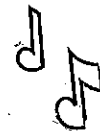




# The Portage Presbyterian



A Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

February 2020

## FAT SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for **February 23rd**. The Events Committee will be hosting a MardiGras celebration following worship. Most people celebrate "Fat Tuesday" (the day before Ash Wednesday) by eating everything they want. We are going to celebrate "Fat Sunday" by having a **potluck luncheon followed by bingo in the church dining room following morning worship**. You may bring your favorite dish or a MardiGras dish such as jambalaya, grits, turkey gumbo etc. You may bring your dish to the kitchen before worship. If it needs to be cooked or heated, the ovens will be on. The committee will provide milk and coffee to drink. A free will offering will be taken. Last year everyone had a great time. **COME JOIN THE FUN!**

## PASTORAL CARE HOSPITAL POLICY

Divine Savior Healthcare in Portage, as a respect to patient's privacy, does not make patient information available at the front desk. However, there are two ways that pastors and churches will have information on those in the hospital:

- 1) If patients and/or families request a member of the Spiritual Care staff to contact the church office or the pastor
- 2) If the patient or family contacts the church office or pastor directly.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Dave.

## FOOD PANTRY

The food drives over the holidays are done and the Food Pantry shelves are already pretty bare. I couldn't believe it when I volunteered at the Food Pantry in January. The shelves had been so full in December and already there was no Hamburger Helper, muffin mix, canned vegetables, flour, sugar, pancake mix & syrup, fruit, tuna or tomato soup. They love it when we are able to give them laundry or dish soap. Please watch the sale items and help those less fortunate. Our basket is always out.

## DEDICATION OF "WISH LIST" GIFTS

On Sunday, February 16 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!



## "THANK YOU" FROM JK PRESBYTERY

Dear friends, members and Session

We at the Presbytery Council meeting on January 3 & 4 gave thanks to God for your giving of Per Capita this past year.

Through Per Capita, newly ordained pastors are serving through the work of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). Churches are being supported and encouraged in their ministries and their communities.

The new denominational program for churches to focus their identities and missions, "Matthew 25" is being embraced by several churches and possibly the Presbytery as a whole!

What is said on your website, "Come and see what God is doing" is coming true in you and the PCUSA!

Per Capita provides the church's "infrastructure" to make all of this happen.

Thank you again for your part in making this happen in 2019, and blessings to you all in 2020!

Peace,

Rev. Paul Uzel

John Knox Presbytery Council

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## 2020 Per Capita Information

Our 2019 "Per Capita" amount is \$33.70 **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.

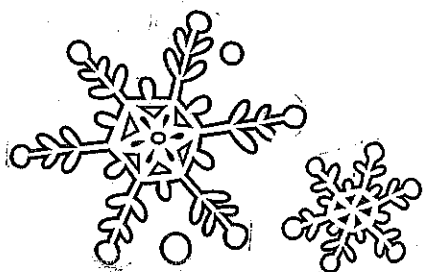
If you have a number of members in your household, you do not have to pay for everyone at one time. Pay as you can.

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!

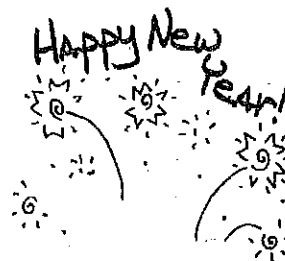


### THE PORTAGE PRESBYTERIAN

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Portage Presbyterian Church  
120 West Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 222  
Portage, WI 53901  
Phone 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



### Sunday Worship Service

10:05 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Third Sunday of Each Month is Informal Service  
Church Is Handicapped Accessible  
Everyone Invited!

### Sunday, February 2, 2020

The 4th Sunday after Epiphany  
10:05 a.m. - Traditional Worship in Sanctuary  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### Wednesday, February 5

6:15 p.m. - "Wed Nite Worship"  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper  
An interactive worship experience

### Sunday, February 9, 2020

The 5th Sunday after Epiphany  
10:05 a.m. - Traditional Worship in Sanctuary  
Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann will lead worship

### Wednesday, February 12

6:15 p.m. - "Wed Nite Worship"  
An interactive worship experience

### Sunday, February 16, 2020

The 6th Sunday after Epiphany  
10:05 a.m. - "Informal" Worship in Sanctuary

### Wednesday, February 19

6:15 p.m. - "Wed Nite Worship"  
An interactive worship experience

### Sunday, February 23, 2020

The Sunday of Transfiguration  
10:05 a.m. - "Dixieland Worship" Service

### Wednesday, February 26

12:15 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Noon-Time Worship  
6:15 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Evening Worship  
Both services will be shared in the Sanctuary  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper at both services

# February

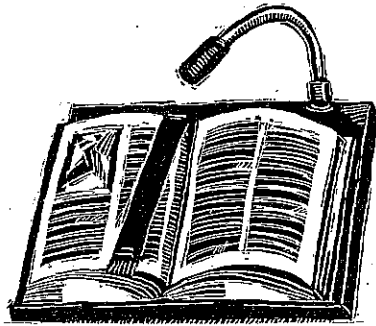
2020



**Church Office Hours**  
 Monday – 10:00am – 12:00pm  
 Tuesday – Office Closed  
 Wednesday – 8:00am – 1:00pm  
 Thursday – Office Closed  
 Friday – 8:00am – 1:00pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>BTR</b> – Bell Tower Room <b>FH</b> – Fellowship Hall <b>PH</b> – Parry Hall <b>SA</b> – Sanctuary <b>WC</b> – Westminster Center		6:15 p.m. Informal, Interactive Worship “Wednesday Nite @ PPC” 5:30 p.m. PEACE				9:00 a.m. Women’s Association hosting a Norwex Party at Dino’s
<b>2</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Choir Rehearsal, FH 10:05am Traditional Worship with Lord’s Supper, SA	<b>3</b> 5:30pm ACA, WC * Pastor Dave	<b>4</b> 9:00am Bell Choir, PH On Study leave	<b>5</b> 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA Monday, February 3	<b>6</b> through	<b>7</b> Sunday, February 9 *	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 8:45am Bible Study,BTR 9:00am Choir Rehearsal, FH 10:05am Traditional Worship, with Rev. Dr. Carol Hennemann	<b>10</b> 5:00 pm Events Committee, WC	<b>11</b> 9:00am Bell Choir, PH 10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, WC 5:00pm Memorial Mission Stewardship, WC	<b>12</b> 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA	<b>13</b> 6:30pm Session Meeting, WC	<b>14</b> March Newsletter Articles Due in Office	<b>15</b> 9:00am – 3:00pm John Knox Presbytery Meeting, Fellowship Hall
<b>16</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10:05am Informal Worship, SA Deacons Meeting 4:00pm New Directions 4-H Meeting, FH	<b>17</b> 10:00am Worship Service at Tivoli	<b>18</b> 9:00am Bell Choir, PH 11:00am “Late For Breakfast” at Dino’s	<b>19</b> 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Transfiguration of the Lord 8:45am Bible Study,BTR 10:05am “Dixieland” Worship, SA Fat Sunday – Podlucik, FH	<b>24</b> 5:00-6:00pm Sharing Supper at Bartels Middle School	<b>25</b> 9:00am Bell Choir, PH 3	<b>26</b> Ash Wednesday 1:00pm River Haven Board WC 12:15pm Ash Wednesday Service, w/ Lord’s Supper, SA 5:30pm PEACE,BTR 6:15pm Ash Wednesday Service w/Lord’s Supper	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>





### READERS - LITURGISTS "SIGN UP"

We have been blessed with volunteers who have served as "readers/liturgists" for our worship services.

If you would like to serve as a "reader/liturgist" for upcoming worship services in *February or March*, please indicate on the "sign-up list" on the kiosk in Parry Hall or contact Pastor Dave.

Thank you!

### WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN FEBRUARY

On Saturday, February 1st, at 9:00 the Women's Association is hosting a Norwex party at Dino's Restaurant.

Our very own, Marcia Van Natta is the consultant and will share with us how to use chemical free products in our homes.

The amount of sales from this endeavor will in turn earn free product for our church kitchen.

Please join us for breakfast and an informative morning. Bring a friend!

If you are unable to come to the party, you can still order by contacting Marcia by February 4th.

We will hold a short meeting after.

### "SHARING SUPPER" – FEBRUARY 24, 2020

The "Sharing Supper" will be shared on Monday, February 24!!!

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 **February 24 @ 5:00 p.m.**

### IF YOU GO TO PORTAGE "PIZZA RANCH"

...*"bring in your Sunday church bulletin to the Pizza Ranch, Monday-Wednesday, turn it into the register when you purchase your buffet – we'll give \$1.00 to your church."*

This will be an "ongoing" fund-raising opportunity. So, if you like to go to Pizza Ranch, be sure to take a bulletin along.

# Pastor's Page

Someone recently pointed out an article from the "State Journal" titled "Median Sermon is 37 Minutes." The core information provided for the article came from research from the Pew Research Center. Research information was gleaned from 49,719 online sermons from 6,431 different churches. It was described by the Pew Research Center as "the most exhaustive attempt to date to catalog and analyze American religious sermons."

The article offers great detail about the differences in length of sermons in various Christian church settings - from the Roman Catholic Church to the historically Black Protestant Church. As one might expect, there were vast differences in the "length" of said sermons. Then the article proceeded to offer "explanations" as to the differences.

However, as I came to the end of the article I found something that captured my attention - *"in addition to sermon length, the Pew analysis delved into an examination of words and phrases most commonly used by preachers from the different Christian traditions."*

What I realized was that the "words" used reveal not only "what" churches believe, but also something about "what" they understand about themselves, "what" they believe about others and the world around them and "how" they experience God in their midst.

So, I started thinking - what "words and phrases" do we use here at Portage Presbyterian in our worship and in the community when we gather together. And what do these "words and phrases" reveal about who we are and what we believe?

What do we think? - What do we hear? -  
What do we experience?

I offer to you "a partial list" ... "words and phrases" we use, and hear, at PPC.

Grace	Peace	Forgiveness	
	Community	Love	
Hope	Praise	Joy	
	Trust	Life	Faith
Prayer	Church	Scriptures	
	Service	Worship	Mission
God	Jesus Christ	Holy Spirit	

So, what would you add to this list?

For me these "words" provide a wonderful, amazing and hopeful mosaic of the identity, the life, the work, the ministry and the sense of community here at Portage Presbyterian Church.

These reveal to me (and perhaps to you) a community of faith that trusts in God to lead, in Jesus Christ to redeem and in the Holy Spirit to inspire.

These reveal to me a community of faith that values community - and values those with whom we share this community and those with whom this community cares for and touches.

These reveal to me a community of faith which believes that it is "called" into mission - in the local areas and beyond. And that mission is important, even vital to our sense of community and our purpose as community. We really do believe that we have a purpose!

These reveal to me a community of faith that sees this community as a gift of God - a unique calling together of a variety of people into this one "body of Christ" with all of the blessings and the challenges that come with this distinct diversity of stories, journeys, experiences, ideas and opinions.

These reveal to me a community of faith that finds and experiences energy and finds refuge when we are together in whatever place, reason or time we are gathered.

And these reveal to me a community in whom God continues to be present and through whom God continues to be at work in wonderful and amazing ways.

As we move into this new year, and into the 170th year of the Portage Presbyterian Church community, may we continue to "see" how God is working in and through and with us - and celebrate this!

May we continue to "hear" the grace and peace of God in our midst and may we continue to

And may we continue to "be" God's "good news of great joy to all people."

I am grateful and humbled by the opportunity I have been given to share with you as pastor and in this ministry to which God leads us and empowers us together as God's church.

Thanks be to God!



**MINISTRY AND WORSHIP @ TIVOLI**

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

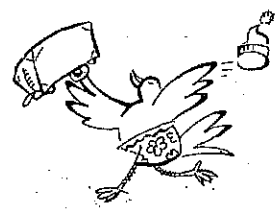
We have found that our worship service is one of the better attended worship times – and that is great news!

*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 February 17th ... @10:00 a.m.



**2020 SUMMER MISSION TRIP "UPDATE"**

All High School and Middle School age young people are invited to come for a discussion about a possible Summer Mission Trip experience.

We are planning to get together on Wednesday, January 15 @ 6:45 p.m. in Westminster Center's "comfy chairs."

We will talk about various items such as: *where?...when?...how long?...what?...who?...*(and perhaps other items as well).

This will be our initial meeting for a possible trip.

If you are interested in learning more or in participating, but cannot make this meeting, please contact Pastor Dave so we can get you on "the list."

Parents are also welcome to come and sit in on this meeting.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Dave.

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### A NEW "SUMMER KIDS' EXPERIENCE?"

As we move into a new year, you are invited to share in a conversation about a "new concept" of Vacation Bible School.

What if we were to offer an "experience" where young people could learn a new hobby or explore a new skill or try something they might not otherwise be able to try - and have fun - and learn about and experience God's grace and love in a safe environment - all at the same time?

This "new concept" would ask those who have skills, hobbies and talents to share those with young people who would like to learn.

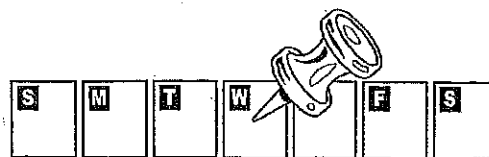
Some "possible areas" of learning raised as possibilities might include such things as (but not limited to): *Guitar; Piano; Ukulele; Woodworking; Cooking; Gardening; Sewing; Crochet/Knitting; Community Service; Learning To Write Stories; Painting; ; Pottery; Golf.*

What might you want to add to the list?

Other ideas being considered:

- ✓ this could be an early evening experience
- ✓ this could be extended over the whole summer (*for example, meeting multiple times during the summer months rather than just for one week*)
- ✓ this could include a "simple meal" (*a cookout style meal, for example*)

If you might like to be a part of this conversation as this develops, or would like more information please contact Liz Bellmore or Pastor Dave.



### *Mid-Week* **WORSHIP SERVICES**

#### "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!



#### FEBUARY'S "ADULT BIBLE STUDY"

The Adult Bible Class continues to study the Book of Joshua.

We have learned about some miracles that took place as Joshua replaced Moses in leading the people.

First, we learned about Joshua leading the people across the Jordan River. Then we learned about how they, with God's help, made the walls of Jericho come tumbling down.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will be talking about another miracle in which the sun stood still and did not move for an entire day. This will surely be an interesting study.

*Come and join us for this study.*

We meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 8:45 am in the Bell Tower Room.

All are welcome. We always have some good discussions.

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## 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, February 2, 2020

@ 10:05 a.m.

*Sunday Morning Worship*

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

@ 6:15 p.m.

"Wed Nite Worship"

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

"Ash Wednesday Worship"

@ 12:15 p.m. (noon-time) - in Sanctuary

@ 6:15 p.m. - in Sanctuary

## 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.** If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Judy Taylor.

## 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!

## "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."

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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U.S. Postage Paid  
Portage WI 53901  
Permit No. 158