

Nov. – Dec. 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

Sunday School 8:30 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

November

- 6 Bill Graham
- 13 Debbie Bahr
- 20 Ted Taylor
- 27 Rick Bahr

December

- 4 Doris Gharky
- 11 Bill Graham
- 18 Matt Ruchalski
- 24 Ted Taylor

Children's Church teachers (9:30 am -10:30 am) are needed from January-May.

A fully scripted program with videos, activities, music are ready for you to use! Please contact Erika Barnett.



Youth cookie making night. December 2 from 5-8 pm.

Youth include Grades 6-12 grade. Bring a batch of pre made cookie dough. Bring a friend too!

Pastor's Corner

November/December 2022

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

UMH 196

Words by Charles Wesley, 1744

Music by Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the world thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another year comes to a close, and I don't know about all of you, but I am tired; bone-weary in body and spirit. It's not that the year's blessings haven't been good. They have. I have been blessed and I am so grateful. Yet, despite this, I am ready for refreshment. I am anticipating the change of season and the chance for rest. I think with longing of sitting in front of the fire reading a book, or looking out the window at the snow and contemplating the time that has passed and the new days that are to come. There is a rhythm to this life we live, and my body, mind, and soul know the time for rest is coming.

Committee Meeting Reminders:

Finance Meetings:

Thurs. Nov. 10 at 6:30 pm

Thurs. Dec. 8 at 6:30 pm

Trustee Meeting:

Thurs. Nov. 10 at 7:00 pm

Ad. Council

Tues. Nov. 15 at 7:00 pm

UMM Breakfast Meetings:

Sun., Nov. 13 at 7:30 am

UWF Breakfast Meetings:

Sun., Nov. 20 at 7:30 am
(Bring your own breakfast)

Children's Christmas Program is Sunday, December 18 at 9:30 am.

The children's play rehearsals begin in November after church. Any children and youth able to participate seek Erika Barnett.

Blessing of the Blankets:

We had 27 afghans/blankets that we donated to the Miller House in Kent. This is a homeless shelter associated with Family & Community Services in Kent. They will share the "winter warmers" with Freedom House, the veteran's shelter for men next door once the renovations are complete. **Thank you to everyone who made this possible.**

"Come, Jesus and sit with me," I think as I look around at the beautiful colors with which God paints the year's last hurrah. "I miss our quiet time together." Of course, that is the gift of Advent as we wait again for the birth of the one who came to save us. There is a pause as the world awaits with anticipation the anniversary of the miracle of "God with us."

There is joy coming, the kingdom of God is coming, our spirit's consolation is coming. We have the beauty of the Light of the World to look forward to. But in the meantime, we wait, rest, and contemplate, waiting for our hearts to be filled with the joy that the birthday of the Christ Child brings us.

This year as you ready yourselves for the holiday festivities to come with all of the busyness that entails, I urge you to take a moment to pause and rest. Get cozy, light a candle, pop some popcorn, put your feet up, and sit and watch the snow fall (or the rain, it's Northeast Ohio, after all). Think back over your days and look forward to the ones to come. Feel the love that surrounds you and let it rekindle your tired spirit.

And when you've got yourself all calm, and relaxed, and in the zone, I hope the words of Charles Wesley's hymn will fill your heart as they do mine this time of year. "Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free..."

Have a blessed Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas season, and may your weary spirit find refreshment in the love of God, family, and friends.

With much love,
Pastor Jill Lea



BAZAAR & COUNTRY STORE: The UWF ladies will be hosting their Annual Bazaar & Country Store on **Saturday, November 5th from 9-1.** If you can make a pot of fresh homemade soup, please sign up in the Narthex so we can prepare labels in advance. ALL soup, homemade crafts, ornaments, jewelry, wood products, quilts, baked and canned goods, etc, will be appreciated! Please drop off non-perishable items with suggested prices in the **YOUTH ROOM** any time **before Friday, 11/4 at 3:00 p.m.** Baked goods and pots of soup may be dropped off anytime Friday between 3:00 - 7:30 p.m. or Saturday after 9:00 a.m. If you can help price items Friday afternoon at 3:00 or set up at 5:30, please contact Debbie Bahr at 216-408-5278. Then be sure to stop by Saturday to check out all the goodies and gift ideas as the holidays approach. Bring a friend and enjoy delicious donuts and homemade soups in our very own cafe. Final sales will be Sunday morning before and after church.

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. **Current needs: canned pasta, tomato soup and peanut butter**



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.

Advent Celebration

Portage Faith would like to invite everyone to attend our **Advent Celebration program on Saturday, December 3 at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.** Our program will be announced soon. Afterwards we will head downstairs for fellowship plus donuts and coffee/juice in the blue room. So, call a friend and invite them along to enjoy a morning of quiet reflection and enjoy the beginning of the holiday season.

Happy November Birthdays

- 1 Aaron Rose
- 3 Joyce Ullman
- 8 Emma Kuivila
- 9 Lois Crane
- 12 Mindy Kerkan
- 14 Macy Davis
- 16 Matthew Pierce
- 17. Emma McCrady
- 19 Max Grudowski
- 23 Maya Davis
- 25 Lynne McDermott
- 28 Debbie Glessner-Moreck

Happy December Birthdays

- 4 Chris Chaykowski
- 6 Ted Taylor
- 6 Roger Hammel
- 7 Meghan McDermott
- 9 Carolyn Smith
- 9 Eloise Lange
- 10 Tom Kennedy
- 12 Sean McDermott
- 15 Lee Wright
- 15 Lynn Wright
- 25 Diane Graham
- 27. Adelaide Pearce
- 30 Virginia Goodell

Happy Anniversary!

November Congratulations!!

- 5 David & Pastor Jill Scott married 21 years
- 8 Jerry & Mary Tipton married 42 years
- 14 James & Darlene Dennis married 30 years
- 27 Larry & Phyllis Peters married 57 years

December Congratulations!!

- 17 Don & Ann Bowker married 67 years
- 21 Kirk & Karon Mooney married 54 years
- 30 Hank & Sue Hoover married 33 years

Christmas Collection: Please help the **Adult Sunday School Class** provide much needed items to women in temporary housing of Safe House of Portage County.

Items needed:

- Adult socks and underwear
- Personal hygiene items (feminine products)
- Paper products (Towels, plates, toilet paper, Kleenex)
- Deodorant, Shampoo

Collection date ends December 1st. Place items in the box under the table in Narthex. Cash donations needed by November 15th, just give to anyone in Adult Class) Thank you!

The Cookie Walk is coming back on **Saturday December 3, 2022 at 10:00 am.** Once again, we are asking all the great bakers of Portage Faith to prepare the delicious cookies you have always so faithfully provided. Cookies can be brought to the church by Friday, Dec. 2. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

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. 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.

If you have any updates to your membership status, name, address, phone number or email, addition to the family, etc., please notify the church office. Call or email the office at 330-274-8987, or simply email us at pfumcoffice@gmail.com.
Thank you.



It's time to order festive **Christmas Poinsettias** for remembrances and to adorn the altar for Christmas. Please complete your order form and return by **Sunday, November 27**. An order form is included in this newsletter (page 6) or pick one up at church for your convenience.

Living Christmas Card will be on **Friday, December 9 and Saturday, the 10th from 6-8pm**. A meal is provided on Saturday after event in the fellowship hall. This year, we are asking for empty/clean milk jugs donations. Please sign up if you are interested in participating in this fun and fabulous community outreach!! (Scenes, hot chocolate delivery, food prep)

Christmas Eve Worship is Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 pm!



Sunday, December 25

Christmas Breakfast in Whoville! Bring the family for an informal breakfast at **9:30 am**. You can wear your favorite Christmas pajamas for the PJ contest, there will be games for all ages, a movie, and the all so popular ugly sweater contest.



Thank you for the blessing of beautiful Altar Flowers!

September

In Memory of Dale MacGeorge by Chris and Deb.

In Memory of Laura's Birthday by the Gharky family.

October

In Memory of Kay Hinchman by Chris and Deb.

In Celebration of Drew Pfof's birthday by the Pfof family.

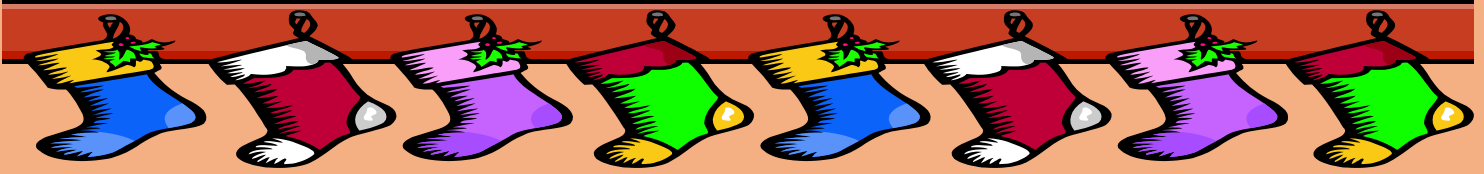
Book Club for will be held at our regular time of 10:00 am in the library the second Tuesday of the month. Anyone who loves to read is welcome to join in. The book for **November** is called "The Exiles" by Christina Baker Kline.

Hope Circle will meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at 12:00 pm. 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 4th Monday, unless otherwise noted in the announcements for the week.



ANNUAL BAZAAR & COUNTRY STORE

Sponsored by Portage Faith's United Women of Faith

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION

PORTAGE FAITH

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

9922 State Route 44, Mantua



HOLIDAY ITEMS, CRAFTS,

TEACHER/SECRET SANTA GIFTS,

"COUNTRY STORE"

featuring:

BAKED GOODS, JAMS, JELLIES, CANNED GOODS,
FRESH HOMEMADE SOUPS, and MORE!!





2022 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Order one plant for each person, couple or family group. Order as many plants as you want. Plants may be taken home after our 4:00 pm Christmas Eve worship service. Please include your check, payable to Portage Faith UMC, memo "Poinsettias" with this order form and place it in the Sunday offering plate by Sunday, November 27, 2022.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

Presented by: _____

Phone: _____

Paid - Check# _____

Size	Price	Red	White	Pink
6" Pot	\$5.00			
8" Pot	\$10.00			
10" Pot	\$12.00			

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9922 ST. RT. 44
MANTUA, OH 44255

Portage Faith UMC

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Office Hrs. 2:00 Choir	3 Hope Circle Amish dinner	4 Bazaar Set-up	5 9:00-1:00 pm Bazaar 9:00 Band Practice
6 All Saints Sunday 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	7	8 10:00 Book Club	9 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Office Hrs. 2:00 Choir	10 6:30 Finance 7:00 Trustee	11	12 9:00 Band Practice
13 7:30 UMM Breakfast Mtg. 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	14	15 7:00 pm Ad. Council Mtg.	16 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Office Hrs. 2:00 Choir	17 12:00 Hope Circle Sugar Maple Inn	18	19 9:00 Band Practice
20 7:30 UWF Breakfast Mtg. 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26 9:00 Band Practice
27 1st Sunday in Advent - Hope 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	28 7:00 Mary Martha	29	30 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Office Hrs. 2:00 Choir	<p><i>Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!</i></p> <p><i>For His mercy endures forever.</i></p> <p><i>Psalm 107:1 NKJV</i></p> 		

Portage Faith UMC

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 9:00 Band 9:30 Advent Celebration 10:00 Cookie Walk
4 2nd Sunday in Advent - Peace 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	5	6	7 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Office Hrs. 2:00 Choir	8 6:30 Finance Mtg.	9 6:00 – 8:00 pm Living Christmas Card	10 9:00 Band 6:00 – 8:00 pm Living Christmas Card
11 3rd Sunday in Advent - Joy 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	12	13 10:00 Book Club	14 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Office Hrs. 2:00 Choir	15	16	17 9:00 Band
18 4th Sunday in Advent – Love 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Christmas Program	19	20	21 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Office Hrs. 2:00 Choir	22	23	24 9:00 Band 4:00 Christmas Eve Worship
25 Christmas Day 9:30 <i>Whoville</i> Christmas Breakfast 	26	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30	31 New Year’s Eve