

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

Months ago, there I am, standing outside the church building on the front lawn. People are streaming out of the front doors to get into their cars. We are headed to the cemetery to lay the body of Tom Andison to rest; to say our final good-byes to a man who gave so much of his life and energy to this church. As I stand there hugging and shaking people's hands, I notice an amazing sight. It is like "old home week," where people are greeting each other—caring for each other and enjoying the presence of two past pastors, Ron Naylor and Jason Pittman. Both pastors had been invited back to take the lead role in the funeral and in the committal of Tom Andison. I was happy to be the host pastor, allowing them to bring amazing messages of hope for all who believe in Jesus Christ.

I realized how much it means to be connected as the Body

of Christ. I experienced how much it means to have the Family of God together, celebrating the life of the deceased and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, especially when past pastors are invited to be a part of the celebration.

So, I have resolved, and I want all of you to know: "As long as I am the pastor of this congregation, there will be permission extended to any family who has lost a loved one, to invite back a past pastor. If you so desire, you are given permission to have them participate in the funeral/memorial/committal service."

I want to experience over and over again, the family reunion that occurs when past pastors return to hug and greet those with whom they ministered together.

Now, I know that this is not the typical practice of the Presbyterian Church, USA, as dictated by the Presbytery of Detroit. The policy is usually, once a pastor leaves, they are not allowed to come back.

However, if the current pastor (that's me!) gives permission, a past pastor is allowed to come back. So, here is my blanket "permission" for former pastors to come back. I know this is not typical—but I am not your typical pastor. I have seen too much in my over-forty years of pastoral experience, not only as a pastor but also as a Presbytery Executive. We need to demonstrate to each other and to the world that unity means everything; that family (especially the Family of God) is important; and that coming together in a Family Reunion is significant, even if it is at a Funeral/Memorial Service. We, not only celebrate the reality of the resurrection of Jesus, but we celebrate our common belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior—Head of the Church. What a joyous event when the "Family of God" can come together—the family of the past and the present.

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Beach Service last day September 3rd
- G.I.F.T./Mountain Movers resumes September 17th
- Upcoming Events
- Summer Camp (VBS) Information
- Committee Updates/Thank yous

► PREACHING SERIES ◀

Preaching Series: ??Questions of Faith??

- August 6th** - Communion
Questions: "For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory Forever. Amen" Why do we say these words, and what do they mean?
- August 13th** - Baptism of Harriet Lozen (Beach Service, 8:00 a.m.)
Questions: Why do we have only two sacraments? Why do we say the Apostles' Creed and other Creeds?
- August 20th** - Questions: At a funeral, what do you say to the family about heaven? And what about cremation?
- August 27th** - Summer Camp (VBS) Sunday
Questions posed by the children; they ask the questions that we adults are afraid to ask.
- September 3rd** - Communion
Questions: Why isn't Paul's name in the list of Disciples? What did Paul say about women in church leadership?
- September 10th** - Worship/picnic at Fort Gratiot County Park on Metcalf Rd.
Lay Preacher Steve Ahlquist preaches (Pastor Roxie is away)
- September 17th** - Questions: What did Jesus say about giving? Are there personal benefits to giving?
- September 24th** - Questions: What does it mean to be a Generous Giver? Does the church really need my money?

ORGANIST KNIGHT VERNON IS RETIRING

August 13, 2023

It is our loss and Knight's gain. Since Knight is in his late 80's, he has decided to really retire! His last Sunday with us is August 13th at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. At the end of the worship, he will be standing at the Pulpit Sanctuary door, with Pastor Roxie, for you to have a chance to say "Goodbye." Our own Gary Rhody will be the substitute organist to the end of August.

► BEACH SERVICES ◀

The beach service will continue through the summer on

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. at 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.

The last beach service will be held on September 3rd.

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

► ADULT CLASSES ◀

"THE CHOSEN"

Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor, there are new people added to this wonderful study group every week. We talk, we watch a segment from the video, "The Chosen," and we listen to each other. If you want the story of Jesus to come alive for you, mark your calendar and come, whenever you can! Join us. If you want to go deeper in your faith, a study/reflection book is also made available to you, located in the Parlor.

"THE BACK STORY"

10:00 a.m. on Thursdays: We are a curious group! We want you to join us! This class will give you the opportunity to see beyond the Scriptures to be preached on the following Sunday. If this peaks your interest, but Thursday mornings don't work for you, let Pastor Roxie know. If there is enough interest, she will add a class at a more convenient time for you. No previous knowledge of the Scriptures is required. Questions are welcomed.

NEW! "ONE DUNK CLASS"

One Dunk Class: On September 17, Pastor Roxie will do just one class on a book from the Bible, from 11:15 to 12:15, following worship. It will be a splash into an Old Testament Book that has a lot to say about Life, Death, and Purpose: The Book of Ecclesiastes (12 chapters long—you might want to read it before you come, but that is not a necessity). Mark your calendar for this dip into the waters of the Book of Ecclesiastes. Also, an Adult Education Sub-Committee is being formed. Are you interested? Talk with Pastor Roxie or Laura Nurnberg.

► JOB OPENINGS ◀

We have THREE JOB opening now—all paid positions: Organist/Choir Director, Christian Education Director and Marketing/Social Media Specialist, all starting in September. We want to have the new people overlap with Michelle (C.E. Director) and Jim (Marketing Specialist) in August, if possible. We have the job descriptions for the C.E. and Marketing positions available on the office counter. Soon the Organist/Choir Director job description will be on the counter. Please pick one up if you know of someone who would be interested in one of these positions.

▶ HAVE YOU SEEN "THE SOUND OF FREEDOM"? ◀

Thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets and went to see this very important movie. Unfortunately, the missions that are fighting against sex trafficking are HIGHLY underfunded. Please find listed some additional resources and opportunities to support the fight. Our prayers are absolutely needed, but also, our financial giving is a huge part of this battle. As the movie says: "God's Children Are Not For Sale."

Michelle Fisher
CE Director
First Presbyterian Church

The following link provides an excellent article on The Sound of Freedom.

https://smartchurchmanagement.com/sound-of-freedom-have-you-seen-it/?utm_source=SCM+Newsletter&utm_campaign=b1248ad236-SCM_Newsletter4_8_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_57409e0d78-b1248ad236-103770842

(If you need this link sent to you, please ask Laura at the church office.)

Operation Underground Railroad- <https://ourrescue.org/about-us>

Crisis Aid International- <https://www.crisisaid.org/crisis-aid/>

National Human Trafficking Hotline- #1-888-373-7888 (This is a "non-Emergency number.)

They are very understaffed, so there is a wait time.

If you see something suspicious that needs immediate attention, *call 911.*

National Human Trafficking Hotline Website- <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/>

Polaris Project- <https://polarisproject.org/>

Sound of Freedom movie review-

<https://answersingenesis.org/reviews/movies/gods-children-are-not-for-sale/>



SUNDAY SCHOOL

NURSERY

Ages 0-3 years

Starting on **September 17th**, Elizabeth Block will be available in the Nursery each Sunday, 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. She would love to care for your little one while you enjoy the service!

G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER)

Age 4 years-3rd grade

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

Resuming September 17, 2023.

- Sunday, Sept. 17 - Caleb Trusts God Will Help
- Sunday, Sept. 24 - Rahab Helps the Israelite Spies
- Sunday, Oct. 1 - The Israelites Cross the Jordan
- Sunday, Oct. 8 - Joshua Leads God's People



MOUNTAIN MOVERS

4th grade-8th grade

Starting **Sunday, September 17, 2023**, any student 4th grade and older are welcome to attend their own age appropriate teaching time during worship service when the children age 4 years- 3rd grade attend the G.I.F.T. program.

If you are interested in volunteering for either G.I.F.T. or Mountain Movers, or both, please utilize the sign up form (right) and give to Laura at the office or fill out the bulletin insert and put it in the offering plate.

GIFT & Mountain Movers Teaching Sign Up 2023-2024

GIFT: Ages 3 - 3rd Grade

Mountain Movers: 4th - 8th Grade

Name: _____

Phone: _____ (home)

_____ (cell) Text? Y or N

Email: _____

Which would you like to help with? (Select all that apply)

_____ GIFT _____ Mountain Movers

Which role(s) would you like? (Select all that apply)

_____ Lead Teacher _____ Assistant

Programming runs from 9/17/23 thru 5/19/24

Please provide any dates that DO work or DO NOT work:

▶ COMMITTEE UPDATES ◀

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE:



While it doesn't seem possible, we are coming up to our second anniversary in our search for a new pastor. We have experienced highs, lows, joys, and disappointments, but throughout it all, we have remained steadfast in our faith and belief that God is leading us on this journey. What also has kept us going has been your prayers and words of encouragement. On **Sunday, Sept 24**, we would like you to join us after the worship service for a brief progress report and questions and answer session on where we have been and where we are going.

Thank you,

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



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*Shelley Kamer,
Clerk of Session*



JUNE

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on June 12, 2023:

- Approved money for resealing and repainting the parking lines in the parking lot.
- Approved having an outdoor grounds committee, Judy Hall is the coordinator.
- Approved money to purchase plants and flowers.
- Approved the revised job descriptions for the Marketing/Social Media Specialist and the Christian Education Director.
- Approved holding the Annual Nail Sail on Father's Day.

JULY

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on July 10, 2023:

- Approved Joan Vandawaker and Kathy Emery for membership at FPC.
- Approved the baptism of Harriet Lozen, daughter of Liz and Matt Lozen on August 13th at the Beach Service. (In case of rain, August 20th)
- Approved vacation time and Continuing Education time for Pastor Roxie.
- Approved the Yard Sale for Friday and Saturday, August 4th and 5th



NAME TAGS

In the church vestibule, office entrance, there is a mailbox for each family. We have name tags for all of the adults in the mailboxes. Please wear these name tags each Sunday for the worship service. Please don't forget to leave your name tag in your mailbox so you have it for the following Sunday. If you do not have a name tag or mailbox please leave Laura, administrative assistant, a note on her desk and she will get you one!

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



THANK YOU to everyone who helped prepare ahead and serve during the Operation Transformation Family Night Out this year. The event had the highest participation both in booths and attendance than any other year! FPC volunteers handed out 600 goody bags containing bubbles, finger flashlights, and information on our upcoming Ready, Set, Move! Summer Camp (August 21-24) and the upcoming Yard Sale (August 4-5). The children were attracted to our bubble machine and various wands to create their own bubbles. Pastor Roxie was our friendly clown, handing out the goody bags too.

FATHER'S DAY NAIL SALE-THANK YOU!

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to our annual Father's Day Nail Sale to benefit Habitat for Humanity. We collected \$591 that will be used for local habitat projects. We also would like to note, that thanks to your generosity to the Pentecost Offering in May, we were able to give \$468 toward our VBS Summer Bible Camp "Ready, Set, Go!" (our 40% of the total amount collected).

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Family of Evelyn Tinsley
David Wright, 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 literally 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.

GIVING ENVELOPES

We will be placing the order for giving envelopes in September. If you would like to receive giving envelopes for the year of 2024, please e-mail or contact **Kristie Lamb, Financial Secretary** fpcbookkeeping811@gmail.com or **Gail MacBeth, Treasurer** gailmacbeth@att.net



If you have not yet given towards the per-capita, please consider giving.

► DATES TO REMEMBER ◀

August

- August 1: Memorial Service for Evelyn Tinsley at 11:00 a.m. with luncheon to follow; National Night Out 5-7 p.m. at St. Joseph Church
- August 4-5: Annual Yard Sale
- August 6: Communion; Birthday/Anniversary Celebration during Fellowship Time
- August 13: Baptism of Harriet Lozen during the Beach Service; CE Wing Open House with newly renovated rooms revealed following Fellowship time; Last day for Organist, Knight Vernon to be with us.
- August 21-24: "Ready, Set, Move!" Summer Camp (Vacation Bible School) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. each night
- August 25: End of Summer Camp Celebration 7:30 p.m.
- August 27: Children will share about Summer Camp (VBS) during worship; Farewell Party for Jim and Michelle Fisher at 11:15 a.m.; Swim Party at Pastor Roxie's house at 4:00 p.m.

September

- September 3: Communion; Birthday/Anniversary Celebration during Fellowship Time; Last Beach Service at Lighthouse Beach
- September 10: Church Picnic at Ft. Gratiot County Park
- September 13: Sarah's Circle begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor
- September 17: Sunday School Resumes; Stewardship begins; One Dunk Class; CROP Walk
- September 23: Ladies Day afternoon tea at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- September 24: Stewardship; PNC progress report, questions/answers session after worship

October

- October 1: Stewardship/Stewardship Dinner
- October 8: Stewardship Cards Dedicated from Congregation
- October 13-14: Pilgrimage Renewal Weekend
- October 29: Kirking of the Tartans



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

▶ UPCOMING EVENTS ◀

ANNUAL YARD SALE

*Friday, August 4th-Saturday, August
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.*

Attention Bargain Hunters and Hidden Treasure Seekers: The Annual Yard Sale will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. August 4th and 5th. This year's sale will feature two locations: The 8th Street Courtyard will have outdoor toys and games, garden items, tools and larger sale items. The Fellowship Hall will be filled with clothing, books, toys and games, housewares, kitchen appliances, holiday decorations and furniture (enter at the Wall Street entrance). The elevator also will be operating to take shoppers from the courtyard to the Fellowship Hall. These will be the only church entrances open during the sale. A free will offering will be taken to benefit Pathways Women's Shelter, Carolyn's Place and the men's new homeless shelter. Note: Items also will be sold during coffee hour on Sunday, August 6th.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND RENOVATION UPDATES

The Christian Education Committee has been working hard to get two rooms remodeled in the CE Wing.

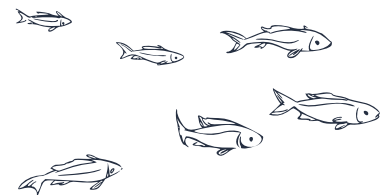
The Community Activity Room -This multi-purpose room will store all of the outdoor games, and equipment. It can be used to hold events when there is inclement weather. It can also be set up to hold zoom meetings, regular meetings, as well as workshops and training. It is handicap accessible, as it is on the main floor.

Mountain Movers Room- This is the name 4th graders and older have chosen to call their new Middle School/Teen Room; located upstairs by the Choir Room in the CE Wing.



*Open
House*

Sunday, August 13th at 11:15 a.m.



We are excited to invite the congregation to attend the Room Reveal Open House on Sunday, August 13th following worship. On this Sunday, coffee hour/ fellowship time will take place in the two newly redecorated rooms. Please stop by, enjoy a snack, and let us know where you would like to volunteer for the exciting upcoming school year!

NO ANTS INVITED!

Sunday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m.



The Annual Church Picnic will be at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 10th at the Fort Gratiot County Park Pavillion on Metcalf Road. There will be an outdoor worship service followed by a potluck picnic and games. The Membership and Outreach Committee will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments, beverages and tableware. Those attending can bring salads and desserts to share as well as lawn chairs (If you are looking for a more comfortable seat than a wooden picnic table bench!) For more details, check the weekly church bulletin or ask a committee member.

SARAH CIRCLE

Starting Sept. 13th at 1:30 p.m.

So much of the scope of God's love and salvation is told through Jesus' mission of mercy and compassion and how much it affected the lives of the ordinary people he encountered through His ministry. It is these Sacred Encounters that the Sarah Circle will be studying when we begin our monthly Bible study on Wednesday, September 13. If you are a woman who enjoys spirited discussions and lively conversations with friends, as well as some sweet treats, please join us at 1:30 p.m. in the church Parlor on the second Wednesday of each month. This year we will be studying "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts." Cost of the study book is \$11.20. For more information talk to Judith McLean or just stop by on September 13th!



FAREWELL PARTY FOR JIM AND MICHELLE FISHER



Sunday, August 27th at 11:15 a.m.

Please join us to celebrate Jim and Michelle Fisher as they depart to travel throughout the United States in their Air streamer. They will be sharing their photography and commentary on their website and social media. The Farewell Party will be held in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

POOL PARTY

Sunday, August 27th at 4:00 p.m.

The end of summer is upon us! Save the date and come celebrate with us at Pastor Roxie's house with a pool party at 4:00 p.m.! Please look in the bulletin for more information as the date gets closer.

SHOE LEATHER

September 17th

The Mission Committee is making plans to sponsor a CROP Walk on Sunday, September 17th. Please check for more details in the weekly church bulletin and on Flocknotes in the Port Presby Press.



LADIES DAY

Saturday, September 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

Looking for something that is fun, easy, and guaranteed to bring you year round smiles? Then please join me for an afternoon tea at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 23rd, in the Fellowship Hall. My lips are sealed until then, but check the church bulletin for more details closer to the event. Sorry guys, this is just for women only!

Judy McLean

STEWARDSHIP/STEWARDSHIP DINNER

This year, the Stewardship Campaign will be earlier than usual. We will look at how we are doing with our personal and church wide "Stewardship of time, talent, and treasure" on **September 17th, 24th, and October 1st.**

Mark your calendars for **October 1st** because we will have an "All Church" catered dinner following worship, courtesy of some very generous members of this church. At the dinner, we will be refreshed by the exciting ministries that have occurred and continue to occur, through the generosity of your giving to God, for the good of God's Church.

On **October 8th**, everyone will have the awesome opportunity to make a pledge to God, to support God's work and ministry through this amazing Presbyterian Church on 8th and Wall Streets.

"COME AWAY AND..."

PILGRIMAGE WEEKEND

Friday, October 13th-Sunday, October 15th

This Faith Renewal Weekend (called "Pilgrimage") is October 13th – October 15th (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.

Informational brochures are available on the table in the Gathering Room.



Join the churches in Olde Town
for a night of meeting your
neighbor.

St. Joseph (side yard)

7th & Chestnut

August 1, 2023

5-7pm

Hot Dogs – Water – Chips

Games for all ages

Participating churches:

St. John's UCC

Holy Trinity – St. Joseph

St. Martin Lutheran

First Presbyterian

Grace Episcopal

First United Methodist

Trinity Lutheran

Operation Transformation

Restrooms will be
available at
St. Martin located
at the corner of
8th & Chestnut

**READY, SET,
MOVE!**

**Monday August 21
thru
Thursday August 24**

Join us for Summer Camp (VBS)

**First Presbyterian Church
811 Wall Street
Port Huron, MI 48060**

810-985-6191

Ages 4-12

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

Register Here!



Menu

- Monday- Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Dessert
- Tuesday- Hot Dogs, Mac & Cheese, Pasta Salad, Dessert
- Wednesday- Sloppy Joes, Potato Salad, Chips, Dessert
- Thursday- Pizza, Salad, Dessert
- Friday- End of Summer Camp Celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. (Please note later start time). Bring your chair and attend this Church/Community-wide event, invite your family and friends! There will be popcorn, games, and (starting at dusk) the showing of an outdoor movie on the big screen.

On Sunday, August 27th the children will share about Summer Camp during worship.

Please let Michelle Fisher or Laura Nurnberg know if you would like to volunteer during Summer Camp (VBS).



Happy Birthday



August

Linda Hall	08/01
Ronald Boddy	08/08
Patrick Brown	08/09
David Barr	08/15
Peggy Dempsey	08/19
Patrick Dempsey	08/21
Gail MacBeth	08/21
June Meleg	08/21
Richard Smalldon	08/21
Carolyn Ahlquist	08/22
Linda Smalldon	08/23
Olen Hayes	08/25
Deborah Deaner	08/27
Thomas Hunter	08/27
Melody Rinn	08/27
Parker Harris	08/31
Lillian Jamison	08/31
Matthew Lozen	08/31
Janet Tuttle	08/31

September

Todd Jaquette	09/02
Megan Chrzanowski	09/04
Rick Cameron	09/05
Starrla Opferman	09/06
Elisabeth Barr	09/07
Susan Murvich	09/09
Daniel Susan	09/12
Jane Penzien	09/13
Richard Rinn	09/13
Robert Vandawaker	09/14
Laura Nurnberg	09/16
James Langolf	09/20
Wendell Eerts	09/21
Harlan Blomquist	09/23
Janet Hanson	09/23
Ronald Neal	09/24
James Hall	09/27
Jacob Lee	09/27
Joshua Lee	09/27
Ann Murphy	09/28
Kristen Tuttle	09/30



Happy Anniversary

August

B. Mark and Sheryl Neal	08/04
Steve and Carolyn Ahlquist	08/11
Douglas and Sue Hinton	08/14
David and Marilyn Dunn	08/16
Deborah and James Langolf	08/16
Jeffrey and Maryann Kiger	08/18
Richard and Linda Smalldon	08/21
James and Jane McCandless	08/22
Ken and Gail MacBeth	08/28
Kim II and Lisa Matthews	08/28

September

Megan and Wesley Cheung	09/03
Wayne and Eileen Furman	09/15
Howard Owen and Lynn Vincent	09/19



COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays

Beach Service - 8:00 a.m.

(Last beach service Sept. 3rd)

Sanctuary Worship - 10:00 a.m.

**Fellowship time 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

**Reverend Doctor Roxie Davis
Pastor**

(586) 838-9053

roxieanddavis@hotmail.com



Michelle Fisher

**Christian Education Director
portpresby.ce@gmail.com**



Jim Fisher

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



Kristie Lamb

**Financial Secretary
fpcbookkeeping811@gmail.com
(Tuesday 9am-2pm)**



Knight Vernon

**Organist / Choir Director
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 9:30-11:30 a.m.**



Amy Block, Nursery Assistant