

The Open Door

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

January 2021 | Volume 14 Issue 1



'Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.'

Philippians 1:3 (NLT)

Greetings Church!

At the turning of the calendar from one year to the next, I find myself looking back in wonder and awe. What a year we've just been through! We faced challenges never before imagined and with absolutely no time to prepare. Yet, despite the challenges, we have still managed to do some

amazing things. I'd like to take a few moments to celebrate the good.

- † Without missing a beat we went from worship in person one week to **worship online** the very next Sunday – it wasn't polished, but it got the job done! Every week since we have learned and improved and so many people have been a part of making that happen.
- † We formed a **new Worship Design Team** to help us produce engaging and meaningful worship every week; most online, but some in person including some pretty cool Advent candle services.
- † We began the year planning to end our Praise Service and imagining the launch of a new in-person service that would better meet the needs of our mission to make disciples. Covid hastened the end of the first and sidelined the second. Our Discipleship Launch Team, however, has continued to meet with our coach, Cathy Townley, and are now **poised to launch a new Facebook Campus** in the coming weeks.
- † Our **Youth and Children Ministries** have found creative and positive ways to engage our young people and grow their faith through Zoom, outdoor gatherings, and with drop-off packets.
- † So many people have **learned how to Zoom** and, using that technology, have moved forward with Bible study and ministry.
- † Our church has continued to give faithfully including special gifts: **\$1,780.00 at Easter, \$600.00 at Thanksgiving, and \$1,817.00 at Christmas.** Thank you!!! Giving has been difficult for

Cont. on pg. 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
Treasurer Kim Duffield
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
Office Administrator Laura Schoenmehl
Lay Leader Carol McLane—1st Service 517 647-6192
Trustee Chair Kacy Goeckel 517 819-6071
Nursery Mary Bresnahan 526-7571

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Worship Schedule	2
Teen Study/Finance	3
Congregational Care	4
Tag You're It/Volunteer	4
Calendar - See Website	



Portland United Methodist Church
310 E. Bridge Street, Portland, MI 48875
www.portlandumc.org
Facebook.com/pumcmi
(517) 647-4649

Connect
Grow
Serve

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Facebook Live Service @ 10:00 am



JANUARY SERIES

Do-Over: Fresh Starts for Imperfect People

January 10: **Green Coats & Dry Bones**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

January 17: **The Crazy Love of God**

Luke 15:11-22

January 24: **Throw a Party!**

Luke 15:20-24

January 31: **Perfectly Imperfect**

Luke 15:25-32

Cont. from pg. 1

some during this time, and that is reflected in our reduced income, but God has provided for our needs and helped us conserve where possible.

- † The Administrative Teams have attended to the business of the church, cared for our building, our finances and our staff.
- † The Portland Food Bank, The Clothes Closet, Backpacks for Bellies and The Baby Closet (a newly forming ministry) have all been able to continue to serve the Portland community out of our building. The need has never been greater and our building has been a blessing to these vital ministries.
- † I'm so grateful to all who have stepped up to volunteer for so many different tasks – lawn care, mail pick-up, worship safety, cleaning, accounting, just to name a few. You know who you are, and I hope you know how much we appreciated your service.

Isn't this an amazing list?! The sanctuary and a good part of our building has been closed for most of the past year, but the ministries of our church have not closed down. We may not have set any records for disciple making, but sometimes holding steady in the midst of a storm, trusting in the one who has power beyond the storm, is enough. There will be time to move forward again as God leads.

A terrible year? Yes. A wonder-filled year? YES!, by the grace of God and the dedication of so many faithful disciples. I'm looking forward to all that God will do through us in the year to come. Watch for more information soon on 1) our new Facebook Campus launch 2) on a new leadership model that will help us to spend less time in meetings and more time making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our world.

'See' you on Sunday!

Pastor Tish

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. Titus 2:11-14



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift.

Your thoughtfulness means so very much. Your gift will support my passion for books well into the new year and a couple of special dinners out with Brian!

I hope that your Christmas was filled with the wonder of God's love for you and pray for blessing in the year ahead.

Peace, Tish

SONiC News



Hello parents and teens and Happy New Year!

Does anyone else plan on yelling JUMANJI at midnight on New Year's Eve, just to be safe?

Before I get into the game plan for January and February, I just wanted to take a minute and say, thank you. Thank you to the volunteers who showed up for bonfires and zoom calls. Thank you to the teens for being resilient and understanding, and thank you to the parents for making computers and tablets available.

I don't know how this year will play out so, in the words of Theodore Roosevelt, I plan to "speak softly and carry a big stick."

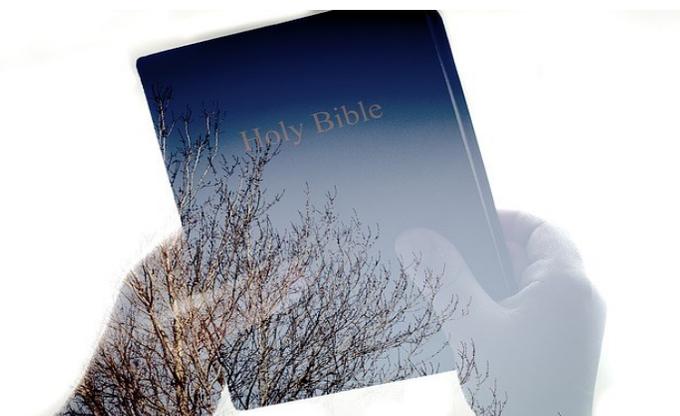
In January, I plan to have us only meet virtually. This way, we can let the schools have time to reopen and see how that goes. We will meet starting **January 3rd at 6 pm over Zoom.**

February, I am hoping for in-person studies in the Esther Room at the church. I will continue to monitor numbers in the state and community and plan to follow any and all guidelines recommended by the state and by our bishop. The rest of the school year will be planned two months at a time with the understanding that things can change quickly.

If anyone, parent or teen, has any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

I look forward to seeing you on January 3rd, and as always, you are in my prayers.

Beth Feldpausch
bethbeckett@gmail.com



Year-To-Date as of December 31, 2020

Income

Offering	\$184,585.50
Misc. Income	\$ 8,022.82
	\$192,608.32

Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$88,685.38
Lay Support	\$21,267.20
Ministry Shares	\$29,097.38*
Administration & Building	\$45,962.77
Ministry & Mission	\$ 1,658.97
Total Expenses	\$186,671.70

Difference \$5,936.62**

*Represents ten of ten Ministry Share offerings this year.

** Includes some prepayment of 2021 pledges



Pledge Report 2021

38 Pledges Cards Received
\$135,784.00

To balance our 2021 budget we need
a total of \$195,419.05

If you have not submitted a pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience

Prayer Requests



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

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

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 | 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**
223 Charlotte Highway
Portland, MI 48875

Tag! You're It!

New Year Blessings Church!

I'm so excited to start out this year of new beginnings assisting Tish in the office with her many pastoral and administrative duties, and being of assistance to you all in whatever way I can.

I was born in Sun Valley, California and gratefully made my way to Michigan in 2013 a couple years after my son and his wife accepted a job offer in this lovely state. I have two wonderful granddaughters that are the reason I came to pure Michigan.

I accepted Jesus as my Savior when I turned 30, and being born again has been a wonderful journey of faith, growth and building very special relationships through church family and friends.



My focus in life now, with all the challenges in our world, has become more and more about sharing the love and hope of Jesus. So many need the hope only He gives in this life and the one we look forward to with great expectation! How wonderful are the Lord's words, "Behold, I make all things new!"

God bless us every one as we enter this new year in the peace and hope of our Lord.

Laura Schoenmehl
Office Administrator
PUMC



Next 'tag': T.B.D.