

THE CHALLENGE

The Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron
811 Wall Street, Port Huron, MI 48060 ♦♦♦ (810) 985-6191

PASTOR'S POINT

*From the desk of:
Pastor Roxie Davis*

I have been majorly affected by the Video Series, "The Chosen." It is a Video Series that chronicles the life and ministry of Jesus, three seasons so far (a fourth is coming out this Fall) with about 8 segments in each season. I am grateful for the group that gathers in this church, every Wednesday (7:00 p.m.), to see one segment each week; talking about it and reviewing some of the things that some of us have written in our study books throughout the week. It is a rich experience. You should come, if you have the desire and the time.

Now some have said that "The Chosen" takes too many liberties with the Gospel text. Perhaps that is true. But I think that Dallas Jenkins, the Director and Producer, along with his crew, is trying to put some human context, not only with Jesus but with His disciples and the people who come to follow Jesus. Flesh and blood is put on each of the characters--those who finally witness to Jesus being the Way, the Truth and the Life—the One sent by God for our Salvation—the One whom we claim as Lord and Savior.

Certainly we can't forget Jesus' divinity but so often we dwell on His divinity so much that we forget that Jesus came to be with us—to be human along side us.

"The Chosen" Series shows some of the daily life of the people who surround Jesus. Is some of it "made up"—visualized for those of us who are more visual than auditory? Yes, but the Movie Crew has painstakingly created from what is in the Bible—particularly in the Gospels, a context for what might have formed the character and personalities of each of the disciples and others who struggled with Jesus (the Pharisees) or followed Jesus (Mary Magdalene, for example).

On Wednesday nights, we are blessed to be a group, watching "The Chosen" together. We are always welcoming new people each week and we all have a study guide which is well written and thought-provoking, under the authorship of Amanda Jenkins. The best thing about the study guide is that it not only looks at the Gospels but it goes back to the Old Testament, especially the

Book of Isaiah and connects the Old and the New Testament. Unfortunately, I have not always seen that connection in a Bible study workbook. The workbook is informative and refreshing—it gives us opportunities to reflect about who Jesus is. I know you think this is an advertisement for the Adult Gathering that happens on Wednesday nights in the Parlor, 7:00 p.m. Maybe it is. But I write all of this because in the end, so many of the characters become witnesses of God's love in Jesus Christ.

They go on to testify to their faith in Jesus Christ as God's Son and Savior of the world. It seems to me witnessing and testifying to our faith in Jesus Christ is also our calling. As Jesus said, "Go therefore, into all the world. Make disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and remember, I am with you always." If watching "The Chosen" with a group or on your own (it is "free" to view on your computer), gives us energy and strength to share our faith with others, more power to God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen and Amen.

SPECIAL POINTS OF

INTEREST:

- New Preaching Series for June and July
- Beach Services beginning June 18th
- Upcoming Events
- Summer Camp (VBS) Information
- Committee Updates/Thank yous

► PREACHING SERIES ◀

New Preaching Series: Common Objects Used for Divine Purposes

June 4th - Communion The Yeast and the Bread

June 11th - The Basin and the Towel

June 18th - Father's Day—Make the Phone Call, Beach Service begins

June 25th - The Rope—Two Strands is Good; Three is Better
(The Book of Ecclesiastes).

July 2nd - 4th of July Weekend--Smashing Clay at the Potter's Wheel
(The Book of Jeremiah)



New Preaching Series: Questions We Have for God.

July 9th - Communion Ask the Questions.

(Note change of Communion- pending Session approval)

July 16th - Children have the Best Questions

July 23rd - It's OK to have Doubt and Questions

July 30th - God, I Would Like Answers to My Questions

► BEACH SERVICES ◀



The beach service is returning for the summer of 2023!

**Beginning Sunday, June 18th
at 8:00 a.m. on Lighthouse Beach.**

Follow the sidewalk to the beach and you'll see the cross! Bring your blanket or chair, wear comfortable clothes. Enjoy a worship service with contemporary Christian music in a beautiful setting by the lake.

We will continue to hold our 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary worship at First Presbyterian Church, as well.
Come worship God together!

BLOW OFF THE DUST AND OPEN UP THOSE BIBLES

Pastor Roxie has been talking about how we all need to read our Bibles more, not just hearing the Scriptures on Sunday morning. Why? Because God speaks through His Word. If you want to have help in living life, stick your nose in the Bible. It gives great advice, through people who resemble you! Pastor Roxie knows it takes time (and you don't have a lot of that), and it takes commitment (and you sometimes have to squeeze that into your schedule). There are three enemies of commitment to reading the Bible: The Pillow (Laziness); Shiny Things (Distractions); and The Towel (Giving Up). So figure out which enemy you are fighting, and start reading that Bible!

Now we have made it relatively easy to get you acquainted with the Bible. Come to the Back Story Class in the Church Parlor on *Thursday mornings 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.* You will get more details about the Scriptures to be used in worship the following Sunday. If you come to the Back Story gathering, every Tuesday you will be sent an e-mail of the team bulletin which has all the scriptures printed out. Easy, eh? You do not have to be a Biblical scholar to be in this gathering. In fact, if you don't know the Bible well, that is a plus (you will make Pastor Roxie feel like she uniquely knows something!)

Or if you like watching movies/TV better, come on

Wednesday nights, 7:00 p.m. to watch "The Chosen" based on the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). It will get you thinking!! You and your friends, (you will want to bring them), will have plenty to talk about, framed by some good questions. Great discussion based on the video series. The Chosen, and workbook We add new people each week.

So, make a decision! Shake off those enemies of laziness, shiny distractions, and throwing in the towel. We can help you with your Bible adventure. Try it, you'll like it—and besides, life is Better with your Bible under your Belt!!

► PRAYER GATHERING ◀

During the 40 Days of Prayer in the Season of Lent, there were churches who hosted a Prayer Gathering in their church every day for the 40 days of Lent. Each Prayer Gathering had a specific segment of the community/nation/world for which they prayed. We hosted two of those Prayer Gatherings, and at one of the gatherings we were to pray for business people. But it was very apparent to Pastor Roxie that we needed to find out what the business people wanted us to pray for them. She visited 20 businesses and brought back their prayer requests.

That has sparked the idea to have a Prayer Gathering in this church every month, the last Sunday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. In month of May, we prayed for teachers, administrators, and school staff, those current and retired. Throughout the upcoming months, we will be very intentional about thinking of the segment of the population we need to pray for. We will carry those concerns to the Prayer Gathering. Mark your calendar for the upcoming dates: June 25th and July 30th at 7:00 p.m. The segment of the population for which we will pray, will be announced early in June and July.

▶ BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS ◀

Contact the office or see the sign up sheets on the counter if you would like to use your God-given talents in any of these areas.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS:

Why do we have fresh flowers on Sunday morning on the Communion Table? Because aesthetically it helps us to recognize the beauty of God's creation, assisting us in our worship and praise of the God who blesses us with such beauty. There are always opportunities to give a flower donation on any given Sunday. Many times people will donate flowers in recognition of important people in their lives or in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries, or significant events. If this smells good to you, sign up at the church office in the binder that says:

"Sanctuary Flowers."

OFFERTORY USHERS:

A long time ago, we had a rotating list of ushers who collected the offering during morning worship. It is an easy job, passing the plate, but a necessary job—it demonstratively shows our commitment to the work of the church during worship. We particularly need couples. If you are interested, please sign up at the church office.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEACHERS

Christian Education is growing. Next fall we will be in need of more teachers to teach the older age children during the G.I.F.T. (Growing In Faith Together) program. If you are interested please talk to Michelle Fisher or Laura Nurnberg for more information.

LITURGIST/LAY PREACHER:

So your gift really is to stand before people and share God's message. Yes, that is an awesome task, and a calling even for Lay People. So if you know someone in the congregation that has this gift, approach them and encourage them to sign up for Liturgist/Lay Preacher Training with Pastor Roxie. Or if you are feeling the nudge of the Holy Spirit to venture out and try this, do it! Test it out. You don't have to do both, or either. Just take the class and see what happens. If you are interested in being a liturgist, please talk with Jan Hansen who lines up all the Liturgists. We are glad to report that Barry Meier, Sid LaFrance and Bruce Morrison are on the Liturgist Team. If you're interested in training for being a lay preacher or liturgist, please come to the training in the church Parlor on Monday, June 5th at 7:00p.m.

Repairs and renovations continue in the Fellowship Hall and the Christian Education Wing! Please excuse the work you might see being done to improve our church building!

► G.I.F.T./NURSERY ATTENDANT ◀

Sunday, May 28th through Sunday, September 3rd

"Growing In Faith Together" and the Nursery Attendant will be on recess.

Both will resume Sunday, September 11, 2023.

Options for families during the summer:

- Have children pick up their activity bags from the G.I.F.T. room for use during service. Please feel free to take the children's bulletins home each week.
- Attend the weekly 8 a.m. Beach Service beginning Sunday, June 18 at the Lighthouse Beach. Activity bags will also be available during the beach services.
- The G.I.F.T. and Nursery Rooms will be open and available every Sunday with the Worship Service being live-streamed. Feel free to bring your child/children to either of these rooms to allow them to play while you watch the service on the TV.



**CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES!**



Congratulations to our graduates, Tyler Jamison graduated from Port Huron Northern High School and Jacob Beerbower graduated from Alma College.

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Jerrydeanna Pretty, loss of mother

Jessica Phillips and family, loss of grandmother

Dave Montross, medical

David Wright, medical

O'Connell family

George, medical

Rick Whitford, medical

Howard Owen and others in his family, medical

All who are serving overseas, first responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

The people of Ukraine and Russia.

Hot spots in the world.

Those who have suffered gun violence.

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

Be kind to one another.

► THANK YOU! ◀

A huge THANK YOU to the following women who faithfully volunteered their time and resources in assisting and teaching the children for the 2022-2023 school year! We are truly BLESSED by all of your servant's hearts. Jennie Carolan, Jacquie Green, Gwen Spiess, Paula Cameron, Carolyn Ahlquist, Erin Peyerker, Nancy Domke, Laura Nurnberg, Jill Emery, Cheryl Frank, Linda LaFrance, Jessica Phillips, Jerrydeanna Pretty, Shelley Kamer, and in the Nursery; Elizabeth and Amy Block. Be sure to tell them how much you appreciate the care, patience, and love they extended to the children! Also, a huge THANK YOU to the Christian Education Committee members: Laura Nurnberg, Rob Williams, Linda Holekamp, Jennie Carolan, and of course, Pastor Roxie and C.E. Director, Michelle Fisher.
Well done, faithful servants!"

► DATES TO REMEMBER ◀

June

- June 4: Communion; Birthday/Anniversary Celebration during Fellowship Time
- June 5: Liturgist/Lay Preacher Training at 7:00 p.m.
- June 10: Detroit Tiger's "Home Plate" Event and Game
- June 18: Beach Services Start at Lighthouse Beach- 8 a.m., Father's Day Nail Sale (at both services)
- June 19: Children's Detroit Zoo Trip
- June 24: Memorial Service for Jean Hyslop-Child at FPC, 11:00 a.m., fellowship time to follow
- June 25: Prayer Gathering 7:00 p.m.

July

- July 2: Communion; Birthday/Anniversary Celebration during Fellowship Time
- July 4: Office Closed
- July 14: Memorial for Janice Bradley with Luncheon to follow at FPC
- July 16: Garage Sale Item Drop Off 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- July 17-20: Garage Sale Item Drop Off 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- July 30: Prayer Gathering 7:00 p.m.

August

- August 4-5: Annual Mission Committee Garage Sale
- August 6: Communion; Birthday/Anniversary Celebration during Fellowship Time
- August 21-24: "Ready, Set, Move!" Summer Camp (Vacation Bible School)
- August 25: End of Summer Celebration
- August 27: Prayer Gathering 7:00 p.m., Farewell Party for Jim and Michelle

▶ UPCOMING EVENTS ◀



DETROIT TIGERS "HOME PLATE" EVENT



Saturday, June 10th

Tickets are still available!

Membership/Outreach Committee has booked and paid for a bus, and Sid LaFrance will drive. The bus will have a bathroom, and holds up to 56 people. Cost will be ONLY \$29.00 per person. Leave approx. 7:00 a.m. - arrive back in church parking lot approx. 5:30-6 p.m. A ticket to this event includes a program of athletes speaking about their careers in professional sports and faith in Jesus Christ at 9:30 a.m., an on-field Baseball Clinic at 11:00 a.m., AND a Baseball Game at 1:10 p.m.

Invite your neighbors, friends and family! Please sign up and pay for your ticket ASAP at the front desk Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or call/text Michelle Fisher (810) 841-6072.

DETROIT ZOO FIELD TRIP

Monday, June 19th

G.I.F.T. Children and their families end of year field trip will be Monday, June 19, 2023. We will meet at the church @ 8:00 a.m. and caravan to the zoo. Tickets for zoo entry and lunch money will be provided! The zoo is open 9 -5 pm. Feel free to leave as needed or stay the whole day. Questions or to sign up, please call/text Laura Nurnberg (734) 642-6883. Or sign up on the sheet at the front desk.

FATHER'S DAY NAIL SALE

Sunday, June 18th

Whether it has been helping build homes or contributing financially to its mission, First Presbyterian has forged for decades a solid commitment to the local Habitat for Humanity chapter, which we helped create. Father's Day is when we have our annual Nail Sale. At both the Beach and Sanctuary worships that day, you will find men from our congregation donning aprons and selling nails, with all proceeds benefitting this Habitat for Humanity ecumenical mission, and its goal to provide quality housing within our neighborhoods and community.



OPERATION TRANSFORMATION

FAMILY NIGHT

Thursday, July 13th-5-9 p.m.

This is a FREE family event during the Blue Water Fest (during the Mackinac Sailboat Race Week). The event will take place on the lawn just Northeast of the 10th St. Bridge. First Presbyterian Church will have a table and will be handing out flyers for the yard sale and our Ready, Set, Move! Summer Camp. Come help spread the Good News! If you would like to sign up for a time slot to volunteer, speak with Mark Schian, Laura Nurnberg or sign up on the sheet at the front desk.



RUMMAGE SALE

As our spring cleaning frenzy continues, please keep the Mission Committee's annual summer "indoor-outdoor" rummage sale in mind as the new home for your "stuff." The sale will be August 4th and 5th, but you will be able to drop your items off at the church the week of July 16-20th. Drop off hours will be *July 16th after worship and July 17th-20th from 9 a.m.-2:00 p.m.* Either Bill Briscoe or a Mission Committee member will be on hand those days to lend you a hand with your things. Please note: These are the only times items will be accepted for the sale. All sale proceeds benefit various mission projects.

FREE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Spring cleaning? The church's free community library welcomes any and all donations of children's books, young adult books, and adult fiction in good condition. If you would like to donate, please drop them off at the church office.

Questions? Just ask Judith McLean.

GO TEAM!

Are you Team First Pres? Or are you Team Port Presby? Actually, it doesn't matter. What does matter is that the Membership and outreach Committee is looking to revive an old favorite: FPC t-shirts. But it first wants to know how much interest there is among the congregation in owning one. To gauge the interest, a sheet has been placed on the office counter- all we need at this time is your name and how many shirts you would like (don't forget the kids). We will take this information and put together a pricing package. Watch this space (or the weekly bulletin) for further updates!





READY, SET, MOVE!

SUMMER CAMP (V.B.S.)

MONDAY AUGUST 21- THURSDAY 24TH

Dinner each night- 5:00-5:30 p.m.
Program- 5:30- 7:30 p.m.

In the evening of Friday, August 25th
there will be the end of summer camp
celebration with food, games, and an
outdoor movie on the big screen.

Volunteers Needed. Please sign up at the
church office.



To Register: scan the QR code above or go to
<https://forms.gle/VcN9KGxZcGBgtGuN6>



▶ COMMITTEE UPDATES ◀

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE:



Coming back from disappointment is never easy but... after a rocky few months, Spring has brought a renewal of Faith that God is leading us to our new pastor. In recent weeks we have received more than a dozen resumes and conducted a few initial and promising online interviews. We also are continuing to network with various seminaries and regional presbyteries. As always the fuel that is keeping us going on this journey has been your prayers and words of encouragement.

Thank you,

Steve Ahlquist, Rick Cameron, Jennie Carolan,
Jacquie Green, Linda Hall, and Judith McLean

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*Shelley Kamer,
Clerk of Session*



APRIL

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on April 17, 2023:

- Approved attending a Detroit Tigers Game on June 10th. Members from Lakeshore church have been invited.
- Approved hiring Elizabeth Block as Nursery Attendant, and Amy Block as a substitute for the Nursery.
- Approved a free-will offering on Mother's Day, the proceeds will go to the Pathways Shelter and Carolyn's Place.
- Approved funds from Endowment for the Middle School/Teen room renovation.

MAY

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on May 8, 2023:

- Approved Dave Dunn and Marilyn Dunn as Counters.
- Approved money from Memorials to remodel the lower level C.E. Room. The room will be used as a Community Activity Room for church meetings, and special activities and outdoor events.

MOTHER'S DAY THANK YOU

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Mother's Day special offering benefiting the Pathways Shelter for Woman and Children, and Carolyn's Place for victims of domestic abuse. The Deacons collected \$590.00 which will be given to the shelters.



Happy Birthday



June

Shelley Kamer	06/01
James Fisher	06/02
Linda Boddy	06/03
Tami Cronce	06/04
Sarah Brown	06/06
David Dunn	06/06
Jules Becker	06/09
Andrea Fletcher	06/15
Linda LaFrance	06/15
Christopher Chrzanowski	06/16
Amy Tinsley	06/18
Megan Cheung	06/20
Allan Andreoni	06/21
Douglas Hinton	06/23
Bill Kerr	06/24
Kim Matthews II	06/27
MacDonald Domke	06/29
Emily Smeltzer	06/29
Reta Zochowski	06/30

July

Patricia Schattler	07/02
Howard Owen	07/04
Laurie Irwin	07/05
Mary Lou Moen	07/05
Janet Brown	07/06
Sandy Morrison	07/07
Debra Burns	07/08
Scott McCandless	07/10
Erin Peyerk	07/12
Dolores Eveningred	07/17
Wayne Furman	07/19
Louis Darczy	07/20
Sara Liter-Kuester	07/20
James Lovett	07/20
Eileen Furman	07/21
Paige Roe	07/24
Jessica Phillips	07/25
SueAnne Ostrom	07/26
Marvin Ohrling	07/27
Lavetta Campbell	07/30
Latalia Middleton	07/31



Happy Anniversary

June

Ronald and Barbara Neal	06/07
Andrew and Jennifer Carolan	06/11
James and Michelle Fisher	06/12
Andrew and Gail Rosales	06/14
Bruce and Sandy Morrison	06/15
Gary and Shirley Rhody	06/15
Thomas and Nancy Hunter	06/17
Robert and Helen Weston	06/20
James and Linda Hall	06/20
Richard Jr. and Nancy Tinsley	06/22

June

Janet and Lawrence Dent	06/27
Erin and Troy Peyerk	06/28
MacDonald and Nancy Domke	06/29
Laura and Chris Nurnberg	06/30

July

Sid and Linda LaFrance	07/02
Alex and Peggy Ruthven	07/15

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Beach Service - 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Worship - 10:00 a.m.

**Coffee Hour immediately
following worship.**



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

Connect with us!

Facebook: @FirstPresbyterianChurch
Port Huron

YouTube: @FirstPresbyterianChurch

Website: www.fpcporthuron.org

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Knight Vernon

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vernonharpsichords@yahoo.com

Laura Gaffney

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

Bill Briscoe

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

Elizabeth Block

Nursery Attendant
September-May;
Sundays 9:30-11 a.m.

Amy Block, Nursery Assistant

