



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors

Paw Paw United Methodist Church

MARCH
2011

March is upon us. The snowy, cold grip of winter begins to lessen. The sap begins its bi-annual dance up and down the trunks of the maple trees. Hibernating animals begin to awaken in their dens. And the church begins the most holy season of the year, Lent.

Lent gives the believers a time to practice at least two of the major means of grace that get pushed to the back of our minds for most of each year; self-denial through fasting and scripture study. Lent begins on March 9, 2011 with Ash Wednesday. There will be a service of ashes at 6:30 pm and go for no more than an hour.

Let me say a few words about self-denial through fasting. Traditionally Lent is a time when we reflect on the condition of our present lives in light of the pure life of Christ. This takes some honest reflect on our part. Christ, though he was tempted, did not give in to it. Can any of us claim to be so pure? I think not. Giving in to temptation usually means we give in to sin. Christ remained sinless all his life. During Lent we are challenged to call on the Holy Spirit's presence in our life to help us resist the temptation to our lives before the call of Christ upon them. We call this self-denial.

Fasting is the abstaining from some form of food, vice, pleasure, or practice which is sacrificially given up during this season; is different for each person. A person, who normally doesn't like chocolate, would not be sacrificially fasting if they gave up chocolate for Lent. We are challenged to think about our daily lives and select something from our daily routine or menu that we would really miss if it was not part of lives for a period of forty days. The time that we invest in having this food, vice, pleasure, or practice in our daily routine is then shifted to the study and meditation on the scriptures.

This Lent, our focus is the healing ministry of Jesus. As it stands at this time there will be a Tuesday afternoon study at 1:00 pm with the senior citizens in Fellowship Hall. Sunday morning during Sunday school at 9:30 am in the Chapel is another opportunity for this study too. Some of the scriptures for each week's emphasis will be the basis for the Sunday morning worship service. If there is an interest in having or scheduling another time for this study please let me know.

This discipline of keeping a Holy Lent has led many to give up a vice that for years has compromised their integrity as Christians. They have used this time of self-denial to wean themselves with the help of the Holy Spirit off of these soul destroying temptations. How about you? Let's take this Lenten discipline seriously and fast these forty days not counting Sundays.

Have a Great Lent, Pastor Joe



March Sermons

March 6-Transfiguration of the Lord

Message: *I Love to Tell the Story*

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Focus: Many people have a favorite Bible story and many of these think that is all they are, just stories. But like Peter, many others know these stories are real life events, they themselves have witnessed. This gives power to those story tellers who share a living, powerful, real presence of Jesus in the world around us. This power has the ability to change our lives and save our lives from evil.

March 9– Ash Wednesday

Message: *Do you want to be made Well?*

Scripture: John 5:1-18

Join us on Ash Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for a service of ashes and communion.

March 13-First Sunday in Lent

Message: *Healing of the Paralyzed*

Scripture: Matthew 9:18; John 5:1-5

Focus: Sin can paralyze us with fear of punishment. Fear can be paralyzing all on its own. Jesus brings forgiveness and courage that can heal our paralysis of action and new life. Do you want to be made well?

March 20-Second Sunday in Lent

Message: *Healing of Lepers*

Scripture: Mark 1:40-45; Luke 13:1-17

Focus: Leprosy was any kind of skin disorder for the ancients. It separated sufferers from life. They became the living dead. Jesus has the power to cleanse us from all that keeps us separated from one another.

March 27~Third Sunday in Lent~ Wesley Foundation Worship



Service Sharing Volunteers

	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Hospitality				Annie Lemmer
Liturgy	Larry Bradley			
Greeters	Mary Hassing			
Ushers	Larry Bradley & Mary Hassing			
Nursery	Mary Shilts	Holly Rohr	Jen Munster	
Acolytes				
Communion Steward	Larry Bradley & Mary Hassing			



**Thanks
to Our
Volunteers!**

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
The Healing Ministry of Jesus

There will be a Lenten Bible Study offered to all during the season of Lent. This study will begin on **Tuesday March 8, 2011 at 1:00 pm with the Van Buren County Senior Citizens in Fellowship Hall. It will also be offered on Sunday morning during the regular Sunday school time of 9:30 am in the Chapel.**

If there is some interest in having a midweek time for this study I am willing to do this as well.

The schedule of scripture readings and topics will be:

Week 1: The healing of the paralyzed;

- Matthew 8:5-13 – Healing of Centurion's servant
- Matthew 9:1-8 – Healing connected to forgiveness of sin
- Mark 2:1-12 – Healing in Capernaum
- Luke 5:17-26 – Healing connected to forgiveness of sin
- Luke 13:10-17 – Healing of woman on the Sabbath
- John 5:1-15 – Healing of man at pool of Bethesda

Week 2: Healing of Lepers;

- Matthew 8:1-4 – Healing after sojourn on mountain
- Mark 1:40-45 – Healing because Jesus wanted to
- Luke 5:12-15 – Healing in city
- Luke 13: 10-17 – Healing of 10 lepers
- 2 Kings 5:1-27 – Naaman the Syrian cured

Week 3: Healing of the Blind;

- Matthew 9:27-31 – Healing of 2 blind men
- Matthew 20:29-34 – Healing of 2 blind men outside of Jericho
- Mark 8:22-26 – Healing of blind man near Bethsaida
- Mark 10:46-52 – Healing of Bartimaeus
- Luke 18:35-43 – Healing of blind beggar near Jericho
- John 9:1-41 – Healing of man born blind

The scripture readings for each upcoming week will be in the weekly bulletins and a complete list will be handed out at the first study session. As you read these passages take note of any questions about the background and context of the story.

What parts of the stories do you relate to the most and least? How does this relate to your faith? Then be prepared to share some of your insights with others in the study.

Some of these scriptures will be the basis for the sermon each Sunday of Lent. We will celebrate Easter Sunday with a healing service with anointing to conclude this study.

I look forward to a great time of sharing with each other, *Pastor Joe.*



- 3/01 - Elsie Fleming
- 3/01 - Ed Poole
- 3/02 - Elizabeth Roe
- 3/03 - Paul Pagano
- 3/05 - Nancy Hansen
- 3/05 - Shirley Tironi
- 3/06 - Gene Moore
- 3/07 - Emma Aaberg
- 3/07 - Carol Pearce
- 3/08 - Colin Smith
- 3/08 - Ben Hancox
- 3/09 - Julia Moerman
- 3/10 - Lauren Hansen
- 3/11 - Julie Rice
- 3/11 - Amber Pagano
- 3/12 - Deb Dyke
- 3/14 - Eva Charron
- 3/17 - Brian Rumsey
- 3/18 - Fred Snell
- 3/18 - Emily Mortimer
- 3/19 - Henry Porras III
- 3/19 - Richard Athey
- 3/19 - Cory Baker
- 3/19 - Logan Munster
- 3/21 - Sandy Lombard
- 3/21 - Andrew Tironi
- 3/22 - Stephen Brennan
- 3/22 - Char Fountain
- 3/23 - Julie Rumsey
- 3/25 - Collin Moerman
- 3/26 - Jean Dahms
- 3/28 - Megan Cox
- 3/29 - Kim Hatfield
- 3/29 - Susan Dooley
- 3/29 - Brody Conner
- 3/29 - Daryl Dehuff
- 3/31 - Sarah Reinoehl





Paw Paw United Methodist ChildCare Center

We are looking forward to spring and warmer temperatures for outdoor play. The school-age program will be open for PPPS half days **March 16-17** and day off **March 18**. Children must be pre-registered to attend. We are accepting registrations for our **summer program** and **fall preschool classes**. The summer program has openings for **ages 2 ½-12 years**. We currently have a waiting list for families needing childcare for **infants-30 months**. **Church members receive a 20% discount on tuition**. Two open house dates are scheduled for families that would like to check out our programs.

The dates are **March 27** and **April 26** from **6:00-7:30 p.m.**
We'd love to have you stop by and check out our programs.

Thank you to those that have been donating supplies for the center.
We truly appreciate your support! Current needs include: 100% juice, crackers, baby wipes, Kleenex, and select-a-size paper towels. Items can be dropped off at either the church office or the childcare office downstairs.

**Questions or concerns about the childcare center
can be directed to Diane Grimm at 657-2330**

UMW News

Reminder: get-to-gather on Tuesday, March 15, 6:30 p.m. at the Copper Grill. This is an evening planned to celebrate the coming of spring and share with each other the many blessings that God has given us.

Ruth Circle and the Sunday School teachers will be sharing Breakfast at 8:45 a.m. on the Third Sunday of the month March 20th. All women of the church are encouraged to attend.

What is Lent...

It is forty days of stripping down to the living essentials;

It is forty days of facing truth about one's self-indulgent evasions;

It is forty days of fellowshiping with Christ in the desert;

It is forty days of rejoicing in God's mercy and forgiveness.

Why Ash Wednesday?

Traditionally, the Christian church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.

First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap.

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!

This season of Easter is a special time for Christians to celebrate the ultimate reason for our hope: Christ is risen, and invites us to rise with him to new life.

PAW PAW YOUNG LIFE YOUTH GROUP & PAW PAW UMC YOUTH GROUP

Invite you to join us
Sunday March 20, 2011
For our 1st semi-annual



CHILI COOK- OFF

Held at Paw Paw UMC
420 W. Michigan, Paw Paw (across from middle school)

Come out and vote for your favorite
\$1 at the door gets you a lunch of; corn bread,
salad and a drink!

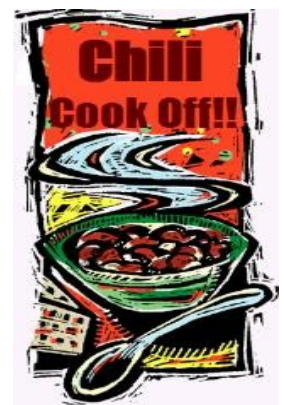
**50
Cents**

Cooks-want to enter your chili?!

\$3.00 to enter your Chili

The winner will receive : \$50, Trophy
& of course bragging rights!

To enter please call:
Jen @ 269-271-4802



Rememeber in your Prayers...

Dee Allen & family on the loss of her Aunt
 Cindy Carpenter & family on the loss of her father
 Justin Grimm
 Marie Woolum
 Ed & Margrett Hettig
 Marilyn Murphy
 Jeff Humrich
 Janet Clough
 Morene Huggett's Sister
 Sophie Dickmann
 Hugh Paul
 Carol & Ralph Churchill
 Betty Shafer's sister, Sue
 Al Mann Sr
 Rondy Carpenter

Marie Woolum's dad
 Marilyn Keenan
 Peggy Myers
 Ruth Coates Mother
 Don deBaptiste
 Cindy Meeth
 Kathy Dahms
 Roger Kroshinsky
 Dee Allen
 Kevin Linder
 Leah Moses



Aaron Bloomfield	Byron Blasky	Mike Norris	Calvin Bright
David Kirby	David Paul	Donald Meijer	James Weingate
Jeff Johnson	Jeff Shilts	Rob Willsea	Justin Grimm
Rob Richard Baker	Jason Shafer	Tim Reese	Todd Christensen
Tasha Easom	Juston Kuch	Keaton Nielsen	Michael Gower
Scott Wayman	Willard Wingate	Jonathan Goodrich	Kyle & Joshua Earl



**Remember
Our
Members
in the
Military**

Remember our Shut-ins with a card or visit:

Parker Assisted Living (Mattawan) - Kay Bush

White Oaks (Lawton): Avis Fooy

Bronson Rehab (Lawton): Janet Clough

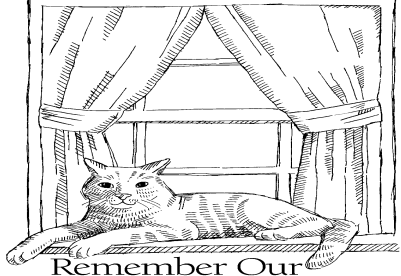
Cass City Medical Facility (Cassopolis): Elsie Fleming

Park Village Pines (Kalamazoo): Mary VanderMeulen

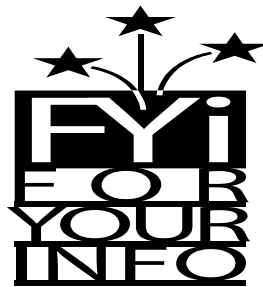
Fairway Living Center (Centreville): Ruth Overbeek

Life Care Center (Plainwell): Nydia Nichols

Those at home: Donna Hickok, Pat Cutshaw, Miriam Cronk, Norma Stull



Remember Our
Homebound



Janet Clough
 70 Bronson Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
 99 Walker street
 Lawton, MI 49065



Positions Available at Paw Paw United Methodist Church!

As the result the leadership retreat with Ken Nash, and several other meetings of our church members, we have come up with the following priorities for our church. These priorities require dedicated, enthusiastic leaders!

Age Level Coordinator – Infant to Five years old

We are looking for someone to take the role of coordinating the entire experience for this age group. This may include education, nursery, worship experiences and anything else you can think of!

Age Level Coordinator – Elementary level

We are looking for someone to take the role of coordinating the entire experience for this age group. This may include education, nursery, field trips, after school activities, worship experiences and anything else you can think of!

Age Level Coordinator – Middle School Age

We have a large group of kids in Middle School at this time. We already have several people passionate about them, but are looking for someone to take the role of coordinating the entire experience for this age group and pulling this group of people together. This may include education, nursery, field trips, after school activities, worship experiences, coordinating with Wyld Life and anything else you can think of!

(Given our limited human resources at this time, we are holding off on age level coordinators for other age groups)

Worship Service Team Members

Of course we have a worship team, but we are looking for new and fresh ideas. Sacred dance, more technology, traditional services, the sky is the limit!

Hospitality Coordinator

Many people have expressed the feeling this may be the *most important* role in this list. The Hospitality Coordinator is responsible for the overall experience of our church (minus the worship) that is presented to a new person. We realize people are currently doing a fine job with parts of this job, but this position could include coordinating greeters (at all doors and perhaps in the parking lot), potlucks, fellowship following our service, follow up at the service and afterward with new members. This may also include coordinating with the trustees to freshen up the appearance of our church

We understand you may not want to take on the chairperson role of any of these committees, but we hope you will!

If you are interested in being part, at any level, of these positions please contact anyone on the TAP (Team Action Plan) committee: Lorraine deBaptiste, Leah Humrich, Kim Hatfield, Mike Roe, Julie Rumsey, Betty Shafer, Laurel Sherburn, Pastor Joe Spackman.

We are FIRED UP about revitalizing our church. Join us!



New Beginnings

This season of Easter is a special time for Christians to celebrate the ultimate reason for our hope:
Christ is risen, and invites us to rise with him to new life.

- Easter is an invitation to try again with God's help to break that addiction we had given up all hope of ever breaking. There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is a chance to work at renewing the marriage we had given up all hope of ever saving. There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is an opportunity to reach out to our neighbors who, in our busyness, we neglect. There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is a chance to "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint." There's something better coming. ...

—Homiletics



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

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Paw Paw United Methodist Church

420 W. Michigan Avenue

Paw Paw, MI 49079

Phone: (269) 657-7727 Fax: (269) 657-7728

E-mail: admin@ppumc.pawpawmi.us

Website: <http://ppumc.pawpawmi.us>

Pastor: Rev. Joe Spackman

Choir Director/Organist/Pianist: Elsy Gallardo-Diaz

Bell Choir Director: Chris Mortimer

Monthly Committee Meetings-

United Methodist Men-First Sunday for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in fellowship hall.

United Methodist Women- Meeting times vary; call church office for this month's dates & time.

Trustee Committee-Meets the 2nd Tues. at 7:00 p.m.

Ad Council-Meets the 2nd Thurs. at 7:00 p.m.

Worship- 4th Tues. every other month

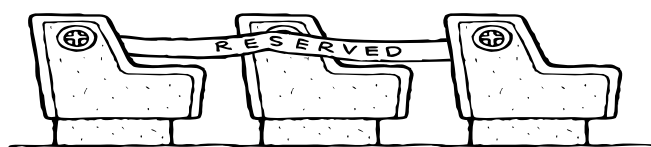
Christian Education-March 20 at 8:45 am

UM Childcare Ministry- 1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Please Join us on Sundays:

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Fall Worship Service is at 11:00 a.m.



We're Saving a Seat

for You

Because

HE
(cares for you)

and So Do We!