

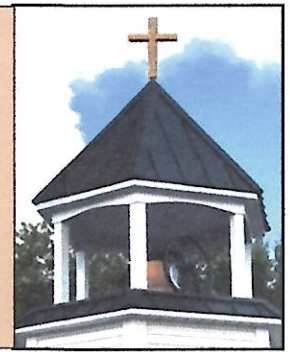
The Belltower

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



October & November, 2026

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but there's a particular day every fall when I step outside and feel it, that first real hint of cool air, and something in me just knows the season has turned. And soon, I will be walking with my wife and, as the dried leaves rustle around, she will start quoting a poem titled, "October", with the final line of "But isn't it lovely kicking up leaves". Maybe it's watching the school buses roll down the street again, or noticing the light hit the trees a little differently in the evening. Whatever the sign is for you, autumn tends to arrive with a quiet announcement that things are shifting.

I think about all the transitions happening around us right now. Kids walking into new classrooms, meeting new teachers, figuring out new routines. Parents adjusting to schedules that look nothing like July. And here in our own church family, we're in the middle of some transitions of our own as fall ministries are getting off the ground for the school year, people stepping into roles they've never filled before, all of us learning together what this next season is asking of us. All of us want things to stay the same. But time always brings changes.

Here's what I keep coming back to, change has a way of making us wonder what we can actually count on. And that's exactly where Hebrews meets us. The writer doesn't say much changes, he says Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Not "mostly the same"; not "the same on good days." The same. Always.

That's not just a nice sentiment, it's something we can actually build our lives on. I realize often change is something that is good for us and we desire it to come. However, even good changes can be stressful. It's those unwanted or expected changes that are really hard to take. We have all lived with some of those in this last year and, most likely, there are changes coming to us as individuals and as a church that we have no way to see that they are coming. When everything else is shifting around us, we don't have to manufacture our own stability. We get to rest in someone else's.

So, here's my invitation to you this fall: don't just push through the changes, pay attention to them. Let them remind you where your real security has always been. And let's walk through this season together, the way we always do.

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, **October 25 & November 29**. The organization for both months is Neighborhood Alliance. These funds help our community grow stronger by caring for our clients' most basic needs. They provide emergency shelter, homeless outreach, daily meal delivery, nutrition services including an emergency food pantry and socialization activities for seniors, childcare and child enrichment programs, and access to family support programs such as Help Me Grow for those in need. They are empowering the people of our community with the tools to create a better life for themselves. With their inspired mission of strengthening neighborhoods, they continue to expand programs and services to address the diverse and changing needs of families and individuals in Northeast Ohio.

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 and generosity to Good Knights.

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.

NEWS FROM JOEL GREENLY



Hi LaPorte Church family!

I have officially been in Central America for over a month, and I have to say it has been wonderful. I'm working in the field of human rights, and so far I have been able to not only learn more about the situation of this country, but meet some wonderful coworkers and friends who have welcomed me with open arms. I have found a new church community down here but truthfully, I will always be a member of LaPorte UMC and I miss you all and cannot wait until I am able to come back and worship with you again. In the meantime, I am always available to be contacted at jgreenly@umcmmission.org or via WhatsApp at [+1 \(440\) 731-1031](tel:+14407311031). If you would like to hear longer stories about my mission journey here, I have also set up a monthly newsletter. Scanning the QR code will take you to a page to add your email, while past newsletters can be accessed [here](#). If you would like to donate financially towards my mission and the rest of my cohort, the best way is through my Advance page [here](#). Thank you again for all the support you have shown me. You will always be my family.



Blessings,
Joel Greenly

PERSONAL DIGNITY KITS UPDATE



For six months, LaPorte and Lorain Lighthouse have been collecting items for personal dignity kits for Midwest Mission. On July 25, members from both churches gathered to assemble kits. It was a fun and energetic event with people working alongside each other and getting to meet new people. They assembled 210 kits in 35 minutes! As each box was filled, a few people laid hands on the box and prayed over the kits inside. We have no idea where they will go but all were delighted to experience the joy of giving to others and discovering what it is like to complete a project for Midwest Mission.

On September 10, Carl & Cheryl Smith and Mary Eddy delivered 17 boxes to Gay St. UMC in Mt. Vernon, OH. This church is a permanent collection site for items going to Midwest Mission. It is anticipated Midwest will send a truck to pick up the kits in November.

I wish to say a huge thank you and God bless to all who donated and participated in this endeavor.

~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 August 31, 2026)

Tithes:	\$115,421.25
Expenses Paid:	<u>\$123,909.25</u>
	-\$8,488.00

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.



WALK THRU THE BIBLE

Saturday, November 14

10:00am to 1:00pm

Experience an event that unveils God's Word as you've never known it before. As you walk thru the Old Testament, you'll realize that the Bible is coming to life and your knowledge of its people, places, and themes is rapidly increasing. In just a few short hours, you'll see the big picture better than some who have studied for years. Like many others, you may walk away saying, "I never understood the Bible like this before!" Most of all, you'll develop a deeper connection with the God who wants you to know Him and will never stop pursuing your heart. The more you understand His story, the more you'll realize it's your story too. And the more you realize it's your story, the more His words will change your life.

- Experience the story of the Bible in a way that makes God's Word come alive.
- Learn 40 hand signs and stories designed to help you understand the big picture of the Old Testament.
- See beyond the facts of the Bible and encounter its author.

Join us November 14th from 10am-1pm for this exciting event! The cost is \$20 and you will receive a book that goes along with the event. You may register in person on Sunday mornings or online at:

<https://laportechurch.org/news/walk-thru-the-bible>.

HELP US SHARE THE STORY

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!

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!

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

The Worship Committee is looking for ushers and lay readers for our Sunday morning worship services! An usher arrives at 10:30am to greet and hand out bulletins, does the attendance, and collects the offering. A lay reader will read during the church service. They are responsible for the opening prayer, call to worship, selected Bible readings, and reading the prepared offering prayer. You do not need to be a good public speaker to be a lay reader. In fact, some of our current lay readers joined so they could overcome their fear of public speaking! If you feel called to serve in either of these positions, please contact Pastor or Mary Eddy.

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.

HELP US BRING THE LIBRARY BACK TO LIFE

Our church library has a wonderful collection of books and resources, but it needs some attention before it can become a useful resource for our congregation once again. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help reorganize, sort, and catalog the library so that we can make it easier for everyone to use.

This project will involve sorting books, organizing shelves, and cataloging materials. No special library experience is necessary — just a willingness to help and a little time!

Whether you love books, enjoy organizing, or simply want to help with a worthwhile church project, we would love to have you join us. Working together, we can transform the library into an organized, welcoming space where people can discover books and resources that enrich their faith and encourage their spiritual growth.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Ethan Greenly at tech@laportechurch.org for more information. We hope you will consider being part of bringing our church library back to life!



October 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
<i>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.</i>  Joshua 1:9 						
4 Communion 12pm Tureen Lunch 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice 3pm MYF	5	6 10am Stephen Ministry 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	7 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 1:30pm 2nd Harvest	8 6:30pm Choir Practice	9  10am Pickleball	3 10am Pickleball
11 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice 3pm MYF	12	13 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	14 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 12pm Fellowship Activity	15 6:30pm Choir Practice	16	17 10am Pickleball
18 Lait Sunday 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice 3pm MYF	19 	20 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	21 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	22 6:30pm Choir Practice	23	24 10am Pickleball 10am Charge Conf. At Medina UMC
25 Reformation Sunday 8:30am Community Breakfast 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice	26 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 7pm Leadership Team Mtg.	27 6:30pm Pickleball	28 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	29 6:30pm Choir Practice	30	31 10am Pickleball 

*Dates subject to change

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

General Schedule

Please check weekly announcements for updates.

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



Pickleball Schedule October

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

October 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31



Faith & Fellowship

Our September Faith & Fellowship Tureen Lunch is **Sunday, October 4**, following morning worship. Bring a dish to share and your table service.



October Birthdays

- 4 - Cole Polak
- 5 - Beth Feliciano, Donna Witherell
- 7 - Sallie Gimben
- 14 - Barbara Jackson
- 16 - Amanda Smith
- 20 - Vera McCray, Zachary Smith
- 24 - Brian Haddix
- 25 - Joel Greenly, Anne Vale
- 26 - Jack Reck



You are invited to join LaPorte servants on **Wednesday, October 7** 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, October 14 at noon

Thank you to all who have been attending and all who have provided lunch. All are welcome to October's fellowship - even just for lunch! We will continue to watch & discuss *The Chosen*, Season 5, Episode 8. If you would like to help with lunch or have questions, please see Cheryl Smith.



Community Breakfast

Sunday, October 25
8:30am to 10:00am

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



November 2026

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 2071 Grafton Rd.
 Elyria, OH 44035
 440-458-5716

www.laportechurch.org laporteumc@laportechurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 12pm Tureen Lunch 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice 3pm MYF	2	3 10am Stephen Ministry 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	4 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 1:30pm 2nd Harvest	5 6:30pm Choir Practice	6	7 10am Pickleball
8 Service of Hope & Remembrance 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice 3pm MYF	9	10 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	11 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 	12 6:30pm Choir Practice	13	14 10am Walk Thru The Bible
15 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice 3pm MYF	16	17 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 6:30pm Pickleball	18 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	19 6:30pm Choir Practice	20	21 10am Pickleball
22  12pm Hanging of the Greens 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice 3pm MYF	23 6pm 6:18 Prayer Svc. 7pm Leadership Team Mtg.	24  6:30pm Pie & Praise	25 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	26 	27	28 10am Pickleball 
29  8:30am Community Breakfast 12:30pm Bell Choir Practice	30		Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. <i>Psalms 136:1</i> 			

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Events & Happenings for November at LaPorte United Methodist

General Schedule

Please check weekly announcements for updates.

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November 3, 7, 10, 17, 21, 28



Faith & Fellowship

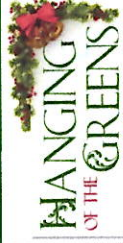
Our November Faith & Fellowship Tureen Lunch is **Sunday, November 1**, following morning worship. Bring a dish to share and your table service.

November Birthdays

10 - Karen Sims
13 - Brian Smith
14 - Ashley Churgovich,
Carol Smith
16 - Ariella Cruz
19 - Cara Babel, Mary Eddy,
LaWanda Tigert
28 - Dennis Taylor, Debbie Turner
29 - Carl Smith



You are invited to join LaPorte servants on **Wednesday, November 4, 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.



Sunday, November 22
following Morning
Worship

Join us for lunch that afternoon - bring your favorite soup. Afterwards, we will decorate the church for the Advent season.



Tuesday, November 24 at 6:30pm

Join us for an evening of pie, praise, and fellowship as we celebrate the Thanksgiving season. Bring your favorite pie to share!



Community Breakfast

Sunday, November 29
8:30am to 10:00am

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

