

March/April 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

#### March

6 Ted Taylor

13 Linda Weinkamer

20 Bill Graham

27 Linda Weinkamer

#### April

3 Steve Weinkamer

10 Bill Graham

17 Ted Taylor

24 Jeff Barnett

### Committee Meeting

#### Reminders:

#### Finance Meetings:

Thurs. March 3, 6:30 pm

Thurs. April 7, 6:30 pm

#### Trustee Meeting:

Thurs. March 3, 7:00 pm

#### The Ad. Council:

Tues., March 15, 7:00 pm

### *Pastor's Corner*

**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1, NRSV)**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Lately, I find myself worrying about the future; not just my future, but that of my family, my church, my country, and my world. It can become confusing and overwhelming with so many uncertainties that face us today. We are bombarded from every side by problems and circumstances that seem to have no ready solutions. So many questions and no seemingly good answers. When is the pandemic going to end? How do we tackle the problems of poverty and drug abuse? What do we do about all the children who are so very far behind in school? What is the best way to reach out to people in need in our community? How can we mitigate global warming and the destruction of natural habitats? How can we protect our democracy from forces that wish to topple it? What will happen if Russia invades Ukraine? This is just a sampling of the problems that keep me awake at night sometimes.

There is only one thing I have found that allows me to put all of these problems into perspective and allow my mind to be at peace. I have tried to push the uncertainty away by effort of will. However, I find that this is only a stopgap measure that allows the darkness to flood back, in force, as soon as I let down my guard. No, I cannot find rest for my anxiety by pushing the problems away. Instead, I find that if I embrace my uncertainty with faith, I am less worried and much more at peace.

This doesn't mean that the questions go away. It doesn't even mean that I suddenly realize all the answers. It just reminds me that I can let go of my fear and trust in God. God wants the best for his children and is always helping to give us answers to our difficulties. However, when our minds and hearts are so clogged with worry, we have trouble hearing God's still small voice, that gives us not only hope for the future, but answers to what we might do to make things better. We were never meant to carry the weight of the whole world on our shoulders alone. We were meant to share the weight with God and one another. Stepping out in faith that God is with us is a comfort and a relief.

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**UMM Breakfast Meetings:**

Sun., Mar. 13, 7:30 am

Sun., Apr. 10, 7:30 am

**UMW Breakfast Meetings:**

Sun., Mar. 27, 7:30 am

Sun., Apr. 24, 7:30 am

**Happy March Birthdays**

- 1 Jamie Roberts
- 2 Mae Davis
- 4 Robin Gay
- 9 Larry Peters
- 12 Dolly (Evelyn) Pfof
- 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
- 3 Ron Lance
- 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
- 23 Mary Mader
- 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

In Matthew 6:26-27 we read,

**26** Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **27** And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life. (NRSV)

Certainly, this is true. In fact, worry has been shown to shorten our lives. Stop worrying and give your uncertainty to God in faith. Only then will any of us find ourselves light enough to fly.

Have a wonderful spring!

With love,  
Pastor Jill Lea

**Easter Schedule:**

**Ash Wednesday Service: March 2 at 7:00 pm**

**Maundy Thursday Service: April 14, 7:00 pm**

**Good Friday Service: April 15, 7:00 pm**

**Easter Service: April 17 at 9:30 am**

**Holy Humor Sunday: April 24, 9:30 am**



Our Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of **Patricia Pietro** who went to be with the Lord on February 12, 2022.



**Sunday, March 6**, right after church, the adult Sunday School class is hosting a tasty, **Drive-thru CHILI fundraiser** benefitting the CMS (Crestwood Middle School Sunshine Fund). Mark your calendars now, you won't want to miss this! Drive By and pick-up your lunch from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. \$3.50 pt. or \$7.00 qt.

*Happy Anniversary!*

**March Congratulations!!**

- 9 Matthew & Kristin Pierce married 10 years
- 13 Chad & Jaime Roberts married 12 years
- 16 Bill & Diane Graham married 8 years

**Looking ahead:** Please let the church office know about upcoming high school or college graduates. (Graduate Sunday is June 12)

**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 \$8,451.66 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.



**Book Club** for will be held at our regular time of 10:00 am in the library the second Tuesday of the month. Anyone who loves to read is welcome to join in. Our next meeting will be on **March 8** and the book we'll be discussing is "*The House We Grew Up In*" by Lisa Jewell.

On **Thursday, March 17 at 10:00 am**, we will be starting an 8 week **The Chosen Season 2 Bible study**. **Spoiler alert:** Jesus' circle of 12 disciples is completed, we discover their backgrounds and why Jesus has **Chosen** each of them to join His ministry. We also see how, like us, they all have their faults, needs, and differences with each other. If anyone is interested, please contact Steve or Linda. If you are interested and wish to binge watch the 9 episodes of Season 1 and then join us for Season 2, let us know and we can loan you the Season 1 DVD's.

### **Brunch Anyone?**



UMW will be sponsoring a brunch after church service on **Sunday, March 20th**. While green eggs and ham may not be on the menu, UMW will have a wide assortment of breakfast casseroles, pastry, fruit and juices offered for \$5.00 per adult and \$3.50 for children ages 3-12. Please plan to stay, eat and enjoy the fellowship. Our last brunch was a success and we look forward to seeing and visiting with you at this one!

Join us for a **Lenten Pot-luck dinner** on **Sunday, April 3 at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall!**

**Save the Date: On Friday, May 13th UMW will be hosting a Lucky Lasagna Drive Thru Dinner.** Stay tuned for details.



**Hope Circle** will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 12:00 pm, weather permitting. Watch for upcoming details in the weekly announcements.

### **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 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in March and April.

**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. (March needs: canned fruit, jello, and coffee)

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study 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.



**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 simply email us at [pfumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pfumcoffice@gmail.com), so that we can update our records. Thank you!

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

**February**

13 - In memory of Everett and Ada Tillett by Steve and Linda Weinkamer

27 - In memory of Archie and Gertrude Stamm by Steve and Linda Weinekamer

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**Easter Bulbs**  
**"Flower-Power" Fundraiser**  
**Orders due by Sunday, March 13**



**Easter is only 8 weeks away and Spring is just around the corner! Lovely posies will be popping out of the ground before we know it!! We've found a creative way to help the church and provide everyone with an easy way to purchase spring plants for Easter.**

This year, the church has had to pay higher propane heating prices. The price for propane is variable. This winter it increased 20.87% up to 32.87% from last winter. With that in mind, we'd like to help offset the increased cost of our propane bills with this **"Flower-Power"** fundraiser.

We are working with Casa Verde Growers to supply the beautiful spring bulbs and Easter Lilies. Purchase many plants to help support the church. All profits from flowers purchased for this fundraiser **will be considered a tax-deductible donation.**

**Please make checks payable to "Portage Faith UMC", write in the memo line "Flower-Power".** You may place your order in the Sunday offering plate or turn them into the church office **no later than Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**. Flowers may be taken home after the Easter Sunday Worship Service. (or make other arrangements) You may also share the order form with your friends or neighbors.

Easter "Flower-Power"  
Fundraiser Order Form

In Memory

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

In Honor

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

To the Glory of God in the name of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid ck# \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Enter the number of plants you want and the sum and total the amount due on the next page. See next page for more choices. Please pay at the time you turn in the order form. Thank you.  
*Availability subject to change.*

	Pot	Price	xQty	Sum
Easter Lily Single	6"	7.00		
Easter Lily Double	8"	12.50		
Easter Lily Triple	10"	18.00		

	Pot	Price	x Qty	Sum
Hyacinth Blue Jacket	4"	1 BULB	3.50	
Hyacinth Pink Pearl	4"	1 BULB	3.50	
Hyacinth Delft Blue	4"	1 BULB	3.50	
Hyacinth Blue	6"	3 BULBS	5.50	
Hyacinth Pink	6"	3 BULBS	5.50	
Hyacinth White	6"	3 BULBS	5.50	
Hyacinth Blue Jacket	8"	5 BULBS	9.50	
Hyacinth Delft Blue	8"	5 BULBS	9.50	
Hyacinth Pink Pearl	8"	5 BULBS	9.50	

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	Pot		Price	xQty	Sum
Tulip Easter Joy Mix	4"	3 BULBS	3.50		
Tulip Royal Prince Mix	4"	3 BULBS	3.50		
Tulip Tequila Sunrise Mix	4"	3 BULBS	3.50		
Tulip Pink	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50		
Tulip Blue/Violet	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50		
Tulip Orange	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50		
Tulip Red	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50		
Tulip Red/White	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50		
Tulip White	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50		
Tulip Yellow	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50		

	Pot		Price	xQty	Sum
Daffodil Tete-A-Tete Mini	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50		
Daffodil Yellow	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50		

	Pot		Price	xQty	Sum
Daffodil Ice Follies	4"	3 BULBS	3.50		
Daffodil Tahiti	4"	3 BULBS	3.50		
Daffodil Golden Ducat	4"	3 BULBS	3.50		
Daffodil Pink Charm	4"	3 BULBS	3.50		
Daffodil Pink Mix	8"	7-8 BULBS	9.50		
Daffodil Giant Mix	8"	7-8 BULBS	9.50		
Daffodil Ultimate Mix	8"	7-8 BULBS	9.50		
Daffodil Dutch Master	8"	7-8 BULBS	9.50		

Grand Total: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please note:

If you do not wish to purchase flowers and still would like to help with a donation, please feel free to put your donation in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Please write checks out to **Portage Faith UMC** and write "**Propane**" in the memo line. Thank you for your support!