

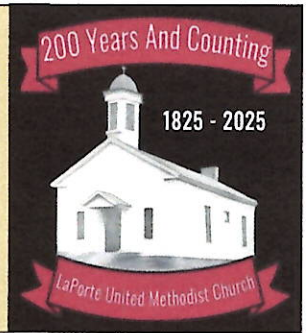
The Belltower

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, 2025

Dear Friends,

This last week or so I have been reflecting on the reality that I am in my fifth appointment year as your pastor. Many things have come and gone in these years. Dear friends and longtime servants of Christ have gone to their reward while others have found it necessary to slow their pace. However, others have increased their response to God's call on their lives, inspiring others to join them in God's work. One steady and consistent reality is the care and concern you all have for each other and LaPorte UMC.

God has used you all to comfort those who have lost loved ones, encourage the discouraged, and many have faithfully stood by and supported others in life's ever-changing seasons. Without a doubt, we have had good reason to have fears and questions over the last few years.

Second Timothy 4:2 tells us to be ready to preach the Word "in and out of season." Thank you for loving Jesus and loving His church. Thank you for pointing each other to Christ when nothing else makes sense. Thank you for being hopeful when it would have been easier to rest in despair. Thank you for relying on God's all-sufficient Word. Whether it be teaching, ushering, serving on committees/teams, or in any other manner, thank you for staying true to your callings.

Soon the splashing sounds of children in pools and the whirl of bike tires passing will go away, marking the end of this summer season. It will be replaced with the crisp air and rustling sounds of leaves that come with fall. It is a season some dread as school begins and the church year gets, as one person stated, "more serious." I think it is just different and I can appreciate this special season as it brings new and unique opportunities in family, work, and church life. One thing we all strive for is to be faithful to our callings from our Lord. The season is fast approaching where we ask you to consider staying, changing, or to begin serving on one of the teams or committees of LaPorte UMC. I have been in prayer that some of you will be open to stepping out into a new "season" of service. I invite you to pray and ask God to guide you in ways to serve His church.

Whether it be five years of leading, 50 years of membership, 85 years of being a Christian, or 200 years as a church, sometimes many of us may wonder what is being accomplished. Please remember that our calling is to be steadfast and faithful and, as 1 Corinthians 15:58 tells us, "...be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

My prayer for us is that we look with anticipation into "any" new seasons that we are invited into, whatever it may be, for our Lord is just and faithful!

Blessings and Thanks,

Pastor William T. Baker





LaPorte Missions News

Cheryl Smith, Chair
missions@laportechurch.org

Serving God Through Serving Others

ST. PAULY USED CLOTHING SHED **FRIENDLY REMINDER**

Thanks to all who have utilized 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.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE COLLECTION



**American
Red Cross**

Change for Change is focusing on the disasters happening within the United States. The East and West Coasts have suffered terribly with hurricanes, flooding, and wild fires. We want to help with the recovery efforts spiritually through prayer, physically through mission trips, and with monetary donations. The children will collect change during the service the last Sunday of each month, **August 31 & September 28**. Please collect your change and bring it to fill their cups. Paper change will also be accepted. God bless your generous giving and those who are receiving!

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.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:14-17 (NIV)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD **SAMARITAN'S PURSE**



For the next few months, we are asking you to open your hearts this Christmas to children around the world. Directions for how and what to pack in a shoebox are in the box. Have fun with it! Or donate \$10 for others to pack **ALL BOXES ARE DUE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 9!** If you are able, please include the shipping cost of \$10 for each box you pack. For more information, gift suggestions, questions, etc., visit the Outreach Center in the Narthax. Thank you for sharing Christmas with children around the world!

LAPORTE FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY

There will be **NO** luncheons and *The Chosen* series in August and September. We will meet back up on October 8 for lunch and begin Season 5, Episode 1 on the Chosen. See you then!

"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.

SUMMER HYMN STUDY ***Through August 28 at 6:30pm***

Join us for our summer hymn study through the end of August! We will be diving into music, especially hymns, and how they play a part in worshipping God. The study will start out each night with singing a few hymns and then diving into the meaning, history, and links to Bible passages. No need to commit to coming every week - join us on the weeks you can! Bring your favorite hymn and we might just be able to talk about it and sing it. See Ethan Greenly if you have any questions.





LaPorte Finance News

Renee Bush
Finance Team

Dear Church Family:

As we continue to steward our church resources, we want to explain the purpose of our two Capital Improvement Funds - Capital Improvement Fund A and Capital Improvement Fund B - to help you give with confidence as we manage church resources for the future.

Capital Fund A is designated for major capital improvements to the church, parsonage property, and any future tangible properties to support long-term ministry goals. This could be, for example, land purchase, building renovations, etc.

Capital Fund B is designated for smaller capital improvements that add significant value to the property of the church. This could be, for example, ongoing upgrades, appliances for the kitchen, furnace, repairs and essential maintenance of our church facilities-such as roof repairs, painting, safety enhancements.

By contributing to these funds, you are directly investing in the sustainability and expansion of our church's mission. We encourage you to pray and give as the Lord leads, knowing your generosity is laying a foundation for current and future generations.

Your giving helps build today and prepare for tomorrow.

God bless,
Renee Bush, Finance/Single Board



FINANCIAL MONTHLY/YEARLY NEWSLETTER REPORT

Income and Expenses: May, 2025

Income: \$13,620.00 (monthly needed income to meet budget \$17,409.00)

Expenses Paid: \$14,604.28
-\$984.28

For the month of May, the income was **-\$3,789.00** less than the needed monthly budget.

Income and Expenses: June, 2025 (5 Sundays in June)

Income: \$17,592.00 (monthly needed income to meet budget \$17,409.00)

Expenses Paid: \$14,185.81
\$3,406.19

For the month of June, the income was \$183.00 more than the needed monthly budget.

Year-to-Date: January 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2025:

Income: \$86,010.00 (yearly needed income to meet budget \$208,909.00)

Expenses Paid: \$95,051.87
-\$9,041.87

There was \$4,845.00 given in memory to the General Fund.

Explanations:

Income: The income given by your tithes and loose plate offering to operate the church

Expense: The budgeted items to operate the church

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

From Karen Simms & Hillary Haddix . . .

Summer Cucumber Salad

3-4 cucumbers or 8 small, peeled, seeded & diced (can salt and let drain, or blot to remove moisture) *Karen uses 4 English cucumbers.*

1/2 cup red onion, finely chopped

1 lb. angel hair pasta, cut into fourths, cooked & drained.

Dressing:

1 24 oz. jar Marzetti Original Slaw Dressing

1 cup sugar

1 3/4 cup half & half

2 T dried dillweed

Combine the dressing and mix with other ingredients. Make a day ahead so pasta absorbs the dressing.



Mark & Anne Vale, and Victoria Jackson wish to thank everyone for the cards and prayers regarding the loss of Anne's brother, Alfred Zellner, and Mark's son, Todd Vale.

I would like to thank my church family for their prayers, cards, and phone calls during my recovery from my fall and broken ribs. It was very much appreciate.

*Abundance of Blessings,
Clete Johnson*

From Beth's Recipe Box....What to do with all those fresh tomatoes!

Caprese Salad

4 medium or 6 small tomatoes
1 lb. fresh mozzarella cheese
10 to 15 basil leaves
3 T good olive oil
Good, syrupy balsamic vinegar, optional
Salt and pepper

Slice the tomatoes and mozzarella and alternate on a large platter - tomato, mozzarella, basil...Drizzle with olive oil and balsamic vinegar, if using, and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Serve at room temperature.

Panzenella

Tomatoes, diced or cut into wedges (your choice)
Two day old country bread, cubed
1/2 red onion, sliced
5 T good olive oil
3 T red wine vinegar
8 oz. fresh mozzarella, cubed
1/3 C fresh basil, torn

Toss the bread, tomatoes, cheese, onion, and basil in a large service bowl. Mix the olive oil and vinegar and season with salt and pepper. Drizzle over the salad and toss well. Let stand for 10 minutes. If the bread still seems dry after that time, drizzle with more oil and vinegar.



200TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE



This is it - our 200th anniversary celebration is finally upon us! Join us Saturday, September 13th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm for our Homecoming Celebration featuring Scoops & More Ice Cream, exhibits on all facets about the history of LaPorte UMC, games for the children, a representative from Neighborhood Alliance, and a demonstration of our organ. Invite your family and friends to join us for this time of celebration as we remember our 200 years past and look forward to the future of LaPorte UMC! Come back Sunday morning at 11:00am for our worship service with previous pastors and a special video message from Bishop Hee-Soo Jung. Following the worship service, we will have a potluck lunch so bring your favorite dish to share!

A huge thank you goes out to Al Gilder who has been presenting historical hymns during our church services. We hope this series has been enlightening on why hymns were written and the people behind them. A big thank you, also, to Erin George for speaking about Lake Ridge Academy, which began at LaPorte, and her experience growing up in the church. Another round of thanks goes out to Dave Van Arsdale who spoke about what he has learned from all of the pastors that have been stationed at LaPorte during his lifetime. Both of these videos, along with all other 200th anniversary moments will be uploaded to our YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/@laporteumc>.




There is one last chance for you to submit your memories of LaPorte UMC. The deadline is August 15 (a copy is included with the newsletter). We really encourage you to write these down so your memories will be preserved for future generations to know how the Lord has blessed LaPorte UMC. Once completed, turn them into the office or the hanging folder in the Narthex.

One last round of appreciation goes out to Team 200 for all their work these last two years gathering history, preparing for our weekend celebrations, and various other tasks related to our 200th anniversary. The members of the committee are Carl & Cheryl Smith, Al & Ginny Gilder, Ray Stevens, Wendy Stinnett, Rev. William Baker, Dave Van Arsdale, Peggy Pentito, and Ethan Greenly (with special help from Mary Eddy, Terri Smith, and Eric Greenly). Without these members, the celebration would not be what it is today.

AUGUST 2025

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name be joyful in You.</i> <i>Psalms 5:11</i>						
3 Communion 12pm Tureen Lunch 3pm MYF	4	5 10am Stephen Ministry 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	6 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 1:30pm 2nd Harvest	7 6:30pm Hymn Study	8	9 10am Pickleball
10 3pm MYF Miniature Golf	11	12 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	13 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	14 6:30pm Hymn Study	15	16 10am Pickleball
17  3pm MYF To the Fair	18	19	20	21	22	23 
Lorain County Fair						
24 Lorain County Fair 3pm MYF	25 7pm Prayer Shawl 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 7pm Leadership Team Mtg.	26 6:30pm Pickleball	27 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	28 6:30pm Hymn Study	29	30 10am Pickleball
31 8:30am Community Breakfast						

* Activities & dates subject to change

Events & Happenings for August at LaPorte United Methodist

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



Back to School

Faith & Fellowship

Our August Faith & Fellowship Tureen Lunch is **Sunday, August 3** following morning worship. Bring a dish to share and your table service.



General Schedule

Please check weekly announcements for updates.

<u>Sunday</u>	
8:30am	Community Breakfast (last Sunday of the month)
9:15am	Adult Sunday School (Parlor)
9:30am	Bible Study for All (Library)
11:00am	Worship Service
12:00pm	Faith & Fellowship Meal (1st Sunday of the month)
3:00pm	Methodist Youth Fellowship Meeting (Every Sunday except the last of the month)
<u>Monday</u>	
7:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry (3rd Monday of the month)
<u>Tuesday</u>	
10:00am	Stephen Ministry (1st Tuesday of the month)
6:00pm	6:18 Prayer Service
6:30pm	Pickleball
<u>Wednesday</u>	
9:30am	Ladies' Bible Study
1:30pm	Second Harvest (1st Wednesday of the month)
<u>Saturday</u>	
10:00am	- Pickleball



Pickleball Schedule August

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

August 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30

Community Breakfast Sunday, August 31 from 8:30am to 10:00am



Invite a friend or two for breakfast and have them join us for worship. If you are interested in helping with the *Community Breakfast* meals or have questions, see Jon & Rachel Kisilewicz.






You are invited to join LaPorte servants on Wednesday, **August 6,**

1:30pm to 4:00pm, to repack food for Second Harvest Food Bank. 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.

September 2025

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 10am Stephen Ministry 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	3 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 1:30pm 2nd Harvest	4	5	6 10am Pickleball
7 Communion 12pm Tureen Lunch 3pm MYF	8	9 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	10 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	11	12 200th Anniversary Celebration Pastors' Dinner	13 1pm to 4pm Fun-Fest
14 200th Anniversary Celebration 12pm Potluck	15 Clergy & SPRC Consultations 7pm Prayer Shawl	16 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	17 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	18	19	20 10am Pickleball
21 3pm MYF	22  6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 7pm Leadership Team Mtg.	23 6:30pm Pickleball	24 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	25	26	27 10am Pickleball
28 8:30am Community Breakfast	29	30 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	<i>From the rising of the sun to its going down The LORD's name is to be praised.</i> <i>Psalms 113:3</i> 			

*Activities & dates subject to change

Events & Happenings for September at LaPorte United Methodist

General Schedule

Please check weekly announcements for updates.

<u>Sunday</u>	
8:30am	Community Breakfast (last Sunday of the month)
9:15am	Adult Sunday School (Parlor)
9:30am	Bible Study for All (Library)
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Pickleball Schedule September

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

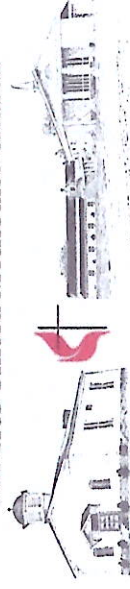
September 2, 6, 9, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30



Faith & Fellowship

Our August Faith & Fellowship Tureen Lunch is **Sunday, September 7** following morning worship. Bring a dish to share and your table service.

LaPorte United Methodist Church



200 Years of Serving God Faithfully as a Family

LAPORTE UMC 200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 13th
Homecoming from 1-4pm
with food, exhibits, and more!

Sunday, September 14th
Worship at 11am
Followed by a potluck lunch

September Birthdays

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



You are invited to join LaPorte servants on Wednesday, **September 3, 1:30pm to 4:00pm**, to repack food for Second Harvest Food Bank. 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 UMC History Snippets

The following is information about how LaPorte UMC began and the buildings it has occupied. The LaPorte Episcopal Church began its history in 1825. Some itinerant preacher, traveling on horseback through the forest, lodged overnight at a pioneer's log hut on Butternut Ridge. The word of God found a welcome in the hearts of the lonely settlers and there in the light of the blazing logs, a spiritual fire was kindled in the souls present. For nearly two decades, the word of God was preached from the cabins of those early settlers. In 1843 a permanent structure was erected on the present site. The building served well for 150 years. Building additions were made in 1917, 1948, 1956, and 1957. In 1961 the present sanctuary was constructed. In early 1992, the original building and its additions were razed and replaced by a modern education and office wing, complete with a new fellowship hall. For over a hundred years the Methodist Church at LaPorte was served by various itinerant, retired or part time preachers. Since 1947, the LaPorte Church has been served by its own full time pastor. In early 1992, the original building and its additions were razed and replaced by a modern education and office wing, complete with a new fellowship hall. Throughout the years the Methodist Church at LaPorte has remained a focal point of service and Christian discipleship in Carlisle Township. We continue to "Grow in Christ and Spread God's Word."

A church that has thrived for 200 years must have had plenty of pastors to shepherd the congregation and encourage them in their faith journey. LaPorte has even had it's own members grow up and become pastors. As Mrs. F.A. Brush wrote in 1907, "The church at LaPorte has had quite a remarkable career, ten of its Methodist girls became preacher's wives, and six of its sons traveling preachers. There were many of its members that were mighty in Faith and Prayer, but her Young Men have gone out into the world and now it is feeble."

Enjoy these photos of some of our recent pastors not taking themselves too seriously while still spreading the Good News!



Vacation Bible School has been a time honored tradition at LaPorte United Methodist Church for many years. The history of it as an evangelical tool dates back to the 1890s when a New York doctor's wife wanted to find a way to keep children off the streets in the summertime, and so she rented a large hall and called her classes "Everyday Bible School." Enjoy these photos from Vacation Bible Schools of the past at LaPorte UMC!



LaPorte UMC Memories

Share your memories with us so that we may pass them on to future generations!

Name: _____

We would love to get any photos of the church you may have - old church building photos, events, people, etc. If you would like to share photos with us, please leave your email or phone number so we may get in contact with you: _____

Are there any special people from LaPorte UMC who have made a big impact on your life? If so, tell us about them and their impact on you: _____

Tell us about the pastors who have served during your time here. How they have impacted your life, what they were like, and any funny stories you may have: _____

General Memories - feel free to tell us anything you remember about your time at the church (More room on the back of the page): _____

