



The Portage Presbyterian Church

August 21, 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!

As we continue to make our way in the midst of this "wilderness time" we continue to discover ways for us to be "God's people of joy and peace" and to be "in community" even when we are distanced from each other.

Here's the "latest" information to share in our "Update" this time.

"A Community Networked - Together"

We have upgraded our "church membership database" and we are looking to update the "contact information" we have for the PPC community.

If you have an email address, a change in phone number or a new mailing address - please let the Church Office know.

PPC in Worship "Together"

As we have moved through August, we continue to offer the "outdoor service" at 10:05 a.m. as our "first option" this includes the "drive in" option or the "bring your own chair" option. We ask that everyone continues to observe a "safe distance" (6 feet) between families.

In case of inclement weather (rain or excessive heat defined as "80 degrees at 9:00 a.m.") - the worship service will be moved into the sanctuary - following the guidelines established by the Session (*which have been included in previous mailings*).

Determination of "outdoor" or "indoor" worship will be made no later than the Friday before. We will post the information on PPC's "Facebook" page and you will also be able to listen to weather related announcements via the church's phone message.

We also continue to offer "live videos" of the Sunday morning worship services on PPC's Facebook page. If you are not able to watch the "live version" of the worship, you will find it on the Facebook page under "videos" so you can watch them when it is convenient or they are also available on PPC's "YouTube" Page ("*Portage Presbyterian Church*").

We continue to be blessed by those who make our "videos" possible - thank you to *Allison* and *Sarah* who have been providing right from the beginning. Also thank you to *Lee Roundy* who has served as our worship accompanist for the last few weeks.

We continue to **mail our weekly worship bulletins** to those who we are aware do not have "an internet" connection. If you did not receive this particular mailing, but would like to, please contact the Church Office.

We also have DVD's of worship services available for those who may be interested. Contact the Church Office if you know of someone who might like to make use of the "portable DVD" players. The DVD players will be easy to use and will include instructions.

Upcoming Worship Services - *Announcements*

Sunday, August 30 - "Traditional" Worship

- ✓ "Live" Video Worship Service begins at 10:05 a.m.
- ✓ "Weather permitting" we also offer a "drive in - sitting in chairs" service in addition to our "live video services at 10:05 a.m.

Sunday - September 6 - "Traditional" Worship

- We will share a "Live" Video Worship beginning at 10:05 a.m.
- "Weather permitting" we also offer a "drive in - sitting in chairs" service in addition to our "live video services at 10:05 a.m.
- We will celebrate the Lord's Supper - *please provide your own elements of "bread" and "cup" for this worship time*

Sunday, September 13 - "Traditional" Worship

- ✓ "Live" Video Worship Service begins at 10:05 a.m.
- ✓ "Weather permitting" we also offer a "drive in - sitting in chairs" service in addition to our "live video services at 10:05 a.m.

Sunday, September 20 - "Informal" Worship

- ✓ "Live" Video Worship Service begins at 10:05 a.m.
- ✓ "Weather permitting" we also offer a "drive in - sitting in chairs" service in addition to our "live video services at 10:05 a.m.

New "Upper Room" Devotionals are here!

"Upper Room" daily devotionals for September and October have arrived. If you would like a devotional - you can stop by the office during "open" office hours - or pick them up on Sunday mornings - or contact the Church Office and we will get them to you!

"You Rock!!!"

While it seems in these last months that there have been many things that have changed - it is good to also realize that there are some things that have not changed - we continue to offer ministry, we continue to "share" God's good news and we continue to "be" God's good news.

Yet, this does not happen without YOU! Your prayers, your care for one another and your neighbors, your presence from a distance are all testimony 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.

As we continue to navigate our way through this time, we know that this will not last forever! There will be a time when we can come together once again in fellowship and sing to the Lord - and that day will come!!!

Still the uncertainties that this pandemic has brought into all of our lives and into the community in which we live can also ripple into the church as well. And so we ask that, to the best of your abilities, you would continue to provide your financial support to the church. You can share your gifts by dropping them off at the church office (in the mailbox) or by mail - or ...

We also now have an "online giving" option for those who are interested. Go to the church's website (www.portagepresbyterian.com) ... and look at the "home page" and there you will see "this button" -



Click on this button and follow the instructions.

Thank you for your continuing support of this church's mission and ministry.

"Confirmation Class" Begins In The Fall

We are compiling a "list" of those young people who may be interested in participating in "confirmation class" beginning this Fall.

Young people who are 7th grade or older are encouraged to get "on the list."
Contact Pastor Dave with "your contact information" at pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com ...
or the church office @ 742-6006.

"Virtual" Travel With Jesus - in August

We have had a wonderful time sharing with 25 registered young people for the "Virtual Travel With Jesus" - experience.
"Travel Bags" were prepared each week for the young people and were supplemented with videos of the Bible stories and music on Facebook.
Thank you to *Nancy, Liz, Judy and Peggy* for your time and energy in making this happen!

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

Tammy (Financial Secretary) is in the office on Monday mornings from 10:00-Noon.
Kathy (Secretary) is in the office on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:00-1:00 pm

Shhh - a "Card Shower"

On August 31st **Ethelyn Blood** will celebrate her 98th birthday.
Because of this pandemic she can't do any "Celebrating."
So let's celebrate for her by having a card party for her.
Please send your birthday cards to:

Ethelyn Blood
Tivoli Room 212

2805 Hunters Trail
Portage, WI 53901

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 at pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com

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

The "Brats" Aren't Finished Yet!!!

The Event's Committee will be hosting Brat Sales at Festival Foods on Saturday, September 5th - from 10:00AM-2:00PM.

We will be servicing brats and hot dogs.

One change - we will hand you the items you order in a bag and you will need to take them home or eat them in your car. There will be no tables at the Brat Hut!

We will have ketchup, mustard and sauerkraut containers to add to your bag if you desire.

We are very excited to once again have brat sales and hope you will come and join us.

"Wish List" Updates

WOW! Your generosity and faithfulness to God's ministry in and through PPC is awesome! If you would like to make "Wish List" donations - or if you have questions, please contact the Church Office.

- ✓ **Hand Sanitizer** (for use in the buildings)
- ✓ **Wipes** (for use in the buildings)
- ✓ **Sanitizing Spray** (for use in the buildings)

If you are interested in helping with these or any items on the "Wish List" please contact the Church Office for more information.

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.*

"Updates" on Guidelines - When We Are "In The Sanctuary"

As most are aware, with the implementation of the "Emergency Order #1" (in reference to "face coverings") - our "guidelines" for being "indoors" have also changed a bit.

Rather than "masks" being "recommended" as before, they are presently deemed to be "mandatory." In reality, this is the only change in our guidelines that the "Emergency Order" brings.

Please be aware that "masks" are not "mandatory" IF one has *trouble breathing ... IF one has medical conditions, intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, or other sensory sensitivities that prevent the individual from wearing a face covering* (the italic font is the language taken directly from the Emergency Order itself).

Please be aware that the Session will not be "legislating" what one does or does not do. We will not be asking questions nor will we be requiring "proof" of a medical condition.

We will trust that everyone will be respectful of each other. And we will trust that choices that are made will reflect the reality of one's situation.

A Few Final Thoughts ...

It is hard to plan a journey when you do not know where you are going or how long it will be before you arrive. Yet, that is what we have all been doing since the middle of March. There is no doubt that our lives have been "discombobulated" in ways that we never could have anticipated at the beginning of the year. And, as we soon move into the Fall, we are fatigued and wondering and searching

Yet the answers are not forthcoming. "Normal" seems only a vague memory. And the "return to normal" seems a long way off.

However, when so much seems in flux, we have found and continue to find that the promise that "God is with us" is more than a phrase we use in Advent and Christmas.

It is this reality of Immanuel that enables us to be at peace, to keep going, to keep sharing the Good News of Great Joy for all people and to continue offering ministries hope, reconciliation and love.

And so we continue to move ahead, serving with "energy, intelligence, imagination and love" in many different ways and places. We have learned and we continue to learn. Above all, God has blessed us and continues to bless us in amazing ways as we fulfill our calling to be God's people of Good News!

Thank you for participating in the work and ministry of God's church community here in Portage!



Peace Be With You!

The Session of the Portage Presbyteria