

# The Open Door

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

May 2023 Volume 21 Issue 5



Greetings PUMC!

Can I just say, I love our new ‘Love-Your-Neighbor’ Team here at PUMC! I love the enthusiasm of the team as they listen to the Spirit and creatively plan new events to share love in the world. I love the heart of this church that seeks to love on our neighbors in so many different ways. I love the spirit of the congregation that rises to meet each new challenge to love – donating tissues and cleaning wipes to our schools, bottled water and granola bars for young athletes, spending time with seniors playing BINGO and spreading the word about the new suicide prevention number 988, just to name a few. I love how you love God, one another, and our community. That’s a lot of love!!!

As United Methodists this kind of love for neighbor is no surprise. Our heritage is one of compassion, loving neighbor, and social justice. This stuff is in our denominational DNA. Retired UMC pastor, Rev. Jack Harnish, summarizes this well:

*On April 4, 1742, Charles Wesley preached a sermon in Oxford which would become his signature sermon. It was called **Awake! Thou That Sleepest** and was based on Ephesians 5:14. It was printed as a tract then circulated throughout the Methodist class meetings. I guess that makes Brother Charles the first **Woke Methodist**.*

*Charles’ famous sermon was a call to come alive spiritually, to awake from the lethargy and lack of faith which plagued the church in his day, but that spiritual revival resulted in an incredible social awakening as well. The Wesley’s believed warm-hearted, spiritually alive Christians were called to deal with issues like child labor, slavery, prison reform and poverty. As Methodist theologian Leonard Sweet says, Jesus didn’t just come to make a difference in the world, he came to make a different world. And so did the Wesleys.*

*Today the word woke is used by some as a derogatory term of mocking derision. Well, so was the name Methodist. The Wesley brother’s fellow students at Oxford made fun of them by calling them Bible Moths and Methodists because they were so methodical in*

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Ministers All Who Serve Christ
Organist Sherry Miller 517-647-7030
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Treasurer/Ministry Assistant Beth Feldpausch 989-640-5250
Custodian Emily Perry 517-526-3520
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Office Administrator Beth Feldpausch 517-647-4649

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## OUR USHERS:

1st	The Feldpauschs
2nd	Dan & Kacy Goeckel
3rd	Bruce & Linda Croel
4th	



Portland United Methodist Church  
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*their faith and life. But the name stuck, and generations of us have been proud to be called Methodists. Today, I'd be proud to be called woke if that means being awake to the needs of others, alert to the issues of society, aware of the places of injustice and the calls for renewal and reform. **Charles Wesley might have been the first woke Methodist, but thank God he wasn't the last!***

– Rev. Jack Harnish, Monday Memo, April 24, 2023

I'm proud to be 'woke' (or at least awakening!) to the needs of my neighbors and that our denomination has been 'woke' for over 280 years. I love (there's that word again!) that our congregation leans into this spirit in so many ways each month. I invite you to continue to lean into our calling to love God and love neighbor and to watch for upcoming opportunities to support those in need of healthy food, health care, basic human rights, education and so much more.

In Christ, Pastor Tish, Neighbor-Loving, Woke, Jesus Follower

P.S. Thank you to our 'Love-You-Neighbor' Team! Alyssa Stemler & Holly Conner (Co-Chairs), Aaron Dull (recording secretary), Jan Mosser (Helping Hands coordinator), Beth Feldpausch (collaboration coordinator), and team members: Jen Thomas, Doug Stemler, Eric Conner, Dan and Kacy Goeckel, Penny Johnson Brian Bowman and Tish Bowman. If you would like to join this great team, simply show up at their next planning meeting on June 28th @ 6:30 pm.

## **LEADERSHIP BOARD: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT**

God is moving in our church as evidenced by growth in these areas! We have had growth in both the Seedlings Nursery and The Neighborhood Sunday School. Nursery regularly has 5 kids, and Sunday school has 11 kids. Please take a second to read about a day in the life of these ministries from Mary Bresnahan:

*In Nursery, the kids play with books and toys and sometimes work on a craft. They also work on the ABC's coloring page. The ABC's coloring page is not just ABC's, for example B is for Bible, C is for Christ, and so on and so forth. We have toys in the nursery for our littlest ones through preschool! Our nursery workers are patient and energetic, and they do a wonderful job of teaching the children the Love of Jesus. We are looking for more help in this area! We are looking for someone that would like to volunteer the first Sunday of the month.*

*In Sunday School, we have a curriculum that follows the church calendar. Right now we are learning about parables, and if you ask the students what a parable is they will be able to tell you. Our lessons contain a short video and follow up questions that are age appropriate and can be adjusted for individual students since we have a wide range of ages. Recently, we learned about the Sower and the seed. We asked them what the seeds represented, and then we discussed ways we can "plant seeds" outside of church. The kids had some great ideas about planting seeds and sharing God's love. We followed up with a craft where we planted real glower seeds that the kids could take home and water. We are still looking for helpers for the Neighborhood ministry as well.*

*We have a lot of fun in both the Seedlings Nursery and in The Neighborhood. It is wonderful to watch the kids grow and really get to know about Jesus's love for us all. . Not only is our Ministry growing, but my hope is also that Susan, Brandon, and I will have one Sunday a month away from teaching to attend church. The volunteers will always have one of us three in the room with them and will not be asked to teach the lesson. We are aware that it will be separate Sunday's that we attend church.*

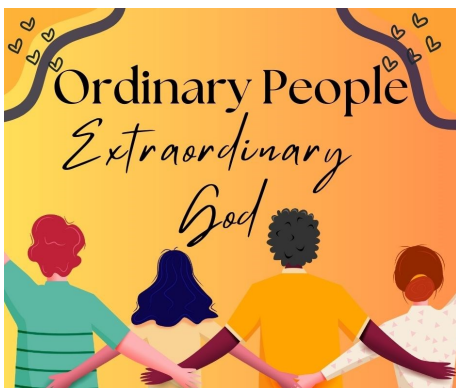
*If you are interested in volunteering for either the Nursery or the Sunday School, reach out to me, Mary Bresnahan at 517-526-7571, or I will be upstairs on Sundays. Stop in and check out the classrooms and see how much fun we have nurturing the future of the church.*

As Mary mentions above, this ministry needs more volunteers. Our goal is to get Mary, Brandon and Susan a week off each month so they can attend in person service and be rejuvenated! Please prayerfully consider giving of your time by supporting our youngest worshippers!

April Attendance	
Week Of:	Online Facebook Live & In Person Views/Shares/Sign-in
April 2	47 In Person, No online
April 9	97 In Person, No online
April 16	72 In Person, 6 Online 115 Views/3 Shares
April 23	59 In Person, 5 Online 121 Views/5 Shares
April 30	63 In Person, Online Content Blocked

**May Sermon Schedule:**

- May 7:** Eyes for the Divine –Anna  
Luke 2: 21-38
- May 14:** The Weighty Tasks–Joseph and Arimathea  
Luke 23: 44-56
- May 21:** Drenched in the Truth-The Ethiopian Eunuch  
Acts 8: 26, 40
- May 28:** Radiating the Warmth of Hospitality–Lydia  
Acts 16: 11-15, 40



**LEADERSHIP BOARD**

Happy May y’all! Not sure how we are already in the 5th month of the year! As we move closer to the transition of pastors, I ask that you take time to pray for both Pastor Tish and Brian as they prepare to move on to their new appointment in Holland and Pastor Lenora as she prepares to start ministry here with us!

The transition team has met once to start brainstorming ways to help both our incoming and outgoing pastors. Thanks to all who have stepped up to be part of this team!

I know there are projects that will be starting at the parsonage soon and I am certain that Bill Almy and the Building Maintenance Team will be looking for help. Please consider helping where you can!

Serving in His name,  
Jen Thomas  
Leadership Board Chair

**MAY PUMC BOOK CLUB**



Book club will meet on May 23, 2023 at 6 pm at the Portland Library. We will be joining “On the Same Page”

book discussions. This month’s selection is **Killers of a Certain Age** by Deanna Rayburn. The hardcover book is available now at no cost at the library.

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

The Portland UMC Book Club presented The Neighborhood and Seedlings children’s ministry with two books as our giving ministry for this year. They are, Love Letters from God: Bible Stories, and I Wonder, an illustrated Bible, both by author Glenys Nellist.

# The Neighborhood!

Hello All!

I was hoping to be able to start this article as “Spring Is in the Air”. However, it is going to snow on Monday; so I will say, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Spring will be here soon.

Just a couple of updates, Seedlings Nursery will be open for the summer months at the 9:00 am in church service.

Sunday School will not be open for the summer. The last lesson will be on May 28, 2023. We will have an end-of-the-year party for the children on June 4, 2023.

On behalf of the Children’s Ministry, we would like to say “thank you” to all the parents for their support and for volunteering in the Children’s Ministry this year. It is because of you that we can offer both the Nursery and the Sunday School.

See you on Sunday!

Mary

## GRADUATION SUNDAY

Graduation Sunday is scheduled for May 21st at the 9:00 am Traditions Service.

If you have a graduate you would like honored that Sunday, please send their name and a short bio to Beth at [portlandmumc@gmail.com](mailto:portlandmumc@gmail.com). Emails must be sent in no later than Thursday May 11th at 10:00 am.

Congratulations to the class of 2023!



### Year-To-Date as of March 30, 2023

#### Income

Offering	\$ 77,019.65
Misc. Income	\$ 587.28
Total	\$ 77,606.93

#### Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$ 31,290.92
Lay Support	\$ 6,153.48
Ministry Shares	\$ 8,153.56
Administration & Building	\$ 23,514.92
Ministry & Mission	\$ 509.44
Total Expenses	\$ 69,622.32

#### Difference

\$ 7,984.61

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

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

## HELPING HANDS

Since the beginning of the year, we have been able to contribute to the needs of 13 families or individuals. Whereas most requests are for help with utilities or rent, we have helped two families by paying for a night or two in a hotel due to homelessness. Also, we assisted one person in paying for a needed part for car repair. This ministry is one of the most important ways we can help people financially, giving them hope for their immediate future.

The Easter offering donations were just deposited in the Helping Hands account. This was over \$1,100 and will help others for several months. Thanks to all who contributed!

If you wish to contribute to the Helping Hand fund, please make your check out to PUMC, and designate Helping Hands on the memo line.

# 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	

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

**Gerald Peabody**  
102 Rindle Haven, Apt C2  
Portland, MI 48875



# Mental Health Awareness

 **Beacon of Hope** beaconofhope.net  
*A Christ-Centered Counseling Ministry*  
(616) 594-5380



National Suicide Hotline  
Dial 988  
988lifeline.org



24 Hour Crisis Line 888-527-1790  
rightdoor.org  
Portland Office 517-647-2128  
Ionia Office 616-527-1790

## ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ Monday, May 29, 2023

It's that time of year! The Portland United Methodist Church and the Local VFW Post 4090 will be working together again on the Memorial Chicken BBQ fundraiser.

We need volunteers to bake cookies; we need 80 dozen of any kind. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The cookies will need to be dropped off at the church on Friday, May 26 by 5 pm! If you could sort the cookies into sandwich bags, that would also be appreciated. Two cookies per bag!

We will need help on Sunday, May 28 at 2 p.m. at the VFW Post to wash and foil wrap potatoes. We will also be bagging any cookies that have not been bagged. We also need help on Memorial Day during the BBQ. Please let me know if you will be available for either of these times. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support.  
Connie Almy, Ministry Event Leader  
cjalmy@yahoo.com or  
616.443.9436





-- Jan Mosser

We are glad to see our snowbirds back! But hopefully they brought warmth and sunshine with them. Our May meeting will be held on May 4th at 10 am in the Esther room.

All women have been asked to bring something to share about mothers or motherhood. This could be a favorite memory, either of your mother or a person who was like a mother to you. It could also be a memory or raising your children or children who have played an important part in your life. There are many poems and writings about these topics, and sharing one of those would be fine too.

On June 1st, we will have our annual spring salad luncheon. This luncheon is a tribute to women, and all women are welcome, as they are to all our meetings and events. Hope to see you there.



My surgery went well and I'm home on my long road to recovery. I would like to sincerely thank everyone for the cards, calls and most of all the prayers. A big thank you to Pastor Tish for her visits and calls. Your continued prayers are a great part of my recovery.

Again, thank you and God bless.

Don Wallace and family



**MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**May 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

**Spring Sports Carnival LYN Event**

Portland High School	10:00 am
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**United Women In Faith**

May 4, Fellowship Hall	10:00 am
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**1st Sunday-of-the-Month Food Drive**

May 7, donations may be left at the church

**Monday Afternoon Bible Study – Weekly**

Church Lounge	4:00 pm
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**2nd Thursday Meals – Monthly**

May 11, Contact Sherry Miller  
517-285-0640, sherrymillersings@gmail.com

**PUMC Book Club Meeting**

May 23 , Portland District Library	6:00 pm
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**Thursday Afternoon Bible Study – Weekly**

Fellowship Hall	3:00 pm
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**Staff Meeting – Monthly**

May 25, Esther Rm.	6:30 pm
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**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
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