

# The Open Door

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

March 2023 Volume 21 Issue 3



Greetings PUMC,

A time of change is coming, as it always does in our United Methodist denomination. Change for most of us is unsettling, but it is not a bad thing. **I'm moving, not dying!** Sometimes in the United Methodist Church it seems like when a pastor moves, the former congregation is completely cut off from all contact, almost as if the pastor has died. That really isn't the case. I am just moving a few miles west.

If you've been United Methodist for a while, you've come to expect a pastor's farewell to include instructions about the **leaving pastor not returning to do weddings and funerals, and needing to limit contacts**. What often gets left out of the discussion is the "*why*" behind this practice. Let me share both the "*why*" and some details about our future together...

- In the closing liturgy we will share on my last day, you will "release" me from the obligations of being your pastor. This changes our relationship because **when I am no longer your pastor, I am free to fully be your friend**. As a friend, I can celebrate with you, and weep with you —without the additional responsibilities of being your pastor. I can do that because I am confident that your pastoral needs are cared for by your new pastor.
- **I don't want to cheat you out of the opportunity to bond with your new pastor**. Many times pastors grow close to people and families when they walk together through seasons of illness and death, when they journey together to the wedding altar, or walk through tough times. That is true of my relationship with many of you. My hope and prayer is that you will form that same kind of intimate bond with your new pastor. I do not want to do anything which might interfere.
- **My new congregation will need my time and attention**. Holland is my new flock and you will have a new shepherd. I should not leave my flock to care for someone else's sheep. To do so is not helpful to either congregation. Boundary-keeping insures everyone is provided care. I intend to honor those boundaries.
- My leaving **does not imply that I forget you, or love you any less** nor will I

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All Who Serve Christ

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Mary Bresnahan 526-7571

Treasurer/Ministry Assistant  
Beth Feldpausch  
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Jen Thomas 517-803-8080

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517-647-4649

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## OUR USHERS:

1st	The Feldpausch Family
2nd	Connie Almy
3rd	Bruce & Linda Croel
4th	The Goeckels



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cease to care about you. Our lines of communication need *not* be *completely* severed, but the focus and the frequency of our communications will change.

- For instance, we can remain Facebook friends. (I won't "unfriend" you. You decide if you want to unfriend me.) But I may be less active in replies, comments, and "likes". I'll watch the church's Facebook page for pictures and updates.
- I'll love reading about things that are happening around PUMC, especially as you continue to engage in Love-Your-Neighbor events.
- If you're in Holland, please feel free to stop by and say hello. We'd love to see you.
- If I'm passing through, I might stop by the church to chat. I will only visit someone with the prior knowledge and consent of your pastor. That is a professional and covenantal courtesy.
- Occasionally, I may attend a funeral, as my schedule allows, but it will be as friend. I may come to a wedding as guest, if invited. I fully expect your new pastor will preside at these rites of passage as they minister among you.
- **What I won't do is this: engage in conversation about the details** of the running of the church. I am happy to know about you and your family, even the successes and changes at the church, but I won't listen to particulars. My interest is in general not specifics. I won't have pastoral care or counseling conversations.

• **Your new pastor and I are colleagues.** I will be available to them if they have questions about something. They are the only one with whom I will talk about church business, and such conversations will remain confidential. I will not interfere with their ministry in any way. That helps you, it helps them, it helps me and helps my new congregation.

• Please know this though, I will not share with your new pastor any confidences you might have shared with me.

**Your personal story remains *your* story to tell. Pastors do not pass on things that have been shared in confidence.** Clergy confidentiality is honored; it goes with the person, not the office. We only pass to one another details about the church operations and details about persons who are sick or homebound...not personal, private stories.

Let me encourage you to **welcome back some members who you've not seen in a while.** Everyone doesn't connect with every pastor. There are those for whom I've not been an effective and attentive pastor. I am sorry and seek forgiveness for my shortcomings and faults. My leaving can be a time of grace for them. Here's a chance for them to return to church. Please welcome people back without judgement or grilling them about their absence. In fact, this is a great opportunity to reach out and invite them to return. Better yet, bring them with you to worship. You can be God's advocate of grace.

Finally, please **let your new pastor be who they are.** We're totally different people with completely different styles. Be as open to them as you were to Brian and me when we arrived 8 years ago.

I believe this move is of God. **I believe that your new pastor will be a gift God is giving PUMC** for this new chapter. Allow yourself to fully accept and receive what God is offering you through your new pastor. I've discovered over my lifetime, that **God's gifts are always wonderful and worth opening and appreciating,** even when they are somewhat surprising.

In Christ,  
Pastor Tish

As PUMC Continues on the journey with anew pastor, remember God's words of encouragement:

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,  
for the LORD your god will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

## February Attendance

Week Of:	Online Facebook Live & In Person Views/Shares/Sign-in
February 5	64 In Person, 12 Online 290 Views/8 Shares
February 12	56 In Person, 11 Online 211 Views/7 Shares
February 19	50 In Person, 17 Online 128 Views/6 Shares
February 26	67 In Person, 14 Online, 142 Views/4 Shares

## MARCH WORSHIP



There are certain words we Christians avoid using at all costs these days— sin, damnation, repentance, penance, and salvation. Why is that? Do we believe that if we avoid them, they won't have the

power to hurt us, shame us, or convict us? In reality, avoidance only leaves us powerless in the face of their very real effects. It weakens the language of grace. The power of forgiveness is only fully known when tied to what has been given.

### March Sermon Schedule:

**March 5 :** Our Words Have Power

**March 12 :** Sin is Our Only Hope

**March 19 :** Getting off the Hamster Wheel

**March 26:** Mending Our Way Through the World



## MARCH PUMC BOOK CLUB

PUMC Book Club March reads are from “A Secret Revenge” Series by Lauraine Snelling. They are: *Daughter of Twin Oaks* and *Sisters of Confederacy*. Our meeting will be at the Portland Library on Monday, March 20th at 10am. All are welcome. Contact Vickee Balser at [Vgbalser@aol.com](mailto:Vgbalser@aol.com) if interested or call/text **239-671-9879**.

## LEADERSHIP BOARD

In our simplified leadership structure, the Leadership Board is charged with the visioning, generative and strategic planning for the church. Think of the Leadership Board as the handlebars of a bicycle. However, for the church to move forward we must have people willing to help “pedal” the bicycle. We are forever thankful for those who step up in volunteer roles to make up our ministry and mission teams that help to “pedal” our bicycle. These teams include the Children’s Ministry Team, the Building Maintenance Team, the Ministry Events Team, the Communication team, the Love Your Neighbor Team, and the Media Team.



Over the next several months it will be my pleasure to highlight each team. I would ask each of you to pray for these teams and our Leadership Board that God may continue to guide all that we do as we carry out the mission of making new disciples for Christ. Every team and the Leadership Board needs support, please pray about and consider how you can become actively involved.

Blessing,  
Jen Thomas

# The Neighborhood!

Hello All,  
Spring is just around the corner. I have two favorite Seasons Spring and fall. I am excited to finally put the winter behind us.

We are still in need of some help with the Seedlings Nursery and for The Neighborhood Sunday School. I am only asking for one Sunday a month. Thank you to the parents already helping. If we could get one or two more, then we would be able to have each parent volunteer once a month.

In the Seedlings Nursery, there are 3 children at this time. We play, and watch an age-appropriate video about how God loves us all. They may, from time to time, do a craft or a coloring page.

In The Neighborhood, there are about 7 to 9 children. We watch a video about the Bible study we are doing for the day, discuss the video and asks questions about the lesson while the kids do a craft. Some weeks we have time to play too. Volunteers help with the craft and encourage the kids to share what they heard that day about the Bible. We also talk about school and how their week went. It is really awesome to hear about what they are doing outside of Church. The best part of both classes is that you are making a huge mark in their spiritual growth. There is a lot of love that goes around in the classrooms. I have to admit, when they see me outside of the Church and they come up to me saying "Ms. Mary!" and give me the biggest hug. What more could you ask for? If this is something that you are passionate about, please contact me at 517-526-7571.

We have started displaying their projects on our board in the Welcome Center across from the Calendar. When you go by take a peek to see what they are learning. If they don't bring something home, we have asked if we could hang it up for everyone to see for a week or two. We will make sure that they get it back.

Thank you all for your support for these two incredibly special ministries. Hope to hear from you soon.

Blessings to you all,  
Mary



## Year-To-Date as of January 31, 2023

### Income

Offering	\$ 43,125.10
Misc. Income	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 42,771.98

### Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$ 17,665.46
Lay Support	\$ 3,065.38
Ministry Shares	\$ 3,663.80
Administration & Building	\$ 13,742.60
Ministry & Mission	\$ 170.14
Total Expenses	\$ 38,307.38
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 4,464.50</b>

**To set up electronic giving go to:**

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

## STAFFING CHANGE

Frist, our custodian, Dawn Dancer, is moving on. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her well at her new job.

Second, we would like to welcome our new custodian, Emily Perry. Emily is a Portland native and has an adorable daughter, Alice. If you see them around the church be sure to welcome them.



*Our Deepest  
Condolences to the family  
of Lois Smith who  
passed on February 7th,  
2023.*

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11



# Prayer Requests



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

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

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

## EASTER LILIES

Easter lilies will be available to purchase through the Church again this year. 6-inch potted Lily plants at \$14.50 each. Please have your order and payment submitted by March 16th! You may also bring in your own potted Easter flower.



## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to spring (or limp) forward one hour on March 12th!



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

### Gerald Peabody

102 Rindle Haven, Apt C2  
Portland, MI 48875

## WESLEY WOODS CALENDAR

- May 27-29: Family Camp (Memorial Weekend)
- June 18-24: High School Camp (Grade 10-13)
- July 5-7: Grand Camp (Grandparents & Grand Kids)
- July 9-15: Middle School Camp (Grades 6-9)
- July 23-28: Middle School Sports Camp
- July 30-Aug 4: Middle School Arts Camp
- July 23-28: Elementary Camp 1 (Grades 3-6)
- July 23-26: Mini Camp 1A (Grades 1-3)
- July 26-28: Mini Camp 1B (Grades 1-3)
- July 30-Aug 4: Elementary Camp 2 (Grades 3-6)
- July 30-Aug 2: Mini Camp 2A (Grades 1-3)
- Aug 2-4: Mini Camp 2b (Grades 1-3)
- Sept 2-4: Family Camp (Labor Day Weekend)

Reminder: PUMC will pay half of the cost of camp for any student wishing to attend.

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith will resume meetings on Thursday, April 6, at 10 a.m. in the Esther Room. We will not be meeting in March.

-Jan Mosser

## MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March 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

March 5, donations may be left at the church

### Monday Afternoon Bible Study – Weekly

Church Lounge 4:00 pm

### 2nd Thursday Meals – Monthly

March 9 , Contact Sherry Miller  
517-285-0640, sherrymillersings@gmail.com

### PUMC Book Club Meeting

March 20, Portland Library 10:00 am

### Thursday Afternoon Bible Study – Weekly

Fellowship Hall 3:00 pm

### Staff Meeting – Monthly

March 23, Esther Rm. 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

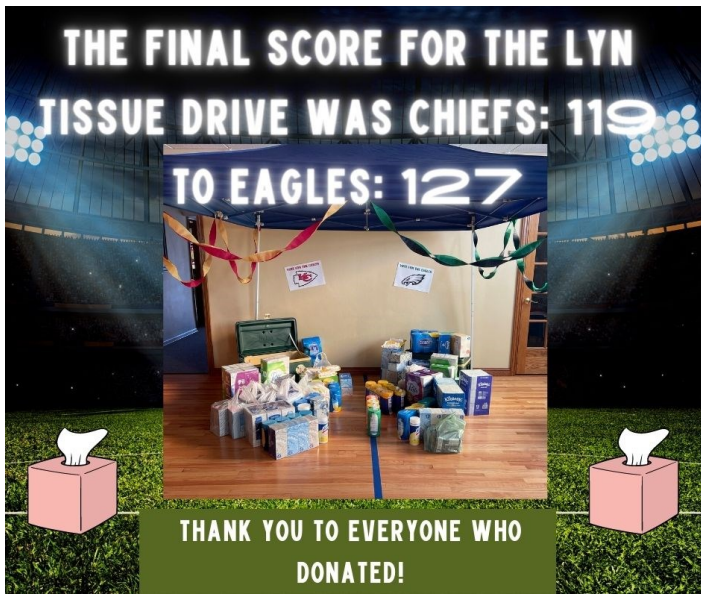
Contact Linda @ 517-899-9848 for Clothes Closet

### Backpacks for Bellies

Delivered Thursdays 9:00 am  
Contact Michelle VanSlambrouck @ 517-285-6518

### The Soup Project

Tuesdays, Kitchen 9:30 am



### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Here are some notable events coming up in our community! These events are opportunities to “BE THE CHURCH” outside of the church walls.

March 6: Veterans Benefits Seminar @ 102 Rindlehaven Commons, Portland MI

March 9-11: PHS Drama Presents The Addams Family

March 17-18 & 24-26: The Portland Civic Players Present The Art of Dining

March 25: Annual Portland Arts Fest (Formerly The Day of Music)