

May / June 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. Summer break will begin on May 26.

*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

Wow! As a congregation we've shared some special moments together in the last couple of months! Energizing moments, moments that we can't stop thinking about, moments that left an impression on us. In our Lenten prayer group, we trusted each other enough to share how we see God moving in deep within our life stories and we were vulnerable enough to share how we see the need to grow in our spiritual lives with the prayers and support of others.

We experienced powerful worship. Who could forget the dramatic way the intensity and color of the light changed in our sanctuary as we extinguished candles and contemplated Jesus's last hours. It began with Palm Sunday "Hosannahs" and ended with an earthquake of joy on Easter morning. It was truly a holy week filled with communion and connection as we relived the heart of God's story of deliverance.

And then there was the tailgate party we shared in our church parking lot for the total solar eclipse. We watched and waited in anticipation. When the moments of "totality" came they exceeded our expectations. The brief "diamond rings", the feel and sounds of the sudden starlit darkness, the sunrise racing over us from the south.

Together we have been sharing spirit-filled moments. No doubt about it, God's Spirit is at work among us! It's tempting to just want to freeze these holy moments in time, take a snapshot, and post it for the world to see and tell ourselves "that's enough".

But God's spirit wants to lead us forward as a congregation. A sweet, sweet, Spirit is prompting us. We have new energy. Once we are aware of the Spirit's presence, we need to do something about it. In the days and months ahead, our job is to discern where the Spirit is leading us. How will we respond? Where will we allow the spirit to lead us? Are we willing to follow?

Stay tuned. It probably won't be business as usual.

Pastor Bill



*Congratulations on the birth of **Bellamy Rose Pearce** on March 8, 2024. The proud parents are Kyle and Carlye Pearce. Bellamy is the great granddaughter of Doris Pearce and baby sister to Adelaide.*

*Congratulations on the birth of **Elizabeth Raine Harbaugh** on March 28, 2024. Proud parents are Warren and Catherine (Hoover) Harbaugh and her big brothers are Wade and Malachi.*



The family and friends of Donald Smith who passed into eternity on March 15, 2024.

The family and friends of James Green, who passed into eternity on April 5, 2024.

Coffee and Fellowship will be held at **Restoration 44** Coffee Shop on the first and third Sunday of each month at **8:15-9:15 am**. Please join us!!

The Book Club is reading **"The Music of Bees"** by **Ellen Garvin**. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, May 14 in the library at 10:00 am**. All are welcome!

Mother's Day Reception Everyone is invited to enjoy brunch after worship (11:30 am) on **Mother's Day, May 12, 2024**. Join us in honoring our Mothers and the women who are important in our lives. The brunch is provided by Portage Faith Men's Group. We look forward to celebrating a special day as a church family.



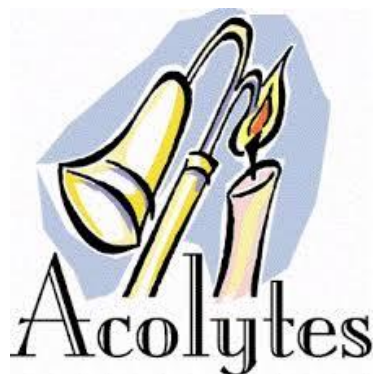
Graduation Sunday is Sunday, May 26. Please send your High School and College grad's names and other details to the office.

Congratulations to 2024 Graduates:
Jimmy Peters

SAVE THE DATE:

This year our "Camp" themed VBS program will be held from Tuesday, July 16 - Friday July 19. VBS Sunday Celebration will be on Sunday, July 21. More details to come! Volunteers will be needed, please prayerfully consider helping out.

Save the Date: The UWF annual 1-day retreat at Camp Asbury will be on October 19, 2024. Mark your calendars now! More details will come.



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!

Pastor Bill will be on vacation June 13-19. If you have an urgent need, please contact the church office or call or text Pastor Bill directly.

Committee Meeting Reminders:

Finance Meetings:

Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 pm
Thursday, June 13 at 6:30 pm

Trustee Meeting:

Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 pm

The Ad. Council:

Tuesday, May 21 at 7:00 pm

UMM Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, June 9 at 7:30 am

UWF Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, May 26 at 8:00 am
Sunday, June 23 at 8:00 am

Liturgist Schedule

May	5	Ted Taylor
	12	Steve Weinkamer
	19	Matt Ruchalski
	26	Kevin Pearce
June	2	Jeff Barnett
	9	Terri Wilde
	16	Cindy Pearce
	23	Bev Fletcher
	30	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.

Hope Circle meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. The Next meeting is on **May 23rd at 12:00 pm.** **We'll be going to Sugar Maple Inn,** 515 E. Main Street in Ravenna. Reservations needed by Thursday, May 16. Please contact Phyllis Peters or Karon Mooney.

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. It looks like water lines will be coming through later this year.

Thank you for the blessing of beautiful Altar Flowers:



March:

In memory of **Tracie Simon** by **Doris Pearce.**

In memory of **Brandon Smallwood** by **Jane Pietro.**

With thanks to the **Kennedys** by the church family.

April:

In celebration of **Autumn Sikes** birthday by **Debbie and Chris.**

In celebration of **Mike Pietros** birthday by **Jane Pietro.**

In celebration of **Suzanne Harkers** birthday by **Doug and Carol McIntosh.**

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.

Note of Thanks:

"Dear Rev. Bill Graham and congregation, thank you for welcoming us unexpected visitors to join your eclipse gathering! Your hospitality with so many friendly, kind people and tasty treats could only be equaled by the eclipse itself. Welcoming us was very appreciated and made for such a great day! Sincerely, Patty and Dave Niederfeldt"
(Included with the note was a check to purchase Altar Flowers)

March Treasurer's Report

Income	11943
Expenses	10546
Net Inc. vs Exp.	1397
Breakdown of expenses:	
Office & Janitorial	381
Bldg. Maintenance	70
Bldg. Insurance	624
Well Water	998
Utilities	
• Electric	579
• Gas	667
• Monthly Trash	41
• Internet/phone	207
• Bldg. Security	27
Total Utilities:	1521
Property Tax	232
Payroll	4628
Payroll fees	102
Payroll Tax	169
Hosp/Nurture	
Education Exp.	16
Worship Exp.	
Apportionments	1725
Advertise Expense	3
Music Expense	77

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 at 330-388-1356.



May Anniversaries

- 6 James & Bonnie Marek married 24 years.
- 7 Kevin & Cindy Pearce married 36 years.
- 18 Eric & Lori Davis, married 28 years.
- 18 Adam & Chrissy Gharky married 22 years.
- 19 Bill & Gloria Schrecengost married 68 years.
- 21 Andy & Holly Pfof married 19 years.
- 22 Bob & Mary Lange married 14 years
- 26 Jeff & Terri Wilde married 40 years

June Anniversaries

- 14 Jim & Renee Peters married 28 years
- 15 Matt & Amanda Ruchalski married 22 years
- 15 Jason & Kimberly Tipton married 11 years
- 20 Scott & Anne Weslow married 44 years
- 22 Steve & Linda Weinkamer married 50 years
- 24 Pat & Iris McCon married 52 years
- 29 Rick & Debbie Bahr married 33 years

Happy May Birthdays

- 1 Bud Bednar
- 2 Tim McDermott
- 2 Jenny Ollison
- 2 Rhonda Grudowski
- 2 Warren Ragle
- 4 Neil McDermott
- 7 Jeffrey Barnett
- 9 Noah Kennedy
- 10 Steve Weinkamer
- 16 Kyle Pearce
- 16 Bruce Goodell
- 16 Anneliese Spangler
- 17 Lisa Cutlip
- 19 Abigail Pfof
- 22 Zachary Weinkamer
- 28 Ayden Barnett
- 30 Doris Pearce
- 30 Andy Pfof

Happy June Birthdays

- 1 John Spence
- 6 Luke McCrady
- 7 Sarah Pearce
- 8 Nathan Gay
- 11 April Sike-Brumm
- 12 Kolby Rose
- 13 Scott Stewart
- 14 Alexandria Marek
- 14 Tom Taylor
- 17 Jeff Wilde
- 19 Ken Grudowski
- 26 Recia Ragle
- 26 Benjamin Pearce
- 29 Kevin Pearce
- 29 Candice Rose
- 30 Tristan Fletcher

On May 8, 2016, the United Methodist Men started a Utility Fund. This fund is dedicated for an upgrade in our water and sewage utilities. The United Methodist Men has **\$10,007.13** in the savings account. This is an entire church project and the UMM are actively seeking donations. For more information, please contact Tom Kennedy at 330-388-1356 or Rick Bahr 330-414-7145. The new waterline is expected to reach our area late summer 2024.

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

- **For the Nursery Room** we would like to stream or use a speaker for the nursery attendants to either watch/listen to the worship service live while attending the nursery.
- We are in need of **nursery attendants.**
- We are in need of a **Youth Director/Leader.**

The Prayer and Praise section are prayers on behalf of the parishioners and friends during March and April.

For Healing and treatment for

Denise Gharky
 Shelly Spence
 Jennifer Black
 Andrew Pfof Sr.
 Sandy Ferguson
 Kathy Lance
 an unknown couple
 Judy Weiss
 Chris Crosier
 Bernie Chaykowski
 Brittany
 Candi's mom
 Dorothy Caldwell
 Carol Devos
 Higgins & Barnett family
 Darlene Dennis
 Abi and Dorothy
 Jenny Fennell

For all Other needs

Drew Pfof safe traveling
 Kandi Chaykowski
 Diana's safe return home
 from Florida
 Pastor Bill and Diane while
 vacationing
 Son with anxiety
 Safe Travel for Lil Atkinson
 and family

For Sympathy, Comfort and
 Peace for:

Friends and Family of
 Donald Smith
 The Stein Family, both
 parents passed away.
 Family and friends of Judy
 Weiss
 Family and friends of Jim
 Green

Praise and Thanksgiving for

Todd Petrowski
 Birth of Bellamy Rose Pearce.
 Birth of Elizabeth Raine Harbaugh
 Brittany is improving
 Kristi Hanford
 Joe Wright receiving Conservation
 award.
 Abby having her short story
 published at the Reed Memorial
 Library

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.