



The Portage Presbyterian



A Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

February 2018

EDUCATION MINISTRIES UPDATE!

PPC's Education Ministries are up and running on Wednesday nite!!!

The "Wednesday Nite" class for young people will meet @ 5:30 p.m. This class then continues as we gather for an *interactive* worship experience we call "Wed Nite Worship" @ 6:05 p.m. Everyone is invited to share in this worship time.

Please be sure to invite friends to come and share in this great experience.

A.C.T.S./ HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH @ PPC

A.C.T.S. - "After Confirmation Talks (and) Service" is a group of "high school age" young people who come together for discussion, service, mission and fun!

ANY YOUNG PERSON is welcome and encouraged to participate - there is no membership fee & there is no form to sign. Just come and hang out as we explore ways in which God is at work in our lives and ways in which we can share God's good news with those around us.

We decided that we would meet on the *2nd and 4th Wednesdays @ 6:35 p.m.* Come and join us!!!

Our next gathering date will be *February 14 (Ash Wednesday service and for a short time following) ... & 28.*

We would enjoy having you share the journey with us!

Be sure to check out the *ACTS@PPC* Facebook page too for any updates or information!!!

Questions? Contact Pastor Dave.

"DIXIELAND" WORSHIP SERVICE - FEB 11

Plans are in the works for another "Dixieland Worship Service" on "Fat Sunday," February 11.

Members of the *Red Hot Dixie Group* will be here to help lead our worship experience.

There are also plans being made for a "potluck fellowship meal" after worship.

Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors for a great and unique worship experience here @ PPC.

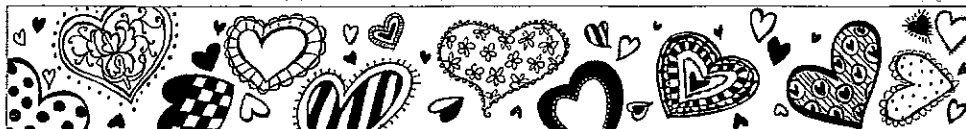
FAT SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for **February 11.** The Events Committee will be hosting a MardiGras celebration following a "Dixieland" worship service with members of the "Red Hot Dixie Group" helping to lead worship. Last year they were a big hit and it was a wonderful worship experience. Most people celebrate "Fat Tuesday" (the day before Ash Wednesday) by eating everything they want. We are going to celebrate "Fat Sunday" by having a **potluck luncheon followed by bingo in the church dining room following morning worship.** You may bring your favorite dish or a MardiGras dish such as jambalaya, grits, turkey gumbo etc. You may bring your dish to the kitchen before worship. If it needs to be cooked or heated, the ovens will be on. The committee will provide milk and coffee to drink. A free will offering will be taken. Last year everyone had a great time. **COME JOIN THE FUN!**

"EMAIL INFO" FOR PPC OFFICES

To reach Pastor Dave by email: pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com

To reach the church office by email: office@portagepresbyterian.com

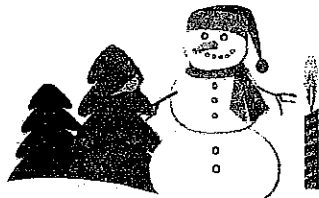


"CLERK'S CORNER"

On Thursday, January 18 the Session held their first meeting of 2018, the special, organizational meeting during which new members are greeted, Elders choose the committees on which they will serve and goals for the coming year are discussed.

One suggestion mentioned involved me, the Clerk of Session (who by the way is elected each year at this meeting). It was suggested that the Clerk could put a small article in the newsletter with highlights from the each Session meeting. This brought up an interesting point: Session meetings, unless formally closed, are open to any member of the congregation. I don't know when the Session last held a closed meeting but I suspect it's been a long time. The term *Ruling Elder* makes Session members sound like special people in some way. But Elders are just everyday, normal people trying to guide this wonderful church through good times and bad. They would welcome input, ideas, concerns. So if you're not busy on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm, join us. You would be most welcome.

Kathy Raimer



THE PORTAGE PRESBYTERIAN

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Portage Presbyterian Church Website Address:

www.portagepresbyterianchurch.com

Editor – Kathryn Curtis

Pastor – The Rev. David J. Hankins

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 4, 2018

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
10:05 a.m. – *Traditional Worship*



Wednesday, February 7

6:05 p.m. – *"Wed Nite @ PPC" Worship*

Sunday, February 11, 2018

The Sunday of the Transfiguration
10:05 a.m. – *"Dixieland" Worship Service*
Potluck Gathering after Worship



Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday Worship Services
12:15 p.m. (noon-time) & 6:05 p.m.
Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, February 18, 2018

The First Sunday in Lent
10:05 a.m. – *"Informal" Worship*



Wednesday, February 21

6:05 p.m. – *"Wed Nite @ PPC" Worship*

Sunday, February 25, 2018

10:05 a.m. – *Traditional Worship Service*



Wednesday, February 28

6:05 p.m. – *"Wed Nite @ PPC" Worship*

2018 Per Capita Information

Our 2018 "Per Capita" amount is **\$31.00**
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.

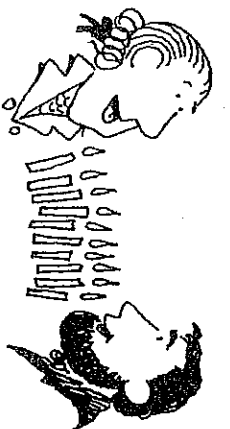
Also, we appreciate those who choose to make a donation on behalf of someone or as a gift to PPC which helps us cover our church's total.

If you have questions, please contact the Church Office.

Thank you!

February

2018



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

SUNDAY **MONDAY** **TUESDAY** **WEDNESDAY** **THURSDAY** **FRIDAY** **SATURDAY**

<p>4 5th Sunday after Epiphany 8:45am Bible Study 10:05am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>5 3:30pm ACA, WC 6:00pm Bell Choir, Parry Hall 7:00pm Guitar Lessons, Parry Hall</p>	<p>6 5:00pm Memorial/ Mission Stewardship Committee at Culvers</p>	<p>7 5:00pm Light Snack 5:30pm Lord's Lambs 6:05pm Worship 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:30pm Worship Jam</p>	<p>8 8:30am – 4:00 pm Interim Training, Dining Room 6:00pm Session Meeting, WC</p>	<p>9 March Newsletter Articles Due in Office</p>	<p>10 9:00am Presbyterian Women Meeting at Dino's</p>
<p>11 Transfiguration of the Lord 10:05am "Dixieland" Worship Fat Sunday - Potluck</p>	<p>12 6:00pm Bell Choir, Parry Hall 6:00pm Guitar Lessons Parry Hall</p>	<p>13 10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, Parry Hall</p>	<p>14 12:15pm Ash Wednesday Service with Lord's Supper, Parry Hall 6:05pm Ash Wednesday Service with Lord's Supper, Parry Hall</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 9:00am – 3:00pm Video Presbytery Meeting, Fellowship Hall 11:30am Presbyterian Women serving Community Meal at St. John's Episcopal Church</p>
<p>18 1st Sunday in Lent Epiphany 8:45am Bible Study 10:05am Informal Worship 4:00pm 4-H Meeting, Dining Room</p>	<p>19 10:00am Worship Service at TiVo!i 5:30pm Discipleship Committee</p>	<p>20 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's</p>	<p>21 5:00pm Light Snack 5:30pm Lord's Lambs 6:05pm Worship 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:45pm Confirmation 7:30pm Worship Jam</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 2nd Sunday in Lent 10:05am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>26 5:00-6:30pm Sharing Supper at Bartels Middle School</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 5:00pm Light Snack 5:30pm Lord's Lambs 6:05pm Worship 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:35pm ACTS</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

YAKUTAT LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER

In March the Events and Mission Stewardship committees will be hosting a luncheon to work towards our mission pledge to Yakutat Presbyterian Church. More information and the date will be in the March newsletter. Make plans to join us for a wonderful lunch and fellowship.



"LUNCH IS SERVED - 2X" - FEBRUARY 17!

February is anything but quiet for the PPC Presbyterian Women's Group.

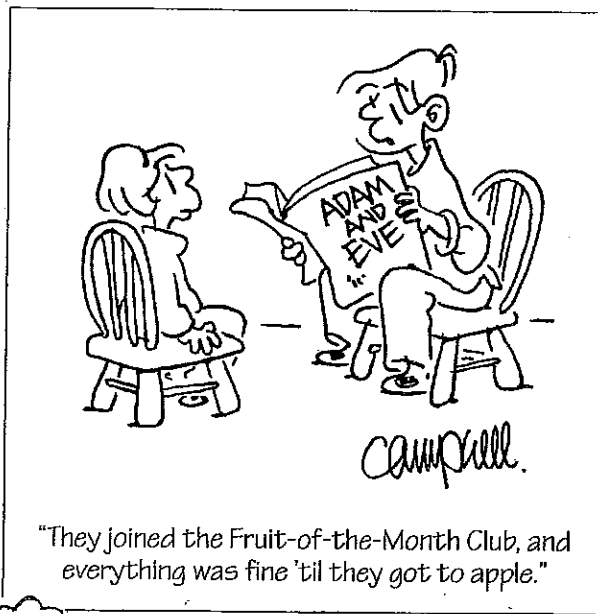
This is the month we do the Community Meal at the Episcopal Church. The Community Meal was started a few years ago on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

John Knox Presbytery also holds their "video meeting" at different churches around the Presbytery, of which PPC is one of the host sites - which includes a "lunch meal."

In order to help us prepare the lunch we are looking for donations and helpers to help with the meal.

There will be sign-up sheets on the kiosk in Parry Hall.

If you have questions you may contact Donna Mohr 742-3723, Elaine Crammond 742-3899 or Kathy Hankins 742-2752.



"CHANCEL CHOIR"
REHEARSALS

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings @ 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall / Dining Room.

Anyone who enjoys singing and participating in the music ministry during worship is encouraged to come and be a part of this wonderful group.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Judy Taylor.

Confirmation THE Class



PPC'S Confirmation Class includes: *Braden Schaller, Elizabeth Martens, Gabe Bandekow and Ben O'Rourke.*

In January we reconnected after the holiday break. Our study times have explored "Jesus as Savior" and "The Bible."

The Class is also very interested in doing local mission projects. They are volunteering to help with such programs as the "Sharing Supper" and the "Weekend SnackPack Program."

Also the class will be talking more about their statements of faith.

Mark your calendars - Confirmation Sunday will be **May 20, 2018.**

Our classes meet every other week @ 6:35 p.m. During our "off week" we have "preparation work" sent to us by Pastor Dave for the next class time together.

Be sure to watch the PPC Facebook page and the PPC Facebook "Group" page.

Please be sure to keep these young people in your prayers as they continue this faith journey.



YOU WANT MORE? - "PPC" NOW ONLINE!

PPC is "getting the word out" in new ways!

If you have not checked out our website (www.portagepresbyterian.com) – please do so.

On the Website you will find a great deal of information about what is happening in the life and ministry of the PPC community.

We have also added "*online*" newsletter and "*online*" bulletin tabs.

In addition, we have also introduced a "Youtube" channel titled, of all things, "*Portage Presbyterian Church.*" There you will find videos of worship services and other activities.

Be sure to share this information with all who may not be able to be in worship each Sunday as well as with those who may like to learn more about this church community.

WOMEN'S NEWS

2018 "ONE HEART" WOMEN'S SEMINAR

This annual inter-denominational seminar speaks to each woman's heart.

Come celebrate our 25th One Heart Anniversary with *special guest speaker Jennie Afman Dimkoff* and *worship leaders Cindy Wilson and Jeanne Metcalf.*

Jennie is an international speaker, trainer, and storyteller. We will get to know Jennie through her PowerPoint presentation "Life Changing Friendship", "Love Notes and Promises", and "Circle of Friends".

8:00 am - Doors open and coffee and muffins are available.

9:00 am - Program begins with prayer and worship music

Lunch included

Day concludes at 3:00 pm

The cost for this seminar is \$27 per person (\$35 at the door)

Checks can be made to One Heart and mailed with the registration form to Bonnie Mulhern, 523 W. Carroll St., Portage, WI 53901

For more information, call Bonnie at 608-742-6893

PPC Women have been represented at this seminar through the years and this year will be no different.

If you are interested in attending and would like more information, feel free to contact Rosemary Minnema or Liz Bellmore.

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.

HELP WITH "HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT?"

Do you need your Wisconsin Homestead Tax Credit prepared and filed?

Lee Roundy has volunteered to prepare and mail Homestead Tax Credit (Schedules H & H-EZ) paper filings for PPC members for free.

Appointments can be set up after worship on **Sunday, Feb 4th, Feb 18th, Mar 4th, and Mar 18th**. Check the Kiosk in Parry Hall for the Homestead Tax Credit Fact Sheet to see if you qualify for the Credit. Lee will take the members on a **first-come, first-served basis**.

Appointments last 15 minutes, on average.

If you're married, your spouse is required to be present. For your security and credit preparation accuracy, please bring your photo ID or driver's license, Social Security card, all forms of taxable and non-taxable income, 2017 property tax bill if you own your home or completed Rent Certificate if you rent (blank certificates available on Kiosk). If you are required to file an income tax return (1040A, 1A, etc.), this credit will be prepared by your regular tax preparer as a part of that income tax return.



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.



COMMITTEES

2018 SESSION COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Breese Fund Pastor Dave Hankins (Chair)
George Beasley
(Ruling Elder)
Jerry Schneider
(Ruling Elder)

Nominating Nancy Schaper (Co-Chair)
Rhys Brenner (Co-Chair)

ACA Fred Taylor (Co-Chair)
Kevin Foster (Co-Chair)
Rhys Brenner
Jerry Schneider
George Beasley

Discipleship Marcia Van Natta (Chair)
Allison Foster
George Beasley

Events Nancy Schaper (Chair)
Kevin Foster
Allison Foster

Memorial & Mission/ Stewardship Nancy Schaper (Chair)
Fred Taylor
Marcia Van Natta
Allison Foster

Personnel Rhys Brenner (Chair)
Jerry Schneider

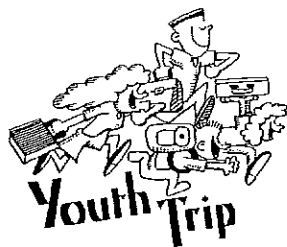
"WED NITE" WORSHIP@ PPC

We offer a "Wed Nite Worship" experience beginning @ 6:05 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

This is an "interactive" worship experience for God's children "of all ages."

All are welcome!

Invite your friends and neighbors!



2018 "REGION 5" MISSION TRIP MEETING

We continue to discuss possibilities for a 2018 Summer Mission Trip experience for those in Region 5 of John Knox Presbytery.

It was decided by those in attendance that this would be an "multi-generational" experience - which means "everyone" is invited and encouraged to take part.

If we have young people younger than middle school age, there would need to be an adult who will make the trip with them.

We have narrowed our focus to the following options for the trip - *Chicago area? Milwaukee? Rockford area?*

We will be making a decision as to where we will be going at our meeting on March 11 in Portage.

So, if you would like to participate there will be a meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2018 @ 2:30 p.m. at PPC!

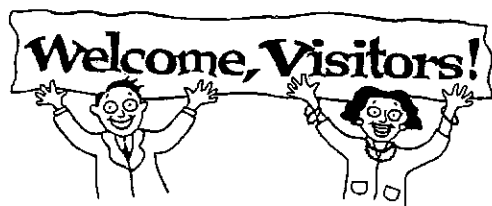
If you are interested and cannot be there for this meeting, please contact Pastor Dave so we know you are "interested" so we can get you on THE list!

"REGION 5 YOUTH GATHERING" @ PPC

Young people from the Region 5 area of John Knox Presbytery (of which Portage is a part) will be gathering @ PPC on Sunday, March 11, 2018 @ 1:00 p.m. for a "third gathering time."

PPC will host this gathering which will be a great time of fellowship, learning, fun and food.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Pastor Dave at the church office.



MINISTRY AND WORSHIP @ TIVOLI

PPC is blessed to provide a monthly worship service at Tivoli.

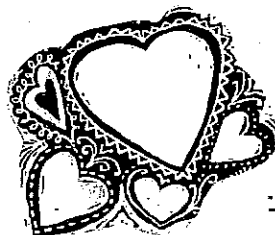
We have found that our worship service is one of the better attended worship times - and that is great news!

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.

NOTE! We share worship on the **THIRD Monday in February - February 19th @10:00 a.m.**



TRY "SCRIP".

YOU'LL LOVE IT!

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!

Order sheets are available in Parry Hall!

The Annual Report of the Pastor - 2018

**Another year has come and gone and
The Church of Jesus Christ here in Portage
Continues to proclaim
the "Good News of Great Joy."
Despite the reality of the changing times
in which we find ourselves,
And even though things are
not always easy
we still believe that God
is at work in and through
this church community and
that we do have a purpose
and a mission
and so we will seek to follow,
to serve and to invite
people to "come and see"
and to be part of a
community of faith
in which there is a
"place for everybody."
God is still at work -
and so are God's
people!**

The above "scrolling image" is a reference (*with apologies*) to "Star Wars - The Last Jedi." In the movie there is an underlying allusion to what happens when one comes to the end of an era - and the inevitable questions of "what now?" and "where do we find hope?" come to the forefront. While this is a story of the larger struggle between good and darkness, it is also the story of individuals who are trying to find a sense of identity and purpose in the midst of all the chaos and uncertainty that is unfolding around them.

Unlike two of the other Gospels who tell the account of Jesus' life ministry and death from the point before His birth, the Gospel of Mark opens with these words ... "the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." There are no heavenly messengers, no shepherds, no wise ones. In Mark's Gospel we encounter only John the Baptizer in the wilderness and then, Jesus who appears, is baptized and the heavens are ripped apart and a voice declares that this Jesus is "God's Son, the Beloved One; with whom God is well pleased."

This "baptismal beginning" of Jesus is a significant marker in his life. In the immediate time of transition, the affirmation of God provides both a sense of identity as he begins this new direction. But, in the larger, long-term picture this "experience" also becomes a foundation to which Jesus could, and probably did, return again and again. Knowing "who" he was and "whose" he was and "what" he was to do did offer hope and peace in the good and especially in those occasions when he may have wondered "what now?" and "where is the hope?"

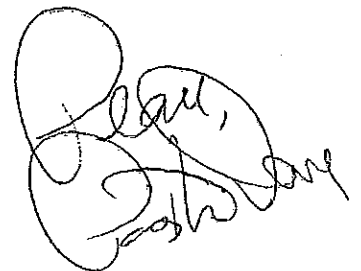
We too are in a time of "beginnings." It is the beginning of a new calendar year of course. But we may also find that our journey as a church community continues to feel like a "wilderness time" in which we are left to wonder "what now?" and "where do we find hope?"

What Now? In a strange sense I believe that there is no better time for the church to exist than right here - right now. The world into which we are living in 2018 has a message and a purpose that the community and the world around us desperately need to hear and to experience. While I believe that "the message" does not change we are nevertheless being challenged to discover and learn the ways and means by which this "message" is effectively communicated. What has worked before may not be effective any more. And so we continue to strive to listen and learn and follow God's lead.

Where do we find hope? *"Our help is in the Lord who made the heavens and the earth."* (Psalm 124:8). We affirm that the work, ministry, even the existence of a church community does not rely on us. This is God's Church and we are God's people. And so we believe that the God who has made all of creation has called us together to do the mission and ministry which God needs done. Think of it this way - of all the people and churches God could have called, God has called us - together! *"If God is for us, who or what could possibly be against us?"* as Romans states. This is not a statement of arrogance, but one which reminds us, inspires us and empowers us to keep seeking God's will for us individually and congregationally. And to keep trusting and living out this faith, even in those times and circumstances which may seem difficult, uncertain and chaotic.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you as we continue to share and to be the "good news of great joy" to all people.

May God continue to bless, lead, inspire and empower us now and always.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul" followed by a stylized flourish.

PER CAPITA: AN OVERVIEW

Paying per capita is similar to

- contributing one's dish to a potluck meal
- paying to be connected to the internet
- paying for the benefit of utilities, such as electricity, water, and telephone
- pitching in with other passengers to pay for gasoline for a road trip
- participating in community supported agriculture (CSA) or a similar co-op

A brief history

The earliest mention of something like a per capita apportionment dates back to the 1700s.

In the mid 1800s, a "plan of mileage" was adopted by the General Assembly to defray the expenses of commissioners attending

General Assembly meetings so that everyone could be present to participate regardless of distance or financial resources. Over time, per capita has been used to fund "ecclesiastical and administrative" functions that are shared by the whole church. In 1995, the following definition was developed:

Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the mid councils to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed

Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).

**Per
Capita**



**Per capita is part of
the glue
that holds
Presbyterians
together.**

In essence, per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system.

Why per capita?

Per capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church, to give meaning to the interdependent nature Presbyterian polity.

Per capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian:

- our theological identity
- our connectedness
- our system of mid councils that allow elders and ministers together to discern the mind of Christ
- our ecumenical connections that make us part of the church universal
- our core structures that keep us together as a church
- our call to work for full participation in decision-making

Per capita allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

Exod. 30:11-16 – "...the rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel [for the sanctuary]...."

1 Cor. 12:7 – "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

pcusa.org/percapita



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Office of the General Assembly
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202

"HANDBELLS" CONTINUE TO RING!

PPC's Handbell Choir has its rehearsals on **Mondays @ 6:00 p.m.** in Parry Hall.

Ringers of any age or skill level are welcome to come and be a part of this unique music ministry.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Kathy.Hankins.



"SUNDAY MORNING" BIBLE STUDY

The Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann will be leading "Bible Study" on the Gospel of Mark *on the 1st and 3rd Sundays* - beginning @ 8:45 in the morning (before Sunday morning worship).

The Bible Study will *meet in the "Bell Tower Room"* near the Clark Street entrance.

If you would like more information, you can contact the Church Office or Rev. Hermann.



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.

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday Worship Services
@ 12:15 p.m. (noon-time) & @ 6:30 p.m.

"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."

10

Wednesday Worship Service
6:05 p.m. Informal, Interactive Worship
Everyone Invited!
Church Is Handicapped Accessible
Child Care Available
Third Sunday of Each Month is Informal Service
10:05 a.m. Traditional Worship
Sunday Worship Service

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Portage Presbyterian Church
120 W Pleasant Street
PO Box 222
Portage WI 53901

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