

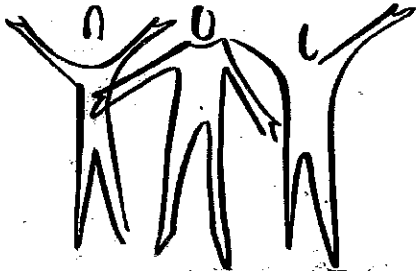


The Portage Presbyterian



A Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

March 2018



"NEW MEMBERS" CLASS - MARCH 18 & 19

If you are interested in becoming a "member" of the PPC community, you are invited to participate in two different "New Member" classes being offered.

Both classes will cover the same material - just different times for different schedules.

We will have one "class time" as a part of the Yakutat Luncheon on March 18 (after worship).

And we will have another "class time" on Monday, March 19 @ 7:00 p.m. - meeting in Parry Hall area.

If you are interested in either of these classes or have any questions, please contact the church office to let us know.

Thanks!

Sunday

TREATS FOLLOWING WORSHIP

The Mission Stewardship Committee will be hosting a bake sale following worship on March 11, April 8, and May 13. If you are interested in donating something for the bake sale, please bring it packaged ready to sell. All proceeds will go towards our Stewardship drive. The bake sale Sundays will precede our Produce Days that will begin in June. **This year some of the items will have prices on them and other will be "free will offering".**

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YAKUTAT LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER

On Sunday, March 18, we will be hosting a luncheon to work towards our mission pledge to Yakutat Presbyterian Church. The menu will consist of turkey lasagna, lettuce salad, French bread and dessert. A drink will also be provided. The cost will be \$5.00 for adults and children above age 8 and \$3.00 for children age 8 and under. A reservation sheet is posted on the kiosk in Parry Hall. We must have reservations so we know how much food to provide. There will also be a donation basket if someone wants to donate more than the \$5.00. If you are unable to sign up at church, please call the church office to make your reservation by March 12th.



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!

"CLERK'S CORNER"

In the last couple of years the Session has developed a list of goals and action plans to go with it. (If you want a copy just ask Pastor Dave, an Elder or me.) At each regular, monthly meeting a discussion of the goals is part of the agenda and Pastor Dave and the Elders take out their lists and study them for what seems the hundredth time. What more is there to discuss? What new action plan to develop? This study continues in deafening silence for a minute or two - each person hoping that by some miracle an idea will come from somewhere. And it does. Always. Pastor Dave talked about "The Spirit" in Fat Sunday's sermon. The Spirit is alive and well and present during the Session meetings.

A new **Wish List** is being prepared and will be available in the office soon. The donations of supplies and money have been invaluable and having the list provides an opportunity for everyone to make a contribution that will be useful.

Kathy Raimer



THE PORTAGE PRESBYTERIAN

Is published monthly by the
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Portage, WI 53901
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Pastor - The Rev. David J. Hankins

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 4, 2018

The Third Sunday in Lent

10:05 a.m. - Traditional Worship

Wednesday, March 7

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

Sunday, March 11, 2018

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:05 a.m. - Traditional Worship

Wednesday, March 14

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

Sunday, March 18, 2018

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Wednesday, March 21

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

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Palm Sunday

10:05 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service

"Donkey Walk" after worship

Wednesday, March 28

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

Thursday, March 29

12:15 p.m. & 6:05 p.m.

"Maundy Thursday" Worship in Sanctuary

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Friday, March 28

7:00 p.m. - "Good Friday" Worship

"Service of Darkness" / Tenebrae

NEW ADDRESS

Peggy High
c/o Whispering Pines Rehabilitation
50 Woolverton Ave
Ripon, WI 54971

Pastor's Page

There is no doubt that the Portage Presbyterian Church "building" is a magnificent structure. However, if you want to see a fascinating view of this building, go to "Google Earth," type in the church's address and "zoom in."

What do you see?

Even more amazing to me is the "vision" and "planning" of those who designed and built this church building. I wonder if they, even in their wildest imaginations, thought about airplanes or drones or satellites which would fly over the church. They knew that they would never be able to see or experience the wonder of what they were doing. Yet the planned, envisioned and built.

So, this begs a question - "why?"

In a way they were anticipating that which was yet to come (*that which they could not see*) and were making a statement of faith for generations of people who would follow after them.

We cannot "see" the resurrection of Jesus. But we can "hear" and "learn" and "experience" the resurrection through those who did "see." Those first apostles had no idea of what "the church" would become. And yet, the proclamation of God's new life is offered in the words they speak and write - and in the radical impact and transformation that the resurrection experience had on their lives.

It is the words and the experiences of those who have come before us which provide the foundation upon which we continue to build the church community.

So it is for us, the Church today.

Like the first apostles, like those who drew up the plans for our church building, we are called to be the church in the present. But we are also called to provide for those who follow us a "statement of faith" by which they will be able to hear, to learn, to see and to experience the presence, the hope, the peace, the love and the saving power of God.

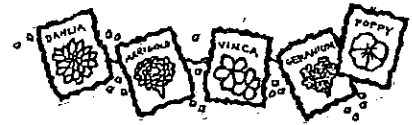
Through our words - and through our lives of faith - those around us now and those who will follow after us will know the amazing grace of God. Now, that's pretty awesome! And a bit scary too!

"READERS" FOR HOLY WEEK

We are looking for "readers" for the Holy Week worship services.

If you would be interested in "reading" for Palm Sunday - Maundy Thursday - Good Friday - Easter Sunday please contact Pastor Dave.

Thanks!



DON'T FORGET- CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS!

Daylight Savings Time falls on Sunday, March 11.

Don't forget to set your clocks "ahead" one hour.

Remember - "Spring-ahead" on March 11.

CONFIRMATION CLASS INFO ...

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

In February we have been discussing The Bible as the Word of God - and what that means and doesn't mean.

During our classes in March we will be exploring more about the Presbyterian Church as well as preparing to write statements of faith.

The Class has been doing local mission projects, including helping with the "Sharing Supper" program - twice!

PPC should be proud of these young people as they "live out their faith" in helping and caring for the people in their community.

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 and continue to serve as the "hands and feet of Jesus."

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

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, *March 4th*, and *March 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.

Wednesday **NIGHT** Activities

"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 SESSION COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

Nominating Nancy Schaper (Co-Chair)
Marcia Van Natta (Co-Chr)

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

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.

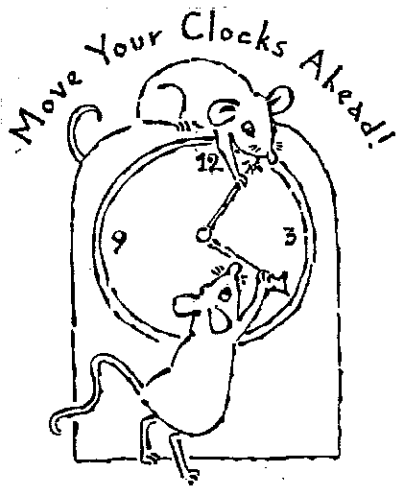
If we have young people younger than middle school age, there would need to be an adult who will make the trip with them.

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.

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!

Order sheets are available in Parry Hall!

"EMAIL INFO" FOR PPC OFFICES

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

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

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.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

With the start of Lent began our One Great Hour of Sharing drive. This year's offering theme is "You Shall Be Called Repairers of the Breach"

Lent is traditionally a season of fasting and prayer. During this time, Christians pay close attention to spiritual disciplines that deepen our understanding of what God is doing in our lives and in the world. As a church we spend time together hearing about and praying for the ministries of compassion and justice done through our support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

Jesus' ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. One Great Hour of Sharing helps us share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed.

Every gift made to this offering will meet the needs of people, and you will hear about just a few of these individuals over the coming weeks—in bulletin inserts and minutes for mission. These stories will help us to see the face of those whose lives have been changed by our gifts, but they are only a few of the thousands and thousands of people served in this important ministry.

Through your gifts and the gifts of other congregations, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will continue to be a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed and experience God's abundance in surprising ways. Your OGHS gifts will be received on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

This year we have a challenge for you. Last year we collected \$285.00 and this year we are putting out a challenge to collect \$100.00 more. On the table in Parry Hall there are Fish boxes for you to collect your loose change in if you desire. You may also use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter or the one in your box of church envelopes.



"SHARING SUPPER" – MARCH, 2018

The "Sharing Supper" will be shared on Monday, March, 26!!!

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 **March 26 @ 5:00 p.m.**



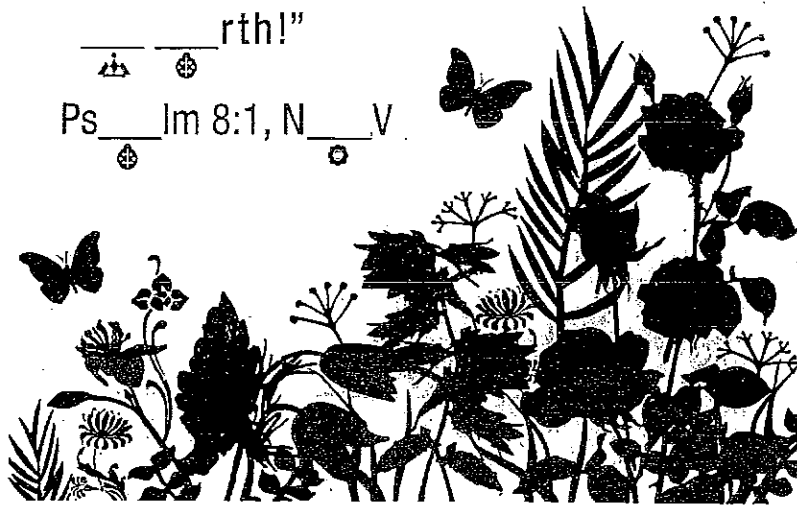
Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A = E = I = O = U =

"L RD, r L rd, h w
 m j st c s y r
 n m n ll th
 rth!"
 Ps lm 8:1, N V



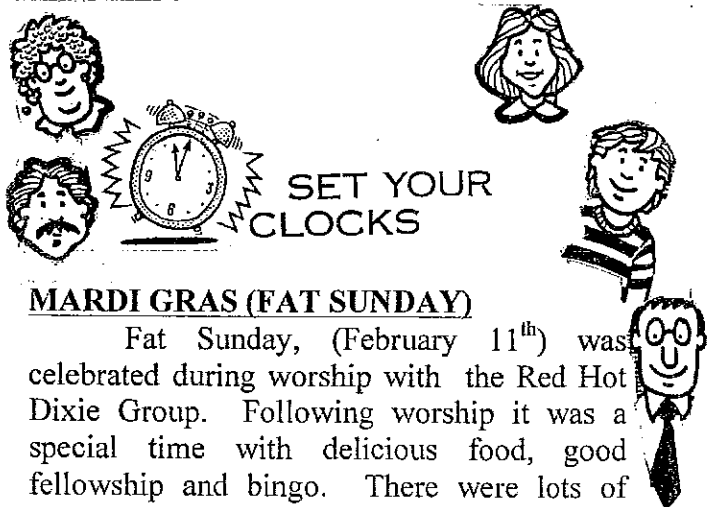
Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"
 Psalm 8:1, NIV
 [KID0318B]

"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.



MARDI GRAS (FAT SUNDAY)

Fat Sunday, (February 11th) was celebrated during worship with the Red Hot Dixie Group. Following worship it was a special time with delicious food, good fellowship and bingo. There were lots of laughs and great bingo prizes.

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THANK YOU!!!

Dear Kathy,

Thank you for Portage Presbyterian's payment of mission and per capita funds to John Knox Presbytery. These dollars help equip new pastors and provide funds for new ministries – from Mandarin speakers to migrant farmers to young professionals. Thank you to your Session and the congregation.

In Christ,

*Laurie Jones
Presbytery Council Member
John Knox Presbytery*

Dear Glenda,

Thank you for your generosity and thinking of our students for the personal care supplies. We've sent request forms out to those who use the weekend food program to start. We appreciate your kindness in helping make sure student needs are met.

Thank you,

*Val Hon, RN District Nurse
Portage Community Schools*

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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SPECIAL OFFERINGS

February 5, 2018

Portage Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 222
Portage, WI 53901

*"Giving thanks to God at all times and for everything
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

- Ephesians 5:20

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We give thanks to you for your support of Special Offerings, our collective witness to the love of Jesus Christ. By participating in Special Offerings, your congregation joins other churches to change lives around the world - through ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, Christian formation, education and witness.

Thank you for the following support to Special Offerings: On December 31, 2017, we received \$392.00 for the Christmas Joy Offering, and \$100.00 for the Peace & Global Witness Offering (Peacemaking). Your congregation's gift, when combined with that of others, will share the love of Christ with those in need.

The new year dawns and new challenges and opportunities lie ahead for the ministry of your congregation. The four church-wide Special Offerings are an opportunity for your church to deepen its connection to those in need as well as other Presbyterians by working together in ministries that live out our faith. Your congregation should have received the 2018 Action Kit in the mail, which is a resource will help you, as a church leader, make these connections for your congregation. Also, be sure to look for your standing order for One Great Hour of Sharing, the largest way Presbyterians come together each year, supporting ministries of compassion for those impacted by natural and human-caused disasters, experiencing hunger, and responding to their experiences of poverty and oppression.

We are here to make sure your gifts have the greatest impact. You can contact myself, or your Mission Engagement Advisor, Rev. Rhonda K. Kruse, if you have any questions about Presbyterian Mission, or any additional way we can support your work. Rhonda can be reached at 502-919-1835, or rhonda.kruse@pcusa.org.

Again, **thank you** for giving to enable all people to know God's life-giving welcome in Jesus Christ. You are a valued partner in mission. Please let me know how we can support your efforts.

With gratitude to God for our shared mission,

Bryce Wiebe
Director, Special Offerings



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

800-728-7228, ext. 5187 | specialofferings.pcusa.org



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

100 Witherspoon Street | Louisville, KY 40202 | presbyterianmission.org

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give
thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

February 5, 2018

Portage Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 222
Portage, WI 53901

Dear Partners in God's Mission,

Thank you for your support of Presbyterian Mission! Your faithful and generous giving allows all of us who work together in God's mission to bring the gospel of Christ to all corners of the world. It provides the funds to help bear the burdens of those in times of crisis, those in poverty, those who are in need. Thank you for partnering with us in that call.

The generosity of your congregation has provided the following support: On December 31, 2017, we received \$392.00 for the Christmas Joy Offering, and \$100.00 for the Peace & Global Witness Offering (Peacemaking).

As we move into the New Year, we are grateful for your partnership as we seek to serve God in new ways. I hope to have an opportunity to meet you and your congregation in person in 2018 when I'm in your area. Meanwhile, please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or if you need additional information about the mission and ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and its resources. I'm here to help.

Again, thank you for giving to enable all people to know God's life-giving welcome in Jesus Christ. You are a valued partner in mission. Please let me know how I can support your efforts.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rhonda".

Rev. Rhonda K. Kruse

Mission Engagement Advisor, Midwest

502-919-1835

rhonda.kruse@pcusa.org