



# The Portage Presbyterian



A Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

December 2019

## "GREENING OF THE CHURCH" - DEC 1

Everyone is invited to come on *Sunday morning, December 1st* (the First Sunday in Advent) for breakfast and to help decorate and prepare the sanctuary and church for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

We will start decorating @ 8:00 a.m. You may stop for breakfast at any time you like.

Then, we will stop our decorating to join together in our time of worship.

If we have decorating to finish, we will do so after the worship service.

Those of any age, skill level or decorating prowess are encouraged to come and share in this time together.



## PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

The Peace & Global Witness offering was collected on "World Communion Sunday", October 7<sup>th</sup>. We collected \$214.00 of which (\$53.50) stays locally.

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The receipts from the offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women of the General Assembly Mission Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on December 15 & 22 during worship service. If you have boxed church envelopes, there is a Christmas Joy envelope included.

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

This will be the 21<sup>st</sup> year the Portage Presbyterian Church has opened its doors on Christmas day for a free mid-day dinner for people in the community. Last year's event provided a meal for about 150+ people and it is anticipated that at least that many will be served this year. The Christmas dinner was initiated to provide a gathering place and festive meal for people who would otherwise be alone or could not provide a holiday meal for their family. Generous donations from the congregation and the community have supported the event. One of the factors contributing to its success is that many individuals and families, including many from outside our congregation, help. The meal served is turkey and ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, vegetable, cranberry and rolls along with dessert and beverage. Meals can be delivered to shut-ins by calling the church office ahead of time. Dinner will be served from noon to 1:30 P.M. We are in need of help that day. Please contact Nancy Schaper at 742-7242 if you are willing to volunteer a few hours of your time or sign up on the sheets in Parry Hall. There is also a sign-up sheet for donations of Christmas cookies for our dessert.



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - DEC 8

We will be having a "congregational meeting" on Sunday, December 8 - at the conclusion of our morning worship.

The purpose of this meeting will be to receive the report of the Nominating Committee and to act upon this report as we elect new Ruling Elders and Deacons.

Please be sure to keep those who are being called to these particular types of ministry in your prayers.

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 1, 2019

The 1st Sunday of Advent

10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*

*"Greening of the Church"*

*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Wednesday, December 4

6:15 p.m. - *"Wed Nite Worship"*

*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

*An interactive worship experience*

Sunday, December 8, 2019

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*

*Congregation Meeting following*

Sunday, December 8

2:00 p.m. - *"A Service of Hope" - Parry Hall*

*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Wednesday, December 11

6:15 p.m. - *"Wed Nite Worship"*

*An interactive worship experience*

Sunday, December 15, 2019

The 3rd Sunday of Advent

10:05 a.m. - *Worship in Sanctuary*

*Christmas Program-*

*"A Charlie Brown Christmas"*

*Fellowship time following*

Wednesday, December 18

6:15 p.m. - *"Wed Nite Worship"*

*An interactive worship experience*

Sunday, December 22, 2019

The 4th Sunday of Advent

10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*

Tuesday, December 24

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship @ 5:30 p.m.*

Wednesday, December 25

*Christmas Day Worship @ 11:00 a.m.*

Sunday, December 29, 2019

The 1st Sunday of Christmas

10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship - Sanctuary*

## THE PORTAGE PRESBYTERIAN

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Portage Presbyterian Church

120 West Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 222

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Phone & Fax Line: - 608-742-6006

Portage Presbyterian Church E-mail Addresses

Pastor - [pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com](mailto:pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com)

Church Office - [office@portagepresbyterian.com](mailto:office@portagepresbyterian.com)

Portage Presbyterian Church Website Address

[www.portagepresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.portagepresbyterianchurch.com)

Editor - Kathryn Curtis

Pastor - The Rev. David J. Hankins

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### 2019 Per Capita Information

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Our 2019 "Per Capita" amount is **\$32.60**  
**for each active member.**

If you have not already done so, please consider dropping off your Per Capita (*for each member*) on Sunday morning, in the mail or by stopping by the church office.

If you have a number of members in your household, you do not have to pay for everyone at one time. Pay as you can.

Also, we appreciate those who choose to make a donation on behalf of someone or as a gift to PPC which helps us cover our church's total.

"Per Capita" is the "tie that binds" - annual support that unites and supports the work and ministry of the entire Presbyterian Church (USA) - at all levels of the church - the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly.

"Per Capita" provides the "whole church" with the means to strengthen the connections of our work and build lasting relationships which help all Presbyterians share God's love through mission and ministry.

If you have questions, please contact the Church Office. Thank you!

(continued from column 1)

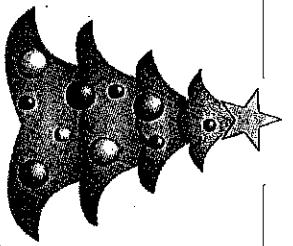
*Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann will be leading worship*

Tuesday, December 31

5:30 p.m. - *"Informal" Worship -*

*New Year's Eve*

*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*



# December

## 2019



<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
<b>1</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 8:00-9:30am Breakfast 10:05am Greening of the Church Worship With Lord's Supper, SA	<b>2</b> 5:00pm Events, WC	<b>3</b> 9:00am Bell Choir, PH	<b>4</b> 1:00pm River Haven Board Meeting, WC 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA	<b>5</b> 6:00pm Session Meeting, WC	<b>6</b> 8:00am - 4:00pm Creative Arts Festival, Church and Westminster Center Office Closed	<b>7</b> 10:30am - 1:00pm Holiday House, FH
<b>8</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA Congregational Meeting 2:00 pm "A Service Of Hope", PH	<b>9</b> 5:30pm ACA, WC	<b>10</b> 9:00am Bell Choir, PH 10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, PH 5:00pm Mission Stewardship, WC	<b>11</b> 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Session Meeting, WC	<b>13</b> January Newsletter Articles Due in Office	<b>14</b> 11:00am Christmas Program Practice & Cookie decorating 12:00pm Pizza Lunch 1:00-3:00pm Christmas Caroling at Local Nursing Facilities
<b>15</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 8:30am Bible Study, BTR 10:05am Christmas Program, SA 3:00pm "The Star" (movie)	<b>16</b> 10:00am Worship Service at Twoli 5:00-6:00pm Sharing Supper at Bartels Middle School	<b>17</b> 9:00am Bell Choir, PH 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's	<b>18</b> 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 8:30am Bible Study, BTR 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, SA	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas 11:00 am Christmas Day Service, SA 12:00-1:30pm Free Christmas Day Dinner, FH	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann leading worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 5:30pm New Year's Eve Service with Lord's Supper, SA	<b>3</b>			

**MINISTRY AND WORSHIP @ TIVOLI**

PPC is blessed to provide a monthly worship service at Tivoli.

We have found that our worship service is one of the better attended worship times – and that is great news!

*We are looking for additional people to come and help get people to and from the chapel.*

You will have the opportunity to share in a special worship experience as well as being able to interact with some very nice people. Chaplain Monica remarks how much the residents enjoy having people come and share worship with them.

If you could help with this ministry once in a while, contact Pastor Dave.

**PLEASE NOTE!** We share worship on the Monday DECEMBER 16TH ... @10:00 a.m.

This is our annual "Christmas Hymns and Scripture" worship service with the residents

**CARD PARTY**

Mark you calendars for our first card party of 2020 that will be on Friday, January 24.



## Pastor's Page

The following can be found in an Advent book called "Faces At the Manger" by J. Barrie Shepherd. One of the writings included in the compilation is titled "Angels and Animals."

I like to read this every year as I prepare to move into Advent - as, for me, it puts much into perspective.

I hope that you will find this tidbit meaningful, inspirational and hopeful for you in this time of the year.

The mystery and manure of Christmas. What kind of theme is that for a decent, upright, respectable Presbyterian poet to address, especially in this clean and tinsel-shiny, balsam-scented season of the year. The mystery and the manure of Christmas?

Yet this unlikely combination is precisely what we are faced with when we recognize that there has been, according to the evidence of Scripture and tradition, a place reserved both for angels and animals within that holiest of moments when the Divine entered, became a living, breathing part of its own creation. The mystery and the manure of Christmas.

This confrontation comes, although it shouldn't, as something of a shock to us today. We inhabit an increasingly anthropocentric world ... all the way to the current scene where indeed, "people are the measure of all things," and all things revolve around, serve the needs of and exist for the sake of humankind.

Even a century ago, half century ago, people were in closer daily touch with the other-created orders of being. Cows had to be milked, by hand, each day. Horses needed to be groomed, fed, cared for. Eggs were to be gathered, barns, pig sties to be swept and shoveled out, furnished with clean, sweet-smelling straw.

So it is when we look back at the stories of Christmas; when we are faced, for example, with the fact that Isaiah foresaw the blissful

heavenly kingdom basically in terms of peace among the animals ... and so forth; or when we come upon this record that Christ came, not into a human habitation, but to a stable; and that his birth was heralded, not by any pre-Christmas media blitz, but by a bunch of herald angels out on a lonely hillside; we are not sure what to make of it.

Yet this is where it all took place. Not in some pseudo-rustic, plastic stable floodlit on a lawn; nor in some over-ornate baroque or rococo ecclesiastical excess; but in the grunge and grime, the smell and din of an honest-to-Godness, cowshed, somewhere in the hills of Palestine.

And it's important, may even be crucial, that it happened among the animals because it sets us in our rightful place; not at the center, where we like to be, expect to be; but as one with all the rest of God's creation, animal, vegetable, mineral - yes the very stars on high present and witnessing the birth of God into the heart of God's own creation.

The mystery, then, and the manure of Christmas. A cause for us to wonder, simply wonder. And in our manufactured, matter-of-fact twentieth century (now 21st century) that may not be such a bad place to begin.

May God bless you and keep you in the journey in and through Advent, Christmas and into Epiphany.



*The Angels Bring  
Good News*

## UPDATING OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

**AND we need your help!!!**

As we have gone through our database, we are discovering that some of our "contact information" is incomplete or incorrect.

In order to have the correct information, we will have a sheet on a table in Parry Hall for you to check and correct if necessary.

Or you can email the church office ([office@portagepresbyterian.com](mailto:office@portagepresbyterian.com)) and share your correct contact information.

What information are we seeking? **Mailing addresses, Phone numbers and email addresses.**



## TRY "SCRIP" - YOU'LL LOVE IT!

*Scrip Fundraising is here @ PPC!*

*And it is EASY!!!*

Scrip fundraising is a no selling program that enable members and friends of the Portage Presbyterian Church to participate in.

Scrip gift cards are the same gift cards you can purchase from the retailer. With over 300 of the Country's biggest brands, including grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants and home improvement and by planning ahead on everyday purchases the Women's Association will profit!

Examples of gift cards in our area are: *Festival Foods, Piggy Wiggly, Walmart, Walgreens, Subway, Cracker Barrel, BP Gas Stations, Kwik Trip, Mobil, Applebee's, Bath & Body Works, Amazon.....and so many more.*

Questions???? Contact Elaine Crammond at 742-3899 or 608 215-8899.

This is an ongoing fundraising program that will be available year round.


Consider our new approach and help us reach our mission goals!

An "order sheet" is included with the newsletter and also are available in Parry Hall!

**Merry Christmas**

## SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Once again we answered the call to ring bells for the Salvation Army. We rang early in the season again, November 16. Thank you to Jill Porzel, Joyce Meredith, The Foster Family, Pam, Chris and Nolan Crosley, Evelyn Brown, Ralph Weiser, Glenda Day, Laura Brenner, Patti & Amanda Elsing Pastor Dave & Kathy, Chris, & Aubrey Rietmann, Debby Capener Liz & Adalie Bellmore, Donna Mohr & myself for volunteering to ring. If you were unable to ring on that day and want to donate your time, call 1-608-617-3237 to sign up.

  
If you do not see your birthday listed, please contact the church office so we may add it to our

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER "NOW" ON-LINE

Check out PPC's website at [www.portagepresbyterian.com](http://www.portagepresbyterian.com) and you will find that our monthly newsletter is now "on-line."

Just click on the link (on the left column) and it will take you to a menu where you can choose the particular newsletter you would like to read.

We will not, however for privacy and security reasons, be including the "prayer list" in the on-line resource.

## KWIK TRIP "CAR WASH" CARDS -

It is getting "that time of the year" when one likes to have one's car "clean."

You can have a clean vehicle and help support PPC's "mission trippers" at the same time when you purchase Kwik Trip "Ultimate" Car Wash cards.

Each card has FIVE car washes on it.

If you were to purchase these at the store, they would cost \$50.00 (\$10.00/wash)

But, the Mission Trippers are selling these cards for the price of \$36.00 / card.

For each card sold the "mission trippers" earn \$16.00! Contact the Church Office. Thanks!



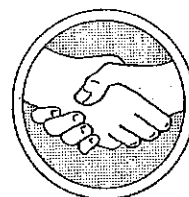
## "READERS" FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

We are looking for "readers" for worship services during the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons.

Among the worship services you could participate: "Greening of the Church" - December 1; "Service of Hope" - December 8 @ 2:00 p.m.; Christmas Eve; Christmas Day - or any of the other Sunday worship services.

If you would be interested in participating as a "reader" in any of the Advent or Christmas worship services, please indicate on the "sign up" sheet on the kiosk in Parry Hall.

Or contact Pastor Dave at the church office.



## GREETERS

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE - BE A GREETER?

Imagine what it might be like to be at PPC for the very first time!

That is the purpose for having "greeters" on Sunday mornings for worship.

*This is an important ministry opportunity as we seek to reach out and welcome visitors into this church community.*

We believe PPC is a wonderful, warm and caring community of God's people. And we want others to experience that which we have found here.

And we are seeking "volunteers" to sign-up to help collect the offering during worship.

But, in order to make this work we need your help!!!

*There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in Parry Hall.*

Please indicate your preference to help provide this important ministry here @ PPC.

Thank you!

## HANDBELL CHOIR "RINGINGS"

PPC's Handbell Choir rehearses on Tuesdays @ 9:00 a.m. in Parry Hall!

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the "bells" or who would like to be a part of this wonderful group is invited to just show up or contact Kathy Hankins @742-2752.

No experience is necessary! Just a love of music and a desire to have fun!

## CHANCEL CHOIR "REHEARSALS"

All who would like to come and make a joyful noise to the Lord are invited to come and be part of PPC's Chancel Choir.

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings @ 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Judy Taylor.

## DECEMBER'S "ADULT BIBLE STUDY"

The Adult Bible Class continues to meet on the third and fourth Sundays of the month at 8:45 am in the Bell Tower Room.

Now that we have studied the passage about the walls of Jericho that came tumbling down, our lessons for December will focus on that which happened following this momentous happening.

We will meet on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> in the "Bell Tower Room."

Do come and join us for some exciting conversations about the Book of Joshua.

All are encouraged to come and join us.



## "HOLIDAY HOUSE" COMING - DEC 7TH

The PPC Women's Association will be holding their annual "Holiday House" on Saturday, December 7th from 10:30 until 1:00.

Come and enjoy a bowl of chicken noodle or beef barley soup, cheese and crackers, desserts and beverage for \$6.

A wide variety of baked sale items will also be available.

If you are making some yummy baked goods you may bring them to the church on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Otherwise you may bring them to the church the day of the Holiday House beginning at 8:00 a.m. We would like them as early in the morning as possible.

Come and check it out!

## DEDICATION OF "WISH LIST" GIFTS

On Sunday, December 22 we will again "dedicate" gifts received from our "Wish List."

If you have or are planning to provide something from the "Wish List," please contact the church office so we have a record of what has been given.

Once again the members and friends of PPC continue to be very generous and very supportive of God's work and ministry in and through PPC.

If you have questions about the "Wish List," please contact the church office. Thank you!

## HARVEST DINNER THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who made our Harvest Dinner a great success. Thank you for the donations of 47 pies. Thank you to Edith McElroy for the donation of bread for the dressing, Fred & Judy Taylor for making the dressing, Elaine Crammond for donating the placemats and napkins and Link's Greenhouse for donating the squash and goards. Thanks to Tara Bandekow who provided a Silent Auction with awesome baskets to bid on and generated \$1,328.00. towards our profit.

Thank you to all the people who helped in the dining room, kitchen, pie room, ticket sellers and takers, publicity people, turkey bakers and carvers, dishwashers and cleanup crew and those of you who came and ate the delicious meal. We served 203 meals and made up 84 carry out meals. We made a profit (which includes the silent auction) of \$4,244.50 that was donated for the general operating expenses of our church. This would not have been a success without the help of everyone. We are so lucky at PPC to have so many willing people to give of their time. If you were unable to make it, you missed a wonderful meal and fellowship time. So you don't miss it next year mark your calendars for November 14, 2020.

An extra special thank you to the members of the Events Committee, (Donna, Edith, Nancy M. and Kevin) who put in many extra hours to make this all come together.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Nancy Schaper





**"SHARING SUPPER" – DECEMBER 16, 2019**

The "Sharing Supper" will be shared on Monday, December 16!!!

Serving begins at 5:00 p.m. **at the Bartels Middle School cafeteria.**

The "Sharing Supper" is served from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

"Sharing Supper" is a meal, sponsored by community groups and organizations. It is intended to bring people in the community together, around tables, where we get to know one another and have an opportunity to learn more about what is happening in the community around us.

A unique part of this experience is the "Kid's Corner" designed especially for the younger folks. Here young people will have a chance to hear stories and do craft projects related to what is happening around us.

All are welcome! Bring your friends and neighbors.

Come and share in this unique and wonderful experience – on **December 16 @ 5:00 p.m.**

***"Wednesday Nite @ PPC"***

5:30 p.m. PEACE

6:15 p.m. Informal, Interactive Worship

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**HERE'S THAT "FOUR LETTER WORD!"**

Yes, that's right - SNOW!

The Administration and Corporate Affairs Committee is looking to find someone who might be interested in providing snow removal at the church and Westminster Center during the upcoming winter season.

If you might be interested or know of someone who may be interested, please contact Fred Taylor or Kevin Foster of the ACA Committee.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

### PPC RECEIVES SPECIAL WORSHIP "GIFT"

The Session has continued to explore opportunities for our worship accompaniment.

We have been blessed that Lee Roundy and Carol Hermann have offered their musical gifts and time for different worship services. And we appreciate those services in which Judy Taylor has helped lead us in our "a capella" worship times.

Yet, what we have discovered in these last months is that it is very difficult to secure "worship accompaniment" in and around Portage.

Among the options of which the Session became aware was the use of "digital hymnals." We consulted with the Session of First Presbyterian Church in Cambria who have used their "digital hymnal" for over 1 1/2 years. And we even had one of their members bring their device to PPC for an "onsite demonstration."

As we considered this option, we received an "anonymous donation" to purchase a "digital hymnal" of our own - which we have done. We are very grateful for this generous gift to PPC.

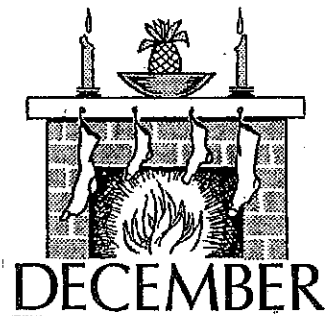
It is a pretty impressive device that allows us to adapt and adjust the music to our own style, pace and form with which we are accustomed and comfortable. Our "red hymnal" is already downloaded on the device.

This "digital hymnal" is not intended to replace a "live-in person" worship accompanist. If we find a person / persons to fill this role, that will be wonderful. Rather, we will use this "digital hymnal" as a "supplement" to our worship accompanists.

Beginning in December, the "digital hymnal" will be introduced at different times in some of our worship services.

We understand that there will be a "learning curve" - both for those who are learning to use it - and for we who will be learning to sing with it. We hope that everyone will be patient as we learn together.

We will have a "learning time" on Wednesday, December 4 beginning about 6:45 p.m. for anyone who would like to learn more about the "digital hymnal" or who might like to learn how to use it for worship services.



### ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 1.

We have 3 different devotionals for your use - one for young people; one for middle/high school youth; and one for those beyond high school age.

These devotionals will be on a table in Parry Hall for you to take with you.

If you are unable to pick one up and would like us to either mail or drop one off for you, please contact the church office and let us know.

### B-Y-O-O ... SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

What is **B-Y-O-O**, you ask?

It means "**B**ring **Y**our **O**wn **O**rnament."

You are invited to bring an ornament from home to hang on the church Christmas tree in the sanctuary.

On Christmas Eve (or any time after) you can take the ornament home with you again.

### "WED NITE" - P.E.A.C.E UPCOMING DATES

All young people participating in the PEACE / Wed Nite education classes, please note the following dates and information

#### Saturday, December 14, 2019

- 11 a.m. - Christmas Program Practice and Christmas Cookie Decorating
- 12 p.m. - Pizza Lunch
- 1 - 3 p.m. - Christmas Caroling at Local Nursing Facilities (everyone invited to join in)

#### Sunday, December 15, 2019

- 10:05 a.m. - Christmas Program at the Informal Worship Service

**A "SERVICE OF HOPE" – DEC 8 @ 2:00PM**

*On the way to Bethlehem, God gives us a hand...."*

For many of us Advent and Christmas can be times of families being together, of singing joyous songs, smiles and renewed hope.

However, for some of us, this is also a time which may be difficult and challenging. We may be dealing with things such as ...

- ⊗ a change in or loss of a job
- ⊗ the break-up of a relationship
- ⊗ a death of a loved one
- ⊗ a change or loss of health
- ⊗ a loss of hope
- ⊗ anger from unresolved situations
- ⊗ feeling overwhelmed by all of the demands and expectations
- ⊗ a sadness that comes with the progressive darkness of the days

These are all some of the things that we may carry with us as we move through this time of the year - and which can make this season one of fear, dread and sadness.

Our "Service of Hope" worship service (on Dec 8 @ 2:00 p.m.) will provide anyone who comes a safe place, a sanctuary, where we can acknowledge what we are feeling without fear or judgment.

This is also a time when we reach out again to God, trusting that God will reassure us and renew us with His peace, His presence and His promise.

As we state for this evening, *our prayer for this worship time is that we might have a moment of quiet peace as we reflect together on our journey to Bethlehem and this coming Christ. God will give us a hand in the darkness of our sorrow to move forward and to welcome the light of Christ, our eternal hope.*

The "Service of Hope" worship service will be on *December 8, @ 2:00 p.m.* and will include the Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Please be sure to come and to invite anyone whom you think might find this unique worship experience and space helpful.



**PPC COMMUNION SCHEDULE**

You are encouraged to take time before each Communion to reflect on the meaning of the Lord's Supper for you, for PPC and for the world.

The "Directory for Worship" notes that *"in preparing to receive Christ in this Sacrament, the believer is to confess sin and brokenness, to seek reconciliation with God and neighbor, and to trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal."*

As Presbyterians, we believe that coming to the Lord's Table is not a right, but a privilege given to those who come in faith, repentance and love - the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Sunday, December 1, 2019**

**@ 10:05 a.m.**

*"The First Sunday in Advent"*

*"Greening of the Church" Worship*

**Wednesday, December 4, 2019**

**@ 6:15 p.m.**

*"Wed Nite" Interactive Worship*

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

**@ 2:00 p.m.**

*"A Service of Hope"*

**Tuesday, December 31, 2019**

**@ 5:30 p.m.**

*"New Year's Eve" Worship*

**Sunday, January 5, 2020**

**@ 10:05 a.m.**

*Service of Ordination and Installation*

**"GLUTEN-FREE" BREAD- COMMUNION**

In an effort to make sure that all have access to the Lord's Table, the Board of Deacons decided that all of our communion breads served will be "gluten-free."

***Sunday Worship Service***

10:05 a.m. Traditional Worship

Third Sunday of Each Month is Informal Service

Church Is Handicapped Accessible

Everyone Invited!



**STEWARDSHIP DRIVE**

If you have not returned your "Who, What, Where" card you may put it in the collection plate on Sunday or mail it to the church office. There are extra forms on the table in Parry Hall. Thank You.

**"WED NITE"@ PPC!**

The *PEACE class* (all age education class) meets @ 5:30 p.m. for class (there is a "snack time" included).

Then our "*Wed Nite*" worship experience has moved to 6:15 p.m. This is a shorter, more "interactive" type of worship service which encourages the young people to actively participate in the service and the message.

Everyone is invited to come and share in this unique worship on "Wed Nite."

And be sure to invite young people of any age to share in the PEACE experience too!

**TERRI LYNN NUT & CANDY SALE**

Our Terri Lynn Nut and Candy Sale was once again a big success. We ordered 126 bags and we made a profit of \$224.50 that will go to the general operating budget of our church. Thanks to all who purchased the nut and candy and enjoy them.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Portage WI 53901  
Permit No. 158

The Portage Presbyterian Church  
120 W Pleasant Street  
PO Box 222  
Portage WI 53901