

March/April 2024



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 Worship at 9:30 am.

Children's Church will be held at 9:30 am on every Sunday except 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 word of God.

*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.

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.

Pastor's Corner

We're half-way through the season of Lent. We've entered the difficult part of the story. Jesus has turned toward Jerusalem and we are asked to follow. Where are we headed? What are we looking forward to?

On the first day of the week, outside Jesus's tomb, Mary Magdalene stands weeping. It's the sound of one word – her own name--that moves Mary to believe and transports her into joyous worship.

Long after they are gone, we can still recognize the sound of the voices of the loved ones who knew us best. We remember how they spoke our name. We remember the nicknames they used for us. My Aunt Alice called me "Wilhelm." My Pop-pop spoke in a raspy voice, almost a deep whisper, with Ireland still in it. My mother's voice called me home at the end of the day. On the telephone I could hear Philadelphia in her voice. My father's voice sounded most like my own. "Bill!"

Jesus simply exclaims, "Mary!" and the sound of Jesus' voice travels deep inside. Jesus makes himself known to Mary in the space most sacred to her, her name "space" – a place of deep recognition. Mary cannot mistake the sound of his voice.

It may be a long time since we have heard Jesus call our name. We may not even think we remember what his voice sounds like. But when we hear our risen Lord pronounce our name, we resonate with recognition and joy. One word is all it takes--our name. One word calms us and grounds us. Our name, spoken by a familiar voice, connects with the depths of who we are.

This Easter we are invited to hear our risen Lord pronounce our name. And then, may we feel empowered to live our lives sharing the good news that Christ is alive and at work in the world.

Pastor Bill

PS...

Lenten Potluck dinner

Bring your favorite casserole, dessert or other food dish to share and come join us at **5:00 pm Sunday March 3rd**. Beverages will be provided. Reverend Graham will provide a program "Walking in the Wilderness", as an extension of his Lenten theme following our meal.

Book Club Tuesday, March 12 at 10:00 am The book we are reading is "*Lessons in Chemistry*" by Bonnie Garmis.

Easter Schedule at a Glance

3/24 Palm Sunday 9:30 am
Easter Eggstravaganza after church.

3/28 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

3/29 Good Friday 7:00 pm

3/31 Easter Worship Schedule

- **7:00 am Sunrise at Camp Asbury**
- **Easter Continental Breakfast in Goodell Hall at 8:30 am**
- **9:30 am Easter Worship**

Candle lighters - Acolytes needed

Now that we have changed the way we bring in the light of Christ, we are in need of acolytes to light the candles. If you wish to help out with this please talk to Linda Weinkamer or Reverend Graham. You need to be eight years old and take a brief training session. There is an Acolyte calendar in the narthex to sign up on. We currently have two acolytes, but we welcome more!

A wall banner in a church that I used to attend communicated, with words and an image, the message: "You cannot appreciate the miracle of a sunrise until you have waited in darkness."

Our Holy Week worship gives us the opportunity to "wait in darkness" so that we are prepared for the joy of Easter morning. In Holy Week we are invited to enter into the mystery of Jesus' self-giving for our sake. Join us for worship:

March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday Parade with palms. For the children we'll have a fun event called **Easter Eggstravaganza** right after church.

March 28, 2024, 7 pm Maundy Thursday: We will celebrate the Lord's Supper at tables. Special music by our Bell Choir. At the end of the service, we will "strip" the church, removing everything to bare wood, in preparation for Good Friday.

March 29, 2024, 7 pm Good Friday: We will observe Tenebrae or a Service of the Shadows. We will relive the story of Jesus' last hours, his arrest, trial, betrayal and death. Our readings will be punctuated by the extinguishing of candles until our sanctuary becomes dark. We will leave our sanctuary in silence.

Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service at 7:00 am at Camp Asbury

Together with friends and neighbors, celebrate the good news of Jesus' resurrection at an **outdoor Easter Sunrise Service at Camp Asbury, 7:00 am, March 31, 2024**. Gather on the brick patio in front of Asbury Lodge dining hall. This is a community service hosted by Camp Asbury and organized by Pastor Bill Graham of Portage Faith United Methodist Church. All are welcome! As the sun rises, we will share the mystery of the story that's central to our faith! Dress for the weather. Bring a lawn chair and a blanket if you wish.

(If the weather is inclement, the service will take place indoors in Asbury Lodge lower level. The outdoor patio is accessible from the driveway using the ADA sidewalk on the west side of dining hall. Parking will be in the main entrance parking lot or on the east side of Asbury dining hall).

Come! Enjoy an Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast which will be held in Goodell Hall at 8:30 am.



Easter Sunday Worship begins at 9:30 am. Come celebrate the good news of Jesus' resurrection with your family and friends. All are welcome!

Committee Meeting Reminders:

SPRC Meeting:

Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00 pm

Finance Meetings:

Thursday, March 14 at 6:30 pm

Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 pm

Trustee Meeting:

Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00 pm

The Ad. Council:

Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm

UMM Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, March 10 at 7:30 am

Sunday, April 14 at 7:30 am

UWF Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, March 24 at 8:00 am

Sunday, April 28 at 8:00 am

Liturgist Schedule

March 3: Ted Taylor

10: Cindy Pearce

17: Matt Ruchalski

24: Kevin Pearce

28: Linda Weinkamer

31: Ted Taylor

April 7: Steve Weinkamer

14: Debbie Bahr

21: Cindy Pearce

28: Linda Weinkamer

The prayer chain is 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 Cindy Pearce by phone 330-274-0507.

If you would like to be a prayer warrior, please let Cindy know.



Dad Jokes needed

April 7th is Holy Humor Sunday and the theme this year is "Dad Jokes". Wear your favorite "dad" clothes and bring a "dad joke" to share. (Holy Humor Sunday is a tradition started by the early Greek Christian community on the Sunday after Easter as a day of joy and laughter celebrating the occasion of Jesus' resurrection.)

Solar Eclipse Party

When your grandchildren ask you, "Granny, where were you when the total solar eclipse happened?" Wouldn't you really like to answer, "With my friends at Portage Faith United Methodist Church."

Well . . . Now you have the opportunity. **SOLAR ECLIPSE PARTY at Portage Faith Church on Monday April 8, 2024, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.**

Solar viewing glasses and snacks provided. Gizmos will be available to help us ooh and aah over the eclipse. (We will be plunged into TOTAL DARKNESS for 2 minutes and 59 seconds beginning 37 seconds after 3:14 pm). Pastor Bill will probably be taking photos. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket. Dress for the weather. Don't miss the party! It's right in our own backyard, no need to drive to Texas for this one. And if the weather is bad, we'll figure something out. Stay tuned for additional details.

Help Wanted: Are you searching for a way to give your time and talents in order to help Portage Faith in the mission of caring for and serving others? If you or someone you know can help in the following areas, **please contact Erika Barnett.**

- **For the Nursery Room** we would like to stream or use a speaker for the adults to either watch or just listen to the worship service live in the nursery.
- We are in need of **nursery attendants.**
- We are in need of a **Youth Leader.**
- **The Winter Jam is March 8th!** Anyone interested in going and helping?
- **Easter Eggstravaganza,** we need candy donations!

Hope Circle meets on the fourth Thursday at 12:00 noon, and Mary Martha meets on the fourth Monday at 6:30 pm.

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 330-414-7145.

Update: Water lines are now expected to reach Portage Faith later in 2025. 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 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.

January Treasurer's Report

Income	11,632
Expenses	17,880
Net Inc. vs Exp.	-6,248
Breakdown of expenses:	
Office & Janitorial	375
Bldg. Maintenance	6,016
Bldg. Insurance	623
Well Water	888
Utilities	
• Electric	664
• Gas	2,099
• Monthly Trash	41
• Internet/phone	197.
• Bldg. Security	27
Total Utilities:	3,028
Property Tax	232
Payroll	4,693
Payroll fees	102
Payroll Tax	175
Outreach	43
Hosp/Nurture	0
Education Exp.	0
Worship Exp.	(20)
Apportionments	1725.
Advertising	3



Thank you for the blessing of beautiful Altar Flowers:

January flowers were given in memory of Jim Pearce by Doris Pearce.

February flowers were given in honor of Jim and Darlene's 32nd anniversary by Jim and Darlene and given in Celebration of Terri Wilde's birthday by Jeff and Terri Wilde.



March Anniversaries

- 9 Matthew & Kristin Pierce married 12 years
- 13 Chad & Jaime Roberts married 14 years
- 16 Bill & Diane Graham married 10 years

April Anniversaries - n/a

Happy March Birthdays

- 1 Jamie Roberts
- 4 Robin Gay
- 8 Madalynn Brand
- 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
- 5 Heather Rupnik
- 6 Adam Gharky
- 7 Tina Mosher
- 8. Dylann Pierce
- 9 Autumn Sike
- 9 Brooke Ruchalski
- 11 Lillian Atkinson
- 12 Louise Bowers
- 17 Zachary Gharky
- 19 Ashley Cutlip
- 24 Ethan Rupnik
- 24 Haden Rupnik
- 24 Savannah Roberts
- 25 Lucas Kennedy
- 29 Gene Gharky
- 29 Jeremy Tipton
- 29 Joey Peters
- 30 Brad Ullman
- 30 Brian Ullman



2024 Easter Flower

Orders due by Sunday, March 10



**It's time to order spring Easter flowers
for the Altar.**

Please make checks payable to "**Portage Faith UMC**", write in the memo line "**Easter Flowers**". You may place your order in the Sunday offering plate or turn it into the church office **no later than Sunday, March 10**. Flowers may be taken home after the Easter Sunday Worship Service.

In Memory

Of: _____

In Honor

of: _____

To the Glory of God Given in the name of:

Presented by: _____ Phone # _____ Paid ck# _____

Enter the quantity of plants you want and sum, then total the Grand total at bottom of page.
 Thank you for adorning the altar on Easter Morning with these beautiful flowers. (*Availability subject to change*)

	Pot	Price	x Qty	Sum
Easter Lily Single	6"	7.00		
Easter Lily Double	8"	13.00		
Easter Lily Triple	10"	18.00		

	Pot	Price	x Qty	Sum
Hyacinth Blue	6"	3 BULBS	5.50	
Hyacinth Pink	6"	3 BULBS	5.50	
Hyacinth White	6"	3 BULBS	5.50	

	Pot	Price	x Qty	Sum
Tulip Pink	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50	
Tulip Blue/Violet	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50	
Tulip Red	6"	5-6 BULBS	5.50	

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

	Pot	Price	x Qty	Sum
Hydrangea Deep Blue	6.5"		12.50	

Grand Total _____

The Prayer and Praise section are prayers on behalf of the parishioners and friends during January and February.

For Healing and treatment for

- Jane Pietro's friend, neighbor & dad.
- Bernie Chaykowski
- Nancy Infante
- Denise Gharky
- Randy Powell
- Doris Pearce
- Amy Alderman
- Nolan Stevenson
- Jennifer Jackson Black
- Jaime Whaley & Brenna
- Catherine Yeamans
- Andy Pfost
- Nick Yacko
- Darlene Dennis
- Amy - Sandy's friend

Praise and Thanksgiving for

- The birth of baby girl to Riley and Brooklynn.
- For Jamahl who is healing wonderfully.

For Comfort and Peace

- Cindy and Family at the loss of son
- Ruehr Family at the loss of Frank Sr.
- Cheryl in hospice care
- Anna Wetshtein daughter passed away.
- Dale Cooley Jr. and family at the loss of their son Jake.
- Family and Friends of Andy Oros who passed away.
- For Matt Pierce and family in the passing of his father Tom Pierce.
- For Family and Friends of Norm Christley who passed away.

For all Others in need:

- Marcy Horner needs employment
- Support for all caregivers

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.

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