

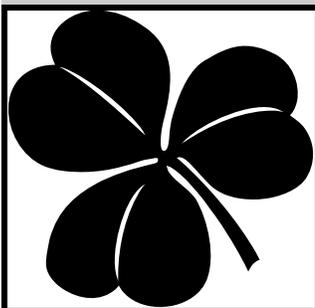
# THE NITTY GRITTY

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**Events**

- Mar 15, Recycling Trailer, 9:00 am to noon
- April 13, Steak Supper, Christ UMC, 12 noon
- April 17, Holy Thursday meal and service, 6:30 pm
- April 20, Easter Sunday services, 7 am & 9:30 am
- Sunday Worship, Christ UMC, 9:30 am; Sunday School, 11:00 am
- Council meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, Village Hall, 7 pm
- Portage Lions, 2nd & 4th Mondays, Christ UMC, 7 pm
- Food Pantry, Saturdays, Christ UMC, 10:00 am



## VILLAGE COUNCIL NEWS

The weather has been a frequent conversation topic this year, including at Village Council meetings. It was reported that, along with the rest of NW Ohio, Portage received a record snowfall this winter. Mayor Mark Wolford and the rest of the council appreciate very much the great job Joe Perez has done plowing the village streets. While salt stockpiles have been a concern for several communities, Portage's salt supply appears to be sufficient and not a concern at this time.

Council received some reports of coyote sightings within village limits in early February. This has been attributed to the severe cold weather and is considered to be a rare occurrence. It is expected that as the weather gets warmer, they will move out of the area. Residents are strongly encouraged, should they see a coyote, to leave them alone and not try to interact with them. Residents with outdoor pets might want to consider bringing them inside. Residents may also call the Wood County Animal Control. No new reports have been received the last couple of weeks.

The fund deficits that put the village into the Fiscal Emergency have been mostly wiped out. One fund, the General Fund, is projected to be in the black by mid-year. Release from Fiscal Emergency will follow shortly after this occurs. This release is dependant on the Local Government Services, which has been overseeing the village operations while working-through of the process of repairing village finances since the damage was inflicted.

The yearly recycling trailer report from Wood County Solid Waste District was received. The Lion's Club and the trailer in Portage collected an aggregate weight of 5,440 pounds of recyclables for the year of 2013. Thank you to everyone who is utilizing the recycling trailer and to the Lion's Club for manning it.



At a recent meeting of TMACOG( Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments) the Mayor met with others from Bowling Green voicing concerns about O.D.O.T and the detours planned during the I-75 Expansion Project.

# Steak Supper

**Sunday, April 13  
12 noon  
Christ United  
Methodist Church**

**For \$8.00 per adult, \$4.00 per child, you get baked steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, roll, homemade dessert, and beverage.**

**Funds raised during this event are used for our continued mission work. All are welcome.**



*FOOD  
PANTRY at  
Christ UMC every  
Saturday at  
10:00 am*

The Nitty Gritty is sponsored by the Portage Lions Club. Send comments and suggestions to portagelions@dacor.net.

## MCDONALD'S BENEFIT NIGHT—THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to the McDonald's Benefit Night on February 13. We had a very good turn out and earned over \$420. As a reminder, 100% of these funds are used towards projects—never towards any administrative costs. We certainly appreciate all attendees.

Portage Lions Club

## Christ United Methodist Church

Christ UMC is having a Holy Thursday Meal and service on Thursday April 17, beginning at 6:30 pm. This is a carry in meal and anyone is invited to come.

Sunday April 20th is Easter Sunday and you all are invited to come and worship with us on Easter Sunday. We have two services, one begins at 7 am, an Easter Sunrise Service followed by a free Easter Breakfast, the second one begins at 9:30 am....we would love to see you all there.

I apologize that we did not have the food to distribute for a few weeks. The reason was that we receive the food we distribute from a church in Cygnet, and they had plumbing problems which made it impossible for them to receive any food, thus we also did not receive any. But, we are back up and running. Remember that we are open now on Saturday mornings beginning at 10 am. The food is free and it is for anyone who comes and needs it.

Rev Bruce McDaniel

## ST PATRICK'S DAY FUN FACTS

1. First St Patrick's Day parade held in the US was on Mar 17, 1762 in New York City by Irish soldiers serving in the English military who marched through the city.
2. There are 34.7 million US residents with Irish ancestry. That is more than seven times the population of Ireland itself.
3. The original color associated with St Patrick's Day was blue, but over the years, it changed to green as people took to wearing shamrocks on their clothing in celebration.
4. St Patrick has been attributed with driving the snakes from Ireland. In fact, there were never any snakes in Ireland.
5. Each year, thousands of Americans gather for a 'traditional' meal of corned beef and cabbage.



While cabbage has long been a staple of Ireland, corned beef did not begin to be associated with St Patrick's Day until the turn of the 20th century.