



Centenary United Methodist Church

PO Box 111

82 S. Hancock St.

Pentwater, MI 49449

The Circuit Rider

AUGUST 2023



Centenary United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Vaughn W. Thurston-Cox, Pastor



Church Office: (231) 869-5900

Office Hours: Mon - Thur, 9am - 12pm

Email: pentwaterumc@gmail.com

Website: pentwaterumc.org

Facebook.com/5H20centenaryumc



Scan to connect to
CUMC Facebook news

Our Vision: To be the Breath of God in Community

Our Values: Loving God, Serving Others, Welcoming All

Circuit Rider



The Pastor's Pen

Rev. Dr. Vaughn Thurston-Cox

It is a beautiful Pentwater morning, and I'm just sitting down after helping to clear the Wesley Room for Wednesday's blood drive. Organized by one of our Pentwater Falcons, we were able to offer them our air conditioned space. It is a collaborative community project that exemplifies the ways Centenary becomes the breath of God in community. I'll be giving and hope you will too.

In the meanwhile, conversations are already going around the office around organizing ourselves for

community dinners. Menus have been selected, and team leaders are beginning to organize for volunteers. This year volunteering will be simplified through Sign-Up genius, which several organizations are using throughout town. There's hope that this approach will expand our volunteer base and even out the work load across the fall and winter. If you find the link but need help, please don't hesitate to contact the church office. And, if you haven't thought about helping, it really is a great place to have a good time and -again- become the breath of God in for our community.

Monday, September 4, is always special for me. We take just a little time to chalk the school's walk for students who will be starting school the very next morning. Rainbows. Trees. Flags for our foreign exchange students. This is the kind of thing that makes Pentwater a special place to be. I bring the chalk. You bring your love for these kids, some of who will just be starting and others who are preparing to graduate. This is especially nice for new families coming into our community and are just getting to know us.

I look at all three of these activities, and I smile, because these are the kind of things that Jesus went about doing, the kind of things that made his heart smile. We don't have to solve the problems of the world; we need only love those God gives us to love here.

Sunday, September 10, we return to our sanctuary from Worship on the Green for Purple and Gold Sunday. We celebrate our local school and pray for our students. Chad Sampson, a new hire, will speak very briefly about how faith shapes his work there. In the meanwhile we continue our way through a Summer in Song. I have enjoyed these last several weeks

The Pastor's Pen continued

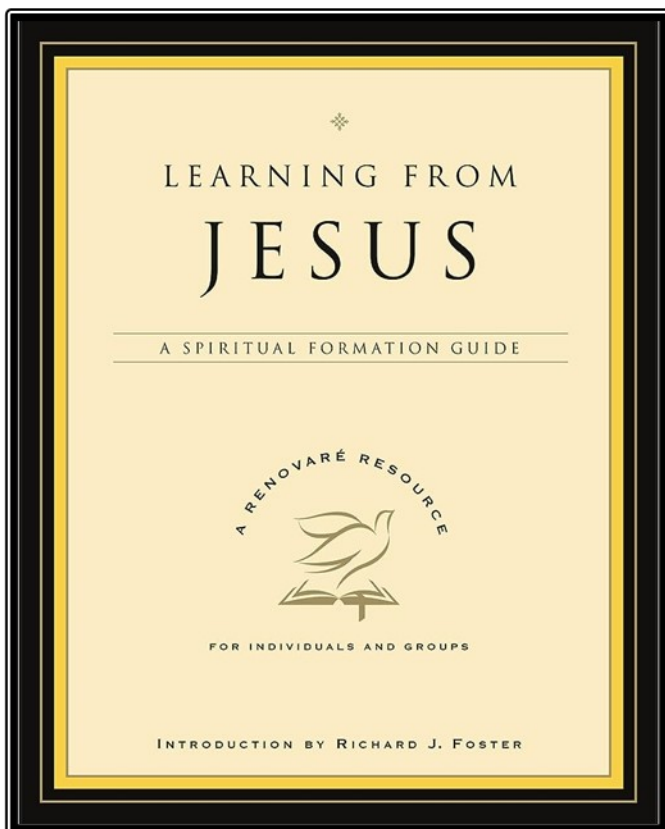
highlighting the ways music shapes our life with God. I am especially looking forward to reflecting on John Newton's ***Amazing Grace*** and Kurt Kaiser's ***It Only Takes a Spark***. Who doesn't have great memories sitting around a campfire and singing that last song as camp's about to close! The very last Sunday I learn a new song, Precious Memories, and we give thanks for the 2023 summer season.

Going into fall, watch for information about our upcoming Sunday small group study, Learning from Jesus. It is a twelve unit study that focuses on the life and teaching of Christ who is both our rabbi-teacher. He is the life in us that we breathe out into our community. When we take Jesus seriously, he challenges us as individuals and a society. Each week we'll not only read Scripture but snippets from authors who take us deep into the heart of God.

You may also notice a bit of dust as we return to our building. With the help of many generous donors we are completing an overhaul of our fire alarm systems, including new sensors in our kitchen and sanctuary, maintain our Pentwater brick, and build a new electronic sign encased in donated brick. That sign will be wifi capable and advertise events here and in our community.

Thank you for being a part of our community and making this a place where we know Jesus and make him known.

Be the Breath, **Pastor Vaughn**



What: Learning from Jesus: A Spiritual Formation Guide

When: Begins Sunday, October 1, at 9:15. There are twelve units. We will go through the material at the group's pace.

Who: Anyone and everyone.

Why: To deepen your understanding of the life and teaching of Jesus and the Gospels, as well as go more deeply into your own life with God.

How: Purchase your book on [christianbook.com](https://www.christianbook.com) or [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Come having completed the first unit on October 1.

Month of August 2023 at a Glance

For the most up to date
schedule and details, go to
[pentwaterumc.org/
calendar](http://pentwaterumc.org/calendar)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8am - West MI SAIL @ 10:30am - Worship Team @ 2pm - Meditation Group @ 6:30pm - euchre @ Wesley	2 8am - West MI SAIL @ 7pm - Summer Study - Faith	3 8am - West MI SAIL @ 9am - Irish Prayer @ Library	4 8am - West MI SAIL @ 10am - Prayers Squares @	5
6 9:30am - Worship on the	7 8am - Caramel Corn @ 8am - West MI SAIL @ 1pm - PSC Board @ Music	8 8am - West MI SAIL @ 9am - Caramel Corn @ 6:30pm - Euchre @ Wesley	9 8am - West MI SAIL @ 6pm - Property Management 7pm - Summer Study - Faith	10 8am - West MI SAIL @ 8:30am - Parsonage Rug 9am - Irish Prayer @ Library	11 8am - West MI SAIL @ 10am - Prayers Squares @	12
13 9:30am - Worship on the	14 8am - West MI SAIL @ 10:30am - Finance & Op's	15 8am - West MI SAIL @ 2pm - Meditation Group @ 6pm - Church Council @ 6pm - Council Zoom Link @ 6pm - West Michigan SAIL @ 6:30pm - euchre @	16 8am - West MI SAIL @	17 8am - West MI SAIL @ 9am - Irish Prayer @ Library	18 8am - West MI SAIL @ 10am - Prayers Squares @	19 9:30am - NCBA @ Fellowship 11am - Michigan Dunes
20 9:30am - Worship on the	21 8am - West MI SAIL @ 6:30pm - Pentwater Lake	22 8am - West MI SAIL @ 6:30pm - euchre @ Wesley	23 8am - West MI SAIL @ 1pm - Community Dinner	24 8am - West MI SAIL @ 9am - Irish Prayer @ Library	25 8am - West MI SAIL @ 10am - Prayers Squares @	26
27 9:30am - Worship on the	28 Circuit Rider Articles Due 8am - West MI SAIL @	29 8am - West MI SAIL @ 6:30pm - euchre @ Wesley	30 8am - West MI SAIL @	31 8am - West MI SAIL @ 9am - Irish Prayer @ Library		

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

Christ's Ministry and Ours

Henri Nouwen, cherished theologian, priest, professor, and writer, modeled the healing ministry of Jesus among the poor and disenfranchised. He writes: "We serve the world by being spiritually well. The first question is not, "How much do we do?" or "How many people do we help out?" but "Are we interiorly at peace?" Jesus' actions flowed from his interior communion with God. If you are living in communion with God and in community with people, you cannot do other than minister. Ministry is not just something you do next. Ministry is the overflow of your love for God and for your fellow human beings."

Prayer: Emmanuel, God-with-us, we give you our thanks and praise. As we pause to abide in the mystery of your love and grace, fill our hearts and minds to overflowing. Increase our understanding of your powerful love and presence at work in all things, in all peoples, in all places, and circumstances. Teach us, through Jesus' gift of presence, how to be present in others' weaknesses and vulnerable situations, trusting that your Holy Spirit is present long before we arrive as your humble servants. Help us to always be compassionate and grateful. Thank you for your steadfast love and constant abiding in us. We love you and your mysterious ways, O God. Amen.

- *Pastor Laura Berg - The Caring Congregation*

A Blessing:

May the light of your soul guide you.

May the light of your soul bless the work you do with the secret love and warmth of your heart.

May you see in what you do the beauty of your own soul.

May the sacredness of your work bring healing, light and renewal to those who work with you and to those who see and receive your work.

May your work never weary you.

May it release within you wellsprings of refreshment, inspiration and excitement.

May the day never burden you.

May dawn find you awake and alert, approaching your new day with possibilities and promises.

May evening find you gracious and fulfilled.

May you go into the night blessed and sheltered.

May your soul calm, console and renew you.

- *John O'Donohue*

Compiled by: *Sandy Lyon*





August 23, 2023

**1 to 2 pm
Fellowship Hall**

Snacks will be involved

COMMUNITY DINNER VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

Have you ever planned a large event and had no idea if anyone would help you? The congregation of Centenary and the Pentwater Community have always stepped up to help prepare, serve, and clean up the Wednesday Community Dinners, but Peggy and Elaine never really know if enough people will show up to help.

This year we are asking volunteers to sign up on dates you can help, using the program *Sign-Up Genius*. Many of you already use this program for other organizations and for those of you who do not currently use it, it is very easy. Here is the link [Sign Up Genius](#). This link will appear on emails from the church, on our Facebook page and on our church website.

A volunteer meeting will be held on August 23 where we will demonstrate how Sign-up Genius works. You can also call Kyle in the church office or Janet Waidelich, 858-774-1511, if you need help. If you want us to sign you up, we are also happy to do that. After you sign up, you will receive an email confirmation and a few days before your slot you will receive an email reminder. Our hope is that through the use of this tool we will also be able to connect more easily with members of the community who want to help, but are not part of our church congregation.

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. Two more classes scheduled for August, feel free to drop in!

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

- 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.



*Photo by Norman K. Booth.

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

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.

ReNew to Be the Breath of God in Community

Find your place in our Ministries

When we have combed August out of our schedules and the heat and extra visitors have eased, we look at a new program year. Seasonal and year-rounders alike take a moment to readjust commitments. These commitments are the engine power for ministries - in person or as a part of a group.

Bell Choir will be resuming rehearsals in September. New members are always welcome. If you can read music and tap your toes come see what this is all about. There's no obligation by visiting a rehearsal, on Wednesdays after the Community Dinner. For more information, contact Steve Russell at slrussell423@gmail.com, 423-364-9779.

Community Dinners begins right after Labor Day. Janet Waidelich has offered to help organize volunteer jobs (see article on page 6). Cooks, servers, potato peelers, clean up crew. Many hands are needed.

Quilters for Prayers and Squares which meets on Friday mornings. Stitching, piecing, ironing, you need not be skilled in sewing to help.

Centenary Cares needs folks who can visit the homebound, help with cards, and organizing in-home meals in time of surgery or illness.

Property Management The standing committee can always use project volunteers for their repair and cleanup projects.

Children's Ministries Class session during church needs volunteers as does the nursery. We do not need help every week, but your assistance is precious at some times.

Advent and Thanksgiving Baskets help assemble and distribute meal baskets at Thanksgiving and children's gifts baskets at Christmas.

Adult classes you can join a short-term study for adults or even teach a class if your interest and experience lead in that direction.

Tech help Yes! We can use assistance with worship Facebook feeds and the sound system, use of ZOOM and the Owl. Raise your hand!

Office help Kyle Jansen, administrator, needs project assistance e.g., mailings and fill-ins for times when she must leave the desk. Mondays – Thursday morning office hours.



As we go around the corner at month's end, be assured, we need your help!

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 (via Zoom), John Faas, Gene Jankowski, Jean Russell, Susan MacGregor, Sandy Lyon, Shannon Larson, David DeNolf, Beth Russell, 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 Beth Russell to accept the Minutes with a 2nd by Elaine Curtis. The motion passed unanimously.

John Faas as Treasurer presented the Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2023, and Treasurer's report as of June 30, 2023.

The Finance Committee asked a question of the Church Council. "Should Finance and Operations team oversee the endowments? If so, the charter will need to be amended and signed at the next charge conference meeting. If no, then a committee needs to be assigned to that task." After discussion, a motion was made to give Finance and Operations Committee the authority to make a decision regarding who will oversee our endowment within existing policy. Finance and Operations will then return to the Church Council regarding that decision. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Finance and Operations committee asked the council for guidance on procedures when church members are raising money for groups other than Centenary UMC. After discussion, the Church Council agreed that anyone wishing to raise money for groups outside the church should present the idea to the Program Coordination Committee. The idea would be considered to fit with the vision and mission of the church. Then the ministry that was responsible for the fundraising would present the idea to the Church Council. Finance and Operations would then receive the funds and distribute them. The Church Council recommended that John Faas take this recommendation back to Finance and Operations.

The Finance and Operations Committee recommended to the Church Council that a 4th person be appointed as an official signature on checks written by the church. Current signers are John Faas, Janet Waidelich, and Jim MacGregor. Since these people are not always available, a 4th was requested. The Church Council recommended that a 4th person be appointed.

The amended Goals of the Church Council were presented to the Church Council. There was a

Church Council Meeting Minutes continued

discussion of the 5 Goals. Members of the Church Council will prayerfully consider these goals over the next month for discussion, amendment, and acceptance of the Goals with timelines for implementation.

The question of identifying Ministries was presented. It is a request of the Finance and Operations Committee and a possible goal for Church Council. The definition of a ministry was also being considered. The book Simple Governance by Stefan Ross was brought up and will be referenced for a definition that is acceptable to the Church Council.

Bart Zachrich brought up the topic of Charge Conference responsibilities. A blank Profile of the Church was handed out to the Council. Council members will fill this form out individually and give it to Bart to use to fill out the official version. Bart will email copies of last year's profile for members to reference.

Bart asked Elaine Curtis for pictures that she might have of the Church Council to use in a rack card. Elaine will look to see if she has any appropriate pictures.

A motion was made at 8:55 PM to adjourn the meeting, which was passed unanimously, and Pastor Vaughn closed with a prayer.

Vacation Bible School: Day One

The meerkat puppet was a huge success. First graders thought he was real....at first. Pam Mitteer from Shelby UMC created a clever puppet stage. The work with magnets in the science room and the story teller in costume all got good reviews as did the mint chocolate cookies...better than chocolate covered gram cookies.

First of a three day, Vacation Bible School kicked off July 26 the at Shelby Church with help of Shelby Congregational, Centenary UMC of Pentwater, Mears UMC, and Hart Congregational. Shelby has the idea facility...even a multipurpose recreation room. Great effort. Making friends, new and old.



Anne Soles

Property Management Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2023

Opening Prayer: Pastor Vaughn Approved minutes of 5/10/2023

Present: Bart Zachrich, John Faas, Jerry Overla, Jim Crum, Dennis Voorheis, Pastor Vaughn, Mat Hacker

1. Fire prevention plan. New control board is installed, and current equipment is operational. Remainder of new equipment to be installed in August.
2. Sign project update. New electronic sign is here and will be tested in the next few days. Permanent installation is expected in August /September once brick structure is built.
3. Tuck pointing project: Expected to begin in August along with the sign project.
4. Lower-level window replacement. Completed
5. Parsonage front door is in. It will be installed tentatively on August 21. Jim and Roy will evaluate needs to repair broken window in study area of the parsonage.
6. Update on progress of "Security Review". Progress has been very slow. Jim Crum will assume leadership role of this project with all current members remaining on the subcommittee.
7. Review May 19 workday projects completed. Discussed getting stone for around garbage and recycle containers before winter.
8. Update on wall divider in Wesley room. Currently on hold.
9. Postponed 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.
10. Worship Committee has requested the purchase of some audio equipment. New equipment was received does not work and will be returned for credit. Other options are being considered.
11. The State of Michigan boiler room correction is completed. Tanner has completed their inspection and we're waiting on state license to arrive.
12. Reviewed the handouts from the April 29th all church work session. Discussed formalizing the roll and responsibilities of the Property Management team to be discussed at our next meeting to be submitted to Council for consideration.
13. Discussed getting a more secure waterproof display container for the chalk in front of the church to reduce damage and loss of chalk to weather. Jim will look into this project.

Continued on page 13

Property Management Meeting Minutes (continued)

14. Will call rug cleaners to get the parsonage rugs cleaned in accordance with our contract.

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 to \$2,000
4. Sprinkler system for south side of church. \$1,500 to \$2,000
5. Parsonage deck project. \$4,000 to \$6,000 depending on size
6. Rekeying the church to include electronic locks on the NW entry. Estimate \$4000 to \$20,000
7. Possible air exchange system for the sanctuary. Cost TBD

2023 Facilities Improvements

Goal: \$60,000

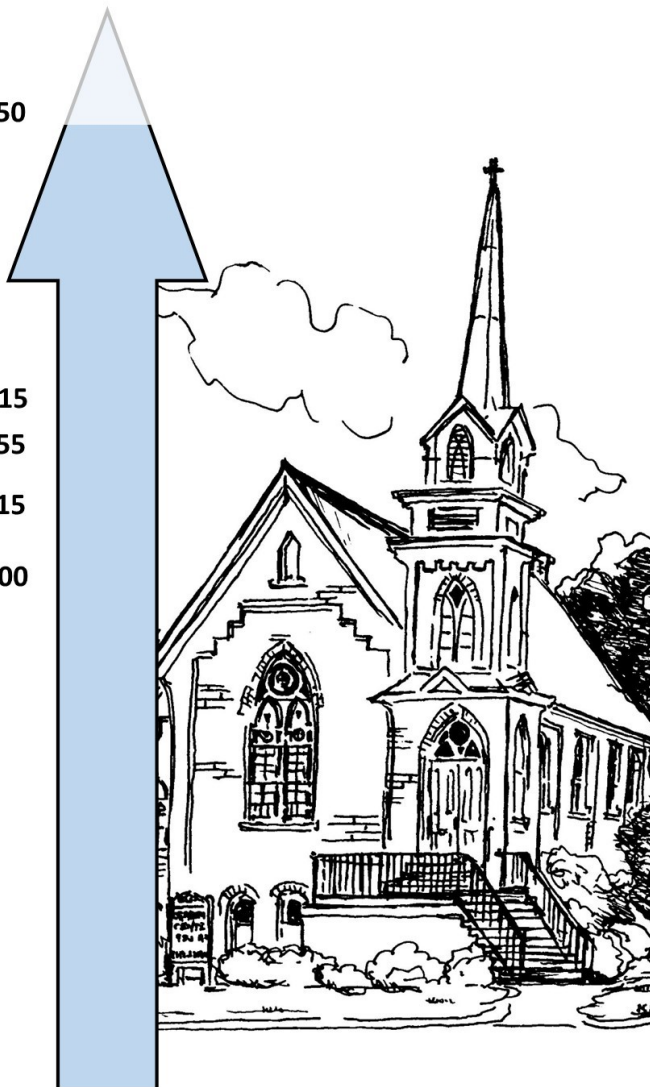
7/24/2023: \$57,450

6/26/2023: \$42,315

6/26/2023: \$41,755

5/22/2023: \$38,715

4/30/2023: \$32,000



Next meeting
August 9, 2023, at 6:00

We are blessed to have received gifts and pledges of \$57,450 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. Feel free to contact Mat Hacker, onehackman@aol.com, 630-215-5461, or John Faas, faasjo@yahoo.com, 574-214-9667, for more information.



Mark Trierweiler
Steve Thomas
Bill Bluhm
Winter Vaughn
Mat Hacker
Kaycee Bylsma
Donna Beauvais
Ronda Hamelen Jenkins

Family & Friends of:

Jack & Julia Mustard
Mary Cozart
Rodney Lentz

Cancer Treatments

Praise for Bob DeNolf's (Dave's brother) successful operation and no further chemo treatment is needed.
Suzanne Richey
Ernie Beauvais
Norm Letsinger
Dale Trierweiler
Richard Wild

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



Birthdays

Kristin Forester	08/07
Richard Nelson	08/10
Donna Miller	08/11
John Faas	08/11
Mike Waidelich	08/13
Susan MacGregor	08/15
Juanita Pierman	08/16
Jill Miller	08/17
Glenn Miller	08/22



Anniversaries

Harry & Marsha Barter	08/07
Gerald & Linda Slughter	08/12
Larry & Anne Konopka	08/15
Mark & Melinda Trierweiler	08/15
Bob & Kristin Forester	08/16
Denny & Vicki Spear	08/17
Don & Deb Palmer	08/24
Bob & Diane Larson	08/25
Stephen & Jennifer Kruto	08/29
Vaughn & Hillary Thurston-Cox	08/30
Lloyd & Mary Hartsuiker	08/31

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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GIVE PLUS⁺

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pentwaterumc.org/giving