

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

**OUR MISSION:**

KNOW the love of God,  
GROW in the Christian faith,  
GO share our faith in Jesus Christ.

**WELCOME**

**THE CHALLENGE NEWSLETTER**

◆ **SEPTEMBER 2022** ◆

**IN NEED OF PRAYER**

Jim Opferman; medical.

Andrew Goode; medical.

Peggy Ruthven's brother, John; medical.

Mark Schian's friend, Barb; medical.

Marilyn Dunn's brother, Robert; medical.

Sue Murvich's brother, Dan; medical

David Wright; medical.

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 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

(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

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**Amanda Schweihofer**

Bookkeeper

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**Knight Vernon**

Organist / Choir Director

[vernonharpichords@yahoo.com](mailto:vernonharpichords@yahoo.com)

**Julie Wendt**

Office Administrator

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

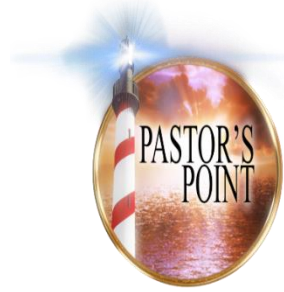
(M-TH: 9am-2pm)

**Bill Briscoe**

Custodian/Maintenance Director

(M & TH: 9am-3pm)

## PASTOR'S POST FROM ROXIE – September 2022



This summer has been full of family, **“coming home”** to our place here in Michigan. Early in June, we returned from our trip to Hungary where we visited our oldest daughter, Tabitha, Adam and our two grandsons, Leon and Isaac. They have lived in Hungary for the past two years, 50 miles from the Ukrainian border. We brought the grandsons **“home”** with us for safety reasons, and so that we could have some special time with them while their parents packed up to move to their new International School Post in the Ivory Coast, West Africa. The boys **“came home”** for their safety and for a growing relationship with us, their grandparents.

While the grandsons were here, our son, Thomas, and his wife Veronica, who live in Texas, **“came home”** to our place to enjoy being with family and to enjoy the beauty of the Black River and this gorgeous place called Port Huron.

When Thomas and Veronica went back to work in Texas, Christina, our middle daughter, **“came home”** to our place; having graduated from the U.S. Marine Corp University where she got a Masters in Military Science. She **“came home”** since she is in transition between taking a 6-month course in French to be spoken at her new Foreign Service post in Mali, West Africa. Because she **“came home”** for a longer period this summer, she used her skills to help us with the vegetable garden, the bees, moving furniture, and the techy stuff on our computers and phones.

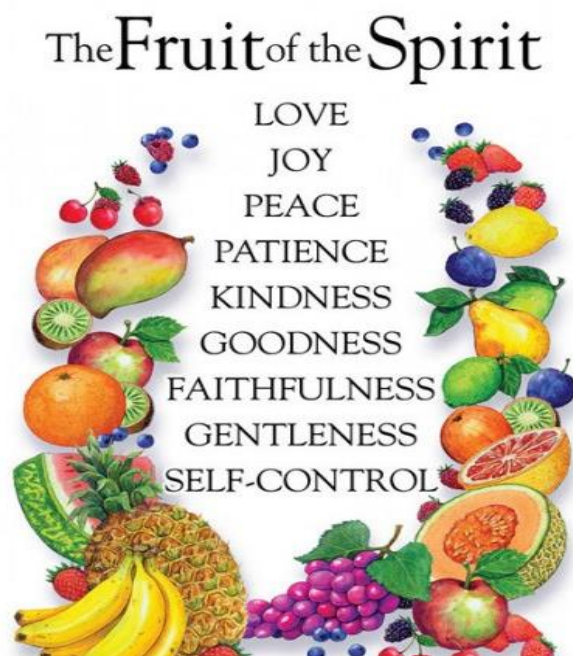
During the middle of the summer, Tabitha and husband, Adam, **“came home”** to our place to do lots of wonderful activities with their boys and with us grandparents. We enjoyed all the excitement of riding horses, swimming in the pool, going to the library, kayaking, playing at the beach. It was a time for relating to each other as family.

Now, all of this **“coming home,”** had its ups and downs but it was all significant in our relationships as a family. It is the same in the

church and with our relationship with God--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We can always **"come home"** to our God, the One who birthed us. We can always **"come home"** to the church family, who love us and want the best for us. When we come back to God and to the church family, we experience a joyful reunion. I want to see the joy and love that happens when people **"come home"**. If you have been away for a while from God or from the church family, consider **"coming home"** through many of our times of worship, engaging events, and Bible study, learning about each other and about God.

Please consider the upcoming events listed in this Newsletter as ways to **"come home"** to deepen your relationship with God and enjoy your relationship with others in God's family. **"Come Home"** to a place where hopefully, you will find the Fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5: 22-23).

Pastor Roxie Davis



**New Preaching Series: "Fruits of the Spirit,"** every Sunday morning in our worship time together.

September 11: **Church Worship and Picnic at Fort Gratiot Park** -10:00 a.m. - **"The Fruit Basket"**

At the Picnic, you can have your picture taken for the Church Album.

- September 18: **Sanctuary Service** - 10:00 a.m. -  
**"The Fruits of Love, Joy and Peace"**  
**Why are these fruits first?**  
**First Day of G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together)**  
**(Church School)**  
During Coffee Hour, you can have your picture  
taken for the Church Album.
- September 25: **Sanctuary Service** -10:00a.m.-  
**New Horizons String Quartet to play in the**  
**Sanctuary Service.**  
**"The Fruits of Patience, Kindness, Gentleness"**  
**What's the difference?**
- October 2: **Sanctuary Service** -10:00 a.m. - the children sing  
**World Communion Sunday**  
**"The Fruit of Faithfulness and Self-Control"**  
Pilgrimage Renewal Weekend at Echo Grove –  
Friday (Sept. 30) Saturday (Oct. 1) Sunday (Oct. 2)
- October 9: Sanctuary Worship - 10:00 a.m.  
**"The Fruit of Generosity"**  
Tentative plans for a **Chili Cook-Off** after worship;  
stay tuned for more details from the Membership  
and Outreach Committee.
- October 16: **New Preaching Series: Time, Talent and Treasure**  
Sanctuary Worship - 10:00 a.m.
- October 16: **New Adult Education Series** is tentatively planned.  
It is called **"Learning from God and Each Other."**  
Stay tuned for more details.
- October 23: **Time, Talent and Treasure**  
Sanctuary Worship - 10:00 a.m.
- October 30: **Special Worship: The Kirkin' of the Tartans**  
Sanctuary Worship - 10:00 a.m.



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022, 10:00 A.M.**  
**Fort Gratiot Park**  
**on Metcalf Road**

**(No Sanctuary Service this Sunday / Beach Service ends September 4)**

Please join us for an outdoor Worship and Church picnic! First Presbyterian Church will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, and table service. You may bring a dish to pass if you'd like and a comfortable chair! Don't forget to invite your family, friends, and neighbors. There will also be fun activities for the kids!



### **PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)**

The Pastor Nominating Committee's work on the Ministry Information Form is complete and has been approved by the Session. Their next step will be to send it to the Detroit Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for final approval. They will be meeting in early September. We are also working on creating a special PNC page for the new website. Overall, the Team feels strong and remains on track. Please continue to pray daily for the PNC – Steve Ahlquist, Rick Cameron, Jennie Carolan, Jacquie Green, Linda Hall, Judith McLean.



**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). We plan to 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 celebration in September will be September 25th, after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. And we promise, you won't have to blow out any candles!





Todd Jaquette	Sept. 2	Wayne & Eileen Furman	Sept. 15
Richard Cameron	Sept. 5	Howard Owen & Lynn Vincent	Sept. 19
Starrla Opferman	Sept. 6		
Elisabeth Barr	Sept. 7		
Susan Murvich	Sept. 9		
Richard Rinn	Sept. 13		
Amanda Schweihofer	Sept. 15		
Laura Nurnberg	Sept. 16		
James Langolf	Sept. 20		
Janet Hanson	Sept. 23		
Harlan Blomquist	Sept. 23		
Ronald Neal	Sept. 24		
James Hall	Sept. 27		
Jacob Lee	Sept. 27		
Joshua Lee	Sept. 27		
Ann Murphy	Sept. 28		
Kristen Tuttle	Sept. 30		

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

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### NURSERY DURING SERVICES

Birth – 3yrs

A cry-room is available with a screen for watching the worship service in the Nursery, which is a comfortable, warm place to hold and rock your baby.

### GIFT (Growing in Faith Together)

3yrs – 9yrs/3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Growing In Faith Together (G.I.F.T.) will be on recess for the summer.

Our first day of G.I.F.T. class will be **Sunday, September 18, 2022!**



### SINGING THE FAITH!

All Ages

Singing The Faith will be on recess for the summer.

Our first day of Singing The Faith will be **Sunday, October 2, 2022!**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, “Make Waves”, was a popular week with our youth and those from the community! It was successful because of so many people putting in the work needed. Also, a big THANK YOU goes to Michelle Fisher, our Christian Education Director and Jim Fisher, our Social Media/Marketing



Director. To the Christian Education Committee and all of those that so generously gave of their time and talents – we couldn’t have done it without you. THANK YOU!

### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – AUGUST 2022

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on August 8, 2022:

- Approved renting a tent to be used for the Church Yard sale on August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Approved holding Worship followed by the Annual Church Wide picnic at Fort Gratiot County Park on September 11, 2022.
- Approved using Endowment Funds to pay for the development of a new Church Website.



Shelley Kamer, Clerk of Session



### WEBSITE REDO!

We are re-doing and re-building our website, from the bottom up. Several people have looked at other websites and made suggestions. But we need everyone's help! We are realizing that we don't have a lot of current pictures of the congregation and church activities. If you like to take pictures, please get busy and forward your pictures to Jim Fisher ([portpresby.social@gmail.com](mailto:portpresby.social@gmail.com)) or the Church Office ([portpresby@gmail.com](mailto:portpresby@gmail.com)). Thank you, in advance, for your contribution.

Also, if you have any suggestions for the Website, please direct your comments to Pastor Roxie, Jim Fisher and/or Judith McLean. The Membership and Outreach Committee is responsible for making the Website the best ever. Our aim is to have a brand-new website in October. Thanks for your help.



BOXED GIVING ENVELOPES will be ordered in September. If you **do not** wish to receive Giving Envelopes, please let our Bookkeeper, Amanda, know by email:

[fpcbookkeeping811@gmail.com](mailto:fpcbookkeeping811@gmail.com)

**WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE STAFF AT FPC?:**

**Pastor Roxie:** She, along with Bill, are helping their daughter Christina move into a Washington D.C. apartment; August 29-September 2. Please contact Julie, Adm. Assistant if you have any pastoral needs and she can guide you in the appropriate direction.

**Adm. Assistant Julie:** Julie will be gone, accompanying her daughter Kayla to a very exciting work-related event - October 10-12.

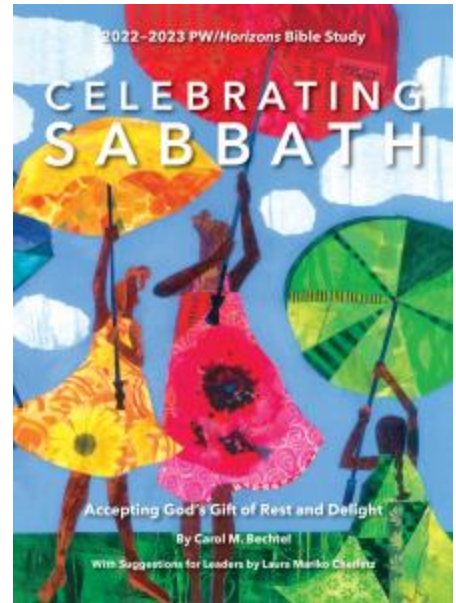


Just a reminder to all choir members that our first rehearsal will be on Wednesday evening, September 14, 2022, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We will be rehearsing several old but beautiful anthems and a few newer ones. We will meet in the choir room behind the upstairs church kitchen.

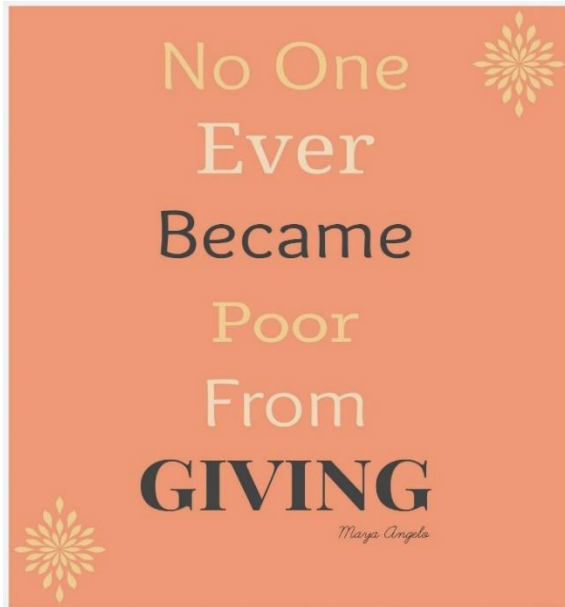
Choir Director – Knight Vernon

## **WOMEN'S GROUP – SARAH CIRCLE CELEBRATING SABBATH**

The Sarah Circle is embarking this month on an exciting and lively nine-month study, “Celebrating Sabbath”. We will be looking at the Sabbath as a day of celebration, not a day of dreary formality; as a day for reflection, hospitality, self-care, justice, and community. Ultimately, as the study’s authors write, “the Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors women by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.” Study books cost \$11.50. The Sarah Circle meets at 1 p.m. in the church parlor on the second Wednesday of each month and is open to any woman looking to spend a few hours in lively discussion and catching up with church friends, old and new. September’s meeting will be September 14. For more information about the study or the Sarah Circle, please contact Judith McLean.



Please remember those who are suffering from food insecurity by donating nonperishable food to the Bluewater Community Food Depot. Monetary donations are also welcomed.



The Community Outreach Deacon Committee is initiating a collection for the local elementary schools. Items requested are:

- Kleenex
- backpacks
- new or very gently used children's coats and shoes
- girls leggings in various sizes

-healthy snacks (no peanut or peanut butter, please):

- granola bars
- cereal bars
- cheese and crackers
- fruit snacks
- fruit pouches
- juice boxes

We are waiting to hear back from some of the schools, but this is the list we have been given as of today's date.

Thank you!

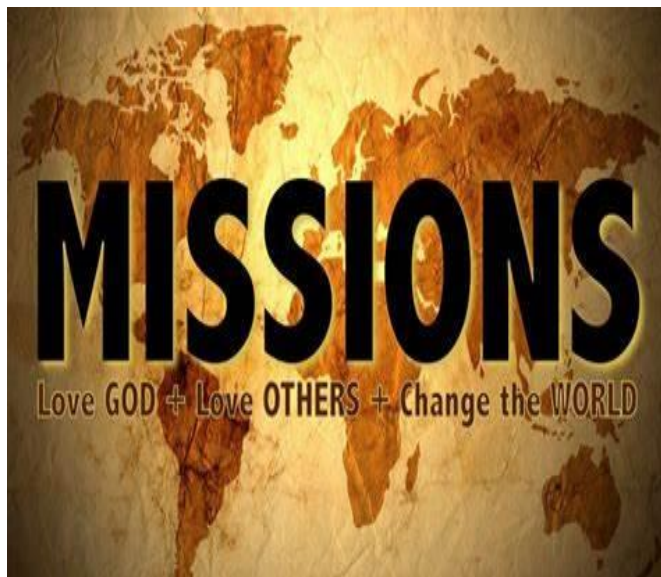
-Jill Emery, Deacon

Community Outreach Committee



## PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

The Peace & Global Witness Offering offers light to those in the shadows and guides us all into the ways of peace. We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own community and around the world. 25% of this offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. 25% of this offering will go to joining with other congregations in our area to support peacemaking work in Michigan. 50% of this offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe. If we do a little, it adds up to a lot.



The Mission Committee is so **THANKFUL** to everyone who donated items, organized, and was on the set-up and clean-up teams for the Annual Yard Sale. It was a huge success! We brought in \$2,300.00 that will go towards Lake Huron Woods building campaign for senior citizens and our local associations for the homeless. A special **THANK YOU** to Sue Murvich for taking charge and



putting in too many hours of work to count – you are a blessing!  
The Mission Committee has also received word from our contact in Costa Rica that we would like to share with you:

Dear Janet and friends in Port Huron,  
Greetings from Costa Rica, where my household is recovering from Covid. This is the second time around for my husband, Javier, and me. For Miguel España, our houseguest who is in exile from Nicaragua, this was his first experience with the virus. I am glad to report that all of us had relatively minor symptoms and we hope to be able to resume our normal activities soon.

Thank you so much for writing to me. I apologize for not writing sooner. I have been carefully reconsidering my plans to travel in the United States for the months of September and October. In consultation with folks here at the Latin American Biblical University and with World Mission, I have decided to postpone my mission interpretation assignment until next fall.

In October, the Latin American Biblical University is celebrating one hundred years of offering theological education here in Costa Rica. We are planning several events in the coming months. The leadership team was never in agreement with the idea of my being away for two months this year. My colleagues urged me to reconsider.

I also admit that I am worried about the rising costs of travel within the United States, given that Presbyterian World Mission does not cover the cost for mission co-workers to visit churches. From news reports, I understand that the airlines say their flight schedules should be more reliable after Labor Day, but right now travel sounds very chaotic. I also want to think very carefully with you about how to do my mission interpretation assignment with as low a carbon footprint as possible.

Now Covid has complicated our lives a bit more. Javier was scheduled to have surgery on July 6th to repair a large hernia. Now that surgery has been postponed until mid-August, which means he will not be fully healed by the beginning of September.

I am very sorry that I will not be with you in person soon. I do hope, very much, that we can connect virtually sometime soon. Can you invite me to a mission committee meeting or a Sunday School class in the coming weeks? I hope we can use the months ahead to plan well for a visit next year.

We are also planning to have an online event in English to invite you to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the Latin American Biblical University with us. We hope to share with you how the theological education you help to support is impacting the lives of women and men throughout the region. I will be in touch soon with more information.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Blessings,  
Karla

### **CHURCH ALBUM**

We will be putting together a Church Album for the new pastor but also for all of us. This is not a Church Directory. A Church Album will help all of us to know better those who are members and friends of First Presbyterian Church, Port Huron. We are asking all those who consider themselves members and friends of FPC to please submit a current picture of yourself and/or your family. Please also provide a short description of yourself (family, church involvement, hobbies, profession, etc.). We will hone it down to three sentences that might be interesting to the new pastor and to the rest of us. Now if you don't have a current picture, there will be pictures taken at the Church Picnic on September 11 and during Fellowship Time, following worship, on September 18. If you are not available at those times, we will schedule another time for you or send someone out to take your picture. Please communicate your desires to Julie in the church office. This Church Album will be a great help to the new pastor and to all of us.



### **"COME AWAY AND..."**

#### **Great Lakes Pilgrimage:**

This Faith Renewal Weekend (called "Pilgrimage") is September 30 – October 2 (Friday to Sunday) at Echo Grove Camp and Retreat Center near Leonard, Michigan, about 45 minutes west of Port Huron. If you have questions, Pastor Roxie is one of the Spiritual Advisors for the weekend and would be happy to encourage you to come.



Also, Barb Wright, Sharon Levine, Tami Cronic, Jim and Michelle Fisher, Sid and Linda LaFrance have all been to the Pilgrimage Renewal weekend. Ask them about their experience. Brochures about the weekend are in the Gathering Room. We are offering \$100 scholarships to help cover costs. It will only cost you \$35.00. Please let Pastor Roxie know if you are interested.

We thought you said  
it was



**LABRADOR WEEKEND.**