

January/February  
2022



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

Fellowship 8:15 am

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

2 Ted Taylor

9 Doris Gharky

16 Bill Graham

23 Debbie Bahr

30 Linda Weinkamer

February

6 Ted Taylor

13 Steve Weinkamer

20 Bill Graham

27 Mary Mader

## Committee Meeting

### Reminders:

### Finance Meetings:

Tues. Jan. 4, 6:30 pm

Tues. Feb. 1, 6:30 pm

### Trustee Meeting:

Tues., Jan. 4, 7:00 pm

### The Ad. Council:

Tues., Jan. 18, 7:00 pm

## **Pastor's Corner**

*21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,*

*"See, the home of God is among mortals.*

*He will dwell with them;*

*they will be his peoples,*

*and God himself will be with them;<sup>1</sup>*

*<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.*

*Death will be no more;*

*mourning and crying and pain will be no more,*

*for the first things have passed away."*

*<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:1-5)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter into a new year, it seems we humans always seem to enter into a period of introspection concerning the year that has just ended and anticipation toward the one that has just begun. I find I am not immune from this tendency. I also find that the exercise often fills me with simultaneous melancholy and angst—melancholy for opportunities squandered, good deeds not done, and love not shared; angst about wanting to do better in the year to come.

I'm not a very good planner, especially when it comes to matters concerning my personal affairs. So, I gave up making resolutions years ago. I like to go with the flow, and I find that resolutions tend to frustrate my good intentions and get in the way of the unexpected accidents and contingencies that come my way from day to day. Some of my friends and family see my willy-nilly method of living my life as begging for more structure. Perhaps. But it mostly works for me.

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**UMM Breakfast Meetings:**

Sun., Jan. 9, 7:30 am

Sun., Feb. 13, 7:30 am

**UMW Breakfast Meetings:**

Sun., Jan. 23, 7:30 am

Sun., Feb. 27, 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

At the end of my life, I don't think I will say to myself, I wish I'd lived with more structure and expectations. What I will probably say instead is, I wish I had been more open to seeing the needs around me and doing something to meet them instead of being worried about what others thought of my apparently disorderly life. Sure, I'd like to have a cleaner house and thinner thighs. But I doubt whether those things will ultimately rank highly on my fulfillment scale.

Scripture tells us the world is in the midst of being made new. Newness is happening all around us. Change is always happening. If we get bogged down in expectations and structure, we may miss the brilliance of God's glory being worked out all around us. We may miss the joy of helping that newness take hold. We may miss the hand of God reaching out to us in the small things—the everyday things—the things that truly matter.

Yes, this last couple of years have been challenging and scary. But they have also ushered in the opportunity for profound changes that can ultimately make the world better. That can only happen, though, if we respond to the change being offered and embrace it as part of God's plan for the new heaven and earth that is coming whether we are ready for it or not. Our God is good. He sent his Son into the world to usher in a new way of living together in the world. God's grace abounds. We can keep struggling against it or we can go with it. God word is always trustworthy and true. Let's be part of the new thing God is doing in us.

My best wishes go with you for a New Year full of God's joy and blessing!

With all my love,

Pastor Jill Lea

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

November

7 - In Honor of Portage Faith by Maxine Hill

21 - Thankful for all Blessings by Doug and Carol McIntosh

December

5 - In celebration of Chris Chaykowski's birthday by Deb Sike

19 - To the Glory of God by Jeanette Ryman - Merry Christmas!



I want to say **thank you** to everyone for the generous Christmas gift! I am a blessed woman to be able to serve you at Portage Faith. Thank you for your love and support during the year too! Sincerely yours, Jeanette

**United Methodist Men started a Utility Fund** on May 8, 2016. This fund is dedicated for an upgrade in our water and sewage utilities. The United Methodist Men has approximately \$8,448.28 in this special savings account. 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. You can bring your unwanted metal items, **including cleaned food and drink cans**, to the church and please drop it off behind the building in the upper parking lot. 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.

Currently, **we are still in need of a full team of eight bursars**. Ideally, bursars should work in teams of two and if we have a full team, your time obligation would be once a month after church. **We need 2 more volunteers**. Contact the church office if you are interested in serving.

## Happy Anniversary!

### **Congratulations!!**

#### **January Anniversaries**

5 Lynn & Sharon Wright married 42 years  
13 Kyle & Carlye Pearce married 4 years  
29 Mickey & Pamela Braden married 45 years

### **Congratulations!!**

#### **February Anniversaries**

3 Doug & Carol McIntosh married 54 years  
23 Roger & Linda Hammel married 14 years

**Book Club** for **January 11 and February 8** will be held at our regular time of 10:00 am in the library. Anyone who loves to read is welcome to join in. Watch the announcement sheet for more details.

**Hope Circle** Our meeting on **Thursday January 27** will be hosted by Karon Mooney. The program will be "Quilts of Valor" by Margaret MacLearie. Join us in the blue room at 12:00 pm.

The **Hope Circle** meeting for **Thursday February 24** will be hosted by Sharon Wright. The program is to be determined at this time, but watch for it in future announcements. Join us in the blue room at 12:00 pm.

#### **Hope Circle RADA Fund Raiser**

We are now selling RADA (name brand) paring knives and vegetable peelers. Also, there is a catalog with many more nice items. The catalog is on the table in the Narthex. This includes an order form that you may fill in. Any questions?? Contact Dorothy Caldwell at 330-274-2152. Thank you for your support!

**Mary Martha** will meet at 7:00 pm at the Weinkamer home on **January 24, 2022**. Bring a game to share.

**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.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** We will begin the new study on **January 19 at 10:00 am**. This study is by Charles R. Britt. In summary; 1 and 2 Kings is the sequel to 1 and 2 Samuel and begins by tracing Solomon's rise to kingship after the death of David. Then, we'll study 1 & 2 Chronicles with the focus being more on the priestly aspect of the time period. Please let Pastor Jill know if you would like to join the class as soon as possible so she can order and receive the participant materials in time.

**Confirmation Class** will not meet on January 2<sup>nd</sup> or the 9<sup>th</sup>. Class will resume on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am.



**Sunday, January 16** - Right after church, the Adult Sunday School class is hosting a tasty, Drive-thru CHILI fundraiser event benefitting the CMS (Crestwood Middle School) Sunshine Fund. Mark your calendars now, you won't want to miss this!

**THANK YOU** - On behalf of UMW we would like to thank EVERYONE who made something for the Bazaar and Country Store, helped set up and price on Friday, worked on Saturday, or helped take down on Sunday. After not being able to host this event during the Pandemic, it truly was a joy to see everyone! Plus, with your tremendous support, and all the wonderful shoppers, we raised over \$1,750 to support our ongoing mission initiatives. Thanks again!



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

Please note: The blue recycling bin will be picked up and we will no longer be able to recycle. You are encouraged to take home any paper cardboard or plastic and recycle those items at home. Any cleaned can's may be placed in a bag and will be collected for the UMM scrap. Thank you



Buddy the Elf and his elf family want to say thank you for making the Living Christmas Cards event a huge success!





*The Living Christmas Cards event was a spectacular time and everyone who participated, before, during and after is appreciated very much! Thank you to those who supported the CMS Sunshine Fund with donations! Together, with the community, we were able to raise \$636.00 for kids in need. A special shout-out goes to Main Street Sub Shop for their generous donation in support of our local children!*

