



The Portage Presbyterian Church

February, 2024

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




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

"New" Offering Envelopes for 2024

We have made a change in offering envelopes for 2024. This year for 2024 we did not order individual envelopes for members. This is a cost savings for the Church. We had so few that used them and some only once a month. So, at this time we ordered "**generic envelopes**" to cover all giving for our Church.

There is a sample copy below.

We will have these envelopes in Parry Hall on the table with bulletins and other information, and on the table by Offering plate. If you choose you can also stop in at the Office during Office hours and pick up as many as you need. If we run out, we will order more. If you have questions, please call the office. Thank you.


Portage Presbyterian Church
 Full Name _____
 General Separate Checks
 1 Grt Hr Sharing Building
 Pentacost Memorial
 Peace & Global Deacons
 Christmas Joy PPWA
 Per Capita Misc _____

What is Per Capita?

WHAT IS THE "PER CAPITA?"

In essence: Per capita is a set amount of money "per member" that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together.

“In a connected church such as ours, per capita is the responsible way of sharing costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian community.”

Paying per capita is similar to:

- *contributing one's dish to a potluck meal*
- *paying to be connected to the Internet*
- *paying for the benefit of utilities, such as electricity, water, and telephone*
- *pitching in with other passengers to pay for gasoline for a road trip*

HOW OLD IS "PER CAPITA?"

The first-known mention of per capita dates back to 1734 in a letter to ministers!

WHAT DO OUR "PER CAPITA" FUNDS DO?

Per Capita funds help to support the work of the "larger church" - the General Assembly, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the John Knox Presbytery - as they, in turn, help to support the work of the local churches.

HOW MUCH IS THE "PER CAPITA" FOR 2024?

The "Per Capita" for 2024 will be \$36.30 / active member of the congregation.

Please prayerfully consider making a contribution toward PPC's "Per Capita" support for 2024. Thank you!

Ash
Wednesday 

Our Lenten experience begins with our worship services on "Ash Wednesday" - February 14.

We will offer two worship experiences on Ash Wednesday - one service @ 12:15 p.m. (noontime) - and another service @ 6:30 p.m. Both services will be in the Sanctuary.

Both worship services will include the "celebration of the Lord's Supper" ... and the imposition of ashes (for those who would like to do this).



PPC celebrates "Scout Sunday" on February 4!

On Sunday, February 4 - PPC will celebrate "Scout Sunday" with the Scout units which we charter: Pack 70, Troop 70 and Troop 7070.

The first week in February is usually designated as "Scout Anniversary Week" with the Sunday closest to February 8 designated as "Scout Sunday."

These dates commemorate the founding of the Boy Scouts of America via a national charter from Congress on February 8, 1910. According to the incorporation papers filed, the purpose of this new organization “*shall be to promote, through organization, and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of (young people) to do things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues, using the methods which are in common use by Boy Scouts.*”

In 2024

The Boy Scouts celebrate their 114th anniversary.

The Cub Scouts in turn celebrate their 94th Anniversary.

Happy Anniversary Scouts and Cub Scouts Members and Leaders!

"Readers" during Lent and Holy Week?

If you are interested in serving as a "Reader" during Lent (on Sunday mornings) and/or Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Early Easter or Late Easter services), *please contact Pastor Dave.*

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday - February 4 - "Traditional" Worship - 10:05 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

"Scout Sunday"

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

Sunday, February 11 - "Traditional Worship" - 10:05 a.m.

Transfiguration Sunday

Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 14 - "Ash Wednesday"

12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Worship Services

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at both services

Sunday, February 18 - "Informal" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

First Sunday of Lent

Mark 1:9-15

Sunday, February 25 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.
Second Sunday of Lent
Mark 8:31-38

Sunday, March 3 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.
Third Sunday of Lent
John 2:13-22
We will share the "Lord's Supper" during the service.

Sunday, March 10 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Lent
John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 17 - "Informal" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.
Fifth Sunday of Lent
John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 24 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.
Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday Service

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday
7:00 a.m. - *Easter SonRise Service* -
10:05 a.m. - *Easter Celebration*

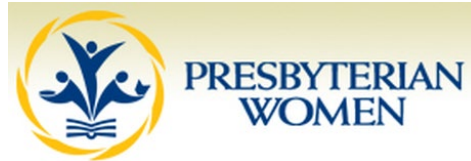
IF you would like to receive the "weekly worship materials" -
the Sunday Worship Bulletin & Children's Bulletin -
by email- please contact Pastor Dave.

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14 with Ash Wednesday.

Beginning Sunday, February 11 - Lenten Devotional Materials will be available.

You may pick up the Lenten Devotional material ...

- on Sunday mornings -
- from the Church Office during the week -
- we can mail the materials to you (please contact the Church Office) -
- or we can email the devotionals (please contact the Church Office)



Help! The Women's Association is in great need of 8-10 oz jars with lids for the Mission Chicken Soup Mix. Thank you in advance.

Our popular **Mission Chicken Soup Mix** is always available for purchase on Sundays in the sanctuary, in the church office during open hours, or by contacting Glenda Day. If you've never tried it, give it a try. You won't be disappointed!

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd - 9:00 @ Dino's.



You Are INVITED to the 29th Annual

ONE HEART WOMEN'S SEMINAR

February 24th, 2024 -

9:00am – 3:00pm (doors open at 8)

**At the Wintergreen Resort at Clarion Hotel & Suites,
Wisconsin Dells**

Cost: \$49.00 (\$60.00 after February 20th)

Ticket includes three inspiring messages, morning refreshments, and a sit-down lunch provided by the Wintergreen

Speakers For The Day ~

MEL KREUSER - *"Love in Action // Learning to Cling to the Good in a Broken World"*

PATI KACHEL – an authentic portrayal of *Amy Carmichael, A Mother to the Motherless*. She bravely rescued abandoned children, established an orphanage to provide them a loving home, and founded a mission that still meets the needs of the poor in that region today.

BETH GALLAGHER- will be bringing a message of Hope. Hope that in the darkness of broken lives, broken dreams and earthly heartache -- GOD will shine brighter than ever when we surrender to His will, His plan and take those lessons to a broken world.

Visit our website www.oneheartseminar.com for more information and advanced ticket purchases

or email us at oneheartwomensconf@gmail.com

From the "Deacons"

Just a reminder - all "**loose offerings**" (*coins and cash*) - on "Communion Sundays" - will be given to the Deacons to help support their ministries to and through this church community.



PPC "volunteers" to "stock the shelves" at the Food Pantry on the 3rd Wednesday of each month - **January 17** - usually beginning @ **6:00 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!

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..

If you would like to make donations to the "**Little Food Pantry**" 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 serves as the advisor for the New Directions Club.



PPCs Scout Units are off to a great start in 2024!

"Scout Sunday" - February 4, 2024 - 10:05 a.m.

Pack 70

Had a great Pinewood Derby on January 13
Will be sledding @ the Gully

Troop 7070

Working on "Snow Base" plans in February, 2024
Camping @ Eagle Cave
The "Cupcake" Challenge with Arrow of Light Scouts

Troop 70

Ice Fishing @ Twin Lakes
Working on "Snow Base" plans in February, 2024
Planning a hike with Arrow of Light Scouts

"Crossover" Ceremony with Webelos Scouts on February 25!

Have A Great Year, Scouts!

"Thank You" - Bell Ringers

Dear Portage Presbyterian Church Members,

Thank you so much for volunteering your time to ring for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign.

We surpassed *our goal of \$40,000.00* by \$5000 +.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Kiwanis Karren - Red Kettle Coordinator

Angela Swinehart, Salvation Army Field Representative

Christmas Dinner - "Thank You!"

Thank you to everyone who made our 25th annual Christmas dinner a success. We again did Parking Lot Pickup and Home Delivery. All meals were required to have a reservation. That process went very well and we thank all of you that made reservations. We hope you enjoyed your meal of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, cranberry, dinner roll, cookies, bars and hot chocolate mix.

We had close to 250 reservations placed and served an additional 30 making a total of 280 meals this year! People were so appreciative of having this opportunity to receive a meal. We received a \$100.00 donation from Festival Foods and very generous donations from the people who received the meals. Thank you to the Bellmore Family for their donation of the ham.

Thank you so much to the following church members who helped the day before and then gave up their time on Christmas Day to make this meal a huge success: *Pastor Dave, Kathy, Nick & Sarah Hankins: Kathy Raimer: Larry & Glenda Day: Rhys & Laura Brenner: John & Elaine Crammond: Tom Caflisch: Peggy & Chris Sechtig: Tara, Andrew & Gabe Bandekow: Fred and Judy Taylor, Lori Rogers, Liz and Reid Bellmore- plus the following community members: Lola & Pete Noll: Dave & Judy Keppert; Roberta Lapp and Brian Beasley; Ron and Dawn Mueller; Eric Erickson; Lynn Beytien; Chris Johnson, Joyce Riesterer; Mari and Jeane; the Shane Kraucyk family.*

Thanks also to those of you who made many cookies.

We are so lucky to have so many willing people to give of their time especially at this busy time of the year. God Bless all of You!

Nancy Schaper

Final Totals - 2023 "Reverse Advent Calendar" Gifts



Once again, the PPC community helped to make a difference in the season of "giving!"

Our "Reverse Advent Calendar Gifts"

(for the Portage Food Pantry)

totaled:

325# of food

Fantastic!!!

Important "Information and Activities" Around Portage

"Sharing Supper" Information!

On Monday, February 26 - from 5:00-6:00 p.m. - Portage's "Sharing Supper" will be serving the community meal - @ Bartels Middle School.

"Sharing Supper" is organized around the idea that it is good for people to come together - in community - to "share a meal" - along with conversations. Different organizations and groups in the Portage area provide the meals each month - ordinarily on the last Monday of the month.



"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" - contact Pastor Dave.



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!

"Together" - we continue to share God's "Good News" in many ways and YOU are helping to make this possible!



[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

PPC's Church Officers

Serving God and God's People

With "Energy, Intelligence, Imagination and Love"

Ruling Elders / Session

Moderator - Pastor Dave Hankins

Clerk of Session - Alex Harvey

Alex Harvey (2024)

Rhys Brenner (2024)

Lee Roundy (2024)

Larry Day (2025)	Nancy Schaper (2025)	Nancy Beasley (2026)
Jarrett Foster (2025)	Tara Bandekow (2026)	Kathy Raimer (2026)
	<u>Deacons</u>	
	Moderator of Deacons - Peggy Alf-Sechtig	
	Secretary - Liz Bellmore	
	Treasurer - Joyce Meredith	
	Peggy Alf (2025)	Glenda Day (2026)
Tammy Foster (2024)	Joyce Meredith (2025)	Vickie Kastner (2026)
Lynne Warren (2024)	Liz Bellmore (2025)	Joyce Oehlhof (2026)



Just One More Thought ...

Somehow "thank you" just does not express the depth of gratitude that my family and I have for all of you, the Portage Presbyterian Church community, over these past few weeks since the unexpected death of my sister Pixie.

We deeply appreciate your words of kindness and support, your cards and gifts, your understanding and your hugs.

The journey of life and faith continues. And knowing, and experiencing, your love and support makes all the difference.

Pastor Dave, Kathy, Nick and Sarah