

August Newsletter

First United Methodist Church
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The Witness
Issue VIII
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From Pastor Michael...

Pastor Michael recommends this delicious fall recipe from Weight Watchers.

CLOUD BREAD

Ingredients:

cooking spray - 4(s)
3 large eggs
2 Tbsp regular butter
3 Tbsp low fat cream cheese (room temperature)
½ tsp baking powder
12 oz. part skim mozzarella cheese (cut into 12 even slices)
½ Tbsp garlic powder
6 Tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
½ Tbsp dried oregano
6 Tbsp fresh parsley (chopped)

Directions:

Place oven rack in middle of oven. Preheat oven to 300°F. Cover a large sheet pan with parchment paper; lightly coat with cooking spray.

Separate egg yolks from whites; place each in separate mixing bowls. Whisk cream cheese into bowl with yolks until smooth (add optional fresh or dried herbs). Add baking powder to bowl with whites; beat on high speed with an electric mixer until fluffy and soft peaks form. Slowly and gently fold egg yolk mixture into egg white mixture. Spoon mixture into 12 even rounds onto prepared baking sheet. Bake until lightly browned, 18-20 minutes; remove from oven.

Meanwhile, prepare garlic mixture. Melt butter in microwave or in a small saucepan; stir in garlic powder and oregano.

Evenly divide butter mixture over each cooked cloud bread; top each with 1 oz. mozzarella cheese. Broil until cheese melts, 1-2 minutes; garnish each with 1/2 Tbsp Parmesan and parsley.

Serving size: 1 piece

Note from Pastor Tara...

What is the meaning of Life?

For fans of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," you know that the answer is "42," which happens to be how old I'm turning this month! I'm hoping that means I will spontaneously wake up with a deep understanding of the universe on August 3rd. But if not, I hope I at least get some ice cream. When I was a kid my mom would always offer to cook my favorite meal. I probably chose a lot of different meals over the years, but one of my favorites was baked pork chops with mushroom gravy and mashed potatoes. I had a few favorite birthday cakes, too. One was an R2D2 cake made from one of those character-shaped pans, and another was a confetti Angel Food Cake with candy lettering on it.

This fall, I will be taking over elementary Christian Education. Pastor Michael will be taking over Adult Christian Education, and Zach Rudd will be taking over the youth. If you are in teaching, subbing, planning, etc. with elementary or youth Christian Education, please let me know by phone or text at (219) 608-6150. I'm excited and looking forward to a great year in Sunday school!

The first time I taught Sunday school was when I was in high school. I taught the 3 and 4-year-old class at the Presbyterian in Crown Point. At the time, I enjoyed getting to know the little ones and I wound up babysitting a lot of them outside of church. As an adult I have filled in during the summer and have taught the 3 and 4-year-olds along with Deb Massow. The thing I love about teaching and being involved with the Sunday School kids is that they go from being little "cuties" I see running around to little "cuties" I know well enough to know exactly what their favorite thing to draw or pretend to be is. I get to actually. As much as we can spend time planning lessons to teach little ones about God and Jesus, many times it is them that teaches us something about belief and faith. There's a good reason Jesus encouraged us to have the "faith of child."

We will be having Sunday School registration this month with the first day of classes to be announced.

Congregational Care Ministry will be meeting Monday, August 12th at 7:00 PM. All involved with communion to shut-ins, prayer ministry, and hospital visitation are encouraged to come.

Endowment Committee Report ...

Portage First's Endowment Committee is excited to announce grants in the amount of \$12,960 were awarded for 2019.

The 2019 recipients include:

- Portage First UMC for audio/visual media equipment for the worship service (\$10,600)
- UMM Scouts for needs-based membership scholarships for local cub and boy scouts (\$1,000)
- Family Promise for the purchase of computer equipment for their resource center (\$1,360)

The Goal of the Endowment Fund is to assist our church in fulfilling its purposes in Christian Ministry, Mission, and Outreach. Grant funding per our charter is intended for purposes that are not a part of the local Churches' established programs, which are funded, or should be funded, through the annual operating budget of the church and the regular giving of those attending.

This fall we will place information on the connection center that will detail the 2020 grant process. We encourage everyone to start thinking of ways that our current ministries can be expanded.

Anyone interested in finding out on how you can contribute to the Endowment Fund may contact any member of the Endowment Committee.

Steve Davenport, Endowment Chair

Music Ministry Cookout and Pool Party ...

Are you interested in singing in the choir, playing an instrument, ringing a bell, singing in a small group, participating in the Cantata, other special music, or assisting with sound? If so, join us for a cookout and pool party as we kick start our music ministry for the fall. It will be a great time for fun, fellowship, and of course, food! Here are the details:

When: August 24th beginning at 12 noon

Where: Bailey's house, 67 Diana Road, Ogden Dunes

What to bring: family, a dish to share, lawn chairs, bathing suit and towel

RSVP: Bailey by August 20th at (219) 741-8404

Burgers and hotdogs will be provided. In case of rain, we will gather at the church.

Missions and Outreach Team ...

Hello from your Missions and Outreach Team!

Many thanks to all those folks who helped to make the 4th July parade float a success! We had a beautiful entry thanks to the efforts of those who planned the float, decorated it, pulled it, walked with it, or donated candy to give out! We not only let our community know Jesus is our real superhero, but we also let people know about Vacation Bible School! Thanks again to all for the great team effort!

Did you know the 1st of the month at 7:00 PM a small group of people meet at the farmhouse to help move our Family Promise mission forward? Anyone with a passion for helping the homeless is invited to attend. The group is also looking for prospective board members, particularly clergy and people with expertise in accounting/banking, and real estate. Why not sit in on the next meeting and see how you can help? Meetings will be August 6 and September 3.

Anyone wishing to help food-challenged families in Portage Township have two easy opportunities to do so. We are always collecting food for the Portage Township Trustees' Emergency Pantry. Food is given to people who need nourishment before the date of the next regularly scheduled food pantry. All non-perishable food is welcome, and can be placed in the plastic tote in the Narthex. Of course we also collect donations for the regular Portage Township Food Pantry in the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall. In August we'll be collecting pasta and pasta sauce.

We are so blessed by our generous congregation! You God, and thank you Portage First!

Community Meal ...

It's Mystery Theater Night on Friday, August 16 at 6:00 PM! Join us for an audience participation skit. Who did the crime and is going to do the time? You will have to come and find out. Dinner that evening will be Swedish meatballs and rice. Hope to see you there!

Cub Scout Pack 487 ...

The Cub Scout Pack 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. Start back in the fall beginning August 20th. You know anyone interested starting this summer, please contact Chris or Kim Adkins at (219) 763-1301.

We will be holding a car wash fundraiser on Saturday, August 3rd from 1:00-4:00 PM in the church parking lot — (free will donation).

Help support our Cub Scout Pack 487 and our very own Cubs that attend our church by ordering popcorn. This fundraiser helps the boys attend camps and purchase awards. So everyone please help!!! Orders taken 25th before and after services. Questions contact Kim Adkins.

We will be having a Breakfast Burrito fundraiser on September 8 between services outside the main entrance. All money raised will be used for awards and upcoming camping events.

Thank you to George Stewart for donating his time and materials to update the troop trailer logo!

First Friday Fellowship ...

Join us on Friday, August 2 at 5:00 PM at Texas Roadhouse, 6130 U.S. Hwy. 6 in Portage. Please RSVP to Sandra Robinson at (219) 764-8433 no later than Thursday, August 1st.

Church Photo Directory ...

Monday, September 9 has been added for scheduling your professional photography session for the directory.

There are also a couple times available Monday, August 19. You may sign up online through the church website or at the Connection Center. If you would like to submit a photo, we have ten spots available for submissions. Photos taken by a professional company other than Lifetouch or Olan Mills must have a signed release form which can be picked up at the Connection Center. Hard copies of photos will not be returned. Scanned photos may be submitted to the church email at pfumc2000@yahoo.com. We have been given 10 slots so this will be on a first come-first serve basis. After these slots are filled, there will be a \$10 fee per submission.

Please be sure to add or update your information for the directory. Church Directory Information Forms are available at the Connection Center and may be turned into the offering plate, dropped off at the church office, or placed in the office.

Happy August Birthday to...

01 Lauren Falk	09 Nikki Monahan	18 Dorothy Peterson
01 John Shebel	10 Sue Miller	19 Joshua Hoover
02 Brandon Bubalo	10 Skyler Smith	21 Keira Candiano
02 Veda Shadwell	10 Darius Pinarski	22 Doug McKiddy
02 Paul Pollachek	10 Marilyn Thorn	24 Judy Hedstrom
03 Tara Keehn	11 Virginia Sapp	25 Kate Blakely
03 Julia Graff	13 Mary Jane Frahm	28 Terry Nohr
05 Rob Liesch	14 Katie Cunningham	28 Ryan Smith
06 Jenny Brown	15 Michael Candiano	30 Connie Ellefson
07 Tammy Nasiatka	15 Frank Ford	30 Matt Chelich
07 Chuck Phillips	15 Lori Monahan	31 Benny Wright
08 Evelyn Kegley	16 Lois Finney	
09 Shelli Kwiatkowski	17 Beth Wrigley	

Happy August Anniversary to...

02 Don & Mary Cooper	14 Dean & Kathy Cunningham
04 Norm & Margi Hamstrom	14 Steve & Lorri Davenport
05 Jeff & Sharon Kaiser	17 Scott & Lil Falk
07 Darren & Lisa Warne	23 Chuck & Vicki Mason
07 Bob & Leigh Romanov	24 Robert & Tammy Nasiatka
10 Joe & Melissa Medina	25 Brian & Heather Burns
11 Chuck & Madelyn Lorenz	26 Grant & Lori Monahan