

November/December 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

**Pastor's Corner**

I love autumn! I've always marked the passing of another year with falling leaves. It's the way I reset my internal clock. I take a walk in the woods with my camera on a couple of peak-color days. I like to look up through the underside of the leaves when they are backlit with sunlight. Above me and below me is saturated with color. It feels like the whole world is transformed for a moment.

When I enter the Portage Faith sanctuary in the daylight, I always feel my eyes drawn to the stained glass. The rich and radiant colors capture my attention as they seep in from the corners of the room and above the altar. I never get tired of studying the images and the color variations produced by light passing through colored glass.

In the fourth century, almost 1800 years ago, St Basil used the metaphor of light passing through translucent objects to describe the effect of God's Spirit on those who live by faith in Jesus Christ.

"Just as when a sunbeam falls on bright and transparent bodies, they themselves become brilliant too, and shed forth a fresh brightness from themselves; so souls wherein the Spirit dwells, illuminated by the Spirit, themselves become spiritual, and send forth their grace to others." Come Holy Spirit and shine through us. Make us radiant with God's steadfast love like autumn leaves or stained glass. Backlit by the Spirit's light may we transform the world around us with the beautiful colors of God's mercy and compassion. May others be drawn to the light that streams through us and fills us with joy.

Pastor Bill

**BAZAAR & COUNTRY STORE:** Just a reminder UWF will be hosting their Annual Bazaar & Country Store **Saturday, November 4th 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, hats, dishcloths, 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, 11/3 at 3:00 p.m. Baked goods and pots of soup may be dropped off Friday between 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. or Saturday after 9:00 a.m. More helpers are needed to price items Friday afternoon at 3:00 or set up at 5:30. If you can help, please contact Debbie Bahr at 216-408-5278. Everyone is invited to stop in Saturday to check out all the goodies and great gift ideas! Please bring a friend and enjoy delicious donuts and homemade soups in our cafe. Final sales will be Sunday morning before and after church.

**Sunday Schedule**

**Sunday Worship at 9:30 am.**

**Children's Church** will be held at 9:30 am on every Sunday but the first Sunday of the month.

**Adult Sunday School** will be held on the first and third Sunday 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 with Pastor Bill, Tuesdays, 7:00 to 7:45 am.**

**\*Pastor Bill's 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.**

**Christmas Eve Worship is on Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 am and later a candlelight service at 4:00 pm.**

**New Year's Eve Worship is on Sunday, December 31 at 9:30 am and will be Lessons and Carols.**

**Committee Meeting Reminders:**

**Finance Meetings:**

Thursday, Nov. 9 at 6:30 pm

Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 pm

**Trustee Meeting:**

Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 7:00 pm

**The Ad. Council:**

Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 7:00 pm

**UMM Breakfast Meetings:**

Sunday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 am

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 am

**UWF Breakfast Meetings:**

Sunday, Nov. 19 at 8:00 am

No meeting in December

**Liturgist Schedule**

**November**

5 Ted Taylor

12 Steve Weinkamer

19 Linda Weinkamer

26 Cindy Pearce

**December**

3 Doris Gharky

10 Linda Weinkamer

17 Childrens Program

24 9:30 am Cindy Pearce

24 4:00 pm Ted Taylor

31 Steve Weinkamer

**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.

*Thank  
you*

Bill and Diane Graham thank the congregation of Portage Faith United Methodist Church for the way you've welcomed us and received us as your new pastor and family.

Thank you for a wonderful reception September 17 after worship. This past weekend we loved playing games with you, dressing up in costumes for 'trunk or treat,' and blessing beautiful blankets as they go to shelter people with God's love.

There's no better way to get acquainted than having fun together! We look forward to many future opportunities to have fun together, share a meal together, and worship, as we celebrate the seasons of our lives. We've discovered a sweet spirit at Portage Faith.

We are grateful for your love,

Bill and Diane



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**Hangings of the Greens** will be done **Sunday, November 26** after church. All are welcome to come and help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

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**ADVENT CELEBRATION**

On **Saturday, December 2 at 9:30-10:30 am** Portage Faith Church will have our annual Advent Celebration. This year's program will be "A Christmas Musical Collage" with different groups performing some of your favorite holiday music. The program will be held in the sanctuary.

Following the Advent Service, we will proceed downstairs to Goodell Hall for **United Women in Faith's annual Cookie Walk** where you may purchase a container of homemade cookies. You may also go to the Blue Room for coffee, juice and donuts and visit with family and friends.

We look forward to seeing men, women and children attend these two events. It is a wonderful way to begin your holiday season!

**Play practice for the Children's Christmas Program**, will begin in November right after church! Anyone 18 and younger is invited to participate! See Erika Barnett if you'd like to join! The Childrens Christmas program will be held on **Sunday, December 17** during Worship.

**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](mailto:pfumcoffice@gmail.com).

**United Methodist Men's Utility Fund.** 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 UMM will have a breakfast meeting on Sunday, November 12 and December 10 at 7:30 am.**

**Book Club will meet at 10:00 am on Tuesday, November 14 in the Library!!** The book is called "Dream Land" by Nicholas Sparks.

**Hope Circle on November 16 at 12:00 pm will be at the Sugar Maple Inn.** (515 East Main Street in Ravenna). Meet at the church at 11:15 am to carpool.

**The UWF will have a breakfast meeting on Sunday, November 26 at 8:00 am** and the hostess is Doris Gharky. (no December meeting)



**Nacho Average Game Night was fantastically delicious!**

Thank you goes out to the folks who helped make this evening a fun success! We had a great time together having a delicious meal and playing different board games! Bravo!!

**Prayer for Peace in the Middle East and Around Our World:**

The terror, war, inhuman oppression, and darkness that began on October 7, 2023, in what should be the most holy land, breaks our hearts and makes us anxious. We hope and pray that peace will reign in the land of Jesus Christ's ministry. We hope and pray that we can stop war, stop killing, stop political strife, and become a land of reconciliation where all receive the gift of peace for the sake of the whole world. The homeland that Israel envisions must be a land of peace. The dream of the Palestinians, the people who have protected the land for a long time, is also peace. Let us pray with all our hearts that war will cease from the land and that that the good news of peace will bless everyone.

*God of Wisdom and Peace, we pray for protection for the innocent, for the vulnerable, for those who are captive or terrorized. We pray for the safety of those serving in the military, and government leaders.*

*O God, may you be their shield, their rear guard, and the safe room around them.*

*We pray for those who grieve the loss of family members, and for those who don't know where their loved ones are or their condition. We pray for the injured.*

*We pray for relief workers, first responders, and medical staff in this overwhelming time of need. We pray for churches and mosques and synagogues and all religious leaders working for peace.*

*We pray for those who perpetuate cycles of violence and for world leaders. Bring them to the table of earnest negotiations, soften their hearts, and give them a path forward.*

*May Your Peace reign.*

*Amen*

## **Love in Motion!!**

### **Blessing of the Blankets:**

We gave 9 blankets/ afghans to Freedom House in Kent, a veteran's shelter. We also gave 8 lap quilts for Miller House the homeless shelter and then gave 11 baby, youth and lap quilts to The County Clothing Center in Ravenna. These are all places we have donated to in the past. We attached a card that read these blankets were donated by a member of PFUMC and then followed with a blessing prayer for the recipient.

### **Laughing all the way!**

Yes, that's what 20 ladies did at Camp Asbury on October 14<sup>th</sup> when they attended their one-day retreat based on the book Women of Faith, a daily devotional illuminating humorous aspects of faith. It was a fun-filled day at one of our favorite places, and we were blessed to have old and new friends in attendance. Thanks to all who came!



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 26**. An order form is included in this newsletter or pick one up at church for your convenience.



Our prayers of sympathy and comfort for the family and friends of **Mae Davis who is passed into eternity on October 10, 2023.**



**Trunk or Treat** was a great time for all. We had great weather and participation. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this a success for the community.

### **Living Christmas Card**

Time to start planning the Living Christmas Card!! We will need lots of wonderful people to help make this a festive and fun filled event **December 9th and 10th**. We will be having several meetings to plan and brain storm this exciting event. We encourage you and your entire families to join us. We will need help in the kitchen, donation of food for the dinner Saturday night, actors for scenes, hot chocolate servers and set up/teardown help. Please call or text Bev Fletcher 330 907-1118 if you are interested in participating. We also will place a sign-up list in the back of the church so feel free to sign up.

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

#### **September**

17 - In memory of Laura by the Gharky family.

#### **October**

- 1 - In memory of Kay Hinchman by Deb and Chris
- 8 - In celebration of Doug McIntosh's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Carol.
- 22 - In Honor of Church Family by Doris Pearce.



### **November Anniversaries**

- 5 *Samuel & Madelynn Grudowski 1 year*
- 8 *Jerry & Mary Tipton married 43 years*
- 14 *James & Darlene Dennis married 31 years*
- 27 *Larry & Phyllis Peters married 58 years*

### **December Anniversaries**

- 17 *Don & Ann Bowker married 68 years*
- 21 *Kirk & Karon Mooney married 55 years*
- 30 *Hank & Sue Hoover married 34 years*

**Happy November Birthdays**

- 1 Aaron Rose
- 3 Joyce Ullman
- 8 Emma Kuivila
- 9 Lois Crane
- 12 Mindy Weinkamer
- 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

**All Saints Sunday is November 5**

We remember those who have passed into eternity in the last year:

- Bridget Knopf Auble*
- Bige Combs*
- Mae Davis*
- Donald Carl Haney*
- Ken Jones*
- Sandra Kessler*
- Gerry Miller*
- Shirley Owens*
- Shirley Powell*
- Pat Sebring*

*The Prayer and Praise section are prayers on behalf of the parishioners and friends.  
Prayers for:*

- Tammy Segan and Tim Pearce
- Prayers for Harrison
- Lynn Wright for healing
- For Candi and her granddaughters
- Gary for healing
- Ryan for healing
- Jaxson & baseball team
- Holly and Andy Pfost
- Sandy Ferguson for healing
- Andrew Pfost for healing
- Praise for a wonderful Retreat at Camp Asbury
- Prayers of thanks to Terri Wilde & Doris Gharky

- Debra Lynn for healing
- Kristi Handford for healing
- Terri for healing
- Prayers of thanks for church family
- Prayers of thanks, for Tom Kennedy, for all his work with the scrap drive
- Prayers of condolences, Sister Josetta Marie Livignano of Sisters of Notre Dame, who passed away
- Prayers of condolences for family of Carol Gerhardstein
- Prayers of condolences for family of Mae Davis

*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.*



**2023 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 an order form and place it in the Sunday offering plate no later than Sunday, November 26, 2023.

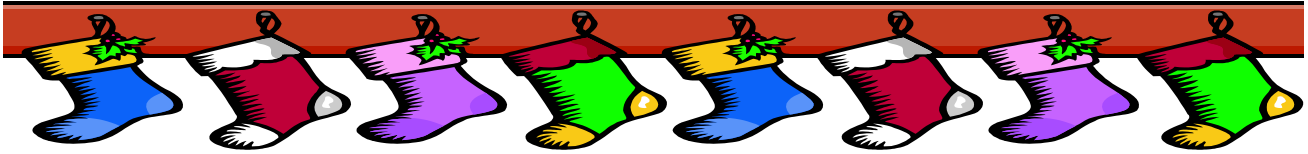
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paid - Check# \_\_\_\_\_



# ANNUAL BAZAAR & COUNTRY STORE

Sponsored by Portage Faith's United Women in Faith

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023**

**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,  
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