



The Portage Presbyterian



A Newsletter for The Portage Presbyterian Family

October 2018

COATS OF MANY COLORS COAT DRIVE

We are collecting gently used and clean winter coats-sizes infant to adult. They must have workable snaps, zippers, and buttons. We are also asking for snow boots of all sizes. Items may be dropped off at church or the Portage Police Dept. The drive runs from October 1 to October 21. Coats will be distributed on Friday, October 26 from 2:00-6:00 PM and Saturday, October 27 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. Distribution will be at the Portage Fairgrounds, Building #8. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Schaper at 742-7242. The coat drive is sponsored by The Salvation Army.

"INQUIRY GATHERINGS" IN OCTOBER

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a member of the PPC community - or if you just have questions and would like more information - we are offering "Inquiry Gatherings" on Sunday, October 7 (after worship) and on Tuesday, October 9 @ 6:30 p.m. in Parry Hall.

These "Gatherings" are opportunities for those who would like to learn more about PPC - our work and ministries, our history, our theology, our organization, etc.

"Inquiry Gatherings" are just that - a time and opportunity for those interested to come, ask questions and share in a time of fellowship in a non-pressure setting.

For those who are interested in becoming members here at PPC, there will be a time to visit about this as well.

If you would be interested in participating in an "Inquiry Gathering" or have other questions, please contact Pastor Dave.

Thank you!

"TECHNOLOGY" PROJECT GROUP

We had our "first meeting" of the Technology Project Group on Sunday, September 23 after worship.

In our conversation we identified 3 initial areas of consideration: 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.

PRODUCE DAYS

Produce / Bake sale Days will continue into October as long as there is produce available. We have had great success each Sunday and look forward to the fall produce. A special thanks to all of you who have donated produce or baked goods.

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS

All who would like to come and make a joyful noise to the Lord are invited to come and be part of PPC's Chancel Choir.

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings @ 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Judy Taylor.

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UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 3

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

Sunday, October 7, 2018

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Wednesday, October 10

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

Sunday, October 14, 2018

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

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

Wednesday, October 17

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

Sunday, October 21, 2018

The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

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

Wednesday, October 24

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

Sunday, October 28, 2018

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

"Lite Breakfast" following in Parry Hall

Wednesday, October 31

No "Wed Nite" Worship this evening!

Sunday, November 4, 2018

The 24th Sunday after Pentecost

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

"All Saints Sunday"

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

A huge thanks to all who donated items for our school supply drive. The schools were very appreciative for all the items we donated.

PEACEMAKING OFFERING

Be with us on October 7 as we celebrate World Communion Sunday and receive the Peace & Global Witness (Peacemaking) Offering.

11,151.59

GIFT RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF

DARLENE KRAUSE

From Jill Porzel



The grass withers,
the flower fades;
but the word of our God
will stand for ever.

—Isaiah 40:8



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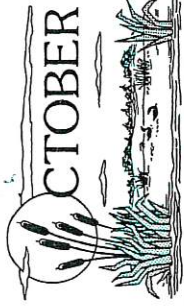
www.portagepresbyterianchurch.com

Editor - Kathryn Curtis

Pastor - The Rev. David J. Hankins

October

2018



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**

1 BTR – Bell Tower Room FH – Fellowship Hall PH – Parry Hall SA – Sanctuary WC – Westminster Center	2 5:30pm Discipleship Meeting, WC	3 5:00pm Light Snack, FH 5:30pm Lord's Lambs, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH 6:30pm Guitar Lessons, PH	4	5	6 9:00am Presbyterian Women Meeting at Dino's
7 20 th Sunday after Pentecost Lord's Supper 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA Inquiry Meeting After Worship, PH	8 5:00pm ACA, WC 6:00pm Bell Choir, PH	9 10:00am Region 5 Prayer Group, WC 6:30pm Inquiry Meeting, PH	10 5:00pm Light Snack, FH 5:30pm Lord's Lambs, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH	11 6:00pm Session Meeting, WC	12 November Newsletter Articles Due in Office
14 21 st Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am Bible Study, BTR 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA	15 6:00pm Bell Choir, PH	16 11:00am "Late For Breakfast" at Dino's	17 5:00pm Light Snack, FH 5:30pm Lord's Lambs, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH 6:30pm Worship Jam, SA	18 9:00am – 4:00pm Bi-Vocational Ministry, FH	19 3:00 p.m. Edwynna Curry Birthday Party, FH
21 22 nd Sunday of after Pentecost 10:05am Informal Worship, SA 4:00pm 4-H Meeting, FH	22 6:00pm Bell Choir, PH	23 5:00pm Mission Stewardship, PH	24 5:00pm Light Snack, FH 5:30pm Lord's Lambs, BTR 6:05pm Worship, SA 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH 6:30 pm Worship Jam, SA	25 Meals On Wheels	26 Meals On Wheels
28 23 rd Sunday of after Pentecost 8:45am Bible Study, BTR 10:05am Traditional Worship, SA	29 Meals On Wheels 10:00am Worship Service at Tivoli 5:00-6:30pm Sharing Supper at Bartels	30 Meals On Wheels	31 6:30pm Chancel Choir, FH		

PAINTNITE REMINDER

The Women's Association is excited to announce that we will be having our first PaintNite at 2PM on November 17th. What does this mean? It's very simple, all you have to do is reserve your spot (we only have 60) and come to the church that day. The company PaintNite will be here with an instructor and all of the supplies needed to make a beautiful canvas painting called Faith, Hope and Love. Snacks will be provided by the Women's Association. The cost for 2 hours of fun, fellowship, laughter and an original canvas made by you is only \$45.00. To sign up go to <https://paintnite.com> or contact Tara Bandekow (608 697-8402 for more information. All reservations will be made online but we will be happy to assist you

HARVEST DINNER IN NOVEMBER

Mark your calendars for the Harvest Dinner on **November 10**. There will be signup sheets on the bulletin board in Parry Hall mid October for pies and for helpers needed at a variety of workstations: kitchen for preparation and serving, kitchen and dining room clean-up help, servers in the dining room, turkey carvers and pie cutters. The names of those responsible for the various areas are on the signup sheets, so contact the person in charge if you have any questions. *The Harvest Dinner is a church event that the Event's Committee cannot do by themselves. We need all your help to make it a success.*

If you have any questions at this time or are not able to make it to church and want to sign up please call Nancy Schaper at 742-7242.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HARVEST DINNER

NOVEMBER 10TH !!!

COOKING SQUASH

On Tuesday, October 16th, we will be cooking up 100+ squash for the Harvest Dinner. It takes many of us to get this done. We will begin at 1:00PM and go until we are done. **WE CAN USE YOUR HELP!!!** Last year went much faster than usual because of the extra help. We will take all the help we can get. If you can't make it at 1:00PM, come when you can. Please let Nancy know if you can help.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EDWYNNA!

In honor of Edwynna Curry's 90th birthday, please join the family for cake and punch in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 20 starting at 3:00 p.m.

"SHARING SUPPER" – OCTOBER 26, 2018

The "Sharing Supper" will be shared on Monday, October 26!!!

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

"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.

Come and share in this unique and wonderful experience – on **October 26 @ 5:00 p.m.**

Pastor's Page

A few months ago I watched *"The Greatest Showman."* And I knew what was going to happen. The same thing occurs when I go to a "circus" performance or when I hear circus music.

I began to think about how different might my life be if I had "run away and joined the circus."

In the summer before my senior year in college, I and the other members of the circus band that played in Baraboo at the museum had an invitation to come and play for the whole next season with Ringling Bros and Barnum and Bailey's touring circus.

This was a tough decision for me. I had dreamed about the circus from the first time I read the book "Circus Boys" which told the story of the Ringling brothers from the beginning of their days in McGregor, IA including their move to Baraboo.

And yet, this invitation came at a complicated time in my life. I was also going to be entering into my senior year of college.

I found myself standing with Winnie the Pooh and wondering *"What to do? What to do?"*

After a great deal of thought and prayer, I relinquished the "circus dream" and returned to college. It was a good choice!

Have you ever had a time when you wondered "what do I do?" Or occasions when we have wondered whether we have made a wrong choice?

With so many of the folks we meet in the Scriptures, the journey of life and faith is not an easy nor direct one. No, more often than not one's journey is a circuitous one, with plenty of detours, wrong turns, dead ends and recalculations.

That's what happens! We are not perfect, we have flaws and we fail. But these imperfections, flaws and failures do exclude us from God's grace nor do they disqualify us from being those through whom God can and does work.

I recently heard someone mention that we do not necessarily make mistakes - but we experience "learning opportunities."

I believe that is how God approaches us when we sin, fail, make bad decision or choose the wrong path. God does not abandon us, but instead

(continued in column 2)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN OCTOBER

The Adult Bible Class is off to a great start with their study of "The Apostles' Creed."


So far, we have talked about what it means to believe and about our belief in God as the Maker of heaven and earth.

Now, on **October 14th and 28th**, we will discuss *what it means to believe in Jesus as Lord* and that *he was "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Virgin Mary."*

This should prove to be an interesting discussion, as it is one with which many of us have wondered. What does it mean to say that Jesus is Lord and that he was conceived by the Holy Spirit?

Come and join us for these discussions. We **meet at 8:45 a.m. in the Bell Tower Room** on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. All are welcome.

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

(continued from column 1) 

helps us to see where we are and then, also what is yet to be. Then God invites us to go and to do and to be in this new opportunity for new life!

God never simply "gives up on us." No, God always has a "Plan B" (and C,D,E,F ... too).

Recently I saw a Facebook post which sums all of this up very well.

"If you think you have blown God's plan for your life - rest in this! You, my beautiful friend, are not that powerful."

God's love, God's grace and forgiveness, God's purpose / plan / mission for you and me and the church is faithful, stubborn, secure and unchanging.

God believes in you and me and God's church!

We simply need to listen for God's recalculations, to trust God and to be willing to follow God's new path for us.

Yes, there are many different people God could choose. But graciously and amazingly God always chooses "us" to be God's people and to do God's work.

Wow!

"GUITAR LESSONS" - WED, OCT 3rd

We will have our first gathering for "guitar lessons" here @ PPC on Wednesday, October 3 - 6:30 p.m. in Parry Hall.

Samantha Harvey, a junior at UW-Madison will be leading the guitar lessons group beginning this Fall.

Sam has been taking guitar lessons herself for a number of years and is excited by this opportunity to share her experience and her joy of playing guitar.

Guitar players of all ages and skill levels are welcome and encouraged to take part.

At this first meeting, decisions will be made as to when and how often the group will want to meet.

Invite others who may be interested to come and be a part of this group!

Thanks, Sam, for sharing your gifts and helping to make a difference!



CELEBRATION BREAKFAST
Join us for a "Celebration Breakfast" following worship in Parry Hall on October 28th. See enclosed letter for reason to "Celebrate".



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 FIFTH / LAST Monday in October - October 29th ... @10:00 a.m.



TERRI LYNN NUT & CANDY SALE

During the month of October we will again be doing a Terri Lynn Nut & Candy **pre-order** sale. You will **pre-order and pay** for what you would like. The items will then be ordered and we should have them by Thanksgiving. So carefully consider what you would like and order accordingly because we will not have any "left over's". Some of the items available will be Fancy Medium Pecan Pieces, Light Walnut Halves & Pieces, Deluxe Mixed Nuts, Giant Whole Roasted & Salted Cashews, Sweet & Salty Trail Mix, Jumbo Chocolate Raisins, Milk Chocolate Bridge Mix, Giant Chocolate Malted Milk Balls, Almond Cranberry Granola Mix, Harvest Medley Mix, Milk Chocolate Coated Peanuts, Mint Melt Aways, Dark Chocolate Sea Salt Caramels and Dark Chocolate Cranberries. These are some of the items we have picked out. You may have other items you like so like last year we will have a colored brochure available for you to go through and order what ever you desire. You will then just add the items to your order blank. Price lists and order blanks will be available at church on Sunday, September 30, or in the church office. You will notice that some prices have gone up and that is due to an increase from Terri Lynn. If you have any questions contact Nancy Schaper (608-742-7242). All profits from this nut and candy sale will go to the general operating budget of the church.

 **Thanks for VOLUNTEERING**

BRAT AND HOT DOG SALE

Thanks to all who came and supported our brat, hamburger and hot dog stand at Festival Foods Brat Hut on September 1. It was a cloudy day but the rain held off. We sold 120 brats, 35 hamburgers and 14 hot dogs. We made \$403.71 which was donated to the general operating budget of our church. Thanks to Kevin & Allison Foster, Donna Mohr, Kathy Raimer, and Edith McElroy along with myself for helping with the sale.

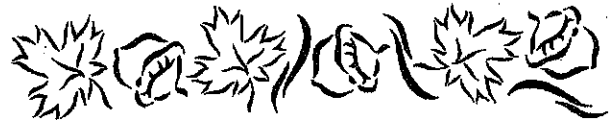
"CLERK'S CORNER"

Once a year the Deacons and Elders have a joint, informal meeting and discussion together and then break apart to have their own separate meetings. PPC Deacons and Elders met at the end of August and of course there was food for the body as well as food for the soul.

Our discussion this year focused on our role as a Missional Church - the place and purpose of the Missional Church. We decided that PPC has much to be proud of in this "new" role. Instead of waiting for Presbyterians to magically appear on our doorstep we are out in the community in many ways. Pastor Dave is involved in the monthly, free community meal, in the summer lunch program for children and is on the board at the River Haven Shelter. We had a presence at the County Fair this year selling sandwiches on Wednesday and providing a service on Sunday. We deliver Meals on Wheels, we provide a service at Tivoli, we provide a free Christmas dinner. We sell brats, pies, chili, turkey and fixings; many of our money-making projects take us out of our church building and involve us directly in community events.

It feels good to be involved whether donating time or selling food. There's this old expression that comes to mind because it's fall (well nearly): you reap what you sow. Our place in Portage as a Missional Church reaps benefits for our community and helps us to keep the lights on. Seems like a win-win all around.

Kathy Raimer



HANDBELL CHOIR RINGS AGAIN

PPC's Handbell Choir rehearses on Mondays @ 6:00 p.m. (except for the last Monday).

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!

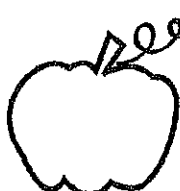








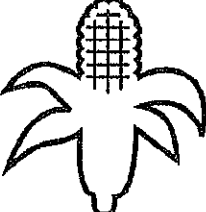



HARVEST OF GOODNESS

God always provides, no matter the season.

Directions: Match the shapes in order to write the words in the correct places below.



“The  will  
 what is , and 
 will  its .”
  : , NIV

Answer: “The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.” Psalm 85:12, NIV



The Service of Communion

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, December 2, 2018
@ 10:05 a.m.
"The First Sunday of Advent"

"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."

KWIK TRIP "CAR WASH" CARDS -

PPC's "mission trippers" continue to sell 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.**

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

Thanks!



CONCERT AT THE PORTAGE

The Events Committee served desserts at the Concert at the Portage at the VFW Hall on August 22. "Universal Sounds" was the group performing and there was a good crowd. We went through 30 pies and made a profit of \$331.00 towards the general operating budget of the church. Thank you to everyone who donated pies, served the pies and ate the pies. They were all wonderful.

10

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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"HOW?"

Over this past year we have learned "What Is Happening" at Portage Presbyterian Church and how this building provides a place for a variety of groups and ministries to meet together, which each in their own way, make a difference in our community.

Then we found out "Why?" as members of the PPC community shared their "stories" of being called to this faith community and the difference that this church community makes for them and for the community around us.

You may not have realized that these programs "It's Happening" and "Why" were part of our church's stewardship program in 2018.

Who would have thought that "stewardship" could be so interesting ... or fun ... or inspirational?

Now we have finally come to **"How?"**

"How" is all of this possible?

"How" does all of this happen?

"How?" ... here's a clue ... it has to do with "you" and with "God!"

We hope that you will join us on Sunday, October 28 during the 10:05 a.m. morning worship as we explore and reflect on **"How?"**

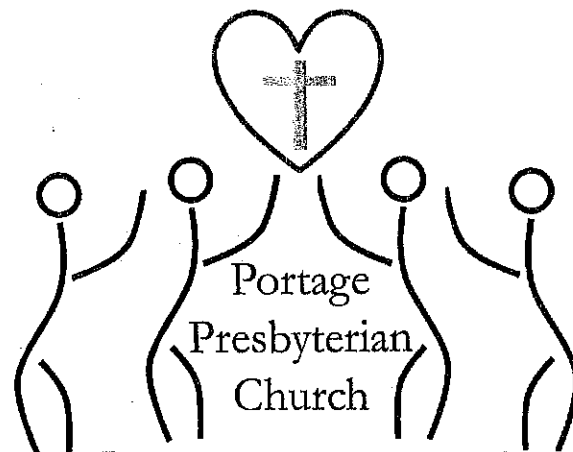
A "celebration breakfast" will be served in Parry Hall following our worship service.

You will find enclosed your **"How?"** card with this letter (*to be returned on October 28 during the "Celebration" time*)

Please prayerfully consider the ways in which you will share your prayers, your presence, your participation and your gifts that will enable the Portage Presbyterian Church to continue being a place, a people and a messenger of God's "Good News."

Marcia VanPatta
Elaine Crammond
Tamarac Foster
Allison Pitt

Nancy Schaper
Fred & Taylor
Laura Brenner
Judith C. Taylor



*The church is a people;
we are the church!*