



Paw Paw United Methodist Church

Newsletter Article – January 2022

Living Like a Believer

This is my last Newsletter Article as your pastor. We originally made a two year commitment and now after 5.5 years we are retiring for the final time.

It has been a joy for me to have the privilege to serve you as your pastor; and, it has been a joy for Suleyka to serve you as the pastor's wife. For me, Suleyka epitomizes the statement of Jesus when he said he came to serve. (Mark 10:45) She sought to serve in many different ways even though there was a language barrier. You accepted her even with that slight burden of not always communicating with words but realized she wanted to communicate with her actions of caring.

It has been my intention to serve as well. I believe that is the first 'duty' of any pastor. My 'calling' was and is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. For some I hope and believe there was success and for some perhaps not – it has always been that for me and for most pastors I know. If everyone speaks well of you as a pastor, it may not be the best benediction. The Gospel was never meant to make people think well of the messenger. The message is meant to make the hearer uncomfortable and then hopeful for the promises of God.

For those who believe, the paramount part of the Gospel Message to the world today is to proclaim the return of Christ – the Messiah. Jesus is the promised Messiah who became the final sacrifice for our sins. Not everyone believes that truth. However, just as Jesus left so he shall return – as he promised. For myself personally, I believe that his return is imminent. And, my prayer is that we all live in a way that reflects that belief.

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Such a reflective life is demonstrated in how we treat ourselves, our neighbor and strangers. If you *love your neighbor as yourself*, you will want everyone to know that Jesus is coming again and soon. Our world is headed for continued chaos and violence. Only true believers will stand firm in faith and trust of God. So, I leave you with the simple and profound words of the Apostle Paul – First, *pray without ceasing* and:

So then, brothers and sisters stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May the Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:15-17

Live knowing you are a child of God through Christ and him alone.

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12



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News from Pastor Buff Coe

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Hello, Paw Paw! My name is Buff Coe and I will be your interim pastor from now until the end of June. Let me tell you a little about myself.

I was born and grew up in Wyandotte, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. I went to college at Michigan State University where I graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree, then I was off to seminary at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio where I earned both the Master of Divinity and the Master of Arts in Church Music degrees. My first pastoral appointment was at the Dryden and Attica United Methodist Churches in southern Lapeer County. After six years in Dryden, I decided to go back to school, so I enrolled in the Doctor of Theology program at Boston University. While in Massachusetts, I served as the associate pastor and music director at Central United Methodist Church in Brockton, Massachusetts. After graduating from B.U., I returned to Michigan and became the associate pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Redford, another Detroit suburb. In 1994, I was appointed pastor at First United Methodist Church in Hastings, and then in 2000 I became pastor of the Vicksburg United Methodist Church, from which I retired in 2017.

My wife Lisa works as a paraprofessional at Vicksburg High School, so when I retired, we moved out of the parsonage and bought a house on the edge of town so she could remain close to her work. We became part of the congregation at First UMC in Kalamazoo where we sing in the choir. Lisa has also been active in the Sunday School and the United Methodist Women. Lisa expects to continue her involvement at First UMC most Sundays over the next six months. We have four adult children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

I am appointed to Paw Paw as a ¼ time pastor, which I understand to mean approximately fifteen hours a week. It is my job to provide necessary pastoral services to the congregation until a new pastor can be appointed at annual conference in June. Some of you will remember me because I was the guest preacher at your church in September of 2020 as well as in March and July of 2021. Because of the distance from Vicksburg to Paw Paw, I expect to do most of my work from home, although I will spend one morning a week in the church office as well as attending meetings and other activities. I look forward to getting to know you and to serving with you as the people of the Paw Paw United Methodist Church.

Outreach News For January 2022

By the time you read this, we will be in a new year-2022! I pray that God will be with you and your family in the coming year. I also pray that God will guide us as church family to face the challenges that 2022 will bring. You may have heard that Pastor David retired at the end of 2021. We pray for his move to Florida with his wife, Suleyka. We will miss them!

We welcome our interim pastor, Rev. Buford Coe and his wife, Lisa. Pastor Coe begins preaching at PPUMC January 9th. The Coes will be with us through the end of June.

Please offer them a warm welcome, introduce yourself, and wear your name tag so Pastor Coe can begin to put names and faces together!

My challenge to us as “church family” this year is to practice hospitality in a grand way!

In Romans 12:13, Paul states: “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

I found a wonderful article about practicing hospitality on the Internet. I would like to share a few of the “nuggets” that Devon White shared in his blog (www.blogshopjackie.com).

Hospitality is the generous reception of guests, visitors, or strangers. It creates space for others to be themselves, giving people permission to bring whatever they carry into your space to be shared. In practicing hospitality, you are inviting them to let their guard down and to make themselves at home. **You are sending the message that they can be wholly and completely themselves, without risk of judgment.** Good hospitality deepens relationships, creates space for new relationships to flourish, and **makes others feel loved and accepted.** It encourages positivity and meets our most basic human needs for companionship.

This is a tall order! With God’s help, I believe we can become the kind of Christian community that will invite others into “our space.” I encourage each of us to reflect on how we as individuals can help to create this kind of caring, nurturing, community at PPUMC. What better time to begin anew than at the start of a brand new year!

Serving joyfully,

Diane Grimm, Lay leader & outreach chairperson



**George and Juanita Bolton want to say THANK YOU for
The care and connect bag. They were very appreciative!!!**

JANUARY

Anniversary

Birthdays

- 18** Lyle Huggett
- 22** Bill Stambaugh – 90th Birthday
- 28** Claudia Willsea



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
January 11, 2022
2:00 PM
“Let Us Meet Together”**

**Newsletters that are
mailed out will now be in
Black & White. If you
prefer the newsletter in
color, we do email them,
please call to provide
your email. Thank you!**

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.

January 2022 Preaching Calendar

January 2, 2022

Wynne Hurlbut

Scripture John 1:14-15 (NIV)

Message Title: Christmastide

January 9, 2022 – Pastor Buff Coe

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon Title: Why Was Jesus Baptized

January 16, 2022 – Pastor Buff Coe

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Sermon Title: Spiritual Gifts

January 23, 2022 – Pastor Buff Coe

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Sermon Title: Eaters & Listeners

January 30, 2022 – Pastor Buff Coe

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Sermon Title: Virtue without Love



TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR LAY OFFICERS

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

Event Calendar

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					OFFICE CLOSED	1 New Year Day 2022
2 9:00 – 10: 00 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday Worship	3	4 Wings of God Sub Finance 10 am	5	6	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8
9 9:00 – 10:00 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday Worship	10	11 2:00 PM “Let Us” Coffee Hour	12	13 6:30 PM Finance/Ad	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15
16 9:00-10:00 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday Worship	17	18	19	20	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22
23 9:00-10:00 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday Worship	24	25	26	27	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 9:00-10:00 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday Worship	31					

UMC NEWS

What do the candles in our Advent wreath mean?

The Advent wreath began as a German and Scandinavian home devotional practice used to mark the four weeks of Advent. Families would light a candle for each past week and the current week at their dinner or evening time of prayer. The configuration of candles, whether in a line or a circle, did not matter. Neither did the color of the candles (all colors are used in homes in Europe). What mattered was the marking of time and the increase of light each week in the face of increasing darkness as the winter solstice approached.

As Advent wreaths began to be used by congregations on Sundays in some places in Europe and America beginning in the late 19th century, several adaptations were made to make them work better in public worship spaces. Candles needed to be larger and more uniform than the "daily candles" handmade or purchased for home use. They also needed to be more uniform in color to fit with other décor in the sanctuary. That is why candles used in the Advent wreath are usually purple or blue, to coordinate with color of the paraments used during this season.

This shift in context from home to public use also made it important in the eyes of some for the candles to be given a meaning more than simply marking time and increasing light. This led to special ceremonies being developed for lighting these special candles each week.

As this practice began to catch on by the mid-twentieth century, several church supply houses who sold Advent wreaths and candles for public worship also developed resources, banners, and bulletin covers assigning a theme to each week, and thus each candle, based on scriptures from the one-year lectionaries used at that time. Those themes were Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace, in that order.

Today, almost no one uses those one-year lectionaries, so those themes may not always fit the scriptures we hear in worship. The one exception is the Third Sunday of Advent, where the current lectionaries have continued to support the centuries old observance of "Gaudete" or "Joy Sunday." That is why church supply houses often offer rose or pink colored candles for the wreath for use on this day.

So how may we talk about the meaning of the Advent wreath today?

We can reclaim the original home use of marking time with the hope of increasing light as we await the return of Christ, that day when "The city no longer has need of the sun or the moon to shine upon it, because the glory of God illumines it, and its lamp is the lamb."

And we can develop meanings or themes for each week based on the focus of the scriptures themselves. After all, the candles and the wreath are an accessory, not an end in themselves. Their meaningfulness comes from how we use them to point toward Christ, the world's true light, who was, and is, and is to come.

BIBLE IN A YEAR-JANUARY

GENESIS

1 - Genesis 1-3

2 - Genesis 4-6

3 - Genesis 7-9

4 - Genesis 10-12

5 - Genesis 13-15

6 - Genesis 16-18

7 - Genesis 19-21

8 - Genesis 22-24

9 - Genesis 25-27

10 - Genesis 28-30

11 - Genesis 31-33

12 - Genesis 34-36

13 - Genesis 37-39

14 - Genesis 40-42

15 - Genesis 43-45

16 - Genesis 46-48

17 - Genesis 49-50

Exodus 1

18 - Exodus 2-4

19 - Exodus 5-7

20 - Exodus 8-10

21 - Exodus 11-13

22 - Exodus 14-16

23 - Exodus 17-19

24 - Exodus 20-22

25 - Exodus 23-25

26 - Exodus 26-28

27 - Exodus 29-31

28 - Exodus 32-34

29 - Exodus 35-37

30 - Exodus 38-39

31 - Exodus 40

Those at Home:

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

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

Barb Ostrander
56783 Pinecrest Dr
Elkhart, IN 46514

George & Juanita Bolton
77930 CR 652
Lawton, MI 49065

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

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

Maple Lake Assisted Living

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

White Oaks

Bill & Doris Stambaugh
300 White Oaks Rd.
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



*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

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Website: www.pawpawumc.com

Pastor: Rev. Bufford "Buff" Coe

Organist/Pianist: Carmon Posada

Director of Music: Christine Mortimer

