

# The Open Door

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
We believe in God and in each other.  
The People of The United Methodist Church

April 2023 Volume 21 Issue 4



Greetings PUMC Family and Friends!

Spring has sprung! (Would somebody please tell ‘Mother Nature’? I think she forgot to turn up the thermostat!) Easter is nearly here! (Yippee!) For those who love Jesus, it is truly ‘the most wonderful time of the year’! We are God’s resurrection people. Death has lost its sting. Life not death has the final word. Easter means that we are freed to live lives of love. That fear does not hold us

hostage. We can boldly love God and our neighbors no matter the cost or the repercussions.

Of course, worship and generosity are a big part of this special time. Our worship schedule looks like this:

- April 2 – Palm Sunday – 9:00 am in person, 10:00 am online  
- Children’s Sunday School and Nursery – 9:00 am
- April 7 – Good Friday – 7:00 pm in person
- April 9 – Easter Sunday – 9:00 am in person  
- Children to join us in worship for the baptism, then head to Sunday School  
- Continental breakfast served before and after worship



A PUMC Passion Project

Each year our church takes up a mission offering in celebration of Easter. This year our gift will be equally divided between two great ministries. First is our **Helping Hands** ministry. This fund is used throughout the year to support our friends and neighbors in Portland who need a little financial assistance. We partner in this help with PAMA, the

Portland Area Ministerial Association, to ensure that even larger needs are met. Our typical gift to someone in need is between \$100 - \$150. Your gift will keep the lights on in a home where kids are doing homework, heat on where families

Pastor Rev. Letisha Bowman 517-994-8545 pastortish@gmail.com
Ministers All Who Serve Christ
Organist Sherry Miller 517-647-7030
Director of Children's Ministry Mary Bresnahan 526-7571
Treasurer/Ministry Assistant Beth Feldpausch 989-640-5250
Custodian Emily Perry 517-526-3520
Leadership Board Chair Jen Thomas 517-803-8080
Office Administrator Beth Feldpausch 517-647-4649

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Worship	3
Attendance	3
Financials	4
Prayer Requests	5
Calendar and Events	6

## OUR USHERS:

1st	Jen Thomas
2nd	Bill & Connie Almy
3rd	Bruce & Linda Croel
4th	The Feldpauschs
5th	Jon & Penny Johnson



Portland United Methodist Church  
310 E. Bridge Street, Portland, MI 48875  
www.portlandumc.org

sleep, gas in a tank to get a parent to work, and so much more. Thank you in advance for your generosity and love.

The second ministry we will support this Easter is the **UMCOR Sunday Offering**, formerly known as the 'One Great Hour of Sharing'. Your gift will help to cover the administrative costs of UMCOR. Through this gift United Methodists ensure that when we give to relief projects at other times of the year, 100% of our giving goes to help those in need. UMCOR has long been the outstanding outreach arm of the United Methodist Church, usually the first on the ground when there is a disaster anywhere in the world. Be sure to check out their website at [umcor.org](http://umcor.org). While not a glamorous need, administrative costs is a vital need. Loving our neighbor sometimes means taking care of the business of helping. UMCOR is able to do the amazing work it does because we make sure it's there to begin with. I don't even want to imagine a world without UMCOR! Again, thank you in advance for your generosity and love. I'll see you on Sunday! Be sure to invite family and friends.



Pastor Tish

## LEADERSHIP BOARD

March's ministry team spotlight is on the **Building Maintenance** team. Grateful for this team for without them, our building (inside and out) would not be nearly as beautiful! Thank you Bill Almy for the info below!

The maintenance team has a broad range of responsibilities, from electrical, carpentry, plumbing, landscaping and anything else that falls between these particular areas. We have a maintenance schedule in place for each month for items that tend to be seasonal, for example, installing the portable air condition units in the pastor's office and secretary's office in the spring months and removing them in the fall. In addition, our monthly schedule may include (but not limited to) start-up and shutdown of boilers, checking smoke alarms, emergency exit lights and clocks for needed maintenance. In the spring and summer months, the team concentrates on both the church and parsonage property, for needed maintenance, such as trees, shrubs, lawn, painting, power washing, fence and deck repair.

The church has a work order process in place that helps identify repair needs as they pop up. This process helps stay on top of care and maintenance for the interior and exterior of the church building. We also support the maintenance needs for the special community programs that work within our church like, Community Food Bank, 2nd Thursday Meals Program, the Soup Project and Back-Packs-for Bellies.

We are blessed to have a loyal team of volunteers that dedicate their time and resources at keeping God's house in good condition. The team consists of:

- ◆ Building Maintenance team volunteers – Randy McClung, Bruce Croel, Garret Feldpausch, Bill Almy.
- ◆ Property Maintenance team volunteers – Allen and Arlene Randell, Randy McClung, Bruce Croel, Todd Ayotte, The Feldpausch family, Connie and Bill Almy.

Continuing to serve Christ,

The Building Maintenance team

***Note: If you are interested in volunteering for any of programs underlined above, please contact the church office at 517-647- 4649 or [portlandumc.org](http://portlandumc.org)***

March Attendance	
Week Of:	Online Facebook Live & In Person Views/Shares/Sign-in
March 5	64 In Person, No online
March 12	55 In Person, 14 Online 209 Views/4 Shares
March 19	57 In Person, 11 Online 131 Views/3 Shares
March 26	59 In Person, 8 Online, 154 Views/4 Shares

## APRIL WORSHIP

There are certain words we Christians avoid using at all costs these days— sin, damnation, repentance, penance, and salvation. Why is that? Do we believe that if we avoid them, they won't have the power to hurt us, shame us, or convict us? In reality, avoidance only leaves us powerless in the face of their very real effects. It weakens the language of grace. The power of forgiveness is only fully known when tied to what has been given.

### April Sermon Schedule:

- April 2:** What a Week!
- April 9:** The Power of Love
- April 16:** Meets Us in Our Doubts
- April 23:** Calls Us to Life
- April 30:** Brings Us Together



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PASTORAL TRANSITION TEAM! PLEASE READ!**

As we all know, Pastor Tish and Brian are moving on to a new appointment and will be transitioning out at some point in June and our new pastor (to be determined) will be transitioning in.

I am looking for members of our congregation to join the Pastoral Transition Team. There are many things to be done for both our outgoing and incoming Pastor and many hands make light work.

Connie Almy has already reached out offering her help...**THANK YOU CONNIE!** We will meet at some point in early to mid April to create an outline for this transition.

Who is in? Below is my contact info...let me know if you are interested!

Working for Him!  
Jen Thomas  
517-803-8080  
Jthoma403@aol.com



A "Work Day" at the church for needed outside maintenance  
If interested, please contact Bill Almy (616-540-0917).

### Projects Include:

- Landscape improvements
- Edge all sidewalks
- Sweep parking lot NE section
- Trim trees
- Prune shrubs
- Spread landscape chips

### Tools needed:

- Rakes
- Shovels
- Push brooms
- Pruning scissors
- Electric hedge trimmer
- Edger
- Telescoping saw

# The Neighborhood!

Hello All,

We have been having so much fun learning a lot in The Neighborhood and Seedlings Nursery about Jesus and his love for us all. We are getting to know the new families, which is exciting, and they are settling in nicely.

Don't forget to look at the children's board as you come in or when you leave to see everything we are doing. It is across from the Church calendar as you walk up the ramp to get to the Welcome Center. They are so excited to share their projects with you all.

I know that spring break falls between Palm Sunday and Easter this year. With that being said, Sunday School on Easter will be a little different. We will start off in the Sanctuary with our families, then we will take the children upstairs for a craft about Easter and a little celebration.

Blessings to all,  
Mary



## Year-To-Date as of March 30, 2023

### Income

Offering	\$ 61,405.13
Misc. Income	\$ 359.13
Total	\$ 61,764.26

### Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$ 25,425.69
Lay Support	\$ 5,288.89
Ministry Shares	\$ 5,495.70
Administration & Building	\$ 17,543.39
Ministry & Mission	\$ 195.94
Total Expenses	\$ 53,949.61

Difference \$ 7,814.65

**To set up electronic giving go to:**

<https://www.portlandumc.org/giving.html>

## ADVOCACY DAY 2023

During Annual Conference, the Michigan Conference of United Methodists voted to take action against the gun violence epidemic in our state. On March 22nd, 350 United Methodists went to Lansing, MI to talk to legislators about our desire for better gun safety and to support the gun legislation that had recently passed in the Senate.

Four of our own PUMC people went, Pastor Tish Bowman, Susan Wilson, Kim Duffield and Beth Feldpausch. We were joined by Judy Huyhn of LeValley UMC.



We talked to Senator Rick Outman sharing personal stories about gun violence and left letters with Representative Gina Johnsen.

IT'S TIME FOR A BONFIRE NIGHT @ THE FELDPAUSCH HOUSE



April 29, 6:00 pm

BRING A CHAIR, AND A DISH TO PASS. THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE HOT DOGS AND BUNS. THE FELDPAUSCHS WILL PROVIDE DRINKS AND TABLEWARE.

## Prayer Requests



If you have a concern to be addressed by our prayer chain, please contact the church.

Patsy Buckley	Thea Kaetzel
Bruce Daman	Amy Kahn
Carol Eldridge	Kelly Mosser
Barb Gillis	Susan Smith
Bruce Jackson	Diana Spangler
Sharon (Hill) Longstreth	Ella Tyler

Please contact the office if you would like a name added next month.

Please pray for our Service Men & Women:



Jared Thomas

Please pray for our Homebound

**Jean Almy**  
6876 Reeder Road  
Lyons, MI 48851

**Bruce Daman**  
4000 North Michigan Road  
Dimondale, MI 48821

**Doris Long**  
200 Blossom Drive  
Portland, MI 48875

**Bud Moyer**  
4775 Village Drive, Apt. 147  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Gerald Peabody**  
102 Rindle Haven, Apt C2  
Portland, MI 48875



The annual Beacon of Hope golf outing will be Tuesday, April 26th.

Beacon of Hope offers no cost, professional counseling at five locations across the state of Michigan. If you are interested in making a donation for this event, see Harvey Hoskins.

## Emmaus Community

Have you been part of the Emmaus Community either in the Grand Rapids or the Lansing Area? The Emmaus Community is re-organizing following the forced hiatus due to COVID. They have been holding meetings in Greenville, Lansing, and Clare and are searching for members that may want to become active again.

I have agreed to be a contact for our church. I am trying to make a list of those that have attended *A Walk To Emmaus* so that I can pass along information. You can let me know if you are interested in receiving information. Please contact me by:

Email - [carolmclane0350@gmail.com](mailto:carolmclane0350@gmail.com)  
Cell - 517-526-3608

## HELPING HANDS

We all are aware that many are suffering from the high cost of everything from utilities to food to housing and more. Many families have insufficient income or a family crisis which makes it impossible to meet their financial obligations. Since the beginning of 2023, PUMC has joined with other local churches by financially assisting 10 persons or families in meeting a need. This averages out to one check written each week. We gave to people needing help with rent, utilities, car repair and medical expense. We also paid for a night's stay in a local hotel for two separate homeless families. PAMA (Portland Area Ministerial Association) is the contact organizations for those in need. They talk to or meet with the person making the request, then pass along the necessary information to the representatives of each church participating in this ministry. It is truly a community endeavor. Thanks to all who contributed to the Advent offering for Helping Hands ministry and also to the family of Lynda Russman who designated Helping Hands as a memorial to Lynda. We also thank all those who donated to this memorial. Helping Hands was near and dear to Lynda's heart.



-- Jan Mosser

United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) will meet on Thursday, April 6, at 10 am in the Esther room. We will have a short meeting and will then prepare fruit for people to enjoy after the service on Easter Sunday. If you have a favorite paring knife for cutting fruit, please bring it with you. We took a two-month hiatus from our meetings, due to winter weather and several of our members leaving for warmer climate. We are excited about getting back together in April and planning for the spring and summer. All ladies are welcome to come to any and all of our meetings, usually held on the first Thursday of each month.



### APRIL PUMC BOOK CLUB

On April 17, at 11 am, we will meet for brunch at the Rivers Edge Grill. The April readings are quilt themed, The Elm Creek Series, books one and two, are Round Robin and The Quilters Apprentice by Jennifer Chiaverini. The books will be available beginning April 1st at the church lounge or the Portland Library. Contact Vickee Balseer at [Vgbalseer@aol.com](mailto:Vgbalseer@aol.com) if interested or call/text **239-671-9879**.



A sincere thank you to my family and friends for all the help, prayers, cards, and gifts I received after my fall. A special thank you to Pastor Tish.

-- Patsy Buckley

## APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### April Sunday Services:

Traditions Worship Service	9:00 am
Children's Sunday School	9:00 am
Coffee and Conversation	10:00 am
Facebook Online Worship Service	10:00 am

### 1st Sunday-of-the-Month Food Drive

April 2, donations may be left at the church

### Monday Afternoon Bible Study – Weekly

Church Lounge 4:00 pm

### 2nd Thursday Meals – Monthly

April 13 , Contact Sherry Miller  
517-285-0640, [sherrymillersings@gmail.com](mailto:sherrymillersings@gmail.com)

### PUMC Book Club Meeting

April 17, Rivers Edge Grill 11:00 am

### Thursday Afternoon Bible Study – Weekly

Fellowship Hall 3:00 pm

### Staff Meeting – Monthly

April 27, Esther Rm. 6:30 pm

### Bonfire Night @ The Feldpausch Home

April 29, 6316 Gibbs Rd., Portland 6:00 pm

### Community Food Bank & Clothes Closet

Mondays	9:00 am - Noon
Thursdays	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Contact Steve @ 616-902-0645 for Food Bank

Contact Linda @ 517-899-9848 for Clothes Closet

### Backpacks for Bellies

Delivered Thursdays 9:00 am

Contact Michelle VanSlambrouck @ 517-285-6518

### The Soup Project

Tuesdays, Kitchen 9:30 am