



The Portage Presbyterian Church

July, 2023

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



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

We Need Your "Pies" - @ VFW - July 5



On Wednesday Evening, **July 5th**, the Events Committee will be providing dessert at the concert at the Portage that is held at the VFW. We will be serving pies during the concert.

We will need at least 40 pies - as the popular group **"Best Practice"** will be performing - and they draw a large crowd!

Look for the sign up sheet in Parry Hall.

Since it is a short time before that day please call Nancy at 608-617-8629.

If possible please use a disposable pie pan and indicate on the top what kind of pie you are donating.

The pies need to be brought to church by noon July 5th.

It should be a fun evening so bring your chair and come join us at the park.

"Meal @ The Fair" - Thursday, July 27

The Meal at the Fair will be held on **July 27th** in front of the Grandstand.

We will be serving **shredded chicken, pork and beef sandwiches along with potato salad and cookies.**

We will need about 15 dozen cookies **AND can use many workers.**

Sign up sheets will be posted on the kiosk in Parry Hall.

All proceeds will go to the general operating budget of our church



Once again PPC will come together with *Bethlehem Lutheran Church* and *Portage United Methodist Church* to provide a "Worship Service @ the Fair."

We will "worship" on **Sunday, July 30** - beginning @ **11:00 a.m.** (please note the change of time - for this Sunday only!) - in the "**Entertainment Tent.**"

Come and share in the worship experience, the fellowship and the unique community of believers "@ the Fair."

Just a "quick note" - anyone who would like to be a part of the "praise team" for the "Worship @ the Fair" - is invited to **come for rehearsals** on **Wed, July 12** and **Wed, July 26** - @ **6:15 p.m.** @ **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** (Hwy 33 East).

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**DON'T FORGET ... DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS ...**

- ✓ Our worship services will begin @ **9:30 a.m.**
- ✓ The "**1st and 2nd**" **Sundays** - will be in the Sanctuary
- ✓ The "**3rd and 4th**" **Sundays** - will be "Outdoors in the Parking Lot"
- ✓ If we encounter inclement weather or a day that is too hot (80 degrees or more by 8:00 a.m.) - we will move "indoors" for worship
- ✓ The "Summer Worship Schedule" **will conclude on Sunday, September 3**

*So, with this in mind ... here is what the upcoming month of July looks like ....*

**Upcoming Sunday Worship Services**

**Sunday - July 2 - "Traditional " Worship**

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

*Matthew 10:40-42*

Worship @ **9:30 a.m.** - Sanctuary

*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Sunday - July 9 - "Traditional " Worship

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

*Matthew 11:160-19, 25-30*

Worship @ 9:30 a.m. - [Sanctuary](#)

Sunday, July 16 - "Informal" Worship

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

*Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

Worship @ 9:30 a.m. - [Outdoor / Parking Lot](#) (weather permitting)

Sunday - July 23 - "Traditional " Worship

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

*Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

Worship @ 9:30 a.m. - [Outdoor / Parking Lot](#) (weather permitting)

Sunday - July 30 - "Worship @ The Fair"

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

**Worship @ 11:00 a.m. - [Columbia County Fair "Entertainment" Tent](#)**

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church-Portage United Methodist Church-Portage Presbyterian Church*

Looking Ahead - Confirmation This Fall?

As we begin to look ahead for the Fall (but it's not even summer yet!!!) ... we are reaching out to those who are 7th grade or older ... about the possibility of having a "Confirmation Class / Experience."

If this is something in which you (or a young person you know) would be interested (or would like more information), **please contact Pastor Dave** - and "get on the list!"

The Latest "Brat" News!



On June 6<sup>th</sup> the Event's Committee hosted a brat and hot dog sale during the Canal Days parade and activities.

We went through 75 brats and 26 hot dogs along with chips, pop and water. Thanks to Rhys Brenner, Larry Day, and Nancy Meekma for their help that day.

We made **a profit of \$222.00** for the General Operating budget of our church.

*Nancy Schaper*

PPC Women's Association "Updates"

- ✓ Thank you to everyone who has provided soap for our personal care bags. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
- ✓ For the month of July, we are requesting deodorant for men and women. Your donations can be placed in the basket on the table in Perry Hall.
- ✓ The Mission Chicken Soup Mix is available in the church office or at church on Sundays or you can contact Glenda. Only \$4/jar.
- ✓ We could sure use your 8 oz jars (such as jelly, relish, or olive jars) with labels removed.



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PPC "volunteers" to "stock the shelves" at the Food Pantry on the 3rd Wednesday of each month - **July 19** - usually @ **5:00 p.m. or so**. Volunteers are always welcome to come and help this community resource provide a necessary program for those in need in our community.

Come and help make a difference in the community!

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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 "Summer Season" is a busy time for the 4-H clubs and youth - with county fairs, parades, camps and numerous other learning and "fun" activities.

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** is the advisor for the New Directions Club.

## "Scouting" Updates!

Congratulations to Troop 70's newest Eagle Scout - **Blake Zirbes**.

Pack 70 - Troop 7070 - Troop 70 are into their Summer season. It is time to be "outdoors!!!"

This is a busy time of the year for the Scouts and their leaders. Be sure to keep them in your prayers as they travel, camp, learn and "have fun!". Keep up the great work, Scouts!



Mark Your Calendars ... Upcoming "Events"

The Circus is Coming - The Circus is Coming!!!

That's right - a "real Circus" - under the "Big Top"- is coming to Portage!!!



On Tuesday, August 15 the "Culpepper and Merriweather Circus" will be offering 2 shows (@ 5:00 p.m. and @ 7:30 p.m.) - @ the Columbia County Fairgrounds.

The Circus is being **sponsored by the "Boys and Girls Club - Columbia County / Portage"** and is one of their major fund raisers.

Tickets can be purchased "in advance" for \$13.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children and senior citizens.

The "Boys and Girls Club" will receive a "percentage" of the "pre-sale" tickets.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets - or would like more information, please contact Pastor Dave.

Important "Information and Activities" Around Portage

"Portage Summer Lunch Program for Kids"

The Summer of 2023 marks the 10th year that nutritional Summer Lunches have been made available for area young people 18 years old and younger.

Summer Lunches will be served at the following locations and times:

- Goodyear Park / Splash Pad ..... 11:10-11:30 a.m.
- Portage Library ..... 11:15-11:45 a.m.
- Lincoln Park ..... 11:40-Noon
- Sanborn Park ..... 12:15-12:35 p.m.

If you would be interested in being a "volunteer" this Summer - or would like more information, please use the following links ...

Sign-up sheet: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dCIGL1s-Qe7RCJu6BBziu8EB0ekxKQ8JFzybulQ2hec/edit#gid=0>

Volunteer Registration: <https://forms.gle/PQVn2QhBHFDKJNFq6>

If you have questions, *please contact Pastor Dave*



"Sharing Supper" Information!

On Monday, July 31 - 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

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*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



One Final Thought - "40 Years Is A Long Time!"

40 years! That seems like such a "long time!" And I am correct - it is, indeed, a long time.

On Sunday, June 11, the Portage Presbyterian Women's Association "surprised" me with a beautiful commemorative "picture blanket" which included photos of "places" which have been important part of my life for more than 40 years.

Each of these "places" have been a part of my journey: starting with my "home church" in Reedsburg, Main Hall at Carroll College (University now), the Chapel on the University of Dubuque Campus, the United Church of Muscoda and PPC.

But even more important than "the places," are the "faces" of those that I recall who were in those "places" and who played a role in my learning, my growth, my perspectives, my development and my faith.

I am very grateful for those who, each in their own way, helped guide, support, critique, suggest and inspire me along this journey.

But what I am discovering, is that "40 years" is really not about "age" - but, is more "about the journey."

40 years! You may recognize that the number "40" in the Scriptures is a significant one. "40" is often associated with an experience of learning, growth, struggle - and above all the realization that one is not alone - that God is with one - that God is at work in the midst of it all - and that God is leading one to where they need to be.

- "40" years of the Exodus.
- "40" days of Noah and his family adrift on the ark.
- "40" days of Jesus in the wilderness, after his baptism and before he begins his ministry.
- "40" days of Jesus being with his disciples following His resurrection.

All significant and meaningful "journeys" and "experiences" in their lives - and in the lives of those around them.

So, as I reflect on these last "40" years, for me, of being an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church USA - I have discovered, and perhaps "re-discovered," that these have been, first and foremost, years in which I knew (*and sometimes needed to be reminded*) that I was not alone - whether through the Scripture, singing the music of the faith, on a mission trip, in meetings and gatherings, the awesome displays of nature, a card or message or an unexpected gift - God has continued to provide "proof" that God has been and continues to be with me, that God is still at work (*I am not a finished product*) and that God has and will continue to lead me where God needs me to be. These "40" years are truly a testament to God's provision, God's peace, God's presence and God's sense of humor.

And I hope (*and pray*) that God has in some way, over these "40" years also provided hope and peace and comfort and laughter and joy and community through me for those around me - whether my family, those church communities of which I have been and continue to be a part, pastors and Sunday School teachers, those who I have been blessed to know as colleagues and friends, classmates and fellow learners, band mates, fellow scouts and leaders, those with whom I have struggled and disagreed, those with whom I have served on community activities and programs, teachers and instructors, those who I have just met in passing.

Above all, I hope and pray humbly that "in me, through me, with me and especially in spite of me" you may have had an opportunity to experience a glimpse of God's Kingdom - and the wonderful good news that God loves you - me - the whole world! For that is what I have experienced - "through God and through YOU!"

Yes, what I am discovering, is that "40 years" is really not about "age" - but, is more "about the journey" - AND those with whom one shares the "journey."

So, *wherever - however - whenever* - we have shared this "journey" - "thank you!"

Yes, "40" years IS a long time. And it would never have been the same - without YOU!

*Peace, Pastor Dave*