



The Portage Presbyterian Church

January, 2026

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



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

Welcoming (*and Introducing*) PPC's New Office Administrator - Lorri

Lorri Arnce began her ministry here with PPC on November 10. Here is a "brief bio" that she shares with us.

I'm a lifelong resident of the area and proud graduate of Portage High School. After attending Madison College in Portage, I continued my education in Madison, earning both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Business Administration with a focus in Finance. I later completed my teaching licensure requirements through Marquette University in Milwaukee.

I currently live in the home my parents built just outside of Portage on my grandfather's farm. I have two adult sons—one who owns the Marten Building lot on West Wisconsin and Silver Lake Drive, and another who works as a realtor in the Marshfield area. I'm also a proud grandmother to a lively seven-year-old granddaughter.

Before retiring, I taught High School Business Education, where I instructed courses in Microsoft Applications, Accounting, Personal Finance, Entrepreneurship, Business Law, Marketing, and Computer Science. Prior to my teaching career, I spent over 20 years in the Madison area working in Information Technology, specializing in software testing and training others in quality assurance practices.

In my free time, I enjoy traveling, camping, playing cribbage and board games, remodeling my home and property, exploring National Parks, and discovering new restaurants.

I'm excited for the opportunity to serve in the church office and look forward to contributing my skills and experience to support and strengthen the church community.

Welcome, Lorri Arnce to the Portage Presbyterian Church Community!

Lorri will be in the Church Office on Mondays (8:00-1:00) and Wednesdays (9:00-1:00)

And "Thank You" To Those Who Have Served PPC

The Portage Presbyterian Church has been blessed to have faithful servants who have served this church community over our 175 plus years.

These are folks who do not see this as a "job," but as a "ministry" in which they share. And so, we are appreciative for our two most recent staff people who have shared in the ministry of this church community - and have truly made a difference for us.

Mary Gunderson - served as PPC's "Financial Secretary" for over years.

Kathy Hankins - served as the "Office Secretary" for over years.

We have been blessed by their service and participation in this church community.

Well done, good and faithful servants!

May God continue to bless you as you enjoy your "retirements."

Peace!

Annual Meeting - January 25 - in Fellowship Hall

We will be sharing our "Annual Congregational Meeting" on Sunday, January 26. our "meeting and worship" will take place in the Fellowship Hall for this Sunday!

And we will have "refreshments" available!

The Annual Meeting is a time to reflect on the previous year and an opportunity to "look ahead" at the new year.

Reports from the various committees and organizations of the church will be shared - as well as a discussion about the 2026 Budget.

We will also be seeking "congregational members" to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Any reports to be included in the 2026 Annual Meeting Packet - will need to be turned into the Church Office no later than Monday, January 12.

"Wish List" Information and Updates

THANK YOU!

Yes, "thank you" for all who have contributed to PPC's "Wish List" in 2025!

We have received over \$ in "items" and donations of time.

Your response and your willingness to provide "extra donations" are incredible!

We have included with the "Newsletter" an "Updated" Wish List. The "Wish List" offers a series of items which are needed and which, when provided, help to offset expenditures for the church's operating budget.

For those who may be interested - we have also set up an "Amazon Wish List" - for those who can choose to go "online" to order and have it delivered to the church. Here is the "link" -

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1EGGLKINXSV7I?ref_=wl_share

Looking For "Ministry Volunteers"

We are seeking "volunteers" who would like to participate in important ministry opportunities as we move into the new year.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- ✓ Updating the Church Sign
- ✓ Operating the "Screens" for worship
- ✓ Operating the "livestream" video for worship

While these may sound a bit "intimidating" - those who volunteer will be provided a "training time" in preparation.

We are hoping to have enough people that we can "set up a rotation" of folks!

If you have questions - or are interested - please contact Pastor Dave soon!

"AED" Training - January 15

For those who may be interested, PPC's Deacons are providing a "training opportunity" for our new "AED's" on Thursday, January 15 - beginning @ 10:00 a.m.

This "training opportunity" will be available to "anyone" who is interested - so go ahead and invite friends, family members, neighbors to come and be a part of this time.

Whether you want to "just observe" or whether you want a more "hands on" experience - this "training opportunity" is for you!

Thank you to the Deacons for making this "training opportunity" possible!

Ordination and Installation - January 4

We begin a new year in 2026 with the Ordination and Installation of our Ruling Elders and Deacons - during worship on Sunday, January 4

Our Ruling Elders to be "ordained" are **Whitney Mell, Nicky Cross and Cindy Moyer.**

Our Deacons to be "installed" are **Liz Bellmore, Sue Goodman and Laura Brenner.**

We are grateful for those who have faithfully served: Ruling Elders **Nancy Schaper and Jarrett Foster** - and Deacons **Peggy Alf and Joyce Meredith.**

A Big THANK YOU - "Readers" during Advent

A note of appreciation for those who served as "readers" during our recent Advent Season. "Thank you" for participating in the worship and ministry of PPC during this special time of the year. You helped to provide a "place" and a "space" of worship for all!

"Thank you"

**Harlan Buchanan - Debby Capener - Elaine Crammond - John Crammond -
Peggy Alf - Fred Taylor - Liz Bellmore - Nicky Cross - Kathy Hankins**

A "Thank You" for the "Barn Service!"

Thank you to the Heinze Family for once again hosting the annual "**Christmas Worship in a Barn**" worship experience. And, of course, a note of gratitude to the kittens and the cows who allowed us to invade their "space." Also the hot cider and cookies were appreciated by all in attendance.

The Heinze family has hosted this worship service for many years - and we do appreciate their willingness to provide a "place" for this unique and inspirational service.

We also are grateful for Fred and Judy Taylor, who once again portrayed Joseph and Mary as a part of this service. And for Fred and Nicky Cross who were readers.

"Special Music" - Thank You!



A special "Thank You" to all who provided "special music" during Advent and Christmas.

Your participation helped to provide joyous and inspirational worship experiences for all who shared with us.

"Thank You"

Nancy Beasley - Harlan Buchanan - David Yerke

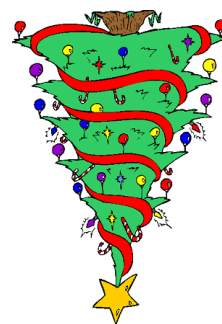
Scout Weishaar - Sarah Hankins

"UN - Decorating" The Church - January 10

We will be "UN-decorating the Church" - on **Saturday, January 10** - beginning @ **9:00 a.m.**

All ages and skill levels are encouraged to come to help get everything packed away.

Hope to see you there!



Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, January 4 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Christmas - "Epiphany Sunday"

Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

We will share the "Lord's Supper" during the service.

Sunday, January 11 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

The "Baptism of the Lord" Sunday

Matthew 3: 13-17

Sunday, January 18 - "Informal" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 25 - "Annual Meeting" Worship / Meeting - 10:05 a.m

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Meeting in the Fellowship Hall (for this Sunday)

PPC's Sunday Worship - also on "YouTube"

Here's "another option" for "online" worship experiences!

You can go to the PPC "YouTube" Channel!

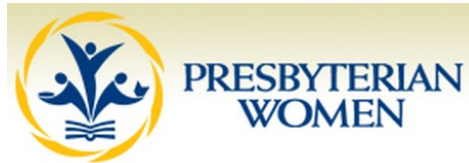
Here's the "web" information -

<https://www.youtube.com/@portagepresbyterianchurch2652>

The videos on "YouTube" are not live streamed -
they are added to the PPC YouTube Channel during the following week.

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IF you would like to receive the "weekly worship materials" -
the Sunday Worship Bulletin & Children's Bulletin -
by email- please contact Pastor Dave.



Thanks to all who supported the Women's Associations "Holiday House" on December 6th. We appreciate all that you do to help us contribute to our various organizations in our community.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, February 7th 9:00 a.m.

And Don't Forget - 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 Donna Mohr. If you've never tried it, give it a try. You won't be disappointed!

From the "Deacons"

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.

The next meeting of the Deacons will be on Sunday, January 18 - *following worship!*



Upcoming dates for "Stocking Shelves @ the Food Pantry" will be Wednesday, January 21 and by the Bellmore Family on Wednesday, January 28.

We usually begin @ 4:00 p.m. 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..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.

Julie McKibben and Jen Martens serve as the advisors for the New Directions Club.



The Scouts have some fun and exciting things planned!

Plans are being made for "upcoming events and activities" such as

- "Winter Adventures"
- Pinewood Derby
- "Crossover" for Webelos

- ✓ The Scout Troop 70 has "officially" been chartered as a "Family Troop."
 - ✓ In 2025 both Troop 70 and Troop 7070 participated in a "pilot program" of combining Boy and Girls Troops into "one combined troop."
 - ✓ This proved to be a great experience for both the young people and the leaders.
 - ✓ The National Scout Office, based on the "nationwide pilot program" added the "Family Troop" concept as one of the approved charters.
 - ✓ The Session approved the request of the Troop -
- and Troop 70 has become one of the first "Family Troops" in the nation.
Congratulations Troop 70!

As you can see - the Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop are busy - all Year Around!

Be sure to keep the Scouts and their leaders in your prayers!



Important "Information and Activities" Around Portage



"Kwik Trip" Car Wash Cards are still available!

For \$36.00 / card, you will receive 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.



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

YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@portagepresbyterianchurch2652

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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!*

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PPC's Church Officers - 2026

Serving God and God's People

With "Energy, Intelligence, Imagination and Love"

Ruling Elders / Session

Moderator - Pastor Dave Hankins

Clerk of Session - Alex Harvey

Tara Bandekow (2026)

John Crammond (2027)

Whitney Mell (2028)

Nancy Beasley (2026)

Jean Oren (2027)

Nicky Cross (2028)

Kathy Raimer (2026)

Cindy Moyer (2028)

Deacons

Moderator of Deacons -

Secretary - Liz Bellmore

Treasurer - Vickie Kastner

Vickie Kastner (2026)

Alex Harvey (2027)

Sue Goodman (2028)

Joyce Oehlhof (2026)

Debby Capener (2027)

Laura Brenner (2028)

Liz Bellmore (2028)