

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 2023 Volume 21 Issue 2



Greetings PUMC!

February this year takes us from the heights of the Super Bowl, with its glitz and glitter and hype, to the lows of Ash Wednesday, with its smudged foreheads and repentant hearts for the kick-off of Lent. A couple of summers ago, we printed up some t-shirts that said

“Loving God. Loving our neighbor.” It’s that simple. This

month, we have a couple of specific ways to intentionally live this out – one fun and the other deeply meaningful.

February Love-Your-Neighbor Event! Our schools are nearly six months into the school year. As you might imagine, some supplies are running low – especially the important ones like Kleenex and cleaning wipes! What’s a teacher to do? Many purchase the items out of their own pockets. It doesn’t seem right to let a ‘neighbor’ shoulder that responsibility alone. So, let’s love our neighbors and have a little fun at the same time. Between now and February 12, the Love-Your-Neighbor Team (LYN) invites you to ‘vote’ for the team you will be rooting for to win the Super Bowl. To vote simply purchase a box of Kleenex (nice ones that won’t scratch little noses!) or a container of disinfectant wipes and place it in the appropriate team section under the tailgate canopy in the Welcome Center. Feel free to place as many ‘votes’ as you would like for your team! The more ‘votes’ the better your team’s chances of winning (and the teachers too!). Members of the LYN Team will deliver the ‘votes’ to the schools. It’s that simple.

Love God Event. February 22 is Ash Wednesday. In the Bible, sprinkling oneself with ashes was traditionally a sign of one’s sorrow for having committed sins. In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of preparation for the understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ. Ash Wednesday always marks the beginning of the church season called Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter (excluding Sundays, which are always ‘little Easters’). Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts. Later, Lent then became a

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OUR USHERS:

1st	The Feldpausch Family
2nd	Connie Almy
3rd	Bruce & Linda Groel
4th	Jon & Betsy Myers



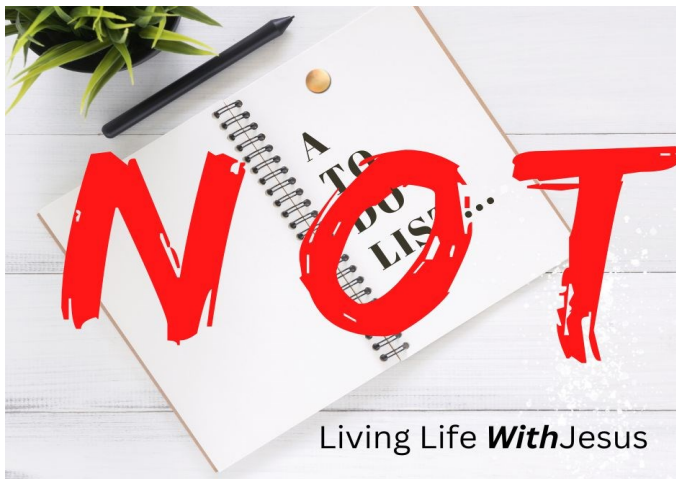
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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**TRADITIONS WORSHIP, INCLUDES
SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:00 am**

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION @ 10:00 am

FACEBOOK ONLINE @ 10:00 am
www.facebook.com/pumcmi



Sometimes life feels like one big 'to do' list. All we seem to do is work at checking one thing off after another – but the list never gets any shorter! The church can sometimes feel like another list of things 'to do.' Good news! Following Jesus isn't about completing a 'to do' list. It's about living life with Jesus.

February Sermon Schedule:

February 5 : To Do, To Do, To Done
Luke 10 :38-42

February 12 : What Are you Looking For?
John 1: 35-39b

February 19 : It's a Relationship
Matthew 11: 28-30

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time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationships with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others. On Ash Wednesday, February 22, we invite you to observe and mark the beginning of this holy season in a couple of ways.

- **Drive-Thru:** First, you may receive the imposition of ashes right from your car. **From 11:30 am – 12:30 pm**, simply pull up to the parking lot door, and I will come to you with ashes and a brief prayer. We did this last year, and it went very well.
- **Outdoor Service:** Second, you are invited to participate in a short outdoor Ash Wednesday service at **7:00 pm**. We will meet in the parking lot around a bonfire sharing scripture, prayer and the imposition of ashes.

Loving God. Loving our neighbor. It's that simple. Hope to see you there...and on Sunday!

Pastor Tish



February 26 : Speaking of Sin

January Attendance

Week Of:	Online Facebook Live & In Person Views/Shares/Sign-in
January 1	25 In Person, 8 Online 187 Views/7 Shares
January 8	45 In Person, 17 Online 364 Views/12 Shares
January 15	34 In Person, 15 Online 316 Views/13 Shares
January 22	50 In Person, 11 Online, 196 Views/7 Shares
January 29	



January PUMC Book Club

PUMC Book Club invites you to attend our monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 15, beginning at 3 pm at the church. Snacks will be provided. We will chat about our January readings and present our February selections. Books provided when available. Let's read our way through winter! We'll save you a seat!

Contact Vickee Balser at Vgbalser@aol.com if interested or call/text **239-671-9879**.

FESTIVAL OF TABLES

Imagine a room full of beautifully decorated tables, a delicious sit-down luncheon, prepared with generous amounts of TLC, and served by your table hostess. And, all this benefiting the Portland Area Ministerial Association!

Welcome to Festival of Tables, Saturday, February 18, 2023 from 10:30 am till 1:30 pm.

Tickets are now available at St. Patrick's Parish Office or the Church of the Nazarene during regular business hours.

There will be a Silent Auction, and the organizational committee is looking for donations of any homemade crafts, gift certificates, etc. If you have anything that you could donate to the Silent Auction or as a door prize, please bring it to the Church of the Nazarene, St. Patrick's office, or the Festival of Tables.

Would you consider hosting a table? Call Sue Kreiner at 616-537-8013 if you would like to host a table or have any questions.



The Neighborhood!

Greetings from the Neighborhood,

I am pleased to announce that the Seedlings Nursery is up and running. We are still looking for 1 or 2 more volunteers to help serve in both the Seedlings Nursery and The Neighborhood classroom one or two Sundays each month. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please pass my number along to them.

We will be learning the teachings of Jesus through Easter. Hopefully they will be talking more at home about Jesus.

On Love Your Neighbor (LYN) Sundays, we will still have Sunday School and the nursery available during the 9 am service. Families are encouraged to get involved at the LYN events which usually occur at 10 am. If these events occur at a different time or on a different day, I will communicate that in advance.

May God bless,
Mary & Susan

Mary Bresnahan at 517-526-7571



*Our Deepest
Condolences to the family
of Lynda Russman who
passed on January 6th,
2023.*

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. - Psalm 118:24



Year-To-Date as of January 31, 2023

Income

Offering	\$ 21,012.38
Misc. Income	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 21,012.38

Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$ 8,861.50
Lay Support	\$ 1,587.25
Ministry Shares	\$ 1,831.90
Administration & Building	\$ 5,848.61
Ministry & Mission	\$ 170.14
Total Expenses	\$ 18,299.40
<u>Difference</u>	\$ 2,712.98

To set up electronic giving go to:

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

HELPING HANDS FUND

Thank you to all who contributed to the Helping Hands Fund. Collaborating with PAMA, we helped 35 families in 2022, and three more by the middle of January 2023. A total of \$1,367.77 was given in Advent offerings recently.

These Advent offerings will allow us to help those struggling with rent, utilities, and other necessities of life. Families are in dire situations before they reach out to PAMA. Only by the grace of God and the churches of the Portland area working together can we do what is needed to help them. It is a hard financial time for so many with rising prices and costs of gas, utilities and housing.

Thank you for all you do to help families in our own local area. Any checks written for the Helping Hands Fund need to be made out to PUMC with Helping Hands on the memo line.

Prayer Requests



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

Kelly Mosser
Bruce Daman
Sharon (Hill) Longstreth
Diana Spangler
Ella Tyler
Thea Kaetzel

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

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

There are a lot of hands that work to make Sunday Services happen. We have ushers and greeters, lectors, Sunday school and nursery helpers, sound and projectionists, counters, online hosts, coffee makers and musicians. If you have been serving in any of these areas, we just wanted to say, THANK YOU! You have not gone unnoticed.

If you are looking for ways to serve, we would love to help you get involved. Feel free to call or email the church office letting us know where you want to serve, and we will connect you with the right person.

SAVE THE DATE

Megan Martin & John Johnson are getting married April 1, 2023. More information is available at <https://www.zola.com/wedding/johnsonpartyof2023>.

Please RSVP to Mary Bresnahan in person or Megan at 517.526.5214



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

WESLEY WOODS CALENDAR

- May 27-29: Family Camp (Memorial Weekend)
- June 18-24: High School Camp (Grade 10-13)
- July 5-7: Grand Camp (Grandparents & Grand Kids)
- July 9-15: Middle School Camp (Grades 6-9)
- July 23-28: Middle School Sports Camp
- July 30-Aug 4: Middle School Arts Camp
- July 23-28: Elementary Camp 1 (Grades 3-6)
- July 23-26: Mini Camp 1A (Grades 1-3)
- July 26-28: Mini Camp 1B (Grades 1-3)
- July 30-Aug 4: Elementary Camp 2 (Grades 3-6)
- July 30-Aug 2: Mini Camp 2A (Grades 1-3)
- Aug 2-4: Mini Camp 2b (Grades 1-3)
- Sept 2-4: Family Camp (Labor Day Weekend)

Reminder: PUMC will pay half of the cost of camp for any student wishing to attend.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) voted at their January meeting to change the meeting schedule for 2023. We will not meet at all in February and March due to the number of members who go to warmer climates in these months and also to the possibility of bad roads due to our own climate. We also agreed instead to meet all months for the remainder of the year, including July and August, which we haven't done in the past. Officers were elected for 2023. Serving will be Jan Mosser, Chairperson, Mary Sue Barley, Secretary/Treasurer, and Connie Mitchell, Vice Chairperson.

-Jan Mosser

THANK YOU TO THE CHURCH

Dear PUMC Family,

Thank you for your heartfelt notes, food, gifts, hugs and love. Your kindness and sympathy are deeply appreciated.

Love,
Kim, David , Anna, AJ & Family (Duffield)



*Our Deepest
Condolences to the family
of Joyce Phillips who
passed on January 5th,
2023.*

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4



FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 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

February 5, donations may be left at the church

Monday Afternoon Bible Study – Weekly

Church Lounge 4:00 pm

2nd Thursday Meals – Monthly

February 9 , Contact Sherry Miller
517-285-0640, sherrymillersings@gmail.com

PUMC Book Club Meeting

February 15, Esther Rm. 3:00 pm

Festival of Tables

February 18, Portland Church of the Nazarene 10:30 am

Ash Wednesday Services

February 22	
Drive thru Imposing of Ashes	11:30 am—12:30 pm
Outdoor Fireside Service	7:00 pm

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study – Weekly

Fellowship Hall 3:00 pm

Staff Meeting – Monthly

February 26, Esther Rm. 6:30 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 @ 517-899-9848 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