



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

## Bridge Newsletter

May-June 2026

### Speaking the Truth in Love

Guess who showed up in church on Holy Humor Sunday at Portage Faith? Bigfoot!

It takes a lot of gumption to walk into a strange sanctuary in the middle of worship—even for Bigfoot. Curiosity must have drawn Bigfoot inside the doors of our church.

Bigfoot's mission in life seems to be hiding from human beings. Maybe Bigfoot is shy by nature or feels misunderstood. Perhaps Bigfoot is tired of living a solitary life out in the woods without companions. Could it be that humans scare Bigfoot into hiding?

Let's be honest, we all have "Bigfoot moments," don't we? Times when we feel rough around the edges; moments when we feel uncomfortable around people; moments when we feel too blue, or too unlovable, or too wild, to associate with others. And before you know it, keeping to ourselves, has become a habit we live with. We withhold ourselves from community.

How ironic that we were telling the story of the disciple Thomas the Sunday Bigfoot entered our sanctuary. Thomas thought he had missed out on the party. He wasn't there when the risen Jesus showed up the first time. Poor Thomas. He feels left out. He's anxious. It isn't fair that he is denied the experience that his friends can't stop talking about.

We all know the story. Same place, same channel, one week later, the risen Jesus shows up a second time to accommodate Thomas. Jesus makes sure Thomas is not left out.

Here's the truth. As the church, we don't gather just to sing songs and hear sermons and take care of a building. We come together to create a space where those who feel like "outsiders" experience welcome. Where those who have kept themselves hidden can find friends. Where even the most unlikely visitors might feel like they have walked into a place of holy welcome.

Maybe, Bigfoot now feels it's safe to get a little closer.

"These people believe God's grace reaches into the wild, hidden, and forgotten places where we all live. There is welcome here for people who act and speak differently, even for creatures who are big and furry and reclusive. These people embody the wideness of God's love."

Pastor Bill

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

**Committee Meetings:**

**Finance Meeting**

Thursday, May 14 at 6:30 pm

**Trustees Meeting**

Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 pm

**The Ad. Council**

Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 pm

**UMM Breakfast Mtg.**

Sunday, May 10 at 7:30 am

Sunday, June 14 at 7:30 am

**UWF Breakfast Mtg.**

Sunday, May 24 at 8:00 am

Sunday, June 28 at 8:00 am

**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.

**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.

Check the weekly announcement sheet for any changes that may occur.

**Liturgists:**

**May**

3 TBD

10 Chris Chaykowski

17 Steve Weinkamer

24 Linda Weinkamer

31 Debbie Bahr

**June**

7 Ted Taylor

14 Beverly Fletcher

21 Doris Gharky

28 Terri Wilde

**May Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

1 Bud Bednar  
2 Tim McDermott  
2 Jenny Ollison  
2 Warren Ragle  
4 Neil McDermott  
6 *James & Bonnie Marek married 26 years*  
7 Jeffrey Barnett  
7 *Kevin & Cindy Pearce married 38 years*  
9 Noah Kennedy  
10 Steve Weinkamer  
11 Chris Kuhlke  
16 Kyle Pearce  
16 Bruce Goodell  
17 Lisa Cutlip  
18 *Eric & Lori Davis, married 30 years*  
18 *Adam & Chrissy Gharky married 24 years*  
19 Abigail Pfof  
19 *Bill & Gloria Schrecengost married 70 years*  
21 *Andy & Holly Pfof married 21 years*  
22 Zachary Weinkamer  
22 *Bob & Mary Lange married 16 years*  
26 *Jeff & Terri Wilde married 42 years*  
28 Ayden Barnett  
30 Doris Pearce  
30 Andy Pfof  
31 *Dillon & Jocelyn Soard married 1 year*

**June Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

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  
14 *Jim & Renee Peters married 30 years*  
15 *Matt & Amanda Ruchalski married 24 years*  
15 *Jason & Kimberly Tipton married 13 years*  
17 Jeff Wilde  
19 Ken Grudowski  
20 *Scott & Anne Weslow married 46 years*  
22 *Steve & Linda Weinkamer married 52 years*  
24 *Pat & Iris McCon married 54 years*  
26 Recia Ragle  
26 Benjamin Pearce  
29 Kevin Pearce  
29 Candice Rom-Rose  
29 *Rick & Debbie Bahr married 35 years*  
30 Tristan Fletcher

**"The Chosen" Bible Study:**

I am planning on conducting a study of **"The Chosen" season 5 video series**, which focuses on Holy Week. We will meet **each Wednesday morning at 10:00 am starting on April 29 and will be for 8 weeks**. Even if you missed all or some of the prior seasons or sessions, you are still welcome to join us for this moving look at Holy Week. Please let Steve Weinkamer know if you are interested

**May 10th is Mother's Day** and the church will be celebrating mothers and the motherly women in our church who help nurture and uplift our children

The family of **Bill and Gloria Schrecengost** have invited everyone to a reception in Goodell Hall on **Sunday, May 24** after the church service. Join Bill and Gloria to honor and celebrate their 70 years of love and marriage.

**COME ONE AND ALL!**

The 50th Anniversary committee invites all members and friends of Portage Faith UMC to a Cornerstone Service on **Sunday, May 17, 2026**. This will be the final event celebrating Portage Faith's 50th year! We will replace our time capsule in the cornerstone of the church building to be opened again in the year 2075 or 2100, or whenever a new generation decides it's time. Last summer we removed the capsule from our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and displayed the contents for our Portage Faith 50th Anniversary celebrations. We will include memories from our year of celebration along with some history and memorabilia in the new capsule.

Immediately after our service, on May 17th, we will join in fellowship in Goodell Hall for a Potato Bake Potluck featuring beautiful music by **The New Pilgrims** youth band. United Women in Faith will provide our baked potato & toppings and everyone attending is asked to bring a salad and/or dessert. On display for your viewing will be scrapbooks and a photo album that have been put together from all of the 50th year celebrations. They will be kept in our archives at the church. Put the date on your calendar and we hope to see everyone there!

**June 21st is Father's Day** and we will be honoring fathers and all the mentoring men of the congregation with a pie reception after service in Goodell Hall. Come join us in celebrating the men of our church family.

**June 7th is Graduation Sunday** - Portage Faith will be recognizing members of the congregation who are graduating. Please let us know if you have family members graduating from high school or college or any other type of schooling.

**Please save these dates:**

**VBS for all ages is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28 through Friday, July 31 from 5:30 pm - 8:30 with a light meal.**

The **annual Church Picnic** is planned for **Saturday, August 22** starting at 4:00 pm at Deb Sike's home.

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

- Boxed instant potatoes
- Cereal
- Jello

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!

