

# The Open Door

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

February 2021 | Volume 15 Issue 2



*“I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” – Genesis 12:2*

Greetings Church Family!

Have you ever noticed how one person can make a big difference in someone’s life? Teachers come to my mind. Do you remember the movie ‘Freedom Writers’? It’s based on a true story and is about a teacher, Erin Gruwell, who took a job working with ‘at-risk’ students in an inner-city high school. She shares her love of literature with her students and helps them to make connections (eventually) to their life situations. Handing out journals, she then encourages them to write their own life stories. The change in her students that follows is amazing. They open up to one another and to themselves. For some, healing happens; for others, a different future becomes possible. One teacher, believing in them and sharing her love of literature, made such a difference in the lives of the teens in her classroom.

This coming Sunday we begin a new sermon series, **‘Change the Story: Blessed to be a Blessing’**. The series will be a reminder that through the blessing of our relationship with God through Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we have gifts to change the stories of people in our world for the better. In addition to introducing people to Jesus, we have love to share that will convince someone of their self-worth, resources that can finance healing, knowledge that can support learning, and so much more.

Each week during this series, our Worship Team would like to challenge all of us to ‘Change the Story’ in our community in some way. We believe that the church has the key to open the door to the kingdom ‘on earth as it is in heaven.’ So here are the challenges:

**Week 1: Lift Spirits** – Send Valentine’s Day cards to our area care facilities and to our homebound friends (see page 2 for addresses and details). Let’s shower our seniors with love!

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Ministers All Who Serve Christ
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Director of Youth Ministry Beth Feldpausch 989 640-5250
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Staff Parish Relations Dan Goeckel 517 648-6171
Finance Chair Beth Bengel 616 755-2689
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Cont. on pg. 2



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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Facebook Live Service @ 10:00 am



### FEBRUARY SERIES

**Change the Story:  
Blessed to be a Blessing**

February 7: Blessed to Be a Blessing  
Genesis 12:1-3

February 14: Blessed to Love  
Ruth 1:16-17

February 21: Blessed to Serve  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

February 28: Blessed to Free  
Matthew 25:34-40

### Change the Story - Week 1 Challenge

Send Valentine Cards to our area care facilities (addresses below) addressed to 'My Valentine' We will let the facilities know to direct them to someone who could use some extra love. Tell them they are loved and be sure to sign the card from you and the church. Please also send cards to our homebound friends (see list page 4). Let's flood their mailboxes!

#### **The Brook**

102 Rindlehaven Commons  
Portland, MI 48875

#### **Country Living**

7844 East Emery Rd.  
Portland, MI 48875

#### **Portland Assisted Living & Memory Care**

223 Charlotte Hwy.  
Portland, MI 48875

*Cont. from pg. 1*

**Week 2: Say 'Thank You!' to our teachers and support our students – Donate:**

1. **UNDERWARE:** 5t (t means toddler) through kids size large (5th grader size), both boys and girls.
2. **PANTS:** Casual, comfy stretchy like leggings, athletic, sweatpants, etc. No jeans please. 5t – large. Westwood especially needs girls pants kid sizes 10, 12, 14.
3. **MITTENS:** all sizes for elementary kids
4. **SNOW PANTS:** Smaller K - 2nd grade sizes
5. **SNOW BOOTS:** Larger 3rd-5th grade sizes
6. **BOTTLES of Water:** For the lunch rooms for staff and students who forget their waters. Water fountains have been shut off for the year.

...**AND** donate funds to make blessing baskets for some of our teachers. **Drop items and basket money off at the church by February 21.**

**Week 3: Support Local Businesses & Show Appreciation** – Make a point of visiting local businesses and purchasing gift cards (and give away - think police officers, fire fighters, convenience store workers or use later yourself). Small cards to include with the gift certificates given away can be found at the church in our outside box. **You may also drop your gift certificates off at the church office by February 28 to be delivered anonymously.**

**Week 4: Donate to Beacon of Hope** – Support counseling services here in Portland for those struggling with stress, anxiety, depression and other mental health issues. Your gift could save a life. Use your giving envelope (**Mark it 'Beacon of Hope Offering'**) or our electronic giving to make a donation.

Each person really can make a difference in someone else's story. God partners with us to build the kingdom, here and now. **We are blessed to be a blessing to others, so let's get out there and share the love!** Let's be the blessing our community and world so desperately needs.

See you on Sunday!  
Pastor Tish



## 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.

Dates: Feb 7-28. No sign up needed. Zoom link on our website.



### Year-To-Date as of January 31, 2021

#### Income

Offering	\$ 16,422.00
Misc. Income	\$ 00.00
	<u>\$ 16,422.00</u>

#### Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$ 7,760.23
Lay Support	\$ 1,319.73
Ministry Shares	\$ 00.00
Administration & Building	\$ 1,198.30
Ministry & Mission	\$ 393.98
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 10,672.24</u>

Difference \$ 5,749.76

**Please consider electronic giving during this challenging time. Thank you!**

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

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

## SONiC News



Hello teens and parents!

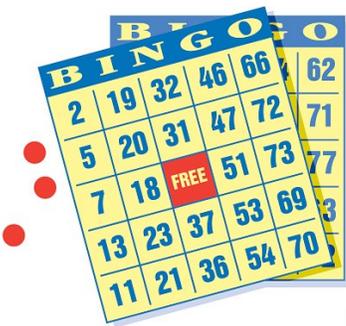
SONiC will be continuing on zoom for the month of February. I would like to get a few more volunteers before we schedule in-person SONiC. It is very important that our teens and volunteers feel safe. Let me know if you would be willing to help out in this capacity.

**We just finished our Leviticus study and will be starting a Deuteronomy study on February 14<sup>th</sup>.**

February 7<sup>th</sup> is Super Bowl Sunday. I will be sending out bingo cards and we will still meet at 6:00pm on zoom for some pre-game fun.

I hope and pray you all are staying safe and healthy. I will see you soon.

-Beth Feldpausch  
bethbeckett@gmail.com



## January Attendance

Week Of:	Online Facebook Live Views/Shares/Sign-in
1/3/2021	403 views/9 Shares/50 sign-in
1/10/2021	645 views/18 Shares/50 sign-in
1/17/2021	442 views/9 Shares/58 sign-in
1/24/2021	261 views/11 Shares/53 sign-in
1/31/2021	248 views/13 Shares/61 sign-in

# Prayer Requests



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

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

## A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

I am no longer my own, but yours.  
 Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.  
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
 Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you,  
 exalted for you or brought low for you.  
 Let me be full, let me be empty.  
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
 I freely and heartily yield all things  
 to your pleasure and disposal.  
 And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.  
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
 let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

UMH 607

### Please pray for our Service Men & Women:

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



### 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
- Bud Moyer**  
102 Rindle Haven Commons, Rm C 7  
Portland, MI 48875
- Gerald Peabody**  
204 Blossom Drive  
Portland, MI 48875

## Festival of Tables

**Unfortunately this event has been cancelled this year due to cautionary measures for Covid. Watch for details on other ways to support PAMA.**



## SMART SENSORS

Church Mutual (our insurance company) recently provided our church with a “free” system to monitor water leaks and freezing temperatures. The system is called “Smart Sensors” by CM-SENSOR.

The system runs from a base monitor, which is set in the narthex on the storage cabinet. Two sensors came with the unit and can operate up to 150 feet from the base unit. One sensor is to be located in the boiler room, and the second sensor placed in the basement kitchen area, providing a warning system if the church were to experience heat loss or a water leak.

The base unit must remain plugged into a 110v outlet at all times to provide 24/7 coverage, and has a battery backup in the event of power outages.

Both sensors are located on the floor away from foot traffic and should not be tampered with or moved without first notifying the Trustee committee.

The warnings from the system will be sent to several individual’s smart phones (selected by the Trustees board) to assure around the clock protection.

The Church Mutual Insurance Company is working to protect their customer’s investment and to protect our home of worship.

*“Thank you” to Church Mutual Insurance Company!*



## PLEASE WEAR A MASK WHEN ENTERING THE CHURCH BUILDING



### Top Reasons to Wear a Mask

- **It works!** Research shows that wearing a mask slows the spread of the virus by reducing the risk of you spreading it to others.
- **It is a matter of respect.** You may not believe in masks but others do. Let’s all be respectful of each other!
- **Because we are asking you.** With signage and in this monthly news letter...when entering the church, please wear a mask!
- **For love.** People are already uncomfortable or have anxiety on top of having to request someone to please wear a mask. Wear a mask to show your love and to demonstrate as a Christian brother or sister that you are respecting that person and putting your differences and opinions aside.

Thank you for your help,

Dan Goeckel SPRC Chair  
Jen Thomas Ad Council Chair.

## LENT INVITATION

I don’t know about you, but I look forward to the time we would gather on Wednesday nights during lent.

Lent is not as fuzzy and warm as other seasons of our Christian traditions, but I look forward to Lent as a time to get down to the reality of how I am doing spiritually. It’s my time to pray and ask God to show me the truth of my thoughts, intentions, words and actions. It’s a time to admit where I have lost sight of God’s love, truth, grace, wisdom and direction.



During Lent I will be Posting a Scripture on **Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm** and will be taking a few minutes to reflect on this Scripture.

Please join me and feel free to leave your thoughts or a quick “Hi” on the post.

Look for our Lent Scripture post for reflection and comments.

Peace to you,  
Mary Arleth

**7:00 pm, Feb. 17 - Mar 31**  
One extra post will be on  
Maundy **Thurs., Apr. 1, 2021**