



The Portage Presbyterian



A Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

January 2018

TIME TO "UN-DECORATE"

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 13 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!



Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

PPC's Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will be *Sunday, January 28.*

We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall / Dining Room for this meeting time.

Our worship and meeting will be shared together as we celebrate that which God has done in and through this church community - and as we faithfully anticipate that to which and for which God is calling us.

"Treats" will be available during the meeting as well.

Our worship / meeting begins @ 10:05 a.m. -1-

"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 "fellowship meal" after worship.

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

RELIGIOUS SCOUTING AWARD

We offer our congratulations to **Ben O'Rourke** on his achievement of the "God and Church" award. The "God and Church" award is one of 4 different awards that comprise the "God and Country."

Ben, a member of Portage Troop 70, has been working with Pastor Dave for the past 5 months on projects and activities to fulfill the requirements for the award.

On Sunday, January 14 Ben will be presented his award during our morning worship service.

Congratulations, Ben on a job well done!

"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."

During our Wed Nites in January we will be focusing on "*To Epiphany and Beyond.*"

All are welcome!

Happy New Year ♪ *Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year*

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 3

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

Sunday, January 7, 2018

The Sunday of Jesus' Baptism

10:05 a.m. - Traditional Worship

Ordination and Installation

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Wednesday, January 10

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

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, January 14, 2018

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

10:05 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service

Wednesday, January 17

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

Sunday, January 21, 2018

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

10:05 a.m. - "Informal" Worship

Wednesday, January 24

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

Sunday, January 28, 2018

10:05 a.m. - Worship in Fellowship Hall

Worship/Annual Meeting Together!

Wednesday, January 31

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

FOOD PANTRY

An important mission of our church is the Food Pantry. This year our church donated 1,758.5 pounds 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.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

In Memory of *Jack Polnow*, from
Donald & Barbara Moseley

LEGACY FUND MEMORIAL GIFT

In Memory of *Earl & Carol Kotek*,
from Kim Messer

LEGACY FUND GIFTS

Deb Cooke
Anonymous

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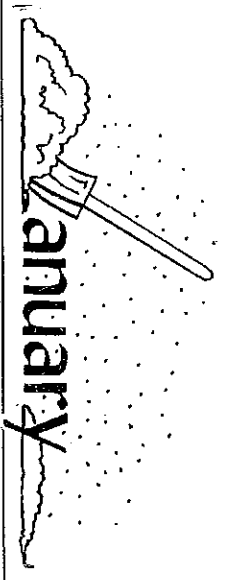
Editor - Kathryn Curtis

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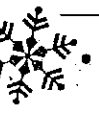

Church Office Hours
 Monday – 10:00am – 12:00pm
 Tuesday – Office Closed
 Wednesday – 8:00am – 1:00pm
 Thursday – Office Closed
 Friday – 8:00am – 1:00pm

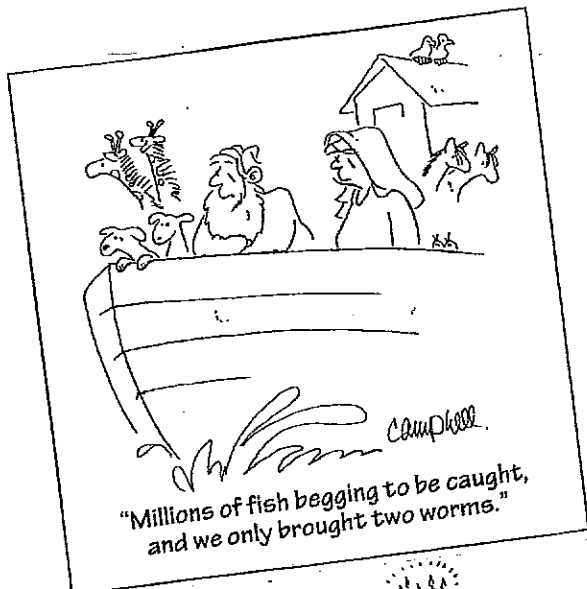
January

2018



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

<p>7 <i>Installation and Ordination of Elders and Deacons</i> Lord's Supper 8-4:5am Bible Study 10:05am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>1  Happy New Year! Meals On Wheels</p>	<p>2  Meals On Wheels</p>	<p>3 5:00pm Light Snack 5:30pm Lord's Lambs 6:05pm Worship 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:35pm Confirmation 7:30pm Worship Jam Meals On Wheels</p>	<p>4  Meals On Wheels</p>	<p>5  Meals On Wheels</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>14 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 10:05am Traditional Worship 1:00pm Region 5 Youth at Lodi</p>	<p>8 3:30pm ACA, WC 6:00pm Bell Choir, Parry Hall 7:00pm Guitar Lessons, Parry Hall</p>	<p>9 Annual Reports due in office 10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, Parry Hall</p>	<p>10 9:30am Art Grp, WC 5:00pm Light Snack 5:30pm Lord's Lambs 6:05pm Worship 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:45pm ACTS</p>	<p>11 8:30am – 4:00 pm Interim Training, Dining Room 5:00pm Session Meeting, WC</p>	<p>12 <i>February Newsletter</i> Articles Due in Office</p>	<p>13 9:00am Undecorate the Church</p>
<p>14 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 10:05am Traditional Worship 1:00pm Region 5 Youth at Lodi</p>	<p>15 Counting Tabs at City Hall 10:00am Worship Service at Tivoli 6:00pm Bell Choir, Parry Hall 6:00pm Guitar Lessons Parry Hall</p>	<p>16 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's</p>	<p>17 9:30am Art Grp, WC 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>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:45am Bible Study 10:05am Informal Worship 4:00pm 4-H Meeting</p>	<p>22 6:00pm Bell Choir, Parry Hall 7:00pm Guitar Lessons Parry Hall</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 9:30am Art Grp, WC 5:00pm Light Snack 5:30pm Lord's Lambs 6:05pm Worship 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:45pm Confirmation 7:30pm ACTS</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 6:00pm Light Supper 6:30pm Euchar – Mission For Yakutat</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Annual Meeting 10:05am Worship Service & Meeting in Dining Room</p>	<p>29 5:00-6:30pm Sharing Supper at Bartels Middle School</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 -3-</p>	<p>UNDECORATING THE CHURCH On January 13 - we will un-decorate the church from the Holidays beginning at 9:00am. The project is always easier when there are many helping hands so please come and help us. </p>		



THANKS!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thank you to everyone who made our nineteenth annual Christmas dinner a success. We served ham, turkey breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, dressing, cranberry, rolls, cookies, ice cream and beverage to about 200 people. We received cash donations plus a \$100.00 gift card from Festival Foods to offset our costs for the food.

Thanks to Nick Hankins and Kevin Foster who were there bright and early with me to help prepare the food. Thanks to Tom Cafilisch and Edith McElroy who came bright and early to set up the tables. 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 the Bellmore and Givens families for the donation of hams. Thanks to Elaine & John Crammond, Tara, Andres & Gabe Bandekow, Jerry Schneiter, Kathy Miller, Jim Jordan, Mark Curtis, Fred & Judy Taylor, Pastor Dave, Kathy and Sarah plus many community members for helping serve food and clean up. Thanks to Jim Jordan for picking up all the sandwich boards around town. Thanks to Andrew, Nick and Ricky Ferguson for delivering meals to people who were unable to be there with us. Thanks to our members who donated the delicious 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

CHILI DUMP

On November 24 we held our annual Chili Dump during the Holiday Parade. It was a beautiful evening and people look forward and enjoy our chili. We made a profit of \$165.00 and we went through four nescoes of chili. We ran out of chili just as the parade was ending. 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.

Pastor's Page

At our "joint meeting" of the Elders and Deacons in August, we spent time talking about "the missional church."

There are many different characteristics under the umbrella of "missional church."

Among these are:

- ✓ an *understanding* that the church is being called outside of the walls and to go out into the community;
- ✓ a *recognition* that God is already at work in the lives and in the life of a community (and we have to discover what God is doing);
- ✓ an *approach* that seeks, not to recreate, but to partner with those who are already doing ministry and to add our talents and support to that which they are already doing

Yet, perhaps the most essential facet of "being missional" is that of *being relational*.

This suggests that the most effective way of "doing mission" is in the building of relationships with those around you so that you share with others not as a "stranger" or a "person with an agenda." Instead you share as a friend, someone they have come to know and trust and to whom they will listen.

In such a "relational approach" we are being given the opportunity to hear another's "story." To be invited into another's life to hear who they are, what has brought them to this place and their hopes and dreams for the future.

As we can see, this is a much different approach to "doing mission."

- For **mission** as that which is needed and which is happening right in the neighborhood and community around us and not just "over there."
- For **mission** is being "personal" and "relational" rather than just providing resources.
- For **mission** is that which helps another experience "transformation"

(continued in column 2)

ADULT BIBLE CLASS IN JANUARY

Our Adult Bible Class will be meeting on January 7th at 8:45 am in the Bell Tower Room to continue our study of Mark. We will be looking at *Mark 7:1-23* and talk about what it means to be holy. We invite anyone who is interested to join us. We always have a good discussion.

Then on January 21st, we will be looking at *Mark 8:34-38* and talk about true discipleship. Do come and join us for an interesting and inspiring discussion.



(continued from column 1)

by teaching, leading and learning new ways and skills rather than just a "hand out."

- For **mission** as that which may not change the world, but as that which can help transform the lives of people around us - who, in turn, will help transform the lives of their friends, family and neighbors and who, may help with us, to change a part of the world. Such mission does not just happen overnight - it takes time!

Sometimes "missional" is reflected in the work of the church community, such as the recent Christmas Day Dinner or the opportunities that are being offered at Rusch Elementary School.

And sometimes "missional" is that which is offered by numerous individuals of this church community in help and supporting our neighbors, friends and family members. Many times these "missional activities" may go unnoticed because it is that which just comes naturally to one who has experienced God's love and grace and seeks to share it freely with those around them.

Someone has summarized it this way: "God so loved the world that God gave His Son ... and the Son, in turn sends us out to bring a message of good news to all people."

- 5- May God bless and inspire us as we seek to explore and live out what it means to be people "on a mission from God."

"NEW" - BEGINNING IN JANUARY

The Session has made arrangements for a client from Northwoods, Inc to do janitorial work here at PPC on a "trial basis."

Adam will be working at the church 3 days a week in the mornings (Monday, Wednesday and Friday), approximately 2-3 hours each day (or as he is needed).

We are contracting with Northwoods for Adam for a 90 day trial period. During these 90 days Adam's "salary" will be covered by DVR.

After the 90 day period, the Session will be making a decision whether the church will be able to continue the working relationship as Adam's salary would then be paid by the church.

Adam is very excited about the opportunity to work here @ PPC. He has had experience with janitorial cleaning before so he should be a big help.

The Session has embarked on this new opportunity as unique way to reach out to the community around us, providing a means of support to someone who really wanted to work in a church setting.

If you might be interested in helping to cover the costs of Adam working here (after the 90 day period) - *a one-time donation, a regular donation which could cover costs for a week / month, or if you have questions, please contact the Church Office or any of the Session members.*

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 January - January 15th** @10:00 a.m.


WE ARE "COUNTING CAN TABS"- JAN 15

Perhaps you have read or heard about the efforts of our own Mercedes Alves who is collecting "can tabs" to be donated to the "Ronald McDonald House."

Mercedes decided that she would like to collect the "tabs" in memory of her big brother Gunner who was killed in a car accident. She also wants to donate these "tabs" to the "Ronald McDonald House" as a fund-raiser for the special ministry that they offer to families who have children in hospitals. Mercedes and her family were staying at the Madison "Ronald McDonald House" at the time of Gunner's accident.

Mercedes and her family are looking for volunteers to help "count the tabs" on Monday, January 15 in the basement of the City Hall.

If you can come and help "count the tabs" contact the Church Office and we will pass the word to Joe and Katie and Mercedes.

Confirmation

THE Class
PPC'S Confirmation Class, which includes:

Braden Schaller, Elizabeth Martens, Gabe Bandekow and Ben O'Rourke have been busy.

While we did not have "classes" during December, the Confirmation young people helped to serve the community by volunteering at the December "Sharing Supper." They helped to serve over 175 people for the dinner that evening. Each of them did a great job as they helped make a difference in lives.

Also during December they had a chance to begin "thinking" about their statements of faith.

We will be starting our classes again on **Wednesday, January 3 @ 6:35 p.m.** in the Westminster Meeting Room.

Our classes will continue meeting 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.

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 are meeting together on the *2nd and 4th Wednesdays @ 6:35 p.m.* Come and join us!!!

Our next gathering dates will be *January 10 & 24.*

We would enjoy having you share the journey with us!

Be sure to check out the *ACTS@PPC* Facebook page too!!!

Questions? Contact Pastor Dave.



ORDINATION/INSTALLATION - JANUARY 7

The Ordination and Installation of our Ruling Elders and Deacons will take place as a part of our worship service on Sunday, January 7, 2018 @ 10:05 a.m. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper as a part of the worship service.

Our Ruling Elders to be installed: Jerry *Schneider* and *George Beasley*. Our Ruling Elder to be ordained is *Kevin Foster*.

Our Deacons to be installed: *Lynne Warren* and *Judy Taylor*. Our Deacon to be ordained is *Laura Brenner*.

We also extend our gratitude to those whose term of office has been completed and who have faithfully served God and God's people: Ruling Elders *Kathy Raimor* and *Mary Heinze*; Deacons *Patti Elsing* and *Joyce Meredith*.

Please keep these servants as well as the Session and the Deacons in your prayers as they begin a new year.

"COMMUNITY MINISTRY" WITH RUSCH

One of the opportunities PPC had during the summer months was to visit with Nikki Schoenborn, Principal at Rusch Elementary School.

She had shared that one of the ways in which we, right here in our neighborhood, could help young people would be to "volunteer" at the school.

So, here are some ways in which "you" (as an individual) and "we" (as a church community) can be a positive influence in the lives of young people.

* Listening to children read (which helps young people to become better readers, which in turn helps them learn better, take better tests, become more confident etc)

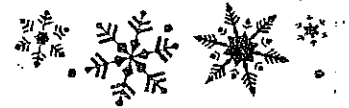
* Working on "math facts" (much the same as the reading aspect)

* Sharing a "hobby" that we enjoy (do not have to be an "expert" - just that which we enjoy and which can pass on)

* Helping with an afterschool "club" - among the things the children indicated interest in was *building with legos - sewing - arts and crafts - sports - drama - dance - music* (what do you like to do that children may like to learn?)

Sometimes we may think we cannot or do not make a difference in the world around us. Well, here's a chance to make a difference in the world - one child at a time!

If you are interested in helping in any way at Rusch Elementary School, you can contact Nikki @ Rusch School's Office.



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 \$201.75 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!

"SHARING SUPPER" – JANUARY, 2018

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

Serving begins at 5:00 p.m. **at the Bartels Middle School cafeteria.**

"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 29 @ 5:00 p.m.

"YOUTH GATHERING" IN LODI - JAN 14

Young people from the Region 5 area of John Knox Presbytery (of which Portage is a part) will be gathering in Lodi on Sunday, January 14, 2018 @ 1:00 p.m. for a "second gathering time."

The Lodi youth 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.

"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.

2018 "REGION 5" MISSION TRIP MEETING

Plans are beginning to be made for a 2018 Summer Mission Trip experience for those in Region 5 of John Knox Presbytery.

At our initial meeting we decided 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 will be hearing more information about options for the trip - *Chicago area? Milwaukee? Rockford area? Twin Cities?*

And we will be making a decision as to where we will be going.

Tentative plans are for the trip to take place *the week of June 10-16.*

So, if you would like to participate there will be a meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2018 @ 2:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Lodi.

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!

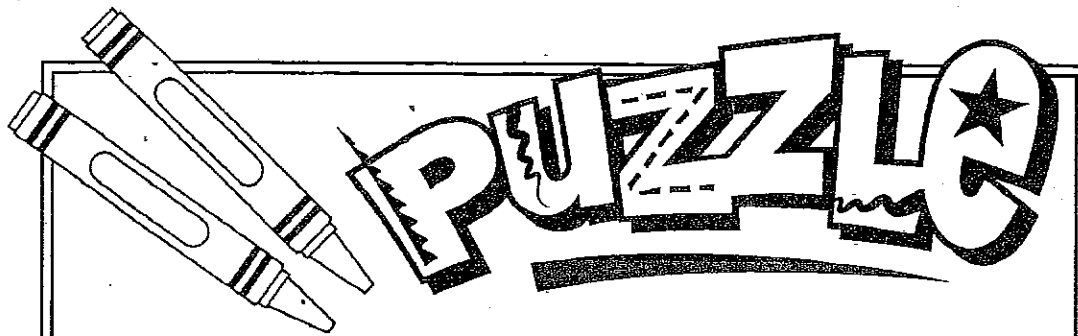
"HANDBELLS" CONTINUE TO RING!

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.





A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.



Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON
SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE
QWCDREYATMIOCNHFASWCOR
MEGTHWEOFLEXHASSGZONL
ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

_____ ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

THANKS!

Thank you (*PPC Women's Association*) for your recent donation.

Your continued support makes it possible for our organization to exist and to make the community a great place to live!

*Judy Keppert, Board Secretary
Portage Food Pantry*

"FOOD- FUN - FELLOWSHIP - FUNDS"

Mark your calendars for **Friday, January 26** 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 the Yakutat, Alaska Presbyterian Church for their work and ministry in the community, especially with the young people. Bring an item for the food pantry and come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.

UPCOMING 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, January 7, 2018
*Ordination and Installation Worship Service
@ 10:05 a.m.*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
UPCOMING EVENT**

Fat Sunday potluck luncheon on Sunday, February 11th following worship.

-12-

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


ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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