

May/ June 2025



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 begins **9:15-11:00 am** every Sunday except for the 1st Sunday of the month.

*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. Everyone is welcome.

Please make an appointment with Pastor Bill for Coffee Shop Hours at Restoration 44 Coffee in Mantua.

***Check announcements for any schedule changes that may come up.**

If you have any updates to your membership status, would like to be reinstated, got married, had a child, moved, new phone number or email, please notify the church office. Call or email the office at 330-274-8987 or officeadmin@portagefaith.com.

"Speaking the Truth in Love"

What do we do with the good news of Easter morning – that God has triumphed over sin and death, that the risen Lord has appeared to us? We run and tell someone else who needs to hear it, like the women who found the tomb empty, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus. That's what we do. But how we tell the good news makes all the difference in the world?

In our Sunday morning worship Caroline Tipton "steals the show" without intending to, when she acolytes. When Caroline walks up the aisle with her lit taper everyone gets quiet. We experience a holy moment, maybe the most holy moment we experience in the entire worship hour. And at the end of worship, when Caroline takes the light of Christ out to the world, we can't help but smile. Caroline makes our faces beam with joy.

Caroline is so focused on carrying the light of Christ. She is careful, graceful, and deliberate. She "expresses" the importance of her responsibility by the way she performs it.

How do we take the good news of what God has done and is doing to the world? What if we could all be as careful and as focused and as graceful as Caroline in the way we carry the light of Christ into the world? A child is leading us!

On a recent posting on the *Upper Room* "Sight Psalm" (April 3, 2025) I read these words, "May the light of God burn brightly within you and may you share that light with the world in the way only you can." How we carry the light of Christ into the world matters! Thank you, Caroline!

Pastor Bill

You are invited to come and **visit Portage Faith's 50th Anniversary Display Wall** whenever the church office is open. Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm, or by appointment with Pastor Bill. There is a lot to see thanks to the work of the 50th Anniversary Committee, Doris Gharky, chair.

Committee Meeting Schedules:

Finance Meetings:

Thursday, May 8 at 6:30 pm

Trustee Meeting:

Thursday, May 8 at 7:00 pm

The Ad. Council:

Tuesday, May 20 at 7:00 pm

UMM Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, May 11 at 7:30 am

Sunday, June 8 at 7:30 am

UWF Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, May 25 at 8:00 am

Sunday, June 22 at 8:00 am

Liturgist Schedule

May

4 Terri Wilde

11 Matt Ruchalski

18 Doris Ann Gharky

25 Larry Kuhlman

June

1 Ted Taylor

8 Debbie Bahr

15 Linda Weinkamer

22 Cindy Pearce

29 Steve Weinkamer

The 4C's need the following items for May:

- Canned potatoes
- Jello (powder in package)
- Cereal
- Canned fruit (peaches, pears, mixed fruit, applesauce).

You may bring these items and place them in our shopping cart near the entry doors. Thank you!

50th Anniversary Committee has made a change for our service on **Sunday, May 18, 2025**. We have decided to postpone our time capsule burial until September to give the congregation more time to collect items to be included in the capsule.

Our "Mini-Pilgrimage" will start at 9:30 am at the end of the driveway. We will have a sign-up sheet for those that are unable to walk up the driveway but would like to participate by having vehicles to ride in. The 1975 "Pilgrimage" from Shalersville and Mantua Churches to the site of Portage Faith was a milestone of this church's history. We are hoping that this shortened version of the "Pilgrimage" will be as meaningful to those who were not there to participate in the first one and a blessed memory to those that participated back in 1975.

Following the pilgrimage and our morning service we will enjoy a time of **fellowship and a potluck meal at 11:30 am in Goodell Hall**. **Please bring your potluck items to church with you.**



On Sunday, June 8, 2025, Portage Faith United Methodist will honor all **graduates** in its 9:30 am worship service. If someone in your family, or someone in our church family, is graduating from high school, college, technical school or graduate school this spring, please let our church office or Pastor Bill know, so that we can honor their accomplishment.

On Sunday, June 29 at 9:30 am we'll have an **outdoor service** followed by a **picnic lunch at Buchert Park in Mantua**. Come for the service, stay for a picnic in the pavilion nearest Mantaline. Bring food to share and dinnerware. Drinks provided.

Important note: We have purchased two new **first aid kits**. Please make yourself familiar with each location. The first kit is down in the **kitchen stationed on the windowsill by the triple sink**. The other kit is stationed in the **nursery/children's room hanging over the sink**. Furthermore, the **church office has always had a first aid kit on the top shelf above the mail slots**.

The prayer chain is a source of comfort to all. **If you have a prayer need**, just submit your prayer requests; either by writing it on the church prayer card during worship service, (check add to prayer chain) or by contacting. If you would like to be added as prayer warrior, please let Cindy or Pastor Bill know.

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

March

- 9 In celebration of Evelyn Pfof's birthday by Evelyn Pfof.
16 In memory of Evelyn Chudzinski by Evelyn (Dolly) Pfof.
23 In memory of Brandon Smallwood by Jane Pietro.
30 In memory of Jim Pearce by Doris Pearce.

April

- 13 In celebration of Mike Pietro's 90th birthday by Jane Pietro.
20 In celebration of Greyson Tibbs birthday by Linda Shaulis.



Many Thanks!

The United Methodist Men's group recently took a load of your donated scrap to the recycling center and received \$91.00. Scrap has been an excellent fundraiser for the men's group, and your metal donations are much appreciated. Thanks again, Tom Kennedy.

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
11 Chris Kuhlke
16 Kyle Pearce
16 Bruce Goodell
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 Rom-Rose
30 Tristan Fletcher

May Anniversaries

- 6 James & Bonnie Marek married 25 years
7 Kevin & Cindy Pearce married 37 years
18 Eric & Lori Davis, married 29 years
18 Adam & Chrissy Gharky married 23 years
19 Bill & Gloria Schrecengost married 69 years
21 Andy & Holly Pfof married 20 years
22 Bob & Mary Lange married 15 years
26 Jeff & Terri Wilde married 41 years

June Anniversaries

- 14 Jim & Renee Peters married 29 years
15 Matt & Amanda Ruchalski married 23 years
15 Jason & Kimberly Tipton married 12 years
20 Scott & Anne Weslow married 45 years
22 Steve & Linda Weinkamer married 51 years
24 Pat & Iris McCon married 53 years
29 Rick & Debbie Bahr married 34 years

Prayers

Thankful for the prayers and support of others during times of personal challenge. Thanksgiving for family who gathered, traveling a long distance, for **Mike Pietro's 90th Birthday**. For the **safe arrival** of Abigail (Weingart) and Zach **Vallandingham's baby** on April 16th. Guidance and strength for **Kandi Chaykowski and her mom** as Kandi's mother undergoes treatment for breast cancer.

For **Kathy Lance** at Anna Maria. For **Jamie Roberts, Imogene Fletcher, Anne Spence, Paul Meyer, Andrew Pfost**. For **Rhonda Grudowski** as she seeks treatment for cancer. For **Don Stevenson**, father of Candi Gage, making progress in nursing home in Fort Wayne, IN and for Candi's son, **Zach**, as he begins a job in Rhode Island. Prayers for Barry Blankenship in the hospital, neighbor of Jane Pietro; for **Dan Hladky and his family**, friend of Lynn and Sharon Wright (Dan has Alzheimer's Disease); For **Steve Hayes**, friend of Doug and Carol McIntosh, grieving the death of his wife; for Gera Kennedy's uncle, **Robin Smith and family at the passing of his wife Susan**, who died on Easter Sunday.

For **Nan Miller**, niece of Doris Pearce, undergoing breast cancer treatment. For **the family of Phyllis Cory** as they mourn Phyllis's death, Phyllis was the former mother-in-law of Lisa Cutlip. For Cindy Pearce's friend Pearl, whose daughter, **Sarah**, had emergency back surgery during a trip in Europe. For **Jeanie Faiola**, Debbie Bahr's Co-worker's sister, who has started chemotherapy for Adult Acute Leukemia and is awaiting a bone marrow transplant. For **Valerie Aiken**, a good friend of Sharon and Lynn Wright's, who is in the final stages of her battle with cancer. For **Heather O'Neil**, friend of Debbie and Rich Bahr, as she starts chemo treatment for bladder cancer. Prayers for the **family of Slade Sharpstein**, friend of Rick and Debbie Bahr, who died April 10th.



SAVE THE DATES OF SPECIAL PORTAGE FAITH 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS IN 2025!



The committee working on the Portage Faith 50th Anniversary Celebration has decided on a theme for the entire year of celebrations. It is **"Building our Future Founded on our Past"**. As you will see below many of our special dates consist of events that have been done in our past at Portage Faith. Just general information, there will be History Moments shared once or twice a month during our weekly church service which will include not only things about Portage Faith but also the Shalersville and Mantua churches. If you would like to share a history moment, submit the history moment in writing to the History Chairperson, Ted Taylor (be sure to put your name on the entry). There will also be a chance to request your favorite hymn be sung during our weekly service. Forms for History Moments and Hymn Requests have been included at the end of this newsletter and can be found on the table in the narthex.

Further information on each event or celebration will come out closer to each date of said event. We are looking forward to share and celebrate this 50th year as The Portage Faith United Methodist Church family with all present and past members, pastors and musicians included so put the following dates on your new 2025 calendar. We look forward to seeing all of you at each celebration event. Any additions or changes will be announced accordingly.

May 18, 2025: Recreate a short Pilgrimage Walk to church and Potluck Luncheon.

July 2025: Scavenger Hunt for children and adults, date to be announced.

Continued on the next page

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50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS IN 2025!**



August 10, 2025: Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Shalersville Methodist Church to be held at South River Winery, the new home of the church building. Date and more information to follow.

September 7, 2025: Re-Commission Service (the first service held in the uncompleted new church in 1975).

October 2025: Visit and walk-thru at the Mantua Methodist Church which is now a private residence. Date to be announced.

November 2, 2025: "Homecoming" commemorating our first service in the completed church. This will be our final celebration event. Service will be held at 2:00pm with a catered dinner to follow. More information will follow.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members: Pastor Bill, Ted Taylor, Phyllis Peters, Chris Chaykowski, David Fletcher, Linda Weinkamer, Erika Barnett, Gera Kennedy or Doris Gharky

An update and some clarity on the **United Methodist Men's Utility Fund**. On May 8, 2016, the United Methodist Men started a Utility Fund. A number of men in the group voted to start a Utility Fund for the church's water source. At each breakfast meeting, two collection baskets were passed: one for the cost of the breakfast and one for the Utility Fund with donations of \$2 here and \$5 there. The fund grew to approximately \$10,000 and the men decided to invest \$9,000 into a certificate of deposit to earn interest. After the CD matured and having earned \$423.31 interest, the money was transferred to the churches Money Market Account and earmarked as the United Methodist Men's Utility Fund. The men's group are continuing to collect donations and look forward to the day the church's water issues are solved. The United Methodist Men's Utility Fund has a current balance of **\$3,514.31** (plus \$9,423.31 earmarked in church's money market fund).

Thank you to those already using ChurchTrac for giving. Many of you have created your accounts but have not utilized the service. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact Jeanette in the office for friendly help. We encourage you to set-up your convenient one-time or recurring giving. You may sign-in to your account using this link:

<https://portagefaithumc.churchtrac.com/>

If you wish to create your ChurchTrac account, click on the link below or just copy /paste or type it into your web-browser, like Chrome. The link will take you to our ChurchTrac page. Just create your personal, secure account. You'll have the ability to give with a credit/debit card, an electronic check. The fee for using an electronic check is only .25 cents each. The fee for using a non-American Express credit card is 2.2% plus .30 cents each transaction. American Express is 3.5% plus .30 cents. The preferred and economical way to give is using your bank's electronic check. You will need your bank's routing number and account number to create this online giving option. Thank you and if you have questions, call the office. 330-274-8987. <https://portagefaithumc.churchtrac.com/give>

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The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face
shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

Numbers 6:24-25 KJV