



The Portage Presbyterian Church

February, 2022

"The Church is a people - and we are the Church!"



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and peace!

" A Christmas Dinner THANK-YOU"

Thank you to everyone who made our 23rd annual Christmas dinner a success. We again did Parking Lot Pickup and Home Delivery. All meals were required to have a reservation. That process went very well and we thank all of you that made reservations. We hope you enjoyed your meal of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, cranberry, dinner roll, cookies, bars and hot chocolate mix.

We had over 350 reservations placed and people were so appreciative of having this opportunity to receive a meal. We received a \$100.00 donation from Festival Foods and very generous donations from the people who received the meals. Thank you to the Bellmore Family for their donation of 100# of ham.

Thank you so much to the following church members who gave up their time to make this meal a huge success: *Pastor Dave, Kathy, Nick & Sarah Hankins: Liz, Kelly & Adalie Bellmore: Larry & Glenda Day: Edith McElroy: Rosemary Minnema: Rhys & Laura Brenner: Fred & Judy Taylor, John & Elaine Crammond: Tom Caflisch: Mark Curtis: Peggy & Chris Sechtig: Tara, Andrew & Gabe Bandekow;* plus the following community members: *Lola & Pete Noll: Eric Erickson: Lori Rogers & Mom: Brittany & Ron Johnson: Jim Jordan: Dave & Judy Keppert.*

Thanks also to those of you who made many cookies.

We are so lucky to have so many willing people to give of their time especially at this busy time of the year. God Bless all of You!

Nancy Schaper

Information from PPC's Treasurer - Rosemary

- Per Capita for 2022 stayed the same as last year \$33.70
- If you wish to donate money to the following please use a separate check, helps the financial person out tremendously: General Fund, Deacons, Women's Association, and Building Fund.. These are all stand-alone accounts. Thank You

- ADRC is still working on their medical transportation and meal schedules. They could really use a group who would commit to managing one day per week (or even one day every two weeks) for the Portage area. If you know of anyone, please let me know ☐ Rosemary 608-742-5812.
- If anyone knows someone that knows Quickbooks or would like to become familiar with Quickbooks, please call the Church Office 608-742-6006 or Rosemary 608-742-5812.

Thank you so much, if you have questions, let me know.

ADRC "Home Delivered Meals" - Looking for Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the ADRC Senior Nutrition Program. Drivers needed from 10:30am-12:30pm. Please reach out to the ADRC if you can help, even one day a week will make a difference. 608-742-9233

PPC's "Women's Association" Meeting

The next meeting of PPC's Women's Association will be **Saturday, March 5 - 9:00 a.m. @ Dino's**

PPC's Women's Association "Mission Soup" Available

We continue to have our chicken soup mix available for only \$3.25.

You can get the soup at church on Sundays or at the church office during open hours; or you can contact Glenda at 608 429 1313.

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

Sunday - February 6, 2022 - "Traditional" Worship

"We will share the "Lord's Supper" during the service.

Please prepare your own bread and "cup" to use-during worship.

Sunday - February 13 - "Traditional" Worship

Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann will be leading worship this Sunday

Sunday, February 20 - "Informal" Worship

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday - February 27 - "Traditional" Worship

Transfiguration Sunday

Please note that the guidelines that the Session has established for worship "in the sanctuary" which includes:

- that "wearing masks will be an individual preference" -
- that we will sing (*provided we wear a mask while singing*) -
- and that social distancing is encouraged.

"Security" Changes @ Westminster Center

We have explored ideas for making Westminster Center a little more secure, especially with the Alphabet Express kids downstairs.

Here's what the changes mean:

- ✓ Both the front and back doors of Westminster Center will now be locked.
- ✓ In order to "gain access" to the Westminster Center building, there will be a "doorbell" which you will need to ring.
- ✓ Office staff will greet you at the door to let you in.
- ✓ Also, if you are planning to come to the Church Office, be sure to "call ahead" to be sure that there is someone in the office at the time you want to come.

Thank you for your understanding.

"Video" People for Sunday Morning Worship

One of the "new" opportunities that has come out of our "wilderness journey" over these past 1 1/2 years, is our "**Sunday Morning Worship Video**" option.

It has been great to have so many "sharing together" in worship - even from a distance.

We are seeking those who may be interested in helping to provide these videos on Sunday morning.

All equipment and "training" are provided - we just need YOU!

If you would be interested in participating in this ministry - or have questions - contact Pastor Dave.

"Readers" for Worship?

One who serves as "a reader" will participate in Sunday worship by reading Scripture lessons and even leading the morning prayer.

All Scripture lessons and prayers would be available to you "before" Sunday morning for you to review.

Please contact Pastor Dave available Sundays or for more information.

Worship @ Tivoli - February 21, 2022

Provided that all is well, we will again provide worship for the residents at Tivoli on Monday, February 21 @ 10:00 a.m.

Anyone coming to be a part of the worship community will be asked to "check in" at the entrance and to "wear a mask" during the service (*per Aspirus-Divine Savior Healthcare guidelines*) - as will as the Tivoli residents

YOU Can Help Spread The Word!

We are seeking folks who would like to share in the "ministry" of the "Church Sign." Yes, our "Church Sign" provides *not only information, but inspiration* to many people.

Would you be interested in being a part of a team that helps to keep the "Church Sign" up to date - inspirational - entertaining?

Contact Pastor Dave to "sign on" - or for more information.

Thanks!

"Texting During Worship" Is OK?

We are seeking a few people who would like to serve as "greeters" for our "online video" community on Sunday mornings.

Just as you would do "in person," you would welcome people to worship, check in with them, engage in "conversation" when asked, and extend God's peace at the end.

If this might be something in which you are interested or would like more information, contact Pastor Dave.

"Kwik Trip" Car Wash Cards



"Kwik Trip" Car Wash Cards are still available!

For \$36.00 / card, you will receive 5 - yes, that's right - 5 "Ultimate" car washes (normally a cost of \$50.00)

If you would like to purchase a "Kwik Trip Car Wash Card" - just contact Pastor Dave. Thanks!

"One Last Thought ..."

I was reading a devotional the day after Christmas, that noted that "after the excitement of the birth comes the realization that things are not going to be the same as they were before."

As I read this devotional, my mind wandered back to January of 1995. Kathy's father had suffered a severe stroke and was in the process of being transferred to the Maplewood Care Facility in Sauk City, WI. So much had changed and would never quite be the same as it has always been.

And yet one of the biggest changes was still coming - Kathy and I were going to be parents for the first time. The doctor had told us that our baby could arrive any time from Christmas on. And on January 15, Nicholas David arrived. What a time of excitement it was - and then reality set in. We were parents and we had just had a baby. WOW! This was not bad, mind you - it was just different - so different than what either of Nick's parents had ever experienced before. No, things would never be the same again.

And then, my mind made its way to November of 1996. We had made the move a year before to Portage when Nick was 10 months old. All with which we were familiar, the place and the people who had grown to be like an "extended family," the routines and traditions were left behind for a new call in Portage. Life, as we knew it, had changed.

And yet one of the biggest changes was still coming - Kathy and I were going to be parents for the second time. The doctor had planned for the baby to arrive on November 18. But, our baby had other ideas. And on November 14, Sarah Kathleen arrived. Again, this was such a time of excitement and joy - and then reality set in. We were parents "again" - we just had our second child - a girl - the first girl born in my family in over 50 years. WOW! Again, this was different - different than what either of Nick and Sarah's parents had ever experienced before. Things, indeed, would never be the same again.

And then I thought of those who had made their way to Bethlehem so long ago. "Things" would never, ever be the same again for any of them either.

Not for Mary and Joseph - who will be making an unexpected detour to Egypt before heading "home" to Nazareth. They were parents for the first time - and now they were on the move, leaving behind that which they had known, those who were family, those traditions and routines which had been such an important part of their lives and going to a place they had never been before.

Not for the Shepherds - who had gone to the stable and found the Messiah (*just as the angel had told them*) - and then who went back to their "ordinary" lives. Yet, their lives were changed - they would never look at the stars, their lives and the promises of God's Messiah in the same way as before.

And certainly **not for the "Wise Ones"** - those who had started out on a journey, not really sure "where" they were going or "what" they would find once they came to their destination - those who had overcome a "wrong turn" and found just what they were looking for (*just not in a place they would have ever expected*). And now, they were "warned in a dream" to go home - by another completely different route than they had ever encountered before.

After Jesus' birth - things change - and nothing will ever be the same again.

It reminds me of one who noted "**just when I think I have all the answers, someone goes and changes the questions.**"

Yet, this is the "journey of faith" upon which we have been invited (*called?*) to travel - as God's people and as God's church.

Think of the encounters that people in the Scriptures have with Jesus - though Jesus often meets people "right where they are" (*right in the middle of the muck-challenges-pain-tragedies-frustrations*) of life, yet Jesus never leaves those whom He meets where they are. People who encounter - are encountered by Jesus - are always called "*to change and to be changed.*"

As we make our way from Bethlehem's stable - as we move into a new year (and all that lies ahead), may we be like those who were there "at the first Christmas" - those to whom God brings "good news of great joy for all the people" - those for whom this "good news" is, well, "good news" - and those who are willing to embrace (or at least recognize) the reality that in our willingness to follow Jesus, life will never be the same again.

As we make our way from Bethlehem's stable - as we move into another new year - may we see and experience both the joy and the anxiety of trusting God on this journey ...

- ✓ and that wherever and however we are encountered by God -
- ✓ that whatever we may be called to leave behind or learn anew -
- ✓ that whatever may seem just too ordinary ... or too unsettled ...
- ✓ that wherever God on this journey continues to lead us -
- ✓ that in the midst of all that unfolds - God will continue to be "with us" and will be "the constant."

And so, let us continue our journey into this new year - and this new reality - as God's people and God's church ... confidently - compassionately - creatively - faithfully - joyfully - purposefully - hopefully - and prayerfully.

No, God through Jesus never promises us that "things will never change" or that "things will go back to normal." Rather, the promises of God in and through the Christ are that God will be with us - right here and right now - and will lead and empower us as we move ahead.

Thanks be to God!

Peace, Pastor Dave

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It is "easy" to make a "financial" offering  
for the work and ministry here @ Portage Presbyterian Church

You may choose to ....

[Mail it](#) to the Church Office or [Drop it in the "mail slot"](#)

*or*

[Use the "online giving" option](#) on "PPC's Website"

*or*

On ["Amazon Smiles"](#) - Select "PPC" as your preferred "CHARITY"

*Your financial support for the work and ministry of God  
in and through the Portage Presbyterian Church*

is greatly appreciated!

*"Together" - we continue to share God's "Good News" in so many ways!*