

March/April 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.

### Committee Meeting

#### Reminders:

#### Finance Meetings:

Thurs. Mar. 9, 6:30 pm

Thurs. Apr. 13, 6:30 pm

#### Trustee Meeting:

Thurs., Mar. 9, 7:00 pm

#### The Ad. Council:

Tues., Mar. 21, 7:00 pm

#### UMM Breakfast Meetings:

Sun., Mar. 12, 7:30 am

Sun., Apr. 9 7:30 am

#### UWF Breakfast Meetings:

Sun., Mar. 26, 7:30 am

Sun., Apr. 23, 7:30 am

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Spring is just around the corner. I know this because I've seen the green shoots of day lilies beginning to peek out of the ground over by our barn. It's nature's dead giveaway that though it is still frigid most days, warmer days are tantalizingly close to meeting us halfway. I say halfway, because we live in Northeast Ohio and warm days in March just tease us into complacency so that we can get whacked by a whole string of cold ones. It's like nature is saying, "Yeah, spring his here, but don't get too used to it. I have plenty of bonus winter days in the fridge that have to get used up before they go bad." Heavy \*sigh\* from me in response. I hate leftovers. Anyway, shouldn't Old Man Winter do some spring cleaning, and just throw that old stuff out? Nobody wants to eat it anyway.

Speaking of spring cleaning, I read a Lenten poem online today that reminded me that I have a lot of spring cleaning to do not only in my house, but I have plenty of it to do in my life, as well. Lent is a good time for us to clear out the cobwebs in our minds and hearts and get busy replacing the dirt and grime with good things that only a life deeply rooted in the love of Christ can reveal to us. Some of the good things can be new, like beginning a new ministry project or welcoming new friends into our lives. But most of the good stuff has been there all along – things like our relationships with family and other loved ones, compassion for those who are hurting, and the assurance that Jesus is walking right there beside us supporting us all the way. Just like a favorite book that gets shoved under the couch and forgotten, our God-given good things, get covered up with the clutter of our lives and we forget about them.

So get out the broom and start sweeping folks. After all, we always want the "house" cleaned up for Easter. By the way, the poem that brought on all this thinking of mine will be posted right after this letter. God be with you and have a blessed Lenten season.

With much love,  
Pastor Jill Lea

Continued...



Lenten Pot-  
Luck Dinner  
& Program

Sunday, March 19 at 5:30 pm.

## Liturgist Schedule

### March

5 Ted Taylor  
12 Jeff Barnett  
19 Debbie Bahr  
26 no liturgist needed

### April

2 Doris Gharky  
9 Ted Taylor  
16 Jeff Barnett  
23 Matt Ruchalski  
30 Steve Weinkamer

### Wednesday Morning Bible

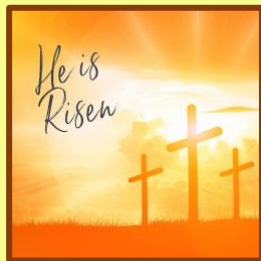
**Study** - We are continuing with 1 & 2 Chronicles at 10:00 am. This study is by Charles R. Britt. All are welcome.

**The 4C's** - 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.

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](mailto:pfumcoffice@gmail.com), so that we can update our records. Thank you

God, we come  
With hesitant steps  
and uncertain motives.  
To sweep out the corners  
Where sin has accumulated,  
And uncover the ways  
We have strayed from your truth.  
Expose the empty and barren places  
Where we don't allow you to enter.  
Reveal our half-hearted struggles  
Where we have been indifferent  
To the suffering of others.  
Nurture the faint stirrings of new life,  
Where your spirit has begun to grow.  
Let your healing light transform us,  
into the image of your Son.  
For you alone can bring new life  
and make us whole.

PS - I want to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful church family for the love offering I received from you all at Christmas. It was much appreciated and bought David and I some lovely and much needed time out of the house. Thanks again. XXOO



### **Holy Week Schedule:**

**Palm Sunday** - Sunday, April 3 at 9:30 am  
**Maundy Thursday** - Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 pm  
**Good Friday** - Friday, April 7 at 7:00 pm  
**Easter** - Sunday, April 9 at 9:30 am

**On Sunday, April 16, the Peanuts Gang** (Charlie Brown et al') will be at the center of our *Holy Humor* Service! Come and hear music and jokes, and wear a costume, relating to the beloved, funny, and timeless Peanuts Gang.

### **Thank you for blessing of beautiful Altar Flowers:**

#### January

In Celebration of Virginia Goodells 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by Hope Circle.

#### February

In Celebration of Nate and AJ's birthdays by Carol and Doug McIntosh.

To the Glory of God by Kirk and Karon Mooney.

### **Friends having Coffee at R44 - 8:15 am - 9:00 am**

**Sunday, March 5.** Our Education Chair, Erika would like to announce a special time for casual fellowship and education. Our first gathering we will talk about what we as a group are interested in doing, i.e., a devotion, a small group study, men & women or combined etc. On **March 19**, we will gather right after church at R44, this time, including **the youth** who are interested. Everyone is invited.



# Happy Anniversary!

## Congratulations!!

### March Anniversaries

- 9 Matthew & Kristin Pierce married 11 years
- 13 Chad & Jaime Roberts married 13 years
- 16 Bill & Diane Graham married 9 years



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.

**Hope Circle** will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, weather permitting.

**Mary Martha** will also continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, weather permitting.

**Book Club** for will be held at our regular time of **10:00 am in the library** on the second Tuesday of the month.

**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).

**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).

### Happy March Birthdays

- 1 Jamie Roberts
- 2 Mae Davis
- 4 Robin Gay
- 9 Larry Peters
- 12 Dolly (Evelyn) Pfost
- 15 Alice Moore
- 17 Marjorie Craig
- 21 Jacob Klock Horner
- 21 Mary Lange
- 24 Bill Graham
- 26 Rob McIntosh
- 26 Louise McCaul
- 27 Pamela Braden
- 28 Virginia Moore



### Happy April Birthdays

- 1 Jim Peters
- 1 Samantha Kennedy
- 5 Heather Rupnik
- 6 Adam Gharky
- 7 Tina Mosher
- 8 Helenayn Scott
- 8 Dylann Pierce
- 9 Autumn Sike
- 9 Brooke Ruchalski
- 11 Lillian Atkinson
- 12 Louise Bowers
- 17 Zachary Gharky
- 19 Ashley Cutlip
- 24 Ethan Rupnik
- 24 Haden Rupnik
- 24 Savannah Roberts
- 25 Lucas Kennedy
- 27 Jill Scott
- 29 Gene Gharky
- 29 Jeremy Tipton
- 29 Joey Peters
- 30 Brad Ullman
- 30 Brian Ullman



# Easter Flowers / Return orders by March 12



Please make checks payable to "**Portage Faith UMC**", write in the memo line "**Easter Flowers**". You may place your order in the Sunday offering plate or turn it into the church office **no later than Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**. Flowers may be taken home after the Easter Sunday Worship Service.

In Memory

Of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor

of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of

God: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enter the number of plants you want.
\$7.00 - Single Easter Lily 6" pot _____
\$12.50 - Double Easter Lily 8" pot _____
\$18.00 - Triple Easter Lily 10" pot _____
\$5.50 - Daffodil 6" pot _____
\$5.50 Mini Daffodil 6" pot _____
\$5.50 - Hyacinth 6" pot Pink _____, Blue _____, or White _____
\$5.50 - Tulip - 6" pot Red _____, Blue/Violet _____, Pink _____
(Availability subject to change)
Grand Total \$ _____

PORTAGE FAITH UMC  
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MANTUA, OH 44255  
(Address Service Requested)