

The Open Door

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

June 2020 | Volume 13 Issue 6



Hello Church!

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, the birthday of the Church when the Holy Spirit was given. As I said in my sermon the week before, one of the things that the Holy Spirit does is help us to see the **need for change** and help us **catch a vision** for what God is ready to do next.

Five months ago, as we were launching a new vision for our church's future and planning on revamping our praise service, none of us would have said, 'Hey, let's go completely on-line! Let's not meet in person. I'm sure that's the way to draw more people to God.'

And yet, here we are, and I have to tell you, more people are joining us for worship each week. Over the past 12 weeks we have averaged 605 views of our worship services each week (and that doesn't count how many are watching on our website). While those are not likely people watching the entire service, they are watching at least part. 605 people a week are hearing a word from God (however briefly) that might not have otherwise – and most certainly wouldn't have if we were still in our building doing things the way we have always done them. And that number has increased nearly every week. (Keep hitting that share button!)

Friends, the Holy Spirit is speaking! The Holy Spirit is shouting! It's time to make some important outreach changes and worship is a big part of that. Will we be faithful enough to listen? Will we be courageous enough to continue to make the changes necessary to follow?

I think the future of the church is not just a return to the way things were but a 'new movement of the Holy Spirit.' I think it will include a wonderful mixture of on-line and in-person. What that will look like is yet to be seen, but I pray we will have the courage to hang with the Spirit long enough to find out.

"See" you on Sunday! Pastor Tish

| |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor Rev. Letisha Bowman 517 994-8545 |
| Ministers All Who Serve Christ |
| Worship Leader Sherry Miller 517 647-7030 |
| Director of Youth Ministry Beth Feldpausch 989 640-5250 |
| Children's Ministry Assistant Mary Bresnahan 526-7571 |
| Office Administrator/ Treasurer Open |
| 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 |
| Mission Chair Open |
| Lay Leader Carol McLane—1st Service 517 647-6192 |
| Trustee Chair TBD |
| Nursery Mary Bresnahan 526-7571 |

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Pastoral Pondering | 1 |
| Worship Schedule & Financial Report | 2 |
| Prayer For God's People | 3 |
| SONIC | 4 |
| Congregational Care | 5 |
| Tag You're It/Mission | 6 |
| Calendar - See website | |



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

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Facebook Live Services @ 10:00 am
www.facebook.com/pumcmi

Hope

Encouragement in times of Struggle



Where do we find hope when our world is turned upside down? Join us as we look for HOPE.

June 7: **Liberation**

June 14: **Restoration**

June 21: **Love Wins**

June 28: **A Word From Another**

Attendance for May

| Week Of: | On-Line Facebook Live | SONiC & Groups |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 5/3/2020* | 550 views/65 sign in | 7 |
| 5/10/2020* | 570/67 | 15 |
| 5/17/2020* | 627/72 | 15 |
| 5/24/2020* | 536/55 | 8 |

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



Year-To-Date as of May 31, 2020

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Income</u> | |
| Offering | \$74,850.99 |
| Misc. Income | <u>\$ 2,331.76</u> |
| | \$77,182.75 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | |
| Pastoral Support | \$37,538.69 |
| Lay Support | \$ 11,066.15 |
| Ministry Shares | \$ 8,534.85* |
| Administration & Building | \$23,480.65 |
| Ministry & Mission | <u>\$ 846.10</u> |
| Total Expenses | \$82,352.26 |
| <u>Difference</u> | \$5,169.51 |

*Represents three Ministry Share offerings so far this year.
We have not paid April. or May

Please consider electronic giving during this challenging time.
Thank you!

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

Portland Community food bank

Hours: Monday 9am-noon
Thursday 4-7pm

Thank you for your financial support of our ministry to the Portland community. With the help of the community and because of your generosity we have a new refrigerator and freezer to increase our capacity for available food and **we are fully funded for the remainder of the year!**

Thank you for all you do for your community!

A Prayer For God's People

Hi, this is Mary Arleth from our Church. I encourage you to take some time to read and reflect on the prayer below, and consider praying through some of the reflections. (Psalm 40 was a part of my prayer time).

I wait Lord. Or, at least I would like to say I wait and wonder about the world around me.

I feel like lately it has been a BIG waiting game.

The pandemic seems so overwhelming and unknown.

I don't know what to think or how to respond with all the information coming at me.

I've seen, and I admit, have been a part of the negative words going around our community and world. I have fallen trap to the fear that has clawed at me from the news, stories and rumblings. I have allowed the frustrations of everyday strains to take over at times.

The psalmist states, "I waited *patiently* for the LORD". I do not feel like I am a patient person, let alone one that will wait patiently.

Some say, "Don't pray for patience from God, because then you will be taught patience." I know you are a compassionate God and will help me through my lack of patience. I pray for the patience in dealing with whatever the effects of the pandemic are bringing to my hands. I pray for patience in dealing with those close to me as well as those across the globe.

God, I look to you as the trustworthy, all-knowing and saving God. I need to trust that you are in control and at work in spite of the challenges around me. I need to remember that you love me and care for me as a beloved child. I need to avoid the things that cause me to judge and condemn others. Thank you for being my God that lifts me out of the slimy pit that I fall into. You are my saving God and full of goodness and truth.

Thank you God for bringing me out of my self-focused ways and opening my eyes to what you are concerned about. God you are fully at work around me. Show me where you are moving, God. You are all-knowing and are working towards helping those that need you dearly. God, I have seen some of my friends and

acquaintances calling for help in prayer in their situations. As I come alongside them to pray, I pray that you will continue to draw them closer to you. God, I pray for you to be named the Help and Deliverer.

You continue to reach out in love for those hurting and in need.

I'm thinking about the part in Psalm 40 that says I want to do Your will. That is tough. That is a struggle. But God, as I go through my days, at work, at home, and in my community; help me to be faithful to the truth you have given me. Help me to be compassionate and truthful of your impact in my life. God, there have been many opportunities that I have thought, "Hmm, I could go this way or that" with sharing Your good news of love and saving grace. God give me the courage to do this when the opportunity arises. God, I pray for strength as I face a new day to make choices that honor you and promote your goodness, love and saving grace.

Thank you for listening. Now I'll take a little time to listen to you... (pause and add your personal prayer thoughts).

As the Psalmist states, "I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay." This is my prayer for me, my community and my world. It's good to see that I'm not the only one having a hard time with being patient. It looks like David, the Psalm 40 writer, was a little impatient as well.

Thank you for understanding and continuing to work in and through me and my brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.



SONiC News

Happy summer! Parents, we have made it to the end of remote learning school. Congratulations! Teachers, you are wonderful, crazy rock stars.... We miss you, and now more than ever, we appreciate all you do.

It is still May when I am writing this newsletter so I am uncertain what May 28th will bring. However, I do plan to practice caution during the month of June and stick with Physically Distant, Socially Engaged. My original May plan was going to be about confronting our fears during this time. But as I talked with the teens, I noticed that fears were on the backburner and our frustrations were what kept coming up. So, we shifted our focus to inspiring things we could do during this at home time. Paul was the biggest inspiration. Imprisoned and under house arrest, this Christian managed to write letters, inspire, ask for prayers and return prayers for the church all while experiencing "quarantine on steroids."

June usually brings our end of the year party and then a summer break. However, I feel it is likely that some restrictions will remain in place during the month of June, so I plan to continue offering online studies, games, and gathering on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This might look a little different as I am currently working on a Bible Study that incorporates a show series. So, keep an eye on your email for details on that. I will also be sending out a parent survey this month regarding small group meetings. I am hoping to offer an outdoor small group no-contact-meet-up at some point this summer. Obviously, I will be watching for state restrictions, CDC guidelines, and conference suggestions before I plan anything. Please know your teens safety is my first priority, and I will be listening for your concerns as well.

I miss the church family so much and look forward to the day when we can see each other again. Please don't hesitate to contact me with concerns, questions or if you just need to talk.

Prayers and Blessings,
Beth Feldpausch
(989) 640-5250, bethbeckett@gmail.com

Congratulations 2020 Graduates!!!

Adam Foote
Devin Foote
Darragh Goeckel
Emma Johnson
Jared Thomas



GO RAIDERS!

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

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

THE HELPING HAND FUND

A few months ago, our Helping Hand Fund was close to being deleted. With your generous giving through the Easter offering, nearly \$1700 was added to the balance. Approximately 17 families/individuals will receive financial assistance for such basic necessities such as rent, utilities, food, transportation or health needs.

This community effort to help residents of the Portland School District is administered through PAMA (Portland Area Ministerial Association). Several churches combine their resources to meet a financial need or at least give people a start in making payments.

A sad side effect of the coronavirus is that many people will have lost jobs, been laid off or given reduced hours. Your giving means we are able to help people in this very stressful time.

Contributions to the Helping Hands Fund can be made at any time of the year. If writing a check, it may be made out to PUMC Helping Hand Fund and mailed to the church. The opportunity for giving is also available on the church website. **Thank you for your generosity to those in need.**

Please pray for our Service Men & Women:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Elisabeth Bullen | |
| 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
- Margaret Clements - c/o Kathy Greenhoe**
7204 E. Grand River, Lot #102
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

Thank you for all the words of encouragement, thoughts and prayers, and cards that were shared on the passing of my mom. It was all greatly appreciated. My mom's faith remained strong. She is now pain free and at home with our Lord!

~ Janet Gamble



A big virtual hug, and HELLO from the Randall's!!!

Most of you already know us but let us introduce ourselves. We are Carl (Allen) and Arlene Randall. We are both Portland natives and have been a part of this church family for going on 23 years now. Seriously... where does the time go? We have two beautiful grown daughters, Carrie and Katie.

We were first introduced to the church when our daughter Katie Randall, now Nelson, sang in the praise band, choir, and participated in the youth group. There was soon a need for a Bassist, Allen cannot turn down a reason to spread love through music, so he jumped at the chance 22 years ago and here we are still.

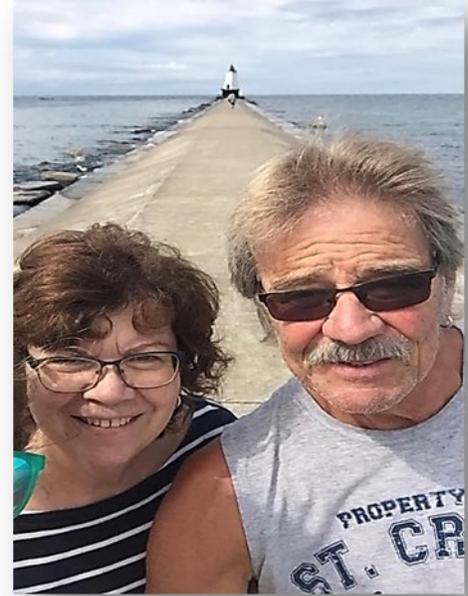
Allen continues to play in the praise band and work on the landscaping throughout the year to keep this church as beautiful on the outside as it is on the inside. He is also one of our Trustee members.

I myself grew up in the catholic church, but in later years was looking for a change that was warmer and more family oriented. It was like it was meant to be when Allen started with the praise band. I am now a member of the Portland United Methodist Women; you can also see me at all the community meals volunteering my cooking skills and time. I am also a member of the events team.

We love all the new lifelong friendships that we have made along the way. We look forward to Sunday's, it's so nice leaving with a good feeling and a smile on our faces!

Next time you see us, please stop and say hello! We love our church and the people that make this place so wonderful! Please be safe and healthy, and we will be worshipping the Lord all together once again soon! We can't wait to see your smiling faces!

The Randall's



**We 'tag'
T.B.D.!**



Donate to the Michigan Conference Disaster fund.

For those wishing to donate to Great Lakes Bay Region flood victims, checks may be sent to the **Michigan Conference at 1161 East Clark Road, Suite 212, DeWitt MI 48820.** It is important to include this exact language in the memo:

#4407 Michigan Area Disaster Response.