

# 2022

# 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 2022 | Volume 20 Issue 2

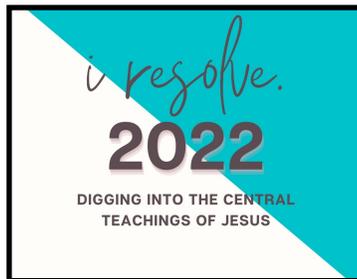


Greetings PUMC Family!

It's February. How are you doing on your New Year's resolution to live more faithfully this year? Together we have resolved 'To Be Present', 'To NOT Follow the Crowd', 'To Be Genuine', and 'To Breathe'. Jesus has entreated his disciples to be salt and light in a world that needs the flavor and illumination of the faithful. What can we do to make the world

a better place?

- Be present in the world - loving our neighbors (all of them!), serving with humility and grace, offering forgiveness, seeking justice and healing and release from oppression.
- NOT follow the crowd into legalism, but breaking through to the heart of life – loving our neighbors (do you see a theme here?!)
- Be genuine in our devotion – practicing the spiritual disciplines that have the power to transform us in a way that helps others to see Jesus in us (without having to make a big show of it).
- Breathe – trusting that the One who has given us life and breath and being, the One who has the ultimate power over life and death, the One who loves us more than anyone else, will see us through whatever comes our way.



As part of the resolution to be better disciples of Jesus, I hope that you have been reading Matthew 5-7 on a regular basis – maybe even taking the time to write it out by hand (I promise you – it slows you down enough to hear it in a new way – give it a try!!!). The more we engage in scripture, the deeper it resides in our hearts, and the more it transforms our lives.

This month we will continue our journey. Together, we will resolve 'To Knock it Off', 'To Love Better', 'To Do the Hard Thing', and 'To Be Wise'. I'm excited to hear what the Spirit will have to say to us on each of these Sundays,

Cont. pg. 2

<b>Pastor</b> Rev. Letisha Bowman 517-994-8545 pastortish@gmail.com
<b>Ministers</b> All Who Serve Christ
<b>Organist</b> Sherry Miller 517-647-7030
<b>Director of Youth Ministry</b> Beth Feldpausch 989-640-5250
<b>Director of Children's Ministry</b> Mary Bresnahan 517-526-7571
<b>Treasurer</b> Beth Feldpausch 989-640-5250
<b>Custodian</b> Donna Starks 616-821-7215
<b>Leadership Board Chair</b> Jen Thomas 517-803-8080
<b>Office Administrator</b> Vickee Balsler 517-647-4649
<b>Lay Leader</b> Carol McLane 517-647-6192

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### OUR USHERS

1st Sunday	Dan & Kasey Goeckel
2nd Sunday	Dan & Maureen Wallace
3rd Sunday	Bruce & Linda Croel
4th Sunday	Bill & Connie Almy

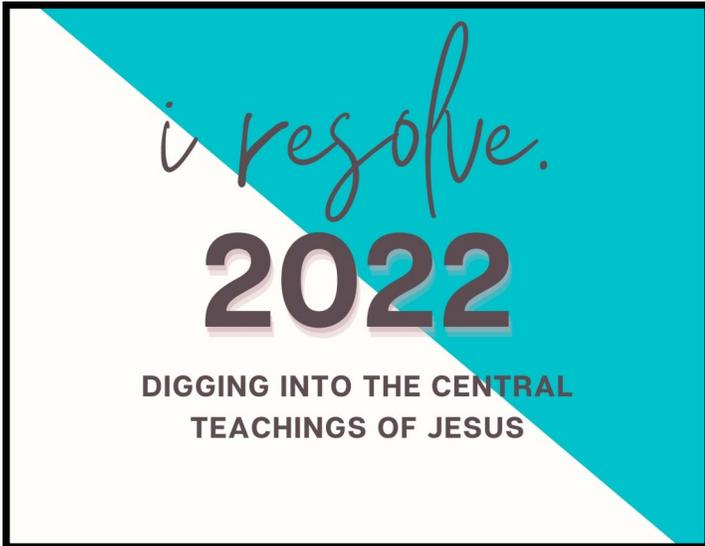


Portland United Methodist Church  
310 E. Bridge Street, Portland, MI 48875  
www.portlandumc.org

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**IN-PERSON SERVICE @ 9:00 am**

**FACEBOOK LIVE SERVICE @ 10:00 am**



DATE	SERMON TITLE	TEXT
Feb 6	To Knock it Off	Matthew 7:1-5
Feb 13	To Love Better	Matthew 6:25-34
Feb 20	To Do the Hard Thing	Matthew 7:13-23
Feb 27	To Be Wise	Matthew 7:24-27

**To read this newsletter online go to:**

www.portlandumc.org  
Scroll down and click the PUMC  
Newsletter tab, then click on the  
Newsletter you wish to open.



The Newsletter is always available to download from our webpage. If you are not receiving, or know of someone that is not receiving this newsletter, please contact the office at 517-647-4649.

From pg. 1

and I'm excited to see how we will grow.

We are off to a great start this year. The world may be a challenging place right now, but God has a way through that promises life along the way. As we are faithful, God is faithful. And through us, God does change the world for the better. Keep the faith, friends!

See you on Sunday!

Pastor Tish

January Attendance	
Week Of:	Online Facebook Live & In Person Views/Shares/Sign-in
1/02/2021	31 Online, 10 In Person 185 Views/ 7 Shares
1/9/2021	49 Online, 29 In Person 252 views/ s9 hares
1/16/2021	48 Online, 31 In Person 192 Views/ 8 Shares
1/23/2021	39 Online, 30 In Person 161 Views/ 10 Shares
1/30/2021	18 Online, 41 In Person 18 Views/ 0 Shares



**The Leadership Board and Pastor Tish would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Kim Duffield who, for the last year plus, has served as our Treasurer. Every Monday she records our giving, pays bills and salaries, reconciles accounts, monitors our directed giving, and creates monthly reports. She is now stepping down as Beth Feldpausch steps up, but we did not want to miss the opportunity to say - 'Thank You! Your service has been a blessing.'**

## Leadership News

Our **PUMC Leadership Board** met in January to discuss the state of leadership in our congregation. As you are all aware, we have had a difficult time finding people to step up and help govern our church. We are 4 people short of having a full board, and as such we are going to take a step back from the visioning and planning processes that we had set into motion in 2021.

We simply cannot ask, nor expect the same core group of people to carry the load of the church alone. That does not mean, however, that important and vital ministry isn't still happening. We are, for now, simplifying the simplified structure to manage the basic needs of the church. We continue to pray that God would speak to those we have approached to reconsider a position on the Board. We continue to be faithful in our belief that God has a plan for our church and its future.

We look to the 2022 year to come and have set a simple goal of continuing to be present in our community, to foster and grow relationship with our neighbors, and to fulfill our mission of making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

To achieve this, our focus will be the following:

1. Participation in Portland Community Days
2. Hosting a Halloween Trunk-or-Treat
3. Continuing to advertise and develop the Fireside Gathering Service which will resume Spring 2022
4. Engaging people in the name of Jesus at our annual Memorial Day Chicken *BBQ* (which we will again co-host with the *VFW*).

If you would like to help on any of these vital outreach projects, please speak to me or Pastor Tish about joining a short-term team.

Blessings and Peace,  
Jen Thomas, Leadership Board Chair



### Year-To-Date as of January 27, 2022

#### Income

Offering	\$17,289.00
Misc. Income	\$ 2,371.90
Total	\$19,660.90

#### Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$ 5,224.48
Lay Support	\$ 1,027.01
Ministry Shares	\$ 2,023.90
Administration & Building	\$ 3,628.24
Ministry & Mission	\$ 206.28
Total Expenses	\$ 12,109.91

Difference \$ 7,550.99

**Please consider electronic giving  
Thank you!**

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

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



**Our Online Facebook Group!**

#### **What's happening on PUMC Community this month:**

Let's follow along with our "I Resolve" sermon series as we live our year faithfully. Are you in a small group? Are you helping out an event? Are you seeing friendly faces at church? Take some pictures of our church in action, and share them on our community page. It's always nice to see a mid-week smile.

#### **What's coming next month:**

A season of prayer.

## Prayer Requests



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

Amanda's Family	Gerald Peabody
Joshua Buker	Darrel & Shelia Rich
Kristin (Mossler) Connelly	Laura Beth Rich
Lori Diné	Kathleen Robertson
Bruce Daman	Jim Selden
Fran Daman's family	Scott Shay
Mary Beth Horton	Scott & Kristen Smith
Gary Hutson	Jim Sivyer & family
Missy Kauffman	Diana Spangler
Sharon (Hill) Longstreth	Wilma Thompson
Damon Mallek	Dalilah Tubergen
Joe Milhomens	Robert and Ella Tyler
Doug & Marsha Miller	Lizzie Whitaker
Vicki Moulton	Brian Wohlscheid
Mark Ortwine	Sue Wolfe

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

### 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

#### Bruce Daman

4000 North Michigan Road  
Dimondale, MI 48821

#### Mary Alice Lawless

The Village of Heather Hills  
105 Forest Hill SE, Rm 224  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

#### 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



# UMW

## United Methodist Women

The UMW had a busy December. After not meeting for several months due to Covid, we decided to adopt a family for Christmas, as we had done for several years before the pandemic hit. Linda Sandborn has a contact at the Portland Public Schools that helps identify a family that could use an extra boost at Christmas time. At our Christmas salad luncheon, we took up a collection to fund the shopping trip, which was done by Connie Almy and Linda Sandborn. We were given wish lists from the family, with clothing sizes and special requests from the children in the family. Connie and Linda also got something special for each parent and a gift certificate from Meijer.

We also each brought two dozen cookies to our salad luncheon, which we were careful to package individually, and put in containers for several nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior citizen housing. Volunteers from our group delivered these after the luncheon.

Our January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. We hope to meet again on Thursday, Feb. 3rd, if the weather cooperates. Meetings are held at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month. All women of the church, friends and relatives, and any interested women are welcome! Just bring your coffee or beverage of choice, and join us for fun and fellowship. Oh yes, and friendship! Jan Mossler, UMW Chair.

## *Festival of Tables*

### *Nazarene Church*

Saturday, February 26th  
10:30 am—1:30 pm

A fun event for women of all ages! A room full of beautiful tables, a sit-down lunch, music, speaker and silent auction. All proceeds benefit the Portland Area Ministerial Association's Compassion



To host a table,  
contact Sue Kreiner at 616-537-8013  
We are on Facebook: Portland MI Festival of Tables

## Helping Hands



A big thank you to all who have contributed to the Helping Hand Fund! We have been able to assist 21 individuals or families

during 2021, and have answered 4 calls for help during this past month of January. Things we take for granted such as housing, heat, water and electricity pose hardships for those who are struggling with unemployment, health issues, disasters of one type or another, or in some cases, just plain unfortunate decisions. It's amazing what can be done when various churches work together under the leadership of Portland Area Ministerial Association (PAMA) to give hope to those who are struggling. The \$1500 given through the Advent offering will enable us to help 15 people and is a great way to start 2022! This is what Jesus would do and would have us do, as His disciples. Thank you!

Jan Mosser, PUMC Helping Hands Coordinator



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February Sunday Services:

In-Person Worship Service	9:00 am
In-Person Children's Sunday School	9:00 am
Facebook Online Worship Service	10:00 am
Coffee & Conversation Sunday	10:45 am
Children's FB Online Sunday School	weekly anytime

### 2nd Thursday Meals

February 20 - Contact Sherry Miller

### Feeding America - Mt. Hope Church

February 12 9:30 am

### Bingo Night - Fellowship Hall

February 19 6:30 pm

### Festival of Tables

February 26, 2022 10:30 - 1:30 pm  
Nazarene Church

### Bible Studies

Mondays - One-Year Bible Study 4:00 pm

### SONiC 6th-12th grade

Sundays, See SONiC article page 6 6 - 7:30 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 @ 517-899-9948 for Clothes Closet

### Backpacks for Bellies

February 10 and February 24 (updated to Thursdays)  
Contact Michelle VanSlambrook @ 517-285-6518

### United Methodist Women

1st Thursday of each month Esther Rm 10:00 am

**Please call the office at 517-647-4649 to include an event in the next newsletter.**



Hello SONiC!

Due to some schedule issues and Covid setbacks (is anyone surprised?), we are running behind on our Half Truths study. We will continue with the study through the month of February while meeting in my home on Sundays from 6 pm to 7:30 pm.

Here is the schedule:

**February 6** - Chapter 2 God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

**February 13** - Super Bowl Sunday. Bring a snack, bring a friend. We are going to play Super Bowl bingo and board games.

**February 20** - Chapter 3 God Won't Give you more than you can handle

**February 27** - Chapter 4 God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It

**March 6** - Chapter 5 Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin

**March 13** - Epilogue and over all take away.

Please reach out if you have any questions or if you just want to talk. See you soon.

In Christ,  
Beth Feldpausch  
(989) 640-5250

**THANK YOU!**

Thanks to the crew that came out in the cold weather to replace batteries, smoke detectors, light bulbs and more.

We appreciate your faithfulness to your Church.

Children's Ministry

Available online  
anytime

Portland Facebook

**PUMC Family**

Sunday School is Now Open!



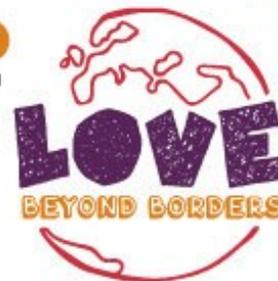
9 am



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