



# The Portage Presbyterian Church

January, 2023

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



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

## New Elder and Deacon "Orientation and Preparation"

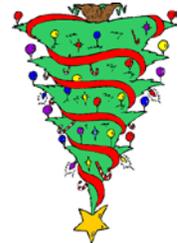
There will be an opportunity for newly-elected Ruling Elders and Deacons to learn more about the work and ministry of their respective offices on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

The "*Orientation and Preparation*" Time will begin @ 6:00 p.m. - in the **Westminster Center Meeting Room.**

## "UN -Decorating the Church" - Saturday, January 7

As we move from Advent into the Season of Epiphany, we will be "UN-Decorating" the church on Saturday, January 7 - beginning @ 9:00 a.m.

If you have questions, contact the Church Office.



## The Service for Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons



On Sunday, January 8, 2023 PPC will celebrate the "Ordination and Installation" of our most recently elected Ruling Elders and Deacons.

This "service" is a special time in which we affirm the "call" of particular individuals to particular types of ministry - whether as a Ruling Elder or a Deacon.

During the worship service, all who are, or have served, as Ruling Elders and Deacons are invited forward for the "laying on of hands."

Please keep those who will be ordained and installed in your prayers as they begin their ministry: Ruling Elders **Tara Bandekow** (*ordained*), **Larry Day**, **Jarrett Foster** and **Nancy Schaper** (*installed*); and Deacons **Peggy Alf-Sechtig**, **Joyce Meredith** and **Liz Bellmore** (*installed*).

## Annual Meeting Reports Deadline!

All Committees and Organizations are reminded to have their reports turned into the Church Office no later than Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

We will have the "Annual Report Packet" available beginning Sunday, January 15 - in Parry Hall - or by contacting the Church Office during the week.

## PPC Annual Meeting - January 22, 2023

The Portage Presbyterian Church will be having our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2023 - during our 10:05 a.m. worship service.

This "Worshipful Works" worship service will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Church. *Rumor has it that there will even be treats and refreshments there!*

Our Annual Meeting is an opportunity to reflect on the work and ministry of the PPC community during the past year - and to look forward to the ways and opportunities to which God will lead and send us in the year to come.

Please be sure to come and share in this special and important time in the life of the PPC community.

## Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

### Sunday - January 1, 2023 - "Traditional " Worship

The First Sunday of Christmas

Worship @ 10:05 a.m.

### Sunday - January 8 - "Traditional" Worship

The Baptism of the Lord - Ordination and Installation Service

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

Worship @ 10:05 a.m.

### Sunday, January 15 - "Informal" Worship

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Worship @ 10:05 a.m.

### Sunday, January 22 - "Annual Meeting Worship" Service

Third Sunday after Epiphany

*Gathering In The Fellowship Hall*

@ 10:05 a.m.

## Sunday, January 29 - "Traditional" Worship

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Worship @ 10:05 a.m.

### "Scenes" from the Season - Advent and Christmas @ PPC

As usual, the 2022 Advent and Christmas season here at PPC was busy and fun and inspirational.

Here are some of the "activities and events" that occurred ...

### Our "Reverse Advent Calendar" Gifts - "Overflowed"



During Advent we recognized that this season is a time not only of "receiving," but is also a time of "giving." As we are "given the gift" of Jesus Christ, so we decided to "give the gift" of food for those in the community in need.

Our "Reverse Advent Calendar" provided a "guide" for non-perishable food donations which will be given to the Portage Food Pantry.

As you can see from the picture (before Christmas Eve) our "gifts" are overflowing!

Once again, the PPC community helps to make a difference in this season of "giving!"

### "Community Cookie Baking Experience" - Dec 10

The kitchen was humming on Saturday, December 10 - as PPC hosted the first "Community Cookie Baking Experience!"

Young people and adults came and prepared the cookie dough, baked the cookies, decorated the cookies - and then took cookies home with them.

Cookie bakers from the very experienced to the "*we've never done this before*" all had a great time working and visiting with each other.

Thanks to those who donated items and to those who helped to bake the cookies.

We are looking forward to our "cookie baking" in December, 2023.



"Christmas Worship In A Barn" - December 11



Thank you to the Heinze Family for hosting us at their farm once again this year. It is a wonderful setting in which to read the Christmas Scriptures and sing the Christmas hymns.

"Everyone is welcome" really meant something special as we also had chickens, pigs, cattle and kitty cats in attendance.

"Treats" and a nice fire topped off the experience.

Thanks again **Mark, Beth, Leo, Henry, Roy, Tom and Mary** for always making room for us as we travel to Bethlehem. And thanks to **Fred and Judy and Kathy** for playing their parts.

## "Live Nativity" Christmas Program - Dec 17

PPC once again offered a "living Christmas nativity scene" to the Portage community on Saturday, December 17 - from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Though it was a "cool night," our "nativity scene" was viewed by at least 48 people - most not being a part of the PPC community.

Again and again those "driving through" mentioned how grateful they were for this opportunity to experience this "live nativity scene."



Thank you to those who helped to make this a reality - the Roundy family, Peggy Alf-Sechtig, Liz Bellmore, Nancy Schaper and Fred and Judy Taylor..

And thank you to those who were "characters" for the scene: Dylan, Hartley, Wyatt, Allison, Kathy, Tammy, Kevin, Jarrett, Alex and Pastor Dave - and, of course, "Minnie."

## PPC's Women's Association Updates

Thanks to all who helped support our Holiday House on December 3rd. We made \$947.00 for that day and the Sunday after. This will be used for our yearly donations.

We will not meet in January or February. Our next meeting will be March 4th 9:00 a.m. at Dino's.



## PPC Womens Association "Mission Soup Mix Available

We have Mission Chicken Soup Mix available.

**It's quick and especially yummy on a cold day.**

If you have jelly or olive jars, or 8oz canning jars, we will gladly accept them. Please bring them to church. Thanks!



PPC will be "stocking shelves" at the Portage Food Pantry on  
Wednesday, January 18 - @ 5:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come and help to make a difference in the lives of people in our community. Usually we will work approximately 1 hour or so.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dave. Thanks!

### Just Sharing An "Observation"

On a Sunday evening before Christmas, I (*Pastor Dave*) stopped by the church to check on something. There were cars parked everywhere. And the lights were on - in Parry Hall and in the Fellowship Hall. So, I decided to see what was happening.

In Parry Hall, there were Scouts everywhere - around one table doing merit badge work - around another table a Den was meeting - up in the old nursery area was another Den meeting. There were young people everywhere.

Then I made my way down to the Fellowship Hall. As the elevator door opened, again there were young people everywhere. In talking with Jen Martens, the director for the New Directions 4-H club, she mentioned that they have close to 50 members of the Club.

It was so cool to see the church building buzzing with the activity and energy of these youth organizations.

When we wonder sometimes if we, the Portage Presbyterian Church, make a difference - this particular evening was a reminder that indeed we do.

In our providing a "space" for the New Directions 4-H Club and the Scout Units to meet, we are enabling and supporting these wonderful organizations to do the great work and offer the great programs that they share. Together, we share in a partnership with those who are doing great things with and for the young people of this area.

Thank you for supporting and encouraging and helping those who make a difference.

*Peace Be With You!*

*Pastor Dave*



New Directions 4-H club is a very active group of young people from the area that meet together to share ideas, work on projects and learn great leadership skills.

The New Directions 4-H club meets @ PPC on the 3rd Sunday of each month, beginning @ 4:00 p.m.

**Jen Martens** is the advisor for the New Directions Club.

"Scouting" Updates!



Pack 70 - Troop 7070 - Troop 70 continue to be active in their Scouting experiences. Among the activities in which the Scout Units have been engaged have been: Space Derby - a trip to the Portage Fire Station, assembling military care packages- learning the Cub Scout

Motto in ASL from the Wolves - helping with Eagle Scout projects of Troop members - participating in PPC's "Live Nativity" - Having a number of Scouts advance in rank - completed the Fire Safety merit badge - bowled at J&J Fireball Lanes -planning for "outdoor winter adventures" - planning for summer camps - having fun!



As you can see, Scouting is alive and well here in Portage - and here at Portage Presbyterian Church.

Important "Information and Activities" Around Portage

"Sharing Supper" Information!

On Monday, January 30 - from 5:00-6:00 p.m. - Portage's "Sharing Supper" will be serving the community meal - @ **Bartels Middle School**. - *Note the change in date for December!*

"Sharing Supper" is organized around the idea that it is good for people to come together - in community - to "share a meal" - along with conversations. Different organizations and groups in the Portage area provide the meals each month - ordinarily on the last Monday of the month.



"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" - contact 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" **amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

*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 many  
ways  
and YOU are helping to make this possible!



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[To Contact The Portage Presbyterian Church](#)

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