



Paw Paw United Methodist Church

News from Pastor Buff Coe

Newsletter Article - February 2022

It was March of 2020 when the pandemic hit. Schools closed, bars and restaurants closed, everyone who could work from home did so, and churches switched to online worship. As the months went by, more and more things began to open, until finally, in December of that year, the vaccine became available. I remember in the spring of 2021 when the Centers for Disease Control lifted its masking recommendation, it felt like being let out of prison! But then came the dangerous Delta variant and now we are dealing with Omicron. While Omicron appears to be less deadly than its predecessors, it is extremely contagious and new infections have soared.

I know that watching a worship service online is not the same as being there in person, but for the sake of your fellow worshippers, if you are not feeling well, if you have recently tested positive for Covid, or if you have recently been in close contact with someone who tested positive for Covid, please do not attend worship services or other activities in the church building. Likewise, if you are particularly vulnerable or if for any reason you do not feel comfortable attending worship in person, I invite you to take advantage of the online option that is available.

Vaccines remain the most effective means of preventing serious illness and death. I urge everyone over the age of five to be vaccinated and to receive the booster shot when eligible. The vaccine is safe and effective. There is no basis in United Methodist tradition for a person to refuse a vaccine on religious grounds. Since the time of John Wesley, Methodists have founded and supported hospitals and other health care facilities (such as Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo) so that all people might have the benefit of the best health care possible.

Some have argued that we should not live in fear, that being vaccinated and wearing a mask shows a lack of faith in God to protect us. But remember that one of Satan's temptations of Jesus was the suggestion that he take an unnecessary risk, trusting that God would save him (Matthew 4:5-7). There is ample evidence that devout Christians suffer and die from Covid just like everyone else. I know people of deep faith who have died from Covid and perhaps you do, too. We wear seat belts when we ride in the car, we take medicine prescribed by our doctor, and we use potholders when removing hot food from the oven. It does not demonstrate a lack of faith to use the means God has provided to protect ourselves for unnecessary risk.

Some have argued that the wearing of masks should be a personal choice. However, if I am infected with Covid without knowing it and I spread the infection to you, my decision not to wear a mask has implications for your health as well. Also, if I spread the infection by not being vaccinated and not wearing a mask, I am putting our health care system under enormous strain which could adversely affect the care available to others. It is up to all of us to do all we can to stop the spread of this pernicious disease, not only for the sake of our own health, but for the sake of all those around us as well.

Pastor Buff Coe



Community Kindness: 4x4 churches 4 Jesus **2021 in review & 2022 plans**

- **February 13, 2021**-1st meeting between Almena, Lawton, Lawrence, and Paw Paw UMCs
- **August 1, 2021**-1st joint event at Almena UMC-outdoor worship service with 150 attending & afternoon event with live music, food truck, and info booths from various community groups
Over \$2,000 raised for United Christian Services!
- **September 21, 2021**- survey/planning session at Paw Paw UMC
Results indicated interest in exploring consolidated services (i.e. office), youth leadership, joint services (i.e. Good Friday), community outreach
- **October 31, 2021**-Trunk 'r Treat event at Paw Paw UMC-over 200 children/families participated, 13 cars, costumed volunteers, cider & donuts, & pumpkin painting
- **December 9, 2021**-Live nativity event at Lawton UMC-animals from Chamberlain Farms, over 60 volunteers including a male quartet and fellowship choir, 120 visitors @ 1st session 2nd session cancelled due to weather

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Looking ahead-2022 events

- **January -Group FB page established-4 Churches 4 Jesus**
- **March 2-6-11am-drive through Ash Wednesday blessing/coffee at PPUMC**
- **March 23-11am-5pm-Red Cross Blood Drive at PPUMC**
- **April 15-7 pm Good Friday Service-site TBA**
- **May 14- 3 pm Concert featuring Jean Watson at Lawrence UMC**
- **December 9-Live nativity at Lawton UMC**

The 4x4 CKG is open to anyone interested in extending the love of Jesus to our churches and communities. We meet the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at PPUMC (unless otherwise designated).

Questions? Contact:

Almena UMC-Jerry Lentz (269-806-3518)
Lawrence UMC-Paul Garrod (269-873-5570)
Lawton UMC-Leanne Fader (269-348-4734)
Paw Paw UMC-Diane Grimm (269-808-0685)
Karen @ PPUMC office (269-657-7727)



Community Kindness Event



Kindness starts from within. Self reflection, self evaluation and self cleansing start on Ash Wednesday. Come and be blessed at this *Non Denominational* outside event.....

WHERE: Paw Paw United Methodist Church
420 W. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw Michigan

WHEN: Wednesday March 2

TIME: 6:00am – 11:00am

- Stay in your vehicle and receive the symbolic cross of JESUS in ashes from local UMC Pastors Wayne, Len or Buff.
- You will leave with a reminder of JESUS (ashes – his dying for our sins)
- Coffee to go, just because!

*For questions contact Paw Paw UMC –
Office Hours M –TH 9:00am -4:00pm
Call 269-657-7727*

Email: pawpawunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com

*This is a Community Kindness event sponsored by your local United Methodist Churches:
Almena, Lawrence, Lawton and Paw Paw.*

FEBRUARY

Anniversary

Birthdays

1 Lyle & Morene Huggett
21 Bill & Doris Stambaugh – 70 years

00 Bob Hoff
9 Dr. David Millard
10 Elaine Poole
16 Collin Rumsey
18 Sue Danielson
22 Jon Brennan
25 Josef Dickman



Confidentiality Statement

If for some reason you would prefer your name/number NOT be listed in the bulletin or newsletter OR you prefer to NOT have your picture on our church website, please contact the church office (269) 657-7727, M-TH (9 am– 4:30). Thank You

Please call the office if we missed your birthday or anniversary or if it is incorrect!

PPUMC News

**Join us for
“Let Us” Coffee Hour
Tuesday, February 22, 2022,
2:00 – 3:00 PM**

**“Let Us Meet Together”
Hebrews 10:24-25
Encourage a friend to join us**

Our Card Ministry is available to anyone; birthdays, get well, thinking of you, etc. If you know of anyone who needs a Card Shower, please contact the office, and get it in the bulletin.

Just a reminder if you cannot make it to in person worship, we are live streaming on Facebook at 10:30 AM on Sundays. The video is also available to watch at a later time as well.

February 2022 Preaching Calendar

February 6

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Sermon: Tradition!

February 13

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Sermon: Questioning the Resurrection



February 20

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Sermon: The Resurrection of the Body

February 27

Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Corinthians 3:12-18, Luke 9:28-36
Sermon: The Veil

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR LAY OFFICERS

<https://reachsummit.michiganumc.org/home/laity-leadership/>

Event Calendar

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Wings of God	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 – 10: 00 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday Worship	7	8	9	10	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 9:00 – 10:00 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday Worship	14 Trustee 7:00 PM	15	16	17 6:30 PM Finance/Ad	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19
20 9:00-10:00 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday Worship	21	22 2:00 PM “Let Us” Coffee Hour	23	24	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 9:00-10:00 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday Worship	28				OFFICE CLOSED	

UMC NEWS

5 Keys to Commitment

BY Ryan Dunn

Beyond this paragraph, I will not mention New Year's resolutions. Many people greet the practice of New Year's resolution-ing with hostility. Honestly, I think that says more about the person than the practice. After all, we all set goals for ourselves, therefore we all implicitly practice resolutions.

We are all goal-setters. Achieving goals requires commitment. Commitment is easy to come by when a goal is first set. But come mid-January, the parking lot at the proverbial gym of commitment begins to thin out. In February it's nearly vacant.

Good news: It's never too late to get back to the proverbial gym of commitment... And there are some helpful practices to aid our commitment, even in the waning days of January.

What are some keys to commitment?

1) Define your real goal.

Perhaps you've set a goal to practice daily Bible reading. That's a great goal. There's probably a reason you've set such a goal. Do you feel like you're missing some of our religious story. Do you feel disconnected from God? Do you feel like you are lacking a healthy relationship with the Divine?

Goals like daily Bible reading, or even a daily trip to the gym, are means to achieve our true goals--which are often results of particular self-perceived shortcoming. So it may help to identify your real goal by repeatedly finishing this sentence: "I am doing this because..."

I am reading the Bible because I want to know more about God's story.

I am visiting the gym every day because I'm tired of feeling lethargic.

I am reading a book a week because I long to feel more knowledgeable and challenged.

A goal like reading the Bible daily can actually be a bit superficial, and therefore makes the practice easy to quit. But learning more of God's story and why we believe what we believe is something that is inspiring. Keep looking for the "because" in your goals until you define a truly noble goal that will keep inspiring.

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2) Keep the noble goal in front of you.

It pays to remember why you're doing what you're doing. Remind yourself why you're undertaking your new actions. Post goals on your bathroom mirror, on your dashboard, in your journal... or bind them to your hands, forehead, and doorposts (Deuteronomy 6:8-9).

3) Divide into bites.

Those who are in 12-step recovery groups often utter the phrase "one day at a time." There's some deep wisdom in the simple phrase. A person who says "I'm never having another drink of alcohol as long as I live" faces a monumental task. But someone who is focusing on staying sober today and doing what it takes to be a sober person today faces a far more achievable task.

Taking our goals one day at a time gives us reason to daily celebrate our accomplishments. When I coached distance runners, I often warned the runners that they weren't going to achieve their fastest run times every single day. A bad night's sleep or some bad food could derail a day's performance. Some days, the ultimate victory was in running the fastest race. Other days the ultimate victory was merely in showing up to run. Take your goals one day at a time, and celebrate those days that you attend to your goal.

4) Expect some failure and practice forgiveness.

Some days, you are going to fail. Those days of failing do not make you a failure. Ultimately, you will only fail if you give up. Forgive yourself the days or weeks of missing the mark and allow yourself to keep moving towards your goal.

5) Share the journey.

Accountability is huge. Share your goals with someone. Whenever possible, share the means, too. It becomes a lot more difficult to give up on the goal at hand when you feel like you're letting someone else down in the process. So broadcast your goals on Facebook, find a reading buddy, or share your goals with a trusted loved one.

What helps you keep your eye on the prize and moving towards the goal

Ryan Dunn is attempting to stay committed to deepening his understanding of how God is active in the world today, making his community (Nashville, TN) a bit more heavenly, and celebrating special moments with his wife and son.

BIBLE IN A YEAR-FEBRUARY

- 1 - Leviticus 1-3
- 2 - Leviticus 4-6
- 3 - Leviticus 7-8
- 4 - Leviticus 9-10
- 5 - Leviticus 11-13
- 6 - Leviticus 14-15
- 7 - Leviticus 16-18
- 8 - Leviticus 19-21
- 9 - Leviticus 22-23
- 10 - Leviticus 24-25
- 11 - Leviticus 26-27
- 12 - Numbers 1-2
- 13 - Numbers 3-4
- 14 - Numbers 5-6
- 15 - Numbers 7
- 16 - Numbers 8-9
- 17 - Numbers 10-11
- 18 - Numbers 12-13
- 19 - Numbers 14-15
- 20 - Numbers 16-18
- 21 - Numbers 19-20
- 22 - Numbers 21-22
- 23 - Numbers 23-25
- 24 - Numbers 26-27
- 25 - Numbers 28-29
- 26 - Numbers 30-31
- 27 - Numbers 32-33
- 28 - Numbers 34-36

CARD MINISTRY

Those at Home:

Charles Moses
413 W. St. Joseph
Lawrence, MI 49064

Beverly & Jerry Reshman
132 North Street
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Barb Ostrander
26058 Northland Crossing Dr
Elkhart, IN 46514-7302

George & Juanita Bolton
77930 CR 652
Lawton, MI 49065

Barb Niles
4249 Lakesedge Dr #313
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Rich & Holly Neterer
44813 Oak Leaves Lane
Mattawan, MI 49071

Cheryl Reinoehl
27420 Birmingham Ct.
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Maple Lake Assisted Living

Jean Dahms
677 Hazen St. Rm. #16
Paw Paw, MI 49079

White Oaks

Bill & Doris Stambaugh
300 White Oaks Rd. Room 24
Lawton, MI 49065

Fred Snell
300 White Oaks Rd.
Room 8
Lawton, MI 49065

Miller Court

Inez Bitely
205 Miller Ct. S. #104
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Meadowwoods

Leah Moses
42235 CR 390
Bloomingdale, MI 49026

NORTHWOODS VILLAGE

Grady Reinoehl
6203 Stadium Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49009



*Please Remember
these friends with a
card or visit*

Paw Paw United Methodist Church
420 W. Michigan Ave.
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Please Join us on Sundays:
Bible Study at 9:00 am -10:00 am
Worship Service at 10:30 am

Paw Paw United Methodist Church

420 W. Michigan Avenue

Paw Paw, MI 49079

Phone: (269) 657-7727

Fax: (269) 657-7728

E-mail: pawpawunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.pawpawumc.com

Pastor: Rev. Bufford "Buff" Coe

Organist/Pianist: Carmon Posada

Director of Music: Christine Mortimer

