


Happy July Anniversary to...



04	Aaron & Andrea Massow	17	Dave & Jayne Mantz
		19	Charles & Marvis Schroeder
10	Scott & Denisa Riley	22	Bill & Pat Hodgson
		25	Nick & Dee Nickerson
15	Rob & Lisa Hoover	27	Larry & Lerryn Darnell
15	Chris & Kim Adkins	31	Phil & Debbi Russum

Happy July Birthday to...

02	Judi Holtzman	11	Glenda Dixon	23	Debbi Russum
02	Patti Coates	11	Bryson Welch	24	Samantha Cooper
03	Bill Hodgson	12	Everett Brown	24	Tyler Monahan
04	Jef Halberstadt	15	Patti Coppess	25	Philip Russum
04	Maverick Miller	15	Annaliese Medina	28	Max Keehn
05	Jonathan Bush	15	Isabella Medina	28	Kevin Kramer
05	Karen Syren	16	Dean Cunningham	28	Jacob Lenburg
06	Mike Matthew	16	Kathleen Tatlock	28	Deloris Yavor
06	Jackson Syren	16	Scarlette McKiddy	29	Ron Cutler
09	Nick Andryuk	17	Joe Reynolds	31	Helen Hameetman
09	Sylvia Moore	19	Lisa Graff		
09	Scott Falk	19	Cara Reeder		
		19	Heather Schulz		

 **Connection Center and Greeters Sign-Up...**

If you are looking for a way to serve and have some time before services on Sunday, consider serving as a greeter or helping out at the Connection Center. It is a great opportunity to meet new people and see those you already know! Sign up on the schedule at the Connection Center!

The Witness

ISSUE VII

JULY 2020

Portage First United Methodist Church

Pastor Michael Lawson

JULY NEWSLETTER





From Pastor Michael...

Holy Humor: Because we desperately need it.

A recently arrived immigrant who knew very little English visited a church in High Point, NC one Sunday morning. Because the church was full, the usher put him in the front pew. A tall man was ushered in and sat beside him, so the immigrant decided to do whatever the tall man did. When the tall man stood up, the immigrant stood up. When the tall man sat down, he sat down. When the tall man bowed his head, he bowed his head. When the tall man knelt down, he knelt down.

The immigrant was enjoying the service but suddenly the church became quiet. The tall man rose to his feet. The immigrant stood up beside him. The tall man became upset so the immigrant sat back down, perplexed.

After the service the tall man apologized to him for his rude behavior and tried to explain that it was a baptismal service and the pastor has asked: "Will the Father of the baby please stand up?"

--- Rev. Canon Alfred W. Price
Saint Petersburg, FL

For those who are to preach, it is customary in my country that the preacher kneel for prayer before entering the pulpit. The daughter of one of my clergy noticed her father praying Sunday after Sunday as he prepared to mount the pulpit. She asked her daddy what he prayed for. The priest replied that he was asking God to help in preach a better sermon, whereupon the child asked, "Well, why doesn't he?"

-- Archbishop Desmond Tutu
South Africa

A baby was baptized, the Christening service was drawing to a close, and the five-year-old brother whispered loudly: "Mom, when does he break the bottle of champagne over the baby's head?"

--- W. Shelton Kilgore
Gurdon, AR

A pastor bowed his head and solemnly declared: "Let us pray for those who are sick of this congregation."

--- George Goldtrap

The minister, leading prayers, was being carried away by his own exuberance. He began: "O Thou, who rulest raging of the sea and calms the fierceness of the winds..." He then seemed to lose himself for a moment, but soon carried on: "...bless our wives."

--- The Desert Wind
Scottsdale, AZ

I asked a pastor how long he had to retirement. He took a moment to respond and then said, "Twenty-eight board meetings."

--- Ashely Hale
San Jacinto, CA

BLOOD DRIVE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF PORTAGE
FELLOWSHIP HALL
2637 MCCOOL RD
THURSDAY, JULY 23

1:30 TO 6:30 PM

PLEASE CALL 1-800-RED CROSS
OR GO TO
REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG,
SPONSOR CODE
"PORTAGEUMC" TO SCHEDULE
YOUR BLOOD DONATION
APPOINTMENT

Please consider supporting our own

Cub Scout Pack 487

FUNDRAISER



SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

1:00 - 4:00 PM

IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT
FREE WILL DONATION

Cub Scout Pack 487

*is accepting new scouts K-5th grade
anytime this summer and fall.*

*Scouts meet every Tuesday from
6:30 to 7:30 PM here at the church.*

*We start back in the fall
beginning August 18th. If you know
anyone interested starting this summer,
please contact Chris and Kim Adkins
at (219) 763-1301.*

First Friday Fellowship

July 10th @ 5PM

Mr. T's Pizza & Family Restaurant

Please RSVP to Sandra Robinson 764-8433



**Here is a convenient way to tithe!
Try PushPay with your mobile device or online!**

Have you ever come to worship and realized you left your offering envelope at home or learned of a worthwhile mission you want to support only to realize you did not bring your checkbook? Wouldn't it be a blessing to be able to give back to God in a matter of seconds using your smartphone or tablet, laptop or desktop?

We have partnered with a company named Pushpay to help us move into the 21st Century with our financial stewardship. Fewer people write checks much less use cash, especially younger adults.

Pushpay will allow us to give one-time gifts, recurring gifts or special gifts using debit or credit cards or ACH transactions from our bank accounts. It is quite easy to get started. Simply text 'pfumc' to 77977 and follow the instructions on your screen. As part of the process you will be able to download the Pushpay app for either iPhone or Android.



PRISON NEWS

Hi Everyone!!

I just wanted to let you all know a little bit about current situation with our prison ministry. Like so many other things in the last month have changed our world drastically, so has this ministry.

As you can imagine, all volunteers have been locked out, due to Covid 19. I understand there are approximately 120 offenders that have tested positive for the virus and are being quarantined. There are quite a few staff members also on furlough due to the situation. At least 4 has been tested positive for the virus as well.

Please keep the staff and the offenders in your daily prayers. Many are completely shut off from the outside world altogether, I cannot imagine the fear of the unknown and being completely isolated.

Our team will be sending letters to the ones we have associated with in our P.F. Hope services with hope this can bring a little comfort to some.

I received a memo regarding some items:

The offenders are still in need of shoes preferably tennis shoes, from 9-12.

Pants 32-38

Coats 2XL and 3 XL sweatshirts 2-4XL

Yarn

They are presently making masks. They have material, but NEED YARN!!!!

Please clearly mark any donations and put them where the rummage normally goes, behind the fellowship hall.

Thanks so much for your prayers, concerns, generosity and Love!!!

Your Prison Ministry Team



“July 2020 Trustees” Corner:

We are pleased to report that the roof replacement is now complete. A great big THANK YOU to those who have contributed to the roof capital campaign. The project came in at just under \$40,000.00. To date, we have received \$6,962.00 in donations towards this debt reduction. We also added new downspouts and new fascia and soffits around the building. The education wing windows have been enhanced with installed brown colored shutters to match the breezeway windows. The trustees will be securing a renewed lease agreement expiring on August 31 with Family Promise covering their use of the farmhouse at Crossroads. And our biggest announcement is the receipt of \$8,812.00 from the endowment fund towards the kitchen facelift. That gives us just over \$21,000.00 to work with. So, we can now purchase a 60” 6 burner gas stainless steel range with a 24” griddle on casters. This unit will also have two fully insulated conventional ovens with up to 4 rack positions. And we will purchase a stainless steel, double stack convection oven unit with double pane windows on castors. It will be easier to clean underneath and behind the units as they can be rolled away from the wall just like our 3-door refrigerator purchased last year. Along with the purchase of the appliances, the flooring will be replaced. This project will begin after the rummage sale in July. We are truly hoping that there will be enough funds left over after the purchase of the appliances and new flooring to allow us to paint the cabinets, install new countertops and paint the ceiling and walls, as well as, four our new ceiling lights. The trustees thank our church family for helping us secure funds for this major project. If you have any questions concerning any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact a trustee or leave your questions, concerns & comments in the Trustees box found in the narthex.



MISSION AND OUTREACH

*Hello everyone,
Please check you home inventory of COVID-19 supplies to verify that you don't have any of the products that have been listed by FDA as unsafe since they contain methanol(Also known as methyl alcohol, wood alcohol) which is toxic when ingested or absorbed through the skin. Eskbiochem procutlabeling appears to be misleading since they simply list alcohol as a component rather than the specific chemical name of the alcohol used in the product. Here is the FDA link <https://www.fda.gov/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-advises-consumers-not-use-hand-sanitizer-products-manufactured-eskbiochem> Ethanol (also known as Ethyl Alcohol) and isopropyl alcohol (also known as isopropanol) are safe when used according to FDA and CDC safety guidelines.
Thank you,
Dan McCoy, CSP, CHMM
Safety & Security Committee*



BSA'S COMMITMENT TO ACT AGAINST RACIAL INJUSTICE

Dear Scouting Family,

As our country reckons with racism; injustice, we all must consider our role and our failures and commit to meaningful action.

The twelve points of the Scout Law that define a Scout are all important, but at this moment, we are called on to be brave. Brave means taking action because it is the right thing to do and being an upstander even when it may prompt criticism from some. We realize we have not been as brave as we should have been because, as Scouts, we must always stand for what is right and take action when the situation demands it.

There's no place for racism—not in Scouting and not in our communities. Racism will not be tolerated.

We condemn the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Beonna Taylor and all those who are not named but are equally important. We hear the anguish, feel the heartbreak and join the country's resolve to do better.

The Boy Scouts of America stands with Black families and the black community because we believe that Black Lives Matter. This is not a political issue; it is a human rights issue and one we all have a duty to address. That is why, as an organization, we commit to:

1. Introducing a specific diversity and inclusion merit badge that will be required for the rank of Eagle Scout. I will build on components within existing merit badges, including the American Cultures and Citizenship in the Community merit badges, which require Scouts to learn about and engage with other groups and cultures to increase understanding and spur positive action.
2. Reviewing every element of our programs to ensure diversity and inclusion are engrained at every level for participants and volunteering by applying a standard that promotes racial equity and denounces racism, discrimination, inequality and injustice.
3. Requiring diversity and inclusion training for all BSA employees starting July 1 and taking immediate action toward introducing a version for volunteers in the coming months.
4. Conducting a review of property names, events and insignia, in partnership with local councils, to build on and enhance the organization's nearly 30-year ban on use of the Confederate flag and to ensure that symbols of oppression are not in use today or in the future.

These are our next steps but certainly not our last.

We will also continue to listen more, learn more and do more to promote a culture in which every person feels that they belong, are respected, and are valued in Scouting, in their community, and across America.

As a movement, we are committed to working together with our employees, volunteers, youth members, and communities and our country need to heal and grow.

Yours in Scouting,

The Boy Scouts of America, National Executive Committee

Dan Ownby—National Chair

Roger Mosby—President and CEO

Scott Sorrels—National Commissioner

Devang Desai

Jack Furst

Skip Oppenheimer

Nathan Rosenberg

Alison Schuler

Michael Sears

Thear Suzuki

Brad Tilden

Jim Turley

***** CUB SCOUT PACK 487 AND UNITED METHODIST MEN ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR A NEW WEBELO'S LEADER TO TAKE OVER THE ARROW OF LIGHT DEN, SO THEY CAN CROSSOVER TO TROOP 452 IN EARLY 2021. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS ADKINS .*****



Operation Christmas Child (shoe box ministry):

Our shoe box ministry is up and running. Unfortunately, with the pandemic, we have not had the opportunity to seek out donations for this special ministry from our congregation. However, summer has arrived and that means garage sales and great school supply sales. So, we have faithfully committed to stuffing at least 400 boxes (last year we shipped 300 boxes). Our “stuff the box” event will be held around the first of November. The missions and outreach committee request your assistance in filling the Christmas box found in the narthex with child appropriate items for children ages 2 to 14 that will fit in a shoe box. Our most needed items will be bars of soap (but not strong scented like Irish Spring), wash cloths, toothbrushes, spiral notebooks or composition notebooks and pencils. Also coloring books or primary reading books along with crayons or colored pencils would be appreciated. We also welcome new or gently used Boys and Girls shorts, new underwear, and socks to fill the boxes. Connie Ellefson, coordinator 771-4025.



Car Show 2020

Hi everyone!

Due to the Covid-19 and the three months of quarantine, it has sidelined our car show/pet show events for this year.

March through July are very vital months to prepare, gather door prizes and attend other car shows that normally start in April to distribute our at Flyers into the prospective cars.

But since 2020 has been such a tough year with so many uncertainties it only makes sense to postpone this year’s event and try again next year.

Thank you to everyone that signed up to help. Hopefully we can have a better 2020 and an event with plenty of time to plan and prepare.

Until then, we’re always open to suggestions on how we can share a good Outreach that’s fun, exciting and safe for our community.

Of course putting our Lord and Savior #1 in all we do. Have a great summer!

Steve Massow



From the Finance Committee...

Portage First United Methodist Church Finance Update


June 2020	
Non Designated Giving	\$22,995.01
Operating Expenses	\$24,266.61
Debt Reduction Giving	\$1,580.00
Debt Reduction Expense	\$2,080.92
Apportionment Paid	\$3,892.57

Year to Date 2020	
Non Designated Giving	\$125,106.48
Operating Expenses	\$128,265.73
Net Year To Date	(\$3,159.25)
Debt Reduction Giving	\$11,609.00
Debt Reduction Expense	\$4,161.84
Net Debt Reduction	\$10,404.60
Overall Net Current & Debt	\$7,245.35
Apportionment Paid	\$11,393.92

What is 'Apportionment'? From www.umc.org —

The main way we support the ministries of the church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the churchwide budget to conferences and local churches. For United Methodists this method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition. Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts, and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.

The Indiana Annual Conference asks that each church provide 11% of the prior month's income as their apportionment, 10% to the conference and 1% to the district.

 **The Finance Committee and Trustees are excited to report that we have already raised \$6,962 through the month of May towards the capital to replace the Education wing’s roof. Thank you for faithfully supporting this important campaign. Please consider what you can do to aid this effort, perhaps through a weekly recurring gift, one-time contribution, or even a portion of an income tax refund as we strive toward our \$40,000 goal.**

Worship Services:

9:00 AM & 11:15 AM • Sunday School: 10:15 AM

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM