



# The Portage Presbyterian



A Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

February 2019

## "LUNCH IS SERVED - 2X" - FEBRUARY 16!

February is anything but quiet for the PPC Presbyterian Women's Group.

This is the month we do the Community Meal at the Episcopal Church. The Community Meal was started years ago on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.

John Knox Presbytery also holds their "video meeting" at different churches around the Presbytery, of which PPC is one of the host sites - which includes a "lunch meal".

In order to help us prepare the lunch we are looking for donations and helpers to help with the meal

There will be sign-up sheets on the kiosk in Parry Hall.

If you have questions you may contact Donna Mohr 742-3723 or Kathy Hankins 742-2752.

## "RIVER HAVEN" - VOLUNTEERS?

The River Haven's Family Shelter and Men's Shelter are both open again!

One of the things that River Haven Shelter is doing is reconnecting with the community in order to recruit volunteers to help in the work and ministry of the shelter.

Being available 24/7 for those in need necessitates a significant number of people to be a part of the work of the shelter.

This is a perfect opportunity for those who seek to help make a difference in the community by offering your time and presence as a shelter volunteer.

To find out what volunteer opportunities are available or for more information, contact the River Haven Shelter @ 742-7687.

Thank you!

## FAT SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for **March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The Events Committee will be hosting a MardiGras celebration following a "Dixieland" Jazz group worship service with members helping to lead worship. Last year they were a big hit and it was a wonderful worship experience. Most people celebrate "Fat Tuesday" (the day before Ash Wednesday) by eating everything they want. We are going to celebrate "Fat Sunday" by having a **potluck luncheon followed by bingo in the church dining room following morning worship.** You may bring your favorite dish or a MardiGras dish such as jambalaya, grits, turkey gumbo etc. You may bring your dish to the kitchen before worship. If it needs to be cooked or heated, the ovens will be on. The committee will provide milk and coffee to drink. A free will offering will be taken. Last year everyone had a great time. **COME JOIN THE FUN!**

## KWIK TRIP



## "CAR WASH" CARDS -

Don't driver around this winter with all of the salt and "gunk" on your car.

You can have a clean vehicle and help support PPC's "mission trippers" at the same time when you purchase Kwik Trip "Ultimate" Car Wash cards.

Each card has FIVE car washes on it.

If you were to purchase these at the store, they would cost \$50.00 (\$10.00/wash)

But, the Mission Trippers are selling these cards for the price of \$36.00 / card.

For each card sold the "mission trippers" earn \$16.00!

If you are interested in purchasing cards, contact the Church Office. Thanks!

1

## 2019 Per Capita Information

Our 2019 "Per Capita" amount is \$32.60  
**for each active member.**

Please take a moment to drop off your Per Capita (for each member) on Sunday morning, in the mail or by stopping by the church office.

If you have a number of members in your household, you do not have to pay for everyone at one time. Pay as you can.

Also, we appreciate those who choose to make a donation on behalf of someone or as a gift to PPC which helps us cover our church's total.

If you have questions, please contact the Church Office.

Thank you!

## UPDATING OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

**AND we need your help!!!**

As we have gone through our database, we are discovering that some of our "contact information" is incomplete or incorrect.

In order to have the correct information, we will have a sheet on a table in Parry Hall for you to check and correct if necessary.

Or you can email the church office ([office@portagepresbyterian.com](mailto:office@portagepresbyterian.com)) and share your correct contact information.

What information are we seeking? **Mailing addresses, Phone numbers and email addresses.**

## THE PORTAGE PRESBYTERIAN

Is published monthly by the  
Portage Presbyterian Church

120 West Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 222  
Portage, WI 53901

Phone & Fax Line: - 608-742-6006

Portage Presbyterian Church E-mail Addresses

Pastor - [pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com](mailto:pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com)

Church Office - [office@portagepresbyterian.com](mailto:office@portagepresbyterian.com)

Portage Presbyterian Church Website Address

[www.portagepresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.portagepresbyterianchurch.com)

Editor - Kathryn Curtis

Pastor - The Rev. David J. Hankins



## UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 3, 2019

The 4th Sunday after Epiphany

10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*  
*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Wednesday, February 6

6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite" Worship in Sanctuary  
*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Sunday, February 10, 2019

The 5th Sunday after Epiphany

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

Wednesday, January 13

6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite" Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, February 17, 2019

The 6th Sunday after Epiphany

10:05 a.m. - *"Informal" Worship in Sanctuary*

Wednesday, February 20

6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite" Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, February 24, 2019

The 7th Sunday after Epiphany

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

Wednesday, February 27

6:05 p.m. - "Wed Nite" Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, March 3, 2019

10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*  
*"Dixieland" Worship Service*  
*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Wednesday, March 6

*"Ash Wednesday"*

12:15 p.m. - Worship in Sanctuary

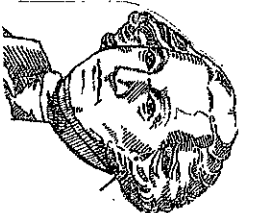
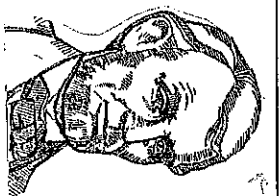
6:05 p.m. - Worship in Sanctuary








*Celebration of the Lord's Supper @ both Services*

**Church Office Hours**  
 Monday – 10:00am – 12:00pm  
 Tuesday – Office Closed  
 Wednesday – 8:00am – 1:00pm  
 Thursday – Office Closed  
 Friday – 8:00am – 1:00pm

# February

2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>BTR</b> – Bell Tower Room <b>FH</b> – Fellowship Hall <b>PH</b> – Parry Hall <b>SA</b> – Sanctuary <b>WC</b> – Westminster Center						<b>1</b> March Newsletter Articles Due in Office
<b>3</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10:05am Traditional Worship with Lord's Supper, SA	<b>4</b> 5:15 pm Events, PH	<b>5</b> 9:00am Bell Choir, PH	<b>6</b> 5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 8:45am Bible Study/BTR 10:05am Traditional Worship SA Fellowship	<b>11</b> 6:00pm ACA, WC	<b>12</b> 10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, PH	<b>13</b> 5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH	<b>14</b> 6:00pm Session Meeting, WC	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00am – 3:00pm Video Presbytery Meeting, Fellowship Hall 11:30am Presbyterian Women serving Community Meal at St. John's Episcopal Church
<b>17</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10:05am Informal Worship, SA 11:05am Deacons, WC 4:00pm New Directions 4-H Meeting, FH	<b>18</b> 10:00am Worship Service at Tivoli	<b>19</b> 9:00am Bell Choir, PH 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's 5:00pm Memorial Mission Stewardship, WC	<b>20</b> 5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH	<b>21</b> Home Communion	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 8:45am Bible Study/BTR 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA	<b>25</b> 5:00-6:00pm Sharing Supper at Bartels Middle School 	<b>26</b> 9:00am Bell Choir, PH 	<b>27</b> 5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH 	<b>28</b> 	<b>March 1</b> 	<b>March 2</b> 9:00am Presbyterian Women Meeting at Dino's

## 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 Monday February 18th ... @10:00 a.m.

40

## "SHARING SUPPER" – FEBRUARY 25, 2019

The "Sharing Supper" will be shared on Monday, February 25!!!

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

The "Sharing Supper" is served from 5:00-6:00 p.m. PLEASE NOTE - there has been a change in the ending time for the "Supper."

"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.



## FOOD PANTRY

The food drives over the holidays are done and the Food Pantry shelves are already pretty bare. I couldn't believe it when I volunteered at the Food Pantry in January. The shelves had been so full in December and already there was no jello, muffin mix, canned vegetables, fruit, tuna or tomato soup. They love it when we are able to give them laundry or dish soap. Please watch the sale items and help those less fortunate. Our basket is always out.

## Pastor's Page

Happy Epiphany!

What is "Epiphany" we ask? It is both a day and season in the Christian church calendar which highlights the "manifestation" of the Christ to the whole world. This manifestation is punctuated by the journey and the appearance of the wise ones in Bethlehem presenting gifts before the Christ child.

Different references define a "manifestation" as being a "vision" or an "appearance" or a "revelation" or a "sign."

Epiphany rightly emphasizes that it is God who is the source of these visions or signs. It is God and God alone who reveals to the world the One who comes into the world not to condemn, but to bring new beginnings and new life.

Still, there is a "human element" to the Epiphany. While we may not be "responsible" for it, in order for the manifestation to be effective we have to be "responsive." In other words, we have to notice the sign that God provides.

So it is for the wise ones. They pay attention to the sign that God had provided - the star. Whether they were looking for the star or not, something about this particular "sign" caught their attention. And it inspired them to get up, get packed and start on a journey in which *they did not know* "where" they were going, "how long" it was going to take, "how" they were going to get there or "what" they would find when they arrived.

And their journey was not an easy one. Scholars suggest that because of the words used to describe where they found Jesus (*a house*) and that Jesus was a "child" rather than an infant, the wise ones may not have arrived in Bethlehem for 2 years. Two years! And that's to say nothing about the fact that they made at least one "wrong turn" when they decided to go to Jerusalem first. The journey was challenging and yet the "sign" they had seen inspired them along the way and let them know that God was still with them on the journey. The "sign" made all the difference.

So, let's ask the question of ourselves - as God's children and as God's church here in Portage. Where do we find evidence of God's presence? Where do we see and experience God's work? What

are the "signs" to which we would point, those which catch our attention and inspire us and encourage us to go and to do and to follow?

There are many "signs" of God's presence and work in and through this church community. The work and ministry in which the PPC community is engaged in so many ways, people and places is "evidence" of God's love, grace, peace and hope for the people and the world around us. As you look through the various reports of the annual meeting packet you will discover the "good news" that is being proclaimed in and through the Portage Presbyterian Church.

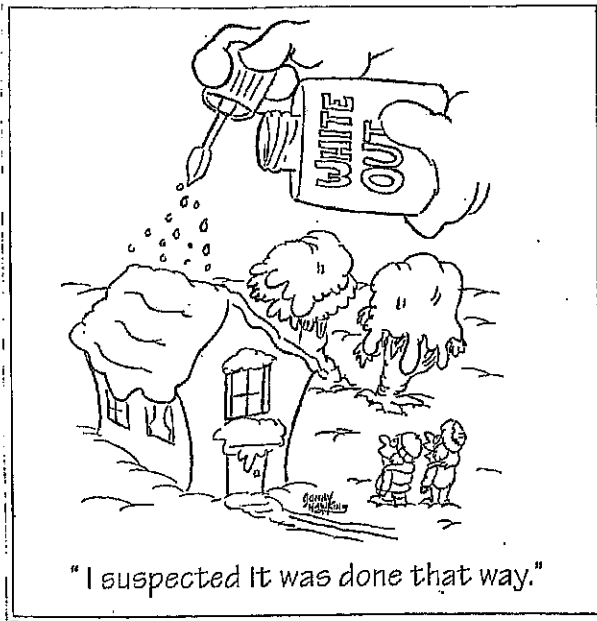
Here are some of the "signs" to which I would point over this past year - the "spirit" and energy with which this church community gathers for worship, for fellowship and for service. This is not only that which we enjoy, but that which others seek and notice.

There is the "hope" that we have that the church has a purpose and that God will provide for us as we make our way. This is a "hope" that really trusts that God continues to be at work in and through PPC and in fact, "lives into that hope" as already being reality. While we take seriously the challenges that we and all churches have in today's world, we choose to let God's hope define us and inspire us.

The willingness of the PPC community to give is, for me, another "sign." Giving of one's time, energy, experience, prayers, presence and money runs counter to the more common idea of "me first." What PPC is able to accomplish, support and do is the result of this community sharing what we have in order that God's work and ministry can be done. We are truly a "body of Christ" together working for the common good.

I would also point to the "messengers" that share God's good news beyond the walls of the church building - **YOU!** You, the people of this church community, share God's grace and love and peace in so many different ways and settings. Some we may know about and others we may not know. But know that each and every time YOU reach out to another or care for another or treat

(continued on page 6)



(continued from page 5)

another with respect and dignity or offer a word of hope or participate in community programs or share prayer with and for another or choose to offer words of reconciliation and support rather than words of rumor or revenge or help dig another out of the snow or ... or ... or ... YOU are doing what Jesus would do and YOU are a "sign" that God is present and at work.

And finally, a "sign" that God is present and at work in and through this church community - daring to trust God and to follow as God leads us. Like the wise ones, as we begin this new year we do not have all of the answers. But we nevertheless trust that God will guide us and inspire us and empower us to that which God would have us do and be. Sure, as we go through the year there may be a few wrong turns and things may not always go in the direction or the timing that "we" may think. Still, we dare to trust that the God who calls us will also be with us as we make this journey into a new year and out into the world.

For we go, just as the wise ones before us - looking for the "signs" and going with joy and anticipation of where God is taking us.

May we continue to follow the "signs of God's presence and work."

And may we continue to be "signs of God's presence and work."

## 2019 SESSION COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Breese Fund Pastor Dave Hankins (Chair)  
George Beasley  
(Ruling Elder)  
John Crammond  
(Ruling Elder)

Nominating Kathy Raimer (Co-Chair)  
Alex Harvey (Co-Chr)

ACA Fred Taylor (Chair)  
Kevin Foster  
John Crammond  
Jerry Schneiter  
George Beasley

Discipleship Kathy Raimer (Co-Chair)  
Alex Harvey (Co-Chair)

Events Kevin Foster (Chair)  
Allison Foster

Memorial &  
Mission/  
Stewardship Fred Taylor (Co-Chair)  
Allison Foster (Co-Chair)

Personnel Alex Harvey (Chair)  
Jerry Schneiter  
John Crammond



### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER "NOW" ON-LINE

Check out PPC's website at [www.portagepresbyterian.com](http://www.portagepresbyterian.com) and you will find that our monthly newsletter is now "on-line."

Just click on the link (on the left column) and it will take you to a menu where you can choose the particular newsletter you would like to read.

We will not, however for privacy and security reasons, be including the "prayer list" in the on-line resource.



**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.

**"CLERK'S CORNER"**

January 10 at 6 p.m. the Session started a new year and our discussion began with a look back at 2018 to evaluate what our Presbyterian Community accomplished. Then we took a look forward to see what more we could do to enrich and enlarge our PPC programs and community.

In 2018 we received \$9,000 in donations based on our Wish List sometimes anonymously such as a box of printer paper set by the office door. We served a meal at the Columbia County Fair that brought in \$947 and provided a Sunday service there as well. Our Stewardship program was different in that members of our congregation shared their memories and put into words what PPC had meant in their lives over the years. Our average attendance at weekly services (Sunday and Wednesday together) increased from 51 in 2017 to 65 in 2018. This is just the short list.

So what is ahead in 2019? There are many people in our congregation who have much to share in experience and ideas. How do we encourage them to participate? In what ways would they be comfortable participating? How do we share our goals and accomplishments on a regular basis so everyone understands and appreciates the dedication our members have to this church? How do we take church "lingo" that can be confusing and make it more understandable? What is per capita, where does it go and what is it used for? Can we build closer relationships with other churches in our community and beyond to the benefit of all members?

Golly, we've just scratched the surface. I'm getting a little tired and you probably are too so I'll stop here and say we have a another good group of Elders who look forward with hope and fresh ideas understanding that we are in a world of constant change. Our challenge is to move forward in ways that make sense while providing open arms and hearts to all.

*Kathy Raimer*

9

Sunday, February 3, 2019  
@ 10:05 a.m.

*"The 4th Sunday after the Epiphany"*

Wednesday, February 6, 2019  
@ 6:05 p.m.

*"Wed Nite Worship" - Sanctuary*

Sunday, March 3, 2019  
@ 10:05 a.m.

*"Transfiguration Sunday"  
Dixieland Worship Service*

Wednesday, March 6, 2019  
"Ash Wednesday"

@ 12:15 p.m. (noon-time)  
@ 6:05 p.m. (Wed Nite Worship)



**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the church members contributing to the "White Gift" offerings.

Your thoughtful donations will be used to reduce food insecurity in the Portage community.

*Judy Keppert,  
Portage Food Pantry Secretary*



## "TECHNOLOGY" PROJECT GROUP

Would you like to be a part of a conversation about how "technology" might benefit the work and ministry here at PPC?

From our initial conversation 3 areas of consideration were raised: educational uses; worship uses; and enhancing communication uses.

While these areas are distinct we also noted that there is significant crossover with them.

We would welcome anyone else who may be interested in exploring how technology could enhance the ministry and outreach of the PPC community.

This is a "project group" experience. The task of the "group" will be to discuss, explore and make any recommendations to the Session regarding technology. Once this has been done, the "project group" has completed its task. That's it!

If you are interested in finding out more or in participating, please contact either Pam Crossley or Pastor Dave.



## "BIBLE STUDY" IN FEBRUARY

The Adult Bible Class has been having some interesting discussions about the Apostles' Creed.

We recently had some interesting discussions about the Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit, as some churches may say.

Have you ever wondered what it means when we say that we believe in the "holy catholic church"? We will be talking about this on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 a.m. as we meet in the Bell Tower Room. Come and join in the conversation.

We will meet on February 24<sup>th</sup> to talk about what it means when we say that we believe in the "communion of saints."

We invite all to come and join us. We especially would like to have some male thoughts as we discuss these topics.

20

Sunday Worship Service  
10:05 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Third Sunday of Each Month is Informal Service  
Child Care Available  
Church is Handicapped Accessible  
Everyone Invited!  
Wednesday Worship Service  
6:05 p.m. Informal, Interactive Worship

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Portage Presbyterian Church  
120 W Pleasant Street  
PO Box 222  
Portage WI 53901

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Portage WI 53901  
Permit No. 158