

Happy New Year! The Portage Presbyterian

A Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

January 2020

A NEW "SUMMER KIDS' EXPERIENCE?"

As we move into a new year, you are invited to share in a conversation about a "new concept" of Vacation Bible School.

What if we were to offer an "experience" where young people could learn a new hobby or explore a new skill or try something they might not otherwise be able to try - and have fun - and learn about and experience God's grace and love in a safe environment - all at the same time?

This "new concept" would ask those who have skills, hobbies and talents to share those with young people who would like to learn.

Some "possible areas" of learning raised as possibilities might include such things as (but not limited to): *Guitar; Piano; Ukulele; Woodworking; Cooking; Gardening; Sewing; Crochet/Knitting; Community Service; Learning To Write Stories; Painting; ; Pottery; Golf.*

What might you want to add to the list?

Other ideas being considered:

- ✓ this could be an early evening experience
- ✓ this could be extended over the whole summer (*for example, meeting multiple times during the summer months rather than just for one week*)
- ✓ this could include a "simple meal" (*a cookout style meal, for example*)

If you might like to be a part of this conversation as this develops, or would like more information please contact Liz Bellmore or Pastor Dave.

We will plan to have our initial meeting time after January 1.

ANNUAL MEETING - JAN 26, 2020

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

This will be a "worshipful works" experience in which we share both in worship and meeting together.

We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall for this time - beginning at our normal Sunday morning time of 10:05 a.m.

"Treats" will be provided too!



A TIME TO "UNDECORATE" THE CHURCH

To borrow from the Old Testament book Ecclesiastes - "there is a time to decorate, and there is a time to un-decorate."

The time to "un-decorate" will be coming soon!

On Saturday, January 11 we will gather to take down and put away the vestiges of Advent and Christmas.

Those of any age, skill level or decorating prowess are encouraged to come and share in this time together.

We will start @ 9:00 a.m. and go until finished.

Come and help out! We'd love to see you!

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 5, 2020

The 2nd Sunday of Christmas

10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*
"Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons"
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Wednesday, January 8

6:15 p.m. - *"Wed Nite Worship"*
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
An interactive worship experience

Sunday, January 12, 2020

"Baptism of the Lord" Sunday

10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*

Wednesday, January 15

6:15 p.m. - *"Wed Nite Worship"*
An interactive worship experience

Sunday, January 19, 2020

The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10:05 a.m. - *"Informal" Worship in Sanctuary*

Wednesday, January 22

6:15 p.m. - *"Wed Nite Worship"*
An interactive worship experience

Sunday, January 26, 2020

The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

10:05 a.m. - *Worship in Fellowship Hall*
Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 29

6:15 p.m. - *"Wed Nite Worship"*
An interactive worship experience

THANK YOU FOR THE CHRISTMAS DONATION GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

"My Grandmother, Elizabeth Senger, Aunt Iva
Senger, and Mother, Ann Lee" . . .
. . . from Liz Lee Langsen Kamp

THE PORTAGE PRESBYTERIAN

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HANDBELL CHOIR "RINGINGS"

PPC's Handbell Choir rehearses on
Tuesdays @ 9:00 a.m. in Parry Hall!

Anyone who is interested in learning more
about the "bells" or who would like to be a part of
this wonderful group is invited to just show up or
contact Kathy Hankins @742-2752.

No experience is necessary! Just a love of
music and a desire to have fun!

DEDICATION OF "WISH LIST" GIFTS

On Sunday, January 26 we will again "dedicate" gifts received from our "Wish List."

If you have or are planning to provide something from the "Wish List," please contact the church office so we have a record of what has been given.

Once again the members and friends of PPC continue to be very generous and very supportive of God's work and ministry in and through PPC.

If you have questions about the "Wish List," please contact the church office. Thank you!

"WISH LIST" UPDATES

To say that your response to the "Wish List" was fantastic - is an understatement!

Near the end of October the Session sent out information regarding the "Wish List" to members and friends of PPC community.

In the approximately 2 1/2 months since, we have been blessed with the faithfulness and generosity of each of you.

We have received roughly \$1000.00 of "in kind" and "product" donations.

And we have received approximately \$3000.00 in financial gifts for specific items on the "list" or "to be used where needed."

WOW!!!

And the "wish list" offerings are continuing to come in.

Each month we will continue to "dedicate" these special offerings to God and for God's work in and through the PPC community.

Thank you for all of your "extra" gifts which enable this church community to continue to share and to be a presence of God's "good news of great joy" to so many people.

CHANCEL CHOIR "REHEARSALS"

All who would like to come and make a joyful noise to the Lord are invited to come and be part of PPC's Chancel Choir.

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings @ 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Judy Taylor.

CURIOUS ABOUT BEING A NEW MEMBER?

If you would like to learn more about becoming a member of the Portage Presbyterian Church community or just have questions, we would invite you to share in our upcoming "Inquiry Gatherings."

We will offer two opportunities to share.

One will be on Sunday, January 12, beginning after worship (around 11:20 or so).

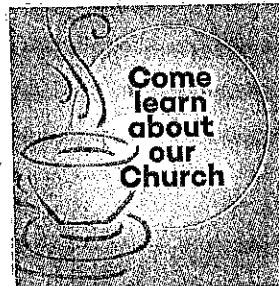
Another will be offered on Wednesday, January 22 beginning @ 6:45 p.m.

Both of these "Inquiry Gatherings" will meet in the Westminster Center (church office building).

We will share some basic information about "what means to be called a Presbyterian" and about the Portage Presbyterian Church. And we will share in conversation about questions you may have.

If you are interested in either of these "Inquiry Gatherings," please contact the Church Office or talk to Pastor Dave so we can have materials prepared for you.

If you cannot make these particular "Inquiry Gatherings" but would like more information about the PPC community or becoming a member, please contact Pastor Dave.



ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS INFO DUE!

Any reports that are to be included in the Annual Meeting packet should be turned into the Church Office no later than Wednesday, January 8th.

Reports can be submitted via email (office@portagepresbyterian.com) or by dropping them off at the Church Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Hankins at the Church Office (742-6006) on Wednesdays or Fridays from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

HERE'S THAT "FOUR LETTER WORD!"

Yes, that's right - SNOW!

The Administration and Corporate Affairs Committee is looking to find **someone who might be interested in providing snow removal** at the church and Westminster Center during the upcoming winter season.

If you might be interested or know of someone who may be interested, *please contact Fred Taylor or Kevin Foster* of the ACA Committee.



* *The Events Committee* reported the following: that the Harvest Dinner was a great success with a profit of \$4244.50; that the last River Haven card party was held on Sept 27 with a profit of \$97.00; that the 2019 card parties earned a profit of \$430 for River Haven; that the Terri Lynn Nut and Candy sale earned a profit of \$224.50; that the Chili Dump earned \$164.00; that plans are being made for the Free Christmas Day Dinner; that the first card party of the new year (2020) will be January 24.

* *The Memorial- Mission- Stewardship Committee* reported the following: that the bake sale/produce days went well, with donations above and beyond of \$273.00 was given to offset per capita costs; that the final stewardship program of "Where?" was held on October 27 and was well received; that the Peace and Global Witness Offering collected on October 6 raised \$214.00; that PPC rang bells for the Salvation Army on November 16; that arrangements were made for the promotion of the Christmas Joy Offering beginning in December; that monies raised from the card parties will be donated to River Haven again in 2020; that a "tentative" fund raising luncheon date is being considered in March.

* *The Personnel Committee* reported the following: that they will be working to set up interviews for staff openings.

* *The Nominating Committee* reported that the slate of officers had been presented at the December 8 congregational meeting and that congregational members for the 2020 Nominating Committee had been selected at that time as well.

TRY "SCRIP" - YOU'LL LOVE IT!

Scrip Fundraising is here @ PPC!

And it is EASY!!!

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!

IF YOU GO TO PORTAGE "PIZZA RANCH"

...*"bring in your Sunday church bulletin to the Pizza Ranch, Monday-Wednesday, turn it into the register when you purchase your buffet - we'll give \$1.00 to your church."*

This is will be an "ongoing" fund-raising opportunity. So, if you like to go to Pizza Ranch, be sure to take a bulletin along.

"EMAIL INFO" FOR PPC OFFICES

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

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

JANUARY'S "ADULT BIBLE STUDY"

The Adult Bible Class will continue to meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 8:45 am in the Bell Tower Room.

And we will continue our study of Joshua.

We've already learned about the walls of Jericho that came tumbling down and now we will be learning about that which happened after that. We also learned that Jesus is the Greek name for Joshua.

Our next meeting will be on January 12th. All are welcome to attend.

We always have interesting conversations about the Bible passages we are studying.

2020 MIDDLE SCHOOL/HS MISSION TRIP?

All High School and Middle School age young people are invited to come for a discussion about a possible Summer Mission Trip experience.

We are planning to get together on Wednesday, January 15 @ 6:45 p.m. in Westminster Center's "comfy chairs."

We will talk about various items such as: *where?...when?...how long?...what?...who?...*(and perhaps other items as well).

This will be our initial meeting for a possible trip.

If you are interested in learning more or in participating, but cannot make this meeting, please contact Pastor Dave so we can get you on "the list."

Parents are also welcome to come and sit in on this meeting.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Dave.

"BREESSE FUND FOR THE NEEDY"

Over 30 years ago, the Llewelyn Breese Fund for the Needy was established with a bequest. The will specified that the fund "... shall be held in trust and used for the benefit of any underprivileged children of the church."

The administration of this fund is entrusted to Ruling Elders George Beasley and Jerry Schneiter, who have been appointed by the Session, along with the Pastor Dave, who serves as the Chairperson.

If you are in need or have a suggestion of someone from the church who may need assistance of this type, please contact a committee member. All contacts are held in strictest confidence.

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.

UPDATING OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

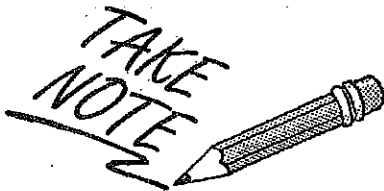
AND we need your help!!!

As we have gone through our database, we are discovering that some of our "contact information" is incomplete or incorrect.

In order to have the correct information, we will have a sheet on a table in Parry Hall for you to check and correct if necessary.

Or you can email the church office (office@portagepresbyterian.com) and share your correct contact information.

What information are we seeking? **Mailing addresses, Phone numbers and email addresses.**



KWIK TRIP "CAR WASH" CARDS -

It is getting "that time of the year" when one likes to have one's car "clean."

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! Contact the Church Office. Thanks!



Holy Communion

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, January 5, 2020

@ 10:05 a.m.

Service of Ordination and Installation

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

@ 6:15 p.m.

"Wed Nite Worship"

"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."

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.



FOOD PANTRY

An important mission of our church is the Food Pantry. This year our church donated **2,609.5** pounds plus \$162.00 to the pantry. Thanks to all of you!!! They are very appreciative of our donations. During the holidays there are a lot of food drives around town but we need to remember the food pantry all year long. We want to remind you to watch the newspaper for specials. We always have our basket out for your donations. The items most urgently needed are peanut butter, jelly, ketchup, mustard, oatmeal, jello, pudding, crackers, soups & stews, Manwich, pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti noodles, canned meats and vegetables. Laundry soap is also always needed.

CHILI DUMP

On November 29 we held our annual Chili Dump during the Holiday Parade. It was a cold evening and people look forward and enjoy our chili. We made a profit of \$164.00 and we went through four nescoes of chili. That money was donated to the general operating budget of our church. Thanks to all who donated the chili and came out and supported our chili dump.

BAKE SALE/PRODUCE DAYS

With the money we made from our bake sale/produce days we were able to provide a wonderful Stewardship Celebration breakfast plus donate \$273.00 to our church to help offset the per-capita deficit. We appreciate all of your support with that project. The Bake sales and produce will return the second Sunday in March!



THANK YOU LETTER

I wanted to share with all of you the wonderful Harvest Dinner thank you letter we received.

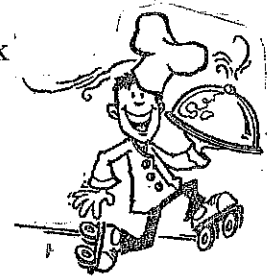
November 21, 2019

Turkey Dinner Volunteers,

For several years Rita and I along with friends have enjoyed the dinner at your church. Even though we tend to arrive early, at least once we were able to purchase one of the available baskets. This year, because of an illness, one of our friends could not come to the church for the dinner and we decided to be together anyway using your takeout service.

You make things easy with signs, friendly people, common sense procedures and careful attention to details. Our four take out dinners were perfect in every way. We know the food was hot when you packed it because it was hot when we got it home. You all probably know a kid or adult who won't eat foods that "touch" so you will understand what I mean when I say that everything arrived neat and tidy. Great taste. Generous amounts. Much evidence of volunteers that really care. Thanks for offering this service.

Rita and George Smick



FOOD-FUN-FELLOWSHIP-FUNDS

Mark your calendars for **Friday, January 24** when a Euchre card 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 **River Haven** for their work in the community. Bring an item for the food pantry and come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.



"SHARING SUPPER" – JANUARY 27, 2020

The "Sharing Supper" will be shared on Monday, January 27!!!

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.

"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 **January 27 @ 5:00 p.m.**

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION - JAN 5

The Ordination and Installation of our newly-elected Ruling Elders and Deacons will be on Sunday, January 5 during our morning worship service.

This is a time which signifies that those who have experienced God's call to serve in these capacities are beginning their time of service.

Newly-elected Ruling Elders to be ordained and installed are *Larry Day* (to be installed) and *Jarrett Foster* (to be ordained).

For the Deacons *Gabe Bandekow* will be "ordained" and *Joyce Meredith and Peggy Alf-Sechtig* will be "installed."

We also extend our gratitude to those who are completing their time of service, for their time, energy, presence and faithfulness. Thank you to Elders *Fred Taylor, Allison Foster and Mark Bennett* - and to Deacons *Donna Wolff, Amy Weishaar and Jen Martens*. "Well done good and faithful servants."

We also would add a note of gratitude to *the Nominating Committee* for their work in this process of nominating and election of our new church officers.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Portage WI 53901
Permit No. 158

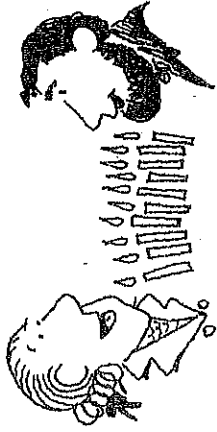
The Portage Presbyterian Church
120 W Pleasant Street
PO Box 222
Portage WI 53901

Church Office Hours

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

January

2020



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p>BTR – Bell Tower Room FH – Fellowship Hall PH – Parry Hall SA – Sanctuary WC – Westminster Center</p>			<p>1 <i>Happy New Year!</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 <i>Installation and Ordination of Elders and Deacons</i> Lord's Supper 8:45am Bible Study, BTR 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA</p>	<p>6 5:30pm ACA, WC</p>	<p>7 9:00am Bell Choir, PH</p>	<p>8 Annual Reports Due in office 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:55pm Worship, SA</p>	<p>9 6:00pm Session Meeting, WC</p>	<p>10 February Newsletter Articles Due in Office</p>	<p>11 9:00am Undecorate the Church</p>
<p>12 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> 10:05am Traditional Worship SA 11:30am Inquiry Gathering, WC</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9:00am Bell Choir, PH 10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, PH</p>	<p>15 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA 6:45pm Mission Stewardship, WC</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:45am Bible Study, BTR 10:05am Informal Worship, SA 4:00pm New Directions 4-H Meeting, FH</p>	<p>20 10:00am Worship Service at Trivoli</p>	<p>21 9:00am Bell Choir, PH 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's</p>	<p>22 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA 6:45pm Inquiry Gathering, WC</p>	<p>23 6:00pm Light Supper, FH 6:30pm Euchre – Mission for River Haven, FH</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6:00pm Light Supper, FH 6:30pm Euchre – Mission for River Haven, FH</p>
<p>26 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> Annual Meeting 10:05am Worship Service & Meeting in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>27 5:00-6:00pm Sharing Supper at Bartels Middle School</p>	<p>28 9:00am Bell Choir, PH</p>	<p>29 1:00pm River Haven Board WC 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:15pm Worship, SA</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 6:00pm Light Supper, FH 6:30pm Euchre – Mission for River Haven, FH</p>	<p>31 6:00pm Light Supper, FH 6:30pm Euchre – Mission for River Haven, FH</p>

"WED NITE" @ PPC!

The *PEACE* class (all age education class) meets @ 5:30 p.m. for class (there is a "snack time" included).

Then our "Wed Nite" worship experience has moved to 6:15 p.m. This is a shorter, more "interactive" type of worship service which encourages the young people to actively participate in the service and the message.

Everyone is invited to come and share in this unique worship on "Wed Nite."

And be sure to invite young people of any age to share in the PEACE experience too!



CHRISTMAS DINNER THANK-YOU

Thank you to everyone who made our 21st annual Christmas dinner a success. We served ham, turkey breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, dressing, cranberry, rolls, cookies, ice cream and beverage to about 232 people. We had the biggest crowd in 21 years and people were so appreciative of having this opportunity to celebrate Christmas with others. We received cash donations plus a \$100.00 gift card from Festival Foods to offset our costs for the food.

Thanks to Kevin & Jarrett Foster who were there bright and early with me to help prepare the food. Thanks to Tom Cafilisch and Edith McElroy who also came bright and early to set up the tables. A special thank you to Tara Bandekow for all the "extras" she did. Thanks to all who were there to help organize and get things set up and help throughout the day. Thanks to Kathryn Curtis for the donation of the ice cream and for being our greeter. Thanks to our church members: Tara, Andrew & Gabe Bandekow, Caroline Rittmann, Pam Crossley, Jerry Schneiter, Kathy Miller, Glenda & Larry Day, Mark Curtis, Fred & Judy Taylor, Pastor Dave, Kathy and Sarah plus many community members for helping serve food and clean up. Thanks to Andrew, Gabe, Pastor Dave, Dave Keppert and Ricky Ferguson for delivering meals to people who were unable to be there with us. Thanks to our members who donated the delicious bars and cookies. We appreciate everyone's help and couldn't get it done without all of you. We are so lucky at PPC to have so many willing people to give of their time especially at this busy time of the year. God Bless all of You.

Nancy Schaper



READERS - LITURGISTS "SIGN UP"

We have been blessed with volunteers who have served as "readers/liturgists" for our worship services.

If you would like to serve as a "reader/liturgist" for upcoming worship services in January, February or March, please indicate on the "sign-up list" on the kiosk in Parry Hall or contact Pastor Dave.

Thank you!