

The Portage Presbyterian Church

November, 2021

"The Church is a people - and we are the Church!"

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and peace!

"All Saints Sunday" - November 7



On **Sunday, November 7th**, the PPC community will gather to "remember" and to "celebrate" with family and friends the lives of those with whom we have journeyed - who have passed away over the past year.

Family and friends will be invited to "light candles" to give thanks to God for the lives shared.

The "**All Saints Sunday**" worship service will be held in the sanctuary.

"Harvest Dinner" Is Coming - Sat, Nov 13

The Harvest Dinner will be on November 13th and once again we are going to have a "**DRIVE THRU HARVEST DINNER**".

We will still be serving our entire turkey dinner with all the fixings plus pie like we always do.

It will just be all "Carry Out" meals.

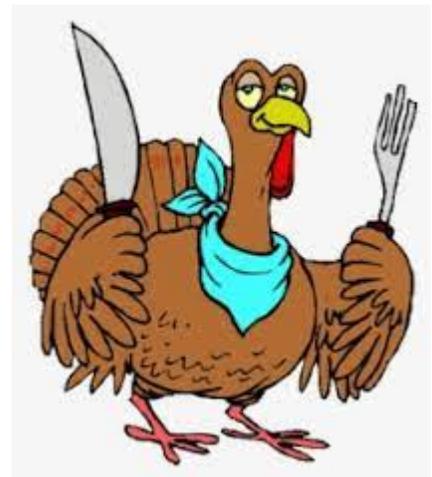
We serve from 4:30-until we run out of food!!

You will drive into the back parking lot off Conant St. and be met by Pastor Dave & Chris Sechtig who will collect your money for the meal and give you directions on where to get your meal (*you will stay in your car*).

The cost will be \$15.00 per person.

We will be serving pumpkin and apple pie and we figure that we will need at least 50 pies.

Please contact Nancy Meekma (608-742-5026) or Nancy Schaper (608-742-7242) to donate pies and/or volunteer to help that day.



Interested in a "Live Nativity?"



There has been some "conversation" about putting together a "Live Nativity" scene during Advent this year.

In order to pull this together, we will need some folks who would be interested and willing to help plan and others who would be interested in participating (*human and animals*).

If this is something in which you would be interested (to help plan, to participate or both)- *please contact the Church Office no later than **Wednesday, November 10.***

Thank you!

Looking for "Pictures" of Past Christmas Programs

Do you have pictures of "past" Christmas programs here at PPC? We are trying to find these "treasures" for use during Advent this year.

We would like to get "copies" of your photos.

If you are able to send a digital copy of the photo, please send to "pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com"

If you would like to "drop off" photos so we can "scan them" and get them back to you, just stop by the Church Office when it is open. Thank you!



Bake Goods & Homemade Soup - December 4th



Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 4th. The Women's Association is planning to sell bake sale items **from 9:00-11:00 in Parry Hall**.

We will also have chicken noodle and beef barley soup for sale in jars for you to take home or share with a friend.

We will be looking for bake sale items. Please contact *Elaine Crammond* or *Donna Mohr* to sign up.

If we do not hear from you, we will be calling.
Hope to see you on December 4th.



PPC's "Women' s Association" Meeting -
November 6!

The Women's Association will be meeting at Dino's Restaurant on November 6th at 9:00 a.m. Come and share in a good time of fellowship and planning with some fun and faithful people.

Hope you can join us.

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services



Sunday - November 7 - "Traditional" Worship

"All Saints Sunday" - *In The Sanctuary*

We will share the "Lord's Supper" during the service. Please prepare your own bread and "cup" to use-during worship.

Sunday - November 14 - "Traditional" Worship - TBD

Scripture - Mark 13:1-8

Sunday, November 21 - "Traditional" Worship - *In The Sanctuary*

Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann will be leading worship

Sunday - November 28 - "Traditional" Worship - *In the Sanctuary*

"The First Sunday of Advent - Greening of the Church"

Beginning Sunday, November 21, we will be moving "back into the sanctuary" for worship on Sunday mornings.

Please note that the guidelines that the Session has established for worship "in the sanctuary" which includes:

- that "wearing masks will be an individual preference" -
- that we will sing (*provided we wear a mask while singing*) -
- and that social distancing is encouraged.

"Video" People for Sunday Morning Worship



One of the "new" opportunities that has come out of our "wilderness journey" over these past 1 1/2 years, is our **"Sunday Morning Worship Video"** option.

It has been great to have so many "sharing together" in worship - even from a distance.

We are seeking those who may be interested in helping to provide these videos on Sunday morning.

All equipment and "training" are provided - we just need YOU!

If you would be interested in participating in this ministry - or have questions - contact Pastor Dave.

"Sound" People for Sunday Morning Worship

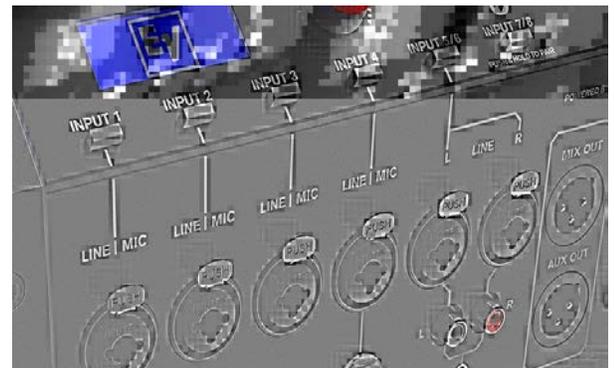
How would you like to be "in control" of the worship service on Sunday morning?

Well, not really "in control" of the worship - but, of the worship "sound!"

You see that "sound system" in the picture - well, don't worry about that - you would control the "sound" with "an app" on your phone or with a tablet -

And the "best part" - you can sit wherever you want!

If you would be interested - or would like more information - contact Pastor Dave.



"Messaging" in a "Different Way"



If "they" can do it - so can you!!!
We are seeking a few people who would like to serve as **"greeters"** for our **"online video"** community on Sunday mornings.

Just as you would do "in person," you would welcome people to worship, check in with them, engage in "conversation" when asked, and extend God's peace at the end.

If this might be something in which you are interested or would like more information, contact Pastor Dave.

"Special Music" for Advent and Christmas

Anyone "out there" who may be interested in sharing "Special Music" during Advent and Christmas?

This could be "vocal" - "instrumental" - "ensemble" or "other ideas" you may have!

Contact Pastor Dave if you are interested - or have any questions!

"Come, let's make a joyful noise to the Lord!"



"Readers" for Worship?

One who serves as "a reader" will participate in Sunday worship by reading Scripture lessons and even leading the morning prayer.

All Scripture lessons and prayers would be available to you "before" Sunday morning for you to review.

Please contact Pastor Dave available Sundays or for more information.

"Decorating" for Advent and Christmas

We are looking for "help" to decorate the interior of the church for Advent and Christmas.

Dates and times for the decorating will be established by the schedules of those who would like to decorate - included will be **sanctuary tree**, **Parry Hall tree**, **roping in sanctuary and Parry Hall**, **wreaths**, etc.

Call the Church Office to let us know you would like to decorate!

Individuals - groups - families are all welcome to help!



Worship @ Tivoli - November

Provided that all is well, we will again provide worship for the residents at Tivoli on

Monday, November 15 @ 10:00 a.m.

Anyone coming to be a part of the worship community will be asked to "check in" at the entrance and to "wear a mask" during the service (*per Aspirus-Divine Savior Healthcare guidelines*) - as will the Tivoli residents

"Kwik Trip" Car Wash Cards



"Kwik Trip" Car Wash Cards are still available!

For \$36.00 / card, you will receive 5 - yes, that's right - 5 "Ultimate" car washes (normally a cost of \$50.00)

If you would like to purchase a "Kwik Trip Car Wash Card" - just contact Pastor Dave. Thanks!

The "CHILI DUMP" is back!

The Holiday Parade is back, November 26th, and once again the Events Committee will have a stand at the Chamber Mall selling chili to warm your body and soul.

We need your help to make this a success.

We are asking you to make a gallon or so of chili and have it at church by Wednesday morning, November 25th. We will then pour all of the chili together and serve it nice and warm during the parade.



There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in Parry Hall for those who wish to donate chili or you can call Nancy at 608-742-7242.

We figure we will need at least twelve gallons of chili. Each year our chili is a big success. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Schaper.

"Adopt A Kettle" - Ringing The Bells For Salvation Army



Once again PPC has answered the call of the Salvation Army to "ring the bells" for their annual Kettle Drive in Portage. We have "Adopted" a Kettle" at Festival Foods on Saturday, November 20th from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Please call Nancy Schaper at 608-742-7242 to volunteer to ring. The 8:00AM slot has been filled.

What is Per Capita?



Quoting from the Presbyterian Church-USA website: “*Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ.*”

The connection we have with our home church is strong and as we look outward to the John Knox Presbytery, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA, the connection we have individually may be a little less felt.

Per capita is also known as the **Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund** which perhaps describes it better and can create more of a community bond among PC-USA’s approximately 11,000 congregations.

Per capita amounts per church are calculated each year based on the membership from a previous year (for example, **this year the per member amount is \$33.70**).

As with Shared Mission dollars, our Presbytery then disburses portions to General Assembly, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and retains the majority of these funds for the work of the John Knox Presbytery.

Along with the Shared Mission amounts, per capita is used toward supporting our committees’ work, training, scholarships and assisting our congregations. Many churches have seen wonderful and continual giving during the very challenging times of 2020 and 2021 including giving to per capita.

Creatively meeting new needs of worship has included moving to online services, recording YouTube videos, and delivering care packages to members/friends with messages of hope and support-just to name a few efforts when gathering in person has been unadvised.

Our Pastors, Elders, Deacons and Congregations have met these challenges with God’s help and the faithful giving of time, talent and treasure.

As we come to the end of 2021 and look forward to 2022, let us remember the connection God wishes for us and our families, our churches, our communities, our Presbytery, our Synod and our General Assembly.

Linda Jawson, on behalf of the JKP Generosity Task Force

"Squash Party"



Thanks to all of you who came and helped at our "squash party" on **October 6th**. The fun was enjoyed by *Rhys Brenner, John Crammond, Larry Day, Laura Brenner, Jean Oren, Sue Goodman, Edith McElroy, Glenda Day, Deb Capener, Liz Bellmore and myself.*

We prepared 183 pounds of squash for the Harvest Dinner.

Extra thanks to *Rhys and Larry* who picked squash with me and washed all the squash and *Rhys and John* who halved all the squash before we could bake it.

Salvation Army "Coat Drive"

A special thanks to all who donated coats, boots, hats and mittens for the coat drive. Many adults and children will be warm this winter due to your generosity.

Nancy Schaper

YOU Can Help Spread The Word!

We are seeking folks who would like to share in the "ministry" of the "Church Sign." Yes, our "Church Sign" provides *not only information, but inspiration* to many people.

Would you be interested in being a part of a team that helps to keep the "Church Sign" up to date - inspirational - entertaining?

Contact Pastor Dave to "sign on" - or for more information.

Thanks!



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It is "easy" to make a "financial" offering  
for the work and ministry  
here @ Portage Presbyterian Church

You may choose to ....

[Mail it](#) to the Church Office or [Drop it in the "mail slot"](#)

or

Use the "online giving" option on "PPC's Website"

or

On ["Amazon Smiles"](#) - Select ["Portage Presbyterian Church"](#) as your preferred ["CHARITY"](#) and PPC will receive [0.5%](#) on all of your purchases

*Your financial support for the work and ministry of God  
in and through the Portage Presbyterian Church  
is greatly appreciated!*

*"Together" - we continue to share God's "Good News" in so many ways!*



# Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

|   | A         | B       | C         | D         | E      | F         |
|---|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| 1 | They      | found   | broke     | bread     | acts   | in        |
| 2 | houses    | their   | homes     | beautiful | and    | round     |
| 3 | ate       | world   | beginning | together  | follow | thought   |
| 4 | with      | numbers | glad      | happiness | lesson | and       |
| 5 | thanks    | sincere | disciples | gathering | hearts | tradition |
| 6 | celebrate | good    | praising  | Christian | God    | river     |

- Cross out all words in column E with double letters.
- Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
- Cross out all words in column B that end in d.
- Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.
- Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.
- Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.
- Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

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\_\_\_\_\_ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV



Portage  
Presbyterian  
Church

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we are the church!*