

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 2023 Volume 21 Issue 1



Greetings PUMC!

You try something new – sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. In the spring of 2021, we tried something new! We called it the 'Fireside Gathering'. It was an outdoor, Sunday evening worship service, and it went all summer. It was wonderful. In the spring of 2022, we relaunched the service as 'The Gathering', a Sunday morning outdoor service.

We did all the right things. We prayed. We planned something different than the worship style we offered in the sanctuary. We publicized everywhere. We invited our friends and family to attend. We invited ourselves to attend (so that 1st time guests wouldn't be uncomfortable in a too small group). We incorporated Sunday school for the children. We engaged in Love-Your-Neighbor events 1-2 times a month.

It has been a wonderful and unique service that drew a small group of our members closer to one another – and in that aspect, it has been a great success. Unfortunately, the service has not drawn new people. After the initial launch, attendance has been inconsistent and extremely low, and so **on December 18 The Gathering met for the final time.** It may re-emerge in the future as a summer only service. However, for now, it is finished. Thank you to everyone who worked to make this service a meaningful time of gathering to worship the God we so love.

While I am sad to see it go, **there are a number of things we have learned from the experience:**

1. Being intentional about building community is vital to building the body of Christ.
2. Families want to serve in their community together.
3. Worship can look and feel very different than what we are used to and still connect us with God.

| |
|---|
| Pastor Rev. Letisha Bowman 517-994-8545 pastortish@gmail.com |
| Ministers All Who Serve Christ |
| Organist Sherry Miller 517-647-7030 |
| Director of Children's Ministry Mary Bresnahan 526-7571 |
| Treasurer/Ministry Assistant Beth Feldpausch 989-640-5250 |
| Custodian Dawn Dancer 517-647-5338 |
| Leadership Board Chair Jen Thomas 517-803-8080 |
| Office Administrator Beth Feldpausch 517-647-4649 |

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OUR USHERS:

| | |
|-----|---------------------|
| 1st | Feldpausch Family |
| 2nd | |
| 3rd | Bruce & Linda Groel |
| 4th | Bill & Connie Almy |



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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION @ 10:00 am

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



January Sermon Schedule:

January 1 : Recorded Worship with Bishop Bard

January 8 : God Helps Those Who Help Themselves
Psalm 10: 14b, 17-18a, Psalm 18: 6, 16,
Psalm 121; 1-2

January 15 : Everything Happens For a Reason
Deuteronomy 30: 19-20a

January 22 : Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin
Matthew 7: 1-6

January 29 : God Won't Give You More Than You
Can Handle
1 Corinthians 10: 13, Psalm 46: 1-2

So what's next?

1. We invite everyone who worshiped with 'The Gathering' to join us at our 9:00 am Sunday Traditions service where we will attempt to integrate some of 'The Gatherings' worship elements.
2. The Neighborhood, our children's Sunday school, will move to the 9:00 am time slot as well.
3. Following the 9:00 am service, we will hold 'Coffee & Conversation' in the Welcome Center for a chance to dive deeper into the message of the day – discussing ways to integrate the message into daily living, examining supportive Biblical texts, and holding one another in prayer.
4. Once a month at 10:00 am, we will suspend our 'Conversation' and go out into the community with a 'Love-Your-Neighbor' event.

I am so glad that we tried something new. While it didn't accomplish what we intended, it was a blessing nevertheless. God is so good that way, don't you think?! I wonder what will be next. Will you join me in prayer over the next month or so asking God to help us find new ways of reaching out into our community to reach new people for the kingdom? I trust that as we are faithful, God will be faithful.

See you on Sunday!
Pastor Tish

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Our Christmas Mission Offering


THE HELPING HAND MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who made a Christmas Offering to the Helping Hands ministry. Thus far, we have raised over \$700, which means we will be able to help seven Portland families who are struggling.

If you have not made your Christmas offering, there is still time to give, both in person or online.

December Attendance

| Week Of: | Online Facebook Live & In Person Views/Shares/Sign-in |
|-------------|--|
| December 4 | 51 In Person, 9 Online Views/Shares 22 The Gathering |
| December 11 | 39 In Person, 13 Online Views/Shares 15 The Gathering |
| December 18 | 37 In Person, 12 Online 18 The Gathering |
| December 25 | 19 In Person, 6 Online |
| | |



Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church

IN APPRECIATION

FOR MISSIONAL SUPPORT OF CHILDREN
IS PRESENTED TO:

Portland United Methodist Church

Thanks for the faithful support of the conference's appeal to support children locally, state-wide, and worldwide. Your gift supports the Liberia Scholarship Fund, Michigan Freedom Schools, and children in your own community.

David A. Saul
Bishop David Alan Bard
MICHIGAN AREA EPISCOPAL LEADER



Lisa Batten and Rev. Jon Reynolds
CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRPERSONS

READERS to LEADERS
MICHIGANUMC.ORG/MISSIONS/READERSTOLEADERS

Thank you to everyone who helped us reach our Readers to Leaders goal!

January Book Club Selections

The January book selections are: *Firefly Lane* by Kristin Hannah, *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks, and *The Secret Wife* by Gill Paul.



Coffee and Conversation

- Begins 1/8/2023!
- After Traditions Worship in the Welcome Center
- Dive deeper into today's message with friends.
- We will provide the coffee, you provide the conversation.



Let's Laugh & Play with Friends

PUMC

BINGO NIGHT

SATURDAY
JANUARY 28

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AT THE CHURCH
6:30 PM

DRINKS PROVIDED! BRING A SNACK TO SHARE

The Neighborhood!

Hello Friends,

In the Neighborhood, we have been learning a lot about God and his love for us all. The children love the new curriculum we got this time, as it has a “wonder box,” which has something in there that signifies what that lesson is about. I find that they listen for the clues and then try to guess what is in it. It’s a fun way to learn! Also, it is a visual aid, and I know that some of us learn better that way.

We are actively working on our Reverse Advent Calendar and cannot wait to be able to deliver these to our food bank. Thank you all for your support with helping show the children that it is important to serve our community in anyway we can.

Starting on January 8, 2023, The Neighborhood will be having its class time at the 9 am service. After speaking with a couple of the parents, their time preference is the 9 am service. I do feel that this will be a better time for all.

I am excited to say we are looking for volunteers to help with the Seedlings Nursery. I know we have one volunteer already. We are looking for a few more volunteers so we could set up a rotation schedule. Seedlings Nursery would be during the 9 am service, and it would be for children from birth to age 3. If interested or you know of someone, please have them reach out to Mary at 517.526.7571.

I wish you and your families a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Blessings,
Mary



Year-To-Date as of October 31, 2022

Income

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Offering | \$178,806.96 |
| Misc. Income | \$ 3,927.62 |
| Total | \$182,734.58 |

Expenses

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Pastoral Support | \$ 96,382.44 |
| Lay Support | \$ 21,071.42 |
| Ministry Shares | \$ 21,332.04 |
| Administration & Building | \$ 52,959.27 |
| Ministry & Mission | \$ 3,458.97 |
| Total Expenses | \$195,204.14 |
| Difference | \$-12,469.56 |

To set up electronic giving go to:

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

Church Maintenance

Thank you to all of our wonderful helpers, who keep the church up and running -- from light bulbs, to pews, to the boiler issues. Thank you especially to: Bill Almy, Bruce Croel, Randy McClung, and Garret Feldpausch.



*Our Deepest
Condolences to Rebecca
Schuitema and family.
Jim Schuitema passed
on November 8th*



Prayer Requests



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

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

Please check to see if someone may be removed

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

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

Leadership Board

Happy New Year from the Leadership Board! I would just like to take some time to recognize those who have served on the Leadership Board and are now rolling off to new adventures! Connie Almy, Dan Goeckel and Betsy Myers, thank you so much for your many years of faithful service!

Now to welcome in our new members. I am thrilled to announce that Harvey Hoskins and Garret Feldpausch have both answered the call to serve on the Leadership Board for the next 3 years.

We are still in need of more board members. The Board meets every other month and communicates via email in between. We are a small but mighty group that love the Lord and serving this church. Please see me or Pastor Tish if you have questions or an interest in being part of this team.

Best wishes for health and happiness to you and yours in 2023.

Peace and Blessings,
Jen Thomas



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF) *(formerly UMW)*

We have had a busy month. The fudge sale was a huge success. Connie Almy contacted the VFW about selling fudge at their Burger Night on Dec. 9th. We made \$385 and sold out! Proceeds will go toward a local mission.

We adopted a family for Christmas. Linda Sandborn works with the public school social worker to identify a family who could use extra help at Christmas time. The family has two young boys. We had four elves who did the shopping, and another special elf who wrapped the gifts.

We are praying for our special friend Lynda Russman.

The next meeting will be January 5th at 10 am. UWF does not meet if the schools are closed due to inclement weather.

-Jan Mosser



Thank you to all who made our Christmas services so special. Photo credit: Darragh Goeckel Photography.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 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

January 1, donations may be left at the church

Monday Afternoon Bible Study – Weekly

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Church Lounge | 4:00 pm |
|---------------|---------|

United Women in Faith – 1st Thursday of the Month

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|---|----------|
| January 5, Fellowship Hall Soup Luncheon | 12:00 pm |
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2nd Thursday Meals – Monthly

January 12, Contact Sherry Miller
517-285-0640, sherrymillersings@gmail.com

Bingo Night

| | |
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| January 28, Fellowship Hall Bring a snack to share | 6:30 pm |
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Thursday Afternoon Bible Study – Weekly

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| Begins January 19th Fellowship Hall | 3:00 pm |
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Leadership Board Meeting

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| January 17, Esther Rm | 7:00 pm |
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Staff Meeting – Monthly

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| January 26, Esther Rm | 6:30 pm |
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Community Food Bank & Clothes Closet

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| 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

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|-------------------|---------|
| Tuesdays, Kitchen | 9:30 am |
|-------------------|---------|