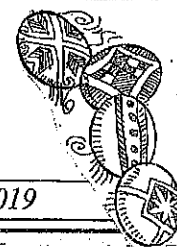


The Portage Presbyterian



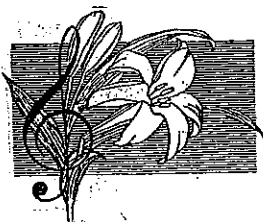
A Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

April 2019

POUNDS FOR THE PANTRY

During the month of May we will again have a food drive for the Portage Food Pantry called "Pounds for the Pantry". **Our goal is to raise 500# during that month.** Each Sunday when you bring your food pantry items to church, they will be weighed and by the end of worship you will know how many pounds were collected that day. We will have a chart with the running total so you can see each week how close we are to meeting our goal.

Some of the items needed most are creamy peanut butter, jelly (in plastic containers), tuna fish, pancake mix and syrup, Manwich, canned stews, spaghetti sauce and noodles, canned fruit, soups, cereal, soda crackers, hamburger helper, plastic gallon bottles of juice, ketchup and mustard. This is a great time to bring in bags of flour & sugar, juice and laundry soap as they weigh more. **Please check expiration dates as the food pantry can't accept any items that are expired.** The first 2½ months of this year we have only donated 189 pounds to the pantry. Let's work hard to meet this goal of 500# in the month of May. Last year we surpassed our goal and collected 770 pounds.

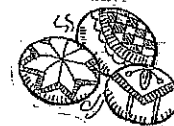


ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

With the start of Lent began our One Great Hour of Sharing drive. This year's offering theme is "You Shall Be Called **Repairers** of the Breach" On the table in Parry Hall there are Fish boxes for you to collect your loose change in if you desire. You may also use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter or the one in your box of church envelopes. The offering will be collected on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

Join us on Thursday, April 25th from 4:30-8:00 p.m. at the Portage Pizza Ranch for a Mission Fundraising Event. 10% of your bill and the tips will be donated to the Women's Association. Invite your family and friends!



BAKE SALE

We had our first bake sale on March 10 and it was a huge success. We had delicious cookies, bars, breads, puppy chow and jam. April 14 will be our next bake sale. The proceeds from our bake sales and produce days go to support our Stewardship Celebration Luncheon in the fall.

"SHARING SUPPER" - APRIL 29, 2019

The "Sharing Supper" will be shared on Monday, APRIL 29!!!

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. PLEASE NOTE - there has been a change in the ending time for the "Supper."

"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 **April 29 @ 5:00 p.m.**

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 3

6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite" Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, April 7, 2019

10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Fellowship Time after worship in Parry Hall

Wednesday, April 10

6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite" Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, April 14, 2019

The 1st Sunday in Lent
10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*
"Palm Sunday"
"Donkey Walk" Procession after worship

Wednesday, April 17

6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite" Worship in Sanctuary

Thursday, April 18

"Maundy Thursday"

12:15 p.m. - *Worship in Sanctuary*

6:30 p.m. - *Worship in Sanctuary*

Celebration of the Lord's Supper @ both Services

Friday, April 19

"Good Friday"

7:05 p.m. - *"Tenebrae" Worship in Sanctuary*

A Worship Service of progressive darkness

Sunday, April 21, 2019

Easter Sunday

7:05 a.m. - *Easter "Son Rise" Worship @ PPC*
(Indoor or Outdoor depending on weather)

10:05 a.m. - *Easter Morning Worship Celebration*
@ PPC

Wednesday, April 24

6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite" Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, April 28, 2019

The 2nd Sunday of Eastertide
10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*

THE PORTAGE PRESBYTERIAN

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?? MAY 5TH!!!!

2


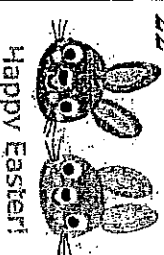

Church Office Hours

Monday – 10:00am – 12:00pm
 Tuesday – Office Closed
 Wednesday – 8:00am – 1:00pm
 Thursday – Office Closed
 Friday – 8:00am – 1:00pm

April

2019



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|----------|
| <p>1</p> <p>BTR – Bell Tower Room FH – Fellowship Hall PH – Parry Hall SA – Sanctuary WC – Westminster Center</p>  | <p>2</p> <p>9:00am Bell Choir Rehearsal, PH</p> | <p>3</p> <p>5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH</p> | <p>4</p> <p>8:30am – 4:30pm Bi-Vocational Ministry, FH 6:00pm Session Meeting, WC</p> | <p>5</p> <p>6:00pm Light Supper, FH 6:30pm Euchar, Mission for River Haven</p> | <p>6</p> <p>9:00am Presbyterian Women Meeting at Dino's</p> | |
| <p>7</p> <p>5th Sunday in Lent</p> <p>10:05am Traditional Worship, Lord's Supper, SA Discipleship Committee, WC</p> | <p>8</p> <p>5:30pm Corporate Affairs, PH</p> | <p>9</p> <p>10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, PH 5:00pm Memorial Stewardship, WC</p> | <p>10</p> <p>5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH</p> | <p>11</p> <p>12:15pm Maundy Thursday Service with Lord's Supper 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service with Lord's Supper</p> | <p>12</p> <p>May Newsletter Articles Due in Office</p> | |
| <p>14</p> <p><i> Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>8:45am Bible Study, BTR 10:05am Traditional Worship SA Produce and Bake Sale Day Donkey Walk</p> | <p>15</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service at Tivoli</p> | <p>16</p> <p>9:00am Bell Choir Rehearsal, PH 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's</p> | <p>17</p> <p>5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH</p> | <p>18</p> <p>12:15pm Maundy Thursday Service with Lord's Supper 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service with Lord's Supper</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Good Friday 7:05pm Good Friday Teenebrae Service</p> | |
| <p>21</p> <p><i> Easter Sunday</i></p> <p>7:00am Easter Sunrise Service 10:05am Easter Celebration Service, SA</p> | <p>22</p>  <p>Happy Easter!</p> | <p>23</p> <p>9:00am Bell Choir, PH 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's</p> | <p>24</p> <p>5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH</p> | <p>25</p> <p>4:30-8:00pm Women's Association Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch</p> | <p>26</p>  | |
| <p>28</p> <p><i> 2nd Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>8:45am Bible Study, BTR 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA</p> | <p>29</p> <p>5:00-6:00pm Sharing Supper at Bartels Middle School 5:15pm Events Committee, WC</p> | <p>30</p> <p>9:00am Bell Choir, PH</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>WHO DOES WHAT?? MAY 5TH!!!!</p> | | |

"FOOD-FUN - FELLOWSHIP - FUNDS"

Mark your calendars for **Friday, April 5th** when a Euchre party will be held in the church dining room. A free will offering of \$5.00 includes cards and the meal. The meal will be served at 6:00 PM and cards start at 6:30 PM. All proceeds from this Euchre party will be directed to the River Haven Homeless Shelter for their work and ministry in the community. Bring an item for the food pantry and come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.

MARDI GRAS (FAT SUNDAY)

Fat Sunday, (March 3rd) was celebrated during worship with the "Beal Street Jazz Group" that also included Jack Roundy and Pastor Dave. Following worship it was a special time with delicious food, good fellowship and bingo. There were lots of laughs and bingo prizes.

FROM THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

One of the missions of our association is to provide personal care bags to individuals and organizations in our community. In the past, we have donated to the Portage school system the Pregnancy Crisis Center, the free community clinic and River Haven shelter.

We presently have 37 bags ready to share thanks to your donations.

This is an ongoing Mission and we continue to need the following items

- Bar soap
- Shampoo
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Band-Aids
- Combs and brushes
- Individually packaged toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Dental floss
- Single load boxes of laundry detergent

These items all need to fit in a gallon Ziploc bag.

We also accept monetary donations to purchase needed items.

We gratefully received 30 each toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss when requesting a donation from Midwest Dental. You may want to ask your dental office if they would like to donate also.

Thank you for helping us with this mission,

Kathryn Curtis

Glenda Day

**WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING ON
SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH AT 9:00 AM AT
DINOS.**



Pastor's Page

There has been quite a discussion over the "time changes" to which we are subjected in March and in November.

But there seems an equal amount of discussion about the "requisite adjustments" to said time changes. These changes in time, which in the Spring provide us with more "light" in the evening hours, take, as my grandmother would say, "some getting used to!"

Even though I like having more "light" in the day, these times of adjustment and transition are not always easy.

Jesus had told the disciples what was going to unfold as they made their way into Jerusalem. He was going to be arrested, convicted, tortured, beaten, executed, buried - AND on the third day be raised from the dead.

Yet, despite Jesus' repeated lessons, the disciples were not ready! They were not ready for the cross nor were they ready for the empty tomb!

And we discover, not too surprisingly, that these disciples had a difficult time with what was happening - even though this was indeed "good news."

They had to have time to adjust to this radical, life-changing new reality that God had brought into their lives. What does all of this mean? Jesus is alive? Death can really mean life? God really does love us and forgive us? God does not want to punish but to reconcile with us? WOW!

What God was doing in and through Jesus was so amazing and so radical and so counter-cultural and so unexpected that they had to make an adjustment in their living and in their thinking.

As awesome as Easter was they still had to "get used to it!"

Yes, just like "adjusting" to Daylight Savings Time, "getting used" to being in a loving relationship with a God of grace, hope and peace can take time.

But the wonderful thing Easter and about "getting adjusted to" God's grace and love in our lives is that God will wait for us to catch up.

Easter changes everything! And that's a change that we certainly can get "used to!"

"GIDEON" PRESENTATION - APRIL 28

Ken Manthey will be with us in worship on Sunday, April 28 to share information on the mission and work of the Gideon International.

You will have an opportunity to donate to the work and mission of the Gideons on this Sunday and to talk more with Ken.

UPCOMING "BIBLE STUDY" INFO

The Adult Bible Class is now studying some of the lesser known stories in the Bible.

For example, did you know that there is a talking donkey in the Bible?

Come and join us on April 14th, to learn about this. We meet at 8:45 a.m. in the Bell Tower Room and always have an interesting discussion.

Then on April 28th, we will learn about the midwives who refused to obey the king of Israel. As a result, Moses was born and survived. What a difference that all made in our biblical history.

So come and join us in these interesting discussions.

The Adult Bible Class is led by the Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann.



2019 Per Capita Information

Our 2019 "Per Capita" amount is **\$32.60 for each active member.**

Please take a moment to drop off your Per Capita (*for each member*) on Sunday morning, in the mail or by stopping by the church office.

If you have a number of members in your household, you do not have to pay for everyone at one time. Pay as you can.

Also, we appreciate those who choose to make a donation on behalf of someone or as a gift to PPC which helps us cover our church's total.

If you have questions, please contact the Church Office. Thank you!

"PPC" HAS A "PYT" PERSON

The Portage Presbyterian Church has a participant in the Presbyterian Church-wide national youth gathering at Purdue University in July.

Jarrett Foster will be attending as a part of the John Knox Presbytery contingent to attend the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. This is an event for high school age youth in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Jarrett will be joining with approximately 4999 other Presbyterian youth for a week of fellowship, worship, learning and fun.

Congratulations Jarrett on your decision to participate.

Be sure to keep Jarrett in your prayers as he prepares for this adventure.

PPC "T-SHIRTS" STILL AVAILABLE

If you wanted to order the wonderful PPC "T-Shirt" but did not - we have a few extra shirts available for sale.

Each of the shirts cost \$10.00.

At the time of this printing we have the following in stock:

- 5 - small
- 3 - medium
- 5 - large
- 2 - extra large

If you would like to purchase a shirt, call the church office or talk to Kathy Hankins on Sunday mornings.

KWIK TRIP "CAR WASH" CARDS -

Don't driver around this winter with all of the salt and "gunk" on your car.

You can have a clean vehicle and help support PPC's "mission trippers" at the same time when you purchase Kwik Trip "Ultimate" Car Wash cards.

Each card has FIVE car washes on it.

If you were to purchase these at the store, they would cost \$50.00 (\$10.00/wash)

But, the Mission Trippers are selling these cards for the price of \$36.00 / card.

For each card sold the "mission trippers" earn \$16.00!

If you are interested in purchasing cards, contact the Church Office. Thanks!

TRY "SCRIP" - YOU'LL LOVE IT!

Scrip Fundraising is here @ PPC!

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!

"RIVER HAVEN" - VOLUNTEERS?

The River Haven's Family Shelter and Men's Shelter are both open again!

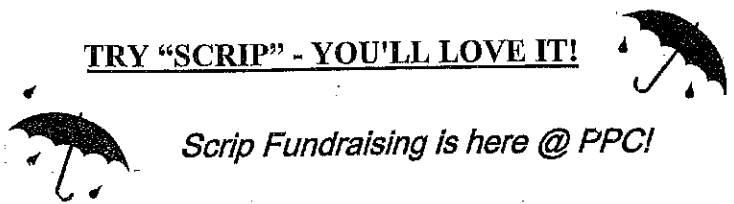
One of the things that River Haven Shelter is doing is reconnecting with the community in order to recruit volunteers to help in the work and ministry of the shelter.

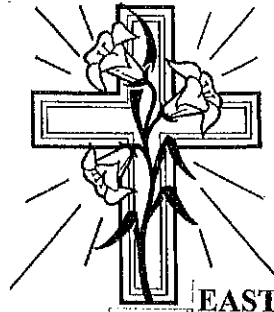
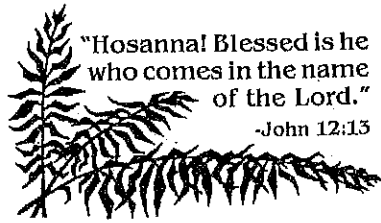
Being available 24/7 for those in need necessitates a significant number of people to be a part of the work of the shelter.

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 Haven Shelter @ 742-7687.

Thank you!





COMMUNION

"MAUNDY THURSDAY" - APRIL 18

On Thursday of Holy Week we will again offer 2 different worship opportunities.

There will be a worship service @ 12:15 p.m. (noon-time) in the sanctuary. We will Celebrate the Lord's Supper as a part of this worship time.

We will also have a time for worship in the sanctuary @ 6:30 p.m. which will also include the Lord's Supper.

"GOOD FRIDAY" - APRIL 19

You are invited to come and worship as we gather for our Good Friday worship experience.

We will share a "Tenebrae" worship service beginning @ 7:05 p.m. in the sanctuary.

"Tenebrae" is a "service of darkness" in which the sanctuary will get progressively darker during the worship service.

Readers will lead us through the last hours of Jesus' life as he suffers crucifixion on the cross.

This is a moving, reflective worship experience which helps to remind us of all that God has done for us in and through Jesus Christ.

Invite your friends and neighbors to come and experience a real Good Friday.

"READERS" FOR HOLY WEEK WORSHIP??

Are you interested in being a "reader" for any of the Holy Week worship services?

These worship opportunities include - Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Early Easter or Late Easter.

If so, please contact Pastor Dave or sign-up on the sheet on the kiosk in Parry Hall.

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 21

We will celebrate the glorious resurrection of Jesus with two different worship experiences on Easter Sunday morning.

Our early "Sonrise" service will be held @ PPC beginning @ 7:00 a.m. This is a more informal service. If weather permits, we will gather together near the prayer garden behind Westminster Center. If the weather is more inclement, we will gather inside.

Then we will have our Easter Morning Worship Celebration @ 10:05 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Please note: we **will not** be serving an Easter breakfast this year. However, we will offer a "self serve" breakfast bar between the services. You can come, eat and visit for awhile. Or you can "take and go" if you are on the way somewhere.

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 14

"Hosanna - blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord - Hosanna in the highest"

We will celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with an exciting and inspirational Palm Sunday worship experience.

The waving of the palm branches, the singing of songs, the reading of the Scriptures, the shouts of celebration and anticipation will all be part of Palm Sunday's worship service.

Palm Sunday's celebration will then overflow out into the streets as we gather for the "Donkey Walk" with Sandy the donkey leading us in a procession around the neighborhood.

Come and experience Palm Sunday. Invite your friends and neighbors too!

WHO DOES WHAT?? MAY 5TH !!!!!

WHO DOES WHAT?? MAY 5TH !!!!!

"CLERK'S CORNER"

Change is a part of life and it's almost always experienced with some degree of anxiety. At our March Session meeting the subject of change was a point of discussion. In a general sense we agreed that change should make sense and not be considered just for the sake of making a change.

More specifically we discussed small changes to our Easter Sunday celebration. We will have two services, one at 7:05 and one at 10:05. The early service will be at church but if weather permits we will hold the service in our Prayer Garden behind Westminster Center. Instead of a full-blown breakfast we will serve coffee, juice and breakfast snacks upstairs between services.

Small changes the Session deemed worth trying - small changes that seemed to make sense.

Kathy Raimer

"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."

PPC COMMUNION SCHEDULE

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, April 7, 2019

@ 10:05 a.m.

"5th Sunday in Lent"

Thursday, April 18, 2019

"Maundy Thursday"

@ 12:15 p.m. (noon-time)

@ 6:30 p.m. (Evening Worship)

Both Services are in the Sanctuary

10

Wednesday Worship Service
6:05 p.m. Informal, Interactive Worship



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

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