

The Messenger

WE HAVE COME
TO WORSHIP HIM.

Matthew 2:2



A Newsletter of Portage United Methodist Church
JANUARY 2022 Rev. KwangYu Lee, Pastor

The ladies of the church enjoyed Christmas Brunch at Dino's restaurant.
New members are always welcome!



Childrens'
Christmas
Program

Jesus Is My
Christmas Gift!



Carlos Campos Jr
on piano!





A couple of months ago I came to know one Korean TV drama on Netflix, titled *Squid Game*. Out of curiosity, I googled it and was surprised by the fact that it was a hot topic like *Gangnam Style* or the Bangtan Boys (BTS). At this juncture, if you don't understand what I just said, I gently recommend that you take a moment and google those words. For those who understood it, let me continue. I talked with my wife about the TV drama. She also knew something about it. In no time, we decided to watch it, with no intention to watch the entire season.

The first episode began with an introduction of a children's (traditional) play called *Squid Game* that I had actually played a lot with my friends in childhood. The brief plot of the drama is that Seong Gi-hun, a divorced chauffeur and gambling addict, participated in a series of children's games for a chance at a large cash prize, in order to financially support his elderly mother who was suffering from serious diabetes, and pay off his debts that were gradually snowballing. On a secluded island where the survival games took place, Gi-hun came to know that there were 456 participants in total and the last survivor would get \$38 billion (₩45.6 billion). Until the first game began, he didn't know that all eliminated competitors in each game were supposed to be killed on the spot. To be the last survivor, all the participants were demanded to cool-headedly look away from 455 deaths, only concentrating on his/her life and prize money. Gi-hun was not the kind of person who could do it easily. When he was almost about to be eliminated (thus to be killed), more often than not, he worried about and cared for others.

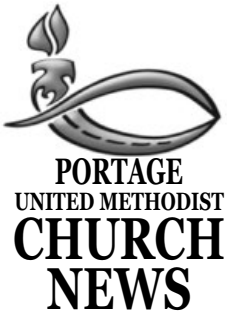
After watching the last episode, my first son shared his appreciation review: "It is addictively fun, but it gives me, each time, a guilty feeling." I agree with him 100 percent. Surviving in the war of all against all, what else can we feel? Gi-hun was the last survivor. He was the only one, out of 456 persons, who came back home alive. However, he couldn't use his prize money for years due to the survivor guilt. The first episode ended with Gi-hun's decision to go back to the brutal and merciless place. This time it was neither for the matter of life or death, nor for another prize money. It was for his trust in humanity – what makes each of us a human and differentiates each of us from other animals. We are the only animal on this planet who trusts others despite that others will use us as an object for their individual benefits and reject us indifferently.

In expectation of a new year of 2022 for PUMC, I hope and pray that PUMC becomes a place where we trust others, being trusted by others, even if, in that trust-building process, we hurt others and we are hurt by others to a degree. Personally, I want to believe that the church is the last bastion of humanity.

December 14, 2021

Pastor KwangYu

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



**Articles for the
February newsletter
are due January 16**

**Red Cross Blood Drive:
Thursday, January 27
11:30 am - 5:30 pm**

If you want to schedule an appointment ahead of time, please call the Red Cross, or go online.

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.

Check This Out!

We are getting quite low on items for the Little Free Food Pantry: **With temps below freezing, we can now only accept dried goods. No canned goods either.**



Here are some good suggestions —

-ramen noodles/rice-a-roni/flavored pasta pkgs - dried soup mixes - potato flakes - feminine hygiene pads - small boxes of cereal - instant oatmeal packs - dried milk - toothbrushes - toilet paper rolls - pancake and muffin mixes - crackers.

You may have some good ideas too!

Snowy Days and Cancellation Policy

Pastor KwangYu's policy is to be present every Sunday for worship, regardless of the weather. If you wish to attend, he will be here. However, we do not want you to take unnecessary risks on slippery roads or during storms. Please use your best judgment before venturing out.

If you haven't been called on to serve as a liturgist or an usher, or to help fold & prep newsletters, and would like to serve the church in this way or any other, please call the office at 608-742-2107, or email us at: office.portageumc@gmail.com, and add your name to the list. We always need and welcome additional volunteers! Thank You!

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**

Thought for the month:

"If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble." *Bob Hope*

Children's Ministries News



Thank you to those who came to watch the Children's Christmas Program. The cast was small but mighty and they had fun being able to be in front of the congregation.

Sunday School will resume:
January 9th at 9:30am
January 16th
January 23rd
January 30th

I really could use someone to help each week. Having an age range from 4k-5th grade has created some challenges. Please reach out and call or email if you could help once a month or more.

(Mostly because there is no nursery and Ken is gone several weekends for his military service.)

** Please note that the nursery is still not open.

Something to ponder..... **The Silent Sermon**

A member of a church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The preacher found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone, then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.



The year 2021 brought us many 'highs' and 'lows'. We want to say thank-you to all those who helped out, in various ways, to support the activities and ministries of Portage UMC this past year. Maybe you helped weekly, with financial donations, or by taking care of the Little Free Food Pantry. Maybe you served monthly on a committee or as an usher at services. Maybe you stepped up when a need arose, like taking someone to a doctor's appointment, or working at a fundraiser.

No matter how you helped, or how often you helped, please accept our heartfelt and sincere thanks. It took each one of you to make 2021 the successful year that it was!

We don't know for sure what 2022 will bring us, but with your continued love and support, we can make it an even better year of caring and ministry to our family, friends and neighbors.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY 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 on YouTube, and then having it available later for viewing as a video.

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 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

January 26, Wednesday

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

January 27, Thursday

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

Meetings in January:

January 3, Monday

6:30 pm: Trustees

January 10, Monday

6:30 pm: Finance

January 17, Monday

6:30 pm: SPRC

January 24, Monday

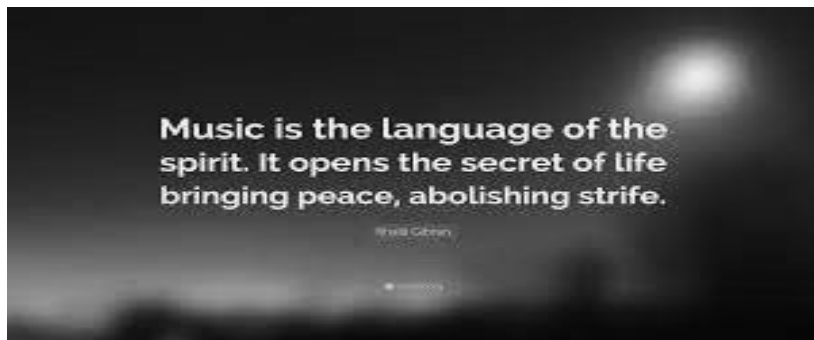
6:30 pm: Church Council



January 2022

Happy New Year to all! As the new year begins, we are looking at how we begin music ministries safely back at church. We are looking at starting a small choral group opportunity starting in February. This would depend on how the Covid virus is spreading in our community and would require masks and social distancing while singing. Right now, we are looking to see who might be interested in this opportunity. Rehearsals would probably change to a different evening other than Wednesdays.

Thanks to everyone who shared their musical talents at the Concert and special music throughout December, their acting talents at the Children's program, and all those who volunteered to usher and be the liturgist on Sundays. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Katie Zirbes kzirbes3@gmail.com



JANUARY Birthdays



2	Jan Derlein	15	Kristin Mundt	28	Paul Ebert
3	Pat Jensen Dolores Ramme	17	McKayla McTier		Carl Johnson
6	Al Dykstra	20	Jessie Powers	29	Kim Shaw
9	Pastor KwangYu Lee	21	Barb Jensen	31	Janet Banks
10	Hunter Lane Bobby Lane Holly Peterson	22	Jean Ellis Hilbert Schehr		Steve Banks Abbie Korish
11	Renee Pulver	25	Tom Luedeman		Sheril Lannoye
14	Steve Rosing	26	Caleb Drew Cade Harkner		Barb Quamme

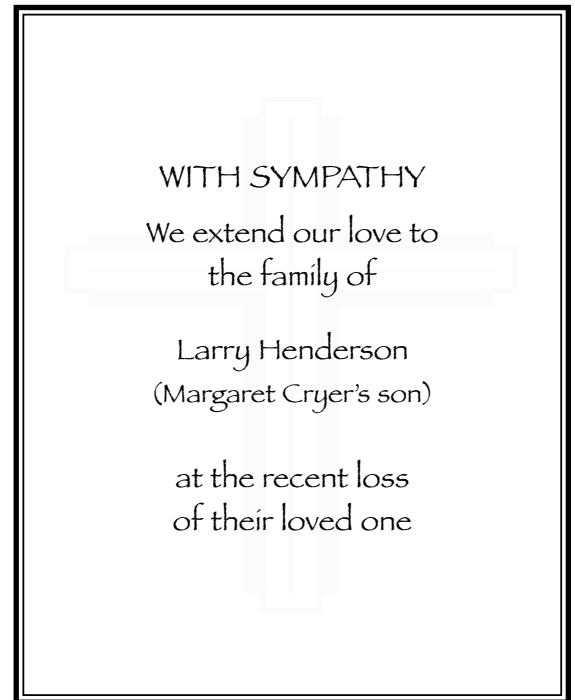


United Methodist Women

Thanks to everyone who supported UMW in our Soup-to-Go fundraiser. Whether you donated ice cream pails, made soup for us, worked during the sale, or came and bought soup-to-go, you are all a part of our successful sale.

We missed being able to have our usual Fall Bazaar AGAIN this year! Our fingers are crossed for 2022 being the year we can finally get back to it.

Happy New Year to you all from
Portage United Methodist Women!



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

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.

Stoughton UMC: Clergy, Catherine Christman and the 80 members located at 525 N Lincoln Ave, Stoughton, WI 53589-1225; January 2, 2022 – January 8, 2022.

Sun Prairie UMC: Clergy, Jenny Arneson, Claire Mather Douglass, and the 625 members located at 702 North St, Sun Prairie, WI 53590-1433; January 9, 2022 – January 15, 2022.

Verona: Sugar River UMC: Clergy, Gary Holmes and the 247 members located at 415 W Verona Ave, Verona, WI 53593; January 16, 2022 – January 22, 2022.

Viola UMC: Clergy, Lorri McGranahan and the 98 members located at 225 N Washington St, Viola, WI 54664. January 23, 2022 – January 29, 2022.



A Soul Food for Advent: "Water From the Wells of Salvation"

By Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3).

It is easy to forget that our ancestors in faith did not draw water from a tap. Isaiah's people had to wait, walk, think about their need for water, plan to carry it, and appreciate every last drop. This reading for Advent takes us back to journey and waiting with emptiness.

Advent is a season of waiting with what Simeon the New Theologian called, 'attention of the heart.' A letting go of calculations and letting be of emptiness. This amounts to cleaning the inside of the cup as scripture speaks, then humble waiting for God to be revealed.

Humility can be the source of acceptance of our common humanity. While we come to our days with an attention of the heart, we need not clutter our eyes with judgment about our neighbors or divided views of humanity. What practices empty you for an attention of the heart?

Emptiness and promise are sisters. Emptiness is satisfied to watch her sister have her day and promise is glad to come and be with her sister. Both have peace as their mother.

It may be difficult for us to be at peace with emptiness. Many of us live in the feelings of emptiness as the pandemic rages on. Health care workers, clergy, everyday heroes who work in public spaces—all of us have

experienced depletion. Perhaps the good news is that we do not have to bring off Christmas, nor complete the promises of Advent. We come empty-handed to the promise that 'with joy you shall draw water from wells of salvation.'

Many years ago, when I was a superintendent on the Wisconsin cabinet and twice since my return, I offered a tea ceremony as a part of our cabinet worship service. Of course, a proper tea ceremony would take many hours, but we were in transition at the time. A tea ceremony slows the pace to the dynamic of pouring and receiving. My siblings at the table were exhausted from giving and they were able to rest and receive. First the utensils are brought in the room, signs and symbols of waiting. The tea is stirred with water and transformation takes place—all of it before those who are waiting. When the time comes to drink, there is a fullness that is more than the tea; it is relational, grateful, and endowed with a sense of this cup being enough.

Siblings, we are in the heart of Advent. Bring your emptiness and attention of the heart. Bring your waiting. Trust. The prophet promises: 'with joy you shall draw water from wells of salvation.' Thanks be to God.

Know that I am praying for you.
Peace,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

FINANCIAL SUMMARY SHEET
November 2021

GENERAL FUND

Income: 13,169.35

Expense: -27,143.95

-13,974.60

DEDICATED FUNDS

Income 4,352.06

Expense 39,310.30

FUND BALANCES

General Fund	(17,929.55)
Dedicated Fund	66,186.86
*Checking Account Balance (total of Gen. and Ded. Fund)	48,257.31
Memorial Checking	9,203.02
Jenkins Fund	52,276.45
Anderson Fund	24,776.79
Wiedenhaupt Fund	6,297.85
Endowment Fund	20,105.93
Hamele Fund	12,853.88
Edward Jones	35,525.37
TOTAL *(checking balance not in total)	209,296.60

Rich Jacobson, Church Treasurer

Here's a Smile for Your Day!

Pastor Quicke was on his way back to the parish from an extended out-of-state trip. Eager to be home before dark, he was traveling well over the speed limit and ended up being pulled over by a state trooper. The officer was not impressed by his explanation or his collar and asked, "Do you want me to give you a little sermon about your driving, Pastor?"

"Oh, skip the sermon," said the flustered pastor, "and just take up the collection."

**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 & Poyette Wisconsin
WWW.PMMFH.COM

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

Heritage House
ASSISTED LIVING

Assisted Living
Caregivers available 24-hours a day

Schedule a tour and receive a \$25.00 Gift Card with this ad.

608.448.6181

Call today and ask about a move-in gift!

**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

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

WIESER CONCRETE
Innovation, Quality
and Service
Since 1963

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

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

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!

ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **Marcia Boswell** to place an ad today!
mboswell@4LPi.com or **(206) 550-5220 x2246**

**Joe's Auto &
Truck Service, LLC**
Timothy Gaffney, Owner
(608) 742-2776
24 Hour Towing
1615 New Pinery Rd • Portage

**Thrive
Locally**

WE'RE HIRING
AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION. WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Work-Life Balance
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Serve Your Community
- Paid Training
- Some Travel

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 22 ISSUE 1

Staff:

Rev. KwangYu Lee, Pastor
Shar Kuhl, Office Administrator
Rich Jacobson, Church Treasurer
Amanda Thiele, Children's 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

One kind word
can warm three
winter months.

Japanese proverb



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