

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023

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**

On Sunday, September 17th, after an exciting worship time, I gathered with eight people to talk about the Book of Ecclesiastes, which was the basis of the sermon that day. During the worship service we heard beautiful music from the Muzzarelli Family String Trio, giving us cause to praise God for music in our lives. We also rejoiced in the record number of children (18 in all), who were excited about going to G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together for 4 year olds to 3rd Graders) and Mountain Movers (4th to 8th Graders). In the last three years, this was our largest number of children, anxious to learn about Jesus, on a Sunday morning.

With the joyous worship experience fresh in our minds, the gathering of a group of people to talk about the Book of Ecclesiastes was rich and rewarding. I came away from that study time with two thoughts: First thought: One person in the group inquired, "How can I share my faith more effectively with my family and friends?" Second thought: "How can the church support, not only those who hunger for food, but those who hunger for meaning and purpose in their lives?"

Then on Sunday, September 24th, I read a devotional in the Upper Room (which is graciously offered to you as a devotional resource). The devotional for September 24th was titled: "The Bread of Life." Since I have a profoundly deaf son, Thomas, and a hearing-impaired daughter, Christina, I immediately tuned into the story, written by Jeri Mounier. And I quote: "My daughters and I were excited to attend our first American Sign Language Class at church. Our instructor explained that the sign for Jesus was made by touching a finger to the center of the palm on each hand. This sign signified the scars of Jesus' hands after the

crucifixion. As the class progressed that evening we began signing the names of foods and various phrases to go along with them. While reviewing, the teacher called on one student to sign, "I am hungry for toast." The student inadvertently signed, "I am hungry for Jesus." Embarrassed, she laughed and apologized for her mistake. But her confusion was a revelation to me. I am hungry for Jesus in my life. The grace of His forgiveness and love are sustenance that we all yearn for." End of quote.

In my life and in yours, we hunger for a closer walk with God. But we also see people around us who need Jesus, with the love and forgiveness He offers. Sometimes unbeknownst to them, they are starving, not only for food for their bodies, but they are starving for purpose and meaning in their lives, that only God can fulfill.

By God's grace, as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, I will try to help us share Jesus with each other and with those around us. Some of those around us have no idea that their hunger for life's meaning can only be satisfied by faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I hope to share with you some of the insights that come out of a book, "Holy Moments" written by Matthew Kelly. If you were in worship on October 1st, you should have received the book, "Holy Moments," an early Christmas gift from this church. If you have not been in worship, or missed that Sunday, please come in and receive this gift.

Hopefully, putting "Holy Moments" into action, we will help to transform our lives, the lives of others and change the circumstances around us, for the good. It is all up to God, and our cooperation with the One who made us and calls us into this ministry of love. Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Preaching Series
- Christian Education Classes for Children and Adults
- Committee Updates/Thank You's
- Important Dates/Upcoming Events
- Kirkin' O' The Tartans
- Peace and Global Witness

► PREACHING SERIES ◀

- October 1st -** Healthy Lifestyle/Stewardship Season, Communion, Commitment Cards of Elders and Deacons Received, Ministry Stewardship Celebration Catered Dinner.
- October 8th -** Healthy Lifestyle/Stewardship Season; Commitment Cards from the rest of the congregation received and all commitments will be blessed, Special Music by Sid LaFrance
- October 15th -** Judith McLean, Member, Lay Preacher speak on "Self Care: Step back and learn to commune with God."
- October 22nd -** Dick Smalldon, Former Member, Lay Preacher speaking on "The 23rd Psalm"
- October 29th -** How we live out the Christian faith in our Scottish Traditions as Presbyterians, Kirkin' O' the Tartans, big celebration in worship and during Fellowship Time.
- November 5th -** Preaching Series: "Being Present in the Moment", Communion.
- November 12th -** Preaching Series: "Being Present in the Moment", Special Music by Sid LaFrance; Reception of New Members. Congregational Election Meeting, following worship.
- November 19th -** Preaching Series: "Being Present in the Moment", Peace and Global Offering, Special Music from School of Strings Quartet
- November 26th -** Preaching Series: "Being Present in the Moment"

► CHILDREN'S COMMUNION CLASSES ◀

Pastor Roxie will be leading a class for children who would like to learn about Holy Communion at 11:15 a.m. on November 5th, November 19th and 26th. It will last 30 minutes. In the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. the parents/grandparents decide when the children understand the sacrament and are ready to partake in communion. If this does not work for your family, please let Pastor Roxie know.

► 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 on Wednesday nights. 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.

"WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION FOR NEWCOMERS (W.I.N.) CLASS"

If you are interested in knowing more about the Presbyterian Church or desire to join the church in membership, please come to the W.I.N. class. Or if you know of someone who is not a member and wants to be a member this is a great opportunity. The W.I.N. class will happen on Sunday, October 8th, following worship at 11:15 a.m. Anyone desiring to join the church will be able to talk with the Elders on Monday, October 9th during Session at 7:00 p.m.



► JOB OPENINGS ◀

We continue to have TWO job openings—both paid positions: Organist/Choir Director and Christian Education Director. Please pick up the job descriptions for these positions on the office counter if you know someone who would be interested in applying.

▶ COMMITTEE UPDATES ◀

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*Shelley Kamer,
Clerk of Session*



AUGUST

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on August 14, 2023:

- Approved additional furniture items for the Christian Education rooms.
- Approved money for curriculum for the Mountain Movers.
- Approved revisions to three Endowment Fund Guidelines.
- Approved having a string trio play during worship on Sunday, September 17th.

SEPTEMBER

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on September 11, 2023:

- Approved Marilyn Dunn, Linda Hall, and Peggy Ruthven as Co- chairs for the 2024 Stewardship Campaign.
- Approved revisions to the Memorial Fund Guidelines.
- Approved a free will offering at the Chili cook-off/bake sale on October 15th. Proceeds will be sent to Hawaii for relief for the fire victims.
- Approved Laura Gaffney and Paige Cronce for the Media/Marketing position.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The purpose of the meeting was to suspend the By-laws and change the date of the Election Meeting of the Congregation. Nominate and elect Barbara Wright to the Nominating Committee.

- Motion by Dorinne Crowell and supported to dispense the part of the By-laws that states the Election Meeting is held on or before the last Sunday in October, and approve November 12, 2023, for the Election Meeting. This is a one-time change for the meeting date. Motion carried.
- Judith McLean nominated Barbara Wright to serve on the Nominating Committee. There being no further nominations from the floor, the motion was made by Judith and supported to close the nominations and elect Barbara Wright by acclamation. As a member of Session, Barbara will serve as the chair of the committee. Motion carried.



TALES FROM THE YARD SALE

The Mission Committee's annual yard sale, which was held in August, proved to be both a financial and spiritual success. The money raised (more than \$3,000 and counting) will be used to benefit the city's two women's shelters. Pathways and Carolyn's Place, as well as its teen shelter, The Harbor. But more than just money was collected that day and the committee would like to share some of those stories.

- Two women spent several hours going through everything being offered, eventually filling many boxes and bags with home goods. As they were paying for their purchases, they explained that they had been homeless for three years, living in shelters or relying on short-term stays with relatives and friends. But, they had just received a Section 8 voucher (used to subsidize housing), making it possible for them to rent an apartment. They planned to use their purchases to help furnish their new home.
- After filling a small shopping bag with items, a woman found that she had no money with her. She went to put the items back on their tables but was told by one of the helpers that it was not necessary and that she hoped the shopper would enjoy her purchases. The next morning she returned to give us a few dollars for what she had bought.
- A young man selected a toaster oven and a one-cup coffee maker. He was excited to buy them but had no idea how to use the coffee maker. One of our workers walked him through the process. While doing so, he told her that he had just moved into the neighborhood. When he was ready to leave, he pulled out \$10 and asked if that would be enough for the two items. Assured that it was more than enough, he left. As the worker who helped him commented, "It was heartwarming to see him walk away feeling good about his finds and himself."
- A couple spent time selecting as many blankets and coats as they could carry, not caring about sizes, colors or styles. When leaving, they said that they were formerly homeless and that now they spent time going to various garage and yard sales buying blankets and coats that they then donated to various shelters and agencies to distribute to those in need.
- Throughout both days, several people stopped by- not to shop but to simply give us some money. Nearly all of them said they had been formerly homeless and that they wanted to give something back to help others in the same situation.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

► NURSERY ◀

Ages 0-3 years

Elly 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

(when appropriate)

► MOUNTAIN MOVERS ◀

4th grade-8th grade

Please join us in the Christian Education Wing following the Children's Message for faith, fun, and friends!



► THANK YOU ◀ ► THANK YOU ◀ ► THANK YOU ◀

SUMMER CAMP (VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL)

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time for set up, take down and teaching at "Ready, Set, Move!" Summer Camp (V.B.S.) this year. "Ready, Set, Move!" Summer Camp had in total 39 children attend throughout the week. It was a wonderful week for all!



FROM JIM AND MICHELLE FISHER

Dearest First Presbyterian Church Family,

Jim and I feel BEYOND Blessed to have been a part of all of your lives. Your generosity, kindness, and outpouring of love over the last few years have been such a huge blessing. God accomplished many wonderful things due to your teamwork, support, and prayers! The "sending off" you gave us was something we have never experienced in our lives. To have the children lay their hands on us while Pastor Roxie prayed for us was an unforgettable moment. Thank you to Joan Vandawaker who took the picture and sent it to us. We will remember it always and will be praying for all of you as we journey across the great United States of America!

With much gratitude and love,
Jim and Michelle Fisher

FROM ANNE WILTON

"You show that you are a letter from Christ... written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts".

1 Corinthians 3:3 (NIV)

A very special thank you for all the prayers, cards, expressions of sympathy and personal visitations I received following the loss of my mother. You all are a true blessing. Thank you! --Anne Wilton

FROM KNIGHT VERNON

I want to thank all the members of First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron for the many well wishes and kind words you had for me in my retirement. Being able to play the organ again after so many years was a great pleasure to me, and I deeply appreciated how well you received my music. I really enjoyed my work at First Presbyterian and getting to know so many of you. I am sure I will be back to see you in the future. --Knight Vernon, Organist

► DATES TO REMEMBER ◀

October

- **October 1: Communion; Ministry Celebration Stewardship Dinner**
- **October 8: Stewardship Cards Dedicated from Congregation, Birthday/Anniversary Celebration; W.I.N. (Wonderful Introduction for Newcomers) Class at 11:15 a.m.**
- **October 11: Sarah's Circle at 1:00 p.m.**
- **October 13-15: Pilgrimage Renewal Weekend- Sue Brackenbury, Gabby will be guests, Pastor Roxie, Spiritual Advisor and Joan Vandawaker is a Team Member.**
- **October 15: Chili Cookoff and Bake Sale**
- **October 21: Pink and Pearls Cancer Awareness Luncheon of Hope Fundraiser 12-3 p.m.**
- **October 29: Kirking of the Tartans**

November

- **November 5: Communion; Birthday/Anniversary Celebration; Children's Communion Class at 11:30 a.m.-12:00**
- **November 8: Sarah's Circle at 1:00 p.m.**
- **November 12: Congregational Election Meeting**
- **November 18: Blue Water Feed the World Day, Volunteers Package food**
- **November 19: Peace and Global Offering Received; Special Music from School for Strings Quartet, Children's Communion Class at 11:30 a.m.-12:00**
- **November 23: Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed**
- **November 26: Children's Communion Class at 11:30 a.m.-12:00; Advent Fellowship Time and Decorating of Children's Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall**

December

- **December 3: Communion; Birthday/Anniversary Celebration; Christmas Movie at Sperry's Moviehouse**
- **December 13: Sarah's Circle at 1:00 p.m.**
- **December 17: Children's Christmas Play**
- **December 24: Worship at 10:00 a.m. and Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.**
- **December 25: Merry Christmas! Office Closed**

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

▶ UPCOMING EVENTS ◀

STEWADSHIP

This year, the Stewardship Season will continue to look at personal and church wide "Stewardship of time, talent, and treasure" as it has the previous few weeks.

October 1st there will be 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 bring your commitment card to church and everyone will have the opportunity to make a commitment to God, to support God's work and ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron. All commitment cards will be dedicated and blessed on Sunday, October 8th.

OPERATION TRANSFORMATION'S BENEFIT DINNER

October 5th

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.

Program begins at 6:00 p.m.

Operation Transformation will have their annual benefit dinner on Thursday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m. at Alexander's in Marysville, MI. Sponsorships are being sought at various levels and are greatly appreciated! Silent Auction items or other donations are also being collected for the event. The Mission Committee purchased a table and there are 10 people who have filled the seats. We have 2 more people who will be sitting at a nearby table.

"COME AWAY AND..."

FAITH RENEWAL (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. Sue Brackenbury, Gabby will attend as guests, Pastor Roxie as a Spiritual Advisor and Joan Vandawaker is a Team Member. Please pray for them over this weekend.



FIREBRANDS AND SWEETIE PIES



The church's annual Chili Cook-Off will be Sunday, October 15th. Sponsored by the Membership and Outreach Committee, this year's hot and spicy extravaganza will also feature two new twists: a **Bake Sale** sponsored by the Mission Committee as well as a free-will offering. The cook-off will immediately follow the 10:00 a.m. worship service and will be dished up outside on the church lawn (in case of rain, it will be moved to the Fellowship Hall). Those attending are asked to wear their favorite team colors BUT don't despair if you don't have a favorite team. The dress code for both the service and the cook-off is CASUAL.

The featured chilies will be made by members of the various church committee and groups. But if you would like to get in on the high stakes competition for bragging rights, don't be shy. Just let Mark Schian know, and he will save you a spot on the serving table. As always, the diners will be voting on their favorites (once their mouths have cooled off).

And speaking of cooking off, what could be better than a delicious piece of sweetness purchased from the baked goods. As with the chili, bakers are needed to deliver the goods. If you would like to provide some goodies, there is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the church office or you can just let Sue Murvich know.

As for the free will offering (as well as the Bake Sale): all of the proceeds will be given to ongoing relief efforts in Lahaina, Maui. In addition, all money we raise at the cook-off will be matched up to \$1,000, so please be generous.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
37TH ANNUAL

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

OCTOBER 29, 2023 AT 10 A.M.



Join us for this free, unique, Scottish-themed family service led by an authentic bag piper! Everyone is welcome in Christ's name to join in this celebration including a display of beautiful tartans, Scottish dancers, traditional treats and even a few kilts!

PINK & PEARLS

October 21, 2023

Noon-3:00 p.m.

This is a Cancer Awareness Luncheon of Hope Fundraiser. hosted by Pastor Loretta J. Hazely, Survivor with guest speaker, Marie McDade, Survivor, PhD., MS, PMHNP, RN., and musical selections by Price Smith. The event will have words of encouragement, fellowship, raffle tickets/prizes and all proceeds will go to their Awareness Ministry to assist any person experiencing the need through their journey battling against cancer.

Pastor Roxie is sponsoring a table, up to 8 seats, for this event. Please sign up at the church office if you would like to attend. The event is located at NLN Fellowship Hall, 2070 Allen Road, Kimball, MI. For more information, there are flyers located on the table in the gathering room.

PEACE BE WITH US

November 19, 2023

On Sunday, November 19th, the Mission Committee will be collecting the annual **Peace and Global Witness Special Offering**. Sponsored by the National Presbyterian Mission Agency, this offering focuses on supporting peacemaking and reconciliation efforts in our community as well as nationally. It strives to actively share God's presence of peace by seeking the solutions that make peace possible, as well as allowing us to help more people experience the freedom and dignity that Christ wants for everyone. Of the money collected, 25% remains with us. Last year, our portion was given to Zion Cathedral of Praise Church on the city's south side to help rebuild its church building after it was destroyed in a devastating fire. Of the remaining 75% that is given, a portion goes to the Detroit Presbytery while the remainder goes to support global efforts through the national Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

BLUE WATER

FEED THE WORLD DAY

Saturday, November 18, 2023

9:00-11:00 a.m. and 11:00-1:00 p.m.



Serve together and help pack 100,000 meals! Held at Colonial Woods Missionary Church on Saturday, November 18th, you can assist packing meals to help feed the future of a global society. You can either volunteer or donate. For more information about this event, please look at the flyer located on the table in the Gathering Room or go to KCAH.info



STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Team values everyone's prayerful consideration of their commitment pledge for our church in 2024. As you read this, the cards are being collected and we are planning a wonderful church family gathering with dinner on October 1st, immediately after church to celebrate everyone's generosity as we highlight the future plans of the Deacons, Session and all committees. We are looking for all cards returned by October 8th, Dedication Sunday. Contact one of us or the office if you have any questions or need another card.

-Marilyn Dunn, Linda Hall
and Peggy Ruthven

DONATIONS

The Deacons are collecting the following supplies for the local schools:



Clorox wipes
Kleenex tissues
Cereal snacks



Girls leggings sizes 5-10
Boys winter coats

Donations may be placed in the bins in the entryway.

► MARKETING/MEDIA POSITION ◀

Welcome Laura Gaffney and Paige Cronce as our New Marketing/Media Coordinators. If you have any ideas, questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to talk to Laura, Administrative Assistant or Paige, Church Member.

LOOKING AHEAD...

ANGEL TREE

Be on the lookout for more information about Angel Tree beginning in the end of November. There may be some changes to the recipients of the donations. If you have any questions please contact Deacon Moderator, Carolyn Ahlquist at (810) 841-5541.

POINSETTIAS

This Christmas season there will be an opportunity to order poinsettias for the church sanctuary. Please keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for more information.



Happy Birthday!

October

Annie Carolan	10/01
Andrea Mills	10/02
Mary Jo Heck	10/04
Troy Peyerk	10/08
Robert Weston	10/10
Jill Emery	10/11
Marshall Kamer	10/11
Steven Ahlquist	10/14
Sheri Kaiser	10/16
Linda Tift	10/17
Lisa Matthews	10/18
Jenifer Rise	10/21
Jill Secory	10/21
Jerrydeanna Pretty	10/23
Chris Nurnberg	10/24
Judaline Darczy	10/25
Brendan Tinsley	10/25
Conner Tinsley	10/25
Jennifer Lee	10/27
Elizabeth Lozen	10/28
Kaylee Watson	10/30
Jane Schuster	10/31

November

Jonathan Nurnberg	11/03
Richard Tinsley Jr.	11/05
Barry Meier	11/06
Tamara Andreoni	11/10
Helen Ingram	11/12
Skye Owen	11/14
Mila Peyerk	11/15
Andrew Rosales	11/16
Dorothy Morehead	11/20
Joan Vandawaker	11/22
Thomas Deaner	11/23
Pastor Roxie Davis	11/23
Darcy Roe	11/24
Vivian West	11/24

Happy Anniversary!

October

Richard and Melody Rinn	10/15
Christopher and Megan Chrzanowski	10/15
Robert and Tami Cronce	10/19
David and Barbara Wright	10/21
Allan and Tamara Andreoni	10/24

November

Alan and Sara Liter Kuester 11/16



COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays

Sanctuary Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship time immediately following worship.

**First Sunday of Each Month:
Birthday/Anniversary Celebrations
during Fellowship time.**

**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

roxieannndavis@hotmail.com



Christian Education Director

portpresby.ce@gmail.com



Paige Cronce/Laura Gaffney

Social Media/Marketing Tech

portpresby.social@gmail.com



Kristie Lamb

Financial Secretary

fpcbookkeeping811@gmail.com

(Tuesday 9am-2pm)



Gary Rhody

Organist

1st Sunday of every month



Elizabeth Roe

Pianist, all other Sundays



Laura Gaffney

Office Administrator

portpresby@gmail.com

(M-TH: 9am-2pm)



Bill Briscoe

Custodian/Maintenance Director

(Contact for appointments)



Elizabeth Block

Nursery Attendant

September-May;

Sundays 9:30-11:30 a.m.



Amy Block, Nursery Assistant