

January/February
2023



PORTAGE FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

9922 St. Rt. 44, Mantua, Ohio 44255

Mission Statement: "To be a family of faith in Christ through caring, serving, and fellowship"

The Bridge

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School for all ages:
8:30 am to 9:15 am

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

*Children's Church 9:30 am

Nursery 9:30 am

*Children's church will not be held when we have communion, usually the first Sunday of the month.

Liturgist Schedule

January

1 Ted Taylor
8 Chris Chaykowski
15 Linda Weinkamer
22 Debbie Bahr
29 Steve Weinkamer

February

5 Doris Gharky
12 Bill Graham
19 Steve Weinkamer
26 Linda Weinkamer

Committee Meeting

Reminders:

Finance Meetings:

Thurs. Jan. 12, 6:30 pm

Thurs. Feb. 9, 6:30 pm

Trustee Meeting:

Thurs., Jan. 12, 7:00 pm

The Ad. Council:

Tues., Jan. 17, 7:00 pm

Pastor's Corner

As you are reading this, Christmas either is or is soon to be in the rear window for another year. Soon it will be time to clear the wrappings from the living room, the decorations from the tree, and the leftovers from the refrigerator. It is easy to look at this time of year as anticlimactic after all the festivities and visits with family and friends. We build up to December 25th with such excitement and then it is suddenly over. All we seem to have to look forward to is a long sad expanse described in the hymn, "In the Bleak Midwinter."

It is important to remember, though, that in the midst of that darkness and bleakness, Light came into the world. And that Light has not quit shining in over 2000 years, even though we sometimes forget to see it when the light seems to be overwhelmed by our everyday cares and concerns. Yet we need not succumb to the winter doldrums just because Christmas has come and gone. Remember that the enjoyment of the Christmas Season is not an end in itself. We celebrate Christmas because of the Good News it brings in its wake.

That Good News does not end with the ceasing of the festivities. No, instead it is just the beginning of a New Year filled with hope and peace and joy because of the child who was born for us two millennia ago. His light is always with us and will never go out even in the darkest of days. God's love for us is inexhaustible and deep and we can always tap into it through the light of the Holy Spirit. It really is the gift that keeps on giving all through the year if we continue to hold tight to it.

I found a lovely poem by Francis Ridley Havergal that distinctly expresses the wish to stay connected to the one who really matters.

Another Year Is Dawning

Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting, Another year with Thee.
Another year of mercies, Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness In the shining of Thy face.
Another year of progress, Another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.
Another year of service, Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training For holier work above.
Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven Another year for Thee.

Continued...

UMM Breakfast Meetings:

Sun., Jan. 8, 7:30 am

Sun., Feb. 12, 7:30 am

UWF Breakfast Meetings:

Sun., Jan. 22, 7:30 am

Sun., Feb. 26, 7:30 am

Happy January Birthdays

- 2 David Scott
- 3 Jerry Tipton
- 5 Maxine Hill
- 6 Cressinda McCrady
- 6 Doris Gharky
- 8 Anne Spence
- 8 Justin Shannon
- 9 John Peters
- 11 Kummel Hammel
- 12 Tana Shaulis
- 18 Shane Chaykowski
- 19 David Fletcher
- 20 Trent McCaul
- 20 Olivia Shaulis
- 23 Don Bowker
- 25 Betty Bednar
- 25 Sharon Wright
- 27 Linda Weinkamer
- 29 Kim Weingart
- 29 James Dennis

Happy February Birthdays

- 3 Jeff Kennedy
- 4 Carrie Pearce
- 4 Jaxson Barnett
- 5 Tim Pearce
- 7 Autumn Richards
- 9 Patric McCon
- 10 Bob Lange
- 13 Kyree Kerkan
- 14 Everett Lange
- 17 Randy Weingart
- 17 Wendy Ullman
- 24 Kaeley Taylor
- 25 Willis Sands
- 28 Terri Wilde

May we too spend this new year basking in the light of Jesus' glowing face, and may that light keep us hopeful, thankful, and grace-filled all year long. I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year.

With much love,
Pastor Jill Lea Scott

Our deepest Sympathy for the family and friends of Ron Lance who passed into eternity on December 11, 2022. The **Celebration of Life service** will be held at **Portage Faith on January 8 at 12:00 pm, with a luncheon following.** Portage Faith will remain open after church for anyone who would like to stay and have fellowship before the Celebration of Life begins.

Ron was a longtime member of Portage Faith, who was instrumental in building the church. Ron participated in the UMM, served PALS, was a trustee for many years as well as serving on many of the church's committees. He will be deeply missed, but we praise God for his faithful witness, ministry, and service.

Thank you for blessing of beautiful Altar Flowers:

November

In Celebration of Pastor Jill and David's Anniversary by the Scotts.

In Celebration of Darlene and Jim's 30-year Anniversary by the Dennis'.

In Honor of Joe and Marie Herberth by Lynn and Sharon Wright

December

In Celebration of Chris Chaykowski's birthday by Deb Sike.

In Honor of their Children by Steve and Linda Weinkamer.

In Celebration of Kirk and Karon Mooney's Anniversary by the Mooneys.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study We will begin the 1 & 2 Chronicles on **January 11 at 10:00 am.** This study is by Charles R. Britt. All are welcome.

Thank you 

The United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) would like to thank everyone who made something for the Bazaar and Country Store! Please know that we sincerely appreciated all the help we had this year! It truly was a success and we raised close to \$2,000! We couldn't have done it without you! With your support we were able to donate to a number of different missions and we also gave back to our own church. Thank you so very much!

United Methodist Men

started a Utility Fund on

May 8, 2016. This fund is dedicated for an upgrade in our water and sewage utilities. This is an entire church project and the U.M.M. are actively seeking donations. For more information, please contact Tom Kennedy (330-274-8054) or Rick Bahr (330-527-4499).

Hope Circle will continue to meet on the 4th Thursday of each month, weather permitting.

Mary Martha will also continue to meet on the 4th Monday, weather permitting.

GOT SCRAP? The United Methodist Men would like to take it off your hands. The United Methodist Men's scrap drive has been a great fundraiser. For pick up, just call Tom Kennedy (330-274-8054).

We need You! Please contact Sharon Wright if you would like to serve as an usher, or use the sign-up sheet on the table.

Looking Ahead:

The season of Lent begins on February 22, 2023. We are tentatively planning an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm.

A sincere thank you for the generous Amazon Christmas gift, and the many Christmas cards. You all make me so Grateful to be a part of the Portage Faith Family. ❤️ Jeanette

Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations!!

January Anniversaries

- 5 Lynn & Sharon Wright married 43 years
- 13 Kyle & Carlye Pearce married 5 years
- 29 Mickey & Pamela Braden married 46 years

Congratulations!!

February Anniversaries

- 3 Doug & Carol McIntosh married 55 years
- 23 Roger & Linda Hammel married 15 years

Book Club for **Tuesday, January 10** will be held at our regular time of **10:00 am in the library**. The book is called "*And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*" by Jon Beacham. Anyone who loves to read is welcome to join in.

The 4C's (stands for Crestwood Coalition for Community Care). Donations of non-perishable food, cleaning & paper products, and personal care items are needed to help keep the 4C's well stocked for those in need. Bring donations to the church and put in the shopping cart near the entry. Thank you.



The prayer chain continues to be a source of comfort to all. It's easy to submit your prayer requests; either by writing it on the church prayer card during worship service, (check add to prayer chain) or by contacting Cindy Pearce by phone 330-274-0507. If you would like to be a prayer warrior, please let Cindy know.

If you have any updates to your membership status, name, address, phone number or email, please notify the church office. Call or email the office at 330-274-8987, pfumcoffice@gmail.com, so that we can update our records. Thank you!