

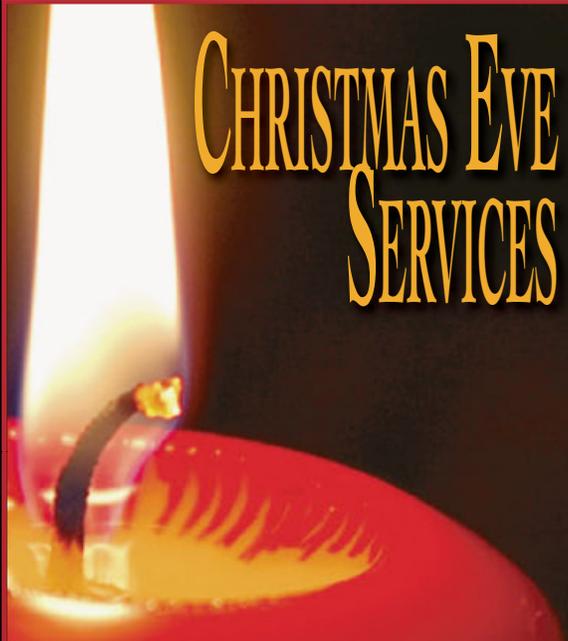
The Messenger

A Newsletter of Portage United Methodist Church

DECEMBER 2021 Rev. KwangYu Lee, Pastor



*Merry
Christmas*



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve Services
with Holy Communion
(held in our Sanctuary)

5:00 p.m.

&

7:00 p.m.

(face masks required)

Sunday Christmas Programs

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

During the 9:30 Service,
Sunday, December 12

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*various ensembles and soloists
bringing in the season with
fantastic Christmas music*

December 19, 9:30 a.m.

December 11th- Tentative Christmas Caroling/Outdoor Visits

Know someone in need of some
Christmas Cheer?

Want to be part of the
caroling group?

Call/text/email Katie:
608-417-0247 or
kzirbes3@gmail.com





Busan, my home-city, is on the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula. Its latitude is 35.1796° N. When compared with Portage's (43.5391° N), Busan is a much warmer city than Portage. Truth be told, before I moved to Seoul at the age of 19, I only saw snow twice in my life. When I was a fourth grader, snow came, but it barely hit the ground. When I was in middle school, snow came back. It looked like piling up, but in less than an hour, it melted into water. Until I moved to Seoul for studying at Methodist Theological University, snow was something divine, to me. In 1998, I saw snow piled up everywhere for the first time, yet on the following day I realized that snow is not as white as I imagined. It got dirty very easily and required lots of work from us to clean it.

Once, on a dreary winter day when I lived in NJ, a church van I was driving slipped on the snowy road. I was on my way back, from a winter retreat for teenagers in Upstate NY, to the church where I worked as youth pastor. Slipping on the ice-coated road, the van made a big circle about three or four times. Everyone in the car screamed, calling mom. We were all Koreans except one American student – Koreans instinctively call for Mom when they are in a crisis. I didn't scream because my two hands were on the wheel and my right foot was on the brake pedal. The van was out of control. Nothing could stop it at that moment. After making big circles on the road, it slid into a thicket and hit a tree. I felt that I was in the air for a few seconds. A couple of minutes later, noticing that my left shoulder was on the ground inside the car, I said, "Are you OK?" Everyone was safe even if the car was scrapped right away. A police officer, investigating the circumstances of the case, left us, saying to me, "You guys are really lucky. Happy New Year! You deserve it." It was December 30. Since that accident, instinctively I avoid driving a car when it snows.

Wisconsin is famous/notorious for its winter and snow. Everyone who knew that I would move to Wisconsin carefully told me, "Why Wisconsin? It is really cold. Be careful." They were all serious as much as they can be. But, there was one person who said an unusual

thing to me: "People in Wisconsin, I mean, I came from Minnesota, are nicer and kinder than people here. I think you'll like it." Looking at the first snow in Wisconsin after worship today, I talked with my wife about how we can stay warm in the winter. She said, "My church members said this snow is not snow. They smiled at me and said, "Just wait. You will see Wisconsin's snow soon." Proverbs 16:9 sprang to mind: *A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his steps.* The winter is a time when Mother Nature minimizes Her activity, simply focusing on waiting for the next spring. Thinking of the energetic and vibrant return of the spring each year on earth, it is evident that in waiting, there are a lot of things going on. In this December, we are awaiting Christmas, family reunion, and the next year. Let us wait – well and efficiently.

November 14, 2021

Pastor KwangYu Lee

Portage United Methodist Church
Tel. (608) 742-2107 (Office)
pastor.portageumc@gmail.com

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. Times are improving, however, the needs are great and our resources are few. Please consider donating to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund so that we can continue to reach out and help people in their difficult times.

Would you prayerfully consider a regular monthly donation to this fund? You won't see the families you help, but their lives will change because you did!



**Articles for the
January newsletter
are due December 13**

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.



Church Office is Closed from Christmas through New Year's Day, Dec 25 - Jan 1. Regular office hours resume Jan 3rd, 2022. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Christmas Brunch/Lunch Invitation: United Methodist Women invite the women of the church and their friends to enjoy a Christmas brunch with us on Sunday, December 5th, 11:00am, at Dino's. It's a special time to relax and let someone else wait on us while we enjoy each other's company. Reservations can be made by calling Rosemary at 742-4407 no later than Nov 30th.

A Note about Your Church Offerings/Donations

If it is your intention to fulfill your 2021 pledge, or to make any other donation this calendar year, please try to have your 2021 financial giving completed by Sunday, December 26th, so it can be properly recorded in the 2021 records. (Or mail/bring to the church so it is received by Tuesday, Dec 24.) Thank you for your consideration and support.(Use the dropbox out front if helpful.)

Church Directory Invite:

On Sundays December 12, and 19, after each service, you are invited to stop by for your picture to be taken for the church directory. No cost or fee. If you have a photo you would like to use (family or holiday card photo) please send it to johnlkinsler@gmail.com.

If technology is not your friend let John know and he can assist you. Call or text (608) 697-7471 to discuss your specific needs to be included in new directory, which will be available online and in print.

**Ordering Poinsettias
for the Christmas Eve altar**

Order forms will be included in the Sunday bulletins on Nov 28th and Dec 5th & 12th, or stop by the church office. Orders due by Monday, December 13. Payment of \$11 must accompany your order.

You may designate them "in honor of" or "in memory of" family members, special occasions or someone important to you. **Poinsettias can be picked up from the altar after the 7:00 service on Christmas Eve or after Sunday Services Dec 26th. Office is closed between Christmas and New Years.**

Thought for the month:

Sometimes the best Christmas gift is to remember what you already have.

DECEMBER Birthdays



1	Emmett Brockley	10	Liam Curtis	23	Liz Gregory
3	Mike Hurd	11	Gary Barton Jr	24	Thairn Telindert
	Cooper Petersen		Anthony Korish	25	Rita Maass
4	Bill Mateske	12	Vicky Kohler	26	Pam Beckett
5	Alexis La Sure		Meredith Shanks		Jon Jones
	Abby Patchin	16	Cheryl Ashworth	27	Michael McMorrow
	Marlene Trecek	17	Laura Johnson		Jack Narel
6	Joel Engelland	18	Chris Hurd	29	Keahna Amundson
7	David Gregory		Ron Olson		Kevin Maier
	Miranda Shanks	19	Jaden Briggs	31	Jean Rogers
	Bob Wanat	21	Holly Powers		
8	Howard Hill	22	Emily Waring		

Children's Ministries News



Over the last 2 Sundays of November, we will be switching gears and covering the birth of Jesus. Here is the schedule for the rest of the year:

Nov. 21st: Sunday School

Nov. 28th: Sunday School

Dec. 5th: Family Service (We will also be practicing for the Children's Program)

Dec. 12th: Children's Program

Dec. 19th: No Sunday School

Dec. 26th: No Sunday School

Jan. 2nd: Family Service, No Sunday School

Jan. 9th: Resume Sunday School

On a personal note; I'm struggling. I would love to have many events for the children that attend our church, but the majority of the time it's only my children and 1 or 2 more in attendance. I would love to hold events to bring families to our church so that we can grow our programs, attendance, community etc, but I have a lack of interest from any other members of the church to participate. I can't do this by myself. I need your support.

I am asking for help; come help with Sunday School, say yes when I'm asking for volunteers to hold an event, attend the children's Christmas program and show the children who *are* here that you love and support them. Stop saying, "I wish there were more kids in our church," and start saying "what can I do to serve more children in our community and their families."

I am incredibly thankful for how much you have supported my family over the years and I'd love to be able to show other families how much you care.

Amanda Thiele



OKAY!! So you have had all the leftover turkey you can stand--It is time to diversify the menu. We have just the thing! "Soup to Go." It's homemade and healthy (and you don't have to cook!).

United Methodist Women found that this item was one of the most popular in their bazaars over the years. Since we couldn't have a bazaar this year, we wanted to make this available. You can purchase your choice of *Homemade chicken noodle, beef vegetable or chili* in one quart containers.

Price: \$6 for a quart, 2 for \$10

Time: 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Church.

Tell your friends. You can also pre-order (by Nov 27) by calling Clarice at 608-742-6974. (You will still need to come and pick it up at those times)

P.S. We also would love for you to donate an ice cream pail of soup (need by Dec. 3.) Call Clarice for info at above number.

Dec 5th – Just pull under the awning and give your order to the person who meets your car. We'll bring it out to you. Cash sales only.

December Calendar of Events

Sunday Worship is in the sanctuary at 8 am & 9:30 am. We are working to provide a consistent Live Streaming of the service, and then having it available on YouTube at Portage UMC for later viewing. Thank you for your patience.

December 5, 11, 19, 26 - Sundays

8:00 & 9:30 am Service in the sanctuary
 9:30 am Live Stream of service
 Recording on YouTube
 9:30 am Sunday School (no class on 19th, 28th)
 Our Radio Service has been discontinued.

December 22, Wednesday

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

December 24, Christmas Eve

5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service
 7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service

December 2

9 am - 2 pm: MATC Blood Drive

December 25 thru January 2

Church Office Closed for Christmas holiday

December 4

10 am - 2 pm: UMW Soup-to-Go Drive-thru



December 2021

The Holiday musical season continues with worship and praise! Invite and bring your neighbors, family, and friends to these wonderful musical and drama services.

The upcoming schedule:

December 11th- Tentative Christmas Caroling/Outdoor Visits

with members of our church who could use some Christmas Cheer. If you know of someone who could use some Christmas cheer, please let me know. More details to follow on Facebook and email.

December 12th- Children's Christmas service and program at the 9:30am service

The youth of the church will be helping with the service and sharing their Christmas program. Come and begin the Holiday season with the kids of our church.

December 19th – Christmas Concert at 9:30am service The musicians of the church will be sharing a Christmas Concert for everyone. Various small ensembles and soloists will be bringing in the season with fantastic Christmas music. If you know of someone who could use some Christmas cheer, please let me know.

December 24th- Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 and 7:00pm

There will be a variety of musical performances at each service. Merry Christmas!

Thanks to everyone who ushered, shared special music and read the scripture in the month of November. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated.

Feel free to contact me with any questions. Katie Zirbes kzirbes3@gmail.com





THANK YOU to all who have supported
our **United Methodist Women**
NO BAKE - BAKE SALE.

We have deposited \$1,715.00 in this short time. If you haven't already, find your colored envelope and do help us out this month towards our local Mission of supporting the Trustees and their continued work of our church . Again we **THANK YOU** for all your support.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

WITH SYMPATHY
We extend our love to
the families of
Marilyn Schehr
&
Jim Groth
(Jean Ellis' brother)
at the recent loss
of their loved ones

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.

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

Rewey: Clergy, Clark Grosvenor and the 19 members. Rewey is part of the Belmont, Rewey charge located at 421 Hughit St, Rewey, WI 53580. November 28, 2021 – December 4, 2021.

Richland Center: Peace, Richland Center: Trinity Regional Ministry: Clergy, Rey Diaz. The 101 members at Richland Center: Peace located at 265 N Church St, Richland Center, WI 53581. The 55 members at Richland Center: Trinity located at 400 E Seminary St, Richland Center, WI 53581. December 5, 2021 - December 11, 2021.

Ridgeway: Grace: Clergy, James Droste and the 14 members. Ridgeway: Grace is part of the Dodgeville, Ridgeway: Grace charge located at 501 Main St, WI 53582. December 12, 2021 - December 18, 2021.

Sandusky: Clergy, Elizabeth Jacob and the 31 members. Sandusky is part of the Lime Ridge, Sandusky charge located at E3317 E Sandusky Rd, WI 53942. December 19, 2021 - December 25, 2021.

Shullsburg: Centenary: Clergy, Stanton Bockwoldt and the 173 members located at 226 W Church St, Shullsburg, WI 53586. December 26, 2021 – January 1, 2022.



Wishing you the gift of joy, the blessing of hope
and the peace of His love
at Christmas and always.

Merry Christmas from the staff of PUMC: Pastor KwangYu, Amanda Thiele,
Shar Kuhl, Katie Zirbes, Scott Maass, Rich Jacobson, and Chris Hurd.



Something to smile about.....

You'd Better Be Good

Sarah and her thirteen-year-old sister had been fighting a lot this year. This happens when you combine a headstrong two-year-old, who is sure she is always right, with a young adolescent. Sarah's parents, trying to take advantage of her newfound interest in Santa Claus, reminded the two-year-old that Santa was watching and doesn't like it when children fight. This had little impact. "I'll just have to tell Santa about your misbehavior" the mother said as she picked up the phone and dialed. Sarah's eyes grew big as her mother asked "Mrs. Claus" (really Sarah's aunt; Santa's real line was busy) if she could put Santa on the line. Sarah's mouth dropped open as Mom described to Santa (Sarah's uncle) how the two-year-old was acting. But, when Mom said that Santa wanted to talk to her, she reluctantly took the phone. Santa, in a deepened voice, explained to her how there would be no presents Christmas morning to children who fought with their sisters. He would be watching, and he expected things to be better from now on. Sarah, now even more wide eyed, solemnly nodded to each of Santa's remarks and silently hung the phone up when he was done. After a long moment, Mom (holding in her chuckles at being so clever) asked, "What did Santa say to you, dear?" In almost a whisper, Sarah sadly but matter-of-factly stated, "Santa said he won't be bringing toys to my sister this year."

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY SHEET
October 2021**

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*****
GENERAL FUND                                DEDICATED FUNDS
Income:  21,961.69                            Income    1,764.07
Expense: -16,139.26                            Expense   555.58
5,822.42
*****

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FUND BALANCES

General Fund	(1,589.08)
Dedicated Fund	101,145.10
*Checking Account Balance (total of Gen. and Ded. Fund)	99,556.02
Memorial Checking	8,753.02
Jenkins Fund	53,122.30
Anderson Fund	25,177.70
Wiedenhaupt Fund	6,399.75
Endowment Fund	20,431.26
Hamele Fund	13,065.02
TOTAL *(checking balance not in total)	226,505.07

Rich Jacobson, Church Treasurer

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MAY ALL KINGS
FALL DOWN
BEFORE HIM,
ALL NATIONS
SERVE HIM!

PSALM 72:11, ESV



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