

The Open Door

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

August 2020 | Volume 13 Issue 8



'You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbor as yourself.'

Greetings PUMC!

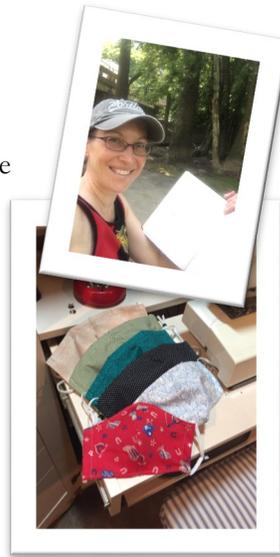
Faith. The church is nothing if it is not enacting its faith. A wonderful Ruth Duck hymn says, *'As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.'* **Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ**

for the transformation of the world. It's a twofold mission – developing ourselves into better disciples and helping others to enter the faith and mission. Mission takes discipline and action. We can hear the word of God and take it into our hearts. But until we respond to God's love for us by engaging the mission, we have not fully surrendered to God's reign in our lives.

Jesus reminded us that to enter the kingdom, to be full citizens, we need to do two things. **Love God and love neighbor.** John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, said that what this looks like is engaging in acts of piety and acts of mercy. Acts of piety include things like worship, prayer, study of scripture - all things that draw us closer to God. Acts of mercy is service to the church, our neighbors, our community and our world - all things that draw us closer to one another. It's all about engagement.

Recently our Worship Team got to talking about engagement. How do we help people engage in living out their faith when we can't meet together? When the question was asked someone said, **'Hey! What about bringing back our 'Faith-In-Action' ministry?'**

It was a great idea. We decided to resurrect Faith-In-Action. Instead of doing a big, one day, strategically planned event, we envision a multitude of smaller enactments of faith every week. **The idea is to grow and spread the love of God right where we are.** Each week we will issue a new challenge. It may be an action that draws you closer to God – like starting a prayer journal or joining a Bible study or practicing Sabbath. It may be an action that draws you closer



Cont. page 2

Pastor Rev. Letisha Bowman 517 994-8545
Ministers All Who Serve Christ
Organist Sherry Miller 517 647-7030
Director of Youth Ministry Beth Feldpausch 989 640-5250
Children's Ministry Assistant Mary Bresnahan 526-7571
Office Administrator/ Treasurer Open
Custodian Donna Starks
Administrative Council Chair Jen Thomas 517 803-8080
Staff Parish Relations Dan Goeckel 517 648-6171
Finance Chair Beth Bengel 616 755-2689
Mission Chair Open
Lay Leader Carol McLane—1st Service 517 647-6192
Trustee Chair TBD
Nursery Mary Bresnahan 526-7571

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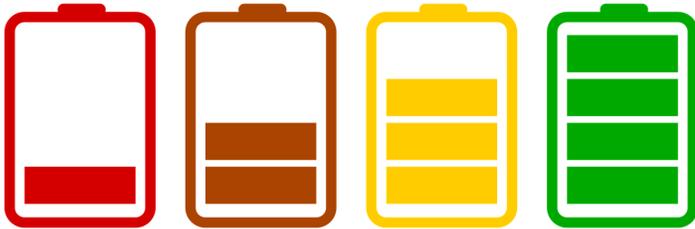
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(517) 647-4649

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Facebook Live Services @ 10:00 am
www.facebook.com/pumcmi
Outdoor, In-Person @ 10:00 am each
week weather permitting



Recharging!

Are your batteries running low these days? It's easy to lose heart when so much is challenging us. Join us as we discuss the need to pause and recharge before we become fully depleted in body, mind and spirit

August 2: The Quarantine 15

August 9: Take Care of Yourself

August 16: Don't Be A Worrywart!

August 23: How *You* Doin'?

Attendance for July

Week Of:	On-Line Facebook Live	Groups
7/5/2020*	474 views/8 shares 46 sign in	No groups met in July
7/12/2020**	333/7/26	
7/19/2020*	364/8/40	
7/26/2020*	913/14/42	

* Worship held on Facebook Live due to Corona Virus pandemic.
**Online and in-person worship offered (online upload failed & reposted later)

cont. pg1 to others through service – like making/purchasing a mask and putting it on our clothes line, donating to an UMCOR project, or helping out a neighbor. The idea is to help us see that there are opportunities all around us to grow our faith and to invite others into the faith. It also gives us each the gentle push we need to get our Faith-In-Action!

One of the ways we would like to encourage one another and to celebrate the growth of the kingdom is by sharing photos of our Faith-In-Action. As you engage in each weeks challenge, we invite you to take a picture or a selfie and share it at PortlandFaithInAction@gmail.com. We will then build a collage of pictures to put on our Facebook page.

Scripture says that we are to encourage one another in the faith. Selfies and photos on social media are the modern day equivalent of saying, 'We can do this! Join in.' So don't be shy. Let's get going and let's see your Faith-In-Action.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Tish

P.S. We will continue to meet for worship online every week and in person most weeks (so long as weather permits). Please watch our webpage for the latest information –

www.portlandumc.org



OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

Year-To-Date as of July 31, 2020

Income

Offering & Misc. Income \$105,565.26*
***\$16,176.50 less than expected**

Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$48,935.94
Lay Support	\$15,383.19
Ministry Shares	\$14,224.75*
Administration & Building	\$29,531.16
Ministry & Mission	<u>\$ 1,379.10</u>
Total Expenses	\$109,454.14

Difference \$ 3,888.88

*Represents five Ministry Share offerings so far this year.



FALL FAITH & LIFE CLASS

Join Pastor Tish via Zoom on Sundays at 11:00 am following worship to link faith with life. Weekly discussions based on the sermon topic to help you use the word in your daily living, offer encouragement to others and dive deeper into scriptural teachings.

Sept. 20 - Nov. 22. No sign up needed. Zoom link to be posted each Sunday during online worship.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our group is lively with plenty of discussion about how the scriptures impact our daily lives.

The Gospel of Luke

The Wednesday Night Study Group will be finishing their study of the Gospel of Luke using Barclay's Commentary as our guide.

Luke's gospel is the most detailed and orderly written account of the gospel writers. It is also in chronological order. It was written to the Gentiles (non-Jewish people). Luke was a Gentile and the only non-Jewish author of all the books in the Bible.

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. We will be starting on **9/9/2020** and meeting in the Welcome Center. Contact Carol McLane at 517-526-3608 for more information or at carolmclane0350@gmail.com

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

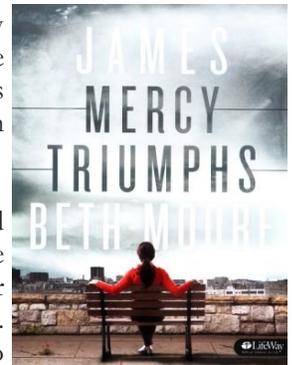
Join this group as they read 'Letters to the Church' by Francis Chan. This study digs deep into biblical truths, reflections on Francis Chan's own failures, dreams and stories of ordinary people God is using to change the world. Interesting study in these precarious times.



Begins September 14 @ 7:00pm in the Welcome Center. Contact Linda Sandborn @ lsandborn@hotmail.com to sign up.

James - Mercy Triumphs – A Beth Moore Study

The Wednesday Night Study Group invites you to join us as we learn from the Book of James using a video study from Beth Moore.



James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple. Bible scholars compare James to the prophet Amos. In other ways, James more closely resembles the Book of Proverbs than any other New Testament book. Topics in this study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer.

James begins his letter by outlining some general characteristics of Christian life and exhorts Christians to act justly in society. This letter could be considered a "how to" book on Christian living. Read James and become a DOER of the Word!

We will be starting on **10/14/2020** and meeting in the Welcome Center. Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. Contact Carol McLane at 517-526-3608 for more information or at carolmclane0350@gmail.com.



Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

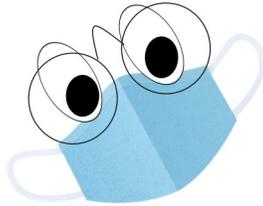
-Psalm 119:105



The Mask Project

Have you heard about our new community ministry?

In addition to all our prayers for deliverance from this COVID 19 pandemic, we are adding some DIY to fighting it as well. The idea is simple: **Make (or purchase!) a Mask** to hang, or **Take a Mask** to wear. You may also donate materials



You can help put this pandemic behind us in Portland. How?

We are hanging free face masks by our Bridge Street door for those who need a mask to wear during the COVID 19 pandemic. Go to our website, <https://www.portlandumc.org/events>, to find more about how you can help Susan Wilson with this endeavor.

**LOVE GOD -
LOVE NEIGHBOR!**

We need mask makers, mask contributors, and mask wearers!



COMMUNITY MEALS

Sadly, we have received word from the Congregational Church that the weekly Community Meals will not start back up in the Fall. Concern for the health and wellbeing of our guests and workers must take top consideration. There will be a meeting in October to discuss the situation and determine the safest steps forward. Please pray for the future of this vital ministry and stay tuned for further information.

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.
- Matthew 20:28*

HELP!!! OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

- † **Worship set-up and tear-down:** Sunday mornings at the church. **DATES FILLING! THANK YOU!!!** Contact Pastor Tish
- † **Treasurer's Position:** Record deposits, pay bills and salaries and reconcile bank statements on a weekly basis. 1-2 hours per week. Contact Dan Goeckel
- † **Newsletter Publisher:** Create monthly newsletter. Contact Pastor Tish
- † **Website Team:** Help maintain webpage. Contact Betsy Myers
- † **Worship Planning Team:** Brainstorming group and sermon support. Contact Pastor Tish (no preaching involved!)
- † **Worship Production Team:** Video, video editing, uploading weekly worship. Contact Pastor Tish
- † **Daily Mail & Phone Check:** Distribute mail and check voice mail daily at the church. **JOB FILLED! THANK YOU!!!** Contact Pastor Tish
- † **Special Mailings:** Print and mail newsletters, Thursday Updates, and Sermons to those without internet. Contact Pastor Tish
- † **Caring Friends:** Make a weekly call to one of our homebound friends. Contact Pastor Tish

Richard & Susan Wilson

As I am writing this, I have just read July 7th Upper Room devotion. The message spoke to me as I know God uses so many wonderful tools to hear his voice. James 1:2 - "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds." The author speaks about blackberry picking and receiving scratches or pain to receive the reward of larger berries. This is truly one of my favorite things to do. Rarely do I wear the long pants recommended to prevent the suffering! Looking back and seeing the joy of God's presence is so fulfilling. As we are all in this changing uncertain world, our rock is the certainty of Jesus in our life!



Just a bit about us... My husband, Richard, and I are just puddle jumpers. We both attended Ionia Public Schools, active in rural agriculture and had Methodist upbringing. I was the Southerner and he was the Northerner from Ionia. When marrying, we decided to join Easton church and live by his family just North of Ionia. He grew up with beef cattle and a few ponies/horses. I grew up on a dairy farm on Peck Lake Rd, attended LeValley church and drove tractor to Portland to process our grains. We moved to Portland just 4 years ago when I accepted a position working for Michigan State University Student Health and Wellness program (Olin, affectionately for us old folks). I have been a nurse for over 35 years and a Nurse Practitioner for 14 years. I have been mostly blessed to work in Ionia County. Richard retired from working for Michigan Department of Corrections several years ago, but he continues to make sure justice/service and safety is his priority. He is very busy with work for our Cherry Hill Condo Association and with being Grandpa to our grandchildren, Everett and Alma!

We are blessed to have 2 adult daughters, Laura (Aaron Koch) and Danielle. Our oldest lives in Grass Lake and is a full-time mother to these 2 adorable kids. The youngest granddaughter, Alma, is a miracle! She is now a one year old, recently weaned off 2 seizure medications, and astounding us with her development. We are certain God has her future in his hands (as he is aware of every little gene), and we gratefully praise him as he helped us over this last hurdle. Our youngest daughter and her partner will be moving to New Mexico this month from her home in Detroit.

We both are very grateful for the new friends and fellowship at Portland United Methodist Church. Susan & Richard Wilson



We 'tag' Diane Willard!

SONiC NEWS

SONiC

Serving Other's Needs in Christ

Welcome August! Despite cancelled trips, events and activities our summer is just flying by. SONiC follows the school calendar so we are still on our summer break, but plans for the upcoming year are in motion. It's challenging this year as we are still in the middle of a pandemic and Michigan has not made it past phase 4 of the reopening plans. This year, the SONiC calendar will look different. Right now, I am looking at curriculum to use via zoom, discussing logistics of outdoor small group sessions, and planning out social media video challenges so we can safely find ways to be in service to our community. Different doesn't have to mean "bad."

I am always in need of volunteer leaders. If you are interested in ministering to youth and giving back to your church and community, please contact me. My number is (989) 640-5250. Or you can email me @ bethbeckett@gmail.com. Have a blessed summer and one way or another, I will see you in the fall.

In Christ, Beth Feldpausch

Prayer Requests



If you have a concern to be addressed by our prayer chain, please contact Wendy Mallek at 647-6366, by E-mail at: mallekw803@yahoo.com, or contact the church.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Amanda's Family | Darrel & Shelia Rich |
| Joshua Buker | Laura Beth Rich |
| Kristin (Mosser) Connelly | Eileen Rose |
| Lori Diné | Jody Schnetzler |
| Bruce Daman | Jim Selden |
| Fran Daman's family | Scott Shay |
| Louis Fulkerson | David Showerman |
| Gary Hutson | Scott & Kristen Smith |
| Toni Ivey | Diana Spangler |
| Pat Johnson | Wilma Thompson |
| Samantha Johnson | Dalilah Tubergen |
| Sharon (Hill) Longstreth | Robert and Ella Tyler |
| Damon Mallek | Don Wallace |
| Joe Milhomens | John West |
| Doug & Marsha Miller | Brian Wohlscheid |
| Sam Mitchell | Lizzie Whitaker |
| Vicki Moulton | Anne Zimmer |
| Del Ortwine | |
| Kathy Riley | |
| Kathleen Robertson | |

Please be sure to notify us when someone's name may be removed from this prayer list. Thank you!

Please pray for our Service Men & Women:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Elisabeth Bullen | Rob Marvin |
| Scott Lumbert | Marcus Olger |
| Luke May | Matthew Shaltry |
| Marc Robertson | Luke Terpstra |
| Jonathan Steele | Justin Clark |
| Michael Tiemann | |



Please pray for our Homebound

- Brian Ainslie**
201 Mall Drive South, Apt #37
Lansing, MI 48917-2558
- Jean Almy**
6876 Reeder Road
Lyons, MI 48851
- Doris Babbit**
223 Charlotte Highway
Portland, MI 48875
- Bruce Daman**
4000 North Michigan Road
Dimondale, MI 48821
- Mary Alice Lawless**
4775 Village Drive, Apt. 49
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

- Doris Long**
200 Blossom Drive
Portland, MI 48875
- Robert Mervau**
1200 Wright Avenue
Alma, MI 48802
- Bud Moyer**
4775 Village Dr.—Apt. #227
Grand Ledge 48837
- Gerald Peabody**
204 Blossom Drive
Portland, MI 48875
- John West**
223 Charlotte Hwy
Portland, MI 48875

*Let us pray for
one another*



Our condolences are extended to:

The family and friends of Rev. Elaine M. Buker who passed away June 4, 2020.

Sherry Miller and family on the death of her father, Rev. Keith Laidler on July 1, 2020.

Beth Feldpausch and family on the death of her grandfather, Clyde Woodman, on July 20, 2020.

Jan Mosser and family on the death of her sister, Lois Whittaker, July 23, 2020

In an effort to keep everyone as healthy as possible, face masks must be worn at all times while in our church building.

