



# The Portage Presbyterian Church

October, 2023

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



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

## Congregational Meeting - October 1

There will be a "Congregational Meeting" on Sunday, October 1 - after worship - for the purpose of receiving the report of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee will be sharing the names of those who agreed to serve as Ruling Elders and Deacons, for terms beginning in January, 2024.

We will also be seeking those who would like to serve as "congregational members" of the 2024 Nominating Committee as well.

## 130th Anniversary - Sunday, October 22



"I Love Thy Church, O Lord" ... so sang (those) who shared in the new Presbyterian Church ... Sunday evening, October 15, 1893 ... Sunday was a red letter day for Portage Presbyterians ... it witnessed the culmination of the hopes and labors and self-sacrifice of a year and a half as a monument to which stands the handsome edifice on the corner of Pleasant and Clark Streets ..."

So read a portion of the newspaper article, dated October 16, 1893.

On Sunday, October 22 - we will celebrate the "130th Anniversary" of our present Presbyterian Church building with a special worship service - including special remembrances "from those who were there" and the singing of the hymns first sung on October 15, 1893 (from an actual 1893 hymnal).

Following the service, everyone is invited to a "potluck" in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by the Deacons.

## "Harvest Dinner" - It Will Soon Be Here!

Be sure to mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 11** - for PPC's Annual "Harvest Dinner!"

After much discussion, it was decided that we again would have a "Drive Thru" meal.

*We will need pumpkin and apple pies donated by our church community.*  
More information will be provided in our November newsletter!

## "Terri Lynn - Nut and Candy" Sale

During the month of October (Oct 1-29) we will again be doing a "Terri Lynn Nut and Candy" pre-order and pay for what you would like to order.

The items will then be ordered and we should have them by Thanksgiving!

So carefully consider what you would like and order accordingly - we will not have any "extras" available.

Some of the items available: *Fancy Pecan Pieces - Light Walnut Haves and Pieces - Deluxe Mixed Nuts - Giant Cashews - Sweet and Salty Trail Mix - Milk Chocolate Raisins - Milk Chocolate Bridge Mix - Milk Chocolate Malted Milk Balls - Almond Cranberry Granola Mix - Harvest Medley Mix - Milk Chocolate Peanuts - Dark Chocolate Sea Salt Caramels - and Dark Chocolate Cranberries.*

These are some of the items we have picked out. However, you may have other items you like - so, like last year, we have a "colored brochure" available for you to go through and order what you like.

You will then add the items to your order blank.

Price lists and order blanks will be available on October 1 - you can pick them up on Sunday morning or when the office is open.

You may notice that some prices have gone up - that is due to an increase from the company.

*If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Schaper.*

All profits from this sale will go to the General Operating Budget of the church.



"You are a blessing" - so proclaimed the PPC community on Sunday, September 24 - as we celebrated our annual "Blessing of the Animals" worship service.

We celebrated that God speaks to us in many ways such as Scripture, other people and the Creation around us - of which "animals" are a part.

"Giving thanks to God" for those animals with whom we have shared and with whom we continue to share the journey - and considering what "animals" may have to teach us about God were all a part of the service.

And we "gave thanks" to God for those who shared the worship service with us - whether "in the parking lot" - via video - through photographs.

A special thanks to **Bentley, Max, Baby, Coronet** and **Mrs. Q** who were able to be with us for worship. And, of course, a special note of gratitude to their "human companions" who made their presence possible.



### "Live Nativity" Planning?

Anyone who would be interested in helping to plan - or would like to participate - in a "Live Drive Thru Nativity Scene" this December - should be in touch with Pastor Dave ASAP!

All ages are welcome! There is "a part" for everyone!

Come and be "a part" of this unique and inspirational "gift to the community."



## Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

### Sunday - October 1 - "Traditional " Worship

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*1 Corinthians 11:17-26*

**Worship @ 10:05 a.m.**

*World Communion Sunday*

*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

*Congregational Meeting after Worship*

### Sunday - October 8 - "Traditional " Worship

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Matthew 22:1-14*

**Worship @ 10:05 a.m.**

### Sunday, October 15 - "Informal" Worship

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

*Matthew 22:15-22*

**Worship @ 10:05 a.m.**

### Sunday - October 22 - "Traditional " Worship

The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

**Worship @ 10:05 a.m.**

*Celebrating the 130th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church "Building"*

*Potluck after worship - all are welcome!*

### Sunday - October 29 - "Traditional" Worship

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

*Matthew 22:34-46*

**Worship @ 10:05 a.m.**

### Sunday - November 5 - "Traditional " Worship - "All Saints Sunday"

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

**Worship @ 10:05 a.m.**

*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

## Here Are Some Of The "Things" That Have Been Happening



"Meal @ The Fair"



Presbyterian Women's "Fall Workshop"



Packing "Summer Lunches" for the Summer Lunch Program



## From PPC Women's Association ...

1. Our popular **Mission Chicken Soup Mix** is always available for purchase on Sundays in the sanctuary, in the church office during open hours, or by contacting Glenda Day. If you've never tried it, give it a try. You won't be disappointed!

If you have any 8oz jelly or olive type jars, we would appreciate them, with labels removed. Thanks to all the loyal customers and everyone who returns their jars.

Thank you for helping us out with this.

## 2. Personal Care Bags:

Deodorants for men and women are greatly needed. It's time to distribute the bags again.

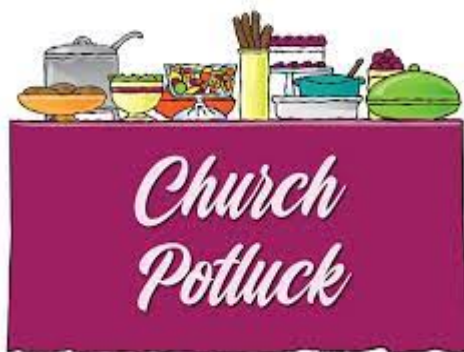
You may drop your donations off in the sanctuary on Sundays or at the church office during open hours.

3. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 2nd** for our "Holiday House." We will again be selling chicken noodle and beef barley soups in quart jars. More information will follow.

4. Our next **Women's Association meeting** will be on **October 7th** at **Dino's** at **9:00 a.m.** We would be happy to have you join us.



From the "Deacons"



We are going to have a church-wide **POT LUCK on October 22nd**, immediately following church. The Deacons are providing the main course, and everyone else is asked to bring a side-dish or dessert. We hope all can join us, as the lunch will be part of our celebration of the 130th Anniversary of our current church building. We really appreciate the support of our congregation!

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who has donated to the Deacons Fund with their offerings on Communion Sundays, so we can carry on with our mission.

Just a reminder - all "**loose offerings**" (*coins and cash*) - on "Communion Sundays" - will be given to the Deacons to help support their ministries to and through this church community.



PPC "volunteers" to "stock the shelves" at the Food Pantry on the 3rd Wednesday of each month - **October 18** - usually @ 5:00 p.m. or so. Volunteers are always welcome to come and help this community resource provide a necessary program for those in need in our community. Please contact Pastor Dave if you are planning to come and help, in case there is a change in the schedule

Come and help make a difference in the community!



Just a reminder - there is a "Little Food Pantry" in front of Westminster Center. Anyone can place items in this box - and we receive donations from PPC folks as well as those from the community..

If you would like to make donations to the "Little Food Pantry" please feel free to provide dry goods and non perishables not affected by the temperature.

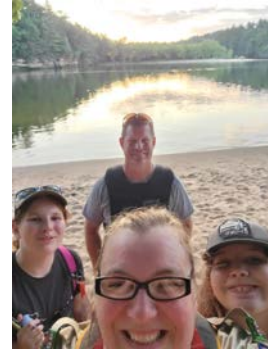


New Directions 4-H club is a very active group of young people from the area that meet together to share ideas, work on projects and learn great leadership skills.

The New Directions 4-H club meets @ PPC on the 3rd Sunday of each month, beginning @ 4:00 p.m.

PPC is pleased to be able to support the efforts of 4-H and the New Directions Club by offering a meeting space and support for their good work.

**Jen Martens** serves as the advisor for the New Directions Club.



Here are some of the "more recent adventures and experiences"  
for PPCs Scout Units!

**All of the Scout Units will be conducting their annual "Wreath sales!"**

Pack 70 -

Portage Community Bike Rodeo and Cub Scout Recruiting Night on 9/14/23.  
Thanks to Officer Kevin Todryk and Wildside Action Sports of Baraboo for helping!

Troop 7070

All new crossovers on track for Scout rank  
Cabin campout next month, lots of activities

Troop 70

Baseball game - Geeks Mania - Helped pack lunches for summer program.  
Sports Merit Badge work ongoing - Highway cleanup coming up Oct 1 -  
Indian Agency House campout

*Keep up the great work, Scouts!*

What is  
**Per**  
**Capita?**



WHAT DO GENERAL ASSEMBLY PER CAPITA DOLLARS PROVIDE?

*"As the Church seeks reform and fresh direction, it looks to Jesus Christ who goes ahead of us and calls us to follow him. United with Christ in the power of the Spirit, the Church seeks "not [to] be conformed to this world, but [to] be transformed by the renewing of [our] minds, so that [we] may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2)." (Book of Order, F-1.0401) General Assembly per capita funding provides for the cost of:*

- Bringing together commissioners and advisory delegates as the General Assembly.



- Publishing (in multiple languages) and distribution (in multiple format) of the Book of Order, The Book of Confessions, and other General Assembly publications.
- Underwriting the expenses of the Co-Moderators of the General Assembly as they travel across the church and around the world to interpret the work of the General Assembly and attend church anniversaries, presbytery meetings, retreats, and ecumenical gatherings
  - Gathering church leaders from presbyteries and synods for training events
  - Supporting work in the area of ordered ministry, helping all Presbyterians respond to God's call in their lives as teaching elders, ruling elders, and deacons
  - Providing necessary tools to develop and administer ordination exams to seminarians preparing to become future pastors
  - Maintaining Church Leadership Connection, the online system that supports the call process for pastors and congregations
  - Supporting those elected to serve on permanent General Assembly committees, such as the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, the General Assembly Nominating Committee, and the General Assembly Committee on Representation
  - Providing information, advice, and counsel to presbyteries and pastors whose members have immigration issues
  - Supporting the Presbyterian Historical Society, ensuring that our witness to the gospel today will be preserved for future generations, just as we have learned about the history of past generations
  - Providing a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups and gatherings in this country and worldwide-- extending our mission efforts and our work for peace and justice far beyond what we can do by ourselves to promote Christian unity.

## PPC "Updates"

"Brat Stand" - we had our final brat, hamburger and hot dog sale on September 2nd @ Festival Foods. This was our 3rd sale of the summer.

Thank you to *Larry Day* for serving as our "grillmaster" and also *John Crammond* and to *Donna Mohr, Lori Rogers, Elaine Crammond and Kathy Raimer* for helping in the stand.

Totally this year we made a profit of \$1216.90 in brat sales for the Church!!!

Thanks to all who supported the brat sales throughout the Summer.

"Squash Party" - Nancy, Rhys and Laura picked squash on Monday, September 18 @ Links and took them back to church to wash. On Thursday, September 21 we baked all the squash and then cooked and froze 176# of squash in preparation for the November 11 Harvest Dinner.

Our wonderful group of helpers were *Rhys and Laura Brenner, Donna Mohr, Peggy Alf-Sechtig, Elaine and John Crammond, Jean Oren, Sue Goodman, Glenda Day, Rosemary Minnema, Joyce Oehlhof and Nancy Schaper.*

**Important "Information and Activities" Around Portage**

"Sharing Supper" Information!

On Monday, October 23 - from 5:00-6:00 p.m. - Portage's "Sharing Supper" will be serving the community meal - @ **Bartels Middle School.**

"Sharing Supper" is organized around the idea that it is good for people to come together - in community - to "share a meal" - along with conversations. Different organizations and groups in the Portage area provide the meals each month - ordinarily on the last Monday of the month.



"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" -  
contact Pastor Dave.



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

scan the "QR Code" which will take you to the "Online Giving" Portal



*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 many  
ways  
and YOU are helping to make this possible!

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To Contact The Portage Presbyterian Church

Phone: 608-742-6006

Church Office email: office@portagepresbyterian.com

Pastor Dave email: pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com

Website: www.portagepresbyterian.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Portage-Presbyterian-Church-155581354519952

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PPC's Church Officers

Serving God and God's People

With "Energy, Intelligence, Imagination and Love"

Ruling Elders / Session

Moderator - Pastor Dave Hankins

Clerk of Session - Alex Harvey

Kevin Foster (2023)

Alex Harvey (2024)

Larry Day (2025)

John Crammond (2023)

Rhys Brenner (2024)

Jarrett Foster (2025)

Tara Bandekow (2023)

Lee Roundy (2024)

Nancy Schaper (2025)

Deacons

Moderator of Deacons - Laura Brenner

Secretary - Judy Taylor

Treasurer - Joyce Meredith

Judy Taylor (2023)

Tammy Foster (2024)

Peggy Alf-Sechtig (2025)

Laura Brenner (2023)

Lynne Warren (2024)

Joyce Meredith (2025)

Glenda Day (2023)

Liz Bellmore (2025)



Just One More Thought ...

*Peace, Pastor Dave*