

The Circuit Rider

JUNE 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

Summer has only just started, and I know it will be over very quickly. Our foreign exchange student from Germany is already counting down the weeks until her arrival here in Pentwater in August, and I've already started receiving information about fall charge conference reports! Open your heart and life to receive the most from it.

This summer we will celebrate our Faith in Song! Each week at Worship on the Green we will reflect on a piece of music and how it invites us more

deeply into life with God together. These songs include: Be Thou My Vision; Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, Amazing Grace; Jesus; Many & Great, O God; It Only Takes a Spark; Let It Be; Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore; Precious Memories; and In Christ Alone. We will have fun and get to know the songs that have shaped the faith of so many of us. We will also bring back our musical extravaganza on Homecoming Weekend!

And, like last summer, we'll offer a quiet space for prayer at 11:00 on Thursdays beginning June 29 using Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community as our guide. The Corrymeela Community is a Christian community in Northern Ireland committed to the work of peace through prayer-full listening and conversation. Padraig O'Tuama reminds us that "Breath, like prayer, is a cry. Breath, like prayer, can also be an art. Prayer is a small fire lit to keep cold hands warm. Prayer is a practice that flourishes both with faith and doubt. Prayer is asking, and prayer is sitting. Prayer is the breath. Prayer is not an answer, always, because not all questions can be answered."

Saturday, June 24, we open our hearts and lives to something new: Faith on the Lake. This is a chance to grow our faith together. Each participant will have the chance to



The Pastor's Pen continued

sit in on two small group seminars on topics ranging from the Beatitudes to healing and grace, music and how we do life with God together here at Centenary. I have learned a few, small things over 48 years of life. One of them is the illusion of God's absence. He is never absent. We are simply not presence to the graces that daily fall about us. Come and drink in grace!

On page 9 of this newsletter and our Facebook page you will find information on ordering your very own Centenary tee shirt! Cost is about \$23 apiece. You can have them shipped directly to you or to the church. Share our message of grace with your neighbor! The back includes a drawing of the church building by local artist Kitty Kokx! You can find it here:

<https://www.customink.com/g/bby0-00cr-mray>.

I look forward to spending this summer with you as we grow together!



Month of June 2023 at a Glance

Key: ■ Community Activities
No box: Centenary Activities

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

Jun 2023 (Eastern Time - New York)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>28</div> <div>10:30am - Worship @</div> <div>11:30am - Fellowship</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Church Office Closed</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Circuit Rider Annals Due</div> <div>6:30pm - Euohire @</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div> <div>MI Annual Conf @</div> <div>10am - Prayers Squares</div>	<div>3</div> <div>MI Annual Conf @</div> <div>10am - N. Central</div>
<div>4</div> <div>MI Annual Conf @</div> <div>10:30am - Worship @</div> <div>11:30am - Fellowship</div>	<div>5</div> <div>8am - Caramel Corn @</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div>	<div>6</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div> <div>10:30am - Prog Coord'n</div> <div>1pm - PSC Board @</div> <div>2pm - Meditation Group</div> <div>6:30pm - euohire @</div>	<div>7</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div>	<div>8</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div> <div>7pm - Jr. Women's</div>	<div>9</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div> <div>10am - Prayers Squares</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>10:30am - Worship @</div> <div>11:30am - Fellowship</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10:30am - Finance & Op's</div>	<div>13</div> <div>10:30am - Worship Team</div> <div>6:30pm - Euohire @</div>	<div>14</div> <div>6:30pm - Property</div>	<div>15</div> <div>6pm - Sable Dunes</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10am - Prayers Squares</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9am - Michigan Dunes</div> <div>9am - PTW Fire</div>
<div>18</div>	<div>18</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div> <div>9am - Cargiver's Support</div> <div>6:30pm - Pentwater</div>	<div>20</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div> <div>2pm - Meditation Group</div> <div>6pm - Church Council @</div> <div>6pm - Council Zoom Link</div> <div>6pm - West Michigan</div> <div>6:30pm - euohire @</div>	<div>21</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div>	<div>22</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div>	<div>23</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div> <div>10am - Prayers Squares</div>	<div>24</div> <div>8am - Faith on the Lake -</div> <div>1pm - Apothe Hillc</div>
<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Circuit Rider Annals Due</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div>	<div>27</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div> <div>6:30pm - euohire @</div>	<div>28</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div> <div>6pm - Brownie Troop</div>	<div>29</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div>	<div>30</div> <div>8am - West MI SAIL @</div> <div>10am - Prayers Squares</div>	<div>1</div>

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

Praying the Psalms—Praising God

Former Centenary Pastor Mike Tupper once asked me: “What is your favorite psalm?” I was blind-sided; I was a “new” old Christian and not very familiar with the Psalms. His question planted a seed and I began to read and pray the Psalms. One of my favorite books is *Psalms for Praying* by Nan Merrill. Pastor Mike encouraged me to memorize a psalm or two and I am still trying to do that. Have you ever memorized a psalm? Do you have a favorite one, two, or three? My favorites are Psalms 1 and 139. For Psalms of Praise, try reading 148, 149, 150.

Henry Nouwen said of the Psalms, after his experience of living and praying for several months in a Trappist monastery in America, that the Psalms “slowly become flesh in me.....slowly these words enter into the center of my heart. They are more than ideas, images, comparison; they become a real presence.....Many times I have thought if I am ever sent to prison, if I am ever subjected to hunger, pain, torture, or humiliation, I hope and pray that they let me keep the Psalms.....How happy are those who no longer need books but carry the Psalms in their heart wherever they are and wherever they go. Maybe I should start learning the Psalms by heart so that nobody can take them away from me.”

Thomas Merton has called the Psalms “at once the simplest and the greatest of all religious poems. In the Psalms we drink divine praise at its pure and stainless source, in all its primitive sincerity and perfection. We return to the youthful strength and directness with which the ancient psalmist voiced their adoration of the God of Israel”. He cannot write of them except in the context of praise. He sees them as the best possible way of praising God.

- *from The Celtic Way of Prayer by Esther De Waal*

Prayer: Marvelous Maker, we, like the psalmist, are in awe of your creation and your way of Divine Love that flows in and through us and all creation. When lost in the wonder or overwhelmed by a sense of smallness, remind us of the great treasure you find in us and the covenantal relationship you share with us. Flood our minds, our hearts, and our souls with deep praise and thanksgiving for your abiding presence, and the privilege of not only coming into our true selves as we abide in you, but the joy in serving you whole-heartedly that others may encounter the wonder of your love and grace. May we who live by the Spirit know joy and harmony in the everlasting Dance of the Cosmos! In Christ, we pray. Amen.

- *Rev. Laura Berg—The Caring Congregation*

O beloved (that's YOU), you are so rare and beautiful and highly favored in the eyes of your Maker! Amid the noise and distractions of your life, I pray that you will take a moment or two to soak in the wonder of God, to consider the value you are to God and all creation, to marvel at the depths of unconditional love and boundless grace flowing in and from you, and simply be in awe of God's goodness and faithfulness.

Compiled by: Sandy Lyon

Faith by the Lake

Explore

Belong

Grow

Saturday, June 24

9 am to 12 noon

At Centenary UMC

82 S Hancock Street, Pentwater, Michigan

Choose Two Workshops

Theology Done the Pentwater Way

Rev. Dr. Vaughn Thurston-Cox

Introduction to Healing & Faith

Rev. Dr. Blaine Rader

What's Grace Got To Do With Us?

Bishop Sharon Rader

The Faith We Sing!

Jenny Lynn Girvan

The Beatitudes:

The Kingdom Manifesto

Rev. Roy Martens

To register or for more information, contact the
church office at pentwaterumc@gmail.com, 231-869-5900

The Breath of God in Community - Loving God - Serving Others - Welcoming All

Centenary is partnering
with area churches
planning a wonderful

Vacation Bible School

July 25-27, 4 to 7 pm,
at Shelby UMC.

for kindergarten through 6th grade



Summer Heroes

Centenary is pooling resources with our connectional friends and neighbors to create that special summer learning experience for kids. Crafts, songs, recreation, a little science, and worship time. And yes, snacks! In fact, in the late afternoon “snacks” becomes a light supper.

Hart and Shelby Congregational, Shelby and Mears United Methodist, and Centenary have the resources: Shelby’s big church complete with a gym, song leaders young and traditional, science teachers, and congregational cooks.

We’ll need volunteer drivers to take a crew to Shelby. Contact Anne Soles, annesoles@charter.net, 231-239-1694, for information or questions.

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



Prayers & Squares

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31

*“No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another,
God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.” 1 John 4:12*

These two scripture verses bring to my mind what being “the breath of God” means. A few of the members who joined our ministry since its start were not ‘quilters’ or even ‘sewers’ before joining. Yet, as things evolved and folks were swept up in the atmosphere of sacred service God began working to hone skills that were pleasantly surprising.

Creative flow and fellowship emerged...and keeps emerging...that has felt like a warm blanket to all who have needed encouragement. I initially joined P & S thinking it’d be a nice way to serve the community. I later came to understand that it was I who was (and is) being served. “Being the breath of God”, I’ve discovered, is not just something to strive for...it is a life-giving gift that feels wonderful!

As we enter the month of June...a time of fullness...it’s a great period to reflect on ways we can bring Divine light fully into our daily life. Some time ago I remember that it was sort of trendy to ask, “what would Jesus do?”, when faced with a decision. In a recent daily devotional the writer mentioned shifting the question to, “How does Jesus live in me?”. I really felt that one!

A very rewarding quilt exchange that happened as we completed May was designing a quilt for Carmen, Pastor Vaughn’s exchange student from Spain. The experience echoed Spring of last year when we made a quilt for Maren, Pastor Vaughn’s former exchange student. It’s very powerful to witness the delight and awe of these students who recognize that they are returning to the foreign soil of their home armed with a visible token of prayer.



Remember Prayers & Squares as you consider those who may need some ‘light’ physically, emotionally or spiritually this next month. You may contact Kyle in the UMC office, or Pastor Vaughn with quilt requests. We will soon be placing a basket of pocket prayers along with a “sign-out” form at the front office for those who are interested in obtaining some for friends and family members who need encouragement. This seems like a great way for us to keep on top of our

production as the work that goes into making them is pretty time-consuming.

Here’s to a wondrous, light-filled June! Be blessed... **Carrie Roberts**

Centenary T-Shirt

Order yours today

Order deadline is June 21



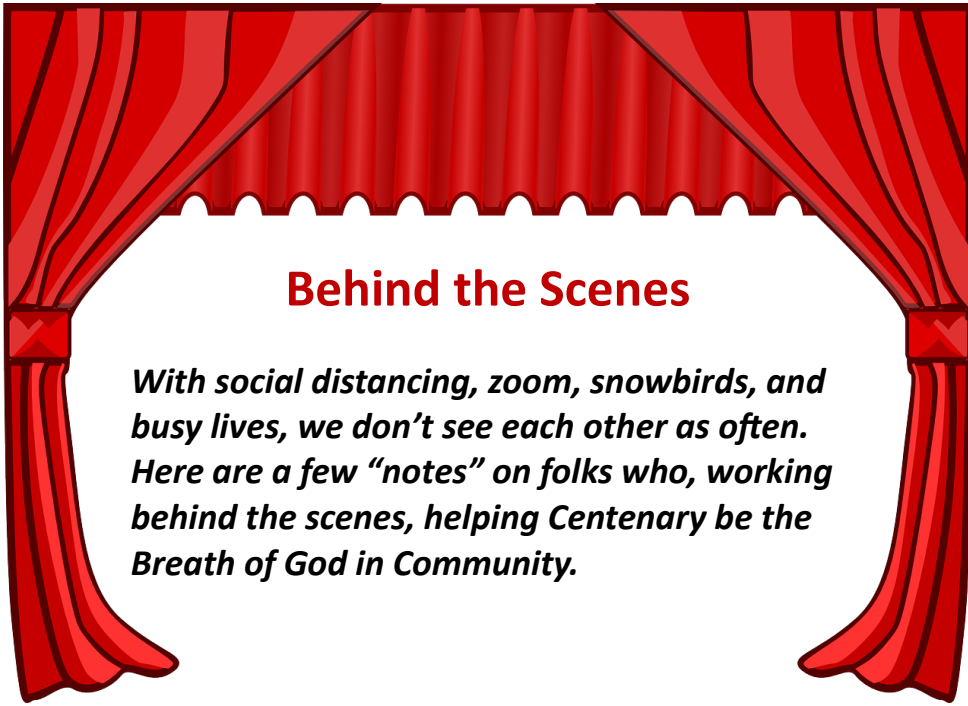
It's summer! After months of plaids, coats, and scarves, it is time for tee shirts! Why not share your love for Centenary while you enjoy the sun? We are working with Custom Ink to produce our own [Centenary United Methodist Church](https://www.customink.com/g/bby0-00cr-mray) tees in Pentwater purple. You can order them from here: <https://www.customink.com/g/bby0-00cr-mray>. Each costs about \$23. A little more if you have them shipped directly to you. Note: The image on the back was drawn by local artist Kitty Kokx

Centenary Cares needs YOU!



Centenary has an active congregational care committee with cards and visits, connecting with individuals at home, in care facilities , and those who have moved away to be near family. We could use some helping hands. The group meets about every six weeks, sponsors a Care Giver Support group, oversees Fellowship Hour - all good and essential services for the congregation. Seasonal and year-round volunteer opportunities. Contact Anne Soles, 231-239-1694, annesoles@charter.net.





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.

When we stroll on to the Village Green, June 25, for 9:30 worship, we will not be the first to arrive! Tents in place, sound equipment, piano, a few chairs on the band stand.... the worship/tech team has prepared the way.

John Faas, Patti Davidson, Keith Danielson, Mark Trierweiler, and company do the set up. This year **Tim Barany** and other recruits will be handing out bulletins, finding spots for visitors, and turning a lawn into a place of worship - *a special Pentwater experience.*

Can you help? Absolutely. One method is to "show up" The group who sets up (and tears down) tents welcomes a hand. Or call the church office with a question (or a skill) Summer means "all hands on deck" We'd love to have your help!

Our wonderful facilities are possible only because of all the work all our volunteers do. On May 19, we held a church workday to clean up the yard, spread wood chips, patch, and paint. Thank you to **John Faas, Bob Jeffries, Ken Konya, Roy Martens, Jane Seelhoff, Ted Towl, Bart Zachrich,** and the **Pentwater High School students** who work for their community service day. We want to send a special thank you to **Jim Crum, Dan Girvan, Mat Hacker, Roy Martens,** and **Mark Trierweiler,** for installing the new windows on the south side. And as always, **Patti Davidson,** cares for our outdoor flowers, ensuring a beautiful church who welcomes all.

Anne Soles (with Mat Hacker contributing)

Church Council Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023

Minutes for Church Council taken by Elaine Konyha
Centenary United Methodist Church, Pentwater Michigan

In attendance: Bart Zachrich, Vaughn Thurston-Cox, Elaine Curtis, Elaine Konyha, Gene Jankowski, Patti Davidson, Jean Russell, Beth Russell, John Faas and Shannon Larson.

Continued on page 11

Church Council Meeting Minutes continued

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 Jean Russel and seconded by Beth Russel. Motion was passed.

Values Workshop Follow Up – It was generally agreed that the Values Workshop in April had been a success and the ministries of the church were working on setting goals for the next year. David DeNolf and John Faas have volunteered to meet with any group who would like help in setting goals and objectives. Goal creation should also be talked about in the Program Coordination Committee as the ministries get together. There should be an annual meeting in the fall for setting goals now that the ministries have some training. The role of the Church Council is to promote this process. As part of this process the Council must set its own goals and objectives.

Council Goal Setting – In this initial discussion 4 goals were suggested and discussed. No final conclusions were reached.

Unified leadership within the Council and between the Council and the congregation. There is an on-line class 'Courageous Conversations' that is designed to help local church hold difficult discussions while maintaining the love we hold for each other. <https://discipleship-ministries.teachable.com/p/courageous-conversation-2022>. The pastor suggested that each member of Council take this class.

After taking the class the Council would practice the concepts and process presented. Increase opportunities for discipleship by encouraging each ministry to discuss how they are meeting the call to be disciples. Establish a process for Ministries to identify and accomplish the goals that they are setting. This would include discussion and evaluation by both the Council and the Ministries. Examine each activity of the church and identify which ministry that activity is part of. This would serve two purposes 1. An intentional church organization and 2. Help to the budget process for Finance and Operations.

Request for approval of Zion Direct for stock Donation- The church currently uses Morgan Stanley to sell stock that has been donated to the church. Zion Investments is an established firm that is designed to do this. Morgan Stanley charges \$50/\$1000 and Zion Investments charges \$10/\$1000. Finance and Operations requested Council approval that they change firms. After discussion Elaine Curtis moved that the change be made with a 2nd by Beth Russell. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance and Operations request for the Kitchen Compliance Coordinator be added to their committee as a voting member. After discussion, Elaine Curtis moved that this position be added to Finance and Operations with a 2nd by Patti Davidson. The motion was passed unanimously. Identification of all CUMC Ministries – for budget and insurance reasons, Finance and Operations

Church Council Meeting Minutes continued

requested that the Council make a list of which activities fall under which ministry. Since this request had been discussed under Council Goal Setting, the request was acknowledged but only briefly discussed at this time.

Pastor Vaughn presented flyers for his summer series of sermons on the Green titled “A Summer in Song with Centenary UMC” and Faith on the Lake.

Pastor Vaughn moved that the meeting be adjourned with a prayer at 7:50 with a 2nd by Bart Zachrich. Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Elaine Konyha

Property Management Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2023

Opening Prayer: Mat Hacker

Approved minutes of 4/12/2023

Present: Zachrich, Faas, Overla, Crum, Martens, Voorheis, G. Richey, S Richey, Pastor Vaughn, Hacker

- 1.Fire prevention plan. John Faas has had contact with EPS and they will install our new control board on May 17. They will connect compatible equipment immediately and the new additional sensors as soon as they are available. Half of the cost of the complete program has been paid.
- 2.Sign project update. Ruggles has been contacted concerning building the brick structure to house the new electric sign. Half of this project has been paid to date. Pentwater bricks will be donated by the Richey's and some others if necessary. The necessary permits will be gotten as soon as possible. We already have city permission for the brick structure and sign.
3. Tuck pointing project: The tuckpointing project will be done by Ruggles. We anticipate an early summer start. Initial estimated cost is \$30.000 on the top side. We expect it will be less unless some unforeseen problems occur. Half of this project has been paid at this time.
4. Stain Glass window project is COMPLETE.
5. Lower-level window replacement. Will complete painting and outdoor finishing touch-ups this spring as part of our spring workday or before.

Property Management Meeting Minutes continued

- 6 Parsonage front door is in. It will be installed as time and weather permit. Roy and Jim will coordinate.
7. Update on progress of "Security Review". Progress to date is slow.
8. Review May 19 workday and current projects: Mulch out front, replace ceiling tiles, work on front down spout paint windows in storage area black, paint frames on new windows on south side of church and any additions.
9. Update on wall divider in Wesley room. Reviewing options.
10. Review list of long-term projects and assigning of individuals to get estimates are as follows: 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.
11. Worship Committee has requested the purchase of some audio equipment. It has been purchased and is in the test stage now. If necessary, it may need to be returned or replaced,
12. Miscellaneous items Reviewed letters from the State of Michigan concerning boiler room correction needed. Tanner needs to inspect our boilers and report to the state. Reviewed checks received from Church Mutual for our participation with their company's insurance program. Pastor Vaughn discussed the "Faith on the Lake" program on June 24. Reviewed the United Methodist Church Conference structure.
13. Reviewed the handouts from the April 29th all church work session. Provided blank project sheets for all committee members to fill out before our next meeting so we can begin the process of formulating our annual goals and objects under the new structure. John and I will consolidate the information.

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. Rekeying the church to include electronic locks on the NW entry. Estimate \$4000 to \$20000
7. Possible air exchange system for the sanctuary. Cost TBD

Next meeting June 14, 2023, at 6:00 IF NEEDED.



Mat Hacker
 Donna Beauvais
 Jeannie Hansard
 Kaycee Bylsma
 Lyon's Grandson, Sean
 Mercedes Sayles
 Verna Gregwer
 Ronda Hamelen Jenkins
 SaintDenis' new
 granddaughter Vivienne

Family & Friends of
 Paul Mac Donald
 Mike Peters

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

Denny Spear	06/01
Ann Marie Overla	06/02
Bill Bluhm	06/08
Nancy DeNolf	06/08
Crystie Koehl	06/09
Janet Waidelich	06/10
Marsha Barter	06/12
Mary Cozart	06/13
Jenny Lynn Girvan	06/21
Rev. Bill Haggard	06/22
Pat Saunders	06/23
Jane VanScoyoc	06/26



Anniversaries

John & Earleen Barber	06/09
Dan & Jenny Lynn Girvan	06/16
Mike & Janet Waidelich	06/25



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.



Scan to connect to
 CUMC Facebook news

GIVE PLUS⁺

Powered By Vanco Payment Solutions

pentwaterumc.org/giving