

THE TRUMPET

Aug, Sept, Oct 2025

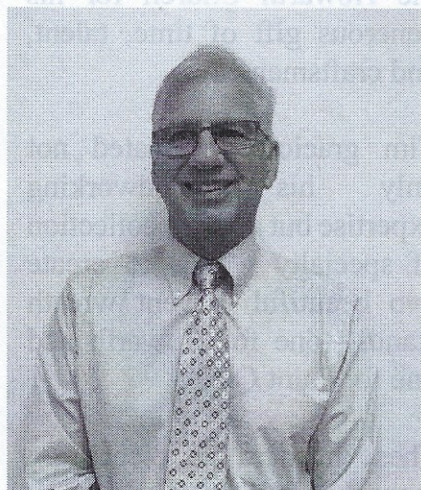
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Pastor's Column



From the Desk of Pastor Marvin Herman

Dear Friends in Christ,

"God, we trust that You are good and that You do good. Teach us to be Your faithful people in this time of change and uncertainty. Help us follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down His life for the sake of love. Glorify His name as You equip us with everything we need to do Your will. Amen."

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a pastors' breakfast in

Fenton. The guest speaker was Pastor Jim Wiegand, senior pastor of The Freedom Center Church - which is an Assembly of God congregation that has grown to over 3,000 members. Although they advertise as non-denominational, they remain firmly connected to their denomination—much like how our Methodist heritage continues to shape and ground us.

Pastor Jim offered an encouraging message for those of us serving in smaller congregations. "Don't let the smallness of your church diminish its vision or importance," he said. He spoke candidly about his own time serving in small churches, the challenges he faced, especially the discouragement of empty pews on Sundays and the frustration when members didn't attend events they had requested.

But he also shared something that deeply resonated with me: "Now that I'm at a large church, I miss serving small congregations. In small churches, people matter.

Everyone's voice can be heard. With just a little effort, individuals can make a huge impact. In our large church, we have professional services, televised music, and a staff of pastors and worship leaders - but we've lost the closeness. Most staff aren't from our congregation. They're hired from outside and stay only a year or two. I rarely have time to truly know the people I serve."

That honest confession reminded me of the treasure we have at Howarth and Paint Creek. We may not have flashy lights or celebrity musicians, but we have something deeper: a church family. Here, people know each other by name. We pray for each other, share meals, serve our community, and show up in love.

In conversations I've had with people around town, our churches are known not for fancy programs, but for their heart. I often hear, "That's a church where people really care," or "That's the place that hosts dinners and they help those in need." What a

beautiful witness to the Gospel!

Like I said before, larger churches often have trendy names and say they are nondenominational, but still have strong denominational ties with the Pentecostal and Assembly of God denominations — names like “The Rock,” “Kensington,” or “Oakland Community.” So why would someone choose a church called *Howarth* or *Paint Creek United Methodist Churches*?

Because our names tell a story. They represent generations of faithful people rooted in this community. They represent worship that has sustained hearts through joy and hardship, and service that has fed bodies and souls. They tell the story of a church that loves Jesus and lives it out. Our calling isn’t to compete with large churches or attract young families with slick production. Our calling is to be the church—to live out the love of Christ, care for one another, pray, serve, gather around Word and Sacrament, and welcome others into the joy we’ve found in Jesus.

We don’t invite others because we want to grow for growth’s sake. We invite others because we’ve received something life changing and we want them to experience it too. That gift is Jesus Christ. Let us never lose the language of our faith. Let us keep loving God and each

other. And let us continue to be a church where people matter.

How Can We Reach More Senior age individuals “Who’ve Stopped Coming?”

While younger families may be drawn to contemporary churches, we still have a vital calling to reach people of *all* ages—especially our senior adults. Here are a few gentle, grace-filled ideas to help us reconnect:

- Start with a phone call. A friendly check-in from someone familiar goes a long way. Ask how they’re doing — not why they haven’t come.
- Offer rides or help. Many seniors stop attending due to health or transportation challenges. A ride to church or even a home visit can rekindle connection.
- Host a “Fall Come Back to Church Sunday.” Choose a special Sunday to invite former or infrequent members back—no pressure, just a warm, joyful welcome.
- Honor their legacy. Publicly recognize the contributions of senior members.
- Celebrate anniversaries of membership, baptisms, or service milestones. People return where they feel seen and valued.

Let’s be the kind of church that never gives up on people—and never stops believing in the power of personal invitation.

God bless you all.

In Christ’s love, Pastor Marv

A Grateful Thank You to Tim Northrup!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Tim Northrup of the Howarth Church for his generous gift of time, talent, and craftsmanship.

Tim graciously donated not only his woodworking expertise but also his collection of specialty woods to create two beautiful Advent wreath stands—one for Howarth and one for Paint Creek.

These handcrafted pieces are more than just functional; they are works of art that will grace our sanctuaries and enhance our worship for many Advent seasons to come.

Tim’s thoughtful contribution is a true blessing to our church families, and we are deeply thankful for his dedication and care.

With sincere appreciation,

Pastor Marv and the Howarth and Paint Creek church families.

NOTABLE QUOTES:

"I still go to bed every night with a smile on my face, gratitude in my heart and love in my soul."

Sister Jean
(105 years old), Chaplain
for the Loyola University
Chicago men's basketball
team

"Sometimes the most honest prayers we can pray are the ones that sound like 'This is hard. I'm tired. Please help.'"

Ashley Morgan Jackson
author

"Celestial beings, messengers of light, the neighbor next door, even a passing stranger - angels appear in many forms. Be open to receive them, for they come to us on heavenly business."

Anna Trimview
author

"Be yourself. No one can say you're doing it wrong."

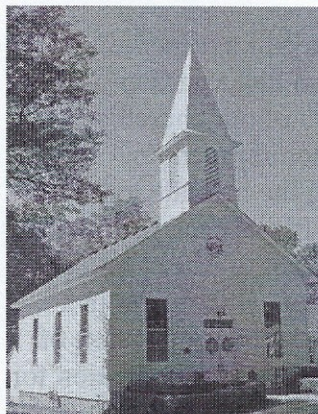
Charles Shultz"

"Sometimes you change people's lives just by saying 'good morning'. I always say to myself, 'I'll never see this person again on the elevator, on the stairwell, in the grocery

store. This is the only chance, the two of us."

Courtney B. Vance
Actor
(originally from Detroit)

PAINT CREEK NEWS:



From Cal Devitt
Financial Secretary:

Here we are, midway through the year already, time to thank our faithful and generous givers.

Whatever works for you: weekly, monthly, yearly--bless you for your generosity & faithfulness as onward we go in 2025.

Paint Creek UMC Fall Schedule for 2025 Missions

- September-Red Bird Christian Schools
- October- World Communion Sunday

- November-The Baldwin Center

A Lasting Gift for the Advent Season

Beginning this year and for many years to come, Paint Creek Church will be adorned with a beautifully crafted Advent wreath—adding both reverence and beauty to our worship during the holy season of Advent. In place of traditional wax candles, we have invested in a new set of oil candles, which offer a cleaner, longer lasting, and more sustainable option for our sanctuary.

The cost of the new stand and candle set was \$736. To help offset this expense, we invite donations in any amount. If you feel moved to give in memory of a loved one, this can be a meaningful way to honor them during the Advent season.

Donations may be made by check to Paint Creek Church. Please indicate "Advent" in the memo line, along with the name of the individual you wish to remember, if applicable. Thank you for supporting this lasting addition to our Advent tradition.

Paint Creek Administrative Board

NATURAL SANCTUARY by Rob Mair

For several years, I've had the privilege of tending to our

church's outdoor property with a singular vision: to transform this space into a vibrant and inviting sanctuary that reflects the beauty of God's creation. My goal has been to restore the land to its natural splendor, replacing invasive species with a rich tapestry of native plants that nurture both the earth and the creatures who call it home.

In this ongoing journey, I've planted a variety of trees—from tiny seedlings to young saplings—and introduced dozens of species of perennials, each chosen for their stunning flowers, colorful foliage, and the life they support. With every new addition, the space becomes a little more alive, a little more connected to the natural world we're all part of.

And already, the results are visible! The garden has evolved into a true sanctuary—a thriving habitat for native insects and birds that rely on the plants for food and shelter. These native plants, too, rely on each other in an intricate web of life: without certain insect species, some plants cannot be pollinated and will not survive. The balance is delicate but beautiful, and it's a living testament to how everything in nature is interconnected.

Each year, my work begins with the removal of invasive species, followed by planting in the spring. Almost all of the new plants thrive here, flourishing in their natural environment. While the garden is already a welcoming space, I have plans to make it even

more interactive for visitors—one day, we hope to install informative labels so that you can learn the names of the many flowers, add more benches for rest and reflection, and perhaps even create simple trails for those who want to explore deeper into this peaceful retreat. Birdhouses, bat houses, and feeders will also be added to provide even more shelter and sustenance for our local wildlife.

This "park-like preserve" is more than just a garden—it's a reflection of our church's unique commitment to honoring the habitat God first created. It's a space that invites all who visit to pause, reflect, and connect with nature in a way that deepens our sense of community and appreciation for the earth. I hope this sanctuary will draw new members—those who value the beauty of the natural world and who recognize that this church is a place where we care not only for each other but for the land as well.

The Paint Creek Church meadow and the woods along Bear Creek are becoming a valuable resource for our community, and I'm excited to see it continue to grow, both in beauty and in the relationships it fosters.

**A Special Member of Our
Christian Brethren in Christ
– Paint Creek Church's Own,
Stan Summers**

For this fall's newsletter, we are proud to highlight a very special member of the Paint Creek Church family—Stan Summers. Stan has been a cherished part of our congregation for many years, bringing not only his warm spirit but also a healthy dose of wit and wisdom. Stan was born in Detroit, Michigan, shortly after the Great Depression. He and his sister were the only children in the family. His father, a graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in electrical engineering, faced the challenge of finding work in a field that was still emerging in the 1930s. The family moved frequently during Stan's early years—living in Illinois, Indiana, and eventually southeast Michigan—as his father sought employment.

Stan spent much of his elementary school years in Indianapolis and later moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he attended high school. It was there that he discovered his love for boxing, a popular sport and pastime of the era.

According to Stan, boxing gave him confidence—perhaps a bit too much confidence!

He shared a memorable story from his senior year: a rivalry over a young lady led to a proposed after-school boxing match. Stan quickly discovered that the "Fort Wayne farm boy" he challenged was no amateur. The outcome? Stan wisely decided it was better to make

peace than to throw punches—and he hung up his gloves for good.

After high school, Stan moved to Toledo, Ohio, working various jobs until he was drafted into the Army in 1950.

Following his service during the Korean conflict, he and a group of friends ended up in South Bend, Indiana, for a Notre Dame football game—an event that coincidentally was also attended by Adlai Stevenson II, the Democratic nominee for President at the time. After the game, in a moment of classic Stan charm, he managed to convince a waiting driver that he was part of Stevenson's group and hitched a ride—only to find himself in the front seat when the presidential hopeful himself climbed into the back. Stan says that's the moment he realized he might have a future as a smooth talker and a salesman!

Upon returning home, Stan went to work for Fisher Body, where he met the love of his life, Patricia. They married, raised four children, and eventually settled in Rochester, Michigan, where they built a home and a life together along the scenic Paint Creek Trail. They even built a stable on their property and enjoyed years of horseback riding and family vacation adventures out west and in many of the U.S. states.

Later in life, Stan shifted from auto parts sales into the world

of collecting vintage beer cans and beer advertising memorabilia. Over time, he built a remarkable collection, which he later sold to an establishment in Vicksburg, Michigan, where it's still proudly displayed.

For the past 20+ years, Stan and Patricia were faithful members of the Paint Creek Church. Though he has faced tremendous personal loss—having lost his beloved wife and two of their daughters—Stan continues to be an active and inspiring presence in our community. He is supported by his daughter MaryBeth, his grandson Christopher and wife Sandra, and his son Rick and his family who reside in Traverse City.

Now in his 90s, Stan remains lively and engaged. He's a proud member of "The ROMEOs" (Retired Old Men Eating Out), a social group that gathers regularly for conversation and coffee. He also enjoys visitors, a good jigsaw puzzle, and—perhaps most of all—a competitive game of Cribbage. In fact, even though Stan is a faithful Christian man, he makes it his mission to beat his pastor in Cribbage every time he gets the chance!

We are truly blessed to have Stan Summers in our midst—a man of faith, humor, and resilience. He is a beloved brother in Christ and a living reminder that every life holds stories worth telling.

Monarch Butterflies

Submitted by Cal Devitt

One of God's creations, the Monarch, is more than a pretty butterfly. It's been getting attention recently. Its numbers have been declining. Monarchs are important pollinators, as are bees and some other insects. Crops that depend on pollinators provide food.

Now comes the subject of milkweed. You may know that Monarchs depend on milkweed—it is the ONLY food for the Monarch caterpillars. If you have milkweed growing on your property, do your best to save it!

Bible Quiz

Submitted by Cal Devitt

1. Which is longer?
A. Old Testament
B. New Testament
2. How many Books are in the Bible?
A. 21
B. 46
C. 66
3. The first book of the Bible is
A. Genesis
B. Matthew
C. Revelation
4. Final book of the Bible is
A. Malachi
B. Revelation
C. Titus

5. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are referred to as

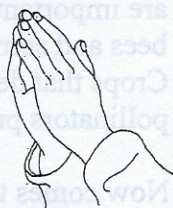
- A. Chapters
- B. Creations
- C. Gospels

4. Summaries

(answers on page 6)

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Jan, Paul, Marlene,
Penny C., Ann, David,
Bill M., Adam Z.



Paint Creek Birthdays and Anniversaries



August

Rob Mair	Aug 11
Stanley Summers	Aug 23
Tim Tapner	Aug 25
Becky Weger	Aug 26

Anniversaries

Gerald & Anne Schultz	Aug 9
Anthony & Laura Moggio	Aug 16

September

Stacy Cleaveland	Sept 17
Benjamin Barkham	Sept 22
Michael Nawrocki	Sept 23
Don Paterson, Sr.	Sept 24
Bill Burns	Sept 28
Becky Matthews	Sept 28

Anniversaries

Andy & Sandy Knaack	Sept 3
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October

Pastor Marv	Oct 2
Barb Smith	Oct 5
Don Hardman	Oct 7
Jan McCall	Oct 13
Fran Chaffee	Oct 14
Donald Paterson	Oct 17
Gail Stoner	Oct 22

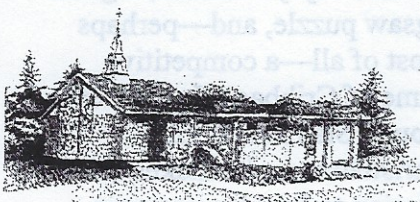
Anniversaries

Rob & Judy Mair	Oct 3
D.J. & Diana Ostrand	Oct 14

Crop Walk 2025

We are pleased to announce that Howarth raised \$526.00 and Paint Creek raised \$1,750.00, for a grand total of \$2,276.00! All funds raised support hunger fighting efforts, and 25% of the funds raised are returned to local communities to support local hunger fighting efforts. Thank you to all who contributed and/or walked.

HOWARTH NEWS:



Thank You!

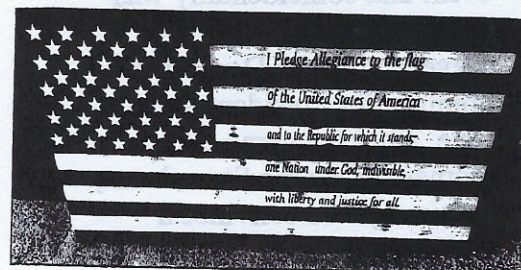
From the family of Jack Dalton

"A friendly smile, a casual touch, these are the things that mean so much.

Thank you for caring in our time of sorrow, sharing our prayers, today and tomorrow.

God gives us comfort in the form of good family and friends. May His peace be with you, His love never ends."

Pat would like to share with us that Jack made 11 of these beautiful American flags for his family, a lasting treasure to be handed down to future generations.



Thank you from Sharon and Rick

Rick is finally home after 30 days in the hospital. His back surgery went well, but unfortunately, he developed a bacterial infection while there. He'll be on antibiotics for probably 6 months. The first 40 days is infusions. After that he will take pills.

I'm recovering as well as can be expected. Still doing physical therapy.

We want to thank both of our church families for all the prayers, cards, food, texts and phone calls. And to those who came to the house to help with installing a grab bar, moving furniture, and helping to get Rick in and out of the van. He

loved the welcome home balloons and signs.



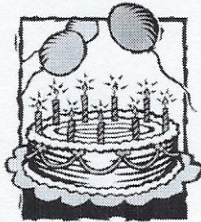
Blessings to all of you.

Communion Preparers

Scott & Cheryl	Aug 3
Ruth	Sep 7
Sharon	Oct 5

Thank you so very much for your assistance with Communion!

Howarth Birthdays and Anniversaries



August

Ruth Ferrell	Aug 9
Scott Howden	Aug 14
Tena Hostler	Aug 16
Pat Dalton	Aug 28

Anniversaries (none)

September

Nora Powell	Sept 6
John Wells	Sept 13
Lee Boughner	Sept 16
Becky Matthews	Sept 28

Anniversaries

Dennis & Pamala Waite	Sept 8
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October

Pastor Marv	Oct 2
Rita Sauls	Oct 12
Sharon Rowden	Oct 17
Scott McKay	Oct 28

Anniversaries (none)

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Dennis, Kathy, Jeff,
Marilyn, Tim,
Cal T., Jim S., Terry S.,
Cheryl B., Sandy W.,
Ruth T., Storm G.,
Kristin S., Rita, Kevin, Sharon,
Rick, Chris N., Mattheas B.
David W., Dana G.



Liturgist needed!

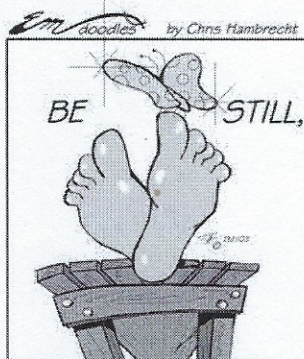
Please be sure to sign up for **coffee hour**. Signup sheet is on bulletin board by kitchen.

Answers to Bible Quiz:

Answers:

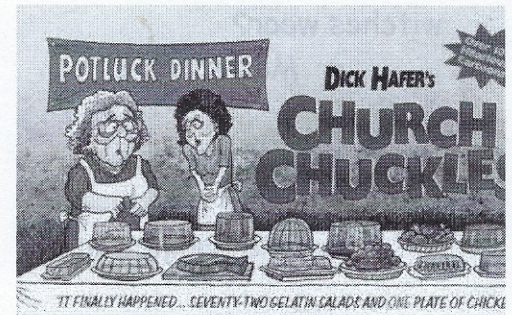
1. A
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C

(Author and Editor not responsible for any wrong answers :-)



AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.
www.emdoodle.com (Psalm 46:10) 05/23/12

Church Chuckles

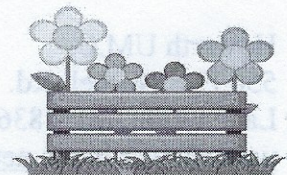


"It finally happened....72 gelatin salads and one plate of chicken"

Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



"Our family is trying one of those old-fashioned churches, with preaching, the Bible, and all that stuff."



"Grand Grins"

Why did the jellybean go to school?

- To become a smartie

Why is 2+2=5 like your left foot?

- Because it's not right

What type of music is a mummy's favorite?

- Wrap (rap)

What kind of makeup do
witches wear?

- Mas-scare-a!

What kind of monster
loves to disco?

- The boogieman

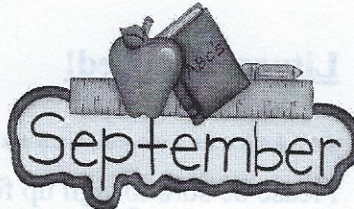
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Goodbye July...
ALOHA August



August	
Aug 9	Ruth Ferrell
Aug 14	Scott Howden
Aug 16	Tena Hostler
Aug 18	Pat Dalton
Anniversaries	
(none)	

September	
Sept 6	Norm Powell
Sept 13	John Wells
Sept 16	Lee Broughner
Sept 28	Becky Matthews
Anniversaries	
Dennis & Pamela White Sept 8	

October	
Oct 2	Pastor Mary
Oct 12	Rita Sauls
Oct 17	Sharon Rowden
Oct 28	Scott McKay
Anniversaries	
(none)	