

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

THE CHALLENGE NEWSLETTER

‡ APRIL 2022 ‡

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Jim Opferman; hospital / Bob Budds; medical /
Steve Emery; medical / Jane Penzien; medical /
Peggy Williams; medical

The family of June Bailey at her passing
on March 17, 2022.

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

The people of Ukraine and
the people of Russia.

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

Be kind to one another.



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

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PASTOR'S POINT, APRIL 2022



If there is any time in your life that it would be imperative to talk with your family, your neighbors and your friends about coming back to worship, it is now! If you are a person who has not been a regular attender at worship, it is time to come back to worship. God is waiting, with open arms, to strengthen and lead you into the unknown future.

God wants to talk with all of us, through God's Word in Scripture, through Prayer, through Song, and through our Fellowship with one another. It seems to me, that God has a great desire to have a relationship with each of us: so God can show us His unconditional love, I believe that God wants to strengthen us, giving us courage to face our fears. That can happen through worshipping God each Sunday.

God is waiting for all of us to come back to Him and trust Him, rejoicing and giving thanks for God's power, provision and presence in our lives. God is waiting for us to imitate Jesus in our compassion towards each other and the stranger in our midst.

It is very apparent to me that we need each other—giving encouragement when the road is difficult and rejoicing together when we are touched by life's beauty. May we claim Jesus as our Lord and Savior every day, so that we can check our words and actions against the backdrop of Christ's constant love for all of us.

Holy Week is approaching with the reality of Christ's death on a cross, signifying God's forgiveness. May forgiveness become our way of life. Holy Week brings us into the reality that even in the darkness of our world, there is hope. God, in Jesus Christ, defeated the dark side of death, giving us joy in His resurrection. Life with God is far beyond this earthly life.

If you or those with whom you relate, are not in the worshipping community, you are missing out on the fullness of God's blessings. You are missing out on God's wisdom on how to move into the unknown future. Come back to worship. God is waiting, with open arms. Easter is the perfect time to recommit your life to Jesus Christ and be a part of His Body—the Church.

Pastor Roxie Davis



Bill and I want to thank so many of you who celebrated our 50th Anniversary with us. You touched our hearts, through your personal comments, by coming to the party at the Lakeshore Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 27th; by sending us cards and gifts; and by giving us a large monetary gift which was so unexpected. You certainly have blessed us. You have made us grateful for the love we enjoy. Thanks be to God for all of you.



An incredibly gifted pastor, in a very large church, outside of Chicago, once said: "When we work, we work. When we pray, God works." Prayer changes lives. Prayer can transform the world. You have two opportunities to be a part of the prayer ministry here at First Presbyterian Church.

We are beginning a Prayer Chain and you can be a part of that. When a request for prayer comes into the church or to Pastor Roxie, or to Sharon Levine, as a member of the Prayer Chain, you will be contacted either by phone, by text, or by email. Then it is time to pray.

If you would like to be a part of this Prayer Chain, call the office, and sign up with Adm. Assistant Julie, tell Sharon Levine, or write your name on the clipboard that is in the Gathering Room. The Prayer Chain will have an organizational meeting on April 10, Palm Sunday, at 11:15 a.m. in the Lower Level. Prayer is our lifeline, connecting us with God.

There is also a Prayer Group that meets every Tuesday morning at 11:00 a.m. in the church parlor. They pray about a lot of things—the physical, emotional, spiritual well-being of church members and friends, the ministry of the church, the needs of our community, the concerns of the nation, and the situations in the world. You are welcome to be a part of this Prayer Group. Even if you can't come every Tuesday, come when you can and enjoy the company of other pray-ers.

With the Prayer Chain and the Prayer Group Weekly Gatherings, God will be hard at work because God hears our prayers.

VACATION FOR PASTOR ROXIE

In the next few months, Pastor Roxie will be taking vacation for various reasons and to various locations. Here is her vacation schedule:



April 5-7 to Quantico, Virginia to pick up dog, Maisie and cat, Martin from the home of middle daughter, Christina (Christina will go to Hungary to be with her sister Tabitha and her family).

April 20-25 to Quantico, Virginia to return furry grandchildren to Christina and then head to Westside, Iowa for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the United Church building, which Pastors Bill and Roxie guided to completion, 40 years ago.

May 23-June 16 to Quantico, Virginia to visit middle daughter, Christina and fly out to Debrecen, Hungary to be with oldest daughter, Tabitha, Adam, Leon and Isaac, and on their return to this country, to celebrate Christina's graduation with a Master's Degree from the U.S. Marine Corp War College, as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer.

Please pray for their safe travels and supportive visits to their two daughters and their families.

Roxie will miss four Sunday worships. But the preaching of the Word will be by four church leaders who have been trained and approved as Trained Lay Preachers: Judith McLean (April 24), Alex Ruthven (May 29), Matt Lozen (June 5), Liz Lozen (June 12). They each will bring their wealth of experience and understanding of Scriptures to the preaching of the Word. Please be there to support them and hear what they have to say. Pray for God's Word to inspire and guide them.

When Pastor Roxie returns to the pulpit on June 19, the Beach Service will begin and Communion will be served on that third Sunday of June, rather than the first Sunday of June.

If there is an emergency or a need for pastoral care and counsel, Randy Bennett and Tom Seppo, both of Operation Transformation (a St. Clair County ecumenical organization) will be attentive to your needs. The office has their phone numbers.

MOVIE NIGHT
FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022
6:30 p.m.



Lights, Camera, Action! Moses will be demanding that the pharaoh let his people go in the multi award-winning film "The Ten Commandments", starring Charlton Heston and Yul Brynner, on Good Friday (April 15). The free movie will begin at 6:30 p.m. (please note the earlier time) in the Fellowship Hall and will not only include popcorn and beverages but pizza and dessert as well. There will be a brief discussion during one of the intermissions.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

“Come Back to Worship—God is Waiting, with Open Arms.”

April 10 Palm Sunday, 10:00 a.m.: The Drama: “*Hosanna in the Highest*” by the church’s children will be the sermon. Come and support the children and their families.

April 14 Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.: (“*Maundy*” is derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning “commandment”. Maundy refers to the commands Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper: to love with humility by serving one another and to remember his sacrifice.) The Lord’s Supper will be served. “Women at the Cross,” a drama, will be the message.

April 15, Good Friday: 12:00 Noon - Community Ecumenical Worship Service at Colonial Woods Church, sponsored by the ecumenical group, Operation Transformation. AND....

6:30 p.m. Movie Night = The Ten Commandments, shown in our Fellowship Hall. There will be two intermissions during the film, one for Pizza and the other for Dessert.

April 17, Easter Sunday:

8:15 Sunrise Service on the church lawn.

8:45-9:45 Easter Breakfast, organized by the Membership and Outreach Committee

10:00 Sanctuary Service with special music and dramatic readings.

HAPPY DAYS! Birthdays and anniversaries are meant to be shared with family and friends (and who can't help but smile at the mention of cake and ice cream). So, beginning in April, we will honor these happy occasions with a special coffee hour featuring – what else? – cake and ice cream. On the last Sunday of each month, we will acknowledge all the birthdays and anniversaries celebrated by our church family and friends that month. The first will be April 24 after the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

And we promise you won't have to blow out any candles!



EASTER BREAKFAST IS NOW BEING SERVED!

Membership and Outreach Committee members, led by Mark Schian, will be flipping pancakes and grilling sausages after the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday. The free breakfast, which also includes fruit, muffins, juice, coffee, and tea, will be served in the Fellowship Hall

starting at 8:45 a.m. and will end just before the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Because we would like to know about how much food to prepare, we are asking you to sign up ahead of time (although, don't worry, if you decide at the last minute to join us). There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room, or you can just let a member of the committee know if you plan to join us. In addition to Mark, committee members include Matt Lozen, Alex and Peggy Ruthven, Barb Wright, and Judith McLean.

TAKE US OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

On May 14th the Detroit Tigers will be honoring churches and other faith-based organizations at Comerica Park. Special activities are planned with the ball game starting at 4:00 p.m. Tickets for the game are \$10.



We would like to know how many of you would like to attend this Saturday outing as we are looking into renting a bus to take everyone down to the game. A total cost will be determined based on the response. Please let any Membership and Outreach Committee members know if you are interested so we can begin making arrangements.



Pentecost Offering Begins April 24, 2022

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young

adults. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Sally Tuttle	April 3
Robert Herber	April 5
Andrew Carolan	April 6
Ross Green	April 6
Claire Roe	April 7
Alex Ruthven	April 9
Mark Schian	April 10
Ollie Carolan	April 11
Gail Rosales	April 12
Jean Townsend	April 13
Benjamin Nurnberg	April 13
Scott Beerbower	April 17
Mary Gaffney-LaVere	April 18
Adam Laidlaw	April 18
Robert Smith	April 19
Tia Fletcher	April 22
Elizabeth Matthews	April 22
Warren Schattler	April 22
Evelyn Tinsley	April 23
Bruce Morrison	April 24
Marilyn Dunn	April 25
Andrew Rosales	April 25
Linda Holekamp	April 25
Cameron Cronic	April 28
Barbara Seymore	April 28
Jeffrey Kiger	April 28

Judaline & Louis Darczy

April 17th

*Remember, the **May** Newsletter
article submission deadline is
April 20th.*

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – MARCH 14, 2022

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session Meeting:

- Approved Liz Lozen, Matt Lozen, Judith McLean and Alex Ruthven as trained Lay Preachers for FPC.
- Approved inviting the members of Lakeshore Presbyterian Church to our Maundy Thursday service. The three pastors from Lakeshore are invited to participate in the service.
- Approved holding the beach services at Lighthouse Beach from June 19th through Labor Day.



Submitted by: Shelley Kamer, Clerk of Session



NURSERY DURING SERVICES

Birth – 3yrs

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together)

3yrs – 9yrs/3rd 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.

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

April 3 - "Loving Others" – Loving others brings us closer to God.

April 10 – No G.I.F.T. – "Hosanna in The Highest Heaven"
presented by the children.

April 17 – No G.I.F.T. – Easter Sunday – "He Is Risen!"

April 24 – "Believing in the Resurrection" –
We believe Jesus rose from the dead.



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 April, we will not hold “Singing the Faith” class. We will be practicing for the upcoming plays:

Sunday, April 3 – No Play Practice (Spring Break)

Saturday, April 9 – 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal/
Palm Sunday Play Practice.

Sunday, April 10 – Children will turn in Fish Banks & present the
Palm Sunday Play “Hosanna in The Highest Heaven”.

Sunday, April 17 – Easter Sunday! Hallelujah!

Sunday, April 24 – 1st Mother’s Day Play Practice –
“My Mom is Amazing!” – practice beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 28 – “Poem in Your Pocket Day”
April is National Poetry Month. On Sunday, April 24, be sure to pick up a poem scroll (or 2 or 3) to put in your pocket! Keep it to read and ponder yourself or share the gift of poetry with someone the last week of April. Poem scrolls provided by the St. Clair County Library System.





2022 LIBRARY EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 9
 Located at Lincoln Park - North Boulevard, Port Huron, MI

Egg Hunt - (in the fenced playground)

Ages 0 - 3	10:15 - 10:45 AM
Ages 4 - 7	11:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Ages 8 - 12	12:30 - 1:15 PM

Easter Bunny photos - (in the gazebo)

10:00 - 11:45 AM
12:15 - 2:00 PM

FREE!

Hunt for eggs, score candy, and party with the Easter Bunny! Be ready for fun outdoor activities, rain or shine (or snow!), so dress for the weather.

Registration required so we have enough candy bags!
 Eggs for the hunt are empty and turned in for full candy bags.

Sponsored by the Friends of the St. Clair County Library

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY - PORT HURON
 210 McMORRAN BLVD. (810) 987-7323 EXT. 2515
 STCLAIRCOUNTYLIBRARY.ORG

SCCLS

Children's Library at Main is looking for volunteers to help with a FREE Community Easter Egg Hunt. The Hunt will take place in Lincoln Park on Saturday, April 9, 2022. Text or call Michelle Fisher (810) 841-6072 for details and volunteer forms to sign up.



FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES!

Southside Spring Fest

PRIZE DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES!

**SATURDAY
 APRIL 23, 2022**

**3111 ELECTRIC AVENUE
 PORT HURON, MI 48060
 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**GAMES & ACTIVITIES - FOOD GIVEAWAY - ENTERTAINMENT
 MUSIC - PRIZE DRAWINGS - FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS
 VACCINES - COVID RESOURCES - COOKING DEMOS
 WORKSHOPS - COMMUNITY RESOURCES - AND MORE!
 HOUSING INFO - LEGAL AID - UTILITY ASSISTANCE - MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT - HEALTH INFO**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

St. Clair County Community Mental Health
 BLUE WATER AREA
 Community Foundation
 Community First Health Centers
 PORT HURON
 NAACP
 S.C.C.O.R.E.
 DISTRICT 10

"COME AWAY AND..." Great Lakes Pilgrimage:

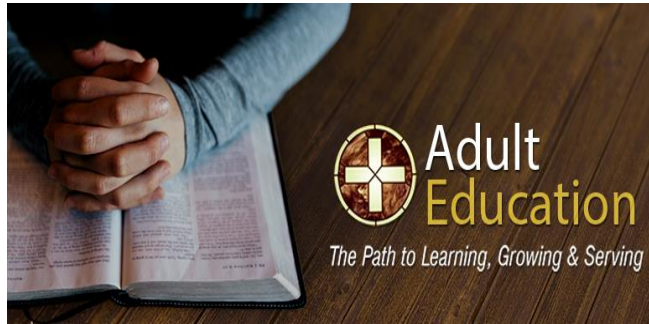
Time to pick up one of those brochures in the Gathering Room and fill out the Registration Form to attend the Renewal Weekend that will deepend your faith in God and allow you to meet others who have a desire to grow in their faith. This Faith Renewal Weekend is May 20-22 (Friday to a Sunday) with music, prayers, worship everyday, talks by both lay and clergy people, group discussions and time to relax and enjoy the beautiful outdoors of Echo Grove Retreat Center (Leonard, Michigan). If you have questions, Pastor Roxie is one of the Spiritual Advisors for the weekend and would be happy to encourage you to come.



**Caregiver Informational Gathering
Sunday, May 1, 11:15 to 12:15
following worship**

CAREGIVERS
go through more than they
will tell you.
They give up a lot and
rarely have a social life.
They can get sick and
emotionally worn out. It's a
lot for one person and you
will never know until you
have walked the road of
a caregiver.

If you are a caregiver to someone in your family, this class is for you! If you think you may become a future caregiver for someone in your family, this class is for you! If you are a friend of a caregiver and you are giving support to that person, this class is for you! Speakers, Mary Beth Fleury and Tony Babin will be here from the Port Huron Life Skills Center to walk us through some helpful hints about faithfully caring for others, as God has cared for us. Ideas of how to help those we are caring for but also how to take care of ourselves will be highlighted in the presentation. Grab a cup of coffee and a treat at fellowship time and head to the Lower Level for this presentation.



For the month of April, we will offer one Lay Preaching Training Class and a few information classes. Coffee time after worship will be in the Gathering Room so that you can grab a cup of coffee or something good to eat and bring it to the Lower Level.

- Sunday, April 3, 9:00 a.m.
(Parlor) W.I.N. Class (Wonderful Introduction for Newcomers)
Pastor Roxie Davis
- Sunday April 3, 11:15 a.m.
(Lower Level) Grief—how to lean into it and manage it.
Pastor Roxie Davis and Laura Godwin
- Sunday, April 10, 11:15 a.m.
(Lower Level) Prayer Chain Information Meeting
Pastor Roxie Davis
- Sunday May 1, 11:15 a.m.
Information on Caregiving
Presented by Life Skill Center