

November Newsletter

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

GIVE THANKS

One of my mother's favorite recipes is this recipe for Apple Walnut Cake. This hearty cake tastes like that wonderful transition between fall and winter. Therefore it finds itself on both our Thanksgiving and Christmas Table. It's warm, spicy, and honestly a good slice of it is even nice for breakfast. As you gather your families together in this in this season of thankfulness, know that I am thankful for all of you. Thank you for letting me be your Pastor! Happy Thanksgiving!

Apple Walnut Cake

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
3 apples - peeled, cored and sliced
1 cup white sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 1/4 cups vegetable oil
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour a 9x13 inch pan. Sift together the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Set aside.

Combine the apples and the white sugar; set aside. In a large bowl, mix together the brown sugar, oil, eggs, and vanilla. Stir in the apple mixture, then the flour mixture. Fold in the walnuts.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake in the preheated oven for 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. Allow to cool.

*My mother prefers to ice this cake with cream cheese frosting but I prefer it without icing or with a simple apple cider glaze. No recipe for the glaze, I simply mix together apple cider, some powdered sugar and a teaspoon of butter until a glaze forms.

Note from Pastor Tara...

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving and reflect on family and community. I thought I'd share a family story with you. My maternal grandmother Mary was a tiny thing, about 5'1" and usually weighed somewhere around 78 lbs. I don't think I ever saw her above 85 lbs. let alone 100. She did not like to eat, and mostly survived on coffee and cigarettes. Somehow, one year she was in charge of bringing the pumpkin pies to Thanksgiving dinner. She wasn't a horrible cook, but she wasn't a remarkable one either. She usually cooked eggs and bacon for breakfast and had a few standard meals she repeated for my mom and her siblings growing up (spare ribs and sauerkraut, vegetable soup, etc.). On Thanksgiving day everyone ate their much anticipated turkey dinner. You know what comes next...

pie!!! Particularly my Uncle Ron is looking forward to this pie. It's his favorite! He slices himself a nice piece. He adds some whipped cream. He takes a bite. He spits it out. She had mixed up the sugar and salt canisters, and accidentally scooped a cup or two of salt instead of sugar while baking the pies. It didn't make for good pies that year, but it did make for a good story. A story, I might add, that got repeated every Thanksgiving. This year as you gather with family and/or friends for the Holidays, I first of all hope your pies are made with sugar, not salt. I also hope that when things go askew (as they often do!) that they make wonderful stories and memories. I hope you are able to thank God for the friends and family gathered around the table, even if they do bake the pie with salt instead of sugar.

Trustees' Corner ...

Well fall has arrived and that means that the trustees are now formulating their 2020 operating budget. This will entail not only the normal day-to-day expenses of managing a parsonage, a church building, and farm property but also creating a long-term capital projects "wish" list. That being said, our top two projects will be focused on raising enough monies to complete our kitchen facelift and to secure handrails and enhance our chancel area. Although the trustees have the ultimate responsibility of managing the property, equipment, and investments God has entrusted to our church, it is not solely our responsibility to do all the work. We need more volunteer help and more sacrificial giving to keep the church moving forward. Each member holds an integral part in helping the church grow, running the church effectively, and sustaining a secure environment for worship and mission. Our church has come a long way since 1835. Many sacrificed all they had in faith that Portage First would continue to be a welcoming, safe, and hospitable place to love God, offer Jesus and loving others unconditionally. May our 2020 vision seek to follow God's will for our church, our community and the world.

Youth Group ...

The youth group meetings for this month will be on Sunday, November 3 & 17 at 6:30 PM.

Share the Warmth!

United Methodist Women are collecting hats, gloves, and socks for the local schools. Receptacle is in the narthex. They will be delivered the beginning of December.

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 3, 2019!

Sunday, November 3, 2019, :00 AM are turned hour to

Sunday, November 3, 2019, :00 AM standard time instead.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on Nov 3, 2019 than the day before. More light in the morning!

Missions and Outreach Committee ...

November 24 is "Christ the King Sunday," and we'll be holding a silent auction during the luncheon that day to raise money for the Emergency Fund. This fund is used to help people in our church and in our community who are facing serious times of hardship. If you are a baker, an artist, a photographer, if you sew, knit, or crochet, do woodwork, or are able to make and/or bring any type of item to donate to the silent auction, consider donating something to help this cause! We'll place a sign-up sheet on the Connection Center. (When you sign up, it helps us plan.) Also, we hope you'll attend the silent auction between services, after 2nd service, and before the luncheon that Sunday! Hey, you might just find a great Christmas gift you've been looking for to give that special friend or family member! Questions? Contact Wendy Smith at (219) 707-0055.

United Methodist Women ...

November 1, 2019 at :30 AM - You are invited to join us for fellowship, conversation, and breakfast snacks. Our speaker, Sarah Fink, is from the Porter County Family & Youth Services Bureau. Sarah will be talking about the Court Appointed Special Advocate For Children program. (CASA) We are thankful to join together as Christian women.

First Friday Fellowship ...

We will meet November 1, 2019 at:00 PMthe Longhorn Steak House, 1650 Olmstead Drive in Portage. RSVP to Sandra Robinson at (219) 764-8433 if you plan to attend.NOTE:changed to 4:00 PM per Longhorn management.

Operation Christmas Child (Shoe Box Ministry) ...

After a full year of collecting items for the shoe box ministry, the time has arrived to “stuff the box.”Please mark your calendar for Saturday, November 2, at 10:30 AM in the fellowship hall. It is all about the children that day. We will be completing 300 boxes for children ages 2-14. On behalf of the Missions committee, we want to thank everyone who donated items, made monetary donations, and supplied hours of labor in preparation for this big day. Our church has a strong reputation in providing for those in need especially for the children. Come, fill a box, pray over the box, and write an encouraging message of hope. See you on the 2nd!

Marilyn Pies For The Holidays ...

Cub Scout Pack 487 will be selling Marilyn Pies before and after services on November 3rd. All pies are \$16. Pies will be available for pick up on November 16th from 3 to 5 PM. If other arrangements are needed please let Kim Adkins.

From the Finance Committee...

PORTAGE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE

September 2019

Non Designated Giving	\$26,400.65
Operating Expenses	\$28,414.40
Debt Reduction Giving	\$2,339.00
Debt Reduction Expense	\$2,080.92
Apportionment Paid	\$3,384.02

YEAR TO DATE 2019	YEAR TO DATE 2019
Non Designated Giving	\$196,281.15
Operating Expenses	\$195,536.85
Net Year To Date	\$744.30

Debt Reduction Giving	\$16,656.00
Debt Reduction Expense	\$14,566.44
Net Debt Reduction	\$2,089.56

Overall Net Current & Debt \$2,833.86

Apportionment Paid \$23,199.48

What '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.

Rummage Sale Proceeds Distribution

Tithe	\$1,822
District Obligations	\$660
Portage Food Pantry	\$1,000

Feed My Lambs \$1,200
 First Contact\$1,000
 UMCOR\$2,500
 Camp Scholarship Fund\$1,000
 Frontline Foundations\$500
 Portage High School ROTC\$600
 All y'all made this happen!! Thank you!

Happy November Anniversary to...

02 Mike & Cathy Koller 21 Frank & Julie Ford
 03 David & Annie Alvarado

Happy November Birthday to...

03	Jim Nickerson	09	Greg Keehn	20	Bill Kramer
03	Mike Rousselle	10	Glenn Yerby	22	Betty Kerns
04	David Alvarado	14	Ethan Keehn	22	Tom Ellefson
05	Jilene Dixon	14	Quinn Talley	23	Janice Stewart
06	Robert Metz	15	Don Cooper	24	Phyllis Price
06	Kathy Cunningham	17	Madolyn Nelson	25	Barb Piazza
06	Julie Ford	19	Joe Medina	25	Kortni Centracchio
06	Robin Wilkening	19	George Stewart	26	Norm Hamstrom
07	Wanda Samuelson	19	Denisa Riley	27	Karin Manteuffel
08	Rich Graham	20	Cathy Koller	29	John Cardona