

The Open Door

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

September 2020 | Volume 13 Issue 9



Greetings PUMC!

So many things have changed over the course of the past 5.5 months! We have learned how to worship digitally, gather at a distance, shop on line, celebrate with a drive-by, visit the doctor via video and so much more. It's not ideal, but it's doable. And right now the church is embracing doable.

What can we do...

- to introduce people to Jesus?
- to invite them to worship?
- to offer assistance?
- to make worship happen?
- to hold a Bible study? (speaking of which - see page 3 and sign up!)
- to be hospitable?

*We can do all things through
Christ (and for Christ) who
strengthens us! - Phil. 4:13
(modifications mine, but I think Jesus would
be okay with them)*

The answer is: 'There is much we can do!' All it takes is a little bit of creativity and the courage to try something new. Remember, everything that is familiar was once unfamiliar and awkward. The first time you rode a bike it felt unstable and wobbly. As you practiced, though, it became second nature. The first time you entered a new classroom in school it felt unfamiliar and maybe a little unnerving. As you settled in and met your teacher and other students, it became routine.

Being the church during Covid-19 doesn't feel 'right.' It is awkward and we are wobbly. However, the more we engage in these new ways; the more it becomes second nature. We begin to learn new ways of sowing seeds for the kingdom. We learn to 'share' the worship service and the mid-week posts so that others are invited into the Kingdom. We learn how to overcome the awkwardness of meeting over Zoom or Go-To-Meeting. Each new thing we learn gives us one more tool for building the Kingdom. How awesome is that! God is providing the way. All we have to do is be open to the possibilities. We can do this! And God will help us.

'See' you on Sunday!

Pastor Tish



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www.portlandumc.org
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(517) 647-4649*

Pastor Rev. Letisha Bowman 517 994-8545
Ministers All Who Serve Christ
Organist Sherry Miller 517 647-7030
Director of Youth Ministry Beth Feldpausch 989 640-5250
Children's Ministry Assistant Mary Bresnahan 526-7571
Office Administrator/Treasurer Open
Custodian Donna Starks
Administrative Council Chair Jen Thomas 517 803-8080
Staff Parish Relations Dan Goeckel 517 648-6171
Finance Chair Beth Bengel 616 755-2689
Mission Chair Open
Lay Leader Carol McLane—1st Service 517 647-6192
Trustee Chair Kacy Goeckel 517 819-6071
Nursery Mary Bresnahan 526-7571

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Facebook Live Services @ 10:00 am
www.facebook.com/pumcmi

Outdoor, In-Person @ 10:00 am each week weather permitting. Watch our website for updates.

September 6

ONLINE ONLY THIS WEEK

Desert Wisdom for Methodists -
Rev. Jeremy Peters



EXPLORING YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Explore the Spiritual Disciplines that draw us closer to Jesus and sustain us through it all.

September 13: Worship

September 20: Study

September 27: Service

October 4: Generosity



Year-To-Date as of August 24, 2020

Income

Offering	\$117,757.50
Misc. Income	\$ 3,541.76
	\$121,299.26

Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$55,902.44
Lay Support	\$16,069.59
Ministry Shares	\$17,069.70*
Administration & Building	\$31,812.95
Ministry & Mission	\$ 1,460.10
Total Expenses	\$122,314.78

Difference	\$1,015.52
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*Represents Six Ministry Share offerings so far this year.
We have not paid July or August

**Please consider electronic giving during this challenging time.
Thank you!**

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

August Attendance

Week Of:	On-Line Facebook Live Views/Shares/Sign-In	In-Person
8/2/2020*	543 views/14 Shares/ 53 sign in	Rain
8/9/2020*	394/7/37	5
8/16/2020*	535/15/34	14
8/23/2020*	442/11/37	17

* Worship held on Facebook Live due to Corona Virus pandemic.



FALL FAITH & LIFE CLASS

Join Pastor Tish via Zoom on Sundays at 11:00 am following worship to link faith with life. Weekly discussions based on the sermon topic to help you use the word in your daily living, offer encouragement to others and dive deeper into scriptural teachings.

Sept. 20 - Nov. 22. No sign up needed. Zoom link to be posted each Sunday during online worship.

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Join this group as they read 'Letters to the Church' by Francis Chan. This study digs deep into biblical truths, reflections on Francis Chan's own failures, dreams and stories of ordinary people God is using to change the world. Interesting study in these precarious times.

Begins September 14 @ 7:00pm in the Welcome Center. Contact Linda Sandborn @ lsandborn@hotmail.com to sign up.



*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
-Psalm 119:105*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our group is lively with plenty of discussion about how the scriptures impact our daily lives.

The Gospel of Luke

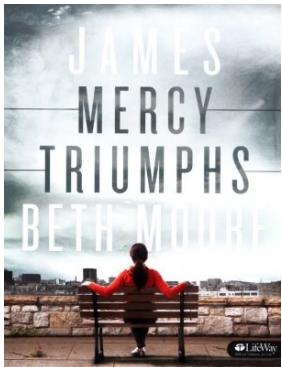
The Wednesday Night Study Group will be finishing their study of the Gospel of Luke using Barclay's Commentary as our guide.

Luke's gospel is the most detailed and orderly written account of the gospel writers. It is also in chronological order. It was written to the Gentiles (non-Jewish people). Luke was a Gentile and the only non-Jewish author of all the books in the Bible.

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. We will be starting on **9/9/2020** and meeting in the Welcome Center. Contact Carol McLane at 517-526-3608 for more information or at carolmclane0350@gmail.com

James - Mercy Triumphs – A Beth Moore Study

The Wednesday Night Study Group invites you to join us as we learn from the Book of James using a video study from Beth Moore.



James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple. Bible scholars compare James to the prophet Amos. In other ways, James more closely resembles the Book of Proverbs than any other New Testament book. Topics in this study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer.

James begins his letter by outlining some general characteristics of Christian life and exhorts Christians to act justly in society. This letter could be considered a "how to" book on Christian living. Read James and become a DOER of the Word!

We will be starting on **10/14/2020** and meeting in the Welcome Center. Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. Contact Carol McLane at 517-526-3608 for more information or at carolmclane0350@gmail.com.

SONiC

Serving Other's Needs in Christ

SONiC NEWS

Happy first week of school everyone. Whether you have chosen in person or virtual, I hope you have a good first semester and

can find things to be thankful for everyday during this fall season.

SONiC, like everything else, is going to look a little different this year. We are going to attempt to start the year off in person knowing that with shifting phases and school quarantines, we may need to change our approach.

SONiC will start Sunday, September 13th at 6pm and go to 7pm. It will be at my home (6316 Gibbs Rd) and will be an outdoor bonfire/group study. We will have this study every Sunday evening through October 25th as long as weather permits. A new plan will be in place for November and December that will either involve small group signups for indoor groups of less than 10 or will be virtual.



In order to follow state guidelines/bishop recommendations and keep everyone safe, there will be a list of rules all families will have to adhere to:

1. All teens must maintain a 6-foot distance from others. (The only exception is for people living in the same household.)
2. Teens must bring their own chair.
3. Teens will need a mask in case they need to enter the house for any reason.
4. Teens may bring a drink or snack for themselves but may not share. (For once, sharing is not caring lol)
5. If a teen is part of a quarantining classroom or has a sibling of a quarantining class, that teen needs to stay home.
6. If the school goes virtual, we will go virtual as well.

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"Work Day" at PUMC

September 12, 2020

8 -11am

Once again, it is that time of the year. Fall is just around the corner and winter is not far away. The trustees at Portland United Methodist Church are planning a "Work Day" at the church for needed maintenance. This is an annual maintenance activity normally scheduled as pre-winter tune-up for the church buildings.



The work is labor intense, so please consider when volunteering. Specific projects may require painting, basic carpentry and a variety of landscape maintenance.

If interested, please contact Kacy Goeckel or Bill Almy for sign up or details.

Volunteers. Please meet in church parking lot at 8am. Bring tools, gloves, boots, etc. as needed to best accommodate the team you are working with or the project of your choice.

Major projects:

Paint wood railings and wood platform (Elm St. exit side of kitchen). (Kacy & team)

Power wash church as needed. (Bill & Garrett)

Repair hand rails on west side of building.

Replace blind in room 301.

Repair floor tile in room 301.

Pull weeds, cut undesirable growth, trash brush, etc. around church perimeter. (Team)

Replace food bank window blind.

Teams:

(Garret) – Power wash front pillars, siding, fascia.

(Kacy Goeckel) - Paint kitchen-exit wood railings and wood platform.



(Todd Ayotte) –
(Bill) – Replace blinds in room 301 and Community Food Bank.
(Allen) – Landscape maintenance.

Note: If you have a suggestion for landscape improvements, please share with Kacy G.

Prayer Requests



If you have a concern to be addressed by our prayer chain, please contact Wendy Mallek at 647-6366, by E-mail at: mallekw803@yahoo.com, or contact the church.

Amanda's Family	Kathy Riley
Joshua Buker	Kathleen Robertson
Kristin (Mosser) Connelly	Darrel & Shelia Rich
Lori Diné	Laura Beth Rich
Bruce Daman	Eileen Rose
Fran Daman's family	Jody Schnetzler
Louis Fulkerson	Jim Selden
Gary Hutson	Scott Shay
Toni Ivey	David Showerman
Pat Johnson	Scott & Kristen Smith
Samantha Johnson	Diana Spangler
Rev. Keith Laidler	Wilma Thompson
Sharon (Hill) Longstreth	Dalilah Tubergen
Damon Mallek	Robert and Ella Tyler
Joe Milhomens	John West
Doug & Marsha Miller	Brian Wohlscheid
Sam Mitchell	Lizzie Whitaker
Vicki Moulton	Anne Zimmer

**Please be sure to notify us when someone's name may be removed from this prayer list.
Thank you!**

Let us pray for one another

Continued from pg. 4

SONiC

Serving Other's Needs in Christ

7. If a teen or anyone in their family is exhibiting signs or symptoms of Covid-19, that teen needs to stay home.

These rules are subject to change as new information is available. We are living the scientific method out in our daily lives so please remain flexible as we figure out how to keep everyone safe.

I can't wait to see you all September 13th. Have a good first couple of weeks of school and Happy Labor Day!

-Beth Feldpausch
bethbeckett@gmail.com
(989)640-5250



Please pray for our Service Men & Women:

Elisabeth Bullen	Rob Marvin
Scott Lambert	Marcus Olger
Luke May	Matthew Shaltry
Marc Robertson	Luke Terpstra
Jonathan Steele	Justin Clark



Please pray for our Homebound

Brian Ainslie

201 Mall Drive South, Apt #37
Lansing, MI 48917-2558

Jean Almy

6876 Reeder Road
Lyons, MI 48851

Doris Babbit

223 Charlotte Highway
Portland, MI 48875

Bruce Daman

4000 North Michigan Road
Dimondale, MI 48821

Mary Alice Lawless

4775 Village Drive, Apt. 49
Grand Ledge , MI 48837

Doris Long

200 Blossom Drive
Portland, MI 48875

Robert Mervau

1200 Wright Avenue
Alma, MI 48802

Bud Moyer

4775 Village Dr.—Apt. #227
Grand Ledge 48837

Gerald Peabody

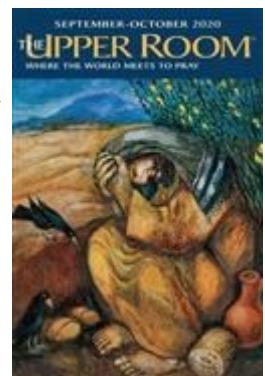
204 Blossom Drive
Portland, MI 48875

John West

223 Charlotte Hwy
Portland, MI 48875

The Upper Room
Devotional Guides for
September/October
are still available.

- Pick up on the church ramp



Hi PMUC friends!

My name is Diane Willard, and I grew up in Portland. My parents were Max and Dolores Sandborn.

As a child, we lived on Elm Street. My parents sent my older brothers and I to the Methodist Church where we attended Sunday School. We moved to the country when I was entering sixth grade. My grandmother Bernice Sandborn, was a member of the Methodist Church for many years. I started going to church with her and joined when I was 13, because she encouraged me to do so. I was also in the choir. When my grandmother died, my grandfather Jacob gave the church a cross in memory of her. It is on the altar in the sanctuary. I stopped going to church after she died.



Life progressed, and I graduated from high school. After graduating, I worked at MI Millers insurance. I only stayed there for a couple of years. In 1973, I started working for HomeWorks Tri-County Electric and retired in December of 2012.

My husband, Roger and I were together many years before we were married. We had a wonderful life together. We loved boating on Lake MI in the summer, and vacationed in warm tropical places in the winter. We enjoyed motorcycle trips and car racing.

Roger passed away in February 2011. After he died, I was mad at God. After being with my husband and best friend for so many years, I wasn't sure how to live my life without him. It took me quite some time to figure it out. I realized I was missing something in my life; it was God. I started attending church again and eventually I was able to live my life finding joy and happiness. I love to walk, exercise, ride my bike, golf, bowl and read. I, also, love spending time with my family and friends. I live in Cherry Hill Estates Condo association where I have served on the board as secretary for several years. I am also blessed to be able to spend the winter months in Florida. I have met many wonderful friends there.

I am somewhat active in the church. I am involved with the UMW so I help with funeral dinners, community dinners and other activities at times. I have served on the financial committee, attended Bible studies and continue to help in other small ways at the church.

I am not sure what the future holds, but I plan to enjoy the life God has given me. He will always be in my heart, and I know he has a plan for me which includes being a part of this wonderful church.



HELP!!! OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

- † **Worship set-up and tear-down:** Sunday mornings at the church. Contact Pastor Tish **JOB FILLED! THANK YOU!!!**
- † **Treasurer's Position:** Record deposits, pay bills and salaries and reconcile bank statements on a weekly basis. 1-2 hours per week. Contact Dan Goeckel **JOB FILLED! THANK YOU!!!**
- † **Newsletter Publisher:** Create monthly newsletter. Contact Pastor Tish
- † **Website Team:** Help maintain webpage. Contact Betsy Myers

- † **Worship Planning Team:** Brainstorming group and sermon support. Contact Pastor Tish (no preaching involved!)
- † **Worship Production Team:** Video, video editing, uploading weekly worship. Contact Pastor Tish
- † **Daily Mail & Phone Check:** Distribute mail and check voice mail daily at the church. Contact Pastor Tish **JOB FILLED! THANK YOU!!!**
- † **Special Mailings:** Print and mail newsletters, Thursday Updates, and Sermons to those without internet. Contact Pastor Tish
- † **Caring Friends:** Make a weekly call to one of our homebound friends. Contact Pastor Tish



2020 Michigan Annual Conference Report

Dear Church Family,

I had the pleasure of “attending” annual conference this year. While it was virtual, it was still a very exciting time for me to see how our connectional church functions and to see the “Method” in Methodist take place. I have below the notes that I typed up during the conference. I would like to draw your attention to two things in these notes. The first is the six points from the opening devotional speaker, Brad Kalajainen. Brad talked about what the church needs to do in order to be relevant and useful in this time. The second thing I would point out is the message from the conference lay leaders. We are needed! We have spiritual gifts and a calling to use them. Find your gifts, listen to your call, get involved.

Thank you for opportunity to be a part of the conference.

In Christ, Beth Feldpasuch

Brad K from Cornerstone notes:

We must become more Conversational-how you talk about yourself and the gospel and making it more accessible to everyone (outsiders especially). Meet people where they are.

Invitational-Why do we not invite? Are we not proud of our church? 65% of unchurched people say they would go to church with a friend if they were invited.

Relational- Every church thinks it's the “Friendliest” church around. Be vulnerable, inclusive and not anxious. People can't break into the groups/clicks. Acts 20:20 Paul teaches publicly and house to house.

Glocal- the church is called to be local and global. The church is witnesses. It's a sending business not a sitting business. If our church went away, would the Community notice?

Digital- going forward digital and physical church should operate side by side. Digital says we never closed our doors, we just went digital and look forward to being able to meet physically again.

Foundational-kids ministry, student ministry, small groups, outreach, Jesus should be the foundation of it all. With Covid or without Covid, church is still here. Jesus is all we got.

Business: The conference requested that non-business resolutions be withdrawn. 15 resolutions were withdrawn for the year 2020. 9 business as usual resolutions were brought forth and discussed as needed.

Budget: A reduced budget and investigation into ministry shares was proposed. A new Chief Financial Officer (formerly known as conference treasurer) is being sought and interviewed.

Nominations: Nominations were presented with the contingency that nominations are fluid and committee openings will be filled between conferences as needed.

Conference lay leaders: Urge laity to be involved in ministry. 98% of the church is laity. We are needed, and we each have spiritual gifts to use for our church, our community and the world. We can not rely solely on pastor and staff to minister to everyone. We, as Christians and as laity are called to serve and minister.

Corporate session:

- Updating properties, sold properties, taxes on parsonages, deed of property transferred back to Native American land. Properties that need to be sold but value is down because of pandemic.
- Camp presentation from Stewart Smith, president of camp board. 4 of 9 camps closed. Unsustainable future. Enrollment is down and all sites need physical improvements. New strategic plan in place to hopefully make a sustainable program which includes year-round activities and direct work with local churches and activities both on and off site. This will be focused on 3 camps, Wesley Woods, Lake Huron and Lake Michigan camps for updates and services. A dowry given out to support ministries. Michael Long brought a motion to put a hold on campgrounds closing. Motion moved out of order and withdrawn.
- Closing 4 churches this year: Owosso Burton UMC, Ubly UMC, Muskegon Unity UMC, and Mulliken UMC. Three churches have elected to withdraw from the denomination - Shabonna, North Adams, East Boardman.

