

# The Messenger

HAPPY  
*Mother's*  
DAY!

A Newsletter of Portage United Methodist Church  
MAY 2021 Rev. Doug Clement, Pastor

## Youth Group



Thank you so much!

Our Easter basket delivery was a success, thanks to the many families who put together a special basket or 2 for one of our shut-in members. Thank you to: The Kallungi Family, The Maier Family, The Ratz Family, The Brockley Family, The Zenor Family, The Briggs Family, and those other Briggzz... ;). Together you created smiles with over 20 homemade baskets for our shut-in members.

### Upcoming important dates:



**PHS graduation:** Friday night, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. This year graduation is being held at the football field. We have 3 students graduating (from left to right: **Abbey Francis** (Lisa & Tim Francis) **Abby Weidling** (Anne Weaver & Eric Weidling) and **Maggie Zirbes** (Katie & Brian Zirbes). We will be having a virtual graduation Sunday this year on video. Please look for upcoming information in the weekly church emails.

**PHS Prom:** Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.



It seems like only yesterday we were looking forward to the celebration of Easter morning. We journeyed together through the forty days of Lent, learning how to walk in the footsteps of Christ by engaging in the practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness to our faith. We grew together and gained a better understanding of the significance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Now, we stand on the other side of history's greatest event. We have heard about the women who found the empty tomb and who first proclaimed the good news that "Christ is risen!". Yet, we may be wondering, "What do we do now? Where do we go from here?"

The disciples found themselves in a similar place. They may not have faced the exact same challenges we do, but they had struggles of their own, including not having the tradition or the institution of the church to support them. All they had was each other.

Though they did not believe at first, they did finally witness the risen Christ for themselves when he came among them. In fact, they had an opportunity to experience several resurrection appearances. Jesus was there in the locked room, on the road to Emmaus, and along the seashore in Galilee. He broke bread with them, ate a breakfast of fish, and offered them reassurances that they would not be abandoned. Then, he ascended into heaven and they were left wondering, "What do we do now? Where do we go from here?"

Jesus had promised them that God would send them "another Advocate, to be with you forever." (John 14:16). It's likely they did not understand what that meant at the time, but as we see in the book of Acts, what Jesus promised eventually came to pass. The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers. "Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 2:3-4). In other words, they were given the help and support they needed to do the work Jesus had called them to do.

Sometimes it can be difficult to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in the midst of everything else going on around us, but the truth is that God continues to fulfill

God's promise that we will never be alone. Just as the Holy Spirit was poured out upon those early believers, it continues to move in and through us today.

We have seen the Spirit at work in individual people's lives as they have reached out to one another and supported each other in these difficult times. The Spirit has helped folks use their creative gifts to make Valentine cards and Easter baskets. It has given them the courage to share their voices and their musical talents in worship. And it is the source of their passion for service, which has led them to make meals for those who are struggling as well as to provide food for those in need.

...but the Spirit is more than a personal experience we have as individuals. We know that God's Spirit also moves through our congregation, equipping and empowering us to be the body of Christ in our community and the world. Our mission as United Methodists (should we choose to accept it) is to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world". The Spirit makes it possible for us to do that.

As we continue our journey together, may we remember the story of Pentecost, the hope that it offers, and the promise that is being fulfilled in us today.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Doug*

Thank you to those who stepped up with increased giving to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund!

### **Support for the Discretionary Fund**

Throughout this pandemic, we have been able to offer financial support to those in need, bridging the gap from where they are to the people and resources that can help them get on a better path. However, the needs are great and our resources are few. Consider donating to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund so that we can continue to reach out and help people in these difficult times.

Articles for the  
June/July newsletter  
are due May 16



**You Can Donate**  
**Directly from Your Smartphone!**

It's simple and easy! Just text the amount you want to donate, including the dollar sign (ex. \$20) to [844-556-1238](tel:844-556-1238) and click on the link they send you. Follow the prompts to complete your donation.

**PEACE WITH JUSTICE**  
**Special Offering May 30, 2021**

**Our social principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. It is the moral duty of all nations to work at finding peaceful resolutions together. Your gifts support the development of social justice ministries in every Annual Conference, with half of the collections remaining within our annual conference.**

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

Thursday, May 27 from 11:30am - 5:30pm

Best to make appointments by calling  
1-800-RED-CROSS

***Little Free Pantry!***

Many thanks for your donations for the little pantry! Keep them coming! **All food items must have intact labels and be within the sell by/use by dates.** Just leave your donations at the front doors (please label "for Free Pantry".) We'll take care of stocking it so it doesn't get overfilled. And "thank you" for your donations!



*"Thanks to my church family throughout this past year, for all the phone calls and ways you kept in touch.*

*It was good to know that the church was doing exactly what a church should do. Reaching out!*

*I really appreciated it!"*

Corrine Robson

While the pandemic still remains serious, thank you for continuing going the extra mile and braving the W elements [with the Pop-up Pantry]. Sometimes the simplest things mean the most.

With gratitude,  
Ellen Jorgensen

To the Silent Valentine,

*"Thank you for the cute valentine and the sweet box of candy. There were so many things coming our way for Valentine's Day. It was nice, because we were locked down!"*

Shirley Rehdantz

**Volunteers Needed for 2 Projects**

After 12 years (!) Carrie Scherbert would like to pass the volunteer position of "sign keeper" on to someone else. It's just a matter of changing the letters on the sign once every week or two, depending on what's going on. She would be happy to spend some time with the next volunteer, showing them the ropes and sharing ideas. Please call or email the church if you would like to help out in this way.

We are also looking for another volunteer to keep the Little Free Pantry stocked with current date products. Once a week seems to be often enough, and you can choose a time convenient for you. Again, if this sounds like a ministry you are willing to help with, please contact Shar in the office.

Ph: 608-742-2107

email: [office.portageumc@gmail.com](mailto:office.portageumc@gmail.com)

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**Thought for the day:**  
**Life is a puzzle. Look to God for the missing peace.**

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**Portage**  
**Pop-up**  
 Drive-thru  
**Pantry**  
**Fresh Produce & Perishables**  
**2:00 - 5:00**  
**Every 4th Wednesday**  
 held at  
**1804 New Pinery Rd., Portage**  
**Portage United Methodist Church**

**The following is our list of the churches in the South West District we will pray for in May.**

*Please take a moment to lift each church below in prayer during their week. We are all in need. Send them a simple card letting them know you are praying for their health and welfare amidst these challenging times.*

May 2 – May 8, 2021

Madison: Korean Ministries, clergy Myunghoon Han and the 47 members. Madison: Korean Ministries is located at 1123 Vilas Ave, Madison, WI 53715.

May 9 – May 15, 2021

Madison: Wellspring UMC, clergy Myunghoon Han and the 130 members. Madison: Wellspring is located at 5702 South Hill Dr, Madison, WI 53755.

May 16 – May 22, 2021.

Madison: Sherman Avenue UMC, clergy David Hart and the 119 members. Madison: Sherman Avenue is located at 3705 N Sherman Ave, Madison, WI 53704.

May 23 – May 29, 2021

Madison: Trinity UMC, clergy Breanna Illene and the 55 members. Madison: Trinity is located at 1123 Vilas Ave, Madison, WI 53715.



MAY 2021

**Psssst! Personal time in the sanctuary is here!**

Come in, sit a spell, take a load off! Pray, meditate, or even watch the Sunday service on your phone. If you're interested in some personal time in the sanctuary, contact the church office to schedule a visit. Masks must still be worn, and participation is limited to individuals or members of the same household. Give the church office a call and reserve your time now!

**WE ARE DIALING IT UP ONCE AGAIN!**

**EXPANDED OUTSIDE OPPORTUNITY AT THE DRIVE-IN SERVICE**

Do you love Rally Day and the Fair Service? Then come and join us starting May 2nd on Sunday mornings at 9am! Those who wish to attend the drive-in service may start to bring lawn chairs up in the front on the dots with their vehicles parked in the back (masks on and socially distanced at least 6 feet apart from the next person not in your household still apply). Pastor Doug will be back outside and there will be a speaker so you can hear without your radio from your car. You can still opt to sit in your vehicles in the back few rows if you wish. More information will be shared through email and Facebook.



*We are excited at the ability to begin to "turn the dial" back up in reconnecting with each other and our community. You can continue to help by getting your Covid-19 vaccine when you become eligible, wearing your mask, and practicing social distancing. The more we work together, the more we will be able to be together.*

I want to thank Laura and Gary Moeller, Karen Zenor, Mark Johnson, Jessica Malsack, Joel Engelland, Chris Hurd, Paul Peterson, and anyone else who served as a liturgist, special musician, volunteer. Your time and talents are *truly* appreciated.



Stay healthy and take care,

Katie Zirbes [kzirbes3@gmail.com](mailto:kzirbes3@gmail.com) or 417-0247 (call or text)



Bishop Jung  
The Anti- and the Pro-

*So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4, with invitation to read Colossians 3:1-17, NRSV)*

I note a trend in our culture that is troubling to me. It troubles me because it feels to me incomplete and negative. This trend is to be “against” things. We are fighting against prejudice. We are fighting against corruptions. We are anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-immigrant, anti-establishment, anti-virus, anti-imperialist, and dozens, if not hundreds, of other anti-. Republicans are against Democrats; liberals are against conservatives. We too often define ourselves by what we oppose. Now I am not saying that it is not important to take a stand against evil or vices, but “being against” is not the same thing as “being for.”

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church launched a “Dismantling Racism” priority initiative. I am in full support of this work and am part of the Task Force on the Council of Bishops that is leading this initiative. It is very easy to define the work of this group – we oppose the thoughts, actions, speech, systems, and institutions that preference one people over others, especially people of color. We want to tear down the policies and programs that have privileged one group over others. We want to destroy the prejudicial mindsets that lead to violence, aggression, condescension, segregation, and colonialization. We wish to remove the influences and attitudes that undermine the self-esteem, pride of identity, and deride the precious benefits of cultural diversity. All of this is important work. But to what end?

As racism is destroyed, what rises to take its place? As we tear down, what do we build. As we deconstruct, what do we create? Our vision cannot simply be the elimination of the negative (do no

harm), but must cast an image of something new and better and beautiful (do all the good we can). For me, this vision and image is shaped by the theological framing of Beloved Community. I capitalize the words on purpose because I believe they are a discernment of the divine intention of God. As Christian disciples I believe that our energy and effort should be aligned toward a return to Eden – a place for all people to live in peace and harmony, dignity and respect.

I am anti-racist, but more importantly I am pro-Asian and pro-black and pro-African and pro-Hmong and pro-Mexican and pro-Korean and pro-Central American and... You can expand my list to include any and all people – all the children of God in God’s creation. I am anti-racism because I am pro-inclusion, pro-compassion, pro-peace, pro-mercy, and pro-justice. I am anti-oppression because I am pro-freedom, pro-possibility, pro-opportunity, pro-abundance, and pro-kindness. I am anti-evil because I am pro-good, and pro-wonderful, and pro-love.

Essentially, I am trying to “set my mind on the things above.” It is all too easy to focus on what is wrong, dissatisfying, problematic, and destructive. I need reminders and inspiration to shift my thinking from problems to solutions, from illness to healing, from broken to fixed, from harm to good. But our God is always calling us to a Promised Land, not merely out of Egypt. It is both/and, never either/or.

Of course, we must begin somewhere, and there is a lot of work to do to clear the ground of rubble and debris and devastation to make room for creation and building and restoration. But let us always remember we are moving toward a positive – Beloved Community – and away from a negative – an unjust, often hateful, and broken world. We are a people who reflect the glory of the Lord. Let us shine brightly with the world God longs to create in us, and not just the world we wish to leave behind. Praises be to God!

WITH SYMPATHY

We extend our love to  
the family of

Jackie Briggs  
(David Briggs' mother)

at the recent loss  
of their loved one

**If You're in the Hospital**

Being hospitalized is usually a traumatic and stressful experience. You have a church family willing to help! If you would like a visit from the pastor and/or to be placed on the prayer chain, or anything else that would ease your stay, please call the church office (742-2107). Let us know which hospital, a room number if available, and a contact's name and number. Thank you!

Note: Hospitals do not call churches or pastors anymore. You, or a family member, needs to contact us.

(During COVID-19, visits may not be allowed, but we would be happy to call.)



*...His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.*  
Lamentations 3:22-23

Pick out a few names this month and send a birthday card! Or make some calls to wish them well! REACH OUT!

<b>MAY Birthdays</b>		
1	Amanda Cople	23 Lindsay Hurd
	Joan Jacobson	24 Bill Lawton
3	Dana Luedeman	28 Kevin Berger
	Aaron Olson	Isaac Korish
4	Gracie Bredeson	29 Nick Hurd
	Dorothy Cragin	Cuyler Pfaff
	Scott Lucey	Chad Ratz
	Patty Taylor	Brian Zirbes
	Evelyn Wilson	30 Aaron Kohler
6	Susie Maier	31 Austin Davies
7	Sally Booth	
8	Sara Brockley	
9	Morgan Briggs	
	Adam Walz	
10	Desmond Shanks	
13	Dan Fredrick	
14	Blair DelaGarza	
15	Patricia Banks	
17	Rob Curtis	
19	Lois Hoffman	
20	Liz Mahy	
	Jean Syftestad	



## May Calendar of Events

Sunday Worship is available online and can be found on YouTube at Portage UMC or on our Facebook Page

### May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sundays

- 9:00 am: Drive-in Services (Back Parking Lot)
- 9:00 am: Online Services (YouTube/Facebook)
- 9:30 am: Radio Service (AM 1350, WPDR)

### May 26, Wednesday

2-5 pm: Pop-up Pantry Drive-thru

### May 27, Thursday

11:30am-5:30pm: Red Cross Blood Drive



## CUB SCOUTS

The coming of May normally means that things slow down a bit for the pack. Not this year! This year we are ramping things up! We have launched a new hiking program to get our youth outside and enjoying nature, restarted outdoor Pack meetings, recruiting new members, and preparing for our summer camps! To keep up this energetic start, we have made some changes in Pack Leadership. I would like to introduce to PUMC our new Cubmaster – Misha Overland and new Committee Chair – Judy Jesberger. Please join me in congratulating them in their new positions.

#### Scheduled Cub Scout Events:

- May 16<sup>th</sup> – Pack Meeting and Spring Recruitment
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Hike Club Location TBD
- July 9-11<sup>th</sup> – Summer Camp @ Cub World
- July 12-15<sup>th</sup> – Webelos Camp @ Akela's World
- July 25-28<sup>th</sup> – AOL Summer Camp @ EBSR

-Shane Kraucyk, Outgoing Cub Scout Committee Chair

We welcome all youth K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Call: (608) 347-9844  
Email: [jjesberger@portagescouts.org](mailto:jjesberger@portagescouts.org)  
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## SCOUTS BSA

COVID and Winter put Troops 70 & 7070 into a bit of a hibernation, but Spring is breathing refreshing activity to our Troops. Additionally, this Spring has brought some changes to our Troops as well. The Troop leadership has been shuffled a bit: Sharon Christopherson is the new Scoutmaster for Troop 7070, Shane Kraucyk is the new Scoutmaster for Troop 70, Brenda Kubasik returns to the Committee Chair position for both Troops, Mike Schonasky moves to the role of Asst. Scoutmaster, and we would like to welcome Bill Jesberger and Katy Heller as our new Asst. Scoutmasters. Please join me in congratulating these leaders in their new roles.

#### Scheduled Scouts BSA Events:

- May 8<sup>th</sup> – Hunter Kubasik Eagle Project
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – Troop Open House / Spring Recruitment
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Eagle Court of Honor for Camryn and Makela Humke @ EBSR
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Hike Club Location TBD
- June 27<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Summer Camp @ EBSR

-Shane Kraucyk, Incoming Troop 70 Scoutmaster

We welcome all youth age 11-17  
Call: (608) 617-0296  
Email: [bkubasik@portagescouts.org](mailto:bkubasik@portagescouts.org)  
Follow us on Facebook – Portage Troop 70  
& Portage Troop 7070

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY SHEET**

**March 31, 2021**

\*\*\*\*\*

**GENERAL FUND**

Income: 13,075.19  
 Expense: -24,461.28  
**-11,386.09**

**DEDICATED FUNDS**

Income 33,430.00  
 Expense 851.40

\*\*\*\*\*

**FUND BALANCES**

General Fund	(30,579.52)
Dedicated Fund	96,071.52
*Checking Account Balance (total of Gen. and Ded. Fund)	65,491.97
Memorial Checking	10,895.68
Jenkins Fund	50,451.50
Anderson Fund	23,810.36
Wiedenhaupt Fund	6,086.64
Endowment Fund	19,321.68
Hamele Fund	12,374.68
<b>TOTAL</b> <b>*(checking balance not in total)</b>	<b>188,432.26</b>

Rich Jacobson, Church Treasurer

**SOME MOTHER’S DAY HUMOR.... Can you relate?**

Texting acronyms can stump even the best parents:

Mom: Your great-aunt just passed away. LOL.

Son: Why is that funny?

Mom: It’s not funny, David! What do you mean?

Son: Mom, LOL means Laughing Out Loud.

Mom: I thought it meant Lots of Love. I have to call everyone back.

Mom: What do IDK, LY & TTYL mean?

Son: I don’t know, love you, talk to you later.

Mom: OK, I will ask your sister.

My mom once texted me “can you come over, I want you to take a selfie of me.”

Moms, you love them, you laugh *at* them, you laugh *with* them, you love them some more. If you have the chance, give Mom a hug today, and the words all Moms want to hear, “I love you!”.

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REMEMBERING  
THOSE WHO'VE  
SACRIFICED



MEMORIAL DAY

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