

September/October 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: Children are invited to stay in church on 1st Sundays when Holy Communion is served. Children's Church all other Sundays.

***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.**

Important Reminder:

If you have any updates to your membership status, change of marriage status, had a child, new phone number, new address or email, please notify the church office. Call or email the office at 330-274-8987 or officeadmin@portagefaith.com.

Thank you!

"Speaking the Truth in Love"

I spent Thursday, August 21, at the Portage County Fair. I timed my visit to see Portage Faith Church youth participate in the Junior Fair. Harper Thiel competed in western style walk and trot with her horse "Red". Nathan, Tom, Matt, and Sam Wright (Lynn and Sharon Wright's grandchildren) were in the arena showing their lambs. I saw Olivia and Abbey Pfost cheer on their Wright cousins after their own competition with chickens had ended. Jensyn Shaulis had just finished "showmanship" competition with her steer. She introduced me to her two steers in their stalls.

It was inspiring to watch the youth competition. Each contestant had invested months of hard work in their 4-H project. There were high moments and moments of frustration. A first timer who took home a ribbon beamed with joy. A young girl whose steer decided to act more like a bucking bronco had a bad night. Some competitors had noisy "melt downs" outside the ring, their broken expectations flowing in tears. Living through these lows and highs develops resilient character with the help of encouraging families and leaders. Kids were learning how to handle disappointment. Take what you've learned and build on it for next year.

Like all character-building youth programs, the big word in 4-H is "relationship." Trustworthy relationships with peers and caring adults shape youth into responsible and compassionate adults. "Working together to build sustainable community change" is what 4-H is all about.

I was positively impressed at the fair. Hats off to our youth and their families and the 4-H leaders who support them. All of the youth did a great job! Whether or not they brought home a ribbon they deserve our congratulations!

As a church, our focus is also on relationships. Whenever we baptize a child, we renew our own commitment to support our church with our prayers, presence, gifts and service. We promise to care for every child and adult that we baptize. It takes a whole lifetime of caring relationships for us to fully live into God's grace. It is through trustworthy relationships with people and through the ups and downs of experience that our relationship with a loving and merciful God grows.

Pastor Bill

Committee Meeting Schedules:

Finance Meetings:

Thursday, Sept. 11, 6:30 pm
Thursday, Nov. 13, 6:30 pm

Trustee Meeting:

Thursday, Sept. 11, 7:00 pm
Thursday, Nov. 13, 7:00 pm

The Ad. Council:

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7:00 pm
Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:00 pm

UMM Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 am
Sunday, Oct. 12 at 7:30 am

UWF Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, Sept. 28 at 8:00 am
Sunday, Aug. 26 at 8:00 am

Worship Committee Meeting:

Thursday, Sept. 25 at 7:00 pm

Liturgist Schedule

September

7 Ted Taylor
14 Mary Tipton
21 Larry Kuhlman
28 Doris Ann Gharky

October

5 Terri Wilde
12 Linda Weinkamer
19 Beverly Fletcher
26 Cindy Pearce

The Book Club will meet in the church library on **Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00 am**. The book is called *"The Firekeeper's Daughter"* by Angeline Borilley.

Thanks to all who made our 2025 Vacation Bible School "Road Trip", July 8-13, 2025, so successful. We are grateful for the dedication and hard work of many in our church. Thanks especially to **Erika Barnett, Linda Weinkamer, and Bill Graham** directing and coordinating this year's VBS. Thanks to:

Music: **Erika Barnett**

Recreation: **Sue Hoover, Ruth and Zach, Kevin Pearce**

Crafts and Science: **Mary Tipton, Kathie Baumgardner, Diane Graham**

Bible Storytelling: **Kim Weingart, Debbie Bahr,**

Mission Offering to 4 C's: **Larry Kuhlman**

Counselors: **Ruth Weinkamer, Kaitlyn Roberts, Ayden Barnett, Catelyn, Abby Pfost, Olivia Pfost, Everett Lange, Emerson Hayes, Caden Grant, Carmen Grant,**

Adult Group: **Bill Graham**

Meals: **Kathie Baumgardner, Gera Kennedy, Ted Taylor, Holly Pfost, Tana Shaulis-Tibbs, PF United Women in Faith, PF Men's Group, volunteers who baked and cooked.**

Publicity: **Jeanette Ryman, Erika Barnett, Linda Weinkamer,**

Photographer: **Amy Reish**

Decorations: **Sue Hoover, Brock and Amy Reish, Erika Barnett, Linda Weinkamer**

"Scout" the Puppet: **Harper Theil**

"Navigator": **Ruth Weinkamer**

And thanks to all the travelers – kids, youth and adults – who participated in this year's VBS.

Want to be a Bell Ringer?

Bell Practice will get a later start practicing for the holiday season this year as the bells are going to be sent out to Pennsylvania for refurbishment in September. Hopefully, we will get them back sometime in October. At this time our practices will be on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm. Let Doris Gharky know if you are interested in joining the bell choir. Currently, we have 7 players ready to start and we would love to have 8 or 9 chimers.



Pastor Bill invites you to participate in a six-week **Bible Study** on the Gospel of Mark, **Tuesdays, from 11:30 am-12:30 pm, September 16-November 4.** (We will not meet on Tuesday, October 21).

Mark is widely believed to be the first written Gospel in the New Testament. Matthew and Luke both borrow much of their material from Mark. Mark has no birth story and no appearance of the risen Jesus after Easter morning (in the original version of Mark). At sixteen chapters long, it's the briefest Gospel. Mark is the primary Gospel in the lectionary for the year 2026. Now is a great time to prepare ourselves to receive the good news according to Mark. You'll receive a student book, and our class will include video presentations by Professor AJ Levine. Together let's expand our understanding of Mark's unique way of sharing the story of Jesus.

Hope Circle will meet at the **Shalersville Historical Society on Thursday, September 25 at 11:30 am** so we can leave before parents start picking up their students from the Stem School next door about 2:00 pm. Don't forget to pack your "school lunch". Beverage will be provided. The program is about the **One Room School**, and we'll enjoy a tour.



Thank you for the blessing of
beautiful Altar Flowers:

July

20 In memory of Pat Pietro by Jane Pietro
27 In memory of Rob McIntosh by Doug and
Carol McIntosh

August

03 In memory of Doris Pearce by Jane Pietro
10 To the Glory of God by Susie Hoover
17 Deb Sikes birthday by Chris Chaykowski

September Anniversaries

2 Tim Pearce and Tammy Seljan 2 years
3 Doug & Chris Kuhlke
8 Tom & Linda Shaulis married 41 years
8 Andrew & Evelyn Pfost married 27 years
19 Christopher & Tina Mosher 5 year
28 Randy & Kim Weingart married 40 years

October Anniversaries

4 Charlie & Alice Moore married 22 years
4 David & Bev Fletcher married 9 years
6 Tom & Gera Kennedy married 52 years
11 Torrey Taylor & Lora Cope married 11 years
22 Jeff & Samantha Kennedy married 12 years
23 Larry & Jeanine Kuhlman 54 years



Our deepest sympathy for the family and friends of:

- Bob Reitz who died on July 2, 2025.
- Robert McIntosh who died on July 11, 2025.
- Doris Pearce who died on July 18, 2025.
- Andrew V. Pfost Jr. died on July 24, 2025.

A Thank you note from the McIntosh Family:

Our family would like to express our gratitude for all the sympathy and support you have shown us during this tragic time.

We truly appreciate all the kind words, the hugs, the cards, the prayers, the lovely luncheon prepared by the church ladies and the service provided by Pastor Bill.

You are a blessing in our time of grief. The McIntosh Family

Happy September
Birthdays

2 Emily Marek
2 Claire Pierce
3 Candace Gage
6 Keegan Rupnik
10 Olivia Pfost
11 Debbie Bahr
12 Doug Kuhlke
12 Phyllis Peters
13 Ethan Gharky
15 Chris Mosher
16 Mary Kay Hluch
18 Beverly Fletcher
18 Noah Shannon
18 Madelynn
Grudowski
19 Tim Taylor
19 Olivia Wilde
20 Gloria Schrecengost
20 Trinity Roberts
21 Matt Ruchalski
21 Dillon Soard
23 Rick Bahr
24 Steven Tibbs
26 Caroline Tipton

Happy October
Birthdays

2 Doug McIntosh
2 Ann Bowker
2 Calli Kotkowski
3 Elinor Rae Cope-Taylor
3 Holly Pfost
3 Charles Moore
8 Ja'Nasia Moore
10 Dorothy Horner
15 Bill Schrecengost
15 Carol McIntosh
19 Lori Davis
20 Drew Pfost
21 Sam Grudowski



A Thank you note from the Pfost Family:

Our family would like to express our gratitude for all the cards, support and kind words during our time of loss. We appreciate all the prayers and the great luncheon prepared by the ladies and for the memorial service and kind words by Pastor Bill. God Bless you all - The Pfost Family

Save the Date: Our annual UWF Retreat will soon be here. It will be held on **Saturday, October 18th at Camp Asbury**. We will start with breakfast at 8:00 am and the first session starting at 9:00 am, with our last session ending around 7:00 pm. The theme this year is "With Loving Service" with studies on Mary & Martha and Mother Teresa. Reservation forms will be available in the narthex. Any questions, please see or call Terri Wilde at 234-525-7561. We hope to see you there!

Hope Circle will meet on **Tuesday, October 28th for the Amish Dinner** at the home of Mariam Miller, 17886 Mumford Road, Burton, OH. Reservations needed and the Cost is \$20.00.

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.

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 calendar. We look forward to seeing all of you at each celebration event. Any additions or changes will be announced accordingly.

Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 9:30 am: Re-consecration service commemorating our first worship service in the sanctuary in 1975. A potluck luncheon will follow, bring a dish to share. The silent auction winners will be announced. Monies made from silent auction bids will be used for the visiting pastor's catered meal on Sunday, November 2.

Sunday, October 5, 2025 at 11:00 am: Visit and walk-thru at the old Mantua Methodist Church which is now a private residence. The Mantua congregation would be celebrating 219 years. After the tour, we'll return to Portage Faith for a potluck luncheon in Goodell Hall. Bring your favorite dish to share. Beverages will be provided!

Sunday, November 2, 2025: "Homecoming" commemorating the dedication of our church in 1975. This will be our final 50th celebration event. **Service will be held at 3:00 pm with a catered dinner by Corners Catering to follow.** Reservations will be required by October 5. Call the office 330-274-8987 or sign-up at Church. Cost: \$10 Single, \$20 Couple, \$25 per family.

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, or Doris Gharky



**Donations Needed for the
Annual Bazaar & Country Store
Saturday, November 8th
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**



As we continue to celebrate Portage Faith's history, the Annual Bazaar is another tradition so many volunteers come together to make it a success! All donations of homemade crafts, ceramics, wood products, jewelry, ornaments, gift baskets, quilts, etc. will be appreciated along with baked and canned goods and pots of homemade soups.

If you can make a pot of fresh homemade soup, please sign up in the Narthex. We will prepare labels in advance and package your soup in quarts and pint containers. We will also have a sign-up sheet for baked goods for Rhonda's Country Corner.

Please drop off non-perishable items with suggested prices in the Youth Room any time after church starting Sunday, 11/2. Baked goods and pots of soup may be dropped off Friday, 11/7 before 6:00 p.m. or Saturday 11/8 after 9:00 a.m. Please contact Debbie Bahr at 216-408-5278 if you can help price items Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. or set up in Goodell Hall after 5:30 p.m. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Please stop in Saturday, November 8th to purchase an awesome assortment of gifts, stocking stuffers, and tasty treats. Final sales will be Sunday morning.

Thank you for helping support this UWF fund raising event!



ANNUAL BAZAAR & COUNTRY STORE

Sponsored by Portage Faith's United Women in Faith

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION

**PORTAGE FAITH
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
9922 State Route 44, Mantua



HOLIDAY ITEMS, CRAFTS, CERAMICS, DIAMOND ART,
JEWELRY, TEACHER/SECRET SANTA GIFTS,
"RHONDA'S COUNTRY STORE"

featuring:
BAKED GOODS, JAMS, JELLIES, CANNED GOODS,
FRESH HOMEMADE SOUPS, and MORE!!



PORTRAGE FAITH UMC

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MANTUA, OH 44255

(Address Service Requested)

Pastor Bill Graham

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**You are cordially invited to participate in a "Portage Faith Vision Mini-Retreat",
Saturday, October 11, 2025, 9:00 am-12:00 noon.**

During my visit this week Virginia Goodell asked, "How do we grow closer to God? How do we know what God wants us to do?"

My answer was, "We need to look and see where God is at work. Figure out what gifts, abilities and resources we have. And then get busy assisting God to do the work God is already doing."

Virginia responded, "That's a lot of good talk, but how do we really do it?"

Discerning what God is doing and then keeping our focus on helping God's work happen, without getting distracted, is the most important thing Portage Faith United Methodist Church can do. Come to the October 11th mini-retreat and help make it happen.



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 the Pastor Bill, Cindy Pearce or Linda Weinkamer. If you would like to be added as prayer warrior, please let Cindy or Pastor Bill know.