FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT HURON THE CHALLENGE NEWSLETTER 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. DECEMBER 2022 & JANUARY 2023

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Jim Opferman; medical.
Andrew Goode; medical.
Sue Murvich's brother, Daniel; 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

Interim Pastor (586) 838-9053

roxieanndavis@hotmail.com

Michelle Fisher

Christian Education Director portpresby.ce@gmail.com

Jim Fisher

Social Media/Marketing Tech portpresby.social@gmail.com

Amanda Schweihofer

Financial Secretary fpcbookkeeping811@gmail.com

Knight Vernon

Organist / Choir Director vernonharpsichords@yahoo.com

Laura Gaffney

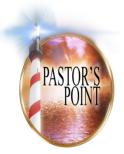
Office Administrator (810) 985-6191

portpresby@gmail.com
(M-TH: 9am-2pm)

Bill Briscoe

Custodian/Maintenance Director (M & TH: 9am-3pm)

PASTOR'S POINT FROM ROXIE – December 2022/January 2023



I often think in my mind, "What would we do without music?" It is such an important part of our world and our lives. Music calms the soul and excites the heart. It moves us to reflective tears and to exuberant shouts of joy. Music also has its health benefits for our physical heart, mind, and soul.

On November 13, we enjoyed a Concert in Tribute to Annette Johnston. We remembered her life, her love of music, and her ability to bring music into the hearts of so many of us. Bill Russel on acoustical guitar and Janet Carmaly on recorder, both gave us pause to appreciate the beauty of music. After the concert, one of our church members, came to me and said: "This was the best hour of my week. The music relaxed me and gave me such peace of mind." Music works its magic in our lives.

Years ago, when our son Thomas was diagnosed with a profound hearing loss, my sadness centered on the fact that he would never be able to hear music. But once he was an adult, he was fitted for a cochlear implant that increased his hearing by 60%. He was able to hear so much of the world around him. The best "joyful noise" that he heard came to him through music. He could hear it. He could sing along with the music, even if he was off tune. He could appreciate the gift of music that God had provided.

Again, this year, we enter a season where music will ring out in so many sectors of our lives. Christmas gives us pause and joyful glee to hear the music that tells of Jesus' birth; music that reminds us of how wonderful it is to relate to friends and family, and music that stirs our souls and connects us with God.

The preaching series for this December is hearing the Songs of several of the people who take their places in the Biblical Christmas Story. You will hear the words of their songs and hopefully be able to understand the true meaning of Christmas, "God loves you. Jesus loves you. And there is nothing you can do about it."

Thanks be to God! Pastor Roxie Davis

2022/2023 PREACHING SERIES

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS

The Songs of Christ's Birth

JANUARY, 2023

The Hands and Feet of Jesus

December 4 "Zachariah: A Song of Salvation"

December 11 "Angels: A Song of Peace"

December 18 Children's Christmas Pageant

"Twas the Night Before Christmas"

"Shepherds: A Song of Praise"

December 24 "Mary: A Song of Trust"

December 25 "Simeon: A Song of Hope"

January 1 "Lessons and Carols" led by Judith McLean and others.

Pastor Roxie is on vacation.

January 8 Celebration of Epiphany- "The Arrival of the Wiseman"

Lay Preacher to substitute preach for Pastor Roxie,

while she is on vacation.

January 15 "The Hands and Feet of Jesus: The Disciples"

Holy Communion

Ordination and Installation of Church Officers Adult Class, following Worship, 11:15 a.m. The Hands and Feet of Jesus in our community:

Therapy Dogs and Leader Dogs,

Church Member, Sue Ann Olstrom and Carolyn Crowell

January 22 "The Hands and Feet of Jesus: The Early Church"

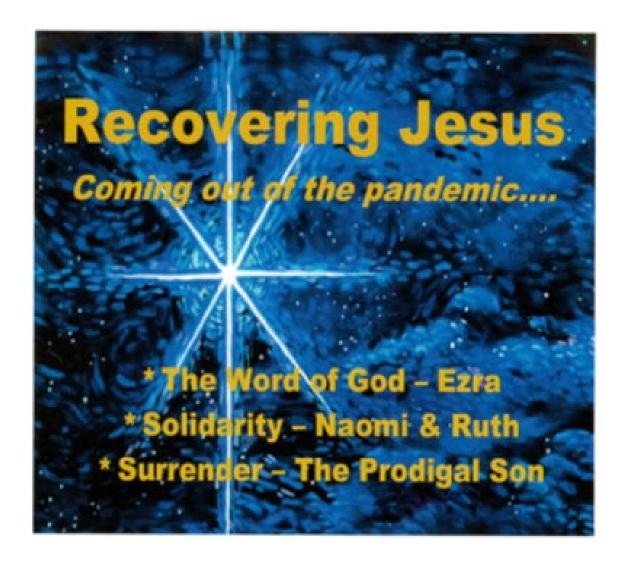
Adult Class, following Worship, 11:15 a.m.
The Hands and Feet of Jesus in our community:
Operation Transformation—the Homeless Shelter
Andrew Seppo, Director of Operation Transformation

January 29 "The Hands and Feet of Jesus: Behind the Scenes"

Adult Class, following Worship, 11:15 a.m. The Hands and Feet of Jesus in our community

Healing Hearts Home for women experiencing trauma.

Christina Gallina Flood, Executive Director



Olde Town Churches Thursday Advent Luncheons

Noon – 1pm

Join us for fellowship,
food and a message

St. John's
United Church of Christ
710 Pine Street
Port Huron

A freewill offering will be taken to support the Emergency Winter Men's Homeless Shelter



Featuring:

Laura Creamer, Vocals Rick Everitt, Trumpet Joe O'Mara, Saxaphone Rob Emanual, Drums John Takle, Double Bass Price Smith, Piano

First Presbyterian Church
811 Wall Street
Port Huron



CHRISTMAS PAJAMA/MOVIE NIGHT!

Children ages 9 and up are invited to join in the fun! *Friday, December 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.* Wear your PJ's, eat pizza, pick a fun activity, and watch a Christmas movie!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Christian Education Department is excited to present "Twas the Night Before Christmas" children's pageant on December 18, 2022 during the worship service. All children are welcomed and encouraged to participate. Practices will be held following worship in the sanctuary on December 4th and 11th. Dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 17- from 9:30-11:00 a.m. and last run through will be on Sunday, December 18 at 9:15 a.m.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thank you to those who have placed with orders to fill our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias this Advent season. Please pick up your poinsettia from the sanctuary after Christmas Eve worship, 5:00 p.m. or Christmas Day worship, 10:00 a.m.



Please join us on Saturday, December 24, 2022 for our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service beginning at 5:00 p.m.

During the Christmas Eve Service, <u>all children</u> will have an opportunity to be part of the reading of the nativitiy story- no speaking parts, no rehearsal, just dress-up fun!



Come celebrate Christmas with us on Christmas Day, December 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Come casual and bring a gift to show and tell.



Please join us on Sunday, January 1, 2023 for Lessons and Carols at 10:00 a.m. You will hear some of the background of the Christmas carols and the lessons from the Christmas story.



COMMUNITY HUNGER OFFERING

Please consider helping those suffering from food insecurity. The Blue Water community Food Depot is in need of men and women's toiletries, paper plates (25 count), plastic cutlery (24 count). Monetary donations also are greatly appreciated. The Christmas Ornament Sale table is set-up in the portico entryway. If making a monetary donation, please make your check out to Blue Water Community Food Depot (Paper Ornament Sale in the Memo line). Every \$1 gives 6 meals.

ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree program provides toys, clothes and food baskets for families in our neighborhood. We will have angels available throughout December. The Board of Deacons asks that a maximum of \$25.00 be spent per angel gift. If you do not like to shop, you may make a donation towards a present or the food baskets. Return your wrapped gift to the church on or



before Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 with the appropriate angel attached to the gift. This is very important as we use the tags to identify which presents belong with which people. Thank you for your cooperation and generosity. You are making an enormous difference in the lives of these families during the holiday season. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Ahlquist at (810) 841-5541.



SALVATION ARMY

We will have our own Salvation Army pot here at the church and our own ringers for the month of December. May we be generous to the less fortunate.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS

January 15, 2023 in the morning worship service, 10:00 a.m.



We will ordain and install our newly elected church leaders, Elders and Deacons, who will serve God and God's church. They will use their God-given talents and leadership skills for the next two years, beginning in January, 2023.

ANNUAL MEETING PROJECTED AS FEBRUARY 19, 2023

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.

Chairs of All Committees and Groups, both Session and Deacons, please turn in your Annual Reports by January 12th so they can be printed.

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 **first Sunday of each month**, we will acknowledge all the birthdays and anniversaries celebrated by our church family and friends that month. The celebration for November and December birthdays and anniversaries will be December 4, 2022 after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The celebration for January birthdays and anniversaries will be January 8, 2023 (moved one week later due to New Years Day). And we promise, you won't have to blow out any candles!

HAPPYSEBRIFIDAY

December:		January:	
Alan Kuester	Dec. 2	Judy Hall	Jan. 1
Kurt Meier	Dec. 3	Natalie Barr	Jan. 6
Daniel Shogren	Dec. 3	Miah Kallapure	Jan. 6
Tristan Shogren	Dec. 3	Christopher Lee	Jan. 7
Anne Wilton	Dec. 4	Judith McLean	Jan. 7
Cynthia Beerbower	Dec. 7	Taylor Matthews	Jan. 9
GeriLynn Bums	Dec. 10	Helen Weston	Jan. 9
Mary Bell O'Connor	Dec. 10	Jennifer Carolan	Jan. 13
Katie Langolf	Dec. 12	Dene Tyrrell	Jan. 14
Knight Vernon	Dec. 12	Sheryl Neal	Jan. 17
Sarah Ahlquist	Dec. 13	Jacqueline Green	Jan. 18
Jim Falk	Dec. 13	Nancy Hunter	Jan. 20
Darla Hayes	Dec. 17	Robert Budds	Jan. 28
Robert Williams	Dec. 17	Ian Shogren	Jan. 29
Ayana Brooks	Dec. 18	Maryann Kiger	Jan. 30
Richard Tinsely	Dec. 22	Sally Meier	Jan. 30
Mollie Brown	Dec. 26	•	
Katie Meier	Dec. 30		
Ann Crandall	Dec. 31		



Ross & Jacqueline Green Dec. 11

Richard & Evelyn Tinsley Jan. 30



NURSERY DURING SERVICES

Birth - 4yrs

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.

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

5yrs –5th grade

Please meet us in the Christian Education wing for fun, faith, and friends.

Sunday, December 4: Jesus talks with a Samaritan Woman- "Jesus loves everyone... and

wants us to believe in Him."

Sunday, December 11: An Angel appears to Joseph- "We celebrate Jesus....because we trust

Him."

Sunday, December 18: Advent Program -No Sunday School Sunday, December 25: Merry Christmas! - No Sunday School

Sunday, January 2: Wierry Christmas: - No Sunday School
Happy New Year!- No Sunday School

Sunday, January 8: Magi search for the Messiah- "We celebrate Jesus....because he's the

King of Kings."

Sunday, January 15: Joseph annoys his brother- "God is good no matter what...even when

life's unfair."

Sunday, January 22: Joseph goes to jail- "God is good no matter what...and can turn bad

into good."

Sunday, January 29: God helps Joseph interpret dreams- "God is good no matter what...and

will help us."



SINGING THE FAITH!

Sunday, January 29, 2023 -- All Ages

Children will be performing a song during worship service. Practices will be following 10:00 a.m. worship in the Choir Room on Sunday, January 15 and 22, 2023.



ADULT EDUCATION CLASS "The Back Story"

On Thursday mornings, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Pastor Roxie leads an Adult Bible Study class. This will be an opportunity for you to read and discuss in depth the Scripture passages that will be proclaimed and preached on the following Sunday. You will learn some of the back story of the Scriptures and you will have an opportunity, if you desire, to share your ideas about the Scripture passages. You will not only have a more in-depth understanding of the scriptures, but you will help Pastor Roxie come up with the interpretation of those Scriptures for her sermon the following Sunday. Are you interested? Then check it out.

CHURCH ALBUM

Thank you to everyone who has submitted your photo and short bio for our Church Album. This is not a Church Directory. A Church Album will help all of us know better those who are members and friends of First Presbyterian Church, Port Huron. If you haven't submitted your photo and information yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. This Church Album will be a great help to the new pastor and to all of us.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – NOVEMBER 2022

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on November 14, 2022:



- Approved vacation time for Pastor Roxie from December 26, 2022-January 8, 2023.
- Approved training newly elected Elders and Deacons the last week in November.
- Approved holding the Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation on February 19, 2023.
- Approved the CE Emergency Action Plan.



CELEBRATION OF STEWARDSHIP

We have had a successful Stewardship Campaign for 2023. Thanks to the leadership of Alex and Peggy Ruthven. We are still calling people who may have misplaced their Financial Pledge Card for 2023 or have just not had the time, during the Thanksgiving and Christmas events to fill it out. We are still accepting financial pledge cards and we encourage you to call the church if you need a card or just call Amanda, our Financial Secretary, and she will be happy to record your financial commitment for 2023. Thank you to all of you who have committed financially to First Presbyterian Church for the coming year. Your commitment speaks of your faith and your hope for the future ministry of Jesus Christ through this church.



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The PNC is now actively searching for our next called pastor. Based on our church's needs as highlighted in the self-study, our church has been "matched" with numerous potential candidates across the nation. The committee is prayerfully reviewing resumes, watching on line sermons, discussing candidates and is currently in contact with several pastors. Our search is not limited to PCUSA matches so if someone is aware of a good candidate (including pastors outside of

the Presbyterian church), please feel free to pass their contact information along for us to consider. Be assured that the committee is working hard each week and is highly committed to finding another awesome pastor to lead our church. Your prayers and words of encouragement are the fuel needed to keep us going and are very much appreciated!

Thank you for continuing to keep us in your prayers, Steve Ahlquist, Rick Cameron, Jennie Carolan, Jacquie Green, Linda Hall and Judith McLean

Remember, the **February/March '23**Newsletter article submission deadline is **January 20, 2023**.