

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 2024 Volume 22 Issue 5



WINDS OF CHANGE

The month of May brings many changes. The weather has (mostly) shifted to sunny warmth, the birds and bees are hard at work, and the cacophony of sound produced by those working in their yards has begun. The winds of change are blowing in each of our lives as well.

On May 19th , we will be celebrating our graduates: Regan Goeckel, Emma Johnson, and Adam Foote. Graduating from High School, College, or Trade School is a big accomplishment. It takes a lot of hard work-blood, sweat, and tears-to make it through; to persevere and press on to the finish line. On May 4th , Jason and I will be getting married and starting our life together-quite a big change for the both of us. There are some who are preparing for marriage, or children, or making big decisions that will change their lives; there are some who are awaiting test results that might change their lives; there are some who are grieving the loss of a loved one who had changed their life. All of these winds of change blowing around us; sometimes we get caught up in a whirlwind, and sometimes it is a gentle and cooling breeze.

The United Methodist Church has winds of change blowing through it as well. As I write this, the second week of our General Conference has just begun. This Conference-which was postponed from 2020-will likely lead to some big changes throughout our denomination. Already, the delegates have approved a Worldwide Regionalization piece of legislation (which, in essence, gives our siblings in Africa and Asia greater voting rights as well as enables us to maintain our global structure), have voted to be in full communion with the Episcopal Church (pending their approval), and have strengthened the language of our Social Principles in defense of human rights. There are more weighty discussions to come, and the UM News website is making regular updates as the decisions are made.

Continued on page 2

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Worship	2
Attendance	2
Financials	4
Prayer Requests	4
Calendar and Events	5

OUR USHERS:

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



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April Attendance

Week Of:	Online Facebook Live & In Person Views/Shares/Sign-in
April 7	56 In Person, No Online
April 14	64 Person, 5 Online 148 Views/ 2 Shares
April 21	55 In Person, 5 Online 163 Views/2 Shares
April 28	79 In Person, 4 Online 107 Views/3 Shares

MAY SERMON SCHEDULE:

May 5: Guest Speaker, Michelle VanSlambrouk

May 12: Hymn Sing

May 19: Breathing on Dry Bones

May 26: Love to the Power of Three



In May, we also celebrate Pentecost, the birth of the church. That moment when the winds blew, and flames appeared over the heads of the crowd; when the Holy Spirit rested upon each of those gathered and the church was born. The winds of change may be tough to face sometimes, but they can also bring great things. Let us embrace those winds, embrace those changes, embrace the Spirit within us and that we find in each other so that we might become the church we were born to be. Amen.

The Neighborhood!

Greetings from the Children’s Ministry,

Spring is here! I have been busy doing some spring cleaning of my home. I’ve been outside a lot enjoying the sun. Being outside makes me feel so much better.

The Children did a great job with their Easter Skit. I am so proud of all of them. They have so much courage to get up in front of everyone and read and act.

The last day for Sunday School will be June 9, 2024. We will be off for the summer. I would like to have a little celebration for them on that day. There will be more information to come in a flock note.

To our wonderful volunteers, thank you. We are asking our 2024-2025 volunteers to complete some training by September for both Sunday School and Nursery. I would prefer to complete this training in Mid August. More information to come on this as well.

Even though Sunday School does not meet, we will still offer Nursery during the Summer months.

As always, thoughts and ideas are always welcome.

Mary

ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

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 24th from 3-6 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 26th 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



ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND NO JUNE NEWSLETTER

Hello friends,

The Michigan conference of United Methodists hosts its Annual Conference from May 30– June 1, with the clergy meeting on May 29. Pastor Lenora and I will be attending this year. Prayers for safe travel and a loving Christ-led environment are appreciated.

Our offices will be closed from May 29– June 3. Because of the hectic May schedule, we will not be putting a newsletter out for June. We will, however, have a more in depth Thursday update Flocknote on June 6, and I am happy to print that off for anyone who would like a physical copy of that update.

Thank you for your support.

-Beth Feldpausch

SPRING CLEAN UP

On Saturday, April 20th, a small yet energetic group of volunteers set aside a couple of hours of their time to help with the annual spring clean up at our church. The team of eager volunteers helped with raking leaves, pruning bushes, pulling weeds.

Thank you to Connie and Bill Almy, Brandon Martin, Richard Wilson, Jon Johnson, Randy McClung, Arlene Randall and Michael Mitchell for volunteering your time, tools and energy on the April 20, clean up day.

Thank you to Kacy Goeckel for volunteering to paint the west side of the church wood railings and platform. Thank you to Richard Wilson, Bruce Croel, for keeping the church lawn mowed and manicured throughout the growing season. Thank you to Garret and Beth Feldpausch for volunteering to spread landscape chips as needed. Thank you to Arlene and Allen Randall for maintaining weed control in the flower beds



Spring Clean Up Day

Thank you, heavenly father for blessing us with the energy to help with gods creations .

Prayer Requests



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

Bruce Daman	George Becker
Barb Gillis	Allen Randall
Bruce Jackson	Vickee Balsar
Sharon (Hill) Longstreth	
Amy Kahn	
Kelly Mosser	
Susan Smith	
Diana Spangler	

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 Rd
Dimondale, MI 48821

Bud Moyer
4775 Village Dr. Apt 147
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

Year-To-Date as of April 29, 2024

Income

Offering	\$ 54,232.83
Misc. Income	\$ 850.64
Total	\$ 55,083.47

Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$ 25,684.46
Lay Support	\$ 8,810.03
Ministry Shares	\$ 8,333.20
Administration & Building	\$ 24,940.99
Ministry & Mission	\$ 467.39
Total Expenses	\$ 68,236.07
<u>Difference</u>	\$ -13,152.60

To set up electronic giving go to:

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



Dear Portland UMC family,

Jason and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you for the wonderful bridal shower and your very generous gifts! Thank you to all who organized, prepared the delicious food, attended, and showered us with some very thoughtful gifts. We greatly appreciate your hospitality and generosity.

You are a blessing to us.

With a grateful and full heart,

Pastor Lenora

News and Notes from the Leadership Board

Spring is finally springing and I think it's here to stay this time...can I get an AMEN! As we prepare for busy summer months, hopefully filled with some fun, rest and relaxation or adventures in our beautiful state, please take a second and look at your calendars and sign up to volunteer for one or more of the following events:

1. Chicken Barbeque on Memorial Day (May 27th). This is a joint effort between PUMC and the VFW and will be held at the VFW. Huge shout out to Connie Almy for all her hard work every year in pulling together volunteers. There are opportunities to help the day before and the day of the event. Any amount of time you can commit would be GREATLY appreciated. Proceeds from this event go to our Ministry Events Team and help to fund other events for our congregation.

2. Red Mill Community Days: This event is a community favorite and is a great way to meet our neighbors! We have the ever popular foam machine which brings young and old alike to our booth especially on a hot summer day! This event is scheduled for Saturday August 24th and we will need many volunteers to set up/tear down, man the booth and run the foam machine!

We have an ongoing need for people to step up and support the ministries that help our services run smoothly every Sunday! This includes Usher/Greeters, the Media Team (sound/projection), Children's Ministry and Nursery.

I pray that each and every one of us recognizes the importance of being an active participant in our church. Simply put, we can't do church without volunteerism! Please consider where you can be a blessing to your church family!

Working hard for Christ,
Jen Thomas
Leadership Board Chair

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May Sunday Services:

Worship 9:30am
Live Worship streamed to Facebook 9:30am

1st Sunday-of-the-Month Food Drive

May 5th, donations may be left at the church

2nd Thursday Meals – Monthly

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

United Women in Faith

May 2nd, Esther Rm. 10:00 am

Graduation Sunday

May 19th, Sanctuary 9:30 am

Leadership board Meeting

May 21st, Esther Room 7:00 pm

Staff Meeting

May 23rd, Lounge 6:30 pm

Memorial Chicken BBQ

May 27th, VFW 11:00 am– 2:00 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