



The Portage Presbyterian Church

September, 2025

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



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

Worship Schedule @ PPC

We are "back" to our Fall-Winter Worship Schedule - @ 10:05 a.m.

The "175th Anniversary" Is Almost Here!

here's what Will Be Happening!

- = We will share our "anniversary worship" service - @ 10:05 A.M.
- = We will gather for both worship and a "potluck picnic" @ Sunset Park
- = there will be "organized activities" for kids!
- = Mark Bellmore is going to grill brats and hotdogs for the anniversary.
- = Dinnerware (plates, napkins, silverware) and beverages will be provided.
- = Rev. Devon Reynolds - the Executive Presbyter of John Knox Presbytery will be "bringing the word" (preaching)
- = we will be "Celebrating the Lord's Supper" as a part of the service
- = everyone is encouraged to bring "your own most comfortable chair"
- = honoring and celebrating the mission and ministry of God in and thru PPC - for 175 years!
- = everyone will be invited to share "memories" over 175 years
- = and more!!!



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Thanks to all who donated pies or helped at the VFW on August 13th. We made **\$589!**

The John Knox Presbyterian Women Fall Workshop will be held on Saturday, September 20th at 9:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Florence Street in Cambria. The theme for the workshop is **For the Love of Orphans**. The speaker will be Megan Elmore, founder and director of "For the Love of Orphans", supporting the Mansa Fountain of Blessings Orphan Care Center in Mansa, Zambia, Africa. *Cash donations will be accepted or other needed items are decorative pencils, lightweight socks, boxer shorts for boys and underwear for girls (kids sizes M-XL and adult size S).* Lunch is \$8. Please let Donna know by September 10th if you are interested in attending.

Our next meeting will be held at Dino's Restaurant on Saturday, September 6th @ 9:00 a.m. *Hope to see you there!*

PPC "Financial Work Group" Update

PPC's "Financial Work Group" has been meeting each month since their initial meeting in May.

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

The "tasks" of the FWG were primarily focused on both more "immediate" financial issues and "long term" financial considerations.

FWG has been considering both ways to "increase revenue" and to "decrease expenses."

"Increasing Revenue" has included discussions about "per capita" and a review of the "active" membership list, exploring options with existing endowment funds, expanding PPC's social media presence, re-establishing the "wish list" and establishing a "list" of volunteer activities.

"Decreasing Expenses" has included a discussions about establishing an "estate giving" emphasis and taking a look at church staff expenses.

The FWG would like to offer a "BIG THANK YOU" to all who have provided financial gifts in the past few months. Since an initial letter was sent in May about the church's financial status, we have been blessed with "tremendous" financial support.

FWG looks forward to sharing more information about discussions and possible directions in the near future.

Once again, THANK YOU to the PPC community for your faith and participation!

"Notes" from the Events Committee!

Thanks to all who supported our brat sale on August 2nd. Our profit was \$317.65. So between the 2 brat sales we had this summer a total of \$595.45 will be given to the church.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 8th, for our Harvest Dinner. We will be looking for workers and pie makers. We will be having a silent auction on donated baskets as well. More information will be forthcoming.

We will no longer be selling "Terri Lynn Nuts and Candy" as they are no longer in business.

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, Sept 7 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

The 13th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, Sept 14 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

The 14th Sunday After Pentecost - Celebration of the Lord's Supper - *Celebrating PPC's 175th Anniversary*
@ Sunset Park in Portage
"Potluck Picnic" to follow!

Sunday, Sept 21 - "Informal" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

The 15th Sunday After Pentecost
Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, Sept 28 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

The 16th Sunday After Pentecost
Luke 16:19-31

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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 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, Sept 17** and by the Bellmore Family on **Wednesday, Sept 24**.

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 Scouts have been enjoying many "outdoor" activities and events this Summer.

And now are preparing for their "Fall Schedules" and events!

Keep the Scouts and their leaders in our prayers as they head into the 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.

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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

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)

## From the Portage Food Pantry

Some facts with you:

- According to Second Harvest, high prices are forcing more families to seek out resources. Nearly 1 in 9 of your neighbors now struggles to afford nutritious food. To keep up, our pantry is purchasing more food than ever. This year, changes to federal funding mean we're relying even more on donations to meet the need. Our donations have decreased. If you know of anyone who would like or is able to donate please have them contact us at: [portagefoodpantry1@gmail.com](mailto:portagefoodpantry1@gmail.com)

- We served 831 adults and children = 354 households for the month of July



