



The Portage Presbyterian Church

September 18, 2020 - "Update"

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



Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Portage Presbyterian Church Community:

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

As we continue to make our way in the midst of this "wilderness time" we continue to discover ways for us to be "*God's people of joy and peace*" and to be "*in community*" even when we are distanced from each other.

Here's the "latest" information to share in our "Update" this time.

We Are "Updating" Contact Information

We have upgraded our "church membership database" and we are looking to update the "contact information" we have for the PPC community.

If you have an email address, a change in phone number or a new mailing address - please let the Church Office know.

"Nominating Committee" Information!

While we find ourselves in a strange time, we also continue to plan and work as a Church community. One of the ways in which we share together is in the work and ministry of our Ruling Elder and Deacons.

The Nominating Committee is seeking your "suggestions" or "recommendations" for those "active members" whom you would offer to serve in either of these ministries.

Members of the 2020 Nominating Committee are: **Alex Harvey** and **Larry Day** (*Elders*), **Tammy Foster** (*Deacon*) and **Glenda Day, Lee Roundy, Elaine Crammond** and **Nancy Schaper** (*from the Congregation*).

Please contact any member of the Nominating Committee with your suggestions or recommendations.

PPC in Worship "Together"

As we have moved into the Fall season, we will continue to offer the "outdoor service" at 10:05 a.m. This includes the "drive in" option or the "bring your own chair" option. We ask that everyone continues to observe a "safe distance" (6 feet) between families.

In case of inclement weather (rain or temperature) - the worship service will be moved into the sanctuary - following the guidelines established by the Session (*which have been included in previous mailings*).

Determination of "outdoor" or "indoor" worship will be made no later than the Friday before on PPC's "Facebook" page, on the church sign and via the church's phone message.

We also continue to offer "**live videos**" of the Sunday morning worship services on PPC's Facebook page. If you are not able to watch the "live version" of the worship, you will find it on the Facebook page under "videos" so you can watch them when it is convenient or they are also available on PPC's "YouTube" Page ("*Portage Presbyterian Church*").

We continue to be blessed by those who make our "videos" possible - thank you to *Allison* who has been serving in this capacity. Also thank you to *Lee Roundy* who has served as our worship accompanist.

We continue to **mail our weekly worship bulletins** to those who we are aware do not have "an internet" connection. If you did not receive this particular mailing, but would like to, please contact the Church Office.

We also have DVD's of worship services available for those who may be interested. Contact the Church Office if you know of someone who might like to make use of the "**portable DVD**" players. The DVD players will be easy to use and will include instructions.

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, September 27 - "Blessing of the Animals" Worship

- ✓ "Live" Video Worship Service and "Drive In" & "Bring Your Own Chair" begins at 10:05 a.m.

Sunday - October 4 - "Traditional" Worship - Lord's Supper

- "Live" Video Worship Service and "Drive In" & "Bring Your Own Chair" begins at 10:05 a.m.
- We will celebrate the Lord's Supper - *please provide your own elements of "bread" and "cup" for this worship time*

Sunday, October 11 - "Traditional" Worship

- ✓ "Live" Video Worship Service and "Drive In" & "Bring Your Own Chair" begins at 10:05 a.m.

Sunday, October 18 - "Informal" Worship

- ✓ "Live" Video Worship Service and "Drive In" & "Bring Your Own Chair" begins at 10:05 a.m.

"Photos by Syd" - A Church Fund-Raiser

Syd Jones enjoys taking photos and creating beautiful artwork from them. Now Syd has given a number of his photos to the church to be used as a "fund-raiser" for the Portage Presbyterian Church.

The photos will be featured on the church's "Facebook Page" so you can choose your favorite and purchase it.

You can purchase your "Photos By Syd" as a "donation gift" for the church's ongoing work and ministry. If you would like to see these photos "live," please contact the church office to make arrangements. Thank you, Syd, for your generous gifts.

Hey You! ... Yes, You! ... You Are Amazing!!!

In case no one has told you recently - YOU are amazing! While the world around us seems, at times, to be so chaotic, this church community continues to do good things, touch lives, offer peace and be a place where everyone is welcome.

Your prayers, your care for one another and your neighbors, your presence from a distance are all testimony to the faith and courage and ministry to which God has called and to which God continues to send us. God continues to lead us, inspire us and provide for us as we seek to follow God's lead.

Even with all of the uncertainties that this pandemic has brought into all of our lives and into the community, YOU have continued to find ways and opportunities to share and participate in God's work and ministry in and through PPC.

The Session is grateful for YOUR faithfulness and generosity in continuing to financially support the church's ministries to the best of one's abilities. Thank You!

You can share your gifts by dropping them off at the church office (in the mailbox) or by mail - or ...

We also now have an "**online giving**" option for those who are interested.

Go to the church's website (www.portagepresbyterian.com) ... and look at the "home page" and there you will see "this button" - Click on the button and follow the instructions



Thank you for your ongoing support of this church's mission & ministry.

LAST CALL - For "Confirmation Class"

We will be starting a new Confirmation Class on Wednesday, September 30. If you are a young person, 7th grade or older, you are invited to share in this journey of faith. Contact Pastor Dave with "your contact information" at pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com ... or the church office @ 742-6006.

"Weekly VIDEO Bible Stories for Young People"

Pastor Dave will be sharing a "Video Bible Story" each week with young people beginning the week of September 20. Just watch the PPC "Facebook Page" for the "Video Bible Story" each week. Who knows? We might do a little singing too!

Church Office Is Open!

The office staff is open for our "normal" office hours - but with these "guidelines"

- ✓ that there only be one person in office at a time
- ✓ that we should use first door only
- ✓ and that masks should be worn when you are indoors

Tammy (Financial Secretary) is in the office on Monday mornings from 10:00-Noon.
Kathy (Secretary) is in the office on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:00-1:00 pm

Sharing "Joys" and "Concerns" for Worship

If you have "joys" and/or "concerns" that you would like to share for our Sunday worship experience, please contact Pastor Dave no later than Saturday afternoon.

You may email at pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com

or you may leave message at the church office.

We will not use "last names" when we share these during worship!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dave

"Wish List" Updates

If you would like to make "Wish List" donations - or if you have questions, please contact the Church Office. Here are some of the items we will be needing soon.

- ✓ **Hand Sanitizer** (for use in the buildings)

- ✓ **Wipes** (for use in the buildings)
- ✓ **Sanitizing Spray** (for use in the buildings)
- ✓ **Paper Towels** (for use in the bathroom dispensers)

Please contact the Church Office for more information. Thank you!

Ministry Opportunities in the Church

If anyone is interested in evaluating, researching and offering suggestions about "live video" opportunities (worship and other ideas), and perhaps help to further develop PPC's "video ministry" *please contact the Church Office.*

A Few Final Thoughts ... *from Pastor Dave*

Shifting into a "new reality." This is what I call my thought process as I recently took some time to begin planning for the Fall. My first thought - how does one begin to plan for this Fall in 2020? Just when one thinks you might have a plan, things change.

But the other part of this is that there was a time a few months ago that we looked at this pandemic as something "short term." Now, as we look ahead we see much more ambiguity than certainty. For me, it is a "shift into a new reality." A reality in which I, and we, have never been before. And despite my many searches on Google, I have also discovered that there is no "manual" as to being a church community in the midst of a pandemic.

The "good news" is that we are not on our own in this time. Much as God's people found themselves in the wilderness of the Exodus, much as God's people found themselves wondering how we continue to exist in Exile, much as God's people wondered "now what?" immediately after Jesus' crucifixion - so God's people today (you, me and us together) have experienced that even when we struggle, when we doubt, when we are tired, when we are afraid- God is with us! And just as has been the case before, God will lead us in and through this time now.

And so we continue to move ahead, trust God and serving with "energy, intelligence, imagination and love" in many different ways and places. We have learned and we continue to learn. Above all, God has blessed us and continues to bless us in amazing ways as we fulfill our calling to be God's people of Good News!

Thank you for participating in the work and ministry of God's church community here in Portage!

Peace Be With You!

The Session of the Portage Presbyterian Church



Next Sunday - September 27 - 10:05 a.m.



We will be celebrating a special worship service next Sunday, September 27, where "our animals" are welcomed to receive special blessings and to have their relationships with their humans honored.

Everyone is invited to bring animals of all sizes and sorts for this service. This will be an "outdoor" worship experience - as we gather in the parking lot area by the church building. You can "drive in" for the service or "bring your own chair" (as we practice reasonable distancing)

A special blessing for our furry, feathered, and scaly (and even stuffed toys) guests of honor will be shared during the service.

All "guests of honor" should be under the control of their human companion at all times - either properly leashed, haltered or in a carrier. You can also bring a picture or you can post a picture of your special animal on the Portage Presbyterian Church's Facebook Page.

We will also have a time when we remember and celebrate the lives of those special animals who may no longer be with us, but who have been important parts of our lives.

The "rain date" for this "Blessing of the Animals" worship service will be October 4.

We look forward to celebrating God's creation and for giving thanks for those special animals with whom we share our life's journey.



The Portage Presbyterian Church

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Church Office - office@portagepresbyterian.com

Pastor Dave Hankins - pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com

Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/Portage-Presbyterian-Church-155581354519952/>

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