



The Portage Presbyterian Church

November 2022

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



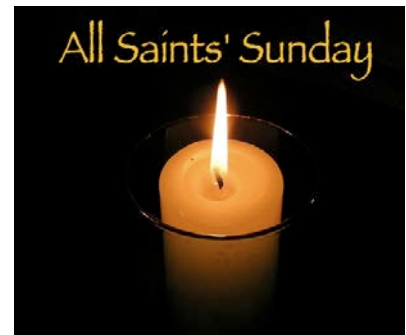
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and peace!

"All Saints Sunday" - November 6

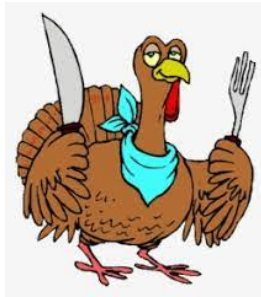
On Sunday, November 6th, the PPC community will gather to "remember" and to "celebrate" with family and friends the lives of those with whom we have journeyed - who have passed away over the past year.

Family and friends will be invited to "light candles" to give thanks to God for the lives shared.

The "All Saints Sunday" worship service will be held in the sanctuary. For those who may be unable to attend "in the sanctuary" we will do our "live video" of the service.



It's "Harvest Dinner" Time!



Mark your calendars for November 12th which will be our annual Harvest Dinner.

Once again we are going to have a "DRIVE THRU HARVEST DINNER". We will be serving our entire turkey dinner with all the fixings plus pie like we always do. It will just be all "Carry Out" meals.

We will serve from 4:30-until we run out of food!! You will drive into the back parking lot off Conant St. and be met by Pastor Dave & Chris Sechtig who will collect your money for the meal and give you directions on where to get your meal (*you will stay in your car*).

The cost will be \$15.00 per person.

We will be serving pumpkin and apple pie and we figure that we will need at least 50 pies. There are sign up sheets on the kiosk in Parry Hall or contact Nancy Meekma (608-742-5026) or Nancy Schaper (608-742-7242) to donate pies and/or volunteer to help that day.



PPC is designating Tuesday, November 29 as
"Giving Tuesday - A Time For Giving"

As we come into the Holiday season of Advent and Christmas, we are reminded that this is a
"time for giving."

During 2022, Portage Presbyterian Church had a series of "unexpected expenses" for which we had not budgeted. These were not unnecessary expenditures, but those which needed our attention sooner rather than later. Among these "unexpected expenses" were:

Updates at the Manse

(replace the retaining wall, update the original windows and original wood siding)
\$43,335.52

Westminster Center Basement

(installing new flooring to replace the original tile floor)
\$5475.00

Replacing damaged windows in church

\$2481.50

Per Capita

(this is the amount we pay from our church income that has not been covered by donations)
\$4401.94

During this "Giving Tuesday - A Time For Giving" Campaign, we are asking that you would consider giving a little extra and make a donation to PPC to help us manage some of these "unexpected expenses."

Look for our "Online Giving Option" at the PPC Website to make a donation.

Or you may drop your donation in the mail or in the church's "mailbox."

Thank you for your support of the Portage Presbyterian Church and its ministries for the people and the community.





We are seeking folks who may be interested in playing "Handbells" during Advent and Christmas this year.

Whether you have "rang bells" before - or would just like to give it a try - let us know. **Everyone is welcome to share in this music ministry.**

We will need to find a time for rehearsals beginning in November.

So, if you are interested - or have questions, please **contact Kathy Hankins** (608-742-2752) or email (dknshankins@charter.net). Thank you!

"Special Music" - During Advent & Christmas?

Anyone "out there" who may be interested in sharing "Special Music" during Advent and Christmas?

This could be "vocal" - "instrumental" - "ensemble" or "other ideas" you may have!

Contact Pastor Dave if you are interested - or have any questions!

"Come, let's make a joyful noise to the Lord!"



"Greening of the Church" - Decorating on Sat, Nov 26

We will be "decorating" the church on Saturday, November 26 - beginning @ 9:00 a.m.

Come and be a part of this fun experience as we prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

All ages are welcome! - There's something with which everyone can help!

"Reverse" Advent Calendar - Portage Food Pantry

You are invited to participate in an Advent experience unlike any other - a "Reverse" Advent Calendar!

During each day of Advent, the "calendar" will have an item which will be donated to the Portage Food Pantry.

You may collect your items and drop them off at the church during the week - or you may choose to wait and bring your items all at one time.

We will be collecting "food items" until December 24 - Christmas Eve.

We will have a "special dedication" of our Advent gifts on Christmas Eve.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dave.

The "**Reverse Advent Calendar**" will be available at the church by the end of November and will be included with the December newsletter.



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PPC will be "stocking shelves" at the Portage Food Pantry on **Wednesday, November 16 - @ 5:30 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. The more people we have the shorter the time.

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

## Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, November 6 - "Traditional Worship" Service - 10:05 a.m.



22nd Sunday after Pentecost

"All Saints Sunday"

*"We will share the "Lord's Supper" during the service.  
The "Bread" and "Cup" will be served in the pews*

Sunday - November 13, 2022 - "Traditional" Worship - 10:05 a.m.

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 20 - Worship - 10:05 a.m.

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday - November 27 - "Traditional" Worship - 10:05 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

The "**Greening of the Church**"

*"We will share the "Lord's Supper" during the service.  
The "Bread" and "Cup" will be served in the pews*

Sunday - December 4 - "Traditional" Worship - 10:05 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

*"We will share the "Lord's Supper" during the service.  
The "Bread" and "Cup" will be served in the pews*



We are looking for **"readers"** for the "Greening of the Church" worship service on Sunday, November 27.

If you would like to participate - please contact Pastor Dave by Sun, November 13.

*Thank you!*



Advent Devotionals will be available beginning on November 13th. You may pick them up on Sunday mornings in Parry Hall. Or you may stop by the Church Office during the week.

If you would like to have a devotional mailed to you, just contact the Church Office.



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!



PPC and the Scout Units celebrated our new charter relationship with a "New Charter Ceremony" on Sunday, October 9. Members and leaders of Cub Pack 70 - Troop 7070 - Troop 70 made a commitment to "do their best" to make the scouting experience a good one. And PPC also made a commitment to "do our best" to help support the Scouts and leaders in their efforts. The service concluded with *"Root Beer Floats"* provided by the Deacons.

## From the Board of Deacons

We continue to keep in touch with our homebound folks and appreciate your help with our cards and gifts. They enjoy them along with our visits.

We provided **root beer floats** on Oct 9th during fellowship and the scouts enjoyed it.

Thank you for your support. Your donations help us with communion supplies and caring for the homebound and others.

*Glenda Day*

## Events Committee - Updates and Information

### 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 Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Please call Nancy Schaper at 608-742-7242 to volunteer to ring. The 8:00AM slot has been filled

### CHILI DUMP

The Holiday Parade will be happening on November 26<sup>th</sup>, and once again the Events 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 figure we will need at least twelve gallons of chili - so we are asking you to make a gallon or so of chili and have it at church by Wednesday morning, November 26<sup>th</sup>. We will then pour all of the chili together and serve it nice and warm during the parade

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in Parry Hall for those who wish to donate chili or you can call Nancy at 608-742-7242. Each year our chili is a big success. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Schaper.

### 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*

### SQUASH PARTY

Thanks to all of you who came and helped at our "squash party" on October 11<sup>h</sup>. The fun was enjoyed by *Rhys Brenner, John Crammond, Nick Hankins, Laura Brenner, Peggy Alf-Sechtig, Jean Oren, Tara Bandekow, Edith McElroy and myself.*



We made 302 (56 bags) pounds of squash for the Harvest Dinner. Extra thanks to Rhys and Larry who picked squash with me and washed all the squash and Rhys, Nick and John who halved all the squash before we could bake it.

**"Horizons" Magazine - Bible Study Available**

Copies of the "Horizons Magazine" are available in the Church Office. We have the most recent 2022-23 edition of the "Horizon Bible Study" edition as well as past editions of the Bible Study.

"Celebrating Sabbath" is the 2022-23 Bible Study.

If you would like additional copies of this or any of the Bible Studies, we will make copies for you in the Church Office.

Thank you!



The *next meeting of the Women's Association* will be Saturday, November 5th at 9:00 a.m.- @ "A Place To Be Determined"

And don't forget to purchase "Scrip Cards" - for yourself or for gifts!



**PPC Women's Association - Mission Updates!**

We continue to have our Mission Chicken Soup Mix available. You only have to add chicken. Please give it a try. This is a year round fundraiser for us. It can be found in the church office or in the sanctuary on Sundays.

Thank you for your contributions of combs, brushes, and deodorants. These are items always needed for the personal care bags that are provided to various social services for distribution.

*Glenda Day*



The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance continues to respond to the refugee crisis happening in Ukraine. Over one million Ukrainian people have already been displaced since the invasion began. As the violence continues, the number of people becoming homeless due to fighting or fleeing to neighboring countries increases by the day.



If you would like to make a donation to support PDA's humanitarian response, please send your donation to the John Knox Presbytery.

You can include it with any other remittances to the Presbytery on the same remittance form and the same check. Please be sure to identify the PDA project in section C – Directed Mission Support on the Presbytery Treasury Service form (attached). The project number is DR000156 (Disaster Relief-International Refugee Programs).

We will forward your donations to the PDA and your donation will also appear on your quarterly statement we send to each church. For more information on the PDA's assistance to Ukraine, please click the following link <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/>.

Next Worship @ Tivoli - December 19, 2022



Provided that all is well, we will again provide worship for the residents at Tivoli on Monday, December 19 @ 10:00 a.m.

This will be our annual "Christmas Service"- a sharing of the story of the Birth of Jesus through Scripture and Song

"Volunteers" For Projection Screens In Sanctuary



We are still looking for "volunteers" who might be interested in helping to "prepare" and / or "project" our Sunday morning worship services on the projection screens.

If you are interested in this, or would like more information, please contact Pastor Dave.  
Thanks!



"Video" People for Sunday Morning Worship

One of the exciting ministries PPC continues to offer is our "Sunday Morning Worship Video" option.

And we are continuing to look for additional "volunteers" who would be interested in being involved in this ministry.

If you have a "smart phone" - and a little time - would you consider helping out?

If you would be interested in participating in this ministry - or would like more information - contact Pastor Dave.



Boxed Offering Envelopes - in 2023?

If you would like to receive the "boxed offering envelopes" for 2023 please contact the Church Office. For those who are presently using the "boxed offering envelopes" or those who have not received them but would like to - please contact the Church Office "no later than the 2nd week of December.

If we do not hear from you, we will provide the same "boxed offering envelopes" as we did in 2022. Thank you!



*Pastor Dave and other saints at Portage Presbyterian,*

Thanks for newsletter. Many chances to serve our merciful, forgiving Savior from sin/pride.

Glad to hear of the support of Scouting and congrats. to the new Eagle Scout, whom I consider to be the lite of American boyhood. They are prepared to serve God, country, community and neighbor, including the least of these.

**Carter Blaisdell** *(former pastor here @ PPC)*



To Our Faithful Newsletter Volunteers:  
who have folded - sealed - stamped many newsletters through the years -  
your time and service are greatly appreciated!

Thank you:

Caroline Rittmann - Jill Porzel - Judy Taylor - Donna Wolff - Joyce Oehlhof

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## Important "Information and Activities" Around Portage

### "Sharing Supper" Information!

On **Monday, November 28** - from **5:00-6:30 p.m.** - Portage's "Sharing Supper" will be serving the community meal - @ **Bartels Middle School**.

"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.

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"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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I want to express my gratitude to PPC's Women's Association for the generous gift for "Pastor's Appreciation Sunday" - October 9. Your care and support for me and my family are appreciated!

As much as this is intended to be a time for church communities to express appreciation, I also see this as my opportunity to express my gratitude and deep appreciation for all of you who make up the Portage Presbyterian Church community.

As Presbyterians, we affirm that the "church" is not one person - it is truly a team (or community) effort of people being called together - to serve God and to serve those to whom God calls us to go and to share and to be.

So, "thank you" for continuing to be a part of this awesome church community here in Portage. You all are also appreciated!

Peace, Pastor Dave



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!



To Contact The Portage Presbyterian Church

Phone: 608-742-6006

Church Office email: office@portagepresbyterian.com

Pastor Dave email: pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com

Website: www.portagepresbyterian.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Portage-Presbyterian-Church-155581354519952