

The Open Door

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

November 2023 Volume 21 Issue 10



Render Unto God

This month we will be discussing the concept of rendering all that we have unto God. We, of course, consider rendering our earthly goods: we pledge our tithes and have special offerings throughout the year, we donate food or clothing to those in need, we find ways to simplify our lives. And these are all wonderful things. But we are meant to give everything to God; truly we are giving everything back to God since it has all come from God in the first place.

In this month's series, we will be examining the often-non-tangible things that we ought to render unto God through the lens of the psalms. There are four main types of psalms: Praise, Lament, Thanksgiving, and Wisdom. Praise and Thanksgiving are likely the simplest, though not in all cases. We have set aside a day this month to consider and celebrate everything that we have to be thankful for; why not make this an everyday thing? The same can be said for praise-in what ways are you praising God today?

The other two types-wisdom and lament-present a greater challenge but for different reasons. The question that pops into my mind is how do I render wisdom unto God? Our God who is omniscient and omnipotent; whose wisdom exceeds anything that we can fathom? How is it possible? The answer rings out: by sharing our wisdom with others. By sharing our gifts, talents, and experiences to witness to others of the goodness of God.

Finally, we come to the psalms of lament. We often offer our concerns to God, but we rarely lament in the truest form. When you read through the psalms, you find questioning and crying and demanding; you find lament. We often prevent ourselves from truly lamenting for fear of offending God or to spare others our pain, but I'm here to tell you that God can take whatever you may offer and the people who have been put in your life to support you want to help you through your periods of pain. Allow yourselves to lament, my friends. God will listen just

Continued on page 2

Pastor
Rev. Lenora Whitecotton
734-624-2984
Whitecotton.lenora@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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Worship | 2 |
| Attendance | 2 |
| Financials | 3 |
| Prayer Requests | 4 |
| Calendar and Events | 5 |
| | |

OUR USHERS:

| | |
|-----|---------------------|
| 1st | The Feldpauschs |
| 2nd | Bill & Connie Almy |
| 3rd | Bruce & Linda Croel |
| 4th | The Bengels |



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

| October Attendance | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Week Of: | Online Facebook Live & In Person Views/Shares/Sign-in |
| October 1 | 72 In Person, 5 Online 108 Views/1 Shares |
| October 8 | 62 In Person, 6 Online 118 Views/ 1 Share |
| October 15 | 80 In Person, 7 Online 392 Views/4 Shares |
| October 22 | 84 In Person, 7 Online 129 Views/3 Shares |
| October 29 | 54 In Person (Sunday School Sunday) No online |

NOVEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE:

- November 5:** Render Unto God: Praise
- November 12:** Render Unto God: Lament
- November 19:** Render Unto God: Wisdom
- November 26:** Render Unto God: Thanksgiving



Continued from page 1

as God listened to King David all those many years ago. Consider what it is that you need to render unto God today, my friends, and give it away. Amen.

Rev. Lenora Whitecotton

News and Notes from the Leadership Board

Happy November! Can you believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner?! Then Advent and Christmas. Time just keeps on moving! Just a quick update to share with you. The

Nomination Committee was hard at work last month filling vacancies on the Leadership Board and other Committees and ministry teams. Thanks to the many who have agreed to fill these vacancies, we appreciate you and your willingness to serve. If there is a team you would like to be part of, do not hesitate to reach out, we will find a spot for you to serve!

We had 6 people attend the annual church charge conference. It was a nice evening spent in community with other churches in our newly created Central Bay District. We got to get to know our new District Superintendent and to hear what other churches are doing to help make disciples for Christ!

November will bring our annual giving campaign. Please be in prayer about how you will start or continue to support the church and its ministries with your gifts and talents. We will also be pulling together a task force to look at future building maintenance needs and to consider a possible separate capital improvement campaign. If you would like to be part of this process, please let me know.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy November!

Serving in His name,
Jen Thomas
Leadership Board Chair
517-803-8080

Prayer Requests



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

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

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

HELPING HANDS

Thank you for your generous contributions to this ministry. \$803 was deposited into the helping hands account in the past few weeks. This will enable PUMC to help with the financial needs of 8 families or individuals.

After a few months of relatively low requests, the needs have ramped up. Often times, when the weather gets colder, the needs get greater. The various churches in Portland come together to help people who are in danger of being evicted from their homes or having their electricity or fuel turned off. This is coordinated by the Portland Area Ministerial Association of which PUMC is a part.

If you would like to contribute, checks should be written to Portland United Methodist Church with helping hands designated on the memo line. Online giving is also available.

Commitment Sunday, November 19th

Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but, how much of God's money will I keep for myself?

-John Wesley

[PLEDGE NOW](#)



Community Thanksgiving Service



Sunday, November 19th
6:00pm at the
Nazarene Church

A time for the Portland churches to gather as one and give thanks!

Hosted by the Portland Area Ministerial Association



-- Jan Mosser

The past few months have been very educational and worthwhile for the women in the group.

In September, we welcomed local attorney Patrick Duff, who led us in a discussion of wills, trusts, and estate planning.

Michael Lehman of Lehman Funeral Homes was with us in October to answer questions and share information on planning funerals and other options available when a loved one has passed.

On November 2, an employee of Beacon of Hope, a Christian free counseling service, will be with us to answer questions and tell of the many ways people can be helped with mental health issues. We hope to learn about this so that we can inform our friends and family members who may need this help. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

We are planning to have a Christmas candy fundraiser in December and will be making fudge as a part of this. We will be selling candy at the VFW at the Burger Night on Dec. 8th . All women are invited to be a part of this group.

November 5, 2023

All Saints Sunday

Jim Schuitema
Thomas Seal
Lynda Russman
Lois Smith
Gordon Kelly
Scott Minkley
Gerald Peabody



NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November Sunday Services:

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

United Women In Faith

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| November 2nd, Fellowship Hall | 10:00 am |
|-------------------------------|----------|

1st Sunday-of-the-Month Food Drive

November 5th, donations may be left at the church

All Saints Sunday

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| November 5th, during 9:00 am Service | 10:00 am |
|--------------------------------------|----------|

2nd Thursday Meals – Monthly

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

Commitment Sunday

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| October 19th, During Worship | 9:00 am |
|------------------------------|---------|

Community Thanksgiving Service

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| November 19th, Nazarene Church | 6:00 pm |
|--------------------------------|---------|

Dessert reception to follow

Staff Meeting

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| November 26th, Lounge | 10:30 am |
|-----------------------|----------|

Hanging of the Greens

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| November 26th, After Worship | 10:00 am |
|------------------------------|----------|

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 |
|-------------------|---------|