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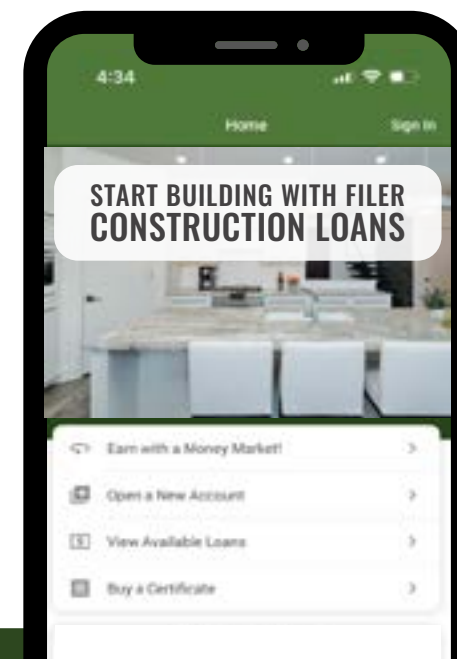
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Pentwater, the season to be thankful is upon us

BY DAVID L. BARBER
PTW COLUMNIST

In a few weeks we'll find ourselves at the start of something truly special, maybe not officially, but certainly traditionally.

It will be the start of the Christmas season, though some naysayers might moan that season started weeks ago, much to their calendar-watching chagrin.

Phooey on them. Bah, humbug!

For many, the impending holiday season will begin with Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, turkey, giblet gravy and mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie, and yes, even Detroit Lions' football. It will begin with Thanksgiving prayers.

And therein lies the operative words and reasons for the eternal season that is upon us - being thankful - though truth be told we all have reasons to be thankful every day. As for myself, I have much to be thankful for. It's a long list that continues to grow day-after-day, friend-after-friend, good time after good time.

We should be thankful for all our good times, and though it might be hard to swallow, we should be thankful for our bad times, too. For it is the latter that defines us at the end of the day, makes us stronger when our tears finally go dry, invites us to welcome in

a new day when the sun finally comes up, and ultimately helps us to appreciate the good times, all the more.

For most, there is no balance between the two. Good times always outweigh bad and the sun always comes up, storm clouds or no storm clouds.

So, whether you make a list in your head, or actually sit down and write all you have to be thankful for on a sheet of paper, make your list this week.

Family. Friends. Freedom. Health. Happiness. Laughter. Love. And of course, not being too shy about being silly, every now and then. Being silly is good.

Make a list of all those things that make you look forward to the sun coming up every day, and of the people you can't wait to embrace.

And then make another list of those things, and people, that get your blood boiling, and not in a good way.

They don't compare, do they?

Your good list is measurably longer than the other.

Bad times? Gonna' have 'em. Bad people? Gonna' cross paths with 'em.

But don't let either outweigh the definitive and infinitely longer list of good things and good people you have in your life, and for who you are thankful to have in your life.

The older I get, the more I appreciate all that I have, even when my plate's gone empty, and storm clouds block the sunrise - my sunrise.

So, I just sit and wait for a rainbow. And a chocolate-covered donut. Not necessarily in that order.

We here in Manistee and Pentwater and Michigan and America have much to be thankful for. Our blessings are as many as our names. And more.

Happy Thanksgiving, Pentwater, even if it's a few weeks early. And while I'm at it, Merry Christmas, too.

Editor's note: David L. Barber is a retired journalist living in Manistee. He will provide occasional feature stories and columns for various Shoreline Media publications, including the Ludington Daily News, Oceana's Herald-Journal, LakeStyle Magazine and PTW Magazine. He can be reached at dibarber1006@gmail.com

A SEASONAL TRANSFORMATION:

Lakeside Village Trades Beach Vibe for Holiday Cheer



BY HEATHER VANDYKE

As the final, lingering scent of summer beach days has faded from the air along Lake Michigan's Gold Coast, the quaint, sun-kissed streets of Pentwater are preparing for a luminous transformation.

Soon, the village's downtown will be draped in a flurry of holiday cheer, trading in flip-flops and boat shoes for festive lights and cozy shopping expeditions.

The community's popular annual celebration, Christmas in the Village, promises to turn this West Michigan haven like the center of a snow globe, giving shoppers a delightful excuse to embrace the season early.

HOLIDAY FLAVORS AND FUN

Far from a single-day event, Christmas in the Village is a sustained holiday season, taking place on weekends from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. During this time, the village's collection of shops, intimate art galleries, and inviting restaurants will be decked out, offering a trove of unique gifts, seasonal décor, and plenty of festive food and drink.

The promise of refreshments and in-store specials only adds to the allure of shopping small and local.

Along South Hancock Street, the heart of the shopping district, merchants are stocking their shelves and planning

their holiday displays.

At Oldewick Post Gift Shoppe, located at 134 S Hancock St., the atmosphere is already shifting. Known year-round for its artisanal sweets and aromatic coffee, the store will be full of the scent of holiday spices and fresh-brewed gourmet coffee.

Owner Crystal Babbin said the shop is prepared to satisfy both the palate and the decorator's eye, with festive packaging for their homemade fudge and a variety of home décor.

Yet, a surprising item often steals the show.

"We have our coffee bar and gourmet coffee beans and holiday packaging for fudge and home decor, but a lot of people love our Polish pottery," Babbin said, referencing the bright, colorful, and delicately designed tableware that has become one of the shop's most sought-after imports.

Just a few doors away, another local shop is gearing up for a strong holiday run. Nicki Breazele, owner of Birch Michigan & Pentwater Candle Company at 119 S Hancock St., anticipates high demand for her signature products.

Breazele, whose company has sold more than 70,000 candles, said she will have her most popular scents ready to go, alongside an expanded inventory of seasonal gift ideas, including home dé-

cor, body lotions, vases and flowers.

"I expect our candles will continue to be the most popular," she said.

MORE THAN JUST SHOPPING

Beyond the doors of these specialty shops, the Christmas in the Village celebration often includes special events, such as horse-drawn wagon rides, Christmas caroling on the Village Green, and the arrival of Santa Claus, turning the main street into a communal gathering space. These additions help transform a simple shopping trip into a cherished holiday tradition.

The Hancock Street shopping district features an array of other local businesses prepared to offer a variety of goods for every item on a gift list. Here are a few others:

- Flowers by Mary Ann,
215 S. Hancock St., Suite 1-A
- Decors by Sandra,
264 N. Hancock St.
- Vignette,
161 S Hancock St.
- Jilly's,
226 S Hancock St.

For travelers and residents alike, the annual transformation of Pentwater from a quintessential Great Lakes summer town to a luminous holiday destination offers a quiet, charming alternative to the bustle of big-city shopping.



Pentwater Township Library team

FIRESIDE FAVORITES:

COZY READS FOR ALL AGES



BY CRISTINA JUSKA

As the days grow shorter and the chill settles in, there's nothing quite like curling up with a good book to warm the soul. Whether you're nestled under a blanket with a steaming mug of tea or tucked into a favorite armchair as snowflakes drift past the window, winter invites us to slow down and savor stories that comfort, captivate and transport.

To help you make the most of this sea-

son's quiet magic, we asked Pentwater librarians — those expert matchmakers of readers and books — for their top cozy winter picks. One thing's for sure: These recommendations are sure to keep you company through the frostiest Michigan nights.

And because cozy reading knows no age limit, we've included titles for everyone in the family — from picture books perfect for bedtime snuggles to teen

page-turners and adult novels that linger long after the last chapter.

We're grateful to Director Mary Barker's team at the Pentwater Township Library, as well as Stephanie Quinn, Pentwater Public Schools librarian, for suggesting great books for all ages. These literary legends stepped up to provide a comprehensive winter reading list to get you through the coldest months of the year. Whether you prefer fiction or nonfiction, they have

you covered.

So grab a cup of your favorite hot beverage and a cozy blanket, and get ready to read the winter away.

Children's Picks by Stephanie Quinn, School Librarian

PICTURE BOOKS

The Lights That Dance in the Night by Yuval Zommer — The animals of the

forest and sea dance in the wintry night while the Northern Lights flow above.

Snow Horses by Patricia MacLachlan — A young girl celebrates the last day of the year with a horse-drawn sleigh ride to town, giving rides and joy to all.

Frostfire by Mackay — Two fox sisters play in the winter landscape until one hears a strange noise. Could it be a snow dragon?

MIDDLE GRADE

Middle School Winter Blunderland by James Patterson — Rafe receives the offer of a lifetime to travel to Alaska to study polar bears. What could go wrong?

The Snow Girl by Sophie Anderson — Tasha builds a snow girl during the long, lonely winter. But what happens when spring comes?

The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell — Feo and her mother train domesticated wolves to return to the wild. She must travel through snowy Russia to save her mother and the wolves she loves.

May B. by Caroline Star Rose — A novel in verse where May must survive on the prairie in a sod house alone for five months with little food and no company.

North to Benjamin by Alan Cumyn — With the help of Benjamin, a huge, blundering dog, Edgar must hold on in the

wilds of Alaska until help arrives.

YOUNG ADULT

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys — Winter 1945. Four teenagers from different countries flee the Soviet advance on a ship of hope that swiftly turns into the single greatest tragedy in maritime history.

Breadcrumbs by Anne Ursu — Hazel faces the evil Snow Queen to save her best friend, whose heart has been frozen.

I Am Still Alive by Kate Alice Marshall — Jess tells two stories: what happened before her father died and what happened after. Can she survive long enough to tell her story?

Cold the Night, Fast the Wolves by Meg Long — Seventeen-year-old Sena must use the skills her mother taught her to finish a deadly race across the tundra.

Children’s Picks by the Pentwater Township Library Staff

PICTURE BOOKS

The Mitten by Jan Brett (Director Mary Barker) — A cozy classic where woodland creatures find shelter in a lost mitten during a snowy day. *Snowballs* by Lois Ehlert (Director Mary Barker) — A playful celebration of snow and imagination for children of all ages. *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats (Director Mary Barker) — A timeless story capturing the joy of a child’s first snowy adventure.

MIDDLE GRADE

Let It Glow by Marissa Meyer and Joanne Levy (Director Mary Barker) — A festive, fun story of friendship and light that brightens the shortest, coldest days.

Justin Wambaugh, Pentwater Township Library ▶





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JUVENILE NONFICTION

The Snow Man: A True Story by Jonah Winter and Jeanette Winter (Director Mary Barker) — The captivating story of the world’s first snow sculpture, inspiring creativity in the snow.

Adult Picks by the Pentwater Township Library Staff

ADULT FICTION

A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah Maas (Assistant Tammy Hammerle) — A lush, romantic fantasy full of magic, danger and intrigue — perfect for curling up on a snowy night.

Emily Wilde’s Encyclopedia of Faeries by Heather Fawcett (Circulation Aide Olivia Bradley) — A whimsical and enchanting tale of friendship and folklore, ideal for escaping into a frosty fairy world.

The Bear and the Nightingale by Katherine Arden (Circulation Aide Olivia Bradley) — A magical story set in icy forests, blending Russian folklore with courage and winter wonder.

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon (Assistant Tammy Hammerle) — A gripping historical novel where secrets unravel against the backdrop of a frozen Maine river.

The Land in Winter by Andrew Miller (Director Mary Barker) — A sweeping historical tale capturing the stark beauty and challenges of wintertime survival.

Migrations by Charlotte McConaghy (Assistant Tammy Hammerle) — A hauntingly beautiful story of love, loss and the pull of nature during the cold, quiet months.

The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern (Circulation Aide Olivia Bradley) — Enter a magical circus of mystery and

enchantment, perfect for long winter nights.

The Spell Shop by Sarah Beth Durst (Assistant Justin Wambaugh) — A warm, cozy story about books, spells and finding your place in a world of magic.

Under the Whispering Door by TJ Klune (Assistant Justin Wambaugh) — A tender tale of second chances and hope, ideal for a quiet winter evening.

What You Are Looking For Is in the Library by Michiko Aoyama (Assistant Justin Wambaugh) — A heartwarming story celebrating the quiet magic of libraries in guiding our lives.

ADULT NONFICTION

Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times by Katherine May (Director Mary Barker) — A reflective book on embracing rest, renewal and resilience during the winter season of life.



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Stephanie Quinn, Pentwater Public Schools librarian



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Community Calendar

NOVEMBER

- Veterans Day Parade**
November 8
Downtown Hart
- Lighted Christmas Parade**
November 28 6:30 p.m.
Hart Commons
- Hart and Pentwater Small Business Saturday**
November 29
Downtown
- Santa on the Green**
November 29 5 p.m.
Village Green

DECEMBER

- Pentwater Band Craft Fair**
December 6 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Pentwater Public Schools
- Christmas in the Village**
Weekends in December

FEBRUARY

- Snowman Scram 5K**
February 14
Pentwater Public Schools
- Winterfest**
February 14 - 15
February 21 - 22

APRIL

- Easter on the Green**
April 4
Village Green
- Silver Lake State Park ORV Area Opening Day**
April 1

MAY

- Brews and Beats**
May 2 12 - 5 p.m.
Village Green
- 10th Annual Jeep Invasion**
May 28 - 31
Silver Lake Sand Dunes

JUNE

- Community Garage Sales**
June 13
Village of Pentwater and surrounding area
- Youth Fishing Tournament**
June 13 - August 16

- Spring Festival Arts, Crafts and Antiques Show**
June 20 - 21
Village Green

- Civic Band Concerts Start**
June 25 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Village Green

JULY

- Pentwater Art and Craft Fair**
Village Green
- Pentwater Fireworks**
July 3 at Dusk
- Thunder Over the Dunes Fireworks**
July 4 10:30 p.m.
Silver Lake Sand Dunes

AUGUST

- Homecoming Celebration**
August 15 - 16
Downtown Pentwater
- Wooden and Classic Boat Show**
August 22
Pentwater Yacht Club

SEPTEMBER

- Apple and BBQ Festival**
September 11 - 12
Silver Lake Sand Dunes

OCTOBER

- Oktoberfest**
October 10
Downtown Pentwater



Summer Weekly Repeats

- Civic Band Concerts**
June 25 - August, Thursdays
7:30 p.m.
Village Green
- Farmers Market**
First Monday in June - Labor Day
Every Monday and Thursday
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Village Green

A LOOK BACK AT THE DAYS OF ICE HARVESTING IN PENTWATER

BY SHANNA AVERY
SHORELINE MEDIA STAFF WRITER

As simple and convenient as it is now—days to go to the freezer for ice cubes to cool off a drink, or getting out some meat to thaw for dinner, back 100 years ago folks devoted hard, strenuous work harvesting ice just for the luxury to keep their food cool in the summer.

The Pentwater Historical Museum has a written archive, ‘The Lost Practice of Collecting Ice,’ in which the author recollects childhood days when ice was harvested from Lost Lake, also called Pleiness Lake. Back then, the men would wait till the ice was plenty thick to support horse teams and sleighs.

“On a January day while we did our arithmetic and spelling, we anticipated the ride we might take after school. Our fathers were going back and forth past our school windows with horse drawn sleighs carrying loads of ice blocks, or ice cakes, as we chose to call them. We could hardly wait for the last hour or school when we could go out with our sleds and bum a ride with our dads over to the lake,” the article read.

“Putting up ice was like all other community harvests. Most every man turned out to help. Every home in our rural community was outfitted with some sort of ice box, a means to hold a supply of ice in which to keep our milk or leftovers safely cool in warm weather. We had a wooden ice box in each of the two houses on our farm. Ours were actually pieces of furniture purpose-

fully designed and built for this storage,” the author wrote.

The author explained how sawing ice on the lake was done “quite artfully and most carefully.” It involved cutting foot-long tiers of ice side-by-side and with a saw (which resembled a cross cut with a handle on only one end). Each block was cut individually.

“By that time, the ice cakes were loose from each other and were bobbing in the water. They were extracted from the dark waters with heavy tongs, lifted to and stacked on the sleighs,” it was written.

The article related how Archie Kerr, the Fern Storekeeper, had orders for ice that harvesters would fill. He had an old building by his store where he kept ice for his own family and sold it to people who didn’t store any ice. The ice blocks would be packed in sawdust in the icehouse, where they would stay frozen all summer. The sawdust provided great insulation and kept the slabs of ice from sticking together.

Another article at the Pentwater Historical Museum, “Ice Harvesting in Pentwater,” by Amy VanderZwart, shared some interesting facts.

“Not that long ago an ice covered lake meant dollar signs for many area farmers and fishermen,” she wrote, saying how farmers made money to feed their families in the winter by gathering ice from rivers, ponds and lakes, which took muscle and a good eye for weather.

VanderZwart described how the men would scrape snow from the ice field, measure the ice thickness and saw the ice cakes, some which would weigh up to

300 pounds. The ice would be loaded on horse-drawn flat bed wagons and sleds and stored in icehouses along rivers and lakes until summer, when the ice was sold. Some of the icehouses could store 1,600 tons of ice.

VanderZwart said local lore indicates there were three important ice houses, one on Bud Stenberg’s on the far side of Pentwater Lake, another on the corner of sixth and Hancock and one that is said to still be standing on private property in the village.

She said ice harvesting was dangerous and cold. Men were injured by ice hauling picks and huge metal tongs. Some would lose fingers to circular ice saws.

A clipping from the Pentwater News confirms the danger of the work.

“While getting on to the ice on Pentwater Lake early Wednesday morning Nels Peterson had the misfortune to slip from the plank leading from the bank, resulting in a cold ducking in the icy water. Owing to the timely assistance of several men nearby, he was rescued from a position which otherwise would have been extremely dangerous,” the article from Feb. 12, 1909, read.

By the end of World War II, refrigeration was largely in use, and community icehouses largely ended by the 1950s, according to VanderZwart.

One wonders what those oldtimers who took every advantage of the precious commodities they had at hand, including a lake of deep ice, would think to see how easy folks have it now a days, And certainly, folks now a days may not realize how lucky they have it to just take a quick seconds to fetch a few ice cubes from the freezer.



Photography courtesy of Todd & Brad Reed Photography

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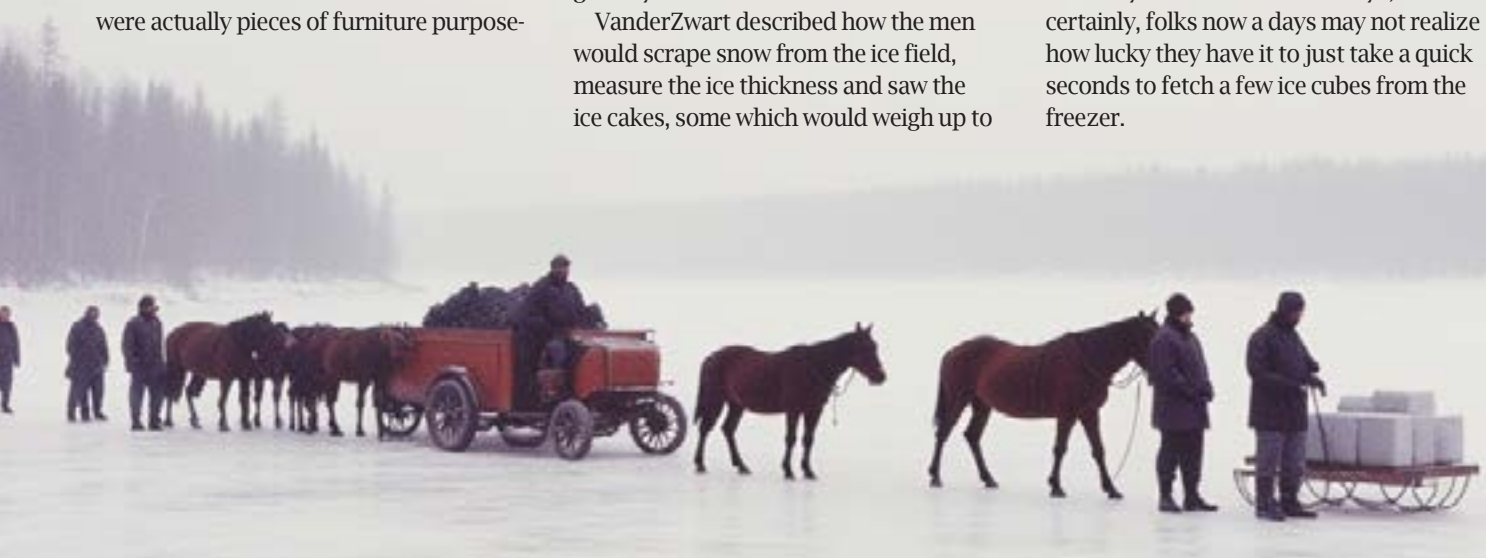
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GULLS PROVIDE PICTURE-PERFECT PROFILES

They're loud. They're everywhere. And they especially like to hangout at the beach in large groups. Nope, they're not teenagers, though they subscribe to those descriptions; rather they're seagulls. Gulls are so plentiful in Pentwater and virtually all surrounding sites that if you take a few minutes to just sit and watch them, you'll see a truly remarkable creature. Gulls are monogamous in mate fidelity, which normally lasts for the life of the pair. They devour just about anything and everything -- they're the ultimate scavenger -- and their high-pitched squawks can be heard at great distances. They glide gracefully. They walk through the sands of beaches like the one at the Charles Mears State Park in Pentwater as if they own that sand, and truth be told, they do. Gulls have a beauty all their own and can be seen all year long. Photos by Jeanne Barber

PHOTO ESSAY BY JEANNE BARBER



WINDOW ART:



Museum detail, front window

A look at Pentwater's stained glass windows

BY STEVE BEGNOCHE

PENTWATER – Every picture tells a story, they say.

Some more than one.

Some with stories no longer fully remembered.

Some in leaded and stained-glass adorn Pentwater churches dating back to the 19th Century.

Consider the windows at St. Vincent's Catholic Church – the oldest surviving church structure in Pentwater.

According to information from the church, the land for the structure on Sixth Street was purchased for \$50 from lumber baron Charles Mears in 1865 "and is thought to have been built between 1871-1875 though there is no record of its completion or dedication."

A sister church to the magnificent "Cathedral of the North" St. Joseph's Catholic Church with its storied windows in nearby Weare Township, St. Vincent's "is a simple gabled clapboard structure with rectangular windows of leaded glass." The sanctuary was renovated in the 1930s when a double sac-

risty was added. A parish hall, and a double altar was added in 1963.

Mass is celebrated Sunday mornings in summer and Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. throughout the year. The colorful windows of St. Vincent's depict Biblical scenes in medallion-like centerpieces amidst panes of green, blue and translucent white glass. Border panes boast bolder colors.

Laura Baker, St. Vincent's business manager and parishioner, graciously greeted me and took me into the sanctuary to see its windows. Like many church goers, Baker has a favorite window: one with a centerpiece depicting the Sacred Heart.

"That one's special to me," she said. "I don't know why." She sometimes looks at it during Mass.

According to the website for Church Stained Glass Restoration company, the oldest known stained glass window dates back to the 11th Century and is found in Augsburg Cathedral in Germany.

"In the Christian religion, there has always been a special relationship with light," the restoration

company's website stated, noting God's first words recorded in the Bible are "Let there be Light." "Stained glass in churches clearly represents this. In fact, it allows for the use of light in a particularly ethereal way. ...

"Church architects saw stained glass as a perfect way to highlight the spiritual truth of light while at the same time being functional."

The site explains some of the symbolism of choices used in windows:

- Jesus: Represented by Lifelike images; cross; lamb; a shepherd
- Holy Spirit: Represented by a flame; wind; a white dove
- The Saints: Represented by an image of the man or woman; the name of the saint; the way the saint was martyred
- Virgin Mary: Often depicted wearing blue robes; on her own or with her son
- Black: Death
- Blue: Heavenly Love, Virgin
- Brown: Death
- Grey: Mourning, Humility
- Green: Spring, Charity, Life over death

STORY & PHOTOS BY STEVE BEGNOCHE



St. Vincent's Ave Maria sacred heart detail



St. Vincent's detail

STEVE BEGNOCHE PHOTOS

- Purple: Royalty God The Father
- Red: Love, Hate, Martyred
- Violet: Love, Truth, Passion, Suffering
- White/Gold: Innocence, Holiness
- Yellow: Jealousy, Treason, Deceit

On the October day visit to Pentwater churches, sunlight flooded through certain windows at each building visited based on where the sun rested in the sky at the time.

Centenary United Methodist Church Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Vaughn Thurston-Cox, talked about the relationship of stained glass and churches as early morning sunlight flooded through the southeastern window – one of two of European origin added above the altar

during a renovation in the 1980s, when a drapery formerly behind the altar was removed. The windows added light – a celestial light of sorts – to the sanctuary.

In pre-literacy times, Thurston-Cox said, “Putting (Biblical) stories into pictures gave the story to everyone.” Secondly, he continued, “I think stained glass is simply beautiful. God created us for beauty and you can find that in stained glass. There is something about beauty that inspires the soul.”

Some of Centenary’s windows have a bit more obtuse symbolism in them, perhaps, than St. Vincent’s more straight-ahead approach. Centenary’s windows, based on dedication panels, were added

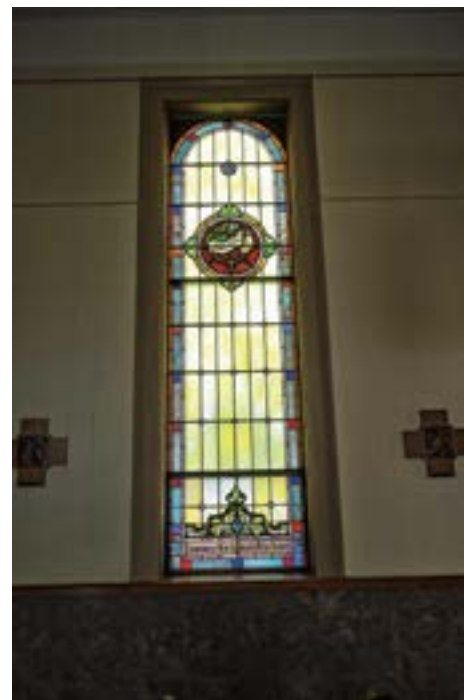
in 1915. That’s decades after the church on Hancock Street was rebuilt with West Michigan cream brick following a fire in 1875 that burned the original 1866 wooden structure. Rebuilding began in 1875 and the new structure was dedicated in 1879 upon completion.

Congregation member Ann Soles, whose home is on the site of the old Pentwater brickyard, has studied the church’s history and is uncertain of the backstory of the windows, but said she wouldn’t be surprised if the church had plain glass windows before 1915.

She relates the church started in the 1850s. Subsequently, an offering taken up by its first pastor, Joseph Elliot, col-

coast guard window detail Centenary UM

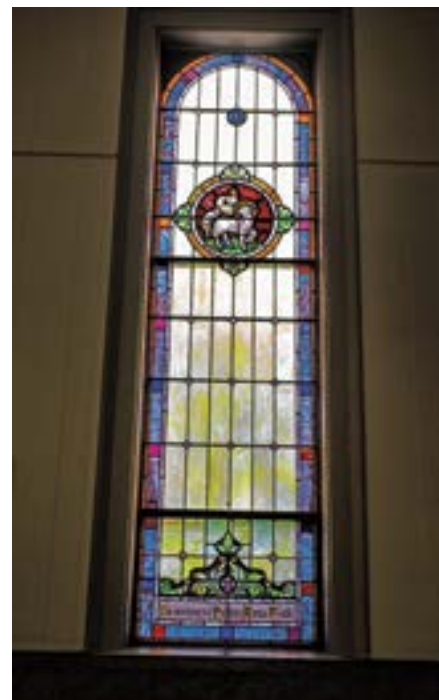
STEVE BEGNOCHE PHOTO



St. Vincent's Ave Maria window full



St. Vincent's Ave Maria window



St. Vincent's memorial window

lected \$40 to purchase the land from the local Native American tribe. When the church was reconstructed after the fire, the story goes the pastor held services in the basement until funds were raised to pay for the already-constructed upstairs sanctuary.

The 1915 windows have an Art Deco look to them with geometric shapes and patterns.

“Instead of flowing lines and organic shapes, Art Deco created a more modern style, with its emphasis on geometric patterns, symmetry and sleek, streamlined forms. The style quickly spread across the globe, influencing everything from architecture to fashion. And Art Deco glass was born as part of the new style,” Purlfrost.com, the website of a United Kingdom window film producer, states.

Art Deco windows began gaining popularity about 1910, according to various websites, so the choice at Centenary would have been quite contemporary.

In the bell tower, a 1915 window is dedicated to the Coast Guard.

Exactly why the window was dedicated to the Coast Guard isn’t clear. Soles and Cox-Thurston surmise it was due to the service provided by the Coast Guard to the safety of mariners on nearby Lake Michigan.

Atop the Coast Guard window are three panels with symbols – an eye, a crown and a cup with grapes around it.

Thurston-Cox said the all-seeing eye likely represents God the Father; the crown, God’s son in Jesus Christ; and the cup, the Holy Spirit. A nearby window depicts the mystery – three in one -- of the Christian Trinity.

Other windows include a dedication “Presented by Class No. 4, Sept. 15, 1915. Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” Others recognize patrons who perhaps provided funds for windows.

Soles has spent much time gazing at the church’s windows over the years. One window, in particular, regularly

catches her attention.

“I was in the choir. One window in the front of the church has two medallions, one was tipped the wrong way. When they fixed it, I was sad. I thought there was room in the church for things that were put in the wrong way. (It was) my own talisman.”

Two windows behind the altar and one suspended in a window in the fellowship hall are European in origin and were installed during the altar area renovation. Polaroid photos with the name Earla Gwillem written on back, show the windows sitting on the ground before installation. Gwillem’s son, Jeff Gwillem is still active in Pentwater.

“There’s something magical about stained glass,” Soles said.

But the magic doesn’t mean they aren’t at times altered.

Renovations and building use changes meant windows in Pentwater and all over were sometimes modified due to needed repairs, or in the case of Centenary UM, to provide ventilation to the sanctuary.



St. James interior

STEVE BEGNOCHE PHOTO



Pentwater Museum

STEVE BEGNOCHE PHOTO



Museum archive obscured window

STEVE BEGNOCHE PHOTO

Frames were added to sections of the windows near the pews to allow the windows to be opened to let air in. The pews, Thurston-Cox noted were bought used when the church was reconstructed leaving him wondering just how old the pews are.

At St. Vincent's, stairs to the choir loft obscure portions of north facing windows.

Two blocks east of Centenary UM at 82 S. Wythe St., the neat, white structure of the St James Episcopal Church basks in afternoon light. New organist Steve Bartlett was stopping in to practice for that week's Sunday service, and invited me to join him in the sanctuary to photograph its windows.

Another 19th Century structure, St. James' windows tell recognizable Bible stories, such as the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in a panel next to the organ, and scenes such as Jesus's birth in a manger and later crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.

Like St. Vincents and Centenary UM, changes in St. James' sanctuary meant at least one change in its windows. One was removed to provide an entryway. The afternoon light passing through the remaining southern windows creates a golden hue in the church as Bartlett practices a hymn. It's no wonder such places are called "sanctuaries." The light and sound soothe one and create an atmosphere for reflection.

Next door to St. James, the Pentwater Historical Museum, 85 Rutledge St., is located in the former Pentwater Baptist Church building. The Baptist church's new modern complex is kitty-corner to its old home. It's former building, now, filled with exhibits about Pentwater's history (including one small window and the old rooftop cross from St. James), boasts identical stained-glass windows with green panels and purple scrollwork on the north and south walls, many partially obscured by pieces on exhibit.

A large stained-glass window on the east-facing front is difficult to see behind a protective plastic outer window that catches glare from the sun. It's mostly obscured from viewing from the inside, too, though a panel can be seen in the archive area upstairs.

Protective outer layers are increasingly common on such windows to prevent damage from the elements. Centenary UM added new outer windows in recent years that also protect from UV damage.

Most of Pentwater churches' stained-glass windows are not lighted from within at night.

The best way to see them is to attend a service, or stop by and ask if one can take a look from within during the day.

Catch them on a sunny day and the play of the sunlight might mesmerize you.



Museum windows

STEVE BEGNOCHE PHOTO

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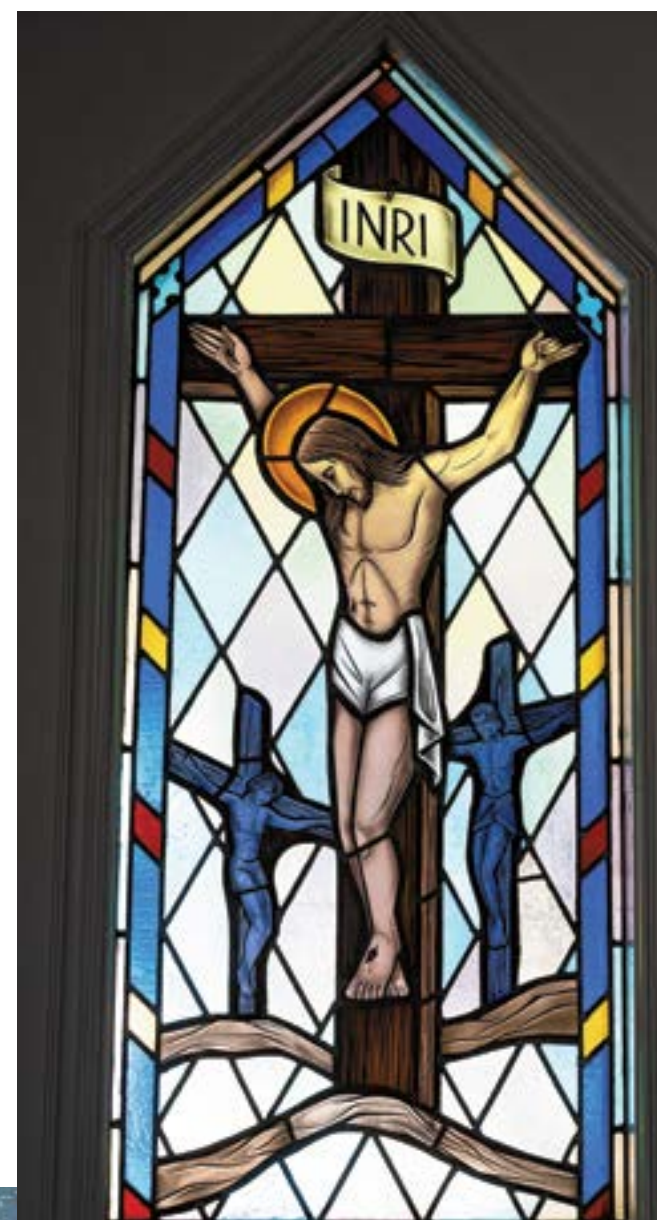
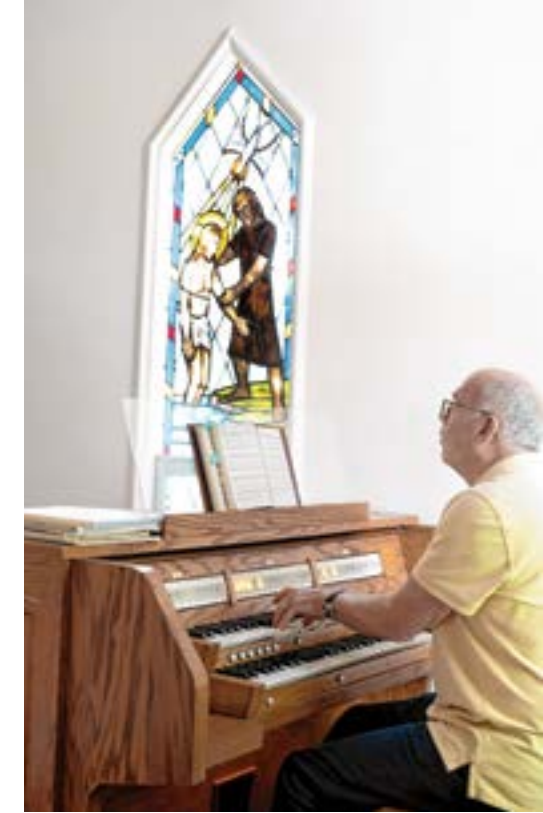
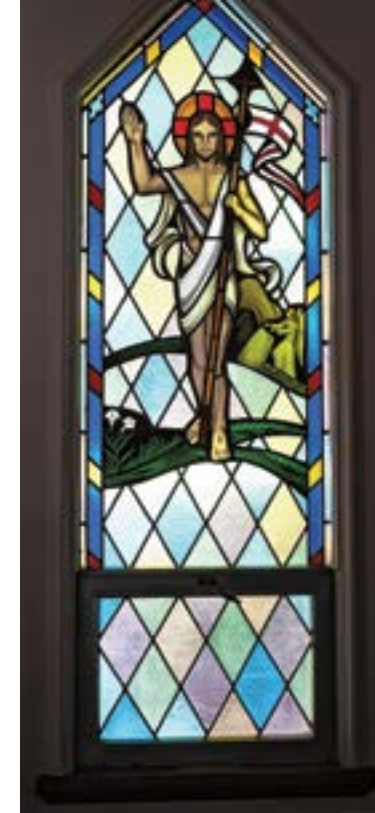
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This page, top to bottom from left: St. James w., ascension; St. James, organist; St. James Episcopal, crucifixion; St. James Episcopal, Pentwater.

Opposite page, top to bottom from left: Centenary exterior; Centenary altar windows; Centenary Thurston Cox; Centenary, south altar window; Centenary patron window; Centenary west window.

STEVE BEGNOCHE PHOTOS



THERE'S LOTS TO DO IN PENTWATER DURING THE WINTER

BY LARRY LAUNSTEIN JR.
SHORELINE MEDIA STAFF WRITER

PENTWATER — The summer tourist season is over, but there's still plenty to do this winter for those who want to enjoy the great outdoors.

Eva Gregwer, executive director of the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce, said winter activities begin the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 29, with Santa on the Green.

"He is brought down via fire truck to the Village Green, and children line up to wave and then have their picture taken while telling him their wish list," Gregwer said.

The same date is also Small Business Saturday, with many shops offering specials.

In addition, there will be a Merry Market at Up North Garden Center.

However, the main event takes place on the second Saturday of February, when Winterfest is held. Gregwer said that's when the Ryan Williams Ice Fishing Tournament will occur.

There will also be the Snowman Scram 5K race and ice skating, along with sledding, shopping, a Mardi Gras party, cross-country skiing and more, Gregwer said.

Some weather-dependent activities include ice fishing on Pentwater Lake, sledding at the Village Green, cross-country skiing at Pentwater Pathways and bonfires outdoors.

On New Year's Eve, fireworks will be held at the marina.

Additional activities include ice skating at North End Park, family and friends walking through the village streets, and taking in the beautiful winter sunsets.

"It's always spectacular to stop and view the icebergs on Lake Michigan," Gregwer said.

Starting Dec. 6, the first Saturday of the month, there will be the Pentwater Band craft fair at Pentwater School, which houses the elementary, middle and high schools.

The school also hosts athletic events such as boys and girls basketball, as well as family nights. Check the Pentwater Schools athletics website for more details.

"Every Saturday in December is Christmas at the Village," Gregwer said. "Each Saturday will feature something different."

There are bonfires, poker runs, merchant open houses, Santa appearances, horse and carriage rides, storytelling, hot chocolate and much more, Gregwer said.

According to Gregwer, Jilly Barnes of Jilly's Gallery is finalizing details for the above events.

Jilly's Gallery, Painted Frog and Sew Let's Be Quilty also offer art classes.

Gregwer said the Pentwater Library offers book clubs, chair yoga, preschool story time, presentations and jigsaw puzzle contests.

"There's always something for everyone," Gregwer said.

She added that Storybook Village frequently hosts interactive story time.

For diehard golfers, Golden Sands Golf Course and Bucket Bar, just south of Pentwater, offers year-round golf.

Alicia Kolenda, part of the family who runs the golf course, said, "Over the 26 years we've had only about 10 Februaries where we didn't have golfers."

"It seems as though the deep snow doesn't settle in until January, and we usually get some sort of thaw in March," Kolenda said. "February is the toughest month for those who want to play."

The course is not open when there's frost, as it can damage the grass. Fall and

winter rates apply, and there's a fun all-day play option not offered during the summer.

Even though riding carts are put away for the winter, push carts are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

"So come early, stay late and enjoy your round!" Kolenda said.

Although Mears State Park closes for camping Nov. 1, Hector "Manny" Valdez, the unit supervisor, said the area in and around the park remains active with winter activities.

"In the years after I arrived in Pentwater in 2013, I would often hear the question, 'When does the park close?'" Valdez said. "My response was that the park does not close; the campground closes on Nov. 1."

Valdez said he emphasizes that point because there are plenty of things to do at Mears State Park in the offseason after the campground closes.

"One of the things that takes place after the campground closes is people walking in the park and walking their dogs," Valdez said.

He also elaborated on the Pentwater Pathways mentioned by Gregwer, located in the Pentwater River State Game Area south of town.

"The Pentwater Pathways are available for walking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing — foot traffic only," Valdez said. "The pathways are a great place to see fall color and to enjoy winter sports. These trails are inside the Pentwater State Game Area, which is 2,540 acres of land managed for quality and hunting experiences."

Valdez noted that hunting and fur-trapping seasons generally occur during the fall and winter months.

When the snow begins to fall, people enjoy sledding down Old Baldy, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the park. However, the sand heats up fast because of direct exposure to light, Valdez said.

Therefore, sledding and snowshoeing can only take place for a day or so after fresh snow before the sand becomes exposed.

"That exposure can be a good thing, too," Valdez said. "We don't have to plow the parking lot at the beach because the snow melts in a day or two, so we only need to plow the entrance near our registration booth where sand and snow drift in deep."

Those conditions make it pleasant for walking on the beach during the winter, and sometimes, if conditions are right, ice caves can form.



In addition, there's a free boat launch to access the Pentwater River and marsh, where fishing and hunting take place. People can also fish from the pier or shoreline.

Finally, Valdez said there's a "modern lodge," the Dune Grass Villa.

The villa is fully furnished and can accommodate eight people comfortably. The two-story, three-bedroom, two-bathroom home includes a fireplace, a back deck and an outdoor fire pit. The villa

can be rented year-round.

For more information on Chamber events, including Winterfest, visit pentwater.org or call 231-869-4150.

For more information on Golden Sands Golf Course, visit goldensandsgolf-course.com or call 231-873-4909.

For information about winter activities at Mears State Park, visit michigan.gov/recsearch/parks/Mears.

For Pentwater athletics, visit pentwaterschools.net/athletics.

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HOPES, DREAMS AND WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Chats with people at Charles Mears beach to ask them what they want for 2026

BY DAVID L. BARBER

As the thermometer bubbled over 80 degrees the first weekend in October, and as small mounds of sand were beginning to form here and there across the Charles Mears State Park beach in anticipation of the impending change of seasons, dozens of area residents and visitors gathered to enjoy one more hot summer day at the beach even though, well, as mentioned, the calendar was saying it had flipped pages to October.

PTW was there, too. With the new year just beyond the horizon, we wanted to ask a few people what their “hopes and wishes” might be for the new year. We got some interesting responses.

William Onali, 83 of Benton Harbor, was sitting on a bench at the beach and when asked, he paused for a few seconds, and those few seconds became several seconds.

“Peace, just peace,” he said.

A few minutes later Kor’che Agerphon, 23 of Utica, was standing off to one side listening to the responses of others. Finally, given her chance, Kor’che lumped “hopes, dreams and wishes” together in her answer.

“All three,” she said, “my ‘hopes, dreams and wishes’ for the new year – and for the future – will be to live long enough to see a woman elected president, as long as she has the pedigree. That will be nice, especially if it happens sooner, than later.”

Penni Agerthon, 20 and who was

standing nearby, nodded her head in agreement.

“That will be nice, if one of ‘us’ gets elected to the White House,” said Penni. “Mainly, I’d just like to see more women voted into important positions in politics.”

A few yards from the Agerthons a group of longtime friends sat beneath an awning, enjoying the unseasonably-warm day for what it was – relaxing. All of them said

and on all seven continents.”

Frank Elton, 62 of northwest Indiana, assured his friend, “you’ll do it.”

“I’m ‘hoping’ to have a healthy, happy year,” Elton said. “I ‘hope’ to visit as many national parks that I can, I’ve already visited (quite a few). And I ‘hope’ to enjoy many more sunsets.”

Neither Ray L, nor Steve B, offered their last names, but as they sat with their friends beneath the bright blue awning, both had ideas of what they’d like 2026 deliver for them.

“I ‘hope’ to stay healthy, I want to stay healthy,” said Ray L. “And I want to keep my family healthy.”

Steven B, also of Chicago, said “there are so many” things to ponder. Finally, after several seconds, he said, “... I ‘wish’ our country will come together – again,” to which his longtime friends verbally expressed their agreement.

Unlike a few of the others, David Gleason, 44 of Ludington, didn’t hesitate to answer.

“A new job,” said Gleason. “I’ve been out of work and I just want to find something that will pay the bills and get me through, to let me

have more days like this. That’s what I wish for.”

As he turned to walk away Gleason stopped, turned back around, and smiled.

“And I hope the Tigers win the World Series,” he said, smiling.



they have been coming back to Pentwater year after year, for many years.

“It’s my ‘hope’ to semi-retire,” said Tom Leddy of Chicago. “It’s my ‘hope’ for my daughter to do well in her job as a esthetician. It’s my ‘hope’ to run three more marathons – I’ve done that in all 50 states

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