



The Portage Presbyterian Church

September, 2023

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



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

Brats - Hamburgers - Hot Dogs - "Oh My!"

The Events Committee will be hosting a "brat stand" at Festival Foods on Saturday, September 2. Food will be ready to sell by 10:30 a.m.

The first Badger football game does not begin until 2:30 p.m. - so you have plenty of time to get your "food" for your tailgate party!

All profits will be donated to the "general operating budget" of the church.

And this will be our last "brat stand" of the year - so don't miss out!

If you have questions, please contact Nancy Schaper. Thank you

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

Sunday - September 3 - "Traditional" Worship

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship @ 9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

** *This will be the "last 9:30 a.m." Worship Service for the Summer* **

Sunday - September 10 - "Traditional" Worship

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 18:15-20

Worship @ 10:05 a.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, September 17 - "Informal" Worship

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 18:21-35

Worship @ 10:05 a.m. -

Sunday - September 24 - "Traditional" Worship

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost - "in the parking lot"

"Blessing of the Animals"

Worship @ 10:05 a.m.

Sunday - October 1 - "Traditional " Worship

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 21:23-32

Worship @ 10:05 a.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

World Communion Sunday

Brewers Game Outing - Friday, Sept 15

If anyone is interested in taking in the Milwaukee Brewers' game on **Friday, September 15** - please be sure to contact Alex Harvey ASAP!

Contact Alex as well with any questions you may have.



Looking Ahead - Confirmation This Fall?

As we begin to look ahead for the Fall (but it's not even summer yet!!!) ... we are reaching out to those who are 7th grade or older ... about the possibility of having a "Confirmation Class / Experience."

If this is something in which you (or a young person you know) would be interested (or would like more information), **please contact Pastor Dave** - and "get on the list!"

"Worship Jam" - Revisited!

We are exploring to see if there is interest in a reunion tour of our "Worship Jam" group?

Well, it's not really a "reunion tour" - since we are *inviting any and all instrumentalists* - anyone who likes to sing - those who have been a part of the group before and those who have not - to come and share in this great opportunity. In other words - **everyone is invited!**

And be sure to pass the invitation on to anyone you know!
Again, everyone is invited!

Please contact Pastor Dave (by email, phone, visit or pony express) - and once we have a few names, we will organize a rehearsal time.



Congregational Meeting - October 1

The Session has called for a "congregational meeting" on Sunday, October 1 - following worship.

The purpose of this "congregational meeting" will be to receive the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect Ruling Elders and Deacons (who will begin their service in January, 2024).

We will also be electing active members of the congregation to serve on the 2024 Nominating Committee.

From the "Deacons"

On "Communion Sundays" - Just a reminder - all "loose offerings" (coins and cash) 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 - September 20 - 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 "Summer Season" has been a busy time for the 4-H clubs and youth - with county fairs, parades, camps and numerous other learning and "fun" activities.

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 is the advisor for the New Directions Club.



Pack 70 - Troop 7070 - Troop 70 - have had a busy and productive Summer season. They are getting ready for upcoming activities such as Recruitment of new scouts - selling Popcorn - planning for a weekend at the Indian Agency House among other things.

This is an active time of the year for the Scouts and their leaders. Be sure to keep them in your prayers as they travel, camp, learn and "have fun!". Keep up the great work, Scouts!

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*Here's something for which to keep your eye out!*

Have you heard the news?! The Thrift Closet is open for business!

What is the Thrift Closet you ask? It is an amour/closet kept in the Scout Storage at the Portage Presbyterian Church which contains a wide assortment of Cub and Troop uniforms, but that's not all!

Theres green scout pants, class B shirts, scout books, leader guides, neckerchiefs, slides, and other goodies waiting to be put back into service!



How much does it cost and how does it work? We'll I'm glad you asked. There is no cost, it's absolutely free! Scouts need to have an adult with them when checking out the items in the closet. Be sure to leave the closet neat and organized.

The Thrift Closet is always looking for donations as well. If you have scout uniforms or other scout gear that is no longer being used, we would love to add them to the closet.

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"Meal @ The Fair" Update

On July 27, we again hosted the "Meal @ the Fair." This year we served the meal in front of the Grandstand. As you may remember, it was an "extremely HOT" afternoon / evening and we appreciate all who came out.

We served pulled pork, beef and chicken sandwiches - along with cole slaw, potato salad, chips, cookies and beverage.

We appreciate all who helped that day by making cookies, bagging cookies, prayed for our success, help set or tear down, served food or who came and joined us for the meal.

We could not have done all of this without everyone's help.



How John Knox Presbytery Uses Your Per Capita Contributions

We are not often aware of the value of per capita. It's just money that we pay out from our congregations—and, to be honest, in those lean years, it's often money we wish we could keep. But you're making a difference when you contribute your per capita. That's how we described per capita in last issue's introductory article.

Often, the image of per capita—the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) commitment “for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies [mid councils] to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission”—is equated with another kind of financial payment: taxes. Per capita, I've been told, is simply “a church tax.”

And at one level, perhaps, it is. Per capita, like taxes, distributes to all of us the common costs of the infrastructure that supports the life and work of the church. It keeps a staff in place, and lights on at an office, and provides the occasional sandwich for committee members working a full day. In that use, your per capita is not really different from yet another financial commitment: the offering you give to your congregation. We don't give offerings at church for electric bills—even if some of it is inevitably used that way; we give it for mission and ministry.

That's no different for per capita, except in this way—the mission and ministry you are supporting may not be yours at all, but that of a sibling congregation. There was that day a small church a hundred miles away suffered a catastrophic fire—and your per capita dollars ensured someone would be there before the firefighters even rolled up their hoses. The church in conflict—could they, on their own, even find someone to work with them, let alone afford that person? Could you, if this were your church? Who is thinking about the system that will help you find your next pastor, or even pulpit supply? Where did the infrastructure come from that allowed JKP to eradicate \$2 million in medical debt last year (and we're doing it again this year)?

And those 50 other behind-the-scenes initiatives that you may never learn about (possibly because some are confidential) but are making a difference. Per capita ensures that we, together, have a structure in place means we can support our congregations and leaders in important ways. This year, the Presbytery's share of your per capita dollars is \$19.80 per member; that adds up to about \$138,000. Additionally, many of your congregations will provide nearly \$100,000 in additional mission dollars. That means there's an executive presbyter, and a stated clerk, an office manager and regional coordinators and a COM coordinator, all using their time and energy to support congregations and equip leaders. There are sermons and liturgies online that you can use, scholarships for continuing education, a Presbytery-wide confirmation program, and a Zoom account getting used a lot to imagine new ways of congregational support.

All that makes all the difference. So what do we get for our per capita, I'm often asked. You get what you need—what you need to be the church of Jesus Christ, to do ministry and support others in their ministries, in ways you can't always do on your own. Some months, you might not need anything at all. But some months, when you—or another Presbyterian congregation who has pledged to pray and care for you, just as you have for them—most need someone to come alongside, your Presbytery will be there. There are challenges, to be sure, to this form of funding. Presbytery knows full well that church budgets are tight, that every dollar counts.

The per capita that goes to John Knox Presbytery (this year, \$19.80 of the total \$35.15 per member) has gone up less than 2 percent per year over the past fifteen years. Those small increases, coupled with declining membership and inflation, means the actual buying power of that per capita has decreased by 40 percent over 15 years. Like so many of our congregations, your Presbytery is doing all it can with far fewer resources. But even that reality doesn't change this basic truth: that your per capita (and mission giving) dollars have built and maintained a foundation on which, together, the 55 congregations of John Knox Presbytery are doing ministry.

With each other. For each other. In ways we simply couldn't do alone. Thank you for your continued participation in the life of the church and for the ministry you enable, both seen and unseen.

Mark Your Calendars ...



Sunday, September 24 - "In The Parking Lot" - 10:05 a.m.
(weather permitting)

Important "Information and Activities" Around Portage

"Sharing Supper" Information!

On Monday, September 25 - 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.

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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

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!



[To Contact The Portage Presbyterian Church](#)

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Pastor Dave email: pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com

Website: www.portagepresbyterian.com

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



## 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)  
John Crammond (2023)  
Tara Bandekow (2023)

Alex Harvey (2024)  
Rhys Brenner (2024)  
Lee Roundy (2024)

Larry Day (2025)  
Jarrett Foster (2025)  
Nancy Schaper (2025)

### Deacons

Moderator of Deacons - Laura Brenner

Secretary - Judy Taylor

Treasurer - Joyce Meredith

Judy Taylor (2023)  
Laura Brenner (2023)  
Glenda Day (2023)

Tammy Foster (2024)  
Lynne Warren (2024)

Peggy Alf-Sechtig (2025)  
Joyce Meredith (2025)  
Liz Bellmore (2025)