 8 am West MI SAIL 9 am Caregivers Supp't 10 am Senior Stretch 6:30 pm Lake Assoc'n	16 UWF Field Trip 8 am West MI SAIL 2 pm Meditation Group 6 pm Church Council 6 pm West MI SAIL 6:30 pm Euchre	17 8 am West MI SAIL 4:30 - 6 pm Community Dinner 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm Brownie Troop	18 8 am West MI SAIL 10 am Senior Stretch 11:30 am Service Club	19 Church Workday 8 am West MI SAIL 10 am Prayer & Squares	20 11 am Michigan Dunes Charter
21 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Time 1 pm West MI SAIL	22 10 am Senior Stretch	23 6:30 pm Euchre	24 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 Property Mgmt	25 10 am Senior Stretch	26 10 am Prayer & Squares	27
28 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Time	29 Church Office closed for Memorial Day	30 June Circuit Rider articles due 6:30 pm Euchre	31 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm Brownie Troop	Key: Centenary Activities Community Activities		

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

Listening—With Your Heart

Dear God, People around us are hurting and struggling. We can see it and we can feel it. Maybe we are even hurting inside ourselves. Please help us find a way to listen to one another, nurture one another, and recognize that our individual suffering leads to collective suffering. Help us heal together. Amen

- *Maria Shriver*

When Someone Deeply Listens to You

When someone deeply listens to you, it is like holding out a dented cup you've had since childhood and watching it fill up with cold, fresh water. When it balances on top of the brim, you are understood. When it overflows and touches your skin, you are loved. When someone deeply listens to you, your bare feet are on the earth and a beloved land that seemed distant is now at home within you.

- *John Fox*

As the light of dawn awakens earth's creatures
and stirs into song the birds of the morning
so may I be brought to life this day.
Rising to see the light, to hear the wind
to smell the fragrance of what grows from the ground
to taste its fruit and touch its textures
so may my inner senses be awakened to you
so may my senses be awakened to you, O God.

- *Celtic Benediction*



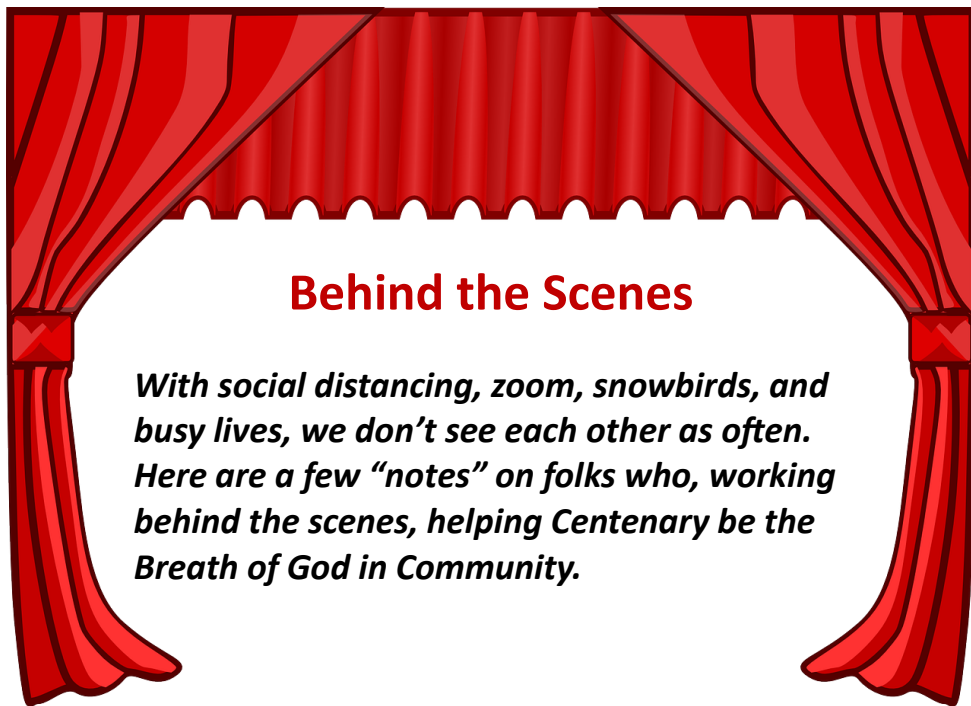
From The Monastic Heart Listening to another stands to change our own perspective on life. It challenges our assumptions and sends us away thinking more deeply about what it means to be fully alive. It demonstrates how dangerous it is to be absolutist about anything. If listening leads to learning, it also leads to attentiveness to others. Having known pain, we can walk with others through theirs, without judgment, without diminishing the feelings that underlie the suffering of others."

- *Joan Chittester*

Listen to the wind, it talks, Listen to the silence, it speaks, Listen to your heart, it knows.

- *Native American Proverb*

Compiled by Sandy Lyon Lord, help me to be a better listener.



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.

Kids: Working on Programs

Kids in the congregation? We do not see many young faces at church these days. Pentwater is becoming a retirement community, no surprises there. But we do connect with children. Consider the following:

Brownies: Pentwater Brownies meet regularly at the church and have helped us (enthusiastically) with Community Dinner. Second and Third grade Brownies may not carry very many plates at one time, but there were a blur working the tables one

Wednesday night. They also came to do a "tour" of a historic building one Wednesday. **Jenny Lynn Girvin** and **Steve Russell** were setting up for bell choir and they were jaw-droppingly amazed at the sound and work of the bells.

Community Dinner supplies two evening meals for COVE's Shelter for women and children.

We might be "feeding" 30 children a week when the shelter is at capacity.

VBS: Pentwater Vacation Bible School has enrolled as many as sixty kids for a week of study and fun. All that was set aside by COVID but shows some signs of renewal this summer. Working with **Pastor Bev Williams** (Shelby and Mears United Methodist), **Pastor Cydney Idsinga** (Hart United Methodist) and **Dan Barnum-Steggerda** (Hart and Shelby Congregational) we have identified an interest and some critical resources for a Vacation Bible School in July.

Pentwater Band and Music programs: Pentwater Schools has had a number of award winning band programs over the years. The pandemic was particularly hard on music programs and the new director, **Jesse Rodriquez**, along with **Diane Larson** who accompanies on occasion, are connecting with community resources (including Centenary) to rebuild the program. Stay tuned.

How does an older congregation support the children of the community? We are being challenged to understand and connect with the children of our community.

Anne Soles

Congratulations Graduate Lane Rood!





United
Women
in Faith

Spring Field Trip

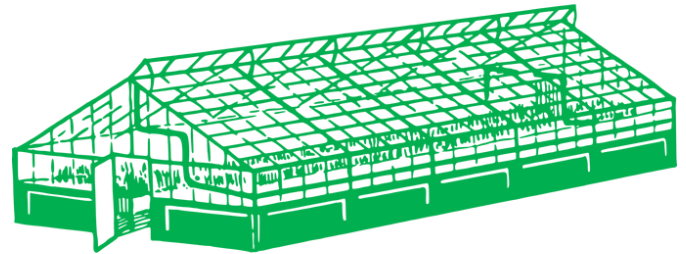
Join our United Women in
Faith and the Garden Club

for a spring Field Trip to

*Issac's Green Acres Market
and Greenhouse*

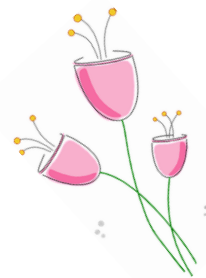
In West Olive, May 16 from 9am to 3
pm

Lunch is planned at the
Village Baker
in Spring Lake.



Reservations due May 10.
Please use the sign-up
sheet in the office lobby.

Contact Elaine Curtis
if you would like to
carpool or have any
questions, curtise.blaze2@gmail.com
231-730-7262

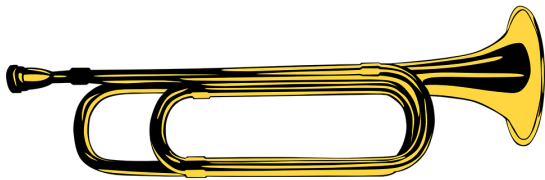


ps: There is lovely fabric shop, called Fields Fabrics in downtown Spring Lake for those of you who enjoy sewing.

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





Enjoy a
night out!

Pentwater School Spring Band Concert and Art Show - May 11, 7 pm

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.



Dornan Mission Spring Newsletter

Happy Easter season! Happy Spring! (Northern hemisphere) Happy New Year! (Nepal – the year 2080 has now begun – as of April 14!) And – happy end of tax season for the U.S! 😊

It has been several months since we have communicated with everyone. We really enjoyed hearing from so many over Christmas and it was wonderful to celebrate with friends and family here in the Midwest. We actually were in a deep freeze over Christmas and were thankful to get to church – we appreciated a place to stay and a wonderful feast with our cousins Patty and David. Thanks!!



We are not sure where the months of January, February, and March have gone... and now April is half over. We spent much time thinking, praying, talking and praying some more, and have finally decided that we will start the process to return to Nepal for another year or two from the end of September. It was not an easy decision, but it seems that the work God has in mind for us there is not yet done. (Or, maybe the work God needs to do in us isn't finished!) We would appreciate your prayers as we start the process of another transition – and packing, sorting and arranging everything that needs completed.



We have so enjoyed being near Debbie's parents over these past months. Eating lunch together almost daily, driving back and forth with Dad to choir, singing together at church, and being part of a weekly bible study with mom. Also, attending the small, but mighty Springfield church on Sunday evenings! Debbie made a trip down to Gulf



Shores, Alabama with Mom and Dad to visit Uncle Phil and Aunt Faye – it was a beautiful place and a great time together...even though the building we were in lost water for a day! (Made me think of Nepal!)

Les continues to work hard at the Crossroad Medical clinic – 3 days a week in Harrison, and 1 at 'Over the Rhine' in Cincinnati. He is quite busy and is always encouraged when a patient improves after following his advice. I know he will be missed there. He will work through the end of August so he will have been there for a full year.



We have enjoyed several visits with our wonderful grandchildren (and we like their mom and dad, too!). Mostly up in Michigan, but they have come down recently to be with us on what they call "the adventure farm". They are growing up so quickly and we love being part of their lives when we can. We also have been able to get out to Vegas and CA to see Rachel and Les's mom, and it is always a pleasure to catch up with Debbie's sister and family when we are there.



Dornan Mission Spring Newsletter - *continued*



Debbie will play in her final band concert for this season in a couple of weeks. It has been so wonderful to be back in western music again. We love the church choir, and Debbie even did a handbell solo one morning – that was a challenge!!

We keep in touch with our friends in Nepal – it is just amazing that we can now video chat with them for free!

[When we first went to Nepal in 1990, we had to book a call to the U.S. – at the cost of about \$1 a minute for the cheap rate!] Technology can be wonderful.

I would like to share a story that was told to us recently by the head of the Social Services department in Tansen. He will be retiring soon – after working almost 30 years at the hospital. He will be very missed.

Guna, a 7-year-old girl, was playing near the open fire used for cooking when some of her clothes caught on fire. She was burned by the flames. Her mother was away from the house cutting grass when the accident occurred, and a neighbor found her to tell her. (In poor village homes, the cooking place isn't designed for the safety of children. Many times, the mother who is primarily responsible for the children is also busy with other tasks and unable to keep a close eye out).

Guna, crying and in pain, was going to try to find her mother, but another neighbor kept her. The mother and her friends took Guna to the local medical shop (about 30 minutes' walk from the house) where they were told that her burns needed more care than they could provide. One of the neighbors booked a jeep and sent Guna and her mother to the Mission hospital for treatment.

Guna was admitted to the pediatric ward and started on IV antibiotics. She needed skin grafting as her burn was very deep. She also had a lot of physiotherapy. She stayed in the hospital for more than a month.

Guna lives with her mother and 2 siblings. Her father went to India to work, but ended up marrying another woman and leaving his first family without any help. Guna's aunt was able to give them a small plot of land with a small house for them to live in, and her mother works another person's farm – and gets 50% of the food grown. They struggle to get by. Fortunately, their school fees are taken care of by the government as they are so very poor.



This little girl was able to be treated, loved and cared for because of gifts given to the hospital fund for poor patients. When she was discharged, they were also given clothing since she only had one set of clothes when she came for help. Guna's mother was very thankful that she didn't have to bear the burden of a huge loan to pay for her daughter's treatment! (For the curious – her bill came to a total of \$835 for all the surgeries and the stay in the hospital with all the meds, food, etc that was provided. So – a small gift goes a long way in Nepal!!) And – your prayers go even further.

Thank you for your love and care for us. We know that your prayers keep us going. We pray for you, as well, and look forward to times we can be together. Keep in touch! Love, Debbie & Les

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Centenary United Methodist Church - Pentwater Church Council - Minutes - April 18, 2023

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

Pastor Vaughn started the meeting with a prayer at 6:00 PM

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

John Faas presented the quarterly financial review. We are close to budgeted levels. A copy of the Report is available upon request.

Property Management Committee made three proposals to the Council presented by Mat Hacker and John Faas.

The current fire alarm system in the church has been revealed to be substandard. The systems in the newer parts of the building and the older parts of the building are not consistent. The central board is not working. Bids have been taken and the committee recommends accepting one of \$16,000. This would include more sensors throughout the older part of the building, updating outdated equipment and tying this to a central board that is connected to a call center. The call center could notify key persons 24/7 of fire issues in the church.

The main church sign is rotting out and the door is not secure. Wind from some directions can blow away the lettering. The committee proposes building a brick frame for an electronic sign. The sign would be like the one in front of the school. The Pentwater brick has been donated. The placement and size of the sign will be the same as the current sign so there are no zoning issues. The cost of this project would be roughly \$13,000.

Tuckpointing brick around the outside of the church where needed. This was done about 8 years ago and has not lasted as long as hoped i.e. 10 years. This project is out for bid with Ruggles. We should hear soon from them. The last tuckpointing job cost \$28,000 but was much more extensive than what is needed now.

After discussion, Patti Davidson moved to approve all three capital projects. Beth Russell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Approximately \$30,000 has been already raised and the council will go to the congregation to raise the additional money.

Pastor Vaughn presented the final lesson from Theory U. He presented a chart showing the steps from emotional reactions to events to thoughtful decision making regarding the events.

Bart Zachrich reminded the Council of the Values Alignment Workshop April 29th from 9AM until 1:00 PM. Each of the listed ministries will bring 1,2, or more members. The ministries are divided into 4 groups. John Faas will facilitate the workshop. Each group will discuss activities and goals; how these goals will be measured; and the time frame these will take place. They will be measured against the Church's values. Any gaps in the ministries will be noted for future work.

Bart Zachrich reviewed the single church governance process that Centenary uses with the Council.

Elaine Curtis brought up Lynn Voorheis' funeral which is May 13th. She asked council members to sign up to bring food for the following lunch. Elaine Konyha volunteered to help with the shopping. Anyone wishing to bring food should contact Elaine Curtis.

Elaine Cutis moved that the meeting be adjourned and Gene Jankowski seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM



Faith on the Lake

Saturday, June 24

8:45 to 12:15

Property Management Meeting Minutes

Pre-meeting fire alarm study information and facts: In an effort to get accurate information on item #6 in the committees "Long Term Project List two Michigan companies were contacted to develop estimated costs and proposals to enhance our church fire protection devices. When ESP corporation visited our facility two weeks ago it was noted our entire fire prevention system was inoperable. It is estimated a power surge occur in either January or February that affected various electronic equipment in the church, but it was not recognized that the fire alarm system was affected. This moved the inquiry from getting estimates and proposals to developing an emergency evaluation program. EPS corporation and Network Fire and Security both Michigan corporations were provided with architectural drawings and asked to provide their recommended solutions to our equipment situation as quickly as possible. "Finance and Operation " committee was made aware of our situation at their meeting on April 10 as funding proposals would need to be discussed. Both companies responded with written proposals by March 27. EPS's initial estimate was \$10,815.00 plus tax with a monthly monitoring and long-term maintenance fee of \$95.00 per month. Network Fire and Security's initial estimate was \$26,468.00 for installation with a \$480 annual monitoring fee and a 1-year warrantee on equipment. Any other future maintenance would be at prevailing market rates. Since this was a very complicated decision the committee invited the two companies to come in and review their proposal on site with their full detailed itemized costs. In addition to the full Property Management committee Terry Cluchey, a church member and retired Pentwater Fire Chief was asked to joint in the evaluations. With this background the committee reviewed the proposals as listed below.

Property Management Meeting Minutes April 12, 2023

Opening Prayer: Pastor Vaughn

Approved minutes of 2-8 and 3-8-2023

Present: Jane S. Bart Z, John F, Jerry O, Jim C, Roy M, George & Suzanne R, (via zoom), Paster V, Mat H.

1. Reviewed fire prevention plans. Significant difference in the proposals we had received and reviewed with company sales and engineering specialist were noted. Each proposal was reviewed in detail and a motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the EPS proposal with some modifications which were addressed in a second motion. Based on our discussions and walking the facility EPS's initial proposal increased to about \$14,000. Equipment location changes and increases in equipment we requested accounted for this increase. EPS could respond faster and since they installed our current equipment in 2004 much of our equipment was compatible with their proposal and could be used again. They also offered a better long-term maintenance program. Their 24/7 monitoring station and call center is located in Grand Rapids along with their maintenance support. A second motion was made to add 4 additional monitoring devices in the sanctuary attic, fellowship hall, the Wesley room and the nursery-foyer-restroom area in the lower level of the church. It is estimated these changes will move the total cost to just under \$16,000.00. Next John will contact EPS get our current system temporarily operational until the electric failure can be fully replaced. John and Mat will address Council at their meeting on April 18 to address funding issues and some proposed options.

2. John updated the committee on proposed sign changes to replace the deteriorating sign in front of the church. This has been under study for some time as the wood is rotting and needs replacement. An electronic sign that is approved by the city would show church activities, community events, etc. and would be operated electronically from the office. The sign would be set in a Pentwater brick encasement. Estimated cost is \$12,000.00 to \$13,000.00. This proposal will also be taken the Council for

Property Management Meeting Minutes continued

discussion next week.

3. Discussed the need to look at tuckpointing and surface treatment of the bricks on our building. When the stain glass workers were present last year, it was noted there were areas where mortar needed repair. The last time this was done was 8 years ago and we were told this would need to be done in 8 to 10 years based on the quality and nature of the Pentwater brick materials. Eight years ago, there was a fund drive to support this project and currently there is about \$4,500.00 in reserve for this purpose. This project will also be presented to Council next week.
4. Stain Glass window final repairs should complete next week.
5. Lower-level window replacement. Will complete painting and outdoor finishing touch-ups this spring as part of our spring workday.
6. Parsonage front door is on order and will be installed when it arrives.
7. Update on progress of "Security Review". Progress to date is slow.
8. Freezer seals are replaced. And due to the confusion with the vendor a reduced cost has been given.
9. Update on wall divider in Wesley room. Reviewing options.
10. Review list of long-term projects and assigning of individuals to get estimates will be discussed further at our May 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. Note changes below.
11. Update discussion on lighting in Front of the church. Ongoing discussion with ties to other projects mentioned above. (Updating sign, brick work, etc.)
12. Worship Committee has requested an updated audio system for use on the green to improve sound quality and reduce wind noise during the service. This request was authorized with funds coming from budgeted line items. It was also discussed that any use of this new equipment outside of church activities would require asking for a church donation and only occur if authorized church technicians are available to operate the equipment.
13. An all-church workday will be scheduled for May 19. A list of projects will be collected and posted in fellowship hall prior to the event. Any committee or group can contact Kyle to be added to the list. If the school has a community event for the students to work, we will accommodate their needs for a date change.

Property Management Meeting Minutes continued

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. \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00
4. Sprinkler system for south side of church. \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00
5. Parsonage deck project. \$4,000.00 to \$6,000.00 depending on size
6. Fire prevention equipment at church \$16,000.00
7. Rekeying the church to include electronic locks on the NW entry. Estimate \$4000 to \$20000
8. Electric message for front of church \$12,000.00 to \$13,000.00
9. Possible air exchange system for the sanctuary. Cost TBD

Next meeting MAY 10, 2023, at 6:30. 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.

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.



Family & Friends of
 Mike Peters
 Doris Brown
 Kitty Kokx
 Keith Wells
 Katee Heath
 Donna Beauvais
 Mike Filius
 Jeannie Hansard

Kaycee Bylsma
 Lyon's Grandson, Sean
 Mercedes Sayles
 Verna Gregwer
 Ronda Hamelen Jenkins

Cancer Treatments

Ernie Beavais	Richard Wild
Norm Letsinger	Lori Tupper
Cynthia 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

Earleen Barber	05/05
Don Palmer	05/07
Vicki Spear	05/07
Dan Girvan	05/20
Linda Hundt-Trierweil	05/20
Marilyn Cluchey	05/23
Elaine Curtis	05/26
Barb Pell	05/28



Anniversaries

Terry & Marilyn Cluchey	05/07
Pastor Bill & Robin Haggard	05/07

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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GIVEPLUS⁺
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pentwaterumc.org/giving