



" And this is my prayer:that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ." Philippians 9-10

Dear friends in Christ,

Knowledge and depth of insight is critical for us to continuously grow in our faith. The Apostle Paul refers to this process as sanctification. John Wesley encouraged us to grow daily as we move toward Christian Perfection. Even modern day educators inspire us to be life long learners.

The more we learn about God and others the more our love will abound. However, this does not occur naturally. We have to make a deliberate decision to constantly learn, constantly grow, constantly be willing to change.

If we choose not to do this it does not automatically make us evil. It also does not mean that we are hateful. But what it does say is that, for whatever reason, we are not going to do the hard work involved by allowing God's love to abound.

Now, I can't speak for anyone but me, but when I look around I believe we need a lot more of God's love to abound. Yes, there will always be an element of hatred, but I don't believe that is the major problem. The problem I believe we face today is not as much about hatred as it is about a lack of knowledge and insight.

We have become so busy in our own little circles that we have stopped learning. We feel that as long as we are not hating that we are alright. But as Christians we are not simply called not to hate, we are called to love.

With this biblical concept being our motivating factor, our church will be hosting, on our front lawn, a panel sharing personal stories of racism in our Valley. We will also be encouraging people to sign up for Dialogues on Racism to help us better understand this problem. Masks will be required and social distancing will be encouraged.

We are hoping that this can be a step forward for all of us to grow in our knowledge and depth of understanding so that the Mahoning Valley can be known for abounding in God's love! Please come Sunday, July 26 at 5:00PM. When the body of Christ is unified, God's abounding love will be present.

God's Love and Grace,
Pastor Ken

CHURCH CABINET

We are excited to receive overwhelming survey response!

As you know, the Church Cabinet requested survey feedback to help guide our prayerful and thoughtful discussion around how to return our congregation to service in our sanctuary in a safe manner while reaching the most people with the love and hope of our Savior Jesus Christ. While we are still collecting and organizing the final results of the survey, we are very excited by the strong response we have received from 76 individuals. The Church Cabinet wanted to provide some of the preliminary results in an effort to maintain full transparency of the results. As the Cabinet has the opportunity to analyze the feedback and make decisions around how we will move forward as one family in Christ, there will be additional communications.

The demographics of the survey results are largely consistent with membership of the church. Very close to 50% of the responses were from members that attend the second traditional service. We are excited to have a small response of about 5% from new Attendees that were attracted to our current “Drive-in” style of service during the pandemic. The remaining responses of near 45% came from first Praise service membership. Similarly, our age demographics align with our current church membership with close to 60% of the responses coming from individuals over 60 years old.

The responses around when everyone would feel comfortable returning to the internal sanctuary started to become a little more mixed. The strongest responses were from those that would be comfortable once the public health mandates are lifted by the State of Ohio (29% of respondents) and those that would be comfortable to start attending in the August-September timeframe (29% of respondents). This should give us some time to continue to use the “Drivein” style of service while we thoughtfully prepare to return to the internal sanctuary. There was much more consistency in the feedback around making sure we follow the public health mandates of social distancing, required face masks, facility sanitizing, hand sanitizer or washing, limiting access to restrooms and elevators and temporarily eliminating gathers for coffee and donuts.

An important question that we received everyone’s thoughts on, involved what style of service would best attract and reach the most people to grow our outreach with the love and hope of our Savior Jesus Christ when we returned to the internal sanctuary. In this area, the overwhelming response (75% of respondents) was to return to a single service, with the majority (56% of respondents) recommending a combined Praise and Traditional Service.

We want to thank everyone for taking the time to answer the survey. The results are very informative and the written responses will be very valuable to help make sure we can bring the love and hope of Christ to the most people possible. We received a number of very positive comments recognizing the great work to create the “Drive-in” Service and the ability to provide a “live” service on Facebook to modernize and leverage social media. People appear to be excited about a fresh start that appeals to all generation worship styles and that will unify our church and community. In the end, we pray that the Holy Spirit inspires us to follow Christ’s plan for our Church.

Again, thank you for your feedback!

Church Cabinet



VBS



TRUSTEES

Trustee's tip of the cap to:

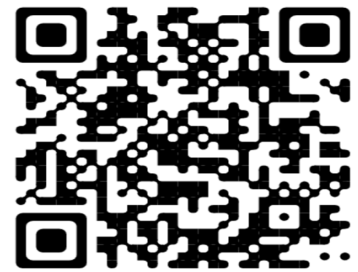
Rebecca and Jeff Sauline for trimming shrubs and weeding outside the main entrance.

Jim and Robalee Dinopoulos for their landscaping in and around the Memorial Garden.

Thank you all so much your work is very much appreciated.

PUMC Trustees

PUMC CHURCH APP



TUESDAY - JULY 28 - 6-7PM or WEDNESDAY - JULY 29 - 9-10AM



- Trunks must be open
- Trunks need to be clear of all other belongings
- Windows rolled up or masks on passengers
- Food will be placed in your trunk
- Do NOT exit your vehicle for any reason
- Limit one family per car
- Must live in the 44514 zip code

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

***Hi PUMC Families! As you may or may not know, we have been posting Children's Church video lessons each week. These videos teach the Bible messages we would normally be teaching your child during our Children's Church time. The links to these messages can be found on our My Church App (under "More" and then "Children's Ministry".) There are also fun activities that go with each lesson for your child to do, and some discussion questions to reflect on the lesson together with your families.

I hope to see all our wonderful kids back at church sometime soon, but until we can meet again in person, I hope these video messages will help remind them that we care about them as they learn more about Jesus! God bless you all!! — Amy Winner***



THANK YOU

Dear PUMC,

I want to thank you for the very generous graduation gift. I would also like to thank you for all that you have done for me. The countless memories I have created there as well as the lessons learned at the church. Thank you again for the very generous graduation gift as well as all that you have done for me.

Sincerely,
Andrew Albert



A huge thank you to Abigail Circle who donated over \$400 worth of gift cards from local businesses for the Poland police officers. We wanted to thank the local officers for their service and let them know we support them.

STORIES OF RACISM IN THE VALLEY



In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.
—MLK

SUNDAY JULY 26 • 5PM

**POLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1940 BOARDMAN POLAND RD.
POLAND OH**

**Outside Event Promoting
Future Dialogue**

Masks ■ Social Distancing