



The Portage Presbyterian

A Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

July 2019

DINNER AT THE FAIR

As was mentioned in last month's newsletter we are again providing the Wednesday night (July 24) dinner at the Columbia County Fair. We will be serving from the grandstand. We will be selling chicken, pork or beef brisket sandwiches along with your choice of cole slaw, potato salad or potato chips plus cookies. We are hoping to serve at least 200 meals so we need help from everyone to make this a success. There are sign up sheets for help and cookies on the kiosk in Parry Hall. We need help from 2:30-5:00 or 5:00-8:00 PM. We will need 34 dozen cookies (**not frosted**) at church by Monday morning.

If you are not able to sign up and are able to help and/or donate cookies please contact Nancy Schaper (608-742-7242) or Donna Mohr (608-742-3599). All proceeds benefit the general operating budget of our church.

MUSIC MINISTRY

"THE MESSENGERS" ARE HERE - JULY 7

The Messengers will once again be sharing in worship on Sunday, July 7 during our 9:30 a.m. worship service here @ PPC.

Sharing their gifts and love of music, the Messengers have for many years proclaimed God's good news.

Please be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors to come and be inspired by "The Messengers."

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Don't forget - our Sunday morning worship services begin @ 9:30 a.m. - until Sunday, September 1.

Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to come and share with us over the summer months.

CONCERT AT THE PORTAGE

On Wednesday evening, July 10, the Event's Committee will be providing dessert at the Concert at the Portage that is being held at the VFW. The group performing that evening is Best Practice. It's always a fun evening so come join us at the park. There is a concert each Wednesday evening during the summer. This will be a fundraiser for the church and we are asking for donations of homemade pie. This group should have a large attendance when it plays so we will need lots of pies. There is a sign-up sheet in Parry Hall or you can contact Nancy Schaper (742-7242) to get your name on the list. If possible please use a disposable pie pan. The pies need to be brought to the church by noon on July 10th. Any questions contact Nancy Schaper.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**HARVEST DINNER
NOVEMBER 9TH !!**

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 Monday July 15th ... @10:00 a.m.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 7, 2019

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 a.m. - Worship in Sanctuary
"The Messengers" will be participating in worship
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Fellowship Time after worship in Parry Hall

Sunday, July 14, 2019

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, July 21, 2019

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 a.m. - "Informal" Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, July 28, 2019

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 a.m. - Worship @ the Fairgrounds
Ecumenical Worship with Portage Un. Methodist, Bethlehem
Lutheran and PPC
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, August 4, 2019

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship in Sanctuary
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

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.

THE PORTAGE PRESBYTERIAN

Is published monthly by the
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LEGACY FUND GIFTS GIVEN BY ~

The Greg & Debra Cooke Family

In Memory of *Rudy Wolff*, from Donna Wolff

In Memory of *Barb, Bob, John & Rob Moore*~
from Joan Moore

In Memory of *The Rev. Carl R. Carlsen & Dorothy,*
Fern Carlsen Baillie, from Robert Carlsen

In Honor of *Earl & Carol Kotek,*
Kimberly Messer

Building Imp Fund Budget advances to date:

February	\$ 2,000
April/May	\$ 7,500
June	\$ 4,500
Total	<u>\$14,000</u>

"WORSHIP @ THE FAIR" - ECUMENICAL!

On Sunday, July 28 we will once again share a worship experience at the Columbia County Fairgrounds.

But, this time - we will share an "ecumenical" worship experience.

PPC will come together with the Portage United Methodist Church and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church for worship.

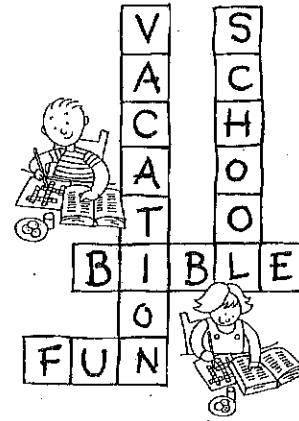
The service will begin @ 11:00 a.m. ... in the "food tent" on the main grounds.

There are tables there, but you are welcome to bring your own chair too!

If you play an instrument, you are invited to bring it along and be a part of the "worship ensemble."

We will also be sharing the Lord's Supper together as a part of this worship experience.

Birthdays



2019 VBS "DONATION LIST"

Included below is PPC's "donation list" of items needed for the 2019 Community VBS August 5-9.

If you would like to donate any of the items, please let the church office know and bring them either to the church office or on Sunday morning.

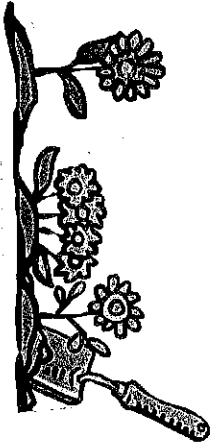
We need to have items by Wednesday, July 24.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you!!!

- 8 cups playground sand - WBA
- 8 cups flour - WBA
- 2 cups salt - WBA
- 1/2 cup Cream of Tartar - WBA
- Misc. Fabric - solid color in red, brown and gold - WBA
- Paint stir stick - WBA
- Clear Duct Tape, 1 roll - WBA
- Clear packing tape, 1 roll - WBA
- 3 colored table covers - HHC
- 8-10 rolls of paper towels - HHC
- (600) 9oz drinking cups - HHC
- 1 box quart size zip lock bags - HHC
- 5 boxes graham crackers - HHC
- 1 box gluten free graham crackers - HHC
- 1 large box sandwich bags - HHC
- (2) 20oz boxes Rice Chex cereal - HHC
- (3) 5 or 6 oz bags Skinny Pop Popcorn, plain/salted - HHC
- 1- bag puffcorn - HHC

POUNDS FOR THE PANTRY

During the month of May our Pounds for the Pantry drive collected **666 1/2 pounds** of food for the Portage Food Pantry. Once again we surpassed our goal of 500 pounds. Continue to remember the food pantry in your prayers and remember our basket is always out for donations.








JULY

2019



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  5:30pm ACA, WC</p>	<p>2  Meals On Wheels</p>	<p>3  Meals On Wheels</p>	<p>4  Meals On Wheels</p>	<p>5  Meals On Wheels</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 4th Sunday After Pentecost 9:30am "The Messengers" Lord's Supper</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, PH 5:00 pm Memorial Mission Stewardship, PH</p>	<p>10 6:00pm Events Committee serving pies at Concert at the Portage (VEW)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 5th Sunday After Pentecost 9:30am Traditional Worship SA Produce and Bake Sale Day</p>	<p>15 10:00am Worship Service at Tivoli 5:00pm Events, WC Home Communion</p>	<p>16 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Home Communion</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 6th Sunday After Pentecost 9:30am Informal Worship, SA 4:00pm New Directions 4-H Meeting, FH</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 4:00-8:00pm PPC serving Columbia County Fair Meal located at the grandstand, Fairgrounds</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 6:05pm Mallards Game</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 7th Sunday after Pentecost 11:00am Worship Service at Columbia County Fairgrounds</p>	<p>29 5:00-6:00pm Sharing Supper at Bartels Middle School</p>	<p>30 6:30pm Discipleship Meeting, WC</p>	<p>31 4</p>	<p>FROM THE FOOD PANTRY "Your continued support is amazing! Your sign also helps to keep the Food Pantry in the minds of the community. Thank You!"</p>		

Pastor's Page

"What is God's vision - What is God's dream for PPC?"

At first glance this might be a rather innocuous question. Dreams and visions can energize us. They can move us to not only consider "what is?" or "what has been?" - but, can encourage us to look ahead at "what might / could be?" It is an inquiry that points to a future.

But then, as we take a closer look at the question, we might notice a surprising element - this does not ask what "I think" the vision is or what "we" dream for the church.

No, the question is - what is *God's* vision, *God's* dream for PPC?

And that can be, at least for me and perhaps for us, "complicated!"

The "uncomplicated" part identifies this reality which we affirm that God is in the midst of God's church. God is at work in and through God's church - and that is a good thing! God is not finished with us yet. We still have a purpose beyond just surviving.

However, this also becomes more "complicated" because this also means we have to be willing to turn over control to someone other than ourselves. It can humble us with the reality that we may not have all the answers. It means we have to trust in another's judgment, defer to their decisions and being willing to be a "follower."

This was the reality in which the disciples, who became the apostles were led (or maybe pushed?). They did not have the qualifications to be leaders, teachers or preachers. And they certainly did not have all of the answers. Yet, it is through those who are not "qualified" that God's Spirit moves out into the known and unknown, transforming those who were called into the greatest missionary force the world has ever experienced. And, through them, transforming the world!

This summer we will be very intentional about sharing our thoughts, prayers and ideas about "God's vision - God's dreams for PPC."

There is a "board" set up in Parry Hall for us to make notes about what we are discovering as we

"dare" to ask this question. You are encouraged to share what you are discovering as you ask the question "what is *God's* vision - what are *God's* dreams for PPC?"

Take time this summer to stop and read what is there. Take time this summer to pray for God's direction, guidance and inspiration. Take time this summer to pray for and with each other as we listen and discern and learn.

If you cannot be here and would like to know about the cards that are there, contact the church office or Pastor Dave - we can share with you what has been added to the "board."

If you would like to add something to the "board" but will not be here for a time, contact the church office and we will add your "note."

Remember - there are no "wrong answers" to this question. Each note, each conversation, each prayer will be those ideas and clues which God will provide for us to follow.

I don't know about you, but "daring" to ask such a question is exciting and scary at the same time. "Exciting" because I really believe God has a mission, a purpose for this church community and I cannot wait to see what God is going to do. "Scary" - because God's ideas about the work and mission of God's church and mine may not be exactly the same. That is where "trust" and "faith" enter, reassuring me that if God is at work, it is what needs to be.

As someone has said "be careful what you ask for - for you just may get it!"

I would rather put it this way - "be careful when you dare to ask God what God wants you to do - for when God is present and at work amazing AND surprising things will happen."

May God lead, inspire and surprise us this summer as we pray, listen, discern and learn about *God's* vision - *God's* dream for PPC.

PENTECOST OFFERING

The Pentecost offering was collected on June 9, which was Pentecost Sunday. We collected a total of \$316.29 of which 40% (\$126.52) stays with our congregation to be used on children's programs. Thank you for your support

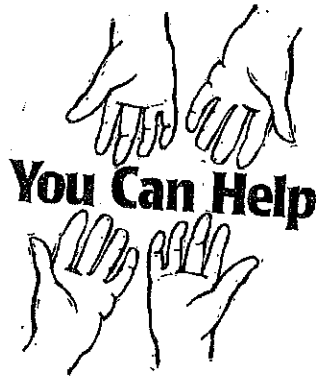
"TOUCHED TWICE" VOLUNTEERS

Greetings,

Well that time of year is here "or soon will be", when all of our Churches in Columbia County come together in one way or another to serve our community through the Touched Twice clinic on September 21st.

An event of this size takes much planning and many volunteers to meet the needs of our communities. This event is much bigger than one individual or church could ever handle. We are looking to serve over 400 individuals and families with much needed medical, dental, physical, food and spiritual needs this year. With that being said, we would like for you to consider sending a group or individuals from your congregation to help volunteer in the following areas:

- Prayer
- Fundraising
- Coordinators
- Check-in
- Security
- Pastoral Care
- Parking
- Childcare
- Graphic Design
- Media
- Setup/Tear down
- Advocates
- Concessions
- Transportation



If you interested, contact Pastor Justin O'Boyle at City of Refuge Church either by phone at 742-4035 ... or by email at cityofrefugepastor@ymail.com

Thank you for your time and consideration.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Given in Memory of *Bill Day*, from
Richard and Rosemary Minnema



MAKE A DIFFERENCE - BE A GREETER?

Imagine what it might be like to be at PPC for the very first time!

That is the purpose for having "greeters" on Sunday mornings for worship.

This is an important ministry opportunity as we seek to reach out and welcome visitors into this church community.

We believe PPC is a wonderful, warm and caring community of God's people. And we want others to experience that which we have found here.

And we are seeking "volunteers" to sign-up to help collect the offering during worship.

But, in order to make this work we need your help!!!

There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in Parry Hall.

Please indicate your preference to help provide this important ministry here @ PPC.

Thank you!

"TECHNOLOGY" PROJECT GROUP

Would you like to be a part of a conversation about how "technology" might benefit the work and ministry here at PPC?

From our initial conversation 3 areas of consideration were raised: **educational uses; worship uses; and enhancing communication uses.**

While these areas are distinct we also noted that there is significant crossover with them.

We would welcome anyone else who may be interested in exploring how technology could enhance the ministry and outreach of the PPC community.

This is a "project group" experience. The task of the "group" will be to discuss, explore and make any recommendations to the Session regarding technology. Once this has been done, the "project group" has completed its task. That's it!

If you are interested in finding out more or in participating, please contact either Pam Crossley or Pastor Dave.

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!

"RIVER HAVEN" - VOLUNTEERS?

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!

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, July 7, 2019

@ 9:30 a.m.

"The 4th Sunday of Pentecost"

"The Messengers" will be sharing in worship!

Sunday, July 28, 2019

@ 11:00 a.m.

"The 7th Sunday of Pentecost"

Ecumenical Worship @ Fairgrounds!

Sunday, August 4, 2019

@ 9:30 a.m.

"The 8th Sunday of Pentecost"

"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."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HARVEST DINNER

NOVEMBER 9TH !!!

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.

READING A BOOK - "TOGETHER?"

Would you be interested in reading and discussing a book together as a church community?

The book we will be reading is titled "Neighborhood Church - Transforming Your Congregation Into A Powerhouse For Mission." Here is a bit of information about the book -

How can we embody the values of love, grace, and justice? As faith communities, how can our collective embodiment of these values shine even brighter? The answers to these questions must always unfold right here, right now, exactly where God has planted us. Neighborhood Church acts as a resource to inspire churches to become a vibrant and engaging community partner with the families and neighborhoods living around them. The need for transformation is acute. Congregational decline continues across all mainline denominations. The abandonment of the church by the millennial generation is ubiquitous; no denomination is escaping it. This is, in part, a consequence of disconnection from our communities.

Van Tatenhove and Mueller believe that, parish by parish, we can reverse this trend. They dare to have an audacious hope for local congregations not only as signs of God's kingdom but as life-giving institutions that anchor their neighborhoods. Drawing on their combined sixty years of parish experience, wisdom from Asset-Based Community Development, and compelling case stories, Van Tatenhove and Mueller do more than just call us to incarnational ministry. They give practical, essential tools that lead to communal conversion, develop the DNA of listening, spur fruitful partnerships, promote integrated space, and sustain long-term visions. They believe these tools will spark true revival and unleash the power of incarnational ministry.

We are hoping to start the "reading and discussion" groups in August.

The cost for the book is \$13.00. There are scholarships available.

So, if you are interested, let us know ...

- ⊗ Call the Church Office @742-2752
- ⊗ Email -
pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com
- ⊗ Sign-Up on the sheet in Parry Hall.

Once we know who is interested, we will establish the "times" for discussion groups. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Dave.

FOR REFLECTION - "VISIONS & DREAMS"

Here are a few Scripture lessons you may use for your prayer, reflection and discussion as you dare to ask the question - "what is God's vision - what is God's dream for PPC?"

- ⊗ Matthew 28:19-20
- ⊗ Acts 1:6-8
- ⊗ Joshua 1:9
- ⊗ I Kings 19:11-15
- ⊗ Jeremiah 1:4-10
- ⊗ Matthew 6:25-33
- ⊗ Isaiah 42:5-9
- ⊗ Mark 6:30-49
- ⊗ Isaiah 61:1-2
- ⊗ II Corinthians 9:10-15
- ⊗ Isaiah 55
- ⊗ I Samuel 3:1-10
- ⊗ Acts 2:1-4

These Scripture lessons are intended to provide a foundation as we begin to pray, reflect and discuss. Use these lessons in any way that enables you to best to listen for God as we dare to ask the question of God's vision and dreams for this church community.

If you have other Scripture lessons that you would like to suggest, just email Pastor Dave and we will add them to the list.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HARVEST DINNER

NOVEMBER 9TH !!!

PRODUCE DAYS

Our Produce/Bake Sale Days have been going great. Originally scheduled for the second Sunday of the month we welcome fresh produce on any Sunday. As we know when it is ready it should be picked. Our next scheduled days are July 14, August 11 and September 8 but if you have items ready be sure and bring them any Sunday. They will be displayed for a free will offering and the money received will be used for Mission Stewardship projects. Any questions contact Nancy Schaper.

CUPCAKE THANK YOU

Thank you to all who contributed to the 2nd annual Canal Days Cupcake Sale. Again it was a huge success. A total of \$684.00 was raised for next year's mission trip! We could not have done this without the help of all of you.

Thanks again
Tara Bandekow



CARD PARTY

On June 7 we hosted a card party to benefit our River Haven mission. We had 24 people playing cards and served barbeque sandwiches and creamed chicken along with chips, bars and drinks. Thanks to the members of the Events Committee for providing the food and drinks. We also collected 57# of food for the food pantry. This has been a wonderful mission our church is providing and the people that come to play cards always remind us of that. If you have never attended one of our card parties, come and join us and see what they are talking about it. It is a lot of fun! Our next card party will be September 27th.

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"SHARING SUPPER" – JULY 29, 2019

The "Sharing Supper" will be shared on Monday, July 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.

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

Sunday Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
Third Sunday of Each Month is Informal Service
Child Care Available
Church Is Handicapped Accessible
Everyone Invited!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Portage Presbyterian Church
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