

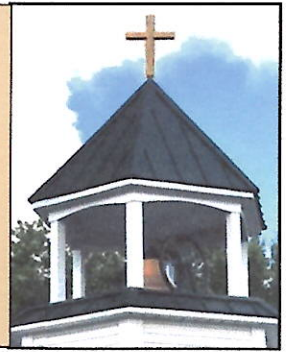
The Belltower

LaPorte United Methodist Church
2071 Grafton Rd., Elyria, OH 44035

Phone: 440-458-5717

Email: laporteumc@laportechurch.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday: 9:00am - 2:00pm



August & September, 2026

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you leave our church parking lot each week, you pass a sign that reads: *You are entering the mission field.* This is more than a clever slogan; it is a confession of what Christ has called every one of us to be.

In Matthew 28:16–20, our Lord gathered His eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee and gave them what we call the Great Commission: *All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*

We rejoice that Joel Greenly is living this out right now as he is currently in training in Cambodia, soon to begin two years of mission service in South America. His obedience to Christ's call reminds us that the mission field is the whole world. But do not let his going overseas tempt you to think the mission field is somewhere else, for someone else. It is not. It is your kitchen table, your workplace, your classroom, your hospital room, your neighbor's porch. I think we often misunderstand "mission", because we forget the whole world, with all its big and small needs, is our mission field. Yes, the needs in South America and the needs of the fellow church member sitting across from you are our mission fields. Perhaps we should begin each day with the mental image of the signs we read as we leave the church parking lot: ***You are entering the mission field.*** Because the "mission field" is everywhere we go and everyone we encounter!

John Wesley understood the importance of the local and world-wide mission fields when he wrote, "I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field." Every morning when you rise, you cross that same line the sign proclaims. You are entering the mission field, not tomorrow, not on some future trip, but today. Christ has already gone before you, and He has promised: *I am with you always.*

Go, therefore into the mission field of the Lord, He is with you.

In Christ,
Pastor William





LaPorte Missions News

Cheryl Smith, Chair
missions@laportechurch.org

Serving God Through Serving Others

ST. PAULY USED CLOTHING SHED FRIENDLY REMINDER

Thank you to all who utilize the St. Pauly's Shed. The clothing collected is sent to people all over the world. It helps our environment by keeping clothing out of landfills and helps those in need. The shed is for clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed animals ONLY. NO rags, fabric scraps, pillows, toys or household goods. A tax deductible ID is located in the shed. Please put your donations in a bag and tie it.

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS HOSTING OPPORTUNITY

First Sunday of the Month

Look for the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board in the entryway to "host" a tureen luncheon. Hosting means you will oversee the meal - prepare tables, set out the food/beverages, clean up. Let's all share in the work of this fellowship opportunity. It can be individuals or groups. PLEASE HELP OUT. If you have any questions, see Cheryl Smith. Thank you to those who have signed up to help - you are such a blessing!!!!

CHANGE FOR CHANGE COLLECTION



The children collect change during the last Sunday of each month, **August 30 & September 27**. The organization for both months is Doctors Without Borders. These funds provide medical assistance to those whose lives have been upended by an emergency or crisis.

Please collect your change and bring it to fill their cups. Thank you so much for helping our children collect change for change each month! God bless your generous giving and those who are receiving!

Thank you for your change to Good Knights. We were able to send a check for \$400.00 because of your generosity!!

BABY BOTTLE BLESSINGS CAMPAIGN CONTINUES *Cornerstone Pregnancy Center*

1. Take a bottle.
2. Pray for the lives of unborn babies and their parents.
3. Fill the bottle with change (loose or paper) or a check (made out to "Cornerstone Pregnancy Services").
4. RETURN the filled bottle to LaPorte.

Baby bottles are available on the Missions Counter in the entryway. Thank you!! You have been a blessing and have helped save the lives of unborn children in our community!! If you have any questions, see Cheryl Smith.

SMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child delivers shoeboxes packed with toys and other fun things from you to boys and girls around the world in partnership with local churches. We are asking you to open your hearts this Christmas to those children. Directions for what and how to pack a shoebox are on the Missions Counter and inside the shoeboxes. Take a shoebox and have fun! **ALL SHOEBOXES ARE DUE BACK TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 8.** If you are able, **please enclose the shipping cost of \$10 for each shoebox you pack or donate the \$10 for shoeboxes others have packed.** For more information - gift suggestions, packing information, questions - visit the Missions Counter in the entryway or see Cheryl Smith. **THANK YOU FOR SHARING CHRISTMAS WITH CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD.**

****You can build a shoebox on line for \$30 at Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Build a Shoebox****

Thank you so much for all your contributions, support, and prayers for the mission outreach work of LaPorte. May God continue to bless you as you bless others.

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV)



"SAFE AT HOME" LCOOA PROGRAM

The Safe at Home" LCOOA (Lorain County Office on Aging) program is offering seniors 60 years+ who own and reside in their own homes the opportunity to receive at no cost: grab bars, toilet rails, wheelchair ramps, walker ramps, stair safety rails (indoor/outdoor), stair chairlifts, ADA toilets (raised seat), and some bathtub area modifications. For more information, please call (440) 406-3337 or (440) 326-4800.

WOMEN'S GATHERING INVITATION

Saturday, September 26th, 4:00pm to 7:00pm
Lighthouse United Methodist Church
3015 Meister Rd., Lorain

The Lighthouse UMC Ladies have invited the LaPorte ladies to their second annual Women's Gathering. Please join them for songs, food and a great program presented by Shelly Hill. If you have any questions, see Mary Eddy.



LaPorte Finance News

Renee Bush
Finance Team

FINANCIAL NEWSLETTER REPORT

Our budget for 2026 is \$200,970.00. All money received through your tithes and cash offerings pays the yearly budget of the church's expenses. Any giving's to the Designated Funds is not included in the total tithes received.

Year-to-Date Tithes & Expenses:

(January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026)

Tithes:	\$86,267.25
Expenses Paid:	\$89,914.75
	-\$3,647.50

Explanations:

Tithes: Your tithes and cash offerings are used to pay the operational costs of the church (Examples: utilities, salaries, health insurance, office & cleaning supplies, church & ground maintenance, property taxes, property insurance, FICA, publications, worship, Workers' Compensation, etc.)

Expenses Paid: The operational cost to run the church.

Yearly Budget: Determined by the maximum projected needs to operate the church.



Thank you so much to those who sent cards and gifts for my birthday. I love my LaPorte family!

~Marilyn Irwin

There is really no way to properly thank you for all of the love and support you have given to me during Harold's illness and passing. You have touched me more than you know. The visits, cards, phone calls, and loving care all mean so much to me. I am trusting the Lord to help me take a day at a time and to trust Him for all. I would appreciate your continued prayers as I figure out how to live this life without him. Blessings to all of you.

~Terri Smith

Thank you so much for the birthday cards, gifts, treats and birthday cake during VBS for my birthday! It is a blessing to serve you all!

~Pastor William

Help Us Share the Story — Volunteers Needed

Every Sunday, ministry happens in more ways than one. From worship and lay reading to livestreams, slides, social media posts, and photos, technology and communication help us connect with one another and reach people beyond our church walls. We're looking for volunteers who would like to be part of that mission!

We are currently seeking people interested in helping in two important areas:

Sunday Morning Tech Team

Help run slides, audio, livestreams, or other behind-the-scenes technology during worship services. No experience is necessary — we're happy to train you! Whether you're tech-savvy or simply willing to learn, serving on the tech team is a meaningful way to support worship.

Social Media & Marketing Team

We're also looking for creative individuals who can help tell the story of our church online. This could include taking photos, creating graphics, posting updates, promoting events, or helping brainstorm ways to connect with our community through social media and marketing.

These ministries are vital in helping people feel connected, informed, and welcomed. Whether you can serve once a month or more regularly, your gifts can make a real difference.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Ethan Greenly at tech@laportechurch.org. We'd love to help you find a place to serve!



QUESTIONS FOR THE SHEEP DOG

Q: Pastor, please explain how it is that we are to love those that hate and

despise us. I think it is too much for God to ask of us as humans.

Dear Friend,

You're right. It is too much to ask of us and that's exactly the point.

Jesus delivers a firm command in Matthew 5:43–48. *Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.* No exceptions, no fine print. And then He tells us why: *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

Here's where understanding the convicting work of the Word and the grace of the Gospel matters. In God's Word, this command exposes us. None of us loves our enemies well. Well, at least not naturally, not on our own strength. If you feel the weight of "this is too much," good. That's the convicting work of the Word doing its proper work, driving you to see you cannot fulfill it by willpower alone.

But we are not left with this conviction. Christ loved His enemies first, and we were those enemies. Romans 5:10 says we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son "when we were enemies." He didn't wait for us to become lovable. He loved us in our hatred of Him, forgave us from the cross, and gave us His Own Spirit to do in us what we cannot do ourselves.

So loving your enemy isn't a moral achievement you work up. It's the fruit of already being loved by One who had every right to hate you and didn't. You are not asked to manufacture that love from nothing — you're asked to let the love already poured into you overflow toward the very people who least deserve it. That's not a burden. That's grace working outward.

— *The Sheepdog*

COUNTER NEEDED

The "Counting Team" is looking for a counter. It is just once a month on a Monday morning. Training is provided (it's not hard). If you are interested, please see Linda Cowie.

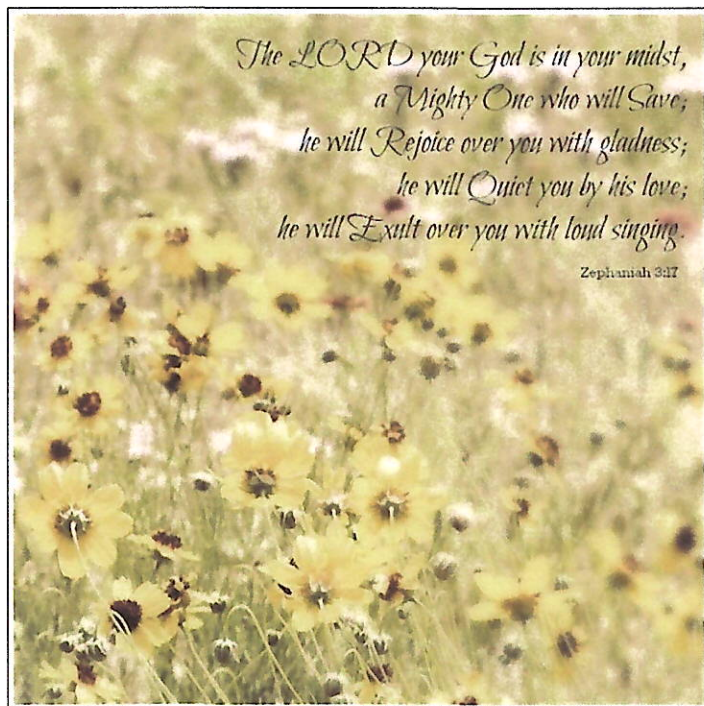


Hello Church Family,

Thank you for all the support you have shown me in this process to become a Global Mission Fellow! I have just completed my commissioning as a missionary in Cambodia and

I will soon be off to my place of assignment in Central America. I would like to ask for prayers as I begin my mission supporting human rights there, and I invite you to stay in touch with me to hear about my experiences. You can reach me at jgreenly@umcmmission.org and please tell me if you would like to be added to my email newsletter. And finally, if you would like to donate towards me and my fellow cohort's missions across the world, you can go to the UMC Advance page and use my number 3022912. Any donation is much appreciated and will go towards supporting the church's mission through young adults across the globe. Thank you again for being such a supportive family and I can't wait to share more of my experiences with you!

Blessings,
Joel Greenly



May 20, 2026

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 Laporte
 2071 Grafton Rd
 Elyria, OH 44035-8352

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"...when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me." - Jesus (Matthew 25:40 CEB)

Dear Friends in ministry,

Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – *Thank you!*

And through your financial support you are serving within a vital web of interactive relationships, partnering to engage globally in direct ministry to people in need.

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Rernandez:

Roland Fernandes
General Secretary of Global Ministries, UMCOR, and Higher Education and Ministry

Supporting

Amount: \$1,007

UMCOR - Where Most Needed

Date Received 05/06/2026

Please retain this letter as your receipt. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were provided by the General Board of Global Ministries, the United Methodist Committee on Relief or Higher Education and Ministry in consideration of your contribution. Thank you for your continued support.



July 12, 2026

Laporte United Methodist Church
2071 Grafton Rd
Elyria, OH 44035

Dear Laporte United Methodist Church,

On behalf of Good Knights, Inc., I am writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of \$400. Your support is instrumental in helping us continue our mission to provide comfort and care to those in need within Lorain County. Good Knights, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 85-1470144). Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

At Good Knights, we are dedicated to creating positive change in our community. We believe that every act of kindness, no matter how small, contributes to the greater good, and your donation exemplifies this belief. Thanks to supporters like you, we can ensure that children have a safe and comfortable place to sleep, which is essential for their well-being and development. Your generosity helps us reach more families and provide the necessary resources to improve their quality of life.

Once again, thank you for your support and commitment to our cause. We look forward to sharing the positive outcomes your donation helps us achieve. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how your contribution is making a difference, please feel free to contact us.

With sincere appreciation,

Dr. Roger L. Dorsey

Founder/Executive Director
Good Knights, Inc.



WWW.GOODKNIGHTSOFLC.ORG



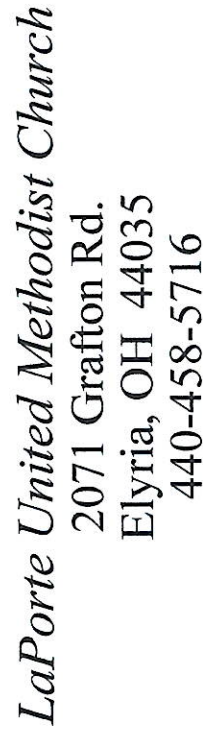
440-420-5430



ROGER@GOODKNIGHTSOFLC.ORG



24154 OH 511 WELLINGTON, OH 44090



www.laportechurch.org
laporteumc@laportechurch.org

***Dates subject to change**

Events & Happenings for August at LaPorte United Methodist Church ...

August Birthdays

2 - Jonathan Kisilewicz
4 - Clete Johnson
6 - Kathy Gibbs
9 - Reuben Greenly
11 - Norma Greene
12 - Jen Churgovich
13 - Charlotte Gardner
14 - Brenda Stoll
16 - Wes Eddy
21 - Lois Johnson
25 - Katie Wade
27 - Barb Bodnar
28 - Dave Van Arsdale, Charlie Weil



You are invited to join LaPorte servants on **Wednesday, August 5, from 1:30pm to 4:00pm**, to repack food for Second Harvest Food Bank. We are also participating in their distribution days. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and to help our community. If you would like to be a part of either of these outreaches, contact Charlie Weil.



Pickleball Schedule *August*

Come join the fun! We meet Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 10:00am.

August 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29



Community Breakfast

Sunday, August 30
8:30am to 10:00am



Invite a friend or two for breakfast and have them join us for worship.

General Schedule

Please check weekly announcements for updates.

<u>Sunday</u>	Community Breakfast <i>(last Sunday of the month)</i>
8:30am	Adult Sunday School (Parlor)
9:15am	Coffee Hour
10:00am	Worship Service
11:00am	Faith & Fellowship Meal <i>(1st Sunday of the month)</i>
12:00pm	Bell Choir Practice <i>(August thru April)</i>
12:30pm	MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)
3:00pm	(Every Sunday except the last of the month)
<u>Monday</u>	Prayer Shawl Ministry <i>(3rd Monday of the month)</i>
7:00pm	
<u>Tuesday</u>	Stephen Ministry <i>(1st Tuesday of the month)</i>
10:00am	6:18 Prayer Service <i>(4th Monday of the Month)</i>
6:00pm	Pickleball
6:30pm	
<u>Wednesday</u>	Ladies' Bible Study
9:30am	Second Harvest <i>(1st Wednesday of the month)</i>
1:30pm	
<u>Thursday</u>	6:00pm - Choir Practice <i>(August thru May)</i>
<u>Saturday</u>	10:00am - Pickleball

Choir & Bell Choir Practice

The wait is over! Practice for choir begins on Thursday, August 20 at 6:00pm. Practice for bell choir begins on Sunday, August 23, at 12:30pm. If you have any questions, see Rachel Gardner.



Faith & Fellowship

August's Faith & Fellowship Tureen Lunch is **Sunday, August 2**, following morning worship. Bring a dish to share and your table service.

September 2026

LaPorte United Methodist Church
2071 Grafton Rd.
Elyria, OH 44035
440-458-5716

www.laportechurch.org laporteumc@laportechurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Be joyful in hope, Patient in affliction Faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12		1 10am Stephen Ministry 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	2 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 1:30pm 2nd Harvest	3 6pm Choir Practice	4 	5
6 Communion 12pm Tureen Lunch 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice 3pm MYF	7 <i>Office Closed</i>  LABOR DAY	8 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	9 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 12pm Fellowship Activity	10 6pm Choir Practice	11  PATRIOT DAY WE WILL NEVER FORGET	12 10am Pickleball 12:30pm Worship Team Mtg.
13 HAPPY Grandparents DAY 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice 3pm MYF	14	15 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	16 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	17 6pm Choir Practice	18 	19 10am Pickleball
20 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice 3pm MYF	21	22  6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	23 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	24 6pm Choir Practice	25	26 10am Pickleball
27 8:30am Community Breakfast 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice 2pm Mission Trip Mtg.	28 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 7pm Leadership Team Mtg.	29 6:30pm Pickleball	30 9:30am Ladies Bible Study			

*Dates subject to change

Events & Happenings for September at LaPorte United Methodist Church ...

General Schedule

Please check weekly announcements for updates.

Sunday

8:30am Community Breakfast (*last Sunday of the month*)
9:15am Adult Sunday School (Parlor)
10:00am Coffee Hour
11:00am Worship Service
12:00pm Faith & Fellowship Meal (*1st Sunday of the month*)
12:30pm Bell Choir Practice (*August thru April*)
3:00pm MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)
 (Every Sunday except the last of the month)

Monday

7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (*3rd Monday of the month*)

Tuesday

10:00am Stephen Ministry (*1st Tuesday of the month*)
6:00pm 6:18 Prayer Service (*4th Monday of the Month*)
6:30pm Pickleball

Wednesday

9:30am Ladies' Bible Study
1:30pm Second Harvest (*1st Wednesday of the month*)

Thursday

6:00pm - Choir Practice (*August thru May*)

Saturday

10:00am - Pickleball

Faith & Fellowship

Our September Faith & Fellowship Tureen Lunch is **Sunday, September 6**, following morning worship. MYF will be providing soup, sandwiches and dessert for a fundraiser.



September Birthdays

1 - Johnny Arrowood
 6 - Shirley Messaros
 7 - Sue Goins
 12 - Jeanne Oplinger
 13 - Ken Goetz
 14 - Ellie Meier, Rene Truxall
 16 - Linda Debow, John Ricketts
 17 - Mark Vale
 20 - Cheryl Greenly
 24 - Erin George
 25 - Eliza & Jonah Polak
 26 - Beth Weil



You are invited to join LaPorte servants on **Wednesday, September 2** from **1:30pm to 4:00pm**, to repack food for Second Harvest Food Bank. We are also participating in their distribution days. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and to help our community. If you would like to be a part of either of these outreaches, contact Charlie Weil.

LaPorte Fellowship Activity

Wednesday, September 9 at Noon

Thank you to all who have been attending and all who have provided lunch. All are welcome to September's fellowship - even just for lunch! We will continue to watch & discuss *The Chosen*, Season 5, Episode 7. If you would like to help with lunch or have questions, please see Cheryl Smith.



Community Breakfast

Sunday, September 27
8:30am to 10:00am

Invite a friend or two for breakfast and have them join us for worship.



Pickleball Schedule *September*

Come join the fun! We meet Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 10:00am.

September 1, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29