

November/December 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:officeadmin@portagefaith.com).

Thank you!

**"Speaking the Truth in Love"**

Since we began planning Portage Faith's 50th Anniversary celebration this year, we have been searching for a photo of the May 18, 1975 "pilgrimage" from Shalersville and Mantua to our new church building while it was under construction.

The photo of "the pilgrimage" turned up this summer. It was in the time capsule, behind our church's cornerstone.

Ever since that photo was found, I've been thinking about it. It's an old black and white photo. Out front of the group is Pastor Ron Huff, carrying a Bible and a shepherd's staff along with a couple of Scouts carrying an American flag and a Christian flag. If you zoom in on the photo you can make out someone in the crowd of walkers carrying a big sign, "COME NOW WITH ME TO PORTAGE FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH".

Our church began with a highly symbolic public act. We stopped traffic on SR 44. Our community noticed us. The black and white photo looks more like a protest march than a pilgrimage. It was a bold way to begin a new church. We invested in a vision God gave us with faith and courage.

I'm confident that God has a vision for Portage Faith UMC today. In the coming months I invite us to pause and pray as a congregation. Together we need to listen for what direction God is calling us to move. We'll be gentle, we'll have fun together, and we'll see if we can hear God's voice speak to us.

2025 has been a wonderful year of celebration for our Portage Faith Church. Thanks go to the 50th Anniversary Committee who planned this year's events. We are especially grateful to Doris Gharky for her outstanding leadership as chair of our 50th Anniversary Committee.

We are called to build a future founded on our past. God will provide the vision. Together we will act with faith and courage as a congregation.

**Pastor Bill**

## Committee Meeting Schedules:

### Finance Meetings:

Thursday, Nov. 13, 6:30 pm  
Thursday, Jan. 9, 6:30 pm

### Trustee Meeting:

Thursday, Nov. 13, 7:00 pm  
Thursday, Jan. 9, 7:00 pm

### The Ad. Council:

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:00 pm  
Tuesday, Jan. 20, 7:00 pm

### UMM Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 am  
Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 am

### UWF Breakfast Meetings:

Sunday, Nov. 23 at 8:00 am  
No meeting in December

## Liturgist Schedule

### November

2 Ted Taylor  
9 Terri Wilde  
16 Larry Kuhlman  
23 Linda Weinkamer  
30 Matt Ruchalski

### December

7 Doris Gharky  
14 Terri Wilde  
21 Beverly Fletcher  
24 Ted Taylor  
28 Ted Taylor &  
Doris Gharky

**The Book Club** will meet in  
the church library on  
Tuesday, November 4 and  
Tuesday, December 13 at  
10:00 am.

## **Annual Bazaar & Country Store**

**Saturday, November 8th**

**9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

The Annual Bazaar is here and it's not too late to help with this UWF fund raising event. All donations of homemade crafts, ceramics, pictures, 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 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. Please contact Debbie Bahr at 216-408-5278 if you can help price items on Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. or set up and package the soups after 5:30 p.m. Your help will be greatly appreciated, and many hands are still needed.

Please **stop in on Saturday, November 8th** to purchase an awesome assortment of gifts, stocking stuffers, and tasty treats. We will also have a special volunteer who will help carry your purchases to your vehicle. Light refreshments will also be available in our Café.

We look forward to seeing you at the Bazaar! Thank you!



## **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!!

Thank you for the blessing of beautiful Altar Flowers:

September

7 In celebration of Olivia Pfost's birthday by the Pfost family

14 In memory of Laura Gharky by Doris and Gene Gharky

October

5 In memory of Kay Hinchman by Deb and Chris

19 In memory of Sandy Taylor by Ted Taylor

November Anniversaries

5 Samuel & Madelynn Grudowski 3 year

5 Steven Tibbs & Tana Shaulis-Tibbs 3 years

8 Jerry & Mary Tipton married 45 years

14 James & Darlene Dennis married 33 years

21 Ben & Olivia Wilde married 10 years

27 Larry & Phyllis Peters married 60 years

Happy November Birthdays

3 Joyce Ullman

9 Lois Crane

12 Mindy Weinkamer

14 Macy Davis

16 Matthew Pierce

17 Emma McCrady

18 Jensyn Shaulis

19 Max Grudowski

19 Joshua Shaulis

22 Ben Wilde

23 Maya Davis

24 Sarah Weingart Theil

25 Lynne McDermott

28 Debbie Glessner-Moreck

Happy December Birthdays

4 Chris Chaykowski

6 Ted Taylor

6 Roger Hammel

7 Meghan McDermott

7 Eric Horner

9 Carolyn Smith

9 Eloise Lange

10 Tom Kennedy

12 Sean McDermott

15 Lee Wright

15 Lynn Wright

25 Diane Graham

27 Adelaide Pearce

30 Virginia Goodell



December Anniversaries

17 Don & Ann Bowker married 70 years

21 Kirk & Karon Mooney married 57 years

30 Hank & Sue Hoover married 36 years

The United Methodist Men's Group Report

The following activities through October 2025 in supporting/maintaining Portage Faith and its members.

- Metal recycling - 2025 total to date is approximately \$850.00. Thank You.
- Weed control on and off asphalt pavement
- Landscape shrubbery trimming
- \$1000.00 gift towards dishwasher replacement
- \$280.00 gift towards vacation bible school for food
- Catch basin cleanout
- Catch basin concrete slab install with stone drainage intake filter
- Private residences maintenance
- Parking pole (bollard) straightening with concrete encasement
- Parking poles painting
- Light pole bases painting

The next breakfast meeting will be on Sunday, November 9, at 7:30 am at Church.



*Our deepest sympathy for the family and friends of Kathy Lance who died on October 16, 2025*

*The family of Kathleen Lance extends an invitation to all in the Portage Faith congregation to participate in a Celebration of Life for Kathy Lance at Portage Faith Church on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm in the sanctuary. The service will include time for members of the congregation to share stories remembering Kathy. A luncheon in Goodell Hall will follow the Celebration of Life. The Lance family appreciates our prayers, our support, and our presence.*

**Many Thanks to:**

Thanks to **Chris Chaykowski**, Chair of Portage Faith Trustees, for overseeing contractors working on our parking lot improvement project this summer. The work included construction of a new trench drain, blacktop patching, sealing all parking areas and driveway, and striping.

Thanks to **Jim Dennis** for painting bollards and light pole bases in our parking areas and along our driveway.

Thanks to **Kevin Pearce** for his work beautifying the grounds.

Thanks to **Jeff Wilde** for building a new drain basin at the southwest corner of our church.

Thanks to the crew of **Portage Faith women** who thoroughly cleaned our church kitchen in September.

**Congratulations** to **Charlie Moore** who was selected as a US Army veteran to participate in an "Honor Flight" to Washington DC.

**Congratulations** to **Tristan and Alexandra Fletcher** who were married on September 20, 2025!



You are invited to participate in a four-week **Advent Bible study** led by Pastor Bill.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation. Expectant parents spend lots of time and energy preparing for the arrival of their child.

How do we prepare ourselves for the arrival of God's Son? Bible study is a good way. We'll connect the birth stories in Matthew and Luke with similar stories in the Old Testament as a way to deepen our appreciation of the Christmas Story.

**We'll meet on Tuesday mornings, 11:30 am-1:00 pm. Lunch provided.**

November 25, 11:30 am -1:00 pm, Session #1

December 2, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Session #2

December 9, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Session #3

December 16, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Session #4

**The Finance Committee will meet at 6:30 pm on Thursday, November 13 and the Trustees will meet right after at 7:00 pm.**

**The Ad. Council will meet on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 pm**

**Hope Circle will have a meeting at the Sugar Maple Inn on Thursday, November 20 at noon.**

**The UWF will meet on Sunday, November 23 at 8:00 am, please bring your own breakfast.**

**Sunday, November 23rd, after church we will be decorating for Christmas.** Everyone is invited to stay after and help us make the church beautiful. There will be some nibbles and drinks provided. Adults and children welcome help.

**Our Advent Celebration** will be held on **Saturday, December 6th at 9:30 am** in the Sanctuary. A time for fellowship will follow downstairs in the blue room where donuts, coffee and juice will be offered.



**The Cookie Walk** is coming on **Saturday, December 6, 2025**. It is a busy time of year, please know that setting aside some of your time and effort to bake cookies is greatly appreciated. Portage Faith bakers are awesome! Please bring cookies to the church **by Friday, December 5, 2025, by 6:00 pm**. Helping with set-up of the cookies on Friday, December 5 would also be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**On Sunday, December 21st, the young people's Christmas program will be part of the service. See Erika Barnett for practice schedule and parts for your children.**

**You're invited to attend our warm Christmas Eve Service is on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

**For Worship on Sunday, December 28 we are having the traditional carols and scripture.**

### **A Big Thank You!**

The Portage Faith 50th planning committee would like to thank everyone for attending our events during the year to celebrate our 50 years of being Portage Faith UMC. We hope you found each of the events meaningful and were able to learn from and reflect on the happenings that took place in the year of 1975. The committee enjoyed putting the events together and learned more about our church while doing so.

We are planning to rededicate the time capsule back into the cornerstone of the church in May 2026. Date will be announced later. All of the information and pictures that have been on display since February on the walls and tables in Goodell Hall will be safely stored for future generations perusal. Thank you all for your donations. If you want any of the pictures returned, please let Doris Gharky know as soon as possible. We will be taking everything down the week of November 3, 2025.

**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.

# PORTRAGE FAITH UMC

9922 ST. RT. 44

MANTUA, OH 44255

(Address Service Requested)

Pastor Bill Graham

Email: [pastorportagefaith@portagefaith.com](mailto:pastorportagefaith@portagefaith.com)

Office - 330-274-8987

Email: [officeadmin@portagefaith.com](mailto:officeadmin@portagefaith.com)

Website: [Https://Portagefaith.com](https://Portagefaith.com)



Order one plant for each person, couple or family group. Order as many plants as you want. Plants may be removed after the Christmas Eve worship service. Please include your check, payable to Portage Faith UMC, memo "Poinsettias" with this order form and place it in the Sunday offering plate by Sunday, November 16, 2025.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid - Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Size	Price	Red	White	Pink
6" Pot	\$6.00			
8" Pot	\$10.00			
10" Pot	\$12.50			