

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT HURON  
811 Wall Street – Port Huron, MI 48060  
(810) 985-6191

## THE CHALLENGE NEWSLETTER

♥ FEBRUARY 2022 ♥

### IN NEED OF PRAYER

Jim Opferman; medical. Anne Wilton; medical.

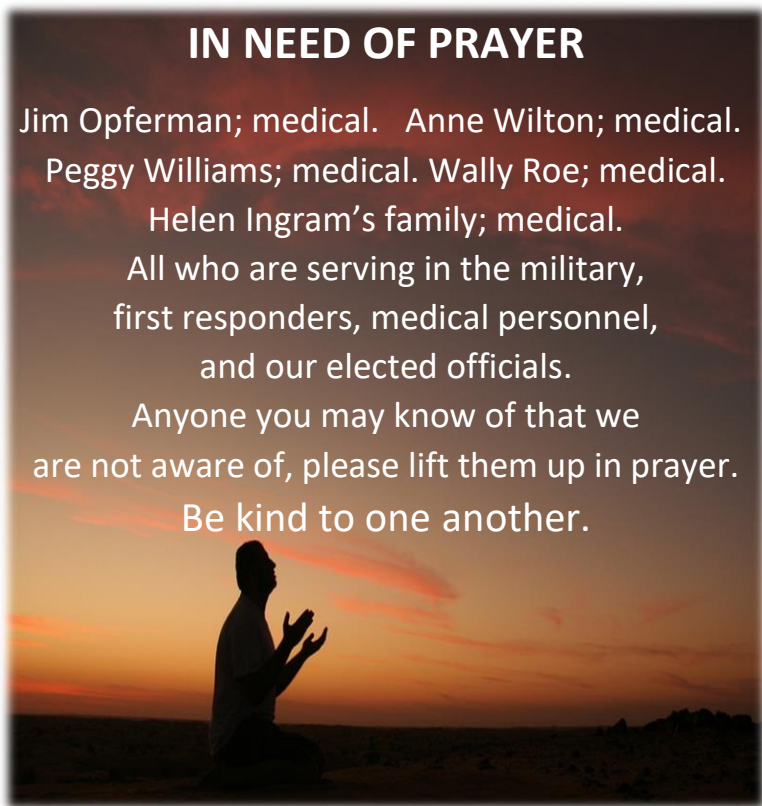
Peggy Williams; medical. Wally Roe; medical.

Helen Ingram's family; medical.

All who are serving in the military,  
first responders, medical personnel,  
and our elected officials.

Anyone you may know of that we  
are not aware of, please lift them up in prayer.

Be kind to one another.



*3* things will last forever  
- faith, hope, & *love*.  
& the greatest of these is  
*love.*

I CORINTHIANS 13:13

### Come Worship with Us

Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.

Facebook –

@First Presbyterian Church  
Port Huron

YouTube -

@FirstPresbyterianChurch

Website – fpcporthuron.org

Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall  
immediately following worship.

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#### **Reverend Doctor Roxie Davis**

Part-Time Interim Pastor

(586) 838-9053

[roxieanddavis@hotmail.com](mailto:roxieanddavis@hotmail.com)

#### **Michelle Fisher**

Christian Education Director

[portpresby.ce@gmail.com](mailto:portpresby.ce@gmail.com)

#### **Jim Fisher**

Social Media/Marketing Tech

[portpresby.social@gmail.com](mailto:portpresby.social@gmail.com)

#### **Amanda Schweihofer**

Bookkeeper

[amandafpcporthuron@gmail.com](mailto:amandafpcporthuron@gmail.com)

(Tuesday Mornings)

#### **Julie Wendt**

Office Administrator

(810) 985-6191

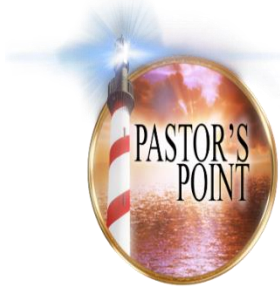
[portpresby@gmail.com](mailto:portpresby@gmail.com)

(M-TH: 9am-3pm)

#### **Bill Briscoe**

Custodian/Maintenance Director

(M & TH: 9am-3pm)



## **PASTOR'S POINT, FEBRUARY 2022**

Here we are at the beginning of 2022. I am sure that 2022 will have challenges for all of us, which is why we need God each and every day. Each year we go to God for help to get us through each difficulty, always giving thanks for God's love and peace.

The Omicron variant of COVID has exacerbated our efforts as a church and as a community. It makes us think of the value of life and our care for one another. Some prefer not to risk coming to church. I am so grateful that our worship is live streamed through Facebook and YouTube. You can always join the worship services live by going to our website and then clicking on the link to view our worship services.

In these times of uncertainty, we can benefit from our relationship with God, Jesus Christ, and our church family. Unfortunately, according to the Wall Street Journal, people are moving away from churches and even moving away from belief in Jesus Christ. An article, in the Wall Street Journal from December 15, 2020, reported that in 2007, 78% of Americans identified themselves as Christian and in 2021 that number had dropped to 63%. During that same period the percentage who claimed no religion rose from 17% to 25%.

The question then becomes, "What are people looking for in a church family?" I believe that people are looking for unconditional love and acceptance. They are looking for ways to navigate through the difficulties of life, with grace and love. I would hope that we all strive to be people who are loving and accepting of others, no matter their beliefs or practices.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

We in the First Presbyterian Church family must love one another, because that is how others will come to know we follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. The word Jesus uses for love is "agape." This is a Greek word which implies that we want the best for the other person. We don't have to like everything another person does to have agape love for them,

but we do have to want them to do well and to be blessed by God. Our agape love must extend further than this church family, reaching out to those who might not know the love of God in Jesus Christ. It must be a constant effort on our part.

Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39) Jesus is telling us that we must love ourselves and then we can love others. If we do not accept ourselves, it is very difficult to accept others. The same is true of the church. The church family must love one another if it is going to love the stranger who might walk through our doors.

Today people want to experience the agape love Jesus asks us to share. If they feel it in our caring for them, perhaps they will want to be a part of this church family, where love gets expressed in caring relationships. People yearn to know that God loves them and that others accept them, just the way they are.

In 2022 we will have opportunities on Sunday mornings and throughout the week to share God’s love with others. I pray that anyone who walks through the church doors or is in contact with us in our daily activities, that they sense God’s love through us. The Great Commandment (Matthew 22: 37-39)—the great purpose of life-- is to “love God and love others.” May we be about God’s work of love in this corner of the world.

### **MEET SID, LINDA AND LINDA**

Friendly. Welcoming. A Perfect Fit.



That is how First Presbyterian's newest members Sid LaFrance, Linda Bartley and Linda Tift describe their first visits to our church. All three were looking for a new church home when their friends and First Presbyterian members Barbara and David Wright invited them to attend worship services here.



Linda Tift has been attending First Presbyterian for several years. "I started coming here because of Barb (Wright)," she says. "I love coming here." Now living in Clyde Township, Linda grew up in Alpena but moved to St. Clair County more than 30 years ago. She has managed a day care, is a dental technician and, Barb notes with pride, is a wonderful neighbor, cook and organizer. Linda and her husband, Michael, have three children and six grandchildren.



Sid LaFrance, who grew up in St. Clair, lives in Fort Gratiot's Birchwood Estates. He and his late wife also spent 16 years splitting their time between Arizona (winters) and Lexington (summers) before moving to Fort Gratiot in 2019. Sid, who was his wife's fulltime caregiver until her death, also worked as a truck driver and a new and used car salesman. Currently, he is a part time bus driver for Preferred Charters. He has two sons and two grandchildren. While attending First Presbyterian, he has performed with pianist Elizabeth Roe at several church services. "I love to sing," he says, "but nothing gives me more pleasure than making a joyful noise to God in church." It also should be noted that in addition to his presence at church, his sisters also watch our services each Sunday from their homes in Arizona.



Linda Bartley, the daughter of a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, spent the first 12 years of her life living in Japan and several European countries before moving back to the United States. A former cosmetic buyer for Estee Lauder, she also worked in the Head Start program and the YMCA as a Young5 preschool teacher. A widow for two years, she has two daughters, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Now living in Birchwood Estates, the Fort Gratiot resident says she enjoys working with children, especially children with special needs.



The Theme for the February Preaching Series is:

“Love, Love, All You Need Is Love” —Really??

Each Sunday of February there will be a different emphasis on God’s love and our love; how love gets expressed, withheld, and given.

First Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate God’s love for us, in Jesus Christ, as shared in the Bread and Cup of Communion.

Second Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, the children will present the drama, “The Gift of Love.”

Third Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, we will explore the favorite love passage that often gets read at weddings, I Corinthians 13.

Fourth Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, we will look at love through the eyes of Jesus’ disciples, especially as it relates to the Transfiguration of our Lord.

Coming together on Sunday morning is about sharing “God’s love” with each other as we worship God together. See you on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.

### **ELEVATOR UPDATE – LOOKING AHEAD**

Our elevator has seen increased use in recent months. Partly due to our new convenience for access and partly due to our congregation getting older and more people having a need to use it. A committee has been formed to look into whether it is time for overhauling or upgrading our existing unit and what that would involve as well as what the cost would be. In the near future, we will have more detail on what we find. Stay tuned!







Sharon Levine - Feb. 7  
Ellen Burns - Feb. 8  
Deborah Langolf - Feb. 11  
Barbara Wright - Feb. 12  
Kenneth MacBeth - Feb. 17  
Adeline Wyckoff - Feb. 18  
Scott Domke - Feb. 24  
Diana Repp - Feb. 27

Hunter & Julie Wendt  
Feb. 27

James & Carla Sue Lovett  
Feb. 28



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*Remember, the **March** Newsletter  
article submission deadline is  
**February 20<sup>th</sup>.***

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## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – JANUARY 11, 2022

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session Meeting:

- Approved Linda Bartley, Sid LaFrance and Linda Tift as new members.
- Approved money from the Endowment Fund to upgrade the sanctuary video equipment.
- Approved the Child/Youth & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures manual.
- Approved the resignation from Mike Yaros as Music Director.



Submitted by: Shelley Kamer, Clerk of Session



### **NURSERY DURING SERVICES**

Birth – 3yrs

### **GIFT (Growing In Faith Together)**

3yrs – 9yrs/3<sup>rd</sup> grade

After the Children's Moment during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship, children will be invited to attend a special time for children where they will hear and participate in a lesson geared just for them.



### SINGING THE FAITH!

Every Sunday, the children will be meeting in the G.I.F.T. room at 11:15 – 11:30 a.m. to practice songs that many children of God have grown up singing. They will sing what they learn once a month during the worship service.

During February, we will practice and sing the song “I’m Gonna Sing”, to be performed during worship service on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. All ages of children are welcome.

### G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

“Rainbow Covenant” – Children will learn why rainbows are a sign of God’s promises.

**February 6:** No “Singing the Faith” after Sunday School. After fellowship time, the children will go to the Sanctuary for play practice. All ages of children are welcome.

**February 13: “The Gift of Love”** – The children will perform the Valentine’s Play, “The Gift of Love” during the service in the Sanctuary. No G.I.F.T. program.

**February 20: “Lent: Growing Closer to God”** - “Come near to God, and he will come near to you.” James 4:8. At 11:15am “Singing the Faith” will meet in the G.I.F.T. room to learn the song “I’m Gonna Sing”. Performance will be Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> during service.

**February 27: “Prayer”** – When we pray, we grow closer to God. At 11:15am “Singing the Faith” will meet in the G.I.F.T. room to practice the song “I’m Gonna Sing”. Performance will be Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> during service.

Looking ahead: The CE Committee is planning a play performance on Palm Sunday. We are looking for a few adults to join the fun and play a role along with the children. Could this be you? Please talk to Michelle Fisher if you have any questions or would like to serve God in this way. The time commitment would be as follows:

2-Sunday practices = March 13 & 20 (following church service)

1-Saturday practice = April 9 (time to be decided)

1-Performance Sunday = April 10, 2022, during the service





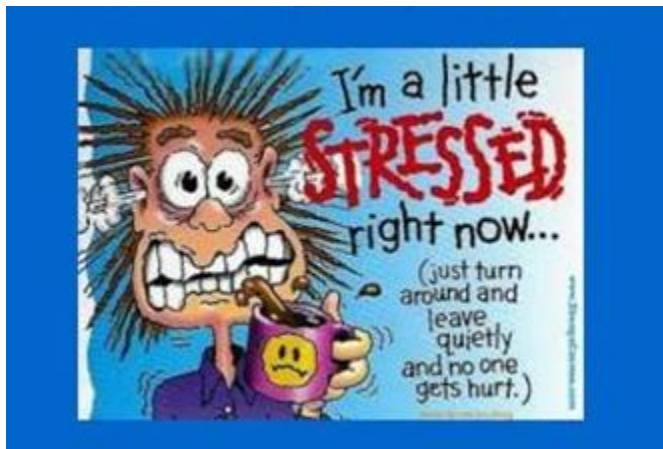
In an effort to make tithing easier for our members, we will be using **Tithe.ly** for online donations. This will make giving to the church meaningful, simple & FAST!

**COMING SOON:** Members will be able to access a donation form directly on our website. When members make an online donation, the Tithe.ly app gives them the option to cover any processing fees. Those fees

are 2.9% + .30 per transaction (most credit cards), 1% + .30 per transaction for direct ACH/Bank or 3.5% + .30 for American Express cards. If members choose to not cover the processing costs, they will be deducted from the overall total donation to FPC (please keep this in mind).

Not interested in using the Tithe.ly application but would like to make giving easier? Please feel free to contact the office to get signed up for automated giving. We use Hubbard Press as a third party to process these donations. It's safe and convenient. Members can also set up a recurring donation to the church using their online banking program (be sure to check with your bank to see if there are any fees involved).

There are so many ways to make giving to your church easy & efficient. Contact our bookkeeper if you have any questions on the Tithe.ly app or the other available methods of automatic donations.



As a reminder, our Administrative Assistant (Julie) works part-time for us, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. But often she puts in many more hours than required. So, I have a request to make to all of you. If at all possible, please call the office with your questions/requests or comments in the mornings so that by noon to the

end of the day, she is able to get her paper and computer work done, which is of great benefit to me as your pastor. With your help, Julie can do her job in the time allowed and like the rest of us, "Be the 'FRIENDLY' Face of the Church."

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Roxie

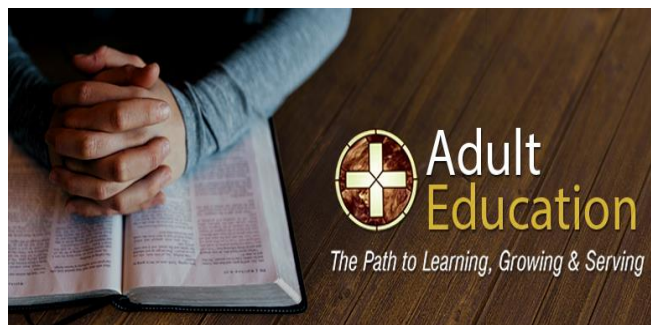


**W.I.N. Class February 27, 11:15 a.m. in the Church Parlor**

**Wonderful Introduction for Newcomers (WIN)** Class is an opportunity to get know others who are in the class, learn about the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. through a video presentation and hear some interesting facts about the First Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Port Huron. This class is led by Pastor Roxie.

The class is designed for those who are new among us; those who might want to transfer their membership from another church and for those who have been “friends” of the church and are now ready to join as members. At the end of class, we always allow for people to make a decision to join the church. But there is no pressure to do so since we know that making that decision takes time.

At the WIN Class on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:15 a.m. in the church parlor, you can ask your questions and you will get a packet of material which we hope is helpful for you to feel more at “home.” This class is a “win” for everyone! If you are interested, let us know or just come on February 27<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to getting to know you better!



The name of the class this month is “How to Speak about God When You Have Something to Say”. The class will cover such topics as:

“Experiencing Angels”  
“After Life Experience”  
“God Sightings in Everyday Life—  
God-incidences”  
“God Moments or Awe-Hah  
Moments”

In addition to the topics, there will be some instructions on how to put those thoughts into a sermon or talk. What kind of Scripture research needs to go into a sermon or talk? Where are the resources when you are relating God to life experiences? How do you construct a talk or sermon so that it connects with the hearers?

Interested? If so, please let Pastor Roxie know and come attend the class for the four Sundays of February: 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. See you in the Church’s Lower Level at 9:00 a. m.

(Set your alarm!)

## ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2022



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held February 20, 2022, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in February, as indicated by our Bylaws.

Please mark your calendar. Any item can come up during the Annual Meeting and **all reports from all groups** in the church will be reviewed and approved.

## **THE SELF STUDY/ THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

We are celebrating the good work of the Transitional Team who wrote the Self Study, with your input, and who met all the requirements of the Committee on Ministry (COM), Presbytery of Detroit. We are now ready to move towards the election of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) of 7 members. There will be a Selection Committee set-up by the Session at their February Session meeting. It will be their task to recommend the Pastor Nominating Committee names to the congregation at a future Congregational Meeting, specifically designed to vote on the people who would make up the Pastor Nominating Committee.

### **Recommendations from each active member**

One of the things that is needed from every active member in this congregation are 7 (or less) recommendations of people who would be good on the Pastor Nominating Committee. We would like to facilitate this by having forms available for you to fill out and return to the church by the Annual Congregational Meeting, February 20<sup>th</sup>. We are NOT voting on the Pastor Nominating Committee at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The voting for the PNC, per the recommendations of the Select Committee, will happen at a Special Congregation Meeting, set by the Session.

### **Requirements and Character Traits of the 7-person Pastor Nominating Committee**

Your leaders have worked on the character traits and requirements for the PNC. Please view them below:

Requirements: Younger/Older; Male/Female; knowledge of the church's ministries and familiarity with the Self Study and additional documents; worship attender; Well accepted by the congregation; Knows the Presbyterian system and how to navigate it; Committed to a one/two-year process, probably meeting weekly or bi-weekly.

Character Traits of the 7-people on the PNC: Committed to the church/active in life of the church and passionate about the ministry; Welcoming, Friendly, Not afraid to speak up, but not to the point of being difficult; A spirit of compromise; Organized; Comfortable on the phone; Good writer; Open minded; Good listener to candidates, others and the Holy Spirit; Knows how to read resumes, do interviews and ask the questions that speak of the congregation's needs; Dependable and follows through on their assignments; Level headed, Comfortable with differing viewpoints; Strong faith, discerning spirit and a heart for Christ; Good teammate, looking towards the future with a long term commitment to the church; respects confidentiality .

**The Form to Fill out with your 7 recommended people**

Below you will find the form which we are asking you to fill out by February 20<sup>th</sup> if you would like to recommend your top 7 choices of people for the Pastor Nominating Committee. Please do not recommend more than 7. These will be collated and handed to the Select Committee to be prayed over and for them to discern the best choices for the PNC. Please make sure you give your name as the one filling out the form. Also, please type or print clearly.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Choices: (You can recommend yourself)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_