

Greetings Porter UMC Family!

Jesus reminds us in John 15 that, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.” Just as a child is dependent upon their parent, we are dependent on God. How are you connected to Jesus?

Some of the ways for us to connect with our Heavenly Father is to follow the example that Jesus set for us. Jesus took time daily in prayer. He would rise early to spend undistracted time with God. How is your prayer life? Prayer is having a conversation with God. He wants us to come to Him with everything that is on our hearts; good, bad, joy, and pain. Recently, as I was reading a devotional, it spoke of two words: praise and prayer. These words have helped to remind me what to say to God. Each one of us has so much to praise God for. If you have trouble thinking of a praise, think of the last time you were happy and say, “Thank You God”. There are many devotionals, smartphone apps, and even the Bible can help you spend time daily in prayer. Coming in the fall, as a church family, we will be spending time studying the power of prayer.

A gift we have been given is God’s word, the Bible. How do you connect with God’s word? We should also spend time everyday reading it. Jesus has called us to be his disciples. What does it mean to be a disciple? Children are often asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” As they get older and start to think about their future, decisions have to be made on how they can better equip themselves to be successful at their future endeavors. For us to grow as disciples, we have to equip ourselves for our future by studying the word. When studying the Bible, for me, it is more than just reading the words. It is trying to understand what the words are telling us. Here are some questions that I think about when reading scripture (for those of you that were in the Lenten study these questions will look familiar):



**Light Bulb: What stuck out to you from the scripture this time?**



**Question Mark: Did the scripture raise any questions as you read?**



**Cross: Where do you see Jesus in these verses?**



**Arrow: What is something the Spirit is leading you to do through this text?**

**God’s Word IS Powerful and Life-changing!!**

*Jesus continues to tell us, “Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are branches. Those who abide in me and I in*

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**Sermons in May:**

*Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>  
Follow Me  
John 21:1 - 19*

*Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>  
Listen to Me  
John 10:22 - 30*

*Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
Marked by a Loving God  
John 13:31 - 35*

*Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
Sent by a Loving God  
John 14:23 - 29*

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*them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."*

During Lent, I spoke of being ALL IN. Mary was all in when she anointed Jesus feet with the expensive perfume and used her hair to wipe His feet. Jesus was ALL IN when we died on the cross for us. I have some exciting news to share. I have resigned my position as children's director at the Chesterton Methodist Church effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. I want to be ALL IN with you, Porter church family! You have continued to bless my life. Now let us continue to grow as disciples and bless the lives of so many others!! God is good, all the time!!

Lifting you up in prayer,



Pastor Liz Lahaie



## BigHeart Farms VBS

Hello PUMC family and friends! It's almost planting time and we are looking for "Little Sprouts" ages 5 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade to place in God's garden at **BigHeart Farms Vacation Bible School** beginning on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and continuing through Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please join us as we learn about planting and nurturing God's garden, filling a fruit stand and sharing our plenty during harvest! Games, science, songs and dinner, too! Don't worry if you are 6<sup>th</sup> grade to high school senior - you are always welcome here at *BigHeart Farms*...we need plenty of help to raise our "Sprouts"! Best of all it's **FREE**!!

Registration is now open! Please use the form on the back of this page or you can also register through our church's website at <https://www.porterumchurch.org/vacation-bible-school>.

Questions? Please feel free to contact Pastor Liz, the church office or co-chairs Rancie Lucas (219) 508-7292 and Roxanne Micinski (219) 916-1269 Hope to see you there!

**\*\*There will be a VBS meeting on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. to brainstorm on ideas for decorating the church. We hope you will be able to join us as we continue to plan this very important outreach to the children in our church and community.\*\***



## TrueNorth Training Stables

From April through June, the children of Porter UMC are collecting money for the special mission outreach of TrueNorth Training Stables. True North Stables provides a safe environment where at risk youth and their families come for training in life skills and spiritual awareness in an equine setting. This includes, but is not limited to, children who struggle with depression, autism, foster/adopted, ADD, ADHD, self-harm, bullied, addiction, sexual abuse, incarcerated parents, eating disorders, truancy, and other similar society issues.

## Westchester Neighbors Food Pantry

Thank you so much for continuing to support the Westchester Neighbors Food Pantry with donations of food items collected each Sunday. Throughout the month of April, we collected boxes of spaghetti. **During May, we have been asked to bring in boxes of Rice-a-Roni.**

Distribution dates for May will be on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. **If you are available to deliver the food to the pantry collected from the church, please let our Missions Chair, Judy Reales, know.** You can also contact Kim in the office. Thanks!

A big thank you to **Brenda Watson** who has been delivering all of the food pantry items collected and delivering them.





Jesus said, "Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." We are called to bring the children to Jesus. They are our guides to the kingdom of God. First, let us add our children's ministry to our prayer list. May God grow Disciples of Christ through this amazing ministry!!

The children spend Lent and Easter learning about the importance of Easter (and it's not the Easter bunny). They have heard and been shown how much they are loved by our King! Praise the Lord!! We are seeing more children lead us in prayer on Sunday mornings. It is beautiful!! I invite any child that would want a chance to pray, read scripture, or help lead worship to come and talk with Pastor Liz or Ms. Marcia.

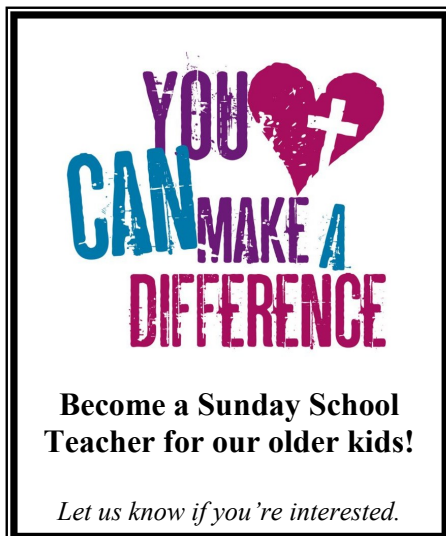
Word of appreciation to all those that donated candy, helped stuffed the eggs, and help to setup for the egg hunt.....THANK YOU SO MUCH!! It was nice to see the excitement and smiles on the children's faces on Easter morning.

Communion Readiness Class is coming!! Thursday, May 9 from 5-7pm Pastor Liz is offering a special time for anyone in grades 3 and up to come and learn more about our sacrament of communion. We will be baking bread and talking about the importance of communion. Please let Pastor Liz know if you will be attending.

VBS is coming...YAY!! Vacation Bible School is a fun and exciting opportunity for our church to connect children with Jesus. This year our theme is "Big Heart Farms". It centers on Galatians 5:22-23, which covers the Fruit of the Spirit. Ms. Roxanne and Ms. Rancie have volunteered to be the co-directors. Here's another wonderful opportunity to make disciples of Jesus. How will you help?

For the summer, to give our dedicated teachers a chance to rest, the last day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, May 12. Sunday School will return in the fall!

If you have any questions about any of the opportunities above, please see Pastor Liz or Marcia Wood.



### WHO:

Calling all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and up!

### WHAT:

Communion Readiness Class

### WHY:

Learn why we observe this sacrament

### WHEN:

*Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
from 5-7pm.*

(Dinner will be provided)

### WHERE:

Meet in the Sanctuary.

Please ***RSVP by Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>*** to let Pastor Liz know if your child will be part of this great opportunity.

*Those that attend this will serve Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in June!*

PORTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
100 E Beam Street \* Porter, IN 46304 \* 219-926-1586

FREE



JUNE 2nd - 5th \* 5:30 - 7 p.m.

All children ages Preschool through 5th Grade are welcome!

One child per form...thanks!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade just completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Medical Conditions/Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Dinner will be provided for the children all 4 nights! \**





# LAWN-MOWING TEAM

If you are interested in volunteering to mow the church lawn any time during the months of May - October or to help with weeding in the surrounding flower beds, please sign up on the sheet that will be available Sundays in the Narthex or notify the church office at 926-1586. Thanks so much for your willingness to serve your church in this area!

Porter United Methodist  
Church

*Liz Lahaie, Pastor*

**Pastor's Hours:**  
Tuesdays & by appt  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Church Office Hours:**  
Monday - Thursday  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
(219) 926-1586

## VISION STATEMENT

As the community of Christ, which is one in Jesus Christ, we will nurture and care for one another, spread God's word and love throughout the community thereby fulfilling our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.



*Porter United Methodist Church*  
*100 E. Beam Street*  
*Porter, IN 46304*