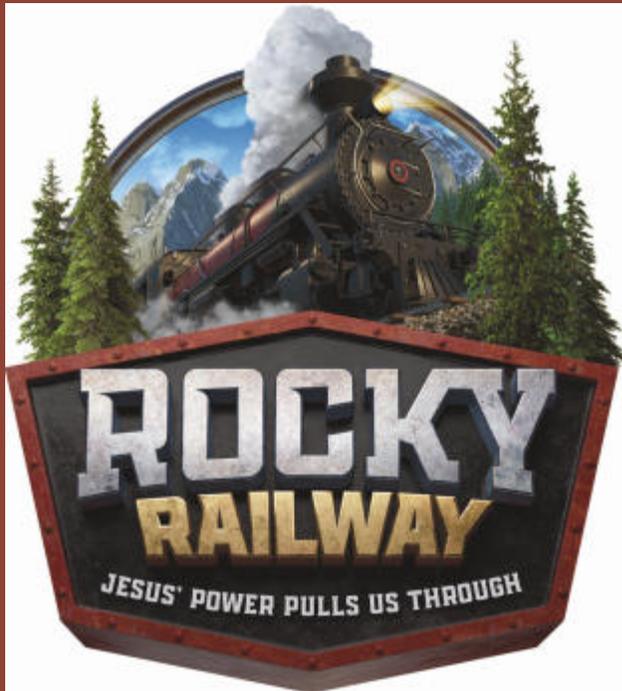


The Messenger

A Newsletter of Portage United Methodist Church
AUGUST 2021 Rev. KwangYu Lee, Pastor



Take time for joy in every day!



**Rocky Railway
Vacation Bible School
Coming to PUMC!**

**August 9th-13th, 2021
8:30-11:30am (T,W and Th)
and Family Nights:
5:45-7:45pm (M,F)**

COST:

**Monday & Friday evening (family night) - \$10/ child if only attending M/F
Tuesday -Thursday (morning drop off) - \$10/child if only attending T-Th
All 5 days - \$15/child or \$35 family max**

Portage Community Vacation Bible School is happy to bring back our VBS week this year. Rocky Railway will be a fun time for your whole family! Programming is intended for children ages 4 through those going into 5th grade. The family nights will include the whole family this year. Prices vary depending on dates participating. \$10-\$15/child. \$35 max for families.

We are looking for volunteers from 6th grade on up to adults.

Please either drop off or mail completed forms and a check (made payable to PUMC) to

**Portage United Methodist Church
1804 New Pinery Road
Portage WI 53901. (office hours M-Th, 9am-noon and 1-4pm)**



Peace and Patience Be with You!

When I began packing things to leave our home on Drew University campus in New Jersey, I thought peace and patience would be crucial in the midst of this new journey. This unexpected journey started 3 months after the corona virus stopped our daily life the way no one can expect.

In March 2020, NY and NJ issued the Covid-19 state of emergency. Immediately, Drew University was placed under lockdown. No one stayed on campus except for a few dozen international students from different countries. Because New York City was one of the epicenters of the virus in the US, Madison in NJ, 40 minutes away from it by train, turned into a ghost city overnight. Blanton-Peale Institute & Counseling Center, where I was taking a psychoanalytic training, was completely closed, turning all its counseling sessions into fully remote.

Yes, owing to the corona virus, I gained some extra hours. I wanted to use it wisely. I began playing soccer with our two boys, Jinu and Minu. Simultaneously, my wife and I began to talk with them about what we are supposed to do in 2022. Initially, we planned to go back to S. Korea when I completed my psychoanalytic training next year.

Yet, something unexpected came to us. “We do not want to go back to S. Korea,” Jinu and Minu told us one night in the midst of the pandemic. “Though we are Koreans, we have never been in S. Korea. We were born in the US. Here is where we have lived so far. So, we want to live in the US.” Until that moment, I had no regard to their opinion about our family plan in uncertainty. This time it came to us differently. My wife and I took it seriously. It took six months for us to decide to live in the US, with no turning back.

“Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. (Gen. 12:1)”

In the bible story of Abraham, it was a total surprise that God did not tell Abraham where to go. Throughout his journey, God showed him places, yet never said, “This is the place I told

you before. Settle in here.” What is more surprising is that, without knowing where to go, Abraham continued to walk, until he was no longer able to do so. When he eventually stopped, he died.

There is a Korean old saying I keep in mind: 인생행로 *“In-Saeng-Haeng-Ro.”* It can be translated into English: *“Living is like walking on a road.”* We don’t know where we are heading. Because everyone around us is walking, we know we also have to walk. Personally, what differentiates Christians from non-Christians is our attitude about walking. We Christians know the importance of asking God where to go, consistently and patiently. We Christians know the importance of finding “the land” God will show us, hopefully. We Christians know the importance of making one step at a time, mindfully.

At Portage UMC, I am meeting with and getting to know Christians who are on the move like me. We all came from different places with different stories. Yet, we all are walking toward “the [same] land” God will show us, creating and nurturing a community of faith, Portage UMC. We don’t know what “the land” really looks like. Yet, we hope that someday we will attain “the land” all together. This is the reason why we are on the move, generation after generation. Therefore, what else can we say? Except for “Let us go!”

Best,
Pastor KwangYu

If you would like to meet the pastor and haven’t been able to attend any of the “Meet & Greet” sessions, please call the church office at 608-742-2107.

Pastor KwangYu is interested in meeting you and would welcome your call!



**Articles for the
September newsletter
are due August 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 and click on the link they send you. Follow the prompts to complete your donation.

Red Cross Blood Drives

Sponsored by the High School
Monday, August 23, from 11:00am - 4:00pm

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

TRUSTEES NEED YOUR HELP

(Short term project requiring several volunteers at once.)

Painting project starts the beginning of August (weather permitting!)



Part 1: Painting the higher areas which will require using a scaffolding.

Part 2: Painting the remainder of walls and columns, done standing on the ground.

There's a need for small crews of volunteers for each part, so that as the scaffolding crew finishes one area, they'll move on and the ground crew will finish up.

TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE call the church office with your name and a phone number where you can be reached.

Thank You for your willingness to help.

Volunteer Still Needed for Roadside Message Sign
We are still looking for a volunteer to take over putting the messages on our outdoor sign.

As we've said, Carrie Scherbert has been doing this for the past 12 years, but please don't think you have to do it for the next 12 years (unless you really 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.



Adventure is Out There!

We aren't having formal meetings this month, but the Cubs have activities to stay busy.

Aug 15th-awards picnic meeting with the Troops-awarding summer camp awards

Aug 17th - Mini-golf and Dells Duck Ride

Aug 26th- Movie in the Park and clean up afterwards

Hike of the Month - trail TBD

The Portage Pack 70 Cub Scouts had a blast at summer camp in July! Cub scouts and their parents enjoyed swimming, climbing, sponge fights, shooting BB guns, throwing rocks, playing games, and much much more!

The Cub Scouts had three different camps that were available to attend. Chippewa Valley Council, Ed Bryant Scout Reservation, and Akela's World. Some of the Cubs were the first of our Pack to attend camp in the Chippewa Valley Council.

With all the restrictions from last year, everyone was thrilled to get back to camping!

Join Us!

The calendar has already been planned for our new scout year beginning with the new school year in September. We are excited to continue our Cub program!

Cub Scouts is open to boys and girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade, or ages 6 through 10.

Join us for an informational meeting on September 16th at 6 pm at the Portage Public Library for more information or to sign up.

For questions, contact Judy Jesberger at (608) 347-9844, or jjesberger@portagescouts.com. I'm the new face as Committee Chair for Pack 70.



New book club, beginning Sunday, September 12th

Looking for a fun, relaxed, conversational study as a way to connect with people at church again? Come join our book club. Dr. Kevin Leman is a New York Times best-selling, Christian author. He is a psychologist, a professional

speaker, and humorist. He has appeared on shows like, The Today Show, CNN, Oprah, and The View. The book is called: 8 Secrets to Raising Successful Kids. Published May 2021.

Who: All are welcome.

If you have a child, grandchild, or student whose life you are a part of, please join us. As they say, "It takes a village to raise a child." One thing our PUMC students repeatedly shared in their senior videos was the importance of family and church members in their faith development.

When: Sunday, September 12th thru Sunday October 31st (8 Secrets, 8 weeks...).

If you cannot make it every Sunday, please come as often as you are able. I will try to include people on Zoom (as requested), per our internet capability.

Time: Approximately 10:45-11:45 (after the second church service).

Where: TBD

If there are less than 15 people, we will meet in Room 12 or the youth room. If there are more, we will meet near the church garden/gazebo for now.

If we have a large group, we can break into smaller groups for discussion (ie. preschool age, elementary age, middle school, and high school). You are welcome to invite friends as well. It is not meant to be exclusive to church members only.

Cost: Between \$12.99 & \$18.32

The book is available through several vendors as well as for free through the Portage Public library system. At Amazon: Kindle \$12.99, Paperback \$15.82, Hardcover \$18.32. For a more detailed description of the book, you can Google the book title.

Questions? Call or text Niki Briggs at 608-697-3993. We are looking for volunteers for liturgists, ushers,

Thank You Notes

Thank you to my church family for all the prayers, cards, calls and support at the time of Rick's passing. It all meant so much and helped during a difficult time.

Karan Barreau

Thank you to Judy LeCount for volunteering to look after our Little Free Pantry! Your willingness to help is much appreciated!

The church thanks those of you who have been bringing food and self care items in for the Little Free Pantry! Again, juice seems to be a good moving item (as long as it is shelf stable!) Canned meals like stew, chicken and dumplings or spaghetti are also popular, as no one needs extra ingredients they might not have to make the meal.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of this project!

Many Thanks to Our Newsletter Sponsors

We thank all the businesses who support our monthly newsletter by advertising on the last page. Please check out the ads, and whenever possible, patronize their businesses.

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.

(If visits are not allowed due to COVID, we would be happy to call.)



AUGUST 2021- WORSHIP WANDERINGS

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

PUMC would like to share the great news from the Covid Strategy Team and Pastor KwangYu. PUMC has been following the guidance of the Wisconsin Council of Churches for when it is safe to reopen. We are more than happy to share that our community and state have met all three criteria for beginning this process. We know this has not been an easy journey, but we want to thank everyone for their patience and prayer during this time we needed to be away from each other and the church building. Changes seem to be happening quickly, so stay in touch with your emails and/or Facebook!

EXCITING WORSHIP UPDATE!!

We are excited to announce that worship in the sanctuary will begin Sunday, August 1. There will be 2 services at 8:00 am and 9:30 am. When in the sanctuary, social distancing and masks will be required of everyone. This will allow us to sing and share in the liturgy together while keeping our church family safe. The Fireside Room will be available for those who would feel more comfortable with fewer people, less noise, etc. The nursery room will be available for parents/caregivers who need a quiet place to take their little ones during the service. The nursery will not be staffed at this time. Following each service, there will be a tea and coffee time that will take place outside in the front of the church. At this time, no food will be served, but this will be a time to share in fellowship and friendship with our fellow church family members. The online service will be changing August 1. We will be offering an online livestream of one of the services and eventually a recorded version of the service on Youtube (more details to come).



Current practices for any groups meeting **outdoors** and practicing social distancing may follow these mask requirements:

- those fully vaccinated (*i.e. full dosing regimen plus two weeks*) are not required to wear face coverings
- those **not** fully vaccinated or under the age of 12, are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings
- those who are vulnerable are **strongly encouraged** to wear a face covering

Current practices for any small groups (15 people or less) meeting **indoors** and practicing social distancing may follow these mask requirements:

- those fully vaccinated (*i.e. full dosing regimen plus two weeks*) are not required to wear face coverings

- those **not** fully vaccinated, or those under the age of 12, are are required to wear face coverings
- those who are vulnerable are **strongly encouraged** to wear a face covering

Current practices for **worship in the sanctuary**:

- **Everyone is required to wear a mask**, social distancing will occur, as for now we will refrain from hugs and handshakes, etc. (fist bumps, elbow hi's and waves are all good alternatives) and singing will be allowed.

As people of faith, we are called to love one another as Christ loved us. This includes being respectful of those who are not comfortable relaxing precautions just yet and not shaming or pressuring them into doing so before they are ready.

Volunteers Needed!



We are looking for volunteers for liturgists, ushers, and special musicians to help with the upcoming services in the sanctuary. A small amount of training is needed prior to ushering. Please call/text or email Katie Zirbes at kzirbes3@gmail.com or 608-417-0247 or sign-up using the following links on Sign-Up Genius

Liturgists: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F44A8AE22ABFB6-julyaugust>

Ushers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f44a8ae22abfb6-august>

Special Music: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F44A8AE22ABFB6-special1>



I want to thank Bill Johnson, Sheril Lannoye, Jim Kuhl, Ashlyn and Vicki Kohler, Chris Hurd, Ken Thiele, Barb Jensen, Blake Zirbes, Paul Peterson, Shar Kuhl, and anyone else who served as a liturgist, special musician, or volunteer. Your time and talents are *truly* appreciated.



As we are planning for the fall, we are looking to possibly start back up a musical opportunity for those who might be interested. If you are interested in either being part of a Beginner's Handbell Choir or Chancel Choir (with certain precautions), please email, text or call me. Right now, we are just looking to see if we have enough interest in either one of these ministries.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and take care,

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

**Thought for the day:
To infinity, and beyond... that is God's vast Love for us!**

August Calendar of Events

Sunday Worship is in the sanctuary at 8 am & 9:30 am for the remainder of the summer. We are hoping to introduce Live Streaming of the service, and then post an online recording of it on YouTube at Portage UMC or possibly on our Facebook Page. Watch for updates on this.

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Sundays

8:00 & 9:30 am Service in the sanctuary
 9:30 am: Radio Service (AM 1350, WPDR)

August 12, Monday

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

August 25, Wednesday

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

Portage

Pop-uP

Drive-thru

Pantry

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Portage United Methodist Church

AUGUST Birthdays



2 Barb Berg	10 Matthew Simonson	24 Judy Banks
3 Griffin Butson	12 Vi Bauer	26 Shirley Baertsch
Brittany Robson	13 Amanda Curtis	Kevin Homan
4 Kevin Johnson	14 Aidan Statz	28 Barb La Gosh
Halie Losacker	Liam Statz	Kathleen Lucey
Megan Peterson	Lucas Wilcox	30 Kris Wheelock
Rob Walz	15 Alyssa Cople	
7 Patrick Banks	17 James Burns	
Madelyn Curtis	18 Karli Paske	
Robert Fenner Jr	Eleanor Voigt	
8 Mark Goldsworthy	21 Josh Powers	
Joyce Maass	Allen Fredrick	
David Schultz	23 Julie McTier	

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 the families of

Sheri Jones,
 Janet Nehls,
 Rick Barreau
 &
 Howard Becraft

at the recent loss
 of their loved ones

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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 In honor of Steve & Clarice Rosing's wedding anniversary, by Phil & Barb Berg.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund
 In memory of Elaine Rundle, by Shar Kuhl.
 In honor of Pastor Doug Clement, by Jim & Shar Kuhl.

Undesignated Fund
 In memory of Peggy Martin, by Gary & Barb O'Hearn.
 In memory of Dorothy Cragin, by Gary & Barb O'Hearn.

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

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.

Mount Horeb: Clergy Julie Wilson and the 195 members located at 9542 County Road S, Mount Horeb, WI 53572; August 1, 2021 – August 7, 2021.

Mt. Zion: Clergy Stan Pegram, Mary Ann Floerke, supply pastor Wayne Goplin, and the 51 members. Mt. Zion is part of the BMZ Regional Ministry located at 21588 Mt Zion Rd, Boscobel, WI 53805; August 8, 2021 – August 14, 2021.

New Hope: Clergy Carter Jorgensen and the 20 members. New Hope is part of New Hope, Retreat, Liberty Pole charge located at E2290 Hwy 82, De Soto, WI 54624; August 15, 2021 – August 21, 2021.

North Clayton: Clergy Stan Pegram, Mary Ann Floerke, supply pastor Wayne Goplin, and the 13 members. North Clayton is part of the BMZ Regional Ministry located at 42135 County Highway X, Soldiers Grove, WI 54655; August 22, 2021 – August 28, 2021.

North Freedom: Clergy, Carol Quinn and the 55 members. North Freedom is part of North Freedom, Denzer charge located at 301 E Walnut St, North Freedom, WI 53951; August 29, 2021 – September 4, 2021.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY SHEET

June 30, 2021

GENERAL FUND

Income: 30,281.93

Expense: -15,908.40

14,373.53

DEDICATED FUNDS

Income 170.00

Expense 13,679.39

FUND BALANCES

General Fund	1,366.41
Dedicated Fund	59,319.25
*Checking Account Balance (total of Gen. and Ded. Fund)	60,685.66
Memorial Checking	10,962.18
Jenkins Fund	52,568.08
Anderson Fund	24,809.29
Wiedenhaupt Fund	6,342.00
Endowment Fund	20,132.29
Hamele Fund	12,898.41
TOTAL *(checking balance not in total)	188,397.91

Rich Jacobson, Church Treasurer

Here's a Smile for Your Day!

Jesus Is Watching You!

A burglar broke into a home and was looking around. He heard a soft voice say, "Jesus is watching you". Thinking it was just his imagination, he continued his search. Again the voice said "Jesus is watching you". He turned his flashlight around and saw a parrot in a cage. He asked the parrot if he was the one talking and the parrot said, "yes." He asked the parrot what his name was and the parrot said, "Moses." The burglar asked, "What kind of people would name a parrot 'Moses'?" The parrot said, "The same kind of people who would name their German Shepherd 'Jesus'".

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Jesus answered,
"The work
of God
is this:
to believe
in the one
he has sent."

JOHN 6:29, NIV

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