



# The Portage Presbyterian



Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

January 2019

## "UN-DECORATING" - SAT, JANUARY 12

To borrow from the Old Testament book Ecclesiastes - "there is a time to decorate, and there is a time to un-decorate."

The time to "un-decorate" will be coming soon!

On Saturday, January 12 we will gather to take down and put away the vestiges of Advent and Christmas.

Those of any age, skill level or decorating prowess are encouraged to come and share in this time together.

We will start @ 9:00 a.m. and go until finished.

Come and help out! We'd love to see you!

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION - JAN 6

The Ordination and Installation of our newly-elected Ruling Elders and Deacons will be on Sunday, January 6 during our morning worship service.

This is a time which signifies that those who have experienced God's call to serve in these capacities are beginning their time of service.

Newly-elected Ruling Elders to be ordained and installed are *Kathy Raimer and John Crammond* (to be installed) and *Alex Harvey* (to be ordained).

Deacons to be "installed" are *Liz Bellmore and Joyce Oehlhof*. *Tammy Foster* will be "ordained" as a Deacon.

We also extend our gratitude to those who are completing their time of service, for their time, energy and faithfulness. Thank you to Elders *Nancy Schaper, Marcia Van Natta and Rhys Brenner* - and to Deacon *Pam Crossley*. "Well done good and faithful servants."

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN JANUARY

The Adult Bible Class will be meeting on Sunday mornings, January 6th and January 20th.

At those times, we will continue our study of "The Apostles' Creed."

Come and join us as we continue this interesting study into the new year.

We meet at 8:45 a.m. in the Bell Tower Room. All are welcome.

This class is led by the Rev. Dr. Carol Hermann here @ PPC.

## HANDBELL CHOIR RINGS IN NEW YEAR

PPC's Handbell Choir rehearses on Tuesdays @ 9:00 a.m.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the "bells" or who would like to be a part of this wonderful group is invited to just show up or contact Kathy Hankins @742-2752.

No experience is necessary! Just a love of music and a desire to have fun!

## "VBS" CONVERSATIONS - NOW?

We are talking about VBS in January?

Yes we are!!!

This is the perfect time to begin conversations about a "new concept of VBS" which could include both youth AND adults "of all ages."

Imagine - What might happen if we were to have young children and senior citizens together doing projects, singing songs and eating and praying together?

That's exactly what we want to talk about and explore further.

If you would like to be a part of this conversation, just "sign up" on the sheet in Parry Hall and we will let you know when we will get together.

If you have questions, ideas, suggestions, etc - please contact *Liz Bellmore* or *Pastor Dave*.

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

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



Sunday, January 6, 2019

Epiphany Sunday

10:05 a.m. - *Traditional Worship in Sanctuary*  
*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*  
*Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons*



Wednesday, January 9

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



Sunday, January 13, 2019

The Baptism of the Lord Sunday

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



Wednesday, January 16

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



Sunday, January 20, 2019

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

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



### BAKE SALE/PRODUCE DAYS

With the money we made from our bake sale/produce days we were able to provide a wonderful Stewardship Celebration breakfast plus donate \$446.00 to our church to help offset the per-capita deficit. We appreciate all of your support with that project. The Bake sales and produce will return the second Sunday in March!

Wednesday, January 23

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

Sunday, January 27, 2019

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

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



Wednesday, January 30

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

### THE PORTAGE PRESBYTERIAN

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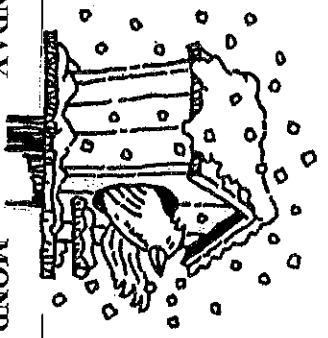
Sunday, February 3, 2019

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



### CHILI DUMP

On November 23 we held our annual Chili Dump during the Holiday Parade. It was a beautiful evening and people look forward and enjoy our chili. We made a profit of \$161.00 and we went through four nescoes of chili. That money was donated to the general operating budget of our church. Thanks to all who donated the chili and came out and supported our chili dump.



# January

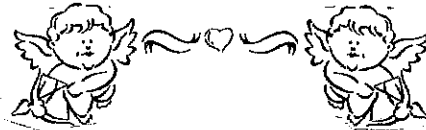
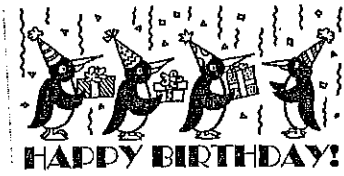
2019

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>BTR</b> – Bell Tower <b>FH</b> – Fellowship Hall <b>PH</b> – Parry Hall <b>SA</b> – Sanctuary <b>WC</b> – Westminster Center		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <i>Installation and Ordination of Elders and Deacons</i> Lord's Supper 8:45am Bible Study, BTR 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA	<b>7</b> 4:00pm ACA, WC	<b>8</b> 10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, PH	<b>9</b> Annual Reports Due in office 5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH	<b>10</b> 6:00pm Session Meeting, WC	<b>11</b> February Newsletter Articles Due in Office	<b>12</b> 9:00am Undecorate the Church
<b>13</b> <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> 10:05am Traditional Worship SA	<b>14</b> Meals On Wheels	<b>15</b> 10:00am Bell Choir, PH 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's	<b>16</b> 5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH	<b>17</b> Meals On Wheels	<b>18</b> Meals On Wheels	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:45am Bible Study, BTR 10:05am Informal Worship, SA 4:00pm New Directions 4-H Meeting, FH	<b>21</b> 10:00am Worship Service at Tivoli	<b>22</b> 10:00am Bell Choir, PH	<b>23</b> 5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH	<b>24</b> Meals On Wheels	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Light Supper, FH 6:30pm Eucharist – Mission For River Haven, FH	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> Annual Meeting 10:05am Worship Service & Meeting in Fellowship Hall	<b>28</b> 5:00-6:00pm Sharing Supper at Bartels Middle School	<b>29</b> 10:00am Bell Choir, PH <b>3</b>	<b>30</b> 5:00pm Meal, FH 5:30pm PEACE, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH	<b>31</b>	<p><b>UNDECORATING THE CHURCH</b>            On January 11 we will un-decorate the church from the Holidays beginning at 9:00am. The project is always easier when there are many helping hands so please come and help us.</p>	

## FOOD PANTRY

An important mission of our church is the Food Pantry. This year our church donated 1,835 pounds plus \$207.00 to the pantry. Thanks to all of you!!! They are very appreciative of our donations. During the holidays there are a lot of food drives around town but we need to remember the food pantry all year long. We want to remind you to watch the newspaper for specials. We always have our basket out for your donations. The items most urgently needed are peanut butter, jelly, ketchup, mustard, oatmeal, jello, pudding, crackers, soups & stews, Manwich, pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti noodles, canned meats and vegetables. Laundry soap is also always needed.



## CHRISTMAS DINNER THANK-YOU

Thank you to everyone who made our 20<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas dinner a success. We served ham, turkey breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, dressing, cranberry, rolls, cookies, ice cream and beverage to about 220 people. We had the biggest crowd in 20 years and people were so appreciative of having this opportunity to celebrate Christmas with others. We received cash donations plus a \$100.00 gift card from Festival Foods to offset our costs for the food.

Thanks to Kevin Foster, Pam & Chris Crossley who were there bright and early with me to help prepare the food. Thanks to Tom Caflisch and Edith McElroy who also came bright and early to set up the tables. Thanks to all who were there to help organize and get things set up and help throughout the day. Thanks to Kathryn Curtis for the donation of the ice cream and for being our greeter. Thanks to our church members: Elaine & John Crammond, Tara, Andrew & Gabe Bandekow, Thomas Huang, Cindy Moyer, Jerry Schneiter, Kathy Miller, Mark Curtis, Fred & Judy Taylor, Pastor Dave, Kathy and Sarah plus many community members for helping serve food and clean up. Thanks to Andrew, Pastor Dave and Ricky Ferguson for delivering meals to people who were unable to be there with us. Thanks to our members who donated the delicious cookies. We appreciate everyone's help and couldn't get it done without all of you. We are so lucky at PPC 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

## "SHARING SUPPER" - JANUARY 28, 2019

The "Sharing Supper" will be shared on Monday, January 28!!!

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."



## Pastor's Page



As we have made our way to Bethlehem, celebrated the birth of the Christ Child first with the shepherds and then with the wise ones and now have moved into a new year, I continue to be struck by the impact of the accounts of God at work in and through ordinary people.

"Do not be afraid!"

Over and over again in the accounts leading up to and including Jesus' birth we hear these words - "do not be afraid!"

Incidentally, these are not the only times we will hear or read these words - think "resurrection." But that's another article for another time.

Elie Wiesel famously said "If an angel ever says, 'Be not afraid,' you'd better watch out: a big assignment is on the way." As he notes God comforts with one hand and then shoves the people out into hard labor and danger with the other.

Yes, when we hear "do not be afraid" it usually suggests that there is a reason "to be afraid!"

In circumstances when "fear" could run rampant, God offers what seems to be a rather simple remedy - "do not be afraid."

What these words offer to us is the reality that there will be times when we are going to be afraid - and that's okay. This simply means we are human beings.

Yet, what these words also offer to us is the hope that even though we are afraid, God will not abandon us. In fact, these words give us something upon which to grasp and hang on.

For these are words which, despite the circumstances in which we may find ourselves - despite what we may see or hear - despite what others may be telling us - these are words which give us a reason to hope and to trust and to keep going and to keep living.

If God is telling us not to be afraid, then there must be more going on here than what I or we can see. God must be with us and God must be at work in us and through us.

To borrow from the Apostle Paul, "if God is for us, who or what could possibly stand against us."

(continued in column 2)

## 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 January 21st ... @10:00 a.m.

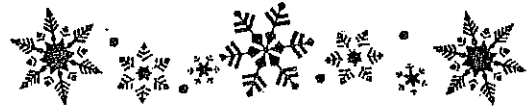
## THANK YOU!

Thank you!

What a community-minded church!

Your continued support is sincerely appreciated!


*The Portage Food Pantry*



(continued from column 1)

*And this is not just a message for Christmas!*

"Do not be afraid" reverberates beyond Christmas and out into a world and out into a new year that may seem like uncharted territory. This is how God reminds us and reassures us that we are not alone, that our lives have purpose, that God continues to be at work in the world and in our midst and that God is not finished with us yet!

 "Do not be afraid!"

Dare to trust that God is with you and with us!

"Do not be afraid!"

Dare to listen to God's promise and hope for you and for us.

"Do not be afraid!"



## TRY "SCRIP" - YOU'LL LOVE IT!

### *Scrip Fundraising is here @ PPC!*

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!

An "order sheet" is included with the newsletter and also are available in Parry Hall!

### "RIVER HAVEN" - VOLUNTEERS?

The River Haven Homeless Shelter is up and going again.

River Haven's new director, Raquel, started on December 17.

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.

## "PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM"

The Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a Presbyterian Church-wide youth gathering which will happen on July 16-20, 2019 at the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette, IN.

This is an event for high school age youth in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The theme for the 2019 event is "Here's My Heart".

This theme gets right to the heart of the matter. Drawing from the words of the hymn, Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, "Here's My Heart" expresses our deepest desire to be part of something bigger and more beautiful than the tiny flicker of our own candles. It speaks of passion and identity. It speaks of purpose and action.

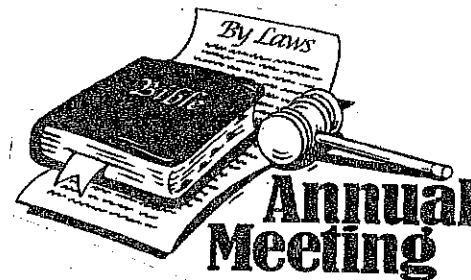
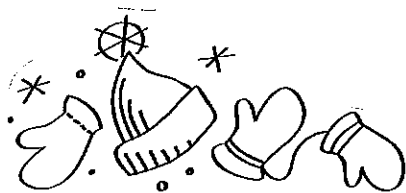
Interestingly enough it started with shenanigans! The story behind this beloved song by Robert Robinson begins with a group of teenagers showing up at an evangelistic meeting with the sole purpose of heckling the preacher. But a greater purpose and force was at work, and God's calling haunted Robert until he was able to one day proclaim, "Here's my heart."

We invite young people and their adult leaders to come experience God's love in a way so powerful and compelling that they, too, are moved to say, "Here's my heart". And together we will learn what it means to serve Christ with our intelligence, energy, imagination and love.

Costs for the PYT is equally divided between the John Knox Presbytery, the home church and the individual. It is estimated that the cost for each would be approximately \$220.00.

Those who may be interested in participating should have their registrations into the John Knox Presbytery office as soon as possible in order to reserve a space.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Dave as soon as possible.



## ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 27th

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019.

This will be a "worshipful works" experience in which we share both in worship and meeting together.

We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall for this time - beginning at our normal Sunday morning time of 10:05 a.m.

"Treats" will be provided too!

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS INFO DUE!

Any reports to be included in the Annual Meeting packet should be turned into the Church Office no later than Wednesday, January 9th.

Reports can be submitted via email ([office@portageprebyterian.com](mailto:office@portageprebyterian.com)) or by dropping them off at the Church Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Hankins at the Church Office (742-6006) on Wednesdays or Fridays from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



## "FOOD - FUN - FELLOWSHIP - FUNDS"

Mark your calendars for **Friday, January 25** when a Euchre card 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 **River Haven** for their work in the community. Bring an item for the food pantry and come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.

**COMMUNION SCHEDULE CHANGES - 2019**

*Beginning in January, 2019* the Session has approved the celebration of the Lord's Supper on **the first Sunday of every month.**

John Calvin, the founder of Presbyterianism, believed that the Lord's Supper was an integral part of one's faith experience and the church's worship experience and should be celebrated often.

While PPC has observed regular occasions of the Celebration of the Lord's Supper, or Communion, the Session also became aware that there were times during the year when there were "gaps" in the schedule which meant that for some who "missed" a particular day, those people may not have the chance to share in Communion for an extended period of time.

In conversations with a number of Presbyterian churches in our area we discovered that all with whom we talked observe the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month.

Coming together around the Lord's Table at least once each month will provide a wonderful opportunity to be in communion with our Lord and with one another as God's people and God's church.

20

**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, January 6, 2019

@ 10:05 a.m.

"Epiphany Sunday"

*Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons*

**"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."

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

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!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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