

May/June 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 or during the summer.

Friends having Coffee at R44 will be held 8:15 - 9:00 am on the first and third Sunday of the month. Join us for an uplifting time.

Committee Meeting Reminders:

Finance Meetings:

Thurs., May 11, 6:30 pm

Thurs., June 8, 6:30 pm

Trustee Meeting:

Thurs., May 11, 7:00 pm

The Ad. Council:

Tues., May 23, 7:00 pm

UMM Breakfast Meetings:

Sun., May, 14, 7:30 am

Sun., June, 11, 7:30 am

UWF Breakfast Meetings:

Sun., May 28, 7:30 am

Sun., June 25, 7:30 am

Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you may have heard, our beloved United Methodist Church is going through a very difficult time in its history over issues related to human sexuality. It is not the first time our denomination has faced controversy in our long, long existence, and it probably will not be the last. However, being in the midst of controversy with fellow Christians, no matter what the issue, never feels very good. This current period of discomfort is no exception.

I think one of the biggest problems we face as a local church caught up in the denominational turmoil, is the confusion that seems to swirl around us from all directions. Although we are strong in our own faith and convictions, it is difficult to know which things we hear from the outside are true, which things are false, and which things hover somewhere in the middle. It can be easy to be swept away in the emotion of hyperbolic assertions from both sides of the issues, and we can lose our true north. In other words, we can lose sight of what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ in service to our neighbors and our God. We can easily forget our responsibility to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world.

In an effort to help us wade through the issues together, Pastor Bill Graham and I would like to invite you all to an open meeting in Goodell Hall on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:00 PM. We would like to present to you a balanced overview of the history of the current controversy over human sexuality. We will present the main issues in question. These issues include whether self-avowed, practicing homosexuals should be ordained and whether United Methodist pastors should be able to officiate same-gender marriages. We will explore the history of what the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church currently states about human sexuality. We will take a look at both the traditional and progressive positions on these issues. Finally, we will discuss where the United Methodist Church finds itself after the Special General Conference of 2019, and where we stand as we approach General Conference of 2024. Though Bill and I will be making the presentation, our District Superintendent, Edgar Brady, will be in attendance to answer any questions that we cannot.

My hope is that this meeting will help to alleviate any anxieties we are carrying in our hearts relating to the UMC's future. None of us has a crystal ball or knows for certain what lies ahead. But knowing the facts, can be a comfort and can help us to remain calm and keep things in perspective. Finally, I ask you all to pray for the Church and its leaders, for the world, and for one another as we travel together through this difficult and upsetting time. Never forget that I love you all.

Blessings, Pastor Jill Lea

Liturgist Schedule

May

- 7 Ted Taylor
14 Mother's Day Program
21 Linda Weinkamer
28 Steve Weinkamer

June

- 4 Ted Taylor
11 Debbie Bahr
18 Linda Weinkamer
25 Doris Gharky

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.

Congratulations 2023 Graduates!



Henry Hoover
Brooke Ruchalski
Helenayn Scott

Father's Day service is on Sunday, June 18 with special guests of youth and children.

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 or pfumcoffice@gmail.com.

Join us for the very popular season 3 of The Chosen Bible study. Bible Study starts on **May 4, and for the next 8 weeks**, will be held on **Thursday mornings at 10:00 am.** Bring a friend!!

Hurry - don't miss out....order your Portage Faith T-shirt! The order sheet is on the table! The adult shirts are \$20 and youth shirts are \$15. The money needs **collected by May 7.** Please write your check out to PFUMC and in the memo line put "T-shirt".

Mother's Day service will be led by the children/youth! Erika Barnett is requesting pictures of all the ladies in our church with their children, grandchildren and/or a picture of just yourself. Please send them by **Sunday, May 7** in order this project can be completed by Mother's Day. You can text or email the pictures to Erika on her Cell# 330-221-5348 or email: Egay@kent.edu.

The next United Methodist Men breakfast meeting will be on May 14, at 7:30 am. The program will be about the Korean War by Don Bowker.

The United Women in Faith would like to invite you to a Brunch after service on May 21. The meal will offer a variety of egg casseroles, fruit, fruit breads, juice and coffee. Adult charge is \$6.00 and children 12 and under will be \$4.00. We hope you are able to join us for a meal and fellowship



Graduation Sunday will be held on June 11. We'll also give bibles to our third graders. Let the office know if you have a graduate. A celebration reception will be held right after church.

Thank you for blessing of beautiful Altar Flowers:

March

In Honor of Nate, Matt, Sam & Marie by Lynn and Sharon Wright.
In Loving Memory of Tracie Simon by Doris Pearce
In Celebration of Robert McIntosh's Birthday by Doug and Carol McIntosh

April

In Loving Memory of Jim Pearce by Doris Pearce.
In Celebration of Autumn Sikes Birthday by Deb and Chris
In Celebration of Suzanne Harker's Birthday by Doug and Carol McIntosh.

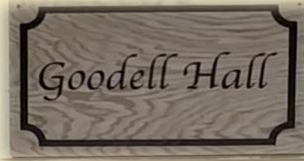
Hope Circle will continue to meet on the 4th Thursday of each month, or as noted in the weekly announcements.

Mary Martha will also continue to meet on the 4th Monday at 6:30 pm. Watch the weekly announcements for further information.

Book Club will be held at 10:00 **am in the library** on the second Tuesday of the month, unless noted in the weekly announcements.

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 (330-388-1356) 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 (330-388-1356)



In Honor of Virginia's 100th birthday and her many talents and her faithfulness to Portage Faith, our fellowship hall has been designated as "Goodell Hall".

LADIES: SAVE THE DATESaturday, October 14, 2023 for a one-day retreat at Camp Asbury! Continental Breakfast will be 8:00 to 9:00 am. Day will end at 7:00 pm. More Information to follow!!

The family of Donald C. Haney would like to thank you for all of your thoughts, prayers and cards sent since his accident and death in mid-March.

We also want to thank all the ladies of UWF for the wonderful light meal of appetizers and sweets after Donald's Celebration of Life on April 22. Your hard work setting up, cleaning up and your donations of food and time plus your ever-loving support is so appreciated. God Bless each and every one of you in our church family.

Gene and Doris Gharky

Happy May Birthdays

- 1 Bud Bednar
- 2 Tim McDermott
- 2 Jenny Ollison
- 2 Rhonda Grudowski
- 2 Warren Ragle
- 4 Neil McDermott
- 7 Jeffrey Barnett
- 9 Noah Kennedy
- 10 Steve Weinkamer
- 11 Bige Combs
- 12 Madelyn Scott
- 16 Kyle Pearce
- 16 Bruce Goodell
- 16 Anneliese Spangler
- 17 Lisa Cutlip
- 19 Abigail Pfost
- 22 Zachary Weinkamer
- 28 Donald Smith
- 28 Ayden Barnett
- 30 Doris Pearce
- 30 Andy Pfost

Happy June Birthdays

- 1 John Spence
- 7 Sarah Pearce
- 8 Nathan Gay
- 11 April Sike
- 12 Kolby Rose
- 14 Alexandria Marek
- 14 Tom Taylor
- 17. Jeff Wilde
- 19 Ken Grudowski
- 26 Recia Ragle
- 26 Benjamin Pearce
- 29 Kevin Pearce
- 29 Candice Rose
- 30 Tristan Fletcher



Happy Anniversary!

May Anniversaries

- 6 James & Bonnie Marek married 23 years.
- 7 Kevin & Cindy Pearce married 35 years.
- 18 Eric & Lori Davis, married 27 years.
- 18 Adam & Chrissy Gharky married 21 years.
- 19 Bill & Gloria Schrecengost married 67 years.
- 21 Andy & Holly Pfof married 18 years.
- 22 Bob & Mary Lange married 13 years

June Anniversaries

- 14 Jim & Renee Peters married 27 years
- 15 Matt & Amanda Ruchalski married 21 years
- 15 Jason & Kimberly Tipton married 10 years
- 20 Scott & Anne Weslow married 43 years
- 22 Steve & Linda Weinkamer married 49 years
- 24 Pat & Iris McCon married 51 years
- 29 Rick & Debbie Bahr married 32 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.

The **EB** was busy spreading happiness to everyone during the **Eggstravaganza event on Palm Sunday**. Everyone enjoyed the Worship service and the *Eggcellent* fun that followed.





REGISTRATION FORM

(ONE PER CHILD)



Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cell phone: (_____) _____

Home email address: _____

Home church: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____



4 Days of Fun Pets Unleashed VBS

Mark your calendars!

Tuesday, July 11th through Friday, July 14th - Supper at 5:30 pm and our program starts at 6:00 pm for Preschool through Adults.

It's the cat's meow 5:30 pm to 8:15 pm each night, so register now!!

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." (1Peter 5:7)

Holy Humor Sunday

This year the theme for Holy Humor Sunday was "The Peanuts". Several members dressed up as the beloved characters. From the left, we have Lynn Wright, Sandy Havlena, Helenayn Scott, Linda Weinkamer, Ayden Barnett, Doris Gharky, Pastor Jill, Madelyn Scott, and in the back row we have Steve Weinkamer, Jeff Wilde and Ted Taylor. You all made this *humorous* Worship extra special.

"KEEP LOOKING UP ...
THAT'S THE SECRET OF
LIFE ... "
Snoopy

