



Mission Statement: "To be a family of faith in  
Christ through caring, serving, and fellowship"

## Bridge Newsletter

March-April 2026

**WORSHIP SERVICE:**  
Sundays 9:30 am

**Committee Meetings:**

**Finance Meeting**

Thursday, March 12  
at 6:30 pm

**Trustees Meeting**

Thursday, March 12  
at 7:00 pm

**The Ad. Council**

Tuesday, March 17  
at 7:00 pm

**UMM Breakfast Mtg.**

Sunday, March 8  
at 7:30 am

Sunday, April 12  
at 7:30 am

**UWF Breakfast Mtg.**

Sunday, March 22  
at 8:00 am

Sunday, April 26  
at 8:00 am

### Speaking the Truth in Love

My family always did our best to honor Mom on Mother's Day. But as we celebrated, we prepared ourselves for the message we were about to receive. On Mother's Day, my mother always said, "It's fine that you want to celebrate Mother's Day, but shouldn't every day really be Mother's Day." Our family knew Mom was right.

The season of Lent has just begun. It's a season when we as a community and as individuals are invited to take an inventory of where we are in relation to God and to others. Is there anything we can do, any adjustments we can make, to draw closer to God and others?

Lent lasts 40 days or 6 weeks, depending on whether we count Sundays or not. Everything special we do in Lent: pray more, read the Bible more frequently, change our diet, give up a self-indulgent habit, contribute more to charity, participate in a study group, is designed to prepare us for Christ's sacrificial love in Holy Week and God's resurrection power that will awaken us Easter morning.

Here's where I hear my mother's voice. Mom would say, "Shouldn't Lent be the way we live all year? Shouldn't what we do in Lent become our everyday lifestyle?"

Preparing for Portage Faith's Ash Wednesday Worship I came across a quote (written over 15 years ago) that really struck me:

***"The world says prepare for the worst.*** Secure your borders. Hoard your money and hide it under the bed. Avoid the stranger. Take care of your own, [so that] one day he or she will take care of you. ***Jesus says, prepare for the best.*** Live expansive lives. Give generously. Engage the stranger. Care for the needy. As country music singer George Strait reminds us, 'The hearse doesn't come with a luggage rack.' So Lent is not about feeling holy, but about lifelong commitments that help us hold on to the things that [sustain life—life in Christ]." \*

\*Anschutz, Maryetta, in *Feasting on the Word*, Year A, Vol.2, David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, editors, p.22, (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010), p.22

**Pastor Bill**

**PASTOR'S walk-in Office hours  
at Portage Faith:**

Feel Free to walk-in or call  
ahead on Tuesdays and  
Thursdays 9:00 to 11:00 am.  
Other times by appointment.

**Solid Ground**, the Portage Faith praise band,  
welcomes musicians or people who like to sing to  
come join us on Sunday mornings. We'd love to have  
you, even if it's just once, every week, or upon  
occasion. We are very casual and have fun! Come  
and discover what an uplifting experience it is to  
praise God through your gift of music. Contact  
Steve Weinkamer if you're interested or know of a  
musician who might be.

**Easter Highlights:**

Come join us for a time of fellowship and education  
at our **Lenten Potluck is on Sunday, March 8th at  
5:00 pm.** Bring a dish to share, beverages will be  
provided. Following our meal Pastor Bill will share  
some of his thoughts on pilgrimage and photos  
from his walk on the Camino Frances in Spain last  
year.

**Holy Week Services:** Leading up to our  
celebration of the Resurrection of Christ we will be  
observing **Maundy Thursday** with a service that  
includes a special communion that reminds us of  
"The Last Supper". The service is on **April 2nd at  
7:00 pm.**

**April 3rd** we will be hosting a **Good Friday  
Tenebrae service also at 7:00 pm.**

**April 5th Easter Sunday:** There will be a **6:30 am  
Sunrise Service at Camp Asbury.** There will be a  
**continental breakfast provided at the church at  
8:00 am** served in the Goodell Hall.

Our **Easter celebration begins at 9:30 am.**

**Children's Church:** All children are  
invited to stay in church on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sundays when Holy Communion is  
served. Children's Church is held all  
other Sundays.

**March Birthdays and  
Anniversaries:**

- 1 Jamie Roberts
- 4 Robin Gay
- 8 Madalynn Brand
- 9 Larry Peters
- 12 Dolly (Evelyn) Pfof
- 17 Marjorie Craig
- 21 Jacob Klock Horner
- 21 Mary Lange
- 24 Bill Graham
- 26 Louise McCaul
- 27 Pamela Braden
- 28 Elizabeth Harbaugh
- 29 Jordan Shaulis
- 29 Joseph Shaulis

*9 Matthew & Kristin  
Pierce married 14 yrs.*

*13 Chad & Jaime  
Roberts married 16 yrs.*

*16 Bill & Diane Graham  
married 12 yrs.*

**April Birthday's**

- 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
- 19 Jack Horner
- 20 Greyson Tibbs
- 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

No anniversaries  
in April

**March Liturgists:**

- 1 Ted Taylor
- 8 Cindy Pearce
- 15 Debbie Bahr
- 22 Mary Tipton
- 29 Linda Weinkamer



**April Liturgists:**

- 2 Terri Wilde (Maundy Thursday)
- 3 Good Friday
- 5 Ted Taylor
- 12 Steve Weinkamer
- 19 Beverly Fletcher
- 26 Doris Gharky

**Easter Flowers**  
**Order by Sunday, March 15, 2026**

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 by **Sunday, March 15**. Flowers may be taken home after the Easter Sunday Worship Service.

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

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

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

Presented by: First and Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Enter the number of plants you want.

\$8.00 - Single Easter Lily 6" pot \_\_\_\_\_

\$14.00 - Double Easter Lily 8" pot \_\_\_\_\_

\$18.00 - Triple Easter Lily 10" pot \_\_\_\_\_

\$7.00 - Daffodil 6" pot \_\_\_\_\_

\$7.00 - Mini Daffodil 6" pot \_\_\_\_\_

\$7.00 - Hyacinth 6" pot Pink\_\_\_\_, Blue\_\_\_\_, or White\_\_\_\_

\$7.00 - Tulip - 6" pot Pink\_\_\_\_, Purple\_\_\_\_, Orange\_\_\_\_ Red\_\_\_\_

\$14.50 Deep Blue Hydrangea plant 6.5" pot \_\_\_\_\_ Pink\_\_\_\_

(Availability subject to change) Grand Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Book Club** is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am. All are welcome!

**Hope Circle** is typically held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at noon. Watch for updates in the weekly announcements.

**Place your 4C's March wish list items in the shopping cart at church.**

- Crackers
- Cereal/granola bars
- Sloppy Joe Sauce

Please consider giving monetary donations so that the 4C's can purchase perishable items like milk, bread and eggs. Make your check out to Portage Faith UMC with 4C's in the memo line and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

**PORTAGE FAITH UMC**  
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(Address Service Requested)

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**Holy Week at a Glance:**

**Sunday, March 29** Palm Sunday at 9:30 am  
**Thursday, April 2** Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm  
**Friday, April 3** Good Friday at 7:00 pm  
**Sunday, April 5** Easter Sunrise at Camp Asbury at 6:30 am  
**Sunday, April 5** Easter breakfast at 8:00 am Goodell Hall  
**Sunday, April 5** Easter Worship at 9:30 am  
**Sunday, April 12** Holy Humor Sunday at 9:30 am

