

Pastor's Message . . .



“Remembering September 11th”



It's been ten years since that day the whole world seemed to stop whatever it was they were doing and rushed to the nearest television. People in major cities

all around the world gathered in fear that their city would be the next one to be attacked. For the first time in America's history all airplanes were ordered to remain on the ground by the President of the United States.

In some ways it's hard to believe that it has been ten years and yet in other ways, the events of that day seem so long ago. It also seems wrong to call our remembrance of that day, an anniversary. Anniversaries are made for remembering happy occasions and for celebrating. Even the anniversary of the death of a loved one is bitter sweet when we remember the joy the person's life brought to our world. There is no joy in the ten year anniversary of September 11th. We also face the challenge to remember this event ten years later that occurs on the Lord's Day.

We at the First Presbyterian Church of Portage will gather on Sunday September 11, 2011 to remember and reflect on a day that united us as survivors of a great tragedy.

We will gather in the name of Jesus Christ. Starting at 9:00 a.m. we will join together in a series of intergenerational activities where the youngest Sunday school child will hold hands with the Elder who has the wisdom of many years.

Then at 10:00 a.m., we will come to worship the Lord who is our source of comfort and strength. We will remember our sorrow and turn to the Lord who challenges us to live bravely and boldly in this world in the name of Love.

After our service we will continue our day of remembrance as a community who has reflected on the past and now goes forward to live together in peace. We will gather together to enjoy a day filled with music, food, games and smiles. We will gather sharing in the blessings of our great country as we know all those who died on that terrible day would want us to.

Pastor Tim

Upcoming Events!

- **Sunday, September 11th** Freedom Picnic. Fellowship beginning at 9:00 a.m. with a Picnic following Services. There will be remembrance, fellowship, food, Bingo and just added, a Silent Auction.
- **Thursday, September 15th**, Bible Study Class resumes at 10:30 a.m.
- **Friday, September 16th**, New Member Gathering, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, October 1**, Book & Bake Sale from 9 am to 2 pm.
- **Saturday November 12th**, Craft Show.

Christian Education News . . .



“Let Freedom Ring”

Rally Day will be here before you know it. We hope everyone, young and young at heart will come out and celebrate this day with us.

Show your patriotic pride by wearing red, white, and blue!

We will meet in the Fellowship hall at 9:00 a.m. on September 11, 2011, for all ages to interact together. Worship will follow at 10:00 a.m. The day will continue with a pot luck luncheon, Bingo, and other activities Pastor Tim has planned. Watch your mail for a reminder post card.

Thank you everyone for your continuing support of our school supply donations. The items were donated to the Portage Food Pantry for distribution.

It is wonderful to have more young children in church, so we are asking for volunteers to help with Story Hour during worship. Please contact Linda or Dennise. Story Hour is available for children in Kindergarten and younger.

Pastor Tim’s Bible Study Class will resume on Thursdays beginning September 15th at 10:30 a.m. The lesson’s focus will begin with the story of Joseph and his Coat Of Many Colors. When that concludes, we will begin a study of the Psalms.

*Yours in Christ,
Dennise Furnish, Linda Roque & Pastor Tim*

Outreach Committee News . . .

The committee will be meeting soon to make plans for our Annual Craft Show to be held on November 12, and the Annual Cookie Walk in December, date to be announced. Be sure to watch for further information.

Are you interested in serving on the Outreach Committee? We always welcome new hands and new ideas. We basically plan several fundraising projects during the year with proceeds going either to the general fund or a specific project. This would include such events as chili suppers, spaghetti dinners, craft shows, cookie walk, etc. Any other ideas? Let us know or you can attend a meeting. Please call Bonnie at 219-762-3848, or Dennise Furnish at 219-759-1548.



There will be Bingo at the Freedom Picnic. Last year everyone made that possible by donating new or gently used items to be used as prizes for children and adults. It was really a big hit! We would like you to help with those items again this year. Just drop them off at the church. There will also be a Silent Auction at the Picnic. There are some great items so be sure you take a look and support the church if you see something you like. We thank you for all your faith and blessings.

*Bonnie Gibson, Chairperson
Dennise Furnish, Secretary*

Book Sale &



Book and Bake Sale Saturday, October 1st

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Portage

Come and see what we have for you!

Books and bake sale items are still needed. Please contact Bonnie at 762-3848 or Regina at 219-785-7173 if you would like to donate or help.

September Choir Notes

“What happened to us in September, 2001, is a microcosmic but painful and powerful example of the fact we live in an inter-dependent world that is not yet an integrated global community.” - Bill Clinton

As I begin this article, I’m going to jump ahead a bit in order to make sure you know about some important upcoming events at the church.

This September 11th will be the tenth anniversary of the shocking terrorist attack that brought down the Twin Towers in New York City. That morning, I walked into the Bonner Center and encountered a room filled with people watching the Twin Towers burning on TV. Later that morning, my sister-in-law called from New Jersey; she told me that she and her husband had been having coffee on their condo balcony overlooking the Hudson River, and they watched in real-time horror as the attacks took place. I’m sure almost all of us remember where we were on that fateful day.

For this anniversary, the church has planned a “Remembrance Sunday” to memorialize those who were killed by terrorist attacks on that day; those who died trying to rescue others, and all those who have died or otherwise sacrificed their normal lives as a result of what happened. This will also be the first Sunday of this year’s choir season, and the members will be singing appropriate songs for the occasion.

After the service, we will be having our annual picnic, and, once again, we will welcome Susan and Gary Brown from Valparaiso to join us and to present a musical program after our picnic lunch. Susan and Gary were with us last year, and everyone completely enjoyed them, especially the kids. I hope those of you who were there, please pass the word on to others about how wonderful they are.

September 11th would be a perfect Sunday to invite friends and family to attend church, the picnic; and the program afterwards. It should be a memorable experience for all.

Yes, the choir season is beginning again, and we invite all of you who love to sing to join us. (Remember, there are no auditions for the choir.) The first rehearsal will be on Weds., September 7th at 6:30 in the church choir room. Usually, there will be two rehearsals a month on Weds. evenings, and the choir will sing on two Sundays a month.

It is shaping up to be a great year for the music program; we have quite a few new members in the choir, including Shelby Anderson and Cathy Hall; we have some new and interesting music resource books; and we have our new dynamic duo of Cathy Hall and Deb Martinez who love to sing duets that can’t help but inspire us all.

Harry Karabel continues as a bright spot on our music scene; he will again be with us on the last Sunday of every month as song leader for our Praise Service Sundays. Harry really gets everyone involved!

Our thanks to those musicians who sang or played music for us over the summer: Fred Livergood, Don Springer, Melissa Reyna, the Anderson Clan, and Gail Feulner. Of course, my thanks go to Cathy and Deb for the beautiful duets that they sang for us--just can’t wait for more. On a personal note: it was very special to me to have some of my much-loved, musical friends come and sing at the church; Ruthann Graeber from Hebron, and Patricia Caldwell, from Cary, IL. I hope you enjoyed listening to them as much as I always do. Both of them told me afterwards how appreciated you made them feel--thank you so much.

A special thanks, too, to Fred Livergood, who I understand will not be able to be with us any longer. Fred and I have been friends for many, many years. I’m grateful for his friendship, for all his service to the church, and his participation at so many rehearsals and services. I will miss his smiling face, upbeat attitude, and devotion to the church.

Karen Leeds, Music Director



Gary and Susan Brown will be with us again on Sunday, September 11. They will be singing songs reflecting on America and entertaining the kids.

VBS Week July 11th thru 15th . . Fun For All!



Introductions and Sharing!



S
O
n
g!



Dance!



Music!



Yummy Snacks



Craft Fun!



Friendship!



Games & Activities!

Giving Updates . . .

Thank you to our generous members for donating back to the community. This church supports these local organizations and they appreciate your efforts very much. Here is a brief description on how you have helped these past months.

Portage Food Pantry— In July they assisted 58 new families who needed help. Thanks to you and other donors, no one ever goes away empty-handed.

Families served in July — 635

Total individuals — 2,017

Volunteers spent 840 hours.

The Food Pantry's current needs are cereal. They thanked us for the 45# of cereal and baby items.

First Contact -

First Contact is a Christian Resource and Referral Ministry. Our monthly contribution helped to serve individuals and families with rent, utilities, medicines, and other needs. Many people are unemployed and striving to hang on to their housing. Groups like our church are working to help these families.

Rejoicing in Heaven— Just a sample Day at First Contact

David is 52 and has had two heart attacks and Social Security Disability is pending. He came into First Contact for assistance with a rent need and expressed a real concern about dying. The counselor sensed his fear and concern about dying and began to talk to him about the hope he can have in Christ. She shared the tract of four Spiritual Laws with him and led him through the salvation prayer. He seemed more at peace as he left. A follow-up letter expressing our rejoicing in his decision and points him to a church, prayer, and Bible reading.

Total Clients served in July was 105.

Both organizations Thank You Very Much!

New Member Gathering Friday Evening, September 16th

Our church will hold a New Member Gathering on Friday evening, September 16, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m..

We have been very blessed with the many guests who have joined us on Sunday morning, some visiting us for the first time and others returning. Whether you are new to the faith or have grown up in the church, we invite you to attend.

At this event you will find out more about our commitment to community service, our Presbyterian tradition, and our vision for the future. Then immediately following, all who want to join us in membership or reaffirm their membership will have the opportunity to do so.

Dinner and child care will be provided. Please RSVP if you plan to attend so we can have enough food for everyone and to provide activities for the children.

For more information and to RSVP to this event, please email Pastor Tim at pastor@fpcportage.org, or call the office at 219-762-4914.

Indiana Dunes Great Banquet & Awakening 2011

For three days, guests live, study together, worship, sing, pray, and discuss a series of talks by laity and clergy, which present the theme of God's grace. The three days lead to a personal examination of the presence of Christ among His body of believers, and the experience of grace, which comes through the prayers and loving acts of a Christian community. For more information visit: www.idgb.net or speak with Pastor Tim

“Come for all is now ready”

Upcoming Weekends

Men's Fall Weekend Sept. 22—25, 2011

Women's Fall Weekend Sept. 29 to Oct. 2, 2011

Awakening Weekend November 4 – 6, 2011

Church Family Birthdays



***Happy Birthday to
you!***

Church Tidbits . . .

- Don't forget to let your friends and family know that the church ***Fellowship Hall*** is available to rent for special events and meetings. We now have access to Internet via WiFi in the Fellowship Hall so computers can be used for internet presentations and other functions.
- ***This newsletter*** is now available via email. If you would like to receive it via email in a PDF format, please just send your request to the Church office at office@fpcportage.org and we will add your email to the list.
- ***Thank you*** to our Greeters and to the Worship Assistant for August, Pat McCurdy. We also want to thank our hospitality volunteers who serve on Sunday Mornings.
- Please! If you have any birthday updates, or you have been missed, wrong date etc. Call the church office at 219-762-4914.
- If you have not checked out the new Portage Community Market at Founder's Square yet you should! Founders Square is across from the Dairy Queen on Central Ave. The hours are Saturdays from 8 am until 2 pm through October.
- Do you know these Famous Presbyterians from the Entertainment World? Jimmy Stewart, Academy Award winning Actor; Roy Rogers, "King of the Cowboys"; Fred Rogers, from Mister Rogers Neighborhood; Ralph Winter, Hollywood film producer; Patricia Heaton from Everybody Loves Raymond and The Middle; Amy Grant, Singer-songwriter; and Jim Carrey, Comedian and actor.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYERS:

Our ***Prayer Chain*** is a group of individuals dedicated to praying for the church and its members on a daily basis. If you would like to request prayer for a specific concern, or want to become part of the prayer chain, please call Eunice Dearing at (759-3864).

To request prayer from the pulpit on Sunday, please find prayer request forms in the narthex.

NURSING HOMES: Naomi Caughron, Mary Lundie, Karen Key, Virginia Emerson,

OUR MISSIONARIES: Tom & Dora Becker – Czech Republic
Steve and Elizabeth Peterson - Mexico

A Reminder for hospitalized people of our FPC family

Due to government regulations, hospitals are unable to compile a public list of people who are hospitalized. It is very important for a hospitalized person to receive spiritual care. Let us know if a member of your family is having surgery or is ill, so that we can provide ministry. Please call the church office at 762-4914, or to reach Pastor Tim, call him on his cell phone at 219-617-0668.