



The Portage Presbyterian

Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

November 2019

DEDICATION OF NEW SIGN - NOV 17

On Sunday, November 17 we will "dedicate" our new digital church sign.

Through generous donations we have been able to purchase and install our digital sign.

As it has been noted: "if you're looking for a sign from God - this is it!"

And we really believe this!

The community has taken note of the sign and have commented how much they like it.

But, even more, we are able to share with those around us all of the good things that God is doing in and through this church community.

Come and share in this special time of "dedication" as we give thanks to God.

Following the service there will be a "time of fellowship" together.

FROM THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Thanks to all who helped/attended the Women's Fall Workshop on September 28th. The salad luncheon was a hit. Stephenie Hovland's presentation on "What Brings You Joy?" was inspirational. We put together 43 fabric kits. Everyone enjoyed the day.

We have rescheduled our "paint nite" to sometime in May.

We will hold our Holiday House on December 7th from 10:30 until 1:00. We will again feature chicken noodle and beef barley soups for the luncheon at a cost of \$6. We will be looking for helpers, food items and bake sale items. A sign up sheet will be in Parry Hall to sign up. We are also looking for craft items. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Mohr, Elaine Crammond or Kathy Hankins.

Our next meeting will be at Dino's Restaurant on November 2nd at 9:00. Please join us for breakfast and fellowship.

HARVEST DINNER ALMOST HERE

It's almost time for the Harvest dinner, an annual event that fills the church with the aroma of roast turkey and all the trimmings. **It will be served on November 9 from 4:30-7:00PM.** Tickets will be available at the door and carryouts will be available. The menu for the dinner includes turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, squash, cranberries, dinner rolls, beverage and a variety of homemade pies.

There are signup sheets in Parry Hall for pies and for helpers needed at a variety of workstations: kitchen for preparation and serving, kitchen clean up and dining room. The names of those responsible for the various areas are on the sign up sheets, so contact the person in charge if you have questions. If you wish to sign up to help or to bring pies and can't make it to church, please call Nancy Schaper.

The Harvest Dinner is a church event that the Event's Committee cannot do by themselves. We need all your help to make it a success. If you have any questions call Donna Mohr or Nancy Schaper.

Cost of the dinner will be \$11.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages 5-12. Children under 5 dine at no cost with their family. Come join us for a wonderful meal. **Carryouts are available if you come between 4:30 and 7:00 P.M.**

A Silent Auction will also be held in Parry Hall between 4:00 and 7:00PM. Please check it out. You do not have to be present to win. If you are the winner we will notify you!!!



NOVEMBER - "ADULT BIBLE STUDY"

The Adult Bible Class will be remembering what God has done as the Israelites crossed the Jordan River and the walls of Jericho came tumbling down.

We will be talking about these events on **November 10th and 24th**. We have some interesting conversations as we study the Book of Joshua.

We meet on **the second and fourth Sundays at 8:45 am in the Bell Tower Room.**
All are encouraged to come and join us.

THE PORTAGE PRESBYTERIAN

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UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 3, 2019

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

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

"All Saints Sunday"

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Fellowship time following

Wednesday, November 6

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

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

"All Saints" Worship

An interactive worship experience

Sunday, November 10, 2019

The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

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

Fellowship time following

Wednesday, November 13

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

An interactive worship experience

Sunday, November 17, 2019

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

Dedication of "Church Sign"

Fellowship time following

Wednesday, November 20

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

An interactive worship experience

Sunday, November 24, 2019

Christ the King Sunday

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

Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann will lead worship

Wednesday, November 27

There will be no "Wed Nite Worship" tonight!

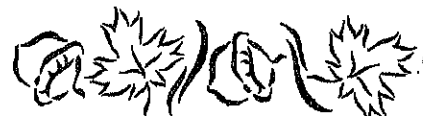
Sunday, December 1, 2019

The 1st Sunday of Advent

10:05 a.m. - *"Greening of the Church" Worship*

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

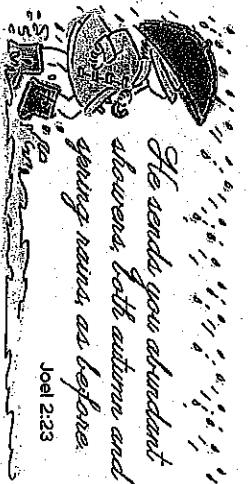
Lite Breakfast served before worship!





November

2019



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p>BTR - Bell Tower Room FH - Fellowship Hall PH - Parry Hall SA - Sanctuary WC - Westminster Center</p>													
<p>3 All Saints Sunday 9:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, FH 10:05am Traditional Worship with Lord's supper, SA Fellowship Discipleship Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9:00am Bell Choir, PH</p>	<p>6 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 December Newsletter Articles Due in Office</p>	<p>9 9:00am Women's Association Meeting at Dino's 4:30 - 7:00pm Harvest Dinner, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>10 23rd Sunday After Pentecost 8:45pm Bible Study, BTR 9:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, FH 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 5: PAVING TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS</p>	<p>12 9:00am Bell Choir, PH 10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, PH</p>	<p>13 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA</p>	<p>14 6:00pm Session Meeting, WC</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 8:00am - 8:00pm Ringing Bells for Salvation Army</p>
<p>17 23rd Sunday after Pentecost 10:05am Informal Worship, SA Fellowship</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9:00am - 3:00pm John Knox Presbytery at Waukon, IA 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's.</p>	<p>20 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>							
<p>24 Christ The King Sunday 8:45pm Bible Study, BTR 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA Rev. Dr. Carol Hennann Leading Worship</p>	<p>25 5:00-6:00pm Sharing Supper at Bartels Middle School</p>	<p>26 9:00am Bell Choir, PH</p>	<p>27 3</p>	<p>28 Happy Thanksgiving</p>	<p>29 5:00pm Chili Dump at Commerce Plaza during Holiday Parade</p>	<p>30 Saturday, Dec 7 Holiday House 10:00am - 1:00pm</p>							

"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.

PPC's "ADOPT A KETTLE"

Once again PPC has answered the call of the Salvation Army to "ring the bells" for their annual Kettle Drive in Portage.

We have "Adopted" a Kettle" at Festival Foods on November 16 from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM. We are doing it early again this year so it doesn't interfere with everyone's holiday preparation.

Please sign up on the sheet that is posted on the bulletin board in Parry Hall. If you have any questions contact Nancy Schaper.

CARD PARTY

On September 27 we hosted our last card party of the year to benefit our River Haven mission. We had only 17 people playing cards and served pulled pork and hot dogs along with chips, bars and drinks. Thanks to the members of the Events Committee for providing the food and drinks. We also collected 42# of food for the food pantry. This is a wonderful mission our church is providing and the people that come to play cards always remind us of that. Our first card party of 2020 will be in January.



SQUASH PARTY

Thanks to all of you who came and helped at our "squash party" on October 15. Edith McElroy, Kathy Raimer, Glenda Day, Larry Day, Joyce Meredith, Peggy Alf Sechtig, Liz Bellmore, Rhys and Laura Brenner, Donna Mohr and myself enjoyed the fun! A special thank you to Nick Hankins who "halved" 100 squash. We made 127.5 pounds of squash for the Harvest Dinner.

PRODUCE DAYS

Our produce/bake sale days were a great success. Thanks to all who purchased and donated the produce and baked goods. Our mission was to earn enough money to purchase food for our celebration brunch and we succeeded.

When you plant your garden in the spring, set aside an area for the produce days at the church.

Thanks so much from the Mission Stewardship Committee.

Pastor's Page

Have you ever heard of "TBT"?

"TBT" is shorthand for "Throw Back Thursdays." These "TBT's" tend to pop up in newspapers, on radio and on Facebook among other places.

Just the other day there was a "TBT" that made reference to the Milwaukee "Braves" winning the 1957 world championship. And then there was the "TBT" that mentioned the first landing on the moon. Or the "TBT" that noted that a particular song by the Beatles first hit the charts on "this date."

One that really caught my attention was the "TBT" that talked about Grandma's apron and kitchen. As I looked at the picture and read the paragraph, I found myself thinking back to my own grandmothers' kitchens - the sounds, the smells, the sights flooded my mind as if I were "back there again."

Why have these "TBTs" become more popular? They enable us to experience again the joy of another time in one's life - it comes alive again, if only for a little while.

And they help us to "remember" that our lives in the present are built upon the foundation of times, experiences and people with whom we have shared our journeys of life and faith.

As we enter into November, I would like to suggest that "TBT" might have another translation - "Throw Back Thanksgivings."

These would be our opportunities to "go back" and "give thanks" to those people and for those people who helped us, provided for us, guided us, inspired us, watched over us or made a difference for us.

In thinking through our litany of people we may discover that it is not always the length of time shared that is important. Rather, it seems what is more significant is "when" the experience was shared, "how" it was shared and "where" it was shared.

So, think ... "for whom" do we give thanks? "To whom" would you offer thanks?

And also consider - "what" did they do that

(continued in column 2)

THANK YOU!

Just when I thought I had it all figured out ... the PPC Women's Association "surprised" me once again on Sunday, October 13.

I am very grateful for the cards, the cake, the special gift and the kind words which have been shared.

But I am also very grateful for the ministry and mission which I have been blessed to share with this church community for nearly 24 years.

God continues to be at work in our lives and in our life together as the Portage Presbyterian Church. And for that I am thankful and blessed. PPC is a wonderful place to be and to serve.

Thank you again for the day and for the ministry we continue to share together!

Pastor Dave



(continued from column 1)

made an impact for us? ... "how" did they touch our lives? ... "when" and "where" did this happen?

This "giving of thanks" is not a mere exercise in etiquette. No, this is a way of grounding us in the reality that no one - not one of us - is self-made. It is a realization that it is with the efforts, the time, the interest and the love of others that we are able to be and to achieve that which God would have us find and be.

So, during this "TBT" (*Throw Back Thanksgiving*) make the time to stop and think about those who have been important in your life and faith journey (and those who "continue to be" important).

"Give thanks" for the blessing they have been to you and for you. If you can be sure to let them know. Be sure to "remember" the gift of lives shared.

And then, think of one more point. Consider, for whom are you "a blessing?" To whom and for whom have you (are you) making a difference?

You just might be surprised how and when God is working in you, through you and with you!

Have a wonderful and blessed "TBT!"

A "SERVICE OF HOPE" – DEC 8 @ 2:00PM

Some of us walk into Advent tethered to our unresolved yesterdays – 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 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 tonight 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.



STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

This years Stewardship program was again a unique experience. Rather than our three-week program in October, it was spread out from April to October. It was done in three segments with April's program "WHO", August's program "WHEN" and the October program "WHERE".

On Sunday, October 27 we celebrated with a delicious brunch of egg bake, fruit, breads, muffins, coffee cake, cheese tray plus orange juice, milk and coffee. If you weren't there you missed a great meal!

If you have not returned your "Who, When, 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 from the Mission Stewardship Committee.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS - IN NOVEMBER

Come and join us in this interesting study.

The Adult Bible Study group is led by Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann.

"SHARING SUPPER" – NOVEMBER 25, 2019

The "Sharing Supper" will be shared on Monday, November 25!!!

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.

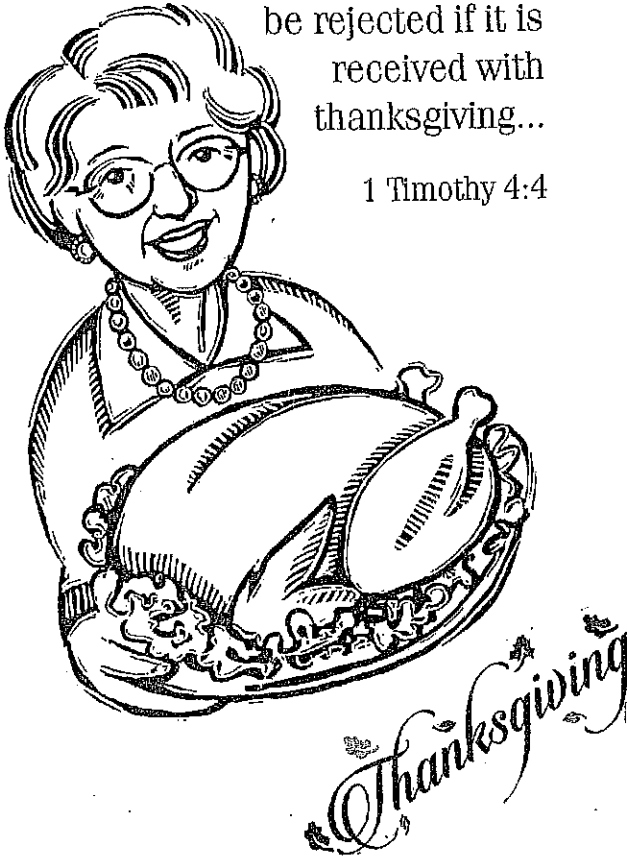
A unique part of this experience is the "Kid's Corner" designed especially for the younger folks. Here young people will have a chance to hear stories and do craft projects related to what is happening around us.

All are welcome! Bring your friends and neighbors.

Come and share in this unique and wonderful experience – on **November 25 @ 5:00 p.m.**

For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving...

1 Timothy 4:4



SALVATION ARMY COAT DRIVE

A special thanks to all who donated coats, boots, hats and mittens for the coat drive. Many adults and children will be warm this winter due to your generosity.

Nancy Schaper

"BREESSE FUND FOR THE NEEDY"

Over 30 years ago, the Llewelyn Breese Fund for the Needy was established with a bequest. The will specified that the fund "... shall be held in trust and used for the benefit of any underprivileged children of the church."

The administration of this fund is entrusted to Ruling Elders George Beasley and Jerry Schneiter, who have been appointed by the Session, along with the Pastor Dave, who serves as the Chairperson.

If you are in need or have a suggestion of someone from the church who may need assistance of this type, please contact a committee member. All contacts are held in strictest confidence.

FOOD PANTRY

A wonderful mission of our church is the food pantry. As the weather gets colder and gardens freeze up, more people are in need of help at the food pantry. Our basket is always out for donations. A couple items always needed are jelly in plastic jars, peanut butter, tuna, hamburger helper, tomato and chicken noodle soup, Juice, canned vegetables, sugar, flour, spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce and Laundry Soap.. So far this year our church has donated 1,859 plus \$100.00 cash donation pounds of food. That is just an awesome amount. Keep up the good work.

THANK YOU!

Once again the congregation of the Presbyterian Church has generously supported our community. Thank you!

The Portage Food Pantry

TAXI CAB "VOUCHERS"

The PPC Deacons have purchased coupons to help aid our members in coming to church. If you are unable to find a way to church, call a cab! The ride will be covered with coupons that will be kept at church. The coupons can be used for both your arrival to church and your return ride home. Please consider using them whenever transportation to church becomes an issue for you. We want to see you at church! If you have any questions please call the church office 742-6006.

CHILI DUMP

During the Holiday Parade on November 29 the Event's Committee will have a stand at the Chamber Mall selling chili to warm your body and soul. We need your help to make this a success. We are asking you to make a gallon or so of chili and have it to the church by Wednesday morning, November 27. We will then pour all of the chili together and serve it nice and warm at the parade.

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in Perry Hall for those who wish to donate chili. We figure we will need at least twelve gallons of chili. In the past years it has been cold and the warm chili was a huge success. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Schaper.

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!

"4-H SUNDAY" HERE @ PPC

On Sunday, October 13 PPC shred with members of "New Directions 4-H" in a "4-H Sunday" experience.

It was a blessing to hear about the activities of the New Directions club and of how 4-H helps to encourage young people to grow and learn and be adventurous and confident.

We, here at PPC, are thankful for the leaders and for the young people of New Directions 4-H as they continue on with a new year of opportunities.



"RIVER HAVEN" - VOLUNTEERS?

One of the things that River Haven Shelter is doing is reconnecting with the community in order to recruit volunteers to help in the work and ministry of the shelter.

Being available 24/7 for those in need necessitates a significant number of people to be a part of the work of the shelter.

This is a perfect opportunity for those who seek to help make a difference in the community by offering your time and presence as a shelter volunteer.

To find out what volunteer opportunities are available or for more information, contact the River

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!

"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!

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 NOVEMBER 11TH ... @10:00 a.m.

This is the SECOND Monday - for November ONLY!!!

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.



DEDICATION OF "WISH LIST" GIFTS

On Sunday, November 17 we will "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!

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) and share your correct contact information.

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

"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.



"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."



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, November 3, 2019

@ 10:05 a.m.

"The 21st Sunday after Pentecost"

"All Saints Sunday"

Sunday, December 1, 2019

@ 10:05 a.m.

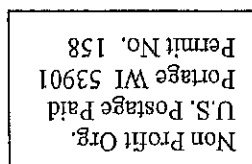
"The First Sunday in Advent"

"Greening of the Church" Worship

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Portage Presbyterian Church
120 W Pleasant Street
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Portage WI 53901