

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 2023 Volume 21 Issue 8



A Time to Learn

As we head into a new season and begin a new school year, there are certain things which we hope for and pray for our children, our teachers, and our parents. We hope that the coming year will be one of fruitful learning, of challenging doubts, and tackling fears. We hope that the coming year will be full of new experiences, of lightbulb moments, of new friendships. We pray for the safety of our children and our teachers. We pray for the Holy Spirit to be within the walls of the school, to be within the boundaries of the playgrounds, to be within our children as they grow in knowledge and wisdom. We pray for patience for the children as they encounter new things, patience for the teachers as they encounter challenging students or situations, patience for the parents as they guide their children through this thing called life.

There is a wonderful prayer written by St. Thomas Aquinas that shares these hopes and dreams. Let us pray these words together as a blessing over our children and our teachers. "Creator of all things, true Source of light and wisdom, lofty origin of all being, graciously let a ray of Your brilliance penetrate into the darkness of my understanding and take from me the double darkness in which I have been born, an obscurity of both sin and ignorance. Give me a sharp sense of understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally. Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations, and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm. Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in completion; through Christ our Lord. Amen."

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Whitecotton.lenora@gmail.com

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All Who Serve Christ

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Mary Bresnahan 526-7571

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OUR USHERS:

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



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

News and Notes from the Leadership Board

As summer winds down, I always get this sense of excitement for a new season. The start of the school year seems like a time of renewal and reorganization. It seems the church runs, to some degree, on the school calendar. Many settle in to their “back to school” routine, even if they don’t have kids in school anymore (like me!). Sunday school restarts, small groups reconvene, people like me that have summer cottages are back in regular attendance on Sunday mornings.

This is also the time of the year we start to look ahead to the new year with respect to filling Leadership Board and various Ministry team positions. Our Nomination Team will begin meeting soon to look at the vacancies and to discuss who might be a good fit for those vacancies. As you will recall, a couple years ago, the congregation voted to adopt the Single Board Governance model for leadership. This Board essentially combines Ad Council, Trustees, Finance, and SPRC into one Board. This decision was made in part to lessen the number of meetings we have each month, thus freeing more people up to be able to participate in the ministries and missions of the church. I ask that you pray for the following:

1. Pray that God will help lead you to a team in need. If the Nomination Team calls you to ask you to be part of something, it is because they have prayed about the best person(s) and you are on the list! Sometimes we are asked to be part of something and it seems overwhelming and scary. Trust me...there is nothing scary about any of our teams! We are all here for the same reason and that is to help bring people to Jesus. Take some time to pray about it before you say yes or no.

2. Pray that we have all vacancies filled by church conference. Speaking of church conference, this year it is being held as a charge conference on Sunday Oct 22, location to be determined, more details to come. The Leadership Board met recently and reviewed the goals Pastor Lenora has set for herself. One of her goals to continue to get to know people in the congregation. What better way to do that than to share a meal together! Be on the lookout for a date for a yummy Sunday brunch!

As always if you have any questions or concerns, reach out! I am available by phone, text or email. I might not have all the answers but I will do my best to find them!

Anchored in Jesus,
Jen Thomas
Leadership Board Chair
517-803-8080
Jthoma403@aol.com

Red Mill Community Day Update



We had a wonderful day at the Red Mill. We provided the children of the community with hours of foam fun, handed out bottles of water and upcoming events cards, and just enjoyed the community fellowship. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time in planning and volunteering for this event. And thank you to everyone who donated bottles of water.



<i>August Attendance</i>	
Week Of:	Online Facebook Live & In Person Views/Shares/Sign-in
August 6	42 In Person, 9 Online 147 Views/3 Shares
August 13	55 In Person, 9 Online 118 Views/2 Shares
August 20	70 In Person, 8 Online 160 Views/3 Shares
August 27	52 In Person, 6 Online 117 Views/2 Shares

SEPTEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE:

September 3: The Marks of a Christian
September 10: The Marks of a Christian: Faith
September 17: The Marks of a Christian: Forgiveness
September 24: The Marks of a Christian: Humility



HELPING HANDS

Dear Church Family,

Our Helping Hand Fund, which helps so many local families, is needing a helping hand from our congregation at this time. Our church joins together with other Portland churches to help people with payments for housing, utilities, car repairs, and occasionally a major expense for medical treatment. Here at PUMC, we have traditionally designated both the Advent and the Lenten special giving to the Helping Hands treasury, but this year, we are needing to build this account before the Advent offering, which, if designated to Helping Hands, would not be available until January of 2024.

Since January 1, 2023, our church has answered the call from the Portland Area Ministerial Association 29 times to assist in a need. PAMA has given help many more times, without having to ask every church to donate for every request. The need is great in our town and the surrounding area. If you are able to contribute, please make your check out to Portland United Methodist Church and put Helping Hands in the memo. For online giving, please designate to Helping Hands. Thank you for supporting this crucial ministry.

SEPTEMBER PUMC BOOK CLUB

The PUMC Book Club will meet Monday, September 18 at 2pm in the church Esther Room. We will discuss the 2024 meeting calendar and business. Newbies are encouraged to attend. Contact Vickee Balsler at Vgbalsler@aol.com if interested or call/text **239-671-9879**.



The Neighborhood!

Hello Everyone!

Wow, do we have a busy couple of months coming up. I am so excited about it all, especially having all the kids back in the classroom.

We are still looking for one more volunteer to help with Sunday School so that Susan, Brandon, and I may have one Sunday to attend church. If you are willing to help, please contact me @ 517.526.7571.

Don't forget that the Carnival is on September 10, 2023, after the 9 am service. At the Carnival we will be having a popcorn station, and hamburgers will be served around 11:00. We also borrowed a bounce house for that day. There will be games, prizes, the foam machine, and a craft for the kids. This event will have a lot of fun and fellowship for the students, parents and volunteers. We will not have Sunday school during the service that day. The first day of Sunday School will be on September 17, 2023, during the 9 am Service.

We have another exciting Children's Ministry development. I was able to sit down with Pastor Lenora and discuss the Children's Ministry and we have decided to have a Children Led Service on the 5th Sunday of the month. The first one will be October 29, 2023. We will be greeting, reading the Scriptures, collecting the offering, and ringing the bell. Both Sunday School and Nursery kids will be involved, and the Children's Ministry leaders be there to help them. I am really excited about this. I think it is great to have the children help in the service.

The Bible ceremony will be held on October 1, 2023. This will be during the church service. More information to follow.

Blessings to all,
Mary



Year-To-Date as of August 31, 2023

Income

Offering	\$ 127,637.32
Misc. Income	\$ 2,222.00
Total	\$ 129,859.32

Expenses

Pastoral Support	\$ 60,535.10
Lay Support	\$ 13,832.88
Ministry Shares	\$ 15,481.16
Administration & Building	\$ 37,602.47
Ministry & Mission	\$ 3,052.70
Total Expenses	\$ 130,504.31

Difference \$ -644.99

To set up electronic giving go to:

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



September 21st 2023 • 4 pm - 6 pm
(or until gone)

Portland United Methodist Church
310 E. Bridge St. Portland, MI 48875

Free diapers for children
0 - 36 months

Must provide proof of residency
of Ionia or Montcalm County.



**United Way of
Montcalm-Ionia Counties**



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

Group Source Catalog Coming!

Hello friends! I am working on a Group Source Catalog for the Fall/ Winter semester that will be available soon. In the meantime, here are some of the groups being offered:

Grow Groups:

“Learning From Daniel”

Starts September 13th and is a 10 week study following *The Daniel Key* by Anne Graham Lotz. This group will meet on Wednesdays from 6 pm to 7:30 pm and will be led by Dan Goeckel. (We see what you did there, Dan.)

Thursday Afternoon Study

Starts September 21 at 3 pm. This group will be using William Barclay’s *Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew (Vol. One)*. For more information contact Carol McLane.

Serve Groups:

Love Your Neighbor

This team meets monthly or bi monthly depending on the community needs. The next meeting will be September 6th @ 6:30 pm in the Esther Room.

Second Thursday Dinners

This group prepares and delivers a home cooked meal on the (you guessed it) second Thursday of each month. These meals are delivered to elderly, shut ins, people struggling with illnesses, people on fixed incomes etc... If you want to get involved with this group or know someone who really could use a meal, contact Sherry Miller.

More groups and more information will be provided in the Group Source Catalog. If you would like to lead a group or host an event, please contact the church office.





-- Jan Mosser

They say we should never stop learning, at least that is a goal we all have. To go along with the beginning of the school year, the UWIF will offer three special opportunities for anyone (not just women) who would like to attend and gather useful information.

September 7th– Patrick Duff, local attorney, will be with us to discuss estate planning, wills, trusts, and how to best plan for the future of our children or other loved ones.

October 5th– Michael Lehman or Ellie Lehman Lay of Lehman Funeral Homes will answer those sometimes hard to talk about topics concerning funerals, cremation, and preplanning that may be helpful to you or your loved ones in the future.

November 2nd– An employee of Beacon of Hope, a Christian counseling service, is coming to provide an informal question and answer session. This would help us to have information that would make us aware of how people suffering mental health or relationship issues can receive free help locally.

All meetings are held at 10:00 am in the lower level of our church in the Esther Room.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September Sunday Services:

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

Love Your Neighbor Meeting

September 6, Esther Room	6:30 pm
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United Women In Faith

September 7, Fellowship Hall	10:00 am
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1st Sunday-of-the-Month Food Drive

September 3, donations may be left at the church

Fall Kick Off Carnival

September 10, Church Yard	10:00 am
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2nd Thursday Meals – Monthly

September 14, Contact Sherry Miller
517-285-0640, sherrymillersings@gmail.com

PUMC Book Club Meeting

September 18, Esther Room	2:00 pm
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Love Your Neighbor Team Meeting

September 6, Esther Room	6:30 pm
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United Way Diaper Drop

September 21, Church Parking Lot	4-6 pm
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Staff Meeting

September 24th, Esther Room	10:30 am
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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