

# The Open Door

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

July 2020 | Volume 13 Issue 7



Greetings People of God!

We're going to give it a try. **Mark your calendars for outdoor worship in the church yard on July 12 @ 10:00 am!** Bring your chair, bring your coffee (or water, or Diet Coke, or...) and bring your mask. Pray that the weather holds, and certainly watch our webpage and Flocknote for any last minute change of plans.

It's hard to believe that we haven't worshiped in person since March 8. A lot has changed. In that time we moved worship to an online format, closed the building, put our search for a new Office Administrator on hold, and our Worship Director retired (although she is still our organist!).

Now, more changes are before us. When we worship outdoors, we will 'social distance,' have touch-free offering and have bathrooms available on an emergency basis with cleaning supplies to use. The service will also be different. Outdoor worship necessitates adjustments – there will be no screens, organ, praise team, singing, coffee, hand shaking, or bulletins. No problem. We can do this!

Some things will not change. The Spirit of God will be present, the word will be read and proclaimed, prayers will be lifted, and God will be glorified. Nothing can change the Good News!

**Online worship will continue to happen on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on Facebook live.** We know that not everyone feels comfortable gathering with groups of people quite yet. That's okay. We get it. Online worship isn't going anywhere – it's here to stay. We have reached a number of people who cannot connect with us in person but are happy to join us online. What a blessing.

So, I hope to see you on July 12th, in person or online. It's all good.  
Peace, Pastor Tish

<b>Pastor</b> Rev. Letisha Bowman 517 994-8545
<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>Children's Ministry Assistant</b> Mary Bresnahan 526-7571
<b>Office Administrator/ Treasurer</b> Open
<b>Custodian</b> Donna Starks
<b>Administrative Council Chair</b> Jen Thomas 517 803-8080
<b>Staff Parish Relations</b> Dan Goeckel 517 648-6171
<b>Finance Chair</b> Beth Bengel 616 755-2689
<b>Mission Chair</b> Open
<b>Lay Leader</b> Carol McLane—1st Service 517 647-6192
<b>Trustee Chair</b> TBD
<b>Nursery</b> Mary Bresnahan 526-7571

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*Portland United Methodist Church*  
310 E. Bridge Street, Portland, MI 48875  
[www.portlandumc.org](http://www.portlandumc.org)  
[Facebook.com/pumcmi](https://www.facebook.com/pumcmi)  
(517) 647-4649

## JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Facebook Live Services @ 10:00 am  
[www.facebook.com/pumcmi](http://www.facebook.com/pumcmi)

Outdoor Worship Service @ 10:00 am  
July 12, weather permitting



### Chaos

#### When Your World has Turned Upside-Down

We can handle it when one area of our life is in chaos, but when everything is in chaos, how do we cope?

July 5: Righting Your Home Life

July 12: Righting Your Work Life

July 19: Kingdom Stories: Weeds & Yeast, Rev. Hillary  
Thurston-Cox of Wacousta Community UMC

July 26: Righting Your Social Life

### Attendance for June

Week Of:	On-Line Facebook Live	Groups
6/7/2020*	541 views/9 shares 61 sign in	
6/14/2020*	646/11/65	
6/21/2020*	446/11/40	
6/28/2020*	396/7/63	7

\* Worship held on Facebook Live due to Corona Virus pandemic.



#### Year-To-Date as of June 30, 2020

##### Income

Offering & Misc. Income \$91,757.76

##### Expenses

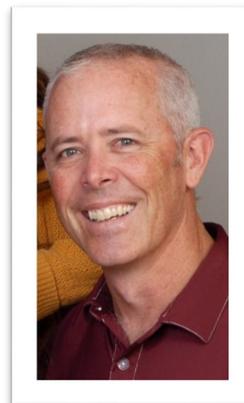
Pastoral Support	\$44,515.19
Lay Support	\$14,556.84
Ministry Shares	\$14,224.75*
Administration & Building	\$27,603.05
Ministry & Mission	<u>\$ 1,379.10</u>
Total Expenses	\$102,268.93

Difference \$10,511.17

\*Represents five Ministry Share offerings so far this year.  
We have not paid June

#### A WORD FROM SPRC - Dan Goeckel

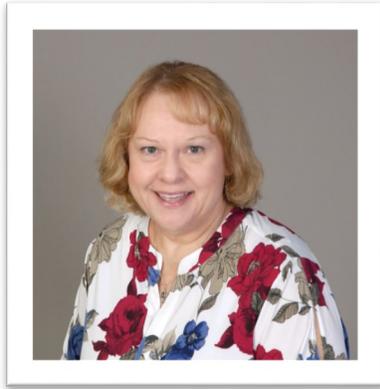
In the last month or so, when things started to "open", it felt like a breath of fresh air, and we found ourselves relaxing the rules. I found myself excited, feeling relief, optimistic that I could start doing my job the way I was accustomed to, to have a church service with some normalcy. There was an abundance of opportunities from potential and existing customers, and somewhat of a plan moving forward for church.



Then in the last few weeks a second guessing arose, compounded with frustration and no forward motion and normal everyday life issues and some larger unsafe issues. These everyday life issues seemed harder to handle along with all the larger issues and the stress from these overloaded my sense of purpose and had me "lashing out" at friends and family.

To give an overview, in the last two weeks we had our 20th anniversary followed immediately by a job that an engineer is working on for me that is high voltage and dangerous (prayed for his and others safety for weeks). We had some people that we know well relapse into some bad habits that worried me tremendously, others that tested positive for COVID (I had to get tested; tested negative) and then on top of it a downed powerline/fire at one of our buildings. I am not telling you all these happenings for sorrow or pity

*cont. on pg. 5*



It is with a humble heart that I want to say thank you to all of you at the Portland United Methodist Church for allowing me to serve as worship leader for the past 25+ years. This opportunity has blessed my life beyond measure. I consider it to be, without a doubt, one of the most important callings I have ever had.

I also want to thank all four pastor's that I have been so privileged to work with during this time. Thank you Pastor Scott for continually pushing me out of my comfort zone to say yes to this ministry and for all the guidance and support you gave me as we got underway. Thank you Pastor Greg for continued guidance which helped me develop a closer personal relationship with my Savior. Thank you Pastor Keith for bringing us into the 21st century in many ways that laid the foundation for us to continue to be relevant to our community. And thank you Pastor Tish for sharing with me all the ups and downs over the last few years. You have been a rock during this challenging time.

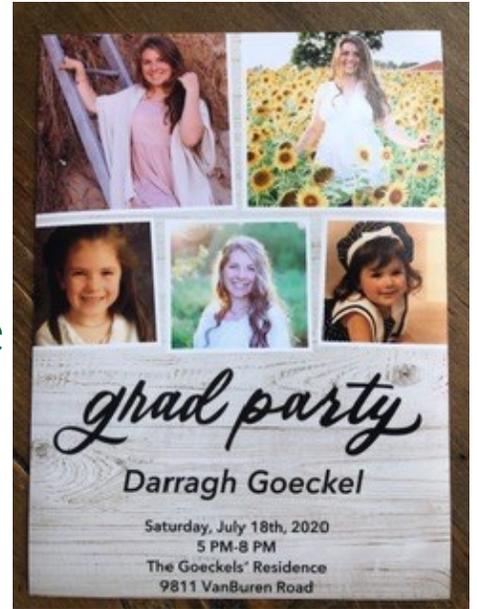
I will continue to serve as organist for the traditional service. I will support and pray for those who are working to find a way to offer a contemporary worship service in the future. I am always willing to take my turn to play or sing in worship as needed.

It is my hope that at some time during these past years, each of you may have discovered a deeper level of worship. After all, it is what we were created for! May we continue to worship our great God with all our hearts, all our minds, all our souls and with all our strength. God bless you and make you a blessing!

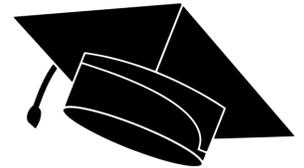
With much love,

Sherry ><>

It's  
Party  
Time!  
You are  
invited  
->



THANK YOU



Dear PUMC,

Thank you so much for your continued support throughout our K-12 careers! Our church family has always meant a lot to us. We will continue to stay in touch as we continue our life journeys.

Thank you!  
Adam and Devin Foote



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our Children's Ministry is offering weekly lessons for the families of any pre-school or elementary children. If you would like your child to receive these materials, or you know of a child who would like them (a grandchild or neighbor child), please let Mary Bresnahan know.

Marybresnahan331  
@yahoo.com

-or- 517-526-7571

# Tag! You're It.

Hello to all my Church Family!!

My name is Mary Bresnahan. I was born in Battle Creek, Michigan and moved to Portland when I was 4 years old. I have 2 adult children, Megan and Brandon Martin.

My daughter was asked by one of her friends to go with her to youth group, and we have been here ever sense, about 12 years now. After attending a year, there was a position that opened up in the Nursery for an attendant for the first service. I felt God calling me to do that, and I have been doing this ever since. About 2 years ago, I began coordinating the Children's Ministry.



I'm currently employed at Union Bank, in Dimondale, MI. Megan currently is employed by Greenstone Farm Credit as a Post Booking Loan Specialist. She just bought a house in Elsie. Brandon also helps with Nursery and Sunday School.

Kids are my passion. Maybe it was because growing up I didn't have the Christian background that I have learned in the last 12 years, and I feel that it is important for our children to know God's love.

Hope to see you soon. Miss you all.  
Mary

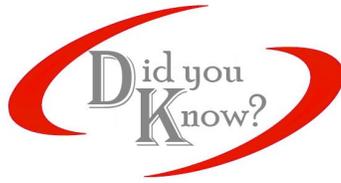


**I 'tag' Richard  
and Susan Wilson!**



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

- † Worship set-up and tear-down: Sunday mornings at the church beginning July 12. Contact Pastor Tish
- † Treasurer's Position: Record deposits, pay bills and salaries and reconcile bank statements on a weekly basis. 1-2 hours per week. Contact Dan Goeckel
- † Newsletter Publisher: Create monthly newsletter. Contact Pastor Tish
- † Website Team: Help maintain webpage. Contact Betsy Myers
- † Worship Planning Team: Brainstorming group and sermon support. Contact Pastor Tish
- † Worship Production Team: Video, video editing, uploading weekly worship. Contact Pastor Tish
- † Daily Mail & Phone Check: Distribute mail and check voice mail daily at the church. Contact Pastor Tish
- † Special Mailings: Print and mail newsletters, Thursday Updates, and Sermons to those without internet. Contact Pastor Tish
- † Caring Friends: Make a weekly call to a homebound friend. Contact Pastor Tish



Our Discipleship Launch Team (DLT) has been meeting on Zoom with our consultant Rev. Cathy Townely.

### Our Goals

We have three goals for our worship services in mind:

- 1) maintaining reopening our Traditional Worship Service,
- 2) continuing to develop our online service for its ongoing use both now and when we "return to normal",
- 3) and designing our new Praise Service from our key learnings and research in communicating in today's ever changing life style.

Recently, we divided our DLT into two working groups in order to "zoom in" (pun intended) with laser focus on our online venues: our website and our online worship service.

### Website Effort

Beth Feldpausch agreed to assist Betsy Myers (yay!) on developing a new look for our website, [pumcumc.org](http://pumcumc.org). In the interest of cost efficiencies, we will continue to use our current website app, *Weebly*. There is still a lot to learn and do! We have been looking into web tutorials, checking out Weebly's online support, and using the good old trial and error method. Another useful tool has been to check out other recommended (thank you Cathy Townely) church websites along with finding a few ourselves.

### Can You Help?

Yes! If you know a church website that looks good to you or if you have a suggestion for our website, please let us know! Call the office or email your suggestion to [lemyers46@yahoo.com](mailto:lemyers46@yahoo.com).

### In the Meantime

Check us out at [pumcumc.org](http://pumcumc.org)! Add us to your favorites list and visit us often.



*cont. from pg. 2*

but for its relatable value. Things in life sometimes go really wrong when you least expect it. . The shortness that I exhibited frustrated me. I am better than this most of the time.

The need to be patient, loving, a guide to those that needed guiding, to be understanding and willing to listen seemed difficult. My thoughts went to "What about me? I need a break, I need direction, I need...". Sure enough I forgot, one of the most important things (to me). If I am to recognize myself as a "Christian," to not lose faith, I have to hand it over to God, seek council through Him, know that even amongst all this "chaos" there is a silver lining and there is good at work.

Trust me, I am tired of the mask, of no handshakes or hugs, not being around hopeful people from our church family, trying to be hopeful. I am tired of not being able to go on the road, like a normal salesman, tof not helping our tenants (they are stressed as well) as we typically would. But, I never left the routine of waking up, picking up the bible and just reading. As I read (just after finishing Jeremiah, ugh) I found what I was looking for a little at a time. The following verses remind me of what we as Christians are supposed to do: Romans 12:8-21, Colossians 3:4-14, and Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see"

Why all this? Because, if things are not going the way YOU (insert me, Dan) want, pay attention. Maybe it isn't about the way you want it but about a larger plan. Be patient, it might take days, weeks, months, and you might even miss the answer you were looking for because you wanted it in a specific way. Be open minded, be patient, be willing to accept changes and the direction it might take you. Then, and only then, will it be received by you and me.

As far as SPRC is concerned it is obviously a different time and we are awaiting new direction from the changes that will occur in developing our services to support the new normal. It has blossomed into a great opportunity to bring new followers of Christ into the fold. If you want to be a part of this join the DLT (Discipleship Launch Team) or join the Worship Planning Team and help us design and build how we will go about all of this together for our future. Please reach out to me if you have concerns or questions. If I cannot answer them I will find someone who can!

Lastly, we need someone to do Treasurer. It is really a glorified, slightly more complicated, version of your home check book. Talk to Pastor Tish if you have questions.

Yours in Christ,  
Dan Goeckel  
SPRC Chair

# Prayer Requests



If you have a concern to be addressed by our prayer chain, please contact Wendy Mallek at 647-6366, by E-mail at: mallekw803@yahoo.com, or contact the church.

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Amanda's Family           | Kathleen Robertson    |
| Joshua Buker              | Darrel & Shelia Rich  |
| Kristin (Mosser) Connelly | Laura Beth Rich       |
| Lori Diné                 | Eileen Rose           |
| Bruce Daman               | Jody Schnetzler       |
| Fran Daman's family       | Jim Selden            |
| Louis Fulkerson           | Scott Shay            |
| Gary Hutson               | David Showerman       |
| Toni Ivey                 | Scott & Kristen Smith |
| Pat Johnson               | Diana Spangler        |
| Samantha Johnson          | Wilma Thompson        |
| Rev. Keith Laidler        | Dalilah Tubergen      |
| Sharon (Hill) Longstreth  | Robert and Ella Tyler |
| Damon Mallek              | Don Wallace           |
| Joe Milhomens             | John West             |
| Doug & Marsha Miller      | Brian Wohlscheid      |
| Sam Mitchell              | Lizzie Whitaker       |
| Vicki Moulton             | Anne Zimmer           |
| Del Ortwine               |                       |
| Kathy Riley               |                       |
- Please be sure to notify us when someone's name may be removed from this prayer list. Thank you!**

## THE UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

The Upper Room Devotional Guides for July/August are now available.

- Pick up at the church: 310 E. Bridge Street (box on the ramp)



In an effort to keep everyone as healthy as possible, face masks must be worn at all times while in our church building.

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

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



### 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
- Robert Mervau**  
1200 Wright Avenue  
Alma, MI 48802
- Bud Moyer**  
4775 Village Dr.—Apt. #227  
Grand Ledge 48837
- Gerald Peabody**  
204 Blossom Drive  
Portland, MI 48875
- John West**  
223 Charlotte Hwy  
Portland, MI 48875



Our condolences are extended to:

Steve Sunday and family on the death of his father, Pete Sunday, on June 5, 2020.

The family of Maggie Clements who died June 9, 2020.

Sherry Miller and family on the death of her father, the Rev. Keith Laidler on July 1, 2020