

September/October 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 Worship at 9:30 am.

Children's Church will begin on September 10 at 9:30 am.

Adult Sunday School will begin on September 17 at 8:30 am. Come join us as we study the Book of Jude.

*Pastor's Walk-in Office hours at Portage Faith: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 to 11:00 am. Other times by appointment.

*Weekly Prayer time in the sanctuary, Tuesdays, 7:00 to 7:45 am.

*Coffee Shop Hours at Restoration 44 Coffee in Mantua on Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00 pm.

*Check announcements for any schedule changes that may come up.

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.

Mary Martha will meet on September 25, at 6:30 pm.

Pastor's Corner

Thank you for the welcome you have given me as your new pastor! I am grateful for your kindness. Many of you have told me that you are happy that I'm now pastor of Portage Faith United Methodist Church. I appreciate the confidence and trust you've expressed in me. In June I was a member of the congregation. In July I became your pastor. The change was sudden and a surprise to me as well as to you. I'm trying to figure out what that change means. We already shared a relationship, now the relationship has changed. When we come to church on Sunday mornings, we generally think of ourselves as the ones who do the welcoming. We stand at the door and greet people. We do our best to be friendly and make everyone feel comfortable. We check-in with each other. We have the responsibility and the ability to welcome others on Sunday morning. Jesus tells us that we need to remember how we received welcome ourselves before we can genuinely welcome others. When Jesus sends his disciples out on their first mission, he sends them out dependent on the hospitality of the people they meet. "Don't take anything with you," Jesus says. "Travel light. I want you to rely on the welcome you receive along the way as you share the good news." Jesus sends out his disciples lacking the physical essentials necessary to support their lives. "I want you to experience what it means to be dependent on others for a cup of water, a square meal, a roof over your heads." In order to take care of others we need to know what it feels like to be vulnerable ourselves. We need to experience how God meets our needs when we are vulnerable through the welcome of others.

I've shared with many of you that the highlight of our trip to Ireland this past June was reconnecting relatives. I felt pretty nervous driving up those narrow lanes in Ireland to see relatives we had not seen or contacted for fifty years. How was this going to go? How would we be received? How would they respond to us? After all we were bursting into the daily routine of our relatives. What we discovered was that our relatives were ready for us. Their front doors were open and multiple generations were gathered inside each house. Before we could get to the door, they were outside on the driveway embracing us with warm hugs. Even the shy ones came outside to greet us. They took us into their homes. It wasn't very long before they were serving us tea and scones, or even a meal around the table. Before we knew it, we were all swapping family stories and sharing what was important in our lives. Our Irish relatives gave us more than enough to eat and kept encouraging us to eat more. They showed us their farms, pointed out family landmarks, and drove us to see their churches. It was a "drop everything," attentive hospitality that we received and it humbled us. At some point in each visit, it began to feel like a holy moment. We were definitely on the receiving end of extravagant hospitality.

I invite us all to think "back" and recall "what" or "who" first made us feel welcome at Portage Faith Church. What made us want to stay here? What made us want to return Sunday after Sunday. What made us want to participate in the life of Portage Faith Church? This is a time of new beginning for all of us. It's good to remember Jesus's words. Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me".

Pastor Bill

Committee Meeting Reminders:

Finance Meetings:

Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 6:00 pm
Thursday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 pm

Trustee Meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 6:30 pm

The Ad. Council:

Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7:00 pm

UMM Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 am
Sunday, Oct. 8 at 7:30 am

UWF Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, Sept. 24 at 7:30 am
Sunday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 am

Liturgist Schedule

September

3 Steve Weinkamer
10 Jeff Barnett
17 Ted Taylor
24 Doris Gharky

October

1 Ted Taylor
8 Linda Weinkamer
15 Matt Ruchalski
22 Jeff Barnett
29 Cindy Pearce

The 4C's - Donations of non-perishable food, 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.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month.

Potato Festival Parade on Sunday, September 10 at 11:30 am at Crestwood High School. We need candy donations. We'll showcase our Living Christmas Card event and pass out candy and flyers! For more info, contact Erika Barnett.



Everyone is invited to **"Welcome the Pastor Day"** to get better acquainted with Pastor Bill and Diane on **Sunday, September 17.** **Sunday morning worship will be followed by a reception. Please plan to attend!** (photo credit to Sue Hoover)



Congratulations from the heart...

to **Robin Gay** as she and her family celebrate her retirement after 44 years of being an EKG Technician! Thirty-six of those years at UH Medical Center (formerly known as Robinson Memorial Hospital). We wish Robin abundant blessings in this new chapter of her life.

United Women In Faith Lasagna Drive-Thru Dinner

On **Friday, September 22** ladies enjoy an evening without cooking your dinner! All you need to do is pre-order a complete Lasagna dinner for each family member from UWF.

All you will have to do is drive to Portage Faith Church, pick up your dinner at the kitchen door, return home and warm it up in the microwave.

Meal will include a serving of lasagna, green beans, applesauce, a slice of bread and 2 cookies for \$10.00. Be on the lookout for order forms available in the church narthex in early September if you would like to place an order.



Special Thanks to everyone who supported our Pets Unleashed VBS Mission project and either gave much needed products and/or cash donations to the Portage County APL. Through your tremendous support we more than reached our \$400.00 goal.

The **"Pets Unleashed"** VBS program, in July, was a wonderful time of fun and learning. We learned that Jesus loves all of us and that He takes care of all our needs, including our pets. (photo credit to Sue Hoover)



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 or pfumcoffice@gmail.com.

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).

FYI: Water lines are expected to reach Portage Faith by August 2024. Continued support is very much needed and appreciated.

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)

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:00 pm and The Trustees will follow with a meeting starting at 6:30 pm.

The UMM will have a breakfast meetings on Sunday, September 10 and Sunday, October 8 at 7:30 am.

Book Club will meet at 10:00 am on Tuesday, September 12 in the Library!! The book is called "Hang The Moon" by Jeannette Walls.

Hope Circle, Blue Room, September 28 at 12:00 pm Dorothy Caldwell presenting "Memories of Church Dinners".

The UWF will have a breakfast meeting on Sunday, September 24 at 7:30 am and Terri Wilde will be the hostess!! In October, the **UWF breakfast meeting will be on Sunday, October 22 at 7:30 am** and the hostess is Recia Ragle.



Congratulations!! Welcome to the world Miss **Lucy Layne**, the beautiful granddaughter of Sandy Havlena. Lucy was born on 8/14/23 to proud parents, Ike Andrews and Britt Crarey. She weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. at birth and everyone is doing very well.



Blessings and Congratulations to Josephine Danielle MacGeorge and to Mac Tyler Schler on the occasion of their Baptisms at Portage Faith, on July 30, 2023 by Pastor Bill Graham.

ALL LADIES INVITED for a one-day retreat at Camp Asbury on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Our theme is A Time to Laugh and we'll start with a continental breakfast between 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. and the first session at 9:00. The day will end at approximately 7:00 p.m. Reservation forms with more information are located in the Narthex. Please contact Terri Wilde or Doris Gharky with any questions. Hope you can come! (a registration form is included on the last page of this Bridge)

The Charge Conference will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 10:30 am at Middlefield UMC.

Hope Circle has an Amish Dinner planned at Marian's home on **October 19th at 12:00 pm.**

Save the Date - Nacho

Average Game Night is on **Saturday, October 21**. Enjoy a fun evening playing board games and eating yummy nachos. Details coming soon!

Also - Trunk or Treat will be the same date as the Mantua event. Starting planning your trunk decorations! More details coming soon!

Happy September Birthdays

- 2 Emily Marek
- 2 Claire Pierce
- 6 Keegan Rupnik
- 10 Olivia Pfof
- 11 Debbie Bahr
- 12 Phyllis Peters
- 13 Ethan Gharky
- 15 Chris Mosher
- 16 Mary Kay Hluch
- 18 Beverly Fletcher
- 18 Noah Shannon
- 18 Madelynn Grudowski
- 19 Tim Taylor
- 20 Gloria Schrecengost
- 20 Trinity Roberts
- 21 Matt Ruchalski
- 23 Rick Bahr
- 26 Caroline Tipton

Happy October Birthdays

- 2 Doug McIntosh
- 2 Ann Bowker
- 2 Calli Kotkowski
- 3 Elinor Rae Cope-Taylor
- 3 Holly Pfof
- 3 Charles Moore
- 7 Hannah Kuivila
- 8 Ja'Nasia Moore
- 15 Bill Schrecengost
- 15 Carol McIntosh
- 19 Lori Davis
- 20 Drew Pfof
- 21 Dorothy Caldwell



Save the Date: The UWF ladies will be hosting their Annual Bazaar & Country Store on Saturday, November 4th from 9-1:00 pm. All donations of homemade crafts, ornaments, jewelry, wood products, quilts, baked and canned goods, etc. will be greatly appreciated. We'll also accept pots of fresh homemade soups so we can repackage in pints and quarts. A sign-up sheet for soup and volunteers will be posted in the Narthex or please contact Debbie Bahr at 216-408-5278 if you can help in any way. Thank you!

Save the Date: Youth Event - November 11 - Escape Room & Pizza.

Thank you for blessing of beautiful Altar Flowers:

July

- 2 God Bless America by the Church Family
- 9 In Celebration of Kathy Lances Birthday by the Church Family
- 16 Thank you to Kevin Pearce by the Church Family
- 23 In Celebration of Imogene Fletchers Birthday by Church Family

August

- 27 In Celebration of Doug McIntoshs birthday by Doug and Carol McIntosh



September Anniversaries

- 8 Tom & Linda Shaulis married 39 years
- 8 Andrew & Evelyn Pfof married 25 years
- 19 Christopher & Tina Mosher 3 year
- 28 Randy & Kim Weingart married 38 years

October Anniversaries

- 4 Charlie & Alice Moore married 20 years
- 4 David & Bev Fletcher married 9 years
- 6 Tom & Gera Kennedy married 50 years
- 11 Torrey Taylor & Lora Cope married 9 years
- 13 Don & Carol Smith married 67 years
- 22 Jeff & Samantha Kennedy married 12 years

REDISCOVER THE ONE YOU LOVE – experience Marriage Encounter scheduled November 17 - 19, 2023 at Fairfield Inn & Suites in Streetsboro OH. Meals will be catered by Bob Evans and Honeybaked Ham. Apply at GodLovesMarriage.org or contact Dale & Ruth Mortensen at d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net or 440-734-6312 for more information. Cost per couple is \$275, which includes lodging and meals. An opportunity to “pay it forward” will also be offered on Sunday afternoon to help another couple attend a future experience. Pre-registration is required.



WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM
"A Time to Laugh"
Saturday, October 14, 2023



NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____
 EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PHONE _____

Fee: \$40 / Person Saturday Only

To help us schedule meals, please mark an "X" below to indicate which meals you will attend. Please also indicate if you have special dietary needs.

	Saturday
Breakfast:	
Lunch:	
Dinner:	



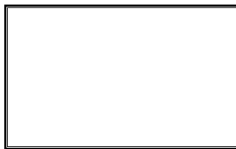
Make checks payable to: Portage Faith Women in Faith and return completed registration form for each participant to: Debbie Bahr, 6960 Streeter Road, Windham OH 44288.

Deadline for reservations is Sunday, October 8, 2023

If you have any questions, please contact Terri Wilde at (234) 525-7561 or Doris Gharky at (330) 931-8391.



"A Time to Laugh"
2023 WOMEN'S RETREAT INFORMATION
Saturday, October 14th
1st Level of Camp Asbury Lodge (room under dining hall)
10776 Asbury Road, Hiram OH

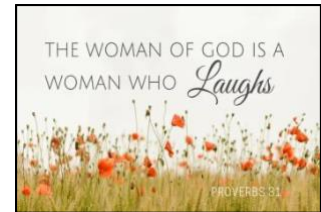


Items Needed Session(s)

Bible; Pen and Paper
 Joke to Share

Other Suggested Items to Bring:

Board Games, Puzzles, Cards, etc.
 Lawn Chair (optional)
 Walking Shoes for hike



Saturday Arrival, Continental Breakfast and Fellowship: 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.
The first session will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.
The last session will end by approximately 7:00 p.m.

The Prayer and Praise section are general prayers on behalf of the parishioners. (We will not print medical information without prior consent)

Prayers for:

- *Charlie, Alice and JaNasia Moore.*
- *Jeff Barnett's Brother-in-law Jay.*
- *Carol McIntosh and the family of George Rose, who passed away.*
- *Gene Gharky.*
- *Gary, Darlene Dennis' son, Darlene, family and hospital staff.*
- *Bill Schrecengost & the family and friends of Shirley Powell who passed into eternity on Sunday, August 6.*
- *Praises for Jeff Barnett's brother-in-law, Jay Call, who is now home and doing much better.*
- *Praises for Robin Gay, who is now retired after 44 years.*
- *Chris Weinkamer, Steve's brother.*
- *The Weinkamer's 4 year old grandson, Bjorn.*
- *Ike and Britt, son of Sandy Havlena, as they are having their daughter Lucy this morning, please pray for easy birth and healthy everyone!*
- *Update: Congratulations are in order as baby Lucy arrived on 8/15/2023 and weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. All are doing well!*
- *Mauser family for the loss of their son and brother Ryan.*
- *In thanksgiving for successful procedure for Jeff Wilde on Friday.*
- *Update on Bjorn, thank you for your prayers, treatment is working.*

Psalm 121:1-2 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? ² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

PORTAGE FAITH UMC
9922 ST. RT. 44
MANTUA, OH 44255
(Address Service Requested)