



## The Portage Presbyterian Church

December, 2021

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



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

### "Greening of the Church" - Saturday, November 27

We will "kick off" the Advent Season with the "decorating" of the church on Saturday, November 27 - beginning @ 9:00 a.m.

"Children of God" of all ages are welcome!

*Wreaths - and roping - and trees - "oh my!"* are to be done. You can choose what you would like to do!

If you have questions, contact the Church Office.

O come let us adore Him - Christ the Lord!

### "Live Nativity" Christmas Program This Year

#### **"Live - in Portage - it's a Drive Thru Nativity!"**

That's right - our "Christmas Program" for 2021 will be a "Drive Thru Live Nativity" scene @ PPC - on Saturday, December 18 - from 4:30-6:30 p.m. - in the area behind Westminster Center.

Visitors will be able to "drive thru" (stay warm) and experience an inspirational scene which we offer as our "gift to the community."

This is an "all ages" type of activity - in other words, EVERYONE can have a part to play - and there are no speaking parts!!!

We are looking for angels - shepherds - a couple of Marys and Josephs - animals - set up help (and tear down help too) - organizing costumes - traffic control - and "support" folks who will have hot chocolate and cookies for the "players" during the "shifts"

Please note: "characters" will be changed out in "shifts" - so no one will have to be outside "all the time."

If you would like to help out in any way with this "special Christmas program" (or have questions) - please contact Evie Roundy, Lee Roundy or Pastor Dave.



## "Christmas In A Barn" Returns This December

We are delighted that Mark and Beth Heinze have invited *US* to share in this most unique and inspirational worship experience "in a barn."

Come and experience a "back to the future" Christmas as we gather with the animals to sing - hear the Christmas story from the Scriptures - and reflect on the real reason for this season.

Please watch upcoming posts on PPC's Facebook page - or announcements on Sunday morning about the details.

And be sure to "spread the word" - invite family, neighbors and friends!

## Christmas Eve "Candlelight" Worship Service

We will share a Christmas Eve "Candlelight" worship service on December 24 @ 5:30 p.m.

A worship experience of Scripture - Song - Prayers - and lighting Candles will be shared in the sanctuary.

"O come let us adore Him!"

## "Check Out - Christmas Day Worship - "Online"

While we may not be together for worship on Christmas Day - we will have a Christmas Day worship experience available - via "video" on PPC's Facebook page beginning @ 11:00 a.m.

You may "worship" on Christmas Day or at another time.

## Holiday "Soup and Bake Sale" - @ PPC - Sat, December 4th

PPC's Presbyterian Women Group will be hosting a "Soup and Bake Sale" on Saturday, December 4 - from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

A choice of Soup (*Beef Barley or Chicken Noodle*) will be available in "quart jars to go."

There will also be a delicious assortment of homemade breads - cookies - bars - pies - candy - and ??? available as well.

What a great way to "prep" for the upcoming holiday season - and help support the work and projects of PPC's Women's Association at the same time. **See you there!**

## PPC's Women's Association "Mission Soup" Available

We continue to have our chicken soup mix available for only \$3.25.

It is great to have on hand as a gift and/or a quick meal.

You can get the soup at church on Sundays or at the church office during open hours; or you can contact Glenda at 608 429 1313.

## FREE Christmas Day Dinner

This will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> year the Portage Presbyterian Church has opened its doors on Christmas day for a free mid-day dinner for people in our community.

With the health and safety of our church and the community in mind we will again offer our Christmas Dinner through **pick ups and delivery only**. Deliveries will be made only in the city of Portage.

Our menu will be: turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, vegetable, cranberry and rolls along with bars and/or cookies for dessert.

Reservations for pick up or delivery can be made by calling the church office at 608-742-6006 or Nancy Schaper at 608-742-7242 and leave a message and we will contact you back. **Reservations must be made by December 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

We are in need of help that day so if you are available to help please call Nancy. We will also need cookies and bars so call Nancy if you can donate dessert or have any questions.

## "Script" Orders - By December 12

For those who may be looking for "stocking stuffers" - the Womens Association's "Script" cards may be just what you are looking for.

All "Script" orders for the "holidays" need to be turned in **no later than December 12**.

Please contact *Elaine Crammond* @608-742-3899 with your orders or with questions.

## Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

**Sunday - November 28 - "Greening of the Church " Worship**

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

*Please prepare your own bread and "cup" to use-during worship.*

Sunday - December 5 - "Traditional" Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

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

*Please prepare your own bread and "cup" to use-during worship.*

Sunday, December 12 - "Traditional" Worship

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday - December 19 - "Traditional" Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Friday - December 24 - "Christmas Eve" Worship

5:30 p.m. - "Candlelight" Service

Sunday, December 26 - "Traditional" Worship

Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann will be leading worship this Sunday

Please note that the guidelines that the Session has established for worship "in the sanctuary" which includes:

- that "wearing masks will be an individual preference" -
- that we will sing (*provided we wear a mask while singing*) -
- and that social distancing is encouraged.

**Region 5 - "Advent Study"**

On Wednesday evenings @ 6:30 p.m. members of churches in Region 5 (of which Portage is the "center point") are invited to share together in an "Advent Study."

These "Advent Studies" will be shared via "Zoom" - so you can participate in the comfort of your own home.

The "Zoom Link" will be shared when it is set up.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Dave.

**"Christmas Story Time" - during Advent**

Join Pastor Dave each Monday evening during Advent @ 6:00 p.m. as he chooses some of his favorite stories to read.

You can watch the "story time" - either "live" or "on your schedule"

Each "video" will be available on the PPC "Facebook Page" under "videos"

## "Christmas Joy Offering"

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the **Christmas Joy Offering** is one of four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The receipts from the offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pension for assistance programs and to Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women of the General Assembly Mission Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be received any time during **December**. If you have boxed church envelopes there is a Christmas Joy envelope included. There is also an envelope attached to this letter.

## "Video" People for Sunday Morning Worship



One of the "new" opportunities that has come out of our "wilderness journey" over these past 1 1/2 years, is our "**Sunday Morning Worship Video**" option.

It has been great to have so many "sharing together" in worship - even from a distance.

We are seeking those who may be interested in helping to provide these videos on Sunday morning.

All equipment and "training" are provided - **WE**

**JUST NEED YOU!**

If you would be interested in participating in this ministry - or have questions - contact Pastor Dave.

## "Special Music" for Advent and Christmas

Anyone "out there" who may be interested in sharing "**Special Music**" during **Advent and Christmas**?

This could be "*vocal*" - "*instrumental*" - "*ensemble*" or "*other ideas*" you may have!

Contact Pastor Dave if you are interested - or have any questions!

**"COME, LET'S MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD!"**



## "Readers" for Worship?

One who serves as "a reader" will participate in Sunday worship by reading Scripture lessons and even leading the morning prayer.

All Scripture lessons and prayers would be available to you "before" Sunday morning for you to review.

Please contact Pastor Dave available Sundays or for more information.

## "On The Road Again" - with ADRC

The Columbia County ADRC is looking for meal program **volunteers to drive/deliver or help in the kitchen.**

We are also looking for **paid drivers** to help community members get to and from medical appointments.

*There are many options and schedules can be incredibly flexible.* Some people do once per week, some do one day every other week and some do almost daily

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Vanessa at the ADRC Office.

## Worship @ Tivoli - December "Christmas" Worship Service

Provided that all is well, we will again provide worship for the residents at Tivoli on Monday, December 20 @ 10:00 a.m.

Anyone coming to be a part of the worship community will be asked to "check in" at the entrance and to "wear a mask" during the service (*per Aspirus-Divine Savior Healthcare guidelines*) - as will the Tivoli residents

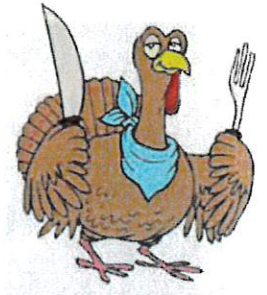
## Offering Envelopes for 2022?

As we prepare to move into a new year in 2022, we are asking that those who would like to have "**offering envelopes**" for next year please contact our Treasurer, Rosemary, and let her know. You may leave a message for her at the Church Office or email the Church Office.

*Thank you!*

## "Harvest Dinner" Wrap Up

Again due to the Pandemic we were unable to have a "sit down" Harvest Dinner. In its place we had a "Drive Thru" dinner that was very successful. **Thank you to all who helped in any way.** Kudos to the workers who were delivering food, selling tickets and directing traffic out in the cold. We served about 271 meals and made a profit of **\$3,715.95** that will be donated to the general operating expenses of our church. If you were unable to make it, you missed a wonderful meal.



## Salvation Army "Bell Ringing"

Once again we answered the call to ring bells for the Salvation Army on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to *Pastor Dave and Kathy, The Chris Rietmann Family, Liz Bellmore, The Foster Family, Karin Hall, Lori Rogers, Elaine & Liz Crammond, April Gastel, Rosemary Minnema, Laura Brenner, Joyce Meredith, Donna Mohr and Nancy Schaper* for volunteering to ring.

If you were unable to ring on that day and want to donate your time, call 1-608-617-3237 to sign up.

## YOU Can Help Spread The Word!

We are seeking folks who would like to share in the "ministry" of the "Church Sign." Yes, our "Church Sign" provides *not only information, but inspiration* to many people.

Would you be interested in being a part of a team that helps to keep the "Church Sign" up to date - inspirational - entertaining?

Contact Pastor Dave to "**SIGN ON**" - or for more information.

Thanks!



## "Messaging" in a "Different Way"



### **IF "THEY" CAN DO IT - SO CAN YOU!!!**

We are seeking a few people who would like to serve as "greeters" for our "online video" community on Sunday mornings.

Just as you would do "in person," you would welcome people to worship, check in with them, engage in "conversation" when asked, and extend God's peace at the end.

If this might be something in which you are interested or would like more information, contact Pastor Dave.

## "Kwik Trip" Car Wash Cards



"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" - just contact Pastor Dave. Thanks!

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

On "Amazon Smiles" - Select "PPC" as your preferred "CHARITY"

*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 so many ways!*



# December

2021

| <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 |   |                | <b>1</b><br>6:30pm Region 5<br>Advent Study via zoom  | <b>2</b>                               | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b><br>9:00 - 11:00 a.m.<br>Holiday House / Bake Goods and Soup Sale – To Go Only                       |
| <b>5</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent<br>10:05am Traditional Worship, SA<br>Communion, please bring your own elements                        | <b>6</b><br>4:00pm ACA, WC<br>6:00 pm – Christmas Story Time (Facebook Video)                               | <b>7</b>       | <b>8</b><br>6:30pm Region 5<br>Advent Study via zoom  | <b>9</b><br>6:30pm Session Meeting, FH | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b>  |
| <b>12</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent<br>10:05am Traditional Worship SA   | <b>13</b><br>6:00 pm – Christmas Story Time (Facebook Video)  | <b>14</b>      | <b>15</b><br>6:30pm Region 5<br>Advent Study via zoom<br>8:00pm PPC restocking shelves at Food Pantry | <b>16</b>                              | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b><br>4:30-6:30 pm<br>Live Drive Thru Nativity @ PPC  |
| <b>19</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent<br>10:05am Worship Service, SA  | <b>20</b><br>10:00am Christmas Worship Service at Tivoli<br>6:00 pm – Christmas Story Time (Facebook Video) | <b>21</b>      | <b>22</b><br>6:30pm Region 5<br>Advent Study via zoom   | <b>23</b>                              | <b>24</b><br>5:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in Sanctuary | <b>25</b><br>11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service on Facebook -Video<br>12:00 – 1:30pm Free Christmas Day Dinner |
| <b>26</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas<br>10:05am Traditional Worship, SA   | <b>27</b><br>Alphabet Express on Holiday Break  | <b>28</b>      | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>                              | <b>31</b>  |  |