

Sept. – Oct. 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 starting on 9/11/2022**

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.

**Adult Sunday school begins on September 11 at 8:30 am. The first topic will be Genesis.**

**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.**

**Liturgist Schedule**

**September**

9/4 Ted Taylor

9/11 Bill Graham

9/18 Matt Ruchalski

9/25 Linda Weinkamer

**October**

10/2 Matt Ruchalski

10/9 Steve Weinkamer

10/16 Bill Graham

10/23 Doris Gharky

10/30 Ted Taylor

*Pastors Corner*

*<sup>4</sup>When a large crowd was gathering, as people were coming to him from town after town, he said in a parable: <sup>5</sup>"A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed some fell on a path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. <sup>6</sup>Some fell on rock, and as it grew up it withered for lack of moisture.*

*<sup>7</sup>Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>Some fell into good soil, and when it grew it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!" (Luke 8:4-8, NRSV)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I have a nemesis and her name is Thistle. Thistle and I first became well-acquainted when I moved to this verdant corner of the world twenty-one years ago. She is rather prickly, and we never took much of a liking to one another. Whenever she would show up, poking her head up out of the dirt in my flower beds, I would pull her out and send her packing. Thistle is nothing if not persistent, though. Soon she began bringing along all her friends when she arrived for a visit. I call them Thistle-squatters. They manage to find any space that I have freshly dug and cleared of all weeds and made fertile for my intended plantings and then POW. There they all are making themselves at home, as plentiful as if I had planted them all there on purpose. They make themselves at home, burrowing deep into the fertile soil and growing tall in the briefest of days crowding my beautiful perennials and trying (sometimes successfully) to choke them to death.

Thistle and I have been fighting a pitched battle in my front flowerbed for about three years now. Currently, I think I am winning the latest battle against her, but I am afraid I could easily lose the war. You see, weeds like Thistle never give up. Her kind are plentiful and tenacious. They have the strength of millennia of wildness on their side. Thistle is a survivor. As such, she observes no boundaries, plays no favorites, and takes no prisoners. She is a robust opportunist. When offered a choice between competing with the other weeds and the lawnmower over a sunny spot in the crowded lawn or a prime space of cleared warm earth next to my coneflowers, rosebushes, and silver mound in the flowerbed, Thistle will choose the flowerbed every single time. It's a no-brainer for her and a headache for me. I have to be alert to her advances at all times else she overrun the whole darn thing.

**Committee Meeting**

**Reminders:**

**Finance Meetings:**

Thurs. Sept. 8 at 6:30 pm

Thurs. Oct. 13 at 6:30 pm

**Trustee Meeting:**

Thurs. Sept. 8 at 7:00 pm

**Vision Committee**

Sunday, Sept. 11 at 10:30 am

**Ad. Council**

Tues. Sept. 20 at 7:00 pm

**UMM Breakfast Meetings:**

Sun., Sept. 11 at 7:30 am

Sun., Oct. 9 at 7:30 am

**UWF Breakfast Meetings:**

Sun., Sept. 25 at 7:30 am

Sun., Oct. 23 at 7:30 am

**Portage Faith's Charge  
Conference session will be**

**on Sunday, October 9 at  
1:30 pm at Garrettsville**

**UMC.** Please show your support and attend the charge conference this year.

**If you have a college student,  
please contact the church office  
before September 19<sup>th</sup>.** We are

asked by the Conference for their names and contact information so that the Conference can share with Campus Chaplains and Local Churches. It also aids in decisions about where to invest Campus Ministry Money. Thank you!

I am ashamed to say that Thistle nearly achieved her dream of conquering my flowerbed this week. I can't really say that her advance was a sudden one. The opening salvo began when I was on vacation a few weeks ago. She and a few of her close friends found a foothold on the far side of the bed over by the edge of our lawn. It was a sneak attack that I barely noticed in the bustle of getting back home and getting into the swing of non-vacation life again. It's not that I didn't know she was there. I did know. But I figured I had time to get out there and send her packing without too much fuss – in a day or so. But one day turned into two, two days turned into a week, and a week turned into three. Suddenly, when I walked out there to tackle her, I couldn't see my precious perennials for the sea of Thistle and friends everywhere.

Needless to say, I was nearly overwhelmed by the carnage. Coneflowers drooped and black-eyed Susans withered. Rose bushes had buds rotting on the stem and lavender clumps were straining for sunlight. This was all my fault. I had let down my guard, and Thistle had taken over when my attention was focused elsewhere.

What was I to do but dive in and start digging and pulling frantically? I even pulled and dug in the rain. I have labored and sweated to return the soil in my flowerbed to its pre-Thistle condition but progress is very slow. Unfortunately, other opportunists such as Crabgrass, Ground Ivy, Foxtail, Nutsedge, Purselane, and Water Knotweed took advantage of their spiky protection and squatted along with Thistle and friends. So, I have to ruthlessly evict them, too.

I will keep at it until my flowerbed is rid of all occupants I did not plant there. However, I know that the battle is never-ending. The gardener can never stop evicting the weeds if she wants the intended flora to thrive. One can have the richest soil in the world, but it is as attractive to the invasive weeds as it is necessary to the hybrid vegetation, we hope will grow in it. Keeping secure what is pure and beautiful takes constant protection, vigilance, and work. There is never a time we can let down our guard and stop chasing out the creeping opportunists like Thistle.

I would like to say I have learned my lesson. However, distractions abound and other life battles sometimes draw my attention away from my war with Thistle. She's not going anywhere, but neither am I.

I pray that you all have a wonderful end to your summer and a brilliant start to your fall. I'm looking forward to sharing it all with you.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jill Lea

### Good News from Trustees

Portage Faith will soon install a much-needed commercial stairlift. The stairlift will be installed by Arrow Lift.

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: Jello, Regular Coffee, Laundry Detergent.



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, 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](mailto:pfumcoffice@gmail.com). Thank you.

### 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  
19 Tim Taylor  
20 Gloria Schrecengost  
20 Trinity Roberts  
21 Matt Ruchalski  
23 Rick Bahr

### Happy October Birthdays

2 Doug McIntosh  
2 Ann Bowker  
2 Calli Kotkowski (Moore, Charles & Alice) g-child  
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  
21 Sam Grudowski

## *Happy Anniversary!*

### September Congratulations!!

8 Tom & Linda Shaulis married 38 years  
8 Andrew & Evelyn Pfof married 24 years  
15 Ron & Kathy Lance married 62 years  
19 Christopher & Tina Mosher 2 year  
28 Randy & Kim Weingart married 37 years

### October Congratulations!!

4 Charlie & Alice Moore married 18 years  
4 David & Bev Fletcher married 7 years  
6 Tom & Gera Kennedy married 48 years  
11 Torrey Taylor & Lora Cope married 7 years  
13 Don & Carol Smith married 65 years  
22 Jeff & Samantha Kennedy married 10 years

### GREAT COMMUNICATION MAKES GREAT MARRIAGES!

Enhance your communication skills with Lutheran Marriage Encounter! The next event is scheduled **November 18 - 20, 2022 at Fairfield Inn & Suites in Streetsboro OH**, with meals and side dishes catered by local Bob Evans and Honeybaked Ham Restaurants. Apply now at [GodLovesMarriage.org](http://GodLovesMarriage.org) or contact Dale & Ruth Mortensen at [d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net) or 440-734-6312 for more information. Covid-19 guidelines will be followed. Pre-registration is required - don't miss out!

**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.

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.

## **Thank you for the blessing of beautiful Altar Flowers!**

### **July**

**31- In Honor of our Portage Faith Church Family by Deb and Chris.**

### **August**

**28 - In Celebration of Douglas McIntosh's Birthday by Doug and Carol McIntosh**



**Congratulations** to Rachel and Connor Pearce on the arrival of beautiful baby girl, **Nora Lee Pearce**, born on August 2, 2022 at 10:28 am. Proud grandparents are Kevin and Cindy Pearce and Great Grandmother, Doris Pearce.



**Congratulations** to Bill and Kristen Cope on the arrival of beautiful baby girl, **Isabelle Eva Cope (Izzy)**, born on August 7, 2022. Proud grandparents are Bryan and Michal Cope!

**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.

**Hope Circle** will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, unless otherwise noted in the announcements for the week.



**Save the Date:** The UWF ladies will be hosting their **Annual Bazaar & Country Store on Saturday, November 5th from 9-1.** All donations of homemade crafts, ornaments, jewelry, wood products, quilts, baked and canned goods etc. will be greatly appreciated. We'll also be accepting 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!

**Outreach news:** On Friday, August 26 we were blessed to "pay it forward" and show our appreciation to the Crestwood School Teachers. We gifted lunch for all the teachers and gave them a large card with our expressions of gratitude and encouragement for them as they begin a new school year.



# LUCKY LASAGNA DRIVE THRU DINNER



The United Women of Faith will be hosting a Lucky Lasagna Drive Thru Dinner on **Friday, September 23, 2022** from **4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Cost for the to-go dinner is \$10.00 per person and will include lasagna (with meat), green beans, applesauce, bread and cookies. To reserve your dinner in advance, complete order form below and return form and payment to Doris Gharky or Recia Ragle by Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> and then drive by the kitchen door to pick up your dinner(s) on September 23<sup>rd</sup> between 4:00-6:00. A limited number of dinners will also be available for those that may not have a chance to pre-order. If paying by check still make payable to Portage Faith UMW.

Thank you for supporting the ladies in this fund-raising event!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Lasagna Dinners: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Pick Up Time: \_\_\_\_\_

***Buon Appetito!***



**Confirmation Sunday will be held on September 18, 2022.** Our confirmands; Olivia Pfof, JaNasia Moore, Brooke Ruchalski and Alie Ruchalski will become members of Portage Faith. We will celebrate this special occasion after worship in the fellowship hall with cake and refreshments. All are welcome!



**Brunch Anyone? The UMF ladies (formerly UMW) will be sponsoring a brunch after church service on Sunday, October 16th.** We will have a variety of breakfast casseroles, pastry, fruit, coffee and juice offered for \$5.00 per adult and \$3.50 for children ages 3-12. Please plan to stay, eat and enjoy the fellowship. Our recent brunches have been a success and we look forward to seeing and visiting with you at this one!

On **Sunday, October 16** we will be having the **Blessing of the Blankets** during Worship. Please bring your finished projects to the church during the week before. Thank you!

**Outreach:**

**Indoor or Outdoor Trunk or Treat** is being planned for **Sunday, October 30 from 2:00-4:00 pm.** Traditionally, this has been a fun filled, well attended community outreach. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to decorate their ‘trunks’ and pass out treats to those who will be attending. More information will be coming on details and ideas. We are also looking for donations to keep the trunks supplied during this two-hour community outreach. Please contact Chris Chaykowski if you are interested and wish to help.

**Portage Faith UMC**

**September 2022**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 9:00 Band
4 9:30 am Worship & Childrens Church	5 Labor Day	6 Office Closed	7	8	9	10 9:00 am Band
11 7:30 am UMM Breakfast 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship & Children's Church 10:30 am Vision Comm. Mtg.	12	13 Office Closed	14 Office Closed	15 Office Closed	16	17 9:00 am Band
18 Confirmation Sunday 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship & Children's Church 10:30 am Confirmation Reception Celebration	19	20 7:00 pm Ad Council	21	22 12:00 pm Hope Circle	23	24 9:00 am Band
25 7:30 am UWF Breakfast 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship & Children's Church	26 7:00 pm Mary Martha	27	28	29	30	

Portage Faith UMC

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 am Band
2 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	3	4 6:30 pm Nominations Mtg.	5 10:00 am Bible Study resumes	6	7	8 9:00 am Band
9 7:30 am UMM Breakfast 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship & Childrens Church 1:30 pm Charge Conference At Garrettsville UMC	10	11	12 10:00 am Bible Study	13 6:30 pm Finance	14	15 9:00 am Band
16 <i>Blessing of the Blankets</i> 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship & Childrens Church 10:30 am UWF Brunch	17	18 12:00 pm Hope Circle Amish Dinner	19 10:00 am Bible Study	20 Nov/Dec Newsletter info due	21	22 9:00 am Band
23 7:30 am UWF Breakfast 9:30 am Worship & Childrens Church	24 7:00 pm Mary Martha	25	26 10:00 am Bible Study	27	28	29 9:00 am Band
30 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship & Childrens Church  2:00-4:00 pm Trunk or Treat	31 Halloween					