

Peace Begins with Each of Us

Has the world gone nuts in the last couple weeks, or is it just me? I'm not as outspoken on social causes as many of my colleagues but allow me to make an observation.

Although I "grew up" during the 1970's, I was heavily influenced by the turmoil of the '60's. Many of my friends were drafted to serve in Vietnam, so even though I was young, I became socially aware of the world around me. My junior year in college was cut short with demonstrations. All the news was dominated by demonstrations against the war and made statements like, "Question authority!" and "Don't trust anyone over the age of 30!" Reflecting on it became part of my generation's mantra.

I don't remember either of my parents saying this, or exactly when, where or how I developed this thought, but here goes: All those demonstrations and riots and pickets and protests didn't accomplish anything. Using violence to react to violence has never ended well...and I don't think it ever will.

Understand I'm not talking about limiting anyone's freedom to assemble and state their opinion. In the midst of all this turmoil, I remember a simple, but powerful lesson: *"I may disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."* In other words, in this country, anyone has the right to express their opinion...whether I personally agree with it or not. No matter how stupid or misguided someone's opinion is...they have the right to express it. And reacting violently to another person's opinions doesn't change anything.

During the 1960's, there was one man with a different vision who used something more powerful – a peaceful use of a biblical worldview. Martin Luther King brought about change by encouraging non-violence; by promoting peace and by intercepting hate in exchange for love. And he died for the sake of that cause. Centuries ago, a man by the name of Jesus of Nazareth used the same strategy and his death and resurrection changed the world.

If you really want to change the world around you, get to know this Jesus. During his final discussion with his disciples, he told them, *"I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."* (John 14:27 NLT) Allow this gift to work in you.

Peace in this world is usually defined as the absence of conflict. The peace of Christ is confident assurance in any circumstance. The world around us focuses on sin, fear, uncertainty, doubt and so many other forces at war within us. Jesus said he will give us this peace if we are willing to accept it from him. This is the peace that really does go beyond our understanding, and that truly changes hearts to transform the world. What do you think?

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



Sermons in October:

Sunday, October 1st
Favorite Hymn Sing

Sunday, October 8th
Gift of Community
Matthew 21:33 - 46

Sunday, October 15th
The Missional Church

Sunday, October 22nd
Render Unto God What is God's
Matthew 22:15 - 22

Sunday, October 29th
Ray Music, Guest Speaker

Purses of Hope

Early in September, our mission chair Judy Reales was joined by Jeanine Thomas to deliver 10 purses (5 to Gabriel's Horn and 5 to the Day Spring Shelter). Just a reminder that "Purses of Hope" is an ongoing mission project that the women of Porter UMC have decided to continue throughout the year.



Day Spring Shelter

Jeanine Thomas
Aly Gibbons, director
Judy Reales

Gabriel's Horn

Jeanine Thomas
Marcia, house director



To refresh your memory, here's a list of items that we collect to put in the purses: *Kleenex, makeup, wipes, comb/brush, \$5 in ones, wallet, pocket calendars, manicure items, feminine pads or tampons, pens and pencils, small pads of paper, travel toothbrush and toothpaste, sample size deodorant, washcloth, small bar of soap, sample shampoo, sample mouthwash, and gum or mints.*

If you want to participate, there is a bin in the sanctuary to contribute a purse or any of the items needed. This outreach has been a blessing to many women who leave abusive situations, sometimes with just the clothes on their backs. Thank you for your continuing support!

Missions In the Spotlight

NEW Quarterly Mission Focus: *Yost School Adoption Program*

Our last quarterly mission focus is the **Yost School Adoption Program**. This outreach helps provide winter gear for Yost students in need. The other items we usually provide for these children will be available on the Giving Tree during the Christmas season for people to buy.

Operation Christmas Child is Right Around the Corner!

Fall is here and the countdown to **Operation Christmas Child** is underway.

Thank you for your previous support of Operation Christmas Child last year. Because of the mission outreach of our church, along with many other churches, this ministry was able to send over 11 million shoebox gifts to children around the world. Each and every one of these shoeboxes is so important, because it represents an opportunity to **share the love of Jesus with a hurting child** who may have never received a gift before in his or her life. This year, Operation Christmas Child hopes to deliver even more shoebox gifts, and we need your help to make that happen!

Right now is a **great time to get school supplies** for your shoeboxes. Pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, etc. can be purchased now for a fraction of their usual price, and that savings could mean the chance to fill even more shoeboxes!

Because of stricter customs regulations, please note a change in the rules this year: NO candy or toothpaste will be allowed in the shoebox gifts.



NEW Children's Quarterly Offering: VNA Phoenix

Our last quarterly children's mission outreach offering is for the Phoenix Center, a place where children and young adults who have lost someone in their lives and who need help processing their grief can go for support. Before the age of 15, statistics show that one out of every twenty children may lose a parent and one in five will lose a close family member or friend. When this happens, they feel all alone but when they have help coping during this stressful time, they learn don't have to be. Divided by age groups, meetings are held twice a month, during which time they discuss grieving strategies. The kids also have time hanging out with others who are going through the same thing. The program is free for participants.

The VNA Phoenix Center, located at 2401 Valley Drive in Valparaiso, is able to offer this service through support from the community and income through other VNA programs. *Please take a look at the next page to read an article about their Children's Healing Garden.*

Sunday School News

WHOA! Sunday school began on September 17th at a full gallop (no pun intended!). We played "catch up" going over the first three lessons this quarter. Our focus each fall generally begins with stories from the Old Testament. With Hannah, Samuel, and Saul as the main characters, we learned how Israel's first king, a reluctant one at that, came about. Israel was going through a big transition. They wanted a human king like other countries had, to lead their armies and take care of them, etc. The problem was that this overshadowed the true King, our heavenly Father. Decisions, decisions!

Also on September 17th, the Sunday school kids visited one of their favorite mission projects, TrueNorth Stables in Chesterton. Those who wanted to (including parents!), rode horses and afterwards enjoyed a great grilled lunch complete with hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta salad, chips and dessert cupcakes. After many photos, smiles, and full bellies, 12 kids headed home with their friends and family members. They had a great time!

Also of note, Sunday school has compressed its three classrooms into two. We are on the hunt for a Middle Elementary Sunday School teacher. Remember, you don't need to be a Bible scholar to teach Sunday school! The curriculum is already planned out for each week. Also included are project books for each student. Please call me, Linda Green 628-1117 (mobile) or the church office, 926-1586, if you are interested.

We also welcome donations of juice and fruit/cookies. This gives our snack ladies a break once in a while! Also if you would like to help in the classroom, but not teach, let me know.

As always, thank you for your support of our children in their faith journey.

Linda Green

Sign of grace

Make this sign to hang on your wall as a daily reminder of God's amazing gift of grace.

What you need:

- White poster board
- Large wooden letters that spell GRACE
- Painter's tape
- Tempura paint
- Paper plates
- Paintbrushes
- Colored pens or markers

What you do:

1. Place the poster board on the ground (outside, if possible).
2. Put tape on the back of the letters and secure them to the board. No tape should be visible.
3. Paint and draw all over the poster board. Be creative with splatters, handprints and so on.
4. When paint is dry, remove the letters and hang up the poster.

HELP!

The Harvest Festival Committee is in need of **candy donations** for the piñatas and the party. We are also in need of **people** willing to help out that afternoon of 10/15. If you're interested in helping out in any way, there will be a **meeting on Thursday, 10/5 @ 10 a.m.** If you have any questions, please see Judy Reales, committee chair.

Since we begin a new quarterly children's offering this month to benefit the VNA Phoenix Center, Pastor Dee wanted to share an article from the September issue of the VNA newsletter about their Children's Healing Garden.



The Children's Healing Garden — Part 1

by volunteer Joanna Truemper



When the VNA Phoenix Center was established in 2010 within the beautifully renovated walls of interior spaces, its leaders had another dream to be transformed into reality. That dream involved the outside lawn space in back to become a Children's Healing Garden.

The garden was installed in Phases in 2013 to 2015. Each Phase was like an added "room." Experienced gardener volunteers followed the professional landscaper garden design plan. They hauled loads of soil for elevation contouring, dug holes, planted trees, dozens of shrubs and perennials.

Outdoor "rooms" were designed around an existing patio that had a fire pit and benches. Chip mulch paths were marked to meander around the rooms. Stepping-stones (handcrafted) and organic-like seats welcome the children, teens and visitors of all ages for up close viewing and contemplation.

The Healing Garden was designed for the children and teens coming to the VNA Phoenix Center for grief healing in the event of death of a loved one. It is designed to be a place that "heals in all ways: physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually." A key element in this garden design is simplicity. There is not too much going on that would add any additional stress. The garden is meant to be tranquil, offering a peaceful, hopeful place of uplifting, joy and reflecting, of solace and relaxing, a place of connecting in humor and play.

All plants chosen for this garden are in a planting scheme to create a "sensory" healing garden. The elements of color, scent, touch and sound awaken the senses. All plants are identified by name tags. Many plants were chosen for their names to fascinate the children, such as: Mango Popsicle (Red Hot Poker), Lamb's Ear (Stachys byzantina), Blue Mouse Ears (Hosta), Chocolate Chip (Ajuga), etc.

The children and teens are brought into the garden on meeting days (weather permitting). Trained volunteer grief facilitators lead them in various activities for healing. This can be a fun but important time of interaction between people and plants. Also, the "rooms" of the garden may provide quiet nooks for discovery and self-healing while doing individual work.

Do sit and see the colors and watch the monarch butterflies. Touch to find the fuzzy, shiny, rough, smooth, lacey, feathery, succulent and prickly plants. Listen to the wind chimes and various plants moving in the breeze or a bird splashing in the birdbath. Smell the fragrant blossoms or a sprig of thyme. There is more to come...as...a garden is always "in process."

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Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.* St. Francis of Assisi

Being part of a church family takes commitment to the One who guides us and equips us. Like any other family, life happens, and we don't always agree or appreciate each other's behaviors. Church's main reason that it exists is to worship God, to be thankful for the blessings that we are given, and to be the disciples that we are taught to become. That means that we agree to disagree, that we love one another unconditionally, because God first loved and forgave us.

Worshipping together is so important---it allows us to lift each other up and stay connected as a family of God. So if you haven't been to church for awhile please consider coming back because your family misses and needs you back---if you have been unable to attend because of some illness then please reach out and allows the church family to be your healing balm. Let us come and worship the Lord!!!!





PORTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PRESENTS

FAMILY

HARVEST FESTIVAL

2017

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.**

100 E BEAM ST * PORTER, IN
(corner of Beam St. & Wagner Rd.)

HOT DOGS - HAYRIDE - CRAFTS - GAMES - PINATAS

**** Costumes optional ****





Pumpkin Roll Order Form

Everyone's favorite fall treat is being made from scratch by volunteers from the church in time for your Thanksgiving meal! Moist & rich, pumpkin rolls are a jellyroll-style cake filled and rolled with a lightly sweetened cream cheese filling, available

with or without nuts. Pumpkin rolls freeze beautifully and are the perfect complement to your holiday dinner or to give as a gift. Each roll serves 8 - 10.

PUMPKIN ROLLS \$13 each

4 ways to place your order:

- Order in person on any Sunday beginning October 1st or during office hours M - Thur 8 a.m. to noon, using this order form. You can also place your order through a church member. **MONEY MUST BE PAID AT TIME ORDER IS PLACED!**
- Visit the website <http://www.porterumchurch.org/> and go to the "Contact" form with all of your information - name, phone number, # of rolls (with/without nuts).
- Check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PorterUMC/> and send us a message containing your order.
- Order by mail by completing this form and sending it, **along with payment**, to Porter UMC, 100 E. Beam St., Porter, IN 46304. Please make checks payable to PUMC.

ORDERS DUE BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

****Pumpkin rolls can be picked up beginning Wednesday, November 15th****

Name:		Phone #:		
# of Pumpkin Rolls		Total Quantity:	Cost:	Total Cost:
With nuts	Without nuts			
			\$13 each	

Please make sure that when you place your order(s) that you include payment. Also, note that we are having pickups beginning 1 week earlier than last year to avoid the Thanksgiving holiday week and the busyness surrounding it. **Any orders not picked up by Sunday, November 19th will be called to arrange delivery or office pickup.** Thank you!

NEWS & Notes

Congregation Hymn Sing

On Sunday, October 1st, we will be having a congregational hymn sing led by Roxanne Micinski. We hope you will be able to join us for this special service of song and thank you for sharing your favorite hymn(s) with us!

New Adult Sunday School Class



During the 9 a.m. Sunday School hour, the adult class, under the leadership of Richard Coslet, will begin studying from the book "*Ask: Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age*" by Scott & Arthur Jones. This 8-week study addresses hard questions that all of us face when considering faith, religion, and the church. The questions include:

- Can only one religion be true?
- Why is there suffering and evil?
- How can I believe in science and creation?
- How can I believe in a God I can't prove?
- Can I trust the Old Testament?
- Are marriage, sex, and family life religious issues?
- Was Jesus' resurrection real?
- Why do Christians disagree about so many things?

This book emphasizes that you can't let your questions stop you from accepting God's invitation to faith. Engage your doubt, and you may find you are closer to God on the other side.

Communion Change of Date

October's communion will be served on the 2nd Sunday of the month (October 8th) due to a schedule conflict. We will also be taking up a special World Communion Sunday offering that day.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Hymn Sing 10:15 a.m. <i>Pumpkin Roll Sale begins!</i>	2	3	4 8 p.m. AA Meeting	5 7 p.m. Bible Study	6	7 7 p.m. Models Club
8 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m.	9	10	11 8 p.m. AA Meeting	12 7 p.m. Bible Study	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Harvest Fest 2 - 4 p.m.	16 <i>Newsletter Deadline for November</i>	17	18 8 p.m. AA Meeting	19 7 p.m. Bible Study	20 3 p.m. Models Club	21
22 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m.	23	24	25 8 p.m. AA Meeting	26 7 p.m. Bible Study	27 9:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast	28
29 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m.	30	31 				



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Robert Furdo
2 Jerry Ward
4 Richard Collins
4 Radine Kretlow
7 Anna Kalbe
7 Shelley Hale
8 Joan Knibbs
16 Amy Johnson
17 Deb Bowen
24 Hannah Green
29 Jim Frieske
31 Autumn Hack



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

3 Jerry & Betty Ward
10 David & JoAnn Hokanson
22 Chuck & Sandy Allmon
23 Chet & Roxanne Micinski
27 Craig & Betsy Poparad

Missional Church - A New Way Forward

Today's younger generations are looking for authentic living faith. There is new kind of church focus forming - it is a church that reclaims its New Testament role with authenticity and energy and is not limited by location. The missional church is a community of authentic disciples who live and proclaim God's love and grace into the world. The handful of churches that have taken on the missional approach are breathing new life into the Body of Christ, finding renewed vitality for worship and enthusiasm for mission. They are growing, experimenting with new forms, finding their way being compassionate in their commitment to be outwardly focused. The leadership of this church has been challenged by the Bishop and our District Superintendent to engage in thought about moving towards a missional approach to church. Please pray for the leadership as we dialogue and pursue this challenge.

Porter United Methodist Church

Dee L. Miller, Pastor

Summer Worship: 9:30 a.m.
(through 9/3)

Regular Worship: 10:15 a.m.
(beginning 9/10)

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

8a.m. - 12 Noon

(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.

ATTENTION



13th Annual Prayer Workshop ***"Prayer and Social Justice"***

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Registration begins at 8:45am

\$10.00 donation to cover book and light breakfast



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