

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 2023 Volume 21 Issue 6



Greetings PUMC Family & Friends!

The roads we take on the journey of faith are many and varied, but they all converge on the same point – the Kingdom of God. For a time, we have traveled this road together. We have shared our joys and sorrows, grown in our faith, and done our best to love God and our neighbors. Our time – here – together - is now drawing to a close, but the journey continues. I, in my new appointment, and you here in Portland will continue to strive for the kingdom with everything we've got. It's what our God asks of us and what our world so desperately needs. Pastor Lenora will be your new partner along the way.

I am proud of the journey we have taken together. We navigated restoration following a tornado, the release of Sunny Bunch to serve our community in a new location with a different leadership model, welcomed six (6!) collaborative ministries using our building and serving hundreds each month, enacted local outreach through participation in Community Days, our Trunk-Or-Treat, Memorial Day Chicken BBQs and Thanksgiving Turkey Dinners, participated in a couple of 4th of July Parades handing out cold water, put together a shovel brigade for a Christmas Parade, launched an online service and a Love-Your-Neighbor Team and so much more (these are just the highlights!). There have been ministry misses along the way as well, but even those God has a way of working for good. It may take time to see the good, but in God's economy nothing is ever wasted. I trust that God has even more in store for you – wonderful, scary, awesome, God-sized, God-inspired ministry.

I came to you eight years ago with a decade of ministry experience under my belt (6 as a part-time pastor going through seminary and 4 as an associate). I had much to give and also had much to learn. On June 11, we will worship together for the final time. In the UMC Book of Worship, there is 'An Order of Farewell To A Pastor' that we will use. It celebrates our ministry together and offers an opportunity for mutual confession and forgiveness for the times we missed the mark with one another. The portion that the pastor speaks goes something like

Pastor Rev. Letisha Bowman 517-994-8545 pastortish@gmail.com
Ministers All Who Serve Christ
Director of Children's Ministry Mary Bresnahan 526-7571
Treasurer/Ministry Assistant Beth Feldpausch 989-640-5250
Custodian Emily Perry 517-526-3520
Leadership Board Chair Jen Thomas 517-803-8080
Office Administrator Beth Feldpausch 517-647-4649



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OUR USHERS:

1st	The Johnsons
2nd	The Feldpauschs
3rd	Bruce & Linda Croel
4th	Mary Bresnahan



Portland United Methodist Church
310 E. Bridge Street, Portland, MI 48875
www.portlandumc.org

May Attendance	
Week Of:	Online Facebook Live & In Person Views/Shares/Sign-in
May 7	57 In Person, 9 Online 149 Views/3 Shares
May 14	71 In Person, 4 Online 104 Views/3 Shares
May 21	84 In Person, 5 Online 75 Views/2 Shares
May 28	52 In Person, 10 Online 197 Views/5 Shares

this: *“Thank you, for the love and support you have shown to me and my family while we have ministered among you. We are so grateful for the ways my leadership has been received. Please forgive me for the mistakes I have made. I have tried to do my best, but sometimes the ‘human’ slips out in all of us. As I leave, I will carry all that I have learned and use it for the good.”* Perhaps you have heard other pastors speak similar words in the past. It is a part of our tradition. I will speak these words and mean them from the bottom of my heart.

It is never easy leaving those behind with whom one has ministered and grown close. I will carry you in my heart. Your story is now a part of my story. Your faith has enriched my faith.

Until we meet again – May the grace and peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you now and always.



June Sermon Schedule:

June 4: The Soup Project– Michelle Vanslambrouk

June 11: Farewell Sunday– Pastor Tish– The Lon Faithfulness

June 18: Guest Preacher TBD

June 25: Guest Preacher TBD



JUNE PUMC BOOK CLUB

The PUMC Book Club had a pleasant time at the Portland library in May for a book review of “Killers of a Certain Age” by Deanna Rayburn. The June reading will be a sweet summer romance. We will meet at noon on June 19th @ The Wagon Wheel. Check out “Summer on Blossom Street” by Debbie Macomber and “Summer Cove” by Nora Roberts for light reading.

Come join the book club for a fun time!
Contact Vickee Balsler at Vgbalsler@aol.com if interested or call/text **239-671-9879**.

The Neighborhood!

Hello all,

Wow, here it is June already. Time sure does go by quickly, when you are having fun. We have been having a lot of fun learning about the love of Jesus and the teachings of Jesus.

June 4th will be the last Sunday for Sunday School until September. We will be having an end-of-the-year party for that hour. There will be coloring pages and crayons available during worship all summer long.

We will continue to offer Nursery throughout the Summer during the 9 am service.

Have a wonderful summer and we will see you at church on Sundays.

Blessings,
Mary



The Beacon of Hope sent a thank you note for all of the donations they received in Support of Harvey Hoskins at their annual golf event. Thanks to your generosity, and the generosity of the community, they were able to raise \$43,000!



Year-To-Date as of March 30, 2023

Income

Offering	\$ 93,776.78
Misc. Income	\$ <u>1,102.68</u>
Total	\$ 94,879.46

Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$ 40,946.15
Lay Support	\$ 8,621.39
Ministry Shares	\$ 9,985.46
Administration & Building	\$ 29,823.42
Ministry & Mission	\$ <u>1,326.47</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 90,702.89
<u>Difference</u>	\$ 4,176.57

To set up electronic giving go to:

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

LEADERSHIP BOARD

We are excited to share an opportunity to celebrate the ministry and contributions of Pastor Tish and Brian with a Bon Voyage Brunch following her last sermon on Sunday June 11th @ 10am-ish.

The Ministry Events team will supply biscuits and gravy and drinks will also be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary for other contributions.

We are also taking up a collection to buy a gift. There is a donation box on the greeters table if you would like to contribute. Please keep Tish and Brian in your prayers as they continue to search for a home in the Holland area and they transition to their new appointment. We are so grateful for all the love, friendship, and fellowship that they have faithfully given to our church and to the Portland community as a whole!

Serving in His name,
Jen Thomas

Prayer Requests



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

Bruce Daman	Amy Kahn
Carol Eldridge	Kelly Mosser
Barb Gillis	Susan Smith
Bruce Jackson	Diana Spangler
Sharon (Hill) Longstreth	Ella Tyler
Thea Kaetzel	Gerald Peabody

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

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

PASTORAL CHANGES

As we head into this season of change, I would like to call attention to two other churches going through a change as well.

The First Congregational church of Portland will be welcoming their new Pastor, Jacob Richards, and his wife, Lily, this month. Please keep them in your prayers and if you see Pastor Jacobs and Lily, be sure to give them a warm welcome.

In addition, Pastor Joe Robbe of Mount Hope has announced his retirement effective July 30th. Pastor Steve Meszaros will be stepping into the role of Pastor at Mount Hope.

Please keep our community in your prayers.

THANK YOU NOTES

Girl Scout troops 8225 and 4658 would like to say thank you for the use of the church kitchen this year.

Thank you to all who helped our tech crew with getting worship streaming up and running. Thank you to Duane Bower, Chad Pierce and Kyle Pierce from Epic. Also, thank you to Brian Bowman, Eric Sutherland and Dave Duffield for all they do as the tech team!

Thank you to Randy McLung who power washed the shed roof and the deck at the parsonage, and thank you to Eric Conner for repairing the brickwork on the front and back porches of the parsonage.

Thank you to all who helped with the Annual Chicken BBQ. Special thanks to the Ministry Events Team for all your hard work!

Chicken BBQ





-- Jan Mosser

The United Women in Faith (UMW) will hold its annual salad luncheon at noon on Thursday, June 1, in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a salad of your choice; all women are invited.

We plan to meet in July and August this year. Our July meeting will be held on July 6 at the home of Jan Mosser, 300 Donna Drive, Portland. This will be a coffee and conversation event at 10 a.m.

Plans are not finalized for August; we have discussed bringing a sack lunch to one of the parks in Portland. The date will be August 3, but the time is TBA. All women are welcome at all events and meetings.

BIBLE STUDY CHANGE

The Monday evening Bible Study has switched to Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pm. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Linda Sandborn at 517-988-9848.

Happy Retirement

We would like to wish a happy retirement to our district superintendent, Rev. Jerry Devine! Jerry and his wife, Ruth, will be retiring on July 1. A retirement celebration will happen at Redeemer Church in Dewitt on June 11th at 3 pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP here: <https://www.punchbowl.com/parties/033f486c6ee25f7b8d34>

JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June Sunday Services:

Worship 9:00 am
Live Worship streamed to Facebook 9:00 am

United Women In Faith

June 1, Salad Luncheon Fellowship Hall 12:00 pm

1st Sunday-of-the-Month Food Drive

June 4, donations may be left at the church

2nd Thursday Meals – Monthly

June 8, Contact Sherry Miller
517-285-0640, sherrymillersings@gmail.com

Bon Voyage Brunch

June 11, Fellowship Hall 10:00 am

PUMC Book Club Meeting

June 19, Wagon Wheel 12:00 pm

Love Your Neighbor Team Meeting

June 28, Esther Room 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