



The Portage Presbyterian Church

October 30, 2020 - "Update"

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



Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Portage Presbyterian Church Community:

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

Here's the "Latest Update" of information to at this time!

The "Harvest Dinner" Will Be Served!

The Harvest Dinner will be served on November 14th but due to the current Pandemic we are going to have a "***DRIVE THRU HARVEST DINNER***". We will still be serving our entire turkey dinner with all the fixings plus pie like we always do. It will just be all "Carry Out" meals.

Serving begins @ 4:00 p.m..

You are asked to drive into the back parking lot off Conant St. and be met by Peggy Alf & 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.

Please contact *Nancy Meekma* (608-742-5026) or *Nancy Schaper* (608-742-7242) to donate pies and/or volunteer to help that day. Masks are required for volunteers. *Thanks!*

PPC Will Again "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 21st** from **8:00 AM to 7:00 PM.**

Please call Nancy Schaper at 608-742-7242 to volunteer to ring. The 8:00AM and 9:00AM slots have been filled. You must wear a mask when you are ringing the bells.

Salvation Army "Coats of Many Colors" Drive - Wrap Up!

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

"Nominating Committee" Information!

If you have suggestions or recommendations of "active members" to serve as either Ruling Elders or Deacons for the upcoming year, please be in touch with the Nominating Committee.

Members of the 2020 Nominating Committee are: **Alex Harvey** and **Larry Day** (*Elders*), **Tammy Foster** (*Deacon*) and **Glenda Day, Lee Roundy, Elaine Crammond** and **Nancy Schaper** (*from the Congregation*).

Thank you!

"Kwik Trip" Ultimate Car Wash Cards Available!

It is always a good time to wash your vehicle, right? We are still selling the Kwik Trip "Ultimate" Car Wash cards. Normally these cards would sell for \$50.00 / 5 washes - but we are selling them for a reduced cost of **\$36.00 / 5 washes**. Checks can be made out to "PPC Youth." If you would like to purchase an "Ultimate" Car Wash Card, contact Pastor Dave. Thanks!

"Chicken Soup Mix" Available Now!

Nothing hits the spot on a cool night like "chicken soup," right? So it is a good thing that the Women's Association continues selling their chicken soup mix. And it is only **\$3.25/jar**.

This is a year-long fundraiser. It's great for a quick meal!

Let Glenda Day know if you want some or pick it up at church on Sundays or at the church office during open hours. Thank you.

We Have A "Little Pantry" at Westminster Center

You may have noticed the "box" in front of Westminster Center. This "**Little Pantry**" was given to PPC by Camryn H (and volunteers), who through her planning and organizing made it possible for these "little pantries" to be placed throughout the city of Portage.

Camryn is a member of Troop 7070 here in Portage and her work in providing the "little pantries" was the culmination of her Eagle Scout project.

PPC's "**Little Pantry**" will be supervised as a "mission project" of our Confirmation Class for the rest of 2020 and into 2021.

If you would like to donate non-perishable food items (before the weather gets too cold) ... and / or "personal care items" (as the weather turns colder) - please leave them in

Westminster Center, the Church Office or in Parry Hall at the church. If you would like to make arrangements to have items collected, please contact the Church Office.

"Winter Items" (as the weather turns colder) could include: *toilet paper, kleenex, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes deodorant, lip balm, handwarmers, hats, gloves, peanut butter and jelly in plastic containers, mac and cheese, pasta, pasta sauce in plastic, hot or cold cereal, applesauce, dried fruit.*

"Live Nativity" Conversations?

There have been some conversations about the possibility of offering a "live nativity" scene here at PPC during December and Advent.

If this would be something you would be interested in helping to plan, please contact the Church Office "as soon as possible."

PPC in Worship "Together"

We are "transitioning" back into the sanctuary for worship as we move into November. Please note: that we will be following the guidelines and protocols established by the Session earlier. A copy of these "guidelines" have been included in this mailing. If you have any questions about these guidelines or protocols, please contact the Church Office.

For those who may not be ready or comfortable to come "into the sanctuary" at this time, we do offer these options that might work for you:

- We will continue to "broadcast live" worship in the parking lot on your FM radio in the parking lot - we are "live" on 90.5 FM. You may continue to "drive in" and share in the "fellowship" with those around you.
- We have also discovered that our "FM broadcast" *reaches out at least 3-4 blocks around the church*. If you live in that area, try catching the worship services at home on your FM radio @ 90.5.
- We also continue to offer "live videos" of the Sunday morning worship services on PPC's Facebook page. They are also available on PPC's "YouTube" Page. If you cannot be with us on Sunday morning, the "videos" are on Facebook and YouTube for you to watch at your convenience.
- We continue to **mail our weekly worship bulletins** to those who we are aware do not have "an internet" connection. If you would like to receive these mailings, please contact the Church Office.
- We also can make **DVD's of worship services** available for those who may be interested. If you would like a DVD and need to "borrow" a DVD player, we have them for your use. Just contact the Church Office and arrangements will be made to get them to you!

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, November 8 - "Informal" Worship

- ✓ 10:05 a.m. - Worship - TBD - "Live" Video Worship Service - also available at FM 90.5 in parking lot

Sunday, November 15 - "Traditional" Worship

- ✓ 10:05 a.m. - Worship "in the sanctuary" - "Live" Video Worship Service - also available at FM 90.5 in parking lot
- ✓ *Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann will be leading worship this morning!*

Sunday - November 22 - "Traditional" Worship

- 10:05 a.m. - Worship "in the sanctuary" - "Live" Video Worship Service - also available at FM 90.5 in parking lot
- *Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann will be leading worship this morning!*

Sunday, November 29 - "First Sunday of Advent" Worship

- ✓ 10:05 a.m. - Worship "in the sanctuary" - "Live" Video Worship Service - also available at FM 90.5 in parking lot
- ✓ We will be celebrating the "Lord's Supper" as a part of this worship service. Please remember to prepare your own "bread" and "cup" for this service.

"Photos by Syd"- A Church Fund-Raiser Continues

Don't Forget - you may still purchase your "Photos By Syd." These would make wonderful Christmas gifts and at that same time, as a "donation gift" for the church's ongoing work and ministry. Please contact the church office to make arrangements to see which photos are still available. Thank you, Syd, for your generous gifts.

Thank You - for your ongoing participation and support!

Your prayers, your care for one another and your neighbors, your presence from a distance continue to testify to the faith and courage and ministry to which God has called and to which God continues to send us. God continues to lead us, inspire us and provide for us as we seek to follow God's lead.

Even with all of the uncertainties that this pandemic has brought into all of our lives and into the community, YOU continue to find ways and opportunities to share and participate in God's work and ministry in and through PPC.

The Session is grateful for YOUR faithfulness and generosity in continuing to financially support the church's ministries to the best of one's abilities. Thank You!

"Confirmation Class" Updates!

PPC's Confirmation Class continues to meet on Wednesday evenings @ 6:00 p.m. in Parry Hall.

In addition to their "class time" the Confirmation Class is also assuming oversight of the "Little Pantry" in front of Westminster Center.

Then on the 3rd Wednesdays, beginning on November 18, the Confirmation Class members will be participating in a mission project at the Portage Food Pantry. They will be packing boxes which will be distributed to those in need at the end of the week.

And then, on Saturday, December 5, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. they will be "ringing bells" at both WalMart entrances.

As you can see, these young people are actively involved in learning and in serving.

Please keep these young people in your prayers as they continue their Confirmation journey: *Evie, Bennett, Garrett, Josie, Bailey, Oden and Gracie.*

And thank you to *Nicky Cross*, who has been participating as an adult mentor.

"Online VIDEO Bible Stories"

Check out PPC's Facebook Page for the "Online Bible Stories."

Each week we will be sharing a "video" with young people (*and God's children of all ages*)

If you might be interested in "reading" one of the stories, contact Pastor Dave

"Upper Room" Devotionals Are Here!

"Upper Room" devotionals for November and December are here!

"Printed copies" of these devotionals will be available in the church at the elevator and Parry Hall entrances.

You can also access these devotionals now as a PDF file too! Here's the "link" - https://destination-site-production.s3.amazonaws.com/pdfs/URE_November-December2020.pdf

Church Office Is Open!

The office staff is open for our "normal" office hours - but with these "guidelines"

- ✓ that there only be one person in office at a time
- ✓ that we should use first door only
- ✓ and that masks should be worn when you are indoors

Kathy (Secretary) is in the office on Wednesday /Friday mornings from 8:00-1:00 pm

Rosemary Minnema, our Treasurer, is covering the Financial Secretary's work on a "temporary basis."

Sharing "Joys" and "Concerns" for Worship

If you have "joys" and/or "concerns" that you would like to share for our Sunday worship experience, please contact Pastor Dave no later than Saturday afternoon.

You may email or you may leave message at the church office.

We will not use "last names" when we share these during worship!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dave

"Wish List" Updates

If you would like to make "Wish List" donations - or if you have questions, please contact the Church Office. Here are some of the items we will be needing soon.

- ✓ Hand Sanitizer - Wipes - Sanitizing Spray (use in the buildings)
- ✓ Paper Towels (for use in the bathroom dispensers)

Please contact the Church Office for more information. Thank you!

Ministry Opportunities in the Church

If anyone is interested in evaluating, researching and offering suggestions about "live video" opportunities (worship and other ideas), and perhaps help to further develop PPC's "video ministry" *please contact the Church Office.*

We are also looking for those who might be willing to serve as "greeters" for worship in the sanctuary. This ministry of "welcoming" is an important one as members, friends and visitors come for worship.

A Few Final Thoughts ... *from Pastor Dave*

I'm ready for Christmas - how about you!

No, I do not have everything ready for Christmas. I doubt that "this" will ever be a reality for me - LOL!

However, I am ready for the messages that Christmas brings into our world - a message of "God being with us right here in the mud and muck of life" ... of "hope and possibilities even when I cannot understand or see" ... of "new days and new life even when I am tired and wondering" ... of hearing again of "God's light in the midst of the darkness of days, chaos, weariness and uncertainty" ... of being reminded that "I also have been called to be a reflection of God's light in the world." Yes, I am ready for this Christmas. How about you? *Peace Be With You!*

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The Portage Presbyterian Church

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Church Office - [office@portagepresbyterian.com](mailto:office@portagepresbyterian.com)

Pastor Dave Hankins - [pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com](mailto:pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com)

Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/Portage-Presbyterian-Church-155581354519952/>

Dial your radio to FM Channel - 90.5

if you are in the "Parking Lot" area near the church

you will be able to hear our worship services and other activities here at PPC!

Also, the FM broadcast reaches out a few blocks around the church -

you may be able to hear us live at home too!

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Making a "financial" offering for the work and ministry  
here @ Portage Presbyterian Church is "easy!"

You may choose to ....

Mail it to the Church Office

or

Drop it in the "mail slot" at the Church Office

or

Drop it off during "open hours" at the Church Office

or

Use the "online giving" option

Go to your website - [www.portagepresbyterian.com](http://www.portagepresbyterian.com)

On the "home page" you will find the  button.

Click on the button and follow instructions.

Online "offerings" can be recurring or one time gifts.

**Thank you for your help and support of God's ministry here at and through PPC!**