



The Portage Presbyterian Church

October, 2025

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



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

Election of New Church Officers

A "Congregational Meeting" was held on **Sunday, September 28** for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons and to receive the report of the Nominating Committee.

Those elected by the congregation:

ELDERS

Nicky Cross - first 3 year term
Whitney Mell - first 3 year term
Cindy Moyer - first 3 year term

DEACONS

Liz Bellmore - second 3 year term
Laura Brenner - first 3 year term
Sue Goodman - first 3 year term

The congregation also approved the following to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee as representatives from the Congregation

Donna Mohr - Nancy Schaper - Rhys Brenner

We will nominate a "fourth" congregational member at our Annual Meeting in January.

"Volunteers" for Nov 9 "Christmas Welsh Hymn Sing" @ PPC

On **Sunday, November 9** - PPC will host the "Christmas Welsh Hymn Sing" (Cymanfa Ganu) - which **begins @ 2:30 p.m.**

At the conclusion of the Hymn Sing - *there will be a "Te Bach"* (fellowship time) in the Fellowship Hall.

We are looking for a few volunteers to:

- *provide a few donations of "Christmas Cookies" or "treats" to be shared*
- *"ushers" / "greeters"*
- *servers for the fellowship time*

If you would like to volunteer for this special event, please contact Pastor Dave.

Yes, We Celebrated Our "175th Anniversary!"

WOW - WHAT A GREAT DAY!

A wonderful day – out in God's creation – sharing in worship and fellowship
celebrating God's goodness and blessings – engaging in conversation
and "NO BEES!"

THANK YOU to everyone who played a part in this special day!

Rev Devon Reynolds – John Knox Presbytery's Executive Presbyter
(who provided a most inspirational message)

Mary Heinze – special music

Fred and Judy Taylor – special music

The Events Committee – organizing the potluck picnic

The Bellmore Family – for the awesome "grill work"

The Deacons – for the set up of the Lord's Supper

Tara – Meghan – Sarah for organizing "children's activities"

For our "special guests and friends" who shared the day with us!

For those who provided "financial gifts" for this day!

For everyone who shared this day – in the park and via video!

But, we're not quite done "celebrating" yet!



And Yes, We Continue to Celebrate Our "175th

How do we "top" the Anniversary celebration in September?

By "**CONTINUING THE CELEBRATION!**"

Among the ways we will be celebrating -

Judy Taylor is working on an Anniversary "Quilt" / Communion Table runner -

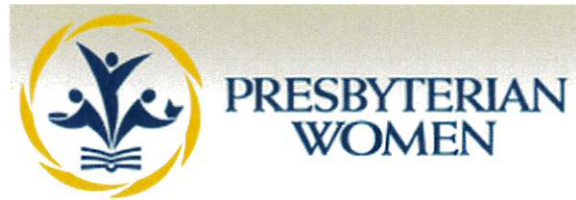
If interested in helping with this, please contact Judy for more information!

Anniversary "**Trivia**" in each month's newsletter!

Celebrating the awesome mission and ministry of the Portage Presbyterian Church!

AND "MORE" TO COME!

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October 12th is **Pastor Appreciation Sunday**. The Women's Association will host a coffee hour after worship to "thank" Pastor Dave and Pastor Carol for all they do for our congregation.

We will again have our famous Chicken Soup Mix available to purchase for \$5.

We will do a Scrip order, which will be due to Elaine by November 9th.

Our next meeting will be held at 1873 Grille on Saturday, October 4th @ 9:00 a.m. *Hope to see you there!*

PPC "Financial Work Group" Updates

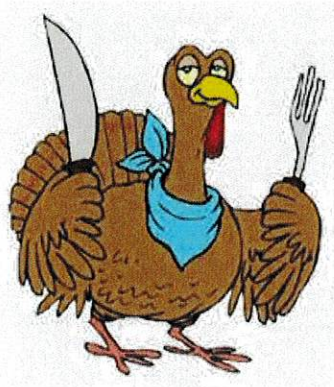
Included with the "Newsletter" you will find an "Updated" Wish List. The "Wish List" offers a series of items which are needed and which, when provided, help to offset expenditures for the church's operating budget.

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

Members of the "**FWG**" who have volunteered to participate are **John Crammond**, **Debby Capener**, **Nancy Schaper**, **Kathy Raimer**, **Julie McKibben**, **Mary Schneider**, **Fred Taylor**, **Judy Taylor** and **Donna Mohr**. Pastor Dave has been participating "ex-officio" as a resource person.

"Notes" from the Events Committee!



Plans are underway for the **HARVEST DINNER**, which is November 8th - 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

The dinner will be buffet style in our church dining room.

Carry outs will also be available.

Lori and Karen are working on getting donations from businesses that will be put in baskets for a silent auction.

Committees are also putting together baskets.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with this special event.

Sign up sheets will soon be on the kiosk in Parry Hall.

From the Personnel Committee!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Portage Presbyterian Church is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper (*20 hours/week*) to support both the day-to-day operations of the church office and the financial record-keeping of the congregation. This role is ideal for someone who enjoys working with people and behind-the-scenes organization.

The responsibilities include: greeting visitors and answering phones with warmth and professionalism; providing clerical support for the pastor, committees and church communications; managing financial records using QuickBooks; assisting with the annual reports; maintaining office files; ordering supplies; and, facility scheduling.

Qualifications include proficiency using QuickBooks and basic accounting practices; proficiency using Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint; strong organizational and communication skills; friendly, professional presence with a commitment to confidentiality and flexibility; reliability and the ability to manage multiple responsibilities.

This is a part-time position with compensation based on experience. We offer flexible scheduling and are open to contract work.

To apply, please send your resume and a brief note of interest to preschurchjob@gmail.com.

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, Oct 5 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

The 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Luke 17:5-10

Sunday, Oct 12 - "Traditional" Worship Service -

10:05 a.m.

The 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, Oct 19 - "Informal" Worship Service -

10:05 a.m.

The 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, Oct 26 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

The 20th Sunday After Pentecost

Luke 18:9-14

Sunday, Nov 2 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

The 21st Sunday After Pentecost

"All Saints Sunday"

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Online Options - for PPC's Sunday Worship

HERE IS ANOTHER "OPTION" FOR "ONLINE" WORSHIP EXPERIENCES!

You can go to the PPC "YouTube" Channel!

<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.

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



"Deacon Doings"

As we celebrate our 175th anniversary, the Deacons have an idea to help us *keep that family feeling alive*.

The communion table invites all to participate. The Deacons would like to expand on that idea by **inviting congregational members** to bring **a dish with special meaning** to the communion table.

If you have a pitcher, cup/mug, and plate/platter that you are willing to share during the communion service, please bring that item to church by 9:45 so the Deacons have time to prepare it.

The Deacons will clean it at the conclusion of the service so you may take it home that same day.

You may share 1 item or all 3.

Those sharing will be recognized in the Sunday bulletin. The Hankins family has generously volunteered to bring all 3 items for October 5 service.

If you would like to volunteer an item for November or December, please call the office or sign up on the sheet in the back of Perry Hall

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As always - all "loose offerings" (*coins and cash*) - on "Communion Sundays" - will be given to the Deacons to help purchase communion supplies and the Upper Room devotionals. Again, that "loose change" is always welcome! Thank you for your generosity.



Upcoming dates for "Stocking Shelves @ the Food Pantry" will be **Wednesday, Oct 15** and by the Bellmore Family on **Wednesday, Oct 22**.

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!*

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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.

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



SCOUT ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

- The Cub Scout Pack had their "new recruitment" event - and have a number of new "Cubs" in the pack.
- The Troop has been involved in different events and activities this Fall.
- Both Scout units participated in the "dedication ceremony" at the Riverside Park.
 - The Scouts have a busy Fall season.
- Be sure to keep the Scouts and their leaders in our prayers that they have an exciting and safe Fall season!



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 ....



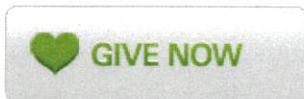
Mail it to the Church Office

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!*





## PPC's Church Officers - 2025

### **SERVING GOD AND GOD'S PEOPLE** **WITH "ENERGY, INTELLIGENCE, IMAGINATION AND LOVE"**

#### **RULING ELDERS / SESSION**

Moderator - Pastor Dave Hankins ~ Clerk of Session - Alex Harvey

Jarrett Foster (2025)

Tara Bandekow (2026)

John Crammond (2027)

Nancy Schaper (2025)

Nancy Beasley (2026)

Jean Oren (2027)

Kathy Raimer (2026)

#### **DEACONS**

Moderator of Deacons - Peggy Alf-Sechtig

Secretary - Liz Bellmore

Treasurer - Vickie Kastner

Peggy Alf (2025)

Vickie Kastner (2026)

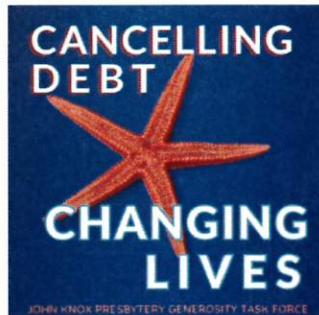
Alex Harvey (2027)

Joyce Meredith (2025)

Joyce Oehlhof (2026)

Debby Capener (2027)

Liz Bellmore (2025)



#### **A MINISTRY OF HOPE**

Whether as individuals or as a community of faith, we are called to serve those in need...not only to notice their need but also to do something about it. Our congregation is going to have the opportunity to help those who are suffering under the weight of medical debt through donations to the Starfish Campaign.

Medical debt is all too easy to accumulate. All it takes is getting sick or being involved in an accident or receiving a cancer diagnosis. The burden of medical debt turns people's lives upside down. Home foreclosures and bankruptcies are common. A tarnished credit rating makes it next to impossible to take out a loan or rent an apartment.

In too many cases, trying to pay a medical bill can deplete a person's savings. Some have even become homeless. Even worse, a lot of people carrying medical debt do not pursue the care they need or buy medications that will keep them healthy.

October 19 is the culmination of this year's Starfish Campaign. Every dollar received will be sent to an organization called Undue Medical Debt. They are able to buy large bundles of medical debt for pennies on the dollar. They then use the money we donate to eliminate as much medical debt as possible. Every dollar they receive will be able to wipe out at least \$100 of medical debt for someone. Talk about bang for your buck!

Donating to this ministry is easy. You may contribute through your regular Sunday offering by placing your gift in the plate during worship. Please make your check out to our church and mark it "The Starfish Campaign". Together, we can impact a lot of families! With their debts cancelled and their credit rating improved, it's absolutely good news to the families we're helping. Truly God accepts what we offer and makes it amazing!



If you would prefer to donate online, the above QR code will take you directly to a secure portal on the Presbytery's website.

"Trivia" about the Portage Presbyterian Church

Each month we will include a few "questions"  
about the Portage Presbyterian Church

In how many "buildings" has the congregation worshipped?

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What year was the city of Portage incorporated?

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In what year was the Presbyterian Church in Portage formed?

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What year did PPC go on their first "mission trip?"

("Answers" will be provided in the November Newsletter)

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Backpacks Filled with Help and Hope

Handwritten on bright orange construction paper, the first grader’s simple message was surrounded by smiling stick figures, hearts and flowers.

“I am thankful for my food,” she wrote to the friends she has never met at [Chester \(Virginia\) Presbyterian Church](#).

For the past 12 years, Chester Presbyterian Church, in the [Presbytery of the James](#), has partnered with Marguerite Christian Elementary School to provide backpacks of food for children to take home over the weekend — as well as a drive-through café that meets the needs of 90 to 105 residents weekly.



Jane Ward, a retired high school marketing teacher who coordinates the congregation's "Backpack Buddies" program, said, "Even though you wouldn't think there's poverty here because we're pretty middle class, you'll find a lot of low-income residents. And because many in our community make minimum wage working in restaurants or food service, their families need the food to get them through the weekend."

She continued, "When the school asked us this year if we could increase the number of backpacks we provide, I knew we couldn't manage it, but thankfully another church stepped up. If it wasn't for us, there would be some little kids hungry on the weekends. I wish I could feed them all."

Confronting hopelessness through acts of compassion is just what the Peace & Global Witness Offering has sought to achieve for more than 40 years. The annual Offering enables congregations like the Chester Church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in their community and across the world.

The Chester Church's Backpack Buddies program exemplifies the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s longstanding commitment to peacemaking. Feeding the hungry who are living in systems of poverty helps to pursue what makes for peace in the lives of our neighbors.

"When children don't eat, they can't learn," said Jane. "Through programs like 'Backpack Buddies' and the Peace & Global Witness Offering, churches can continue to address food poverty in their communities. In our congregation and across the PC(USA), many hands make light work."

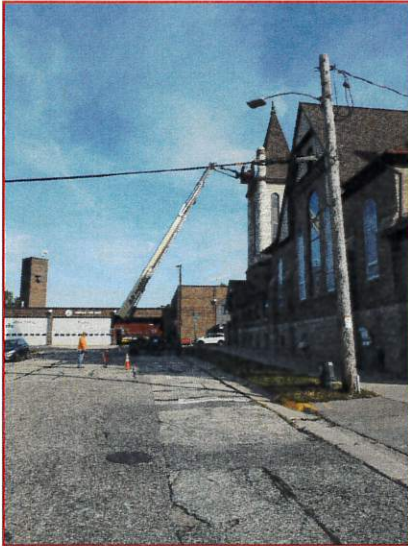
Peace & Global Witness, which is highlighted during A Season of Peace, Sept. 7–Oct. 5, is traditionally received on World Communion Sunday. The Offering is unique in that half of the gifts received are directed to efforts at the national church level for peacemaking and global witness work around the world, while 25% is retained by congregations for local peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to presbyteries for similar ministries at the regional level.

You may use our "Offering Envelopes" and mark "Peacemaking" to contribute to the "Peace and Global Witness" Offering.

*We are the Church, together. And when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!*

HERE ARE A "FEW" OTHER THINGS  
THAT HAVE BEEN HAPPENING AROUND PPC ...

What do "these photos" have in common?



"Repairs"



"Ringing"

They are all associated with ...

**"THE BELL TOWER"**

# Portage Presbyterian Church Wishlist

| Qty | Item                          | Price | Total |
|-----|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
|     | Internet - Monthly            | \$100 |       |
|     | Post Office Box - Yearly      | \$78  |       |
|     | Phone Service - Monthly       | \$80  |       |
|     | Custodial Services - Monthly  | \$265 |       |
|     | Copier Lease - Monthly        | \$200 |       |
|     | Children's Bulletins - Yearly | \$120 |       |
|     | Church Website - Yearly       | \$240 |       |
|     | Chamber Membership - Yearly   | \$155 |       |
|     | Other                         |       |       |

Total Gift Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

## Always Needed Items

Stamps - Disposable Cups - Large Garbage Bags

Disposable Plates - Paper Towels -

20lb White Copy Paper 8 1/2 x 11

20lb Any Color Copy Paper 8 1/2 x 11



# October

2025

| <u>SUNDAY</u>                                                                                                                                    | <u>MONDAY</u>                                                     | <u>TUESDAY</u> | <u>WEDNESDAY</u>                                        | <u>THURSDAY</u>                                           | <u>FRIDAY</u>                    | <u>SATURDAY</u>                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BTR</b> – Bell Tower Room<br><b>FH</b> – Fellowship Hall<br><b>PH</b> – Parry Hall<br><b>SA</b> – Sanctuary<br><b>WC</b> – Westminster Center | Sunday Scout Schedule<br>5:00pm Cub Scouts<br>6:30pm Scout Troops |                | <b>1</b>                                                | <b>2</b>                                                  | <b>3</b>                         | <b>4</b><br><br>9:00am Women's Meeting at 1873 Grille            |
| <b>5</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:05am Traditional Service<br>Lord's Supper                                                 | <b>6</b><br><br>4:00pm ACA, WC                                    | <b>7</b>       | <b>8</b>                                                | <b>9</b><br><br>4:30pm Session Meeting, WC                | <b>10</b>                        | <b>11</b><br><br>10:00am – 1:00pm Region 5 Session Gathering, FH |
| <b>12</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:05am Traditional Worship                                                                 | <b>13</b>                                                         | <b>14</b>      | <b>15</b><br><br>4:30pm Stocking Shelves at Food Pantry | <b>16</b>                                                 | <b>17</b>                        | <b>18</b>                                                        |
| <b>19</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:05am Informal Worship, SA<br>Deacons after Worship 4:00pm New Directions 4-H Meeting     | <b>20</b><br><br>6:00pm Financial Work Group, WC                  | <b>21</b>      | <b>22</b>                                               | <b>23</b><br><br>5:30pm New Elders Deacons Orientation WC | <b>24</b>                        | <b>25</b><br><br>9:30 am Session Minute Review, FH               |
| <b>26</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:05am Informal Worship, SA                                                                | <b>27</b>                                                         | <b>28</b>      | <b>29</b>                                               | <b>30</b>                                                 | <b>31</b><br><br>Happy Halloween |                                                                  |