

The Open Door

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

October 2023 Volume 21 Issue 9



Faith Like a Child

Crayons and coloring pages. Crafts and snacks. Bible stories depicted on a felt board and songs with movements. These are some of my favorite memories from Sunday School as a child; memories I know many of you share. And starting in October, we can experience these joys again as we begin instituting Sunday School Sundays on the fifth Sundays of the month.

On these Sundays, the church will gather in the fellowship hall—from the largest to the smallest; from the youngest to the oldest—and experience Sunday School as one body. The children will be there beside us to remind us of that sense of awe we may have lost along the way and, perhaps even more so, to teach us faith lessons. They can teach us so much, if only we will listen.

There is a reason that Jesus said that we are to become like children in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. A child's perspective is pure, unjaded by life. It is honest, calling things as they see them. It is one of wonder, experiencing things for the first time and being struck by the immensity and awesomeness of it all. And it is one that we should respect and listen to with intention. For children have much to teach us if we would only listen.

Unfortunately, I won't be here to experience our first foray into this new venture, but I have no doubt that it will be a fantastic experience for all. Return to your child-like perspective for a time and learn what it means to have faith like a child. I'll be coloring with you in spirit. ~

Pastor Lenora

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OUR USHERS:

1st	The Bengels
2nd	The Goeckels
3rd	Bruce & Linda Croel
4th	The Feldpauschs
5th	The Johnsons



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

<i>September Attendance</i>	
Week Of:	Online Facebook Live & In Person Views/Shares/Sign-in
September 3	49 In Person, 9 Online 264 Views/3 Shares
September 10	69 In Person, No Online
September 17	64 In Person, 7 Online 146 Views/3 Shares
September 24	66 In Person, 7 Online 117 Views/2 Shares

OCTOBER SERMON SCHEDULE:

October 1: The Marks of a Christian: Trust
October 8: The Marks of a Christian: Loving God's Law
October 15: Laity Sunday
October 22: Show Me Your Glory
October 29: Sunday School Sunday



- ✓ Every 5th Sunday
- ✓ Meet in Fellowship Hall
- ✓ Sit with friends and a student
- ✓ Learn and discuss a Sunday School lesson
- ✓ Do a craft
- ✓ Help clean up

TRUNK OR TREAT

We will be hosting our annual Trunk or Treat again this year on Halloween night, from 6pm to 8 pm. Please be sure to sign up in the Welcome Center for this fun event. We want the parking lot nice and full. If you can not make it to this fun event, be sure to donate some candy! Interested in helping? Contact Sherry Miller: 517-285-0640.



310 E. Bridge St.
Portland, MI
6-8 pm

portlandumc.org

follow us on facebook

PUMC BOOK CLUB

The PUMC Book Club will not be meeting again until January of 2024. For more information, contact Vickee Balser at Vgbalser@aol.com or call/text **239-671-9879**.



The Neighborhood!

Hello Everyone,
I have never had so much fun as I did at the Sunday School Kick Off Carnival. The Kids sure were having a great time. I took a moment and stepped back and looked at everything that was going on and there certainly was a lot of fellowship, and love going around. It was great to see. The only thing that we didn't have going was the Foam machine, mother nature just didn't help at all with that.

A huge thank you, from the bottom of my heart, goes out to all who helped make it a success. Richard and Susan Wilson, Richard Hans, Brandon Martin Pastor Lenora and Jason Combs, Garret and Beth Feldpausch, Dawn Bresnahan, Tim and Deb Colley, Megan Martin Darragh Geockel, Luke and Beth Bengel, and Doug and Alyssa Stemler.

Our Next event will be the 3rd grade and 6th grade bible Ceremony, which will be on October 15, 2023. I have been in contact with the Sponsors for this event, and I am hoping to get everyone together here soon.

We are also looking forward to Sunday School Sunday on October 29 , 2023, which was featured in Pastor Lenora's article. The children are practicing the song and motions and are so excited to sing it with you on the 29th.

We also have Trunk or Treat taking place in the parking lot on Halloween night. This event has been so much fun! I hope to see you all there with your trunks decorated and in your costumes.

See you all on Sunday,
In God's Love,
Mary



Year-To-Date as of August 31, 2023

Income

Offering	\$ 139,014.20
Misc. Income	\$ <u>2,489.29</u>
Total	\$ 141,503.49

Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$ 64,752.46
Lay Support	\$ 15,812.59
Ministry Shares	\$ 17,313.06
Administration & Building	\$ 44,499.84
Ministry & Mission	\$ <u>3,165.16</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 145,543.11


Difference \$ **-4,039.62**

To set up electronic giving go to:

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

Bible Presentation

JOIN US ON OCTOBER 15TH
During the 9 am Service



3RD AND 6TH
GRADERS WILL
RECEIVE NEW
BIBLES

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

News and Notes from the Leadership Board

Happy Fall Y'all! Hope everyone is doing well and enjoying these lovely warm days and cool nights. Fall always feels like the "beginning" of the year to me. It's the kickoff of Sunday School. It's the start of new bible studies and small groups and renewed energy in the church!

The Nomination Committee will be meeting soon to discuss vacancies on the Leadership Board and the Nomination Committee. Please be in prayer for this team and consider how you may be part of the future of our church by serving on the Board or the Nominations Committee.

There are also many fabulous ministry teams that I have been highlighting throughout the year. Perhaps one of those teams might interest you! Whatever you choose, remember that we are called to serve and there are many opportunities to do so! If you have questions, please seek me out after service or call or text me. I know Harvey, Garret and Beth are available to chat as well.

Church Conference this year is being held at Lakeview: New Life UMC on Sunday Oct 22nd . All are welcome. We can certainly car pool...let me know if you are interested in attending.

Blessings in His name,
Jen Thomas
517-803-8080



October 22nd, 2023 @ 6:00 pm.
Lakeview: New Life UMC
All are welcome to attend



-- Jan Mosser

We had a great turnout for a discussion with local attorney, Patrick Duff, at our September meeting. The topics discussed were wills, trusts and estate planning.

On October 5, one of the owners of the Lehman Funeral home will be with us at 10 a.m. to discuss funeral planning. Everyone is invited to come.

In November, we have an employee from Beacon of Hope, a Christian counseling service, coming to discuss how they are able to help people with various life situations. This meeting will be held on November 2 at 10 a.m.

We plan to make fudge and other Christmas goodies to sell at our church after services in the month of December. We also are being allowed to set up a table at one of the Burger Nights at the VFW. Proceeds will go toward local missions.

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October Sunday Services:

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

United Women In Faith

October 5th, Fellowship Hall	10:00 am
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1st Sunday-of-the-Month Food Drive

October 1, donations may be left at the church

Applesauce Project

October 7, Kitchen	10:00 am
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2nd Thursday Meals – Monthly

October 12, Contact Sherry Miller
517-285-0640, sherrymillersings@gmail.com

Bible Presentation

October 15, During Worship	9:00 am
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Staff Meeting

October 22nd, Lounge	10:30 am
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Church Conference

October 22nd, Lakeview New Life UMC	6:00 pm
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Blessing of the Pets

October 22nd, Parking Lot	1:00 pm
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Trunk or Treat

October 31st, Parking Lot	6 pm– 8 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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THE APPLE SAUCE PROJECT

Come learn how to make and can apple sauce! This fun project will take place in the PUMC kitchen. The apple sauce will be donated to the food bank and enjoyed by local families!

A potluck lunch will follow this event so bring a dish to pass!

OCTOBER 7TH 10:00 AM TO 2:30 PM