

The Messenger

A Newsletter of Portage United Methodist Church
JUNE/JULY 2021 Rev. Doug Clement, Pastor



Happy
Father's Day!

from all of us at Portage UMC

Farewell Worship Service for Pastor Doug!

Please join us at the drive-in/parking lot service on June 27 to celebrate Pastor Doug's time with us and to say goodbye!

The service will begin at 9:00 am. Bring your lawn chairs (and sunglasses if you need them!) Seating will be distanced, and at this time, masks are still required; if you'd rather stay in your vehicle, we are still broadcasting on radio frequency 103.1 FM.

If you'd like to bring a card, or a small parting gift, the ushers can collect it and pass it on to Pastor Doug following the service.

Dear Pastor Doug,

About a year ago, we were awaiting your arrival. We waited with excitement and anticipation as we wondered about who you were, what you would do at PUMC, why did God call you here to us? In the midst of that, we were struggling with a worldwide pandemic unlike any most of us had ever experienced. We were lost, frightened, anxious, sick, and without the ability to see and be with those we loved and cared about. As we think back to that place a year ago, we can't help but be grateful and appreciative for all you have done for Portage United Methodist Church throughout your year with us.

The job of a pastor is not an easy one. It is one of sacrifice, giving, tough decisions, and love, but to add all the pieces of chaos that surrounded us in 2020, the job was even more difficult and challenging. And through all of that, you brought so many of us support, compassion, and kindness in ways known and unknown to us. Your door and zoom on the computer were always open to listen and provide assurance when needed. Your messages paired with scripture and your own experiences touched lives and hearts.

You have made an everlasting impact on many of our lives, even in the short time God has shared you with our church. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for ministering to us during this most eventful and trying year. Your grace and patience have exemplified what Christ has called all of us to do. Your loving and caring spirit will truly be missed. We wish you peace and prayers as you begin your new journey in ministry at Bashford United Methodist Church.

In Christ's Love,
Your Portage UMC Family



Dear Portage United Methodist Church,

This will be the last newsletter article that I will write as your pastor. I want you to know that my life has been deeply impacted by our journey together this past year (as I hope yours has, too). You have taught me many things including what it means to hope, to struggle, to search, and (above all) to love. Even as I write this now, I cannot help but think of the apostle Paul's words: "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you..." (Romans 1:8).

As of July 1st, however, our relationship with one another will change. Our journey together will end, and you will begin a new journey in ministry with someone else. This is not an easy thing, but it is part of what makes us who we are as United Methodists.

In his book, *Dying Well*, Ira Byock wrote about how important it is to say goodbye well. It is what helps us close the door on one chapter or season of living so that we can better embrace the new chapter or season that lies ahead. There are five key phrases that Byock recommends to move us through this process in a way that encourages love and joy:

The first phrase is "**please forgive me**". This has been a difficult year for many of us and I know there are times when I have not been at my best. I ask your forgiveness for when I may have let you down. For the moments I missed an opportunity to reach out, to provide a point of connection, or to offer words you may have needed to hear. For those moments when I may not have risen to the occasion. And for this moment in which I leave you. I hope you know that I have tried my very best, and I hope you will forgive me for when I got something wrong.

The second phrase is "**I forgive you**". Change is hard and getting to know someone new often takes time. I forgive you for the times we misunderstood each other, when miscommunication and misunderstanding got in the way of our building strong relationship. I forgive you for those times when things did not always

go as planned. I forgive you for the moments when we did not choose love first. Thank you for giving me your very best and please know it is your best moments I will take with me and remember when I look back on your church.

The third phrase is "**thank you**". I do not have the words to express the depth of my gratitude to you for the things we have shared together these past twelve months. Thank you for the things you have taught me and for the opportunities we've had to learn from one another. Thank you for your patience with me as we have tried to figure out safe paths forward. Know that what we have created together is something I will take with me, and that it will continue to shape my ministry for years to come.

The fourth phrase is "**I love you**". The love we are all called to in Christ is so very different from what we often think of when we hear the word, and yet I feel our time together has helped me to better understand what it looks and feels like. My hope and prayer is that you will be ready to love and accept the one who follows me as you embark on your new journey together.

The fifth and final phrase is "**goodbye**". Goodbye brothers, sisters, and siblings in Christ. Know that in this moment (and in every moment from now until eternity): *"We are never alone. We go with the love of God, the grace of our lord, Jesus Christ, and the community of the Holy Spirit to love and serve God and neighbor in all that we do, now and forevermore. Amen."*

Blessings,
Pastor Doug

Articles for the
August newsletter
are due July 15



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.

Red Cross Blood Drives

Sponsored by the High School
Wednesday, June 16, from 11:00am - 4:00pm

Portage Area Drive
Thursday, July 22, from 11:30am - 5:30pm

Best to make appointments for either drive by calling
1-800-RED-CROSS

ATTENTION PLEASE!

While we are always thankful to receive donations for the Little Free Pantry, please follow these basic points:

1. Bring only personal care items or shelf stable food (**NOT** frozen food, refrigerated food, raw meat, fresh fruits/vegetables, pastries or bread!)
2. Check the dates! If the 'sell by' or 'use by' date has passed (or is about to) don't donate it.

Our Little Free Pantry sits outside in whatever weather Wisconsin decides to give us, and the food we set out in the pantry needs to stand up to that.

Unfortunately, we were not able to keep a significant amount of donated food recently because it was either past its date OR needed to be kept refrigerated or frozen!

We really do appreciate your donations, but please, make it something we can share with others through the Free Pantry box outside. Thank you!

CAN YOU HELP?

TRUSTEES NEED YOUR HELP

We will be having two work sessions soon and we will need some extra help.

Session 1: Paint the outside of the church. This includes three different colors, some on ladders and some on ground level.

Session 2: Finish clean-up of the shore line with possible removal of more trees. This will include saws, clippers, rakes, wheelbarrows, pick-ups for hauling, etc.

PLEASE call the church office with your name and a phone number where we can reach you when dates can be set.

Thank You for your help.



Do you have 20 minutes once a week to help out?

Beginning July 1, We are looking for a volunteer to keep the Little Free Pantry stocked with food and personal care products. Once a week seems to be often enough, and you can choose a time convenient for you. 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

Roadside Message Sign

After 12 years (Wow!) Carrie Scherbert would like to pass the volunteer position of "sign keeper" on to someone else. And don't worry, you don't have to do it for the next 12 years (unless you want to, of course!)

It's just a matter of changing the letters on the sign in the church yard 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 might be willing to fill this need.

A Message from Amanda (Children's Ministries Coordinator)

I'm back from Maternity Leave and excited to start working on upcoming programs in children's ministries. The biggest being Vacation Bible School! We have not yet made a decision as to how and when this program will take place, but it will happen. Thank you so much for your patience with this process because a lot of it was put on hold not only due to the pandemic but also due to the severity of my sickness in pregnancy. As soon as decisions have been made I will make sure to spread the word.

Next I would really like to extend a huge thank you to our entire congregation for your love, prayers and support when my pregnancy became very complicated resulting in my being admitted to the hospital and a very early birth and NICU stay. Your prayers, messages, cards, gifts and meals made a huge difference in our family.

This kind of love and support is what I believe is the "true colors" of our church. When someone is hurting or struggling, we step in to support and pray.

Lucy Mae
March 8th, 2021
4lbs. 9oz



**Thought for the day:
Today, I will try to value others the way that God values me.**



June/July 2021

LIVE MUSIC IS COMING TO THE DRIVE-IN SERVICE

Did you know you can sit in your lawn chair and enjoy the church service outside? You can. And now, you can hear live music!! Chris Hurd will begin playing at the drive-in services starting Sunday, June 6th, at 9am. This is an exciting new opportunity.

I want to thank Laura and Gary Moeller, Bill and Laura Johnson, Sheril Lannoye, Jim Kuhl, Jessica Malsack, Chris Hurd, Amanda Thiele, Paul Peterson, and anyone else who served as a liturgist, special musician or volunteer. Your time and talents are truly appreciated.



Stay healthy and take care,

Katie Zirbes kzirbes3@gmail.com or 417-0247 (call or text)

WITH SYMPATHY

We extend our love to
the families of

Peggy Sue Martin
(Lori Banks' sister)

Stanley Zoltowski, Jr
(Kathleen Zoltowski's husband)
&
Dorothy Cragin

at the recent loss
of their loved ones

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Prayer Garden
In memory of friends, by Steve & Clarice Rosing



Moving Forward by Niki Briggs

Recently, a friend shared an article with me for our graduates. I found it poignant, especially since every single one of our grads talked about not taking life for granted on their “*Seniors Tell All*” videos. Covid has taught them to live in the present, because “You never know when the things you love will be taken away.” I hope it is helpful not only to our new HS and college graduates, but for everyone who has been impacted by Covid this year.

1. **Embrace the Journey:** our journeys are not always smooth ones. We all have ups and downs, but we have victories too. :) Life is full of these moments. *Embrace the now.*
2. **Don't Give Into Fear:** It's normal to worry about the future, but remember--every problem has a solution. It's ok to take time to be still, pray, and then decide what's best for you.
3. **Build Relationships:** Building connections with others is a key to happiness. According to Psychology Today, the 4 keys are: friendliness, cheerfulness, compassion, and gratitude. Connect with like-minded people, attend events, and meet people who are both the same and different from you.

4. **Stand Out:** Don't be afraid to own who you are! God has gifted every person with a valuable skill or talent to share with the world.
5. **Seize Opportunities to Learn:** Take advantage of new opportunities and seek to learn. This will help you grow. What does success look like for you? If you want doors to open for you, be curious. Always hold onto your dreams and work to achieve them. Visualize your life in 5 year increments, and don't be afraid to take advice from those ahead of you on life's journey.
6. **Take Care of Yourself:** Self-care matters. No one can do it for you.
 - < Eat Well. Instant noodles are cheap and easy, but far from nutritious.
 - < Be intentional about exercise and sleep.
 - < Meet with friends and family 2-3 times per week. If you're new in town and don't know many people yet, check out social events at your university or those held by community organizations in your city. It's also important to maintain relationships with those close to you back home – Zoom with friends and family or set up times for regular phone chats.

Hayden, Morgan, Abby, Abbey and Maggie : We wish God's richest blessings upon you. We will miss you very much, and we thank you for your service and your spirit in our church.



Hayden Breene
UW Madison



Morgan Briggs
UW Stevens Point



Abby Weidling-PHS



Abbey Francis-PHS



Maggie Zirbes-PHS

June/July Calendar of Events

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

June 6, 13, 20, 27, 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)

June 16, Wednesday

11:00am-4:00pm: High School Blood Drive

June 18-19, Friday & Saturday

Virtual Annual Conference

June 23, Wednesday

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

Tentative Schedule for July Worship Services

July 4, 11, 18, 25, 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)

July 22, Thursday

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

July 28, Wednesday

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

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

JUNE Birthdays

1 Jackson Syens	10 Jenny Hill	20 Virginia Klauer
2 Emily Narel	Audrey Wilcox	21 Tana Johnson
3 Marleigh Fiedler	13 Hannah Kallungi	24 Darlene Craig
6 Tana Olson	Tanya Troia	Ken Thiele
7 Cassidy Steck	14 Alec Bear	26 Scott Monroe
8 Lukas Paske	15 Halie Maier	29 Austin Seely
Brennan Walz	16 Olivia Drew	
	Dianne Lawton	
	Rick Maass	

JULY Birthdays

1 Jim Lawton	12 Brayden Courtier	23 Betty Hewitt
2 Jenna Mlodik	Carrie Ratz	Mary Ellen Johncon
Kelly Pulver	Walker Voigt	24 Margaret Cryer
4 Brad Johnson	18 Evan Davies	Amanda Thiele
Grace Thiele	19 Deb Berger	25 Alice Richardson
6 Jenna Balsiger	Vicky Homan	27 Kathleen Zoltowski
7 Kay Wilcox	Bruce Lucey	28 Toni Ebert
8 Rosemary McTier	Ray Moore	29 Polaris Stancer
10 Sheri Jones	Molly Voigt	31 Teresa Buchs
Delores Wade	20 Isaac DelaGarza	Kay Fiedler
	Allen Patchin	Rick Lochner
	21 Dean Petersen	
	22 Olivia Petersen	



Church Yard Sale

We are hoping to schedule a July yard sale at the church. The date and plans are still to be determined, but we wanted to let you know to start saving items for the sale. Keep them at your homes for now and watch for more information in the mini-July newsletter, or in Mailchimp emails. Thank you!

The following is our list of the churches in the South West District we will pray for in June/July.

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.

Waterloo, Marshall: Clergy Heidi Loomis, the 167 members at Waterloo and the 56 members at Marshall. Waterloo is located at 348 W Madison St, Waterloo, WI 53594. Marshall is located at 318 William St, Marshall WI 53559; May 30, 2021 – June 5, 2021.

Mazomanie: Midland: Clergy John Oliver and the 188 members. Mazomanie: Midland is located at 318 William St, Marshall WI 53559; June 6, 2021 – June 12, 2021.

Merrimac: Clergy Roxanne Gnatzig and the 65 members. Merrimac is located at 117 Church St, Merrimac WI 53561; June 13, 2021 – June 19, 2021.

Parish of the Hills: Mineral Point: First, Mineral Point: Bethel, Linden: Current Clergy Marilyn Brewer and incoming Clergy, Christina Curry-Droste. The 59 members at Linden located at 525 Main St, Linden WI 53553, The 46 members at Mineral Point: Bethel located at 1158 County Road W, Mineral Point WI 53565. The 102 members at Mineral Point located at 400 Doty St, Mineral Point WI 53565; June 20, 2021 – June 26, 2021.

Monona: Current Clergy, Laura Crow and incoming Clergy, Paul Johnsen and the 288 members. Monona is located at 606 Nichols Rd, Monona WI 53716; June 27, 2021 – July 3, 2021.

Monona: El Libertador: Clergy, Estrella Benitez and the 51 members. Monona: El Libertador is located at 606 Nichols Rd, Monona WI 53716; July 4, 2021 – July 10, 2021.

Monroe: Aposento Alto: Clergy, Juan Mayorga and the 12 members. Monroe: Aposento Alto is located at 2227 4th St, Monroe, WI 53566; July 11, 2021 – July 17, 2021.

Livingston, Montfort, Cobb: Current Clergy TyLacey Hines. The 39 members at Cobb located at 107 E Main St, Cobb WI 53526. The 94 members at Livingston located at 415 Woodard Ave, Livingston WI 53554. The 78 members at Montfort located at 300 E Main St, Montfort WI 53569; July 18, 2021 – July 24, 2021.

Mount Hope, Wauzeka: St. Paul's: Current Clergy, Lance Wetter. The 28 members at Mount Hope located at 213 Aarlocker St, Mount Hope WI 53816. The 22 members at Wauzeka: St. Paul's located at 607 E Main St, Wauzeka WI 53826; July 25, 2021 – July 31, 2021.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY SHEET

April 30, 2021

GENERAL FUND

Income: 29,939.45

Expense: -19,613.39

10,326.06

DEDICATED FUNDS

Income 325.00

Expense 11,216.93

FUND BALANCES

General Fund	(20,597.70)
Dedicated Fund	85,179.59
*Checking Account Balance (total of Gen. and Ded. Fund)	64,581.89
Memorial Checking	10,782.18
Jenkins Fund	51,749.41
Anderson Fund	24,442.91
Wiedenhaupt Fund	6,243.23
Endowment Fund	19,818.75
Hamele Fund	12,697.52
TOTAL *(checking balance not in total)	190,315.89

Rich Jacobson, Church Treasurer

Here's a Smile for Your Day!

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbor and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbor asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver-haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

Her neighbor decides to go over and help with the puzzle.

She lets him in and shows him where she has the

puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says,

"First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these peices in anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then" he said with a deep sigh

"Let's put all the corn flakes back in the box."

**support our
ADVERTISERS**

Atkinson Real Estate Inc.
608-742-2848

When Buying or Selling Your Home Call!
Jim Atkinson, Broker/Owner
jim@atkinsonrealtor.com
www.atkinsonrealtor.com

BHA
Ben H. Anderson Mfg.

Specializing in
Stainless Steel
Manufacturing

608-846-5474
www.benhanderson.com

**Community
Bank of
Portage**
A Branch of Bank of Wisconsin Dells

608-745-4300
2930 New Pinery Rd, Portage
dellsbank.bank

**CHARLES MANTEY
ROBERT MENDRALA**

PORTAGE
742-2126
POYNETTE
635-2763

Funeral Homes
Locally Owned & Operated Since 1853
Portage & Poynette Wisconsin
WWW.PMMFH.COM

**Heritage House
OF PORTAGE**

Assisted Living - Caregivers available 24-hours a day

TOURS AVAILABLE
BY APPOINTMENT
608.448.6181

Call today and ask
about a more in gift!

Aspirus Divine Savior
Hospital and Clinics is
proud to be a part of
the Aspirus family.

Find a healthcare provider:
call 608.742.4131 • visit aspirus.org

Watson Health
15 TOP
HEALTH SYSTEMS
2020

**GROTHMAN
& ASSOCIATES, S.C.**

LAND SURVEYORS
JAMES R. GROTHMAN * PLS
SCOTT P. HEWITT * PLS
625 E. Slifer St. Portage, WI 53901
Phone 608/742-7788 Fax 608/742-0434

**BREMNER
GRANITE CO. LLC**
For All Your Memorial Needs
Mark Bublitz - Owner
N6828 Hwy 51-16 S • PO Box 78
608-742-3939

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

ASPIRUS

Pizza Ranch

2905 New Pinery Rd, Portage | 608-566-1750

WIESER CONCRETE *Innovation, Quality and Service Since 1965*

800-362-7220
www.wieserconcrete.com
2815 Riley Rd. • Portage, WI 53901

Kelly J Krueger
Independent Insurance Agent
(608) 697-8282 Direct
311 E. Wisconsin St. Ste. 108 • Portage WI 53901
kkrueger@retirementspeccs.com

Helping you make sense of your insurance choices

* Supplements * Dental * Life
* Marketplace Options * Annuities

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!

ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **Jeff Tallman** to place an ad today!
jtallman@4LPi.com or **(800) 950-9952 x2456**

**Joe's Auto &
Truck Service, LLC**
Lorraine Griebner, Owner
(608) 742-2776
24 Hour Towing
1515 New Pinery Rd • Portage

**Thrive
Locally**

**LPi is Hiring
Ad Sales Executives**

**BE YOURSELF.
BRING YOUR PASSION.
WORK WITH PURPOSE.**

- Full-Time with Benefits
- Paid Training
- Expense Reimbursement
- Travel Required

Contact us at: careers@4lpi.com | www.4lpi.com/careers

The Messenger is published monthly by
Portage United Methodist Church
1804 New Pinery Road, Portage WI 53901
Ph: 608-742-2107

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 6/7

Staff:

Rev. Douglas Clement, Pastor
Shar Kuhl, Office Administrator
Rich Jacobson, Church Treasurer
Amanda Thiele, Children's Coordinator
Niki Briggs, Youth Coordinator
Katie Zirbes, Worship Coordinator
Chris Hurd, Church Musician
Scott Maass, Custodian

E-Mail:

General Office: office.portageumc@gmail.com
Pastor's Office: pastor.portageumc@gmail.com

Facebook: Portage United Methodist Church

YouTube: Portage UMC

Website: www.portageumc.com



E
N
J
O
Y

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PORTAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1804 New Pinery Road
Portage, WI 53901

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POST PAID
PORTAGE, WI
PERMIT NO. 91