



The Portage Presbyterian



A Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

April 2018

YOU CAN "SIGN UP" FOR "SIGNS"

As the "construction season" has unfolded around PPC, it has become apparent that the church building is much more visible than it has been before. Have you noticed that you can see PPC from downtown now?

Would YOU be interested in being a part of a "short-term" group that would be asked to evaluate our "outdoor signage" and make a recommendation to the Session?

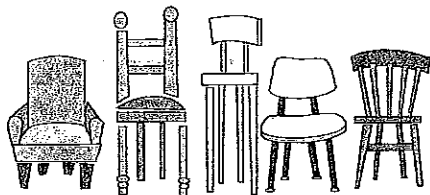
If so, please contact the Church Office to let us know you are interested.

When we have a list of people interested, the group will then begin their work.

Note: *this is a "short-term" participation possibility. This "sign group" will only be asked to evaluate and recommend.*

If you have questions, please contact the Church Office.

Thanks!



There's a Place for You!

EVER WANTED TO PLAY "UKULELE?"

If you have ever wanted to learn to play the ukulele or have wanted to play together in a group - well, here's your chance.

Elizabeth Martens plays the "ukulele" and is willing to teach anyone who is interested.

So, if you are interested in being a part of a "ukulele group" contact the Church Office or put your name on the list on the kiosk.

Once we see if we have interest, an initial meeting time will be set and we'll be off.

"EASTER SUNDAY" @ PPC

We will celebrate the glorious resurrection of Jesus with two different worship experiences on Easter Sunday morning.

Our early "Sonrise" service will be held in the sanctuary this year beginning @ 7:00 a.m. This is a more informal service.

Then we will have our Easter Morning Worship Celebration @ 10:05 a.m.

Between the two worship services there will be an "Easter Breakfast" served as a *fund-raiser for this summer's mission trip.* A free-will donation will be accepted for the breakfast.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS - IN APRIL

The Adult Bible Class will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in April - April 8 and April 22.

We will also be meeting on Sunday May 6th and Sunday May 20th and then be finished for the summer.

The discussions continue to be lively, informative and inspirational.

Come and experience the Adult Bible Study class. All are welcome!



UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sunday, April 1, 2018

Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service in Sanctuary

8:00 a.m. - Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

10:05 a.m. - Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 4

6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite @ PPC" Worship

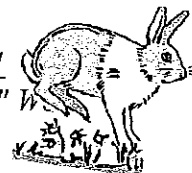
Sunday, April 8, 2018

The Second Sunday of Easter

10:05 a.m. - Traditional Worship

Wednesday, April 11

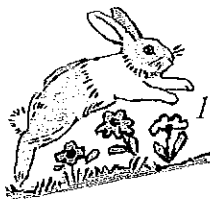
6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite @ PPC" Worship



Sunday, April 15, 2018

The Third Sunday of Easter

10:05 a.m. - "Informal" Worship



Wednesday, April 18

6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite @ PPC" Worship

Sunday, April 22, 2018

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:05 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service

Wednesday, April 25

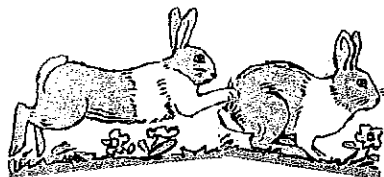
6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite @ PPC" Worship

Sunday, April 29, 2018

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:05 a.m. - Special Worship Service

"It's Happening!"



Folding Team

Here's our folding team:

Darlene Krause, Jill Porzel,
Caroline Rittmann, Judy Taylor
and Donna Wolff - thank you
all for a job well done!!!

THE PORTAGE PRESBYTERIAN

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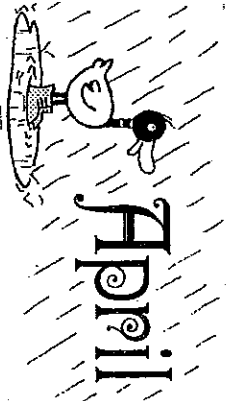
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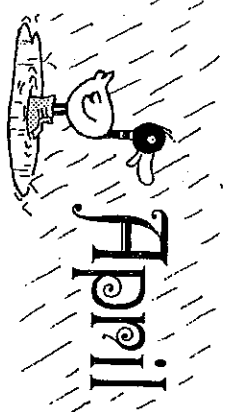
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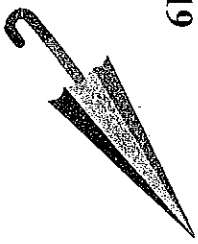
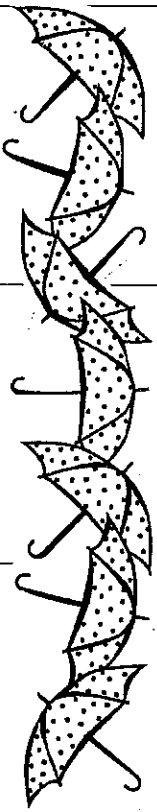
Pastor - The Rev. David J. Hankins



April 2018



SUNDAY **MONDAY** **TUESDAY** **WEDNESDAY** **THURSDAY** **FRIDAY** **SATURDAY**

<p>1 Easter Sunday 7:00am Easter Sunrise Service, Sanctuary 8:00 - 9:30am Easter Breakfast, Fellowship Hall 10:05am Easter Celebration, Sanctuary</p>	<p>2  6:00pm Bell Choir, Parry Hall</p>	<p>3 6:00pm VBS at PUMC</p>	<p>4 5:00pm Light Snack 5:30pm Lord's Lambs 6:05pm Worship 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:35pm Confirmation 7:30pm Worship "Jam"</p>	<p>5 8:30am - 4:00 pm Interim Training, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 9:00am Presbyterian Women will meet at church and carpool to Mary House</p>
<p>8 2nd Sunday of Easter 8:45am Bible Study, Bell Tower Room 10:05am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>9 4:30pm ACA, WC 6:00pm Bell Choir, Parry Hall 7:00pm Guitar Lessons, Parry Hall</p>	<p>10 10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, WC</p>	<p>11 5:00pm Light Snack 5:30pm Lord's Lambs 6:05pm Worship 6:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12 8:30am - 4:00 pm Interim Training, Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Session Meeting, WC</p>	<p>13 May Newsletter Articles Due in Office</p>	<p>14 9:00am-4:00pm Columbia County "Fairfest" Group</p>
<p>15 3rd Sunday of Easter 10:05am Informal Worship Deacon's Meeting 4:00pm 4-H Meeting, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>16 10:00am Worship Service at Tivoli 6:00pm Bell Choir, Parry Hall 7:00pm Guitar Lessons Parry Hall</p>	<p>17 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's 5:00pm Memorial Mission Stewardship, WC</p>	<p>18 5:00pm Light Snack 5:30pm Lord's Lambs 6:05pm Worship 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:35pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Worship "Jam"</p>	<p>19 </p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9:00am Kitchen Cleaning</p>
<p>22 4th Sunday of Easter 8:45am Bible Study, Bell tower Room 10:05am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>23 6:00pm Bell Choir, Parry Hall 7:00pm Guitar Lessons Parry Hall</p>	<p>24 5:00pm Discipleship Meeting, WC</p>	<p>25 5:00pm Light Snack 5:30pm Lord's Lambs 6:05pm Worship 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:30pm Worship "Jam"</p>	<p>26 5:00-8:00pm Women's Association Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch</p>	<p>27 6:00pm Light Supper 6:30pm Eucharé - Mission For Yakutat</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 5th Sunday of Easter 10:05am Worship - "It's Happening!"</p>	<p>30 5:00-6:30pm Sharing Supper at Barrels Middle School</p>		<p>3</p>	<p></p>		

VOLUNTEERS - USHERS AND GREETERS

Though we may not always think about it, one of the important ministries of the church is that of the "ushers" and "greeters."

Ushers and greeters are the first people that visitors will encounter as they try to find their way for worship.

We are looking to have a more "organized" program for our ushers and greeters.

So, we are looking for "volunteers" who are willing to help show just how welcoming and fantastic this church community really is.

And we are seeking "volunteers" to sign-up to help collect the offering during worship.

But, in order to make this work we need your help!!!

There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in Parry Hall.

Please indicate your preference to help provide this important ministry here @ PPC.

Thank you!

IT'S HAPPENING APRIL 29TH !!!

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION- "ON THE ROAD"

The Women's Association gives a monetary donation yearly to Mary House by Oxford. "Mary House of Hospitality" offers weekend hospitality to low-income women and families visiting inmates in the Federal Correctional Institution. Mary House was founded as a Catholic Worker house in 1989 in response to the particular needs of families traveling with small children. It is staffed by volunteers who share a commitment to easing the burden on children who must travel in order to maintain ties with an incarcerated parent.

The Women's Association will be holding our April 7th meeting at Mary House. We will be *meeting at church ready to car pool at 9:00* on April 7th.

If you are interested in seeing Mary House, please come and join us on April 7th. If you have any questions, please contact *Rosemary Minnema* or *Donna Mohr*.

WOMENS ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

Join us on Thursday, April 26th from 4:30-8:00 PM. at the Portage Pizza Ranch for a Mission Fundraising Event. 10% of your bill will be donated to the Women's Association. Invite your family and friends!!!

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of *Avonell Kinney*, from
Donna Wolff
Fred & Judy Taylor
Richard & Rosemary Minnema

In Memory of *Betty Brancel*, from
Caroline Rittmann

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of *Karen Reinold*, from
John and Elaine Crammond
Richard and Rosemary Minnema
Edith McElroy
Nancy Schaper

In Memory of *Gerald Garrigan*, from
Robert & Patti Bryan

Easter Message From the Pastor



"March Madness." It is a time for high school and college sports teams in basketball tournament settings which recognizes that most anything can happen.

Those teams that we anticipate can win "it all" sometimes do not. Teams that "have no chance" suddenly begin to gain momentum and win games that they should not. "March Madness" really reflects an unpredictable, chaotic nature of the world in which one sometimes encounters surprises and that there are times when life does not go as one might expect or want.

The disciples of Jesus who make their way through that week in Jerusalem that finds its genesis with Palm Sunday would have undoubtedly grasped the concept of "March Madness."

Nothing went as they had expected or wanted. Beginning with a journey as Jesus rode in on a donkey rather than a war horse and then meandering the rest of the week through the streets of the city and coming to rest at a virtually unmovable stone rolled across the doorway of a burial site, this was not the way it was supposed to be.

These followers of Jesus were sad, hurting, confused - struggling to find some semblance of meaning or purpose in face of all they had seen and heard and experienced.

And they were left to wonder "*what more could happen?*"

Well, God answers that question. "March Madness" was not over. They were about to be confronted with the unpredictable, chaotic nature of life and faith. Something that they did not expect. Something that would fill them with fear. Something that they never, ever would have anticipated!

Right there in the middle of that which they had accepted as "the norm," God propels their

(continued in column 2)

"FOOD - FUN - FELLOWSHIP - FUNDS"

Mark your calendars for **Friday, April 27** when a Euchre party will be held in the church dining room. A free will offering of \$5.00 includes cards and the meal. The meal will be served at 6:00 PM and cards start at 6:30 PM. All proceeds from this Euchre party will be directed to the Yakutat, Alaska Presbyterian Church for their work and ministry in the community, especially with the young people. Bring an item for the food pantry and come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.



(continued from column 1)

world into turmoil. Again, this was not the way that it is supposed to be. Jesus said "it is finished!" Dead is dead, right?

"What else could happen?"

Resurrection happens!!!

Easter reminds us that in the midst of life's journey, when we encounter those times and occasions of "madness," God is still here.

God does indeed lead us through the streets of confusion, watches over us in the days of uncertainty, comforts us in the times in which we are hurting and encourages us in the face of death.

But, even more God "surprises" us in that it is not that God merely is "with us" (the promise of Emmanuel before Jesus' birth).

But God does even more. God surprises everyone and through the resurrection of Jesus overcomes death. Death does not get the last word. Dead is not dead! Surprise!!!

God not only comforts those whom God loves, but God brings to life all of those times, occasions, situations, experiences in which we were "given up" or we ourselves "gave up" for dead.

Resurrection cries out to us that there is nothing, absolutely nothing that can take away God's love for us and God's power to bring new life and make us new creations

Yes, resurrection is true! We can trust in it! We can live into it! We can experience this "Good News!" We can share this "Good News!"

So, welcome to "March Madness!" Everything changes on April 1. No fooling!!!

"GUITAR LESSONS" @ PPC

Those who are enjoy playing guitar or who are interested in learning the basics of playing the guitar are encouraged to come and hang out with us.

In April - we will be meeting on Monday April 9, 16 and 23.

We will be trying something a little different with our "lesson time."

On April 9 and 23 - we will be *working on chords and playing some music.*

For those who want to *work on the "basics"* (out of our lesson book) - we will focus on these during our April 16 lesson.

We meet in Parry Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

Everyone of all skill and experience level is welcome!

If you cannot make every time - that is fine! Just come when you can!

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Dave.



"CLERK'S CORNER"

Some decisions are easy to make: a bowl of bland but healthy steel cut oatmeal or a warm, fragrant, gooey, frosted cinnamon roll. Other decisions are far more difficult and the Session was faced with a big one at the March meeting.

For the past three months we have benefited from the hard work of Adam who was introduced to us through Northwoods and has been cleaning our church at no cost to the church during this trial period. However, this trial period is over at the end of March. The church was under no obligation to hire Adam but, after much discussion, the Session voted to keep Adam and at the end of March he will become an employee of PPC and we will be paying his salary.

The benefits of his employment are many. Our church is very clean; he is thorough and gets into all the nooks and crannies. We have many groups using our church: 4H, Pastor's prayer gathering, the Creative Arts Festival, video Presbytery meetings, Interim Pastor training, music practice as well as the Wednesday night and Sunday morning services. We want the church safe and clean. Plus, we are providing employment for a disabled adult who likes the work he is doing here. (His job coach will continue to come with him but we are not paying his job coach.)

The Session is looking for ways to cover this expense but is also including "Keep Adam" on the church **Wish List**. Any contribution you can make to help cover Adam's employment costs would be appreciated. If you would like more detailed information please contact Pastor Dave or a Session member.

Kathy Raimer



BAKE SALE

We had our first bake sale on March 11 and it was a huge success. We had delicious cookies, bars, breads, dirt cake, fresh eggs, chicken soup and jam. April 8 will be our next bake sale. The proceeds from our bake sales and produce days go to support our Stewardship Celebration Luncheon in the fall.

POUNDS FOR THE PANTRY

During the month of May we will again have a food drive for the Portage Food Pantry called "Pounds for the Pantry". **Our goal is to raise 500# during that month.** Each Sunday when you bring your food pantry items to church, they will be weighed and by the end of worship you will know how many pounds were collected that day. We will have a chart with the running total so you can see each week how close we are to meeting our goal.

The shelves at the Food Pantry have been pretty bare and some of the items needed most are peanut butter, jelly (in plastic containers if possible), tuna fish, pancake mix and syrup, Manwich, canned stews, spaghetti sauce and noodles, canned fruit, soups, cereal, soda crackers, hamburger helper, plastic gallon bottles of juice, ketchup and mustard. This is a great time to bring in bags of flour, sugar and laundry soap as they weigh more. **Please check expiration dates as the food pantry can't accept any items that are expired.** The first 2½ months of this year we have only donated 160 pounds to the pantry. Let's work hard to meet this goal of 500# in the month of May. **Last year we surpassed our goal and collected 682.5 pounds.**

"SHARING SUPPER" – APRIL, 2018

The "Sharing Supper" will be shared on Monday, April 30!!!

Serving begins at 5:00 p.m. **at the Bartels Middle School cafeteria.**

"Sharing Supper" is a meal, sponsored by community groups and organizations. It is intended to bring people in the community together, around tables, where we get to know one another and have an opportunity to learn more about what is happening in the community around us.

A unique part of this experience is the "Kid's Corner" designed especially for the younger folks. Here young people will have a chance to hear stories and do craft projects related to what is happening around us.

All are welcome! Bring your friends and neighbors.

Come and share in this unique and wonderful experience – on **April 30 @ 5:00 p.m.**



TRY "SCRIP" - YOU'LL LOVE IT!

Scrip Fundraising is here @ PPC!

And it is EASY!!!

Scrip fundraising is a no selling program that enable members and friends of the Portage Presbyterian Church to participate in.

Scrip gift cards are the same gift cards you can purchase from the retailer. With over 300 of the Country's biggest brands, including grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants and home improvement and by planning ahead on everyday purchases the Women's Association will profit!

Examples of gift cards in our area are: *Festival Foods, Piggy Wiggly, Walmart, Walgreens, Subway, Cracker Barrel, BP Gas Stations, Kwik Trip, Mobil, Applebee's, Bath & Body Works, Amazon.....and so many more.*

Questions???? Contact Elaine Crammond at 742-3899 or 608 215-8899.

This is an ongoing fundraising program that will be available year round.

Consider our new approach and help us reach our mission goals!

Order sheets are available in Parry Hall!



Mission Trip

During the week of July 15-21, folks from the Region 5 area will be travelling to Michigan for a "mission work camp" experience at Camp Westminster.

Camp Westminster is a Presbyterian camp near Roscommon, MI.

Here are a couple of "links" you can check for more information.

<http://campwestminster.com/mission-groups/workcamps/>

[http://campwestminster.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/Westminster Mission Group Brochure 2018.pdf](http://campwestminster.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/Westminster%20Mission%20Group%20Brochure%202018.pdf)

This mission trip is planned as a "multi-generational" experience - which means we will have young people and adults spending the week together working.

Our work will include maintenance and upkeep such as painting, staining, grounds keeping and working the trails. There may also be opportunities to be involved in a "Kids Against Hunger" packaging event where we will package meals for hungry families in the US and abroad. Or we may be helping to put together "Disaster Kits" used by the Presbyterian Disaster Service.

The costs for the trip will be \$330 per person which includes: lodging for one week, all meals, your choice of 3 activities (archery, ropes course, team building activities, etc.), and project materials. Our group will be assigned a team leader to help facilitate the activities. The bedding is arranged in bunks and you will need to bring blankets/sleeping bags along with you.

There will be additional costs for the trip to cover transportation.

If you are interested in participating in this summer's Mission Trip - you will need to sign-up with Pastor Dave BEFORE April 7!!! We will not be able to take names after this date.

"REGION 5 YOUTH" @ BARABOO

Young people from the Region 5 area of John Knox Presbytery (of which Portage is a part) will be gathering @ First Presbyterian Church in Baraboo on **Saturday, May 19, 2018 @ 1:45 p.m.** for a "fourth gathering time."

We will be meeting at the church and then making our way to Devil's Lake for a time of reflection, some hiking and other activities and a cookout.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information or might need a ride, please contact Pastor Dave at the church office.



CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE ...

PPC'S Confirmation Class includes: *Braden Schaller, Elizabeth Martens, Gabe Bandekow and Ben O'Rourke.*

In March we have been exploring the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church as we begin to consider the writing of our own "statement of faith."

During our classes in April we will be learning more about the "order" of Presbyterian Church as well as finalizing our statements of faith.

The Class has been doing local mission projects, including helping again with the "Sharing Supper" program.

In May we are looking forward to helping the Portage Food Pantry.

PPC should be proud of these young people as they "live out their faith" in helping and caring for the people in their community.

Our classes meet every other week @ 6:35 p.m. During our "off week" we have "preparation work" sent to us by Pastor Dave for the next class time together.

Be sure to watch the PPC Facebook page and the PPC Facebook "Group" page.

Please be sure to keep these young people in your prayers as they continue this faith journey and continue to serve as the "hands and feet of Jesus."

Mark your calendars - Confirmation Sunday will be May 20, 2018.

MINISTRY AND WORSHIP @ TIVOLI

PPC is blessed to provide a monthly worship service at Tivoli.

We have found that our worship service is one of the better attended worship times – and that is great news!

We are looking for additional people to come and help get people to and from the chapel.

You will have the opportunity to share in a special worship experience as well as being able to interact with some very nice people. Chaplain Monica remarks how much the residents enjoy having people come and share worship with them.

If you could help with this ministry once in a while, contact Pastor Dave.

NOTE! We share worship on the **THIRD** Monday in April - April 16th @10:00 a.m.

“GLUTEN-FREE” BREAD- COMMUNION

In an effort to make sure that all have access to the Lord’s Table, the Board of Deacons decided that all of our communion breads served will be “gluten-free.”



UPCOMING COMMUNION SCHEDULE

You are encouraged to take time before each Communion to reflect on the meaning of the Lord's Supper for you, for PPC and for the world.

The "Directory for Worship" notes that *"in preparing to receive Christ in this Sacrament, the believer is to confess sin and brokenness, to seek reconciliation with God and neighbor, and to trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal."*

As Presbyterians, we believe that coming to the Lord's Table is not a right, but a privilege given to those who come in faith, repentance and love - the gifts of God for the people of God.

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Confirmation Sunday

@ 10:05 a.m.

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Wednesday Worship Service
6:05 p.m. Informal, Interactive Worship



Everyone Invited!

Church Is Handicapped Accessible

Child Care Available

Third Sunday of Each Month is Informal Service

10:05 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday Worship Service

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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