

TWO MORNING SERVICES TO START THE MONTH, CHANCEL CHOIR TO SING AT BOTH

Sunday morning, February 2, we will have our 9:00 Communion service in Fellowship Hall and hold a second Communion service at 10:30 in the Sanctuary. Nursery care will be offered at 9:00. Pastor Jim will conduct both services, and, as a bonus, our Chancel Choir will sing at both services!



END OF YEAR STATEMENTS IN THE MAIL

One of the benefits of making a financial pledge to the church is that you receive statements of your giving. Now that we are using Realm, our new church management software, you can anticipate quarterly Pledge Statements via email and an End of Year Giving Statement sent through the mail. 2024 Statements were mailed the last week of January. If you have questions, please contact Phil Stepanski, our Treasurer, at phil@portucc.org. Thank you to all who give so generously! Please note - our end of 2024 financial position will be posted in the next newsletter.



SUMMARY OF WINTER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Thank you to everyone who attended the Winter Congregational Meeting on January 26, both in person and virtually. Two main topics were discussed in detail, including a review of the Proposed 2025 Budget and a Q&A session regarding the Designated Interim Call for Rev. James Schleif. Highlights include the approval of our budget with a small \$2200 deficit. Church Council feels confident that the deficit will be closed with outstanding pledges and possible fundraising. The Designated Interim details were discussed at length with a mixture of excitement and acknowledgement that adjusting to the availability of a half-time minister will take time, understanding, and flexibility by all. Overall, the congregation was supportive of the 2025 plan. You may [click here](#) to view the recording of the meeting. Feel free to reach out to members of Church Council with questions or feedback. We appreciate all the thoughtful questions and input received at the meeting and look forward to exciting new happenings here at church.



MOVING FORWARD WITH OUR DESIGNATED INTERIM

With the approval of the 2025 budget, Church Council will move forward with a half-time Designated Interim Call to Rev. James Schleif for one year, effective March 1, 2025. More information can be found on a [Things to Know](#) handout, also distributed at the Winter Congregational Meeting.

JOIN US

We have one Sunday morning worship service at 9:00 each week. On the first Sunday, a second service is held at 10:30.

HOLY COMMUNION

The first Sunday morning of each month we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, open to all who seek to follow in the way of Christ, both children and adults.

LINKED UP

Be on the lookout for orange text - it's linked up to documents and web pages you might find helpful or interesting.

SUBMIT INFO FOR THE NEWSLETTER

If you have a celebration, prayer request, or other contribution for the newsletter, please email the church office 7-10 days before the first day of the month.

PASTOR JIM LEADS FIRST TWO SUNDAYS OF FEBRUARY

Our Interim, Pastor Jim, will lead services on February 2 and 9. Rev. Bob Wells will return to provide pulpit supply on February 16. Stay tuned for our guest leader on February 23. Pastor Jim will be with us on Sundays on a consistent basis starting March 2.



CONSIDER PARTICIPATION ON TWO KEY TEAMS

As we embark on our journey with Pastor Jim as our Designated Interim Minister, we are in need of volunteers for:

Pastor Parish Relations Team: Seeking 3-4 members to serve as a confidential support and advisory group for the Interim Pastor, to monitor progress in accomplishing developmental tasks and to act as a link between the pastor and the congregation.

Search Committee: Seeking a diverse group of 8-10 members to update our Church Profile in the near term. Longer term, the committee will be needed to interview and select candidates for the position of settled minister.

Please contact Church Council at fcc.committees@gmail.com if you are interested.



CHILI LUNCH IN GRAFTON ON FEBRUARY 2 TO SUPPORT MISSION TRIP

Seven high schoolers from our church are part of the group of 32 youth who will be traveling by coach bus to do mission work in Brooklyn, New York this coming July. One of the handful of opportunities to help support the fundraising efforts of the group is a Chili Lunch on Sunday, February 2, from 11:30-1:30 at Pilgrim UCC Grafton. There are three options: drive-thru, take-out, or dine-in.



SOUP AND SALAD POTLUCK ON FEBRUARY 23

The Fellowship Team will be hosting a Soup and Salad Potluck after the 9:00 service on Sunday morning, February 23. You are invited to enjoy a meal with church friends and are welcome to bring a favorite pot of soup or bowl of salad.



LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

Please plan to join us for our Ash Wednesday evening service at 7:00 on March 5. Pastor Jim will conduct this special service as we begin the church season of Lent. Also, please note, our church will be participating in the Ecumenical Mid-Week Services. Local churches each take a turn hosting a dinner and service for the community. Our church will host on Wednesday, April 9. Details are forthcoming!

