

The Circuit Rider

JULY 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



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CUMC Facebook news

Our Vision: To be the Breath of God in Community

Our Values: Loving God, Serving Others, Welcoming All

Circuit Rider



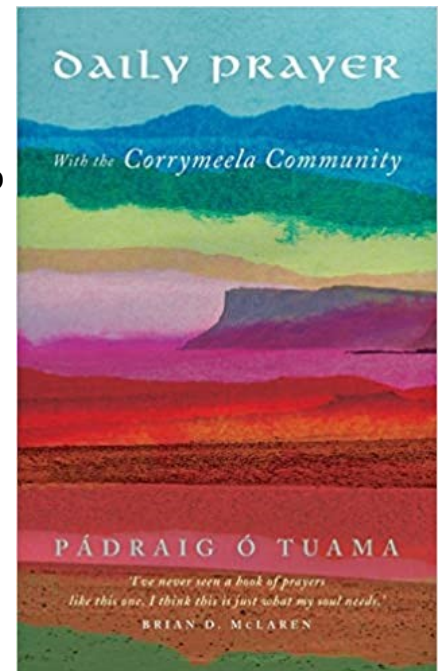
The Pastor's Pen

Rev. Dr. Vaughn Thurston-Cox

Summer means so much for us at Pentwater: long strolls down Hancock with melting ice cream, sunsets on the beach celebrated with the honking of horns, and, for me, Worship on the Green. It's a joy for me to stand in God's great sanctuary of the water, earth, and sky to sing and pray and break open Scripture. I've been looking forward to this summer in particular, as we celebrate our faith in song. Last week we began with one of my favorites, BE THOU MY VISION, an old Irish song written by the blind saint Dallan Forgaill, and

reflected on our own ache to see. This coming week we celebrate the hymns of Charles Wesley with a special focus on LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING. Prayer around Communion will wind itself around God's love and our love for each other. I think many of you will recognize the songs we sing this summer, and the ones you don't will become new friends. Thank you to our worship team for helping me find these songs and organize these services!

Faith by the Lake was so fun! We had close to twenty gather inside on a beautiful Pentwater Saturday to draw close to God through workshops on the Beatitudes, grace, and music. Roy pressed me to rethink my own thinking around each of the Beatitudes and the ways they challenge us to choose a Kingdom life; Jenny Lynn affirmed the role singing has played in my life with God and the language it gives us for prayer; Sharon spoke eloquently on grace for many. We will follow-up this event with more opportunities to grow your faith with a small group on faith and healing led by Blaine Rader beginning Wednesday, July 19, at 7:00 PM. Pastor Vaughn will lead a brief midweek prayer service utilizing DAILY PRAYER WITH THE CORRYMEELA COMMUNITY on Thursdays at 11:00 AM in the library.



Some changes you will probably not notice but should be noted. Beginning July our district lines move north, and we will be overseen by a new district superintendent, Rev. Jodie Flessner. Pastor Hillary has worked with her since our arrival, and I've heard nothing but good things.

The Pastor's Pen continued

This change connects us a bit more closely with St. Paul and Ludington UMCs, who are already fairly close neighbors.

This change is representative of a larger shift in our conference and denominational structures. In the face of Covid related decline and disaffiliations our conference is moving from nine districts to seven. Technology plays a role as the offices themselves are moving into cyberspace, with no physical address. District superintendents can simply now go where they are needed or Zoom in from their home office.

In 2024 the United Methodist Church will be holding its first general conference since 2019. Normally these come and go with little notice. Twenty twenty-four will be different. Delegates from our churches in Africa and the Philippines are sponsoring legislation designed to preserve the unity of our church through a process of regionalization. Seven new regional bodies would oversee ministry in their own corner of the world, including the United States. Each region would maintain the core of United Methodist belief and practice while being able to tailor other paragraphs of the DISCIPLINE to their own ministry context. United Methodists overseas have had some ability to do this already as members of central conferences.

Regionalization gives American United Methodists a way forward to re-imagine church in the twenty-first century. Early conversations will focus on making room for all of us who want to be a part of a big tent church. I can't know where those conversations will land, but I expect an American United Methodist Church would return to something similar to the One Church Plan, giving us the freedom to live together even if we do not always agree. Such a plan frees us to focus our efforts on renewing a vital United Methodism, such as we do here in Pentwater.

If you made it this far into my article, thank you. You are all forever in my heart. This time has been difficult for those of us who have spent so much of our lives as United Methodists, but it is giving way to a future full of grace and hope. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Be the Breath, ***Pastor Vaughn***



Jenny Lynn Girvan, whose license plate reads, 'Sng4Joy,' conducts a workshop about the joy of singing and how singing helps us grow in our relationship with our Heavenly Father during Faith by the Lake.

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

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

Refrigerator Wisdom I've been wanting to share these thoughts for a long time and I guess now is that time. Taped to our refrigerator door are school pictures of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren—and other pictures that I deem “Precious”. Also taped to the door (front and sides) are thoughts that encourage, inspire, and remind. You may all have such things on yours, too. It tells something about us and our stage in this wonderful life. Please feel free to copy any of these quotes to share with friends and family—to encourage, inspire and remind.- *Sandy Lyon*

Life is short and we never have too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the journey with us. Oh—be swift to love, make haste to be kind. - *Henri-Frederic Amiel*

Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again. - *L. Frank Baum*

it takes grace to remain kind in cruel situations (*author unknown*)

Lament is a necessary stage in the creative resolution of terrible situations and suffering. This opens the new pathway through and ahead.—What do you need to do to ensure that you will not be destroyed by your pain and anguish, or made completely numb by apathy? - *Christine Paintner*

“Repeat after me. I don’t have to have it all figured out today.” - *New Yorker/Lawrence Lindell*

Don’t be afraid of your sorrow or grief or rage. They come from your caring. - *Joanna Macy*

My destination is no longer a place but a way of seeing. - *M. Proust*

I once asked a bird, “How do you fly in this gravity of darkness?” And she replied, “Love lifts me.” - *Hafiz*

Caregiver’s 10 Commandments Always-Always

AGREE - Never Argue	REASSURE - Never Lecture	DISTRACT - Never Shame
REDIRECT - Never Reason	REMINISCE - Never say “Remember”	ASK—Never Command
ENCOURAGE AND PRAISE - Never Condescend	REPEAT - Never say “I already told you”	SAY “DO WHAT YOU CAN”— Never say “You can’t”
REINFORCE—Never Force	- <i>Senior Resources/Muskegon</i>	

At some point in life the world’s beauty becomes enough. You don’t need to photograph, paint or even remember it. It is enough. No record of it needs to be kept and you don’t need someone to share it with or tell it to. When that happens—that letting go—you let go because you can. - *Toni Morrison*

Here must be always remaining in every life, some place for the singing of angels, some place for that which in itself is breathlessly beautiful. - *Howard Thurman*

Compiled by: *Sandy Lyon*

Summer Study - Faith and Healing

This year's class will be focusing on healing from a faith perspective. We will look at physical, mental, and spiritual healing.

We will meet on four Wednesday evenings at the church from 7:00 to 8:30pm

- July 19 our focus will be on scripture
- July 26 we will look at tradition focusing particularly on the Wesleyan tradition.
- August 2 the focus will be on our personal experiences and the experiences of others.
- August 9 we will examine reason and science.



For over a dozen summers Blaine Rader has offered short religious studies at Centenary UMC. Rev. Dr. Rader is a retired UMC pastor. He was ordained in 1964 and has had a diverse ministry. He has taught psychology to undergraduates at Adrian College and pastoral counseling to graduate students in several Chicago area seminaries and universities. He has been clinical and executive director of a number of pastoral counseling centers. He also has been lead pastor of two large UMC congregations. He holds a Ph.D. in psychology and religion from Drew University and has been a licensed clinical psychologist in Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin.



A Summer in Song With Centenary UMC

This summer Centenary celebrates the summer in song. Each week we will bring together Scripture and pieces of music from the ancient to the modern to celebrate and explore faith community. All are welcome to join us on the Village Green Sundays at 9:30. Bring a chair or a blanket. We provide the shade.

June 25

Be Thou My Vision

July 2

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,

And Other Wesley Hymns

July 9

Jesus, By Rich Mullins

July 16

Let It Be, By the Beatles

July 23

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore,

Celebrating our Hispanic Community

July 30

In Christ Alone, By the Gettys

August 6

Amazing Grace, Rev. Sue Trowbridge

August 13

A Musical Extravaganza

August 20

Many & Great, O God,

Celebrating our Native American Past

August 27

It Only Takes a Spark,

And other camp songs

September 3

Precious Memories,

And Other Gospel Songs

We are grateful to be the breath of God in community by loving God, serving others, and welcoming all.

*Photo by Norman K. Booth.

COKESBURY'S

HERO HOTLINE

Called Together
to Serve God!



Methodist Churches involved:
Shelby, Mears, Hart and
Pentwater

&
Shelby & Hart Congregational
United Church of Christ



Vacation Bible School

July 25-27

4pm—7pm

At Shelby United Methodist Church

Ages are from K-5th Grade

Register at the churches mentioned above

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 joining with Hart Methodist, Shelby Methodist, Hart Congregational, Shelby Congregational and Mears UMC for a community Vacation Bible School in July. We'll help with transportation, helpers, teachers, and supplies. ***Hero Hotline is the theme***

Working together, our Vacation Bible School experience with group children as K-1st , 2nd - 3rd, and 4th -5th. The talents of dedicated teachers and leaders (and cooks) coming together for this July experience has been amazing. This HERO HOTLINE may be just the experience a child you know is looking for this summer.

**Summer is a time for children.
Vacation Bible School is children's time!
Let's round up some kids!**

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

“Jesus does not demand great actions from us but simply surrender and gratitude.”

- *St. Theresa of Lisieux*

“God is not found in the soul by adding anything, but by a process of subtraction.”

- *Meister Eckhart*

“I must grow smaller so He can grow greater.” (Said by John the Baptist) - John 3:30

Now officially in Summer, as I witness vacationers relaxing at the beach or enjoying a campfire, it's gotten me to think about how Summer offers us opportunities to 'stop'. Too often, many of us get caught up in the act of relentless 'doing' thinking that a happy, successful life requires us to micromanage it.

As you reflect on the three passages at the beginning of this article, you'll notice a common theme. God is all good, all powerful, and sufficient unto Himself. When we remember to give God room to be God, by “subtracting” that which keeps us distracted by petty concerns... or by “surrendering” to a higher, wiser will for us... or by “growing smaller” ego-wise, beautiful and wondrous things occur.

The last week of June we prepared a quilt for Bill Bluhm. It was “tied” by members of the congregation at the first Worship on the Green. Bill's been struggling with kidney problems and has recently been hospitalized. In the past, he would show up at our Friday sessions from time to time with samples of quilts he was creating. We enjoyed sharing his achievements and supporting him in his efforts. This connection opened a space in which Bill is getting to experience being 'held in love'. Not because he “earned” it. But, because of the grace offered freely to “those who have faith”.



The first week of July we will be starting something new. On the table in the front lobby there will be a small basket with pocket squares. Folks are invited to take one. If you'd like more, to give friends or family, there will be a request form next to the basket you can fill out to order more. Any requests for lap quilts can be made through Kyle or Pastor Vaughn

May July offer you plenty of time for fun and relaxation. Have a happy “4th”...may it be a significant reminder of your many ‘freedoms’!

Blessings to all... **Carrie Roberts**

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.

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



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

Church Council Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2023

Centenary United Methodist Church, Pentwater MI

Minutes for Church Council taken by Elaine Konyha

Attending: Bart Zachrich, Elaine Curtis, Pastor Vaughn Thurston-Cox, George Van Scoyoc, John Faas, Gene Jankowski, Jean Russell, Susan MacGregor, Sandy Lyon, Shannon Larson and Elaine Konyha

At 6:00PM Pastor Vaughn opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Minutes from last month were presented. A motion was made by Elaine Curtis to accept the Minutes with a 2nd by Jean Russell. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #1. John Faas on behalf of the Finance Committee. A member of the congregation wanted to donate money to cover the cost of the new sign for the front of the church. The condition of the gift was that a plaque would be placed on the sign saying, "In memory of _____". A motion was made by Susan MacGregor that the Council agreed to having a memorial plaque on the sign with the approval of the Property management committee for the lifetime of the sign. The motion was seconded by Sandy Lyon and the vote was unanimous in approval. It was noted that a policy regarding memorial signage needed to be created.

Item #2. Ministry Goal Setting – Next Steps. The council discussed the topic and agreed that ministries should attend the Program Coordination Meetings and discuss their goals, objectives, and progress with measurement.

Item #3. Council Goal Setting. The council looked back at the May Meeting minutes where 4 goals were identified. A 5th goal was identified by Pastor Vaughn. In January the Church Council will establish benchmarks throughout the calendar year for Church activities. The 5 goals were discussed. A motion was made by George Van Scoyoc to accept the goals in concept with the condition that the goals be rewritten by a subcommittee. Jean Russell 2nd the motion and it passed unanimously. A subcommittee was formed of George Van Scoyoc, Pastor Vaughn, and Bart Zachrich. The subcommittee will report to the Church Council next month.

Item #4: The Finance and Operations Committee has requested that the Council identify the activities of the Church and the Ministries that they are associated with. The Church Council has accepted this as the 4th Goal for the coming year. The first step to be taken is to ask Kyle if there is a current list.

Church Council Meeting Minutes continued

Item #5: Should the Church Council speak on the issue of human sexuality and the LGBTQ+ community that is being discussed by the Methodist Church as a whole. Pastor Vaughn presented a handout "Timeline & Facts Surrounding Splintering of the United Methodist Church" and reviewed that document with the Church Council. The Church Council discussed how best to communicate this information to the congregation. Several options were suggested. The Council concluded that the best option was for Pastor Vaughn to write an article on the topic and publish it in the Circuit Rider Newsletter. This article would ask people to contact the pastor if they had questions. The pastor will note the number and substance of the questions and report back to the Council. If there is sufficient concern the Council will take further steps to communicate with the congregation. A copy of the handout is available at the church office.

A motion was made at 8:40 PM to adjourn the meeting which was passed unanimously.

2023 Facilities Improvements

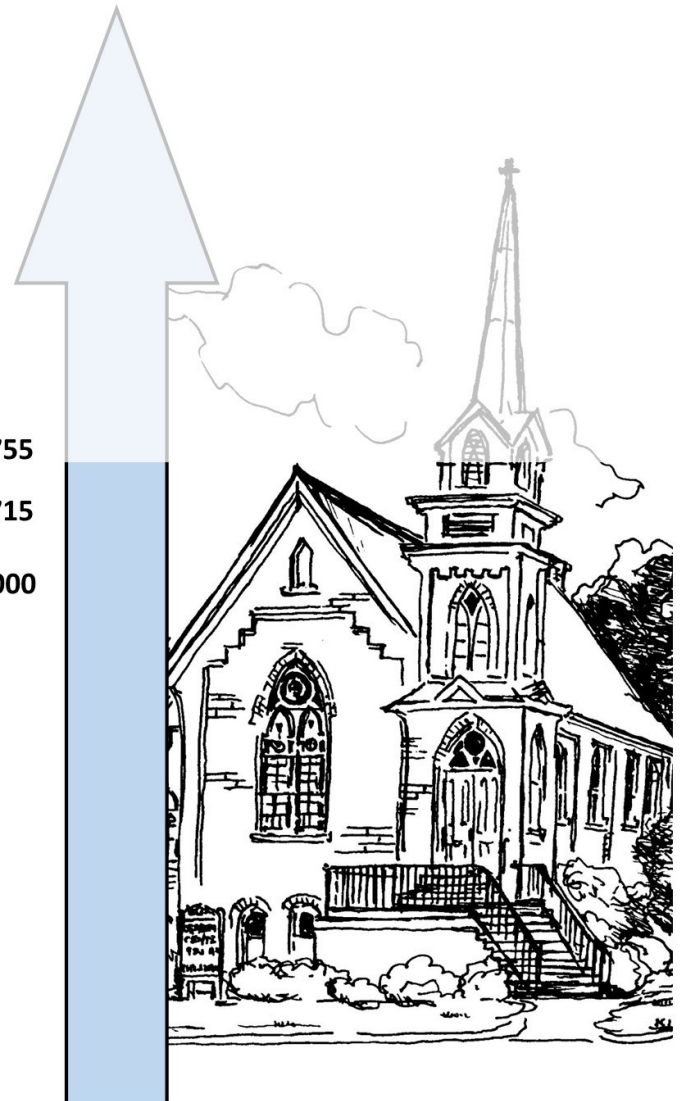
We are blessed to have received gifts and pledges of \$41,755 toward our goal of \$60,000 to pay for updating and expanding our fire alarm system, replacing the deteriorating church sign, and tuckpointing and sealing the outer bricks of the church. Please consider sending a contribution or making a pledge to help us reach our goal. Feel free to contact Mat Hacker, onehackman@aol.com, 630-215-5461, or John Faas, faasjo@yahoo.com, 574-214-9667, for more information.

Goal: \$60,000

6/26/2023: \$41,755

5/22/2023: \$38,715

4/30/2023: \$32,000





Bill Bluhm
Winter Vaughn (new kidney)
Mat Hacker
Kaycee Bylsma
Donna Beauvais
Ronda Hamelen Jenkins

Family & Friends of
Millie Petersen Hamlin

Cancer Treatments

Bob DeNolf	Dale Trierweiler
Ernie Beavais	Suzanne Richey
Norm Letsinger	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

Beth Russell	07/02
Deb Palmer	07/08
Mary Hartsuiker	07/10
Harry Barter	07/15
Gene Jankowski	07/29



Anniversaries

Dave & Nancy DeNolf	07/10
Jerry & Ann Marie Overla	07/26



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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