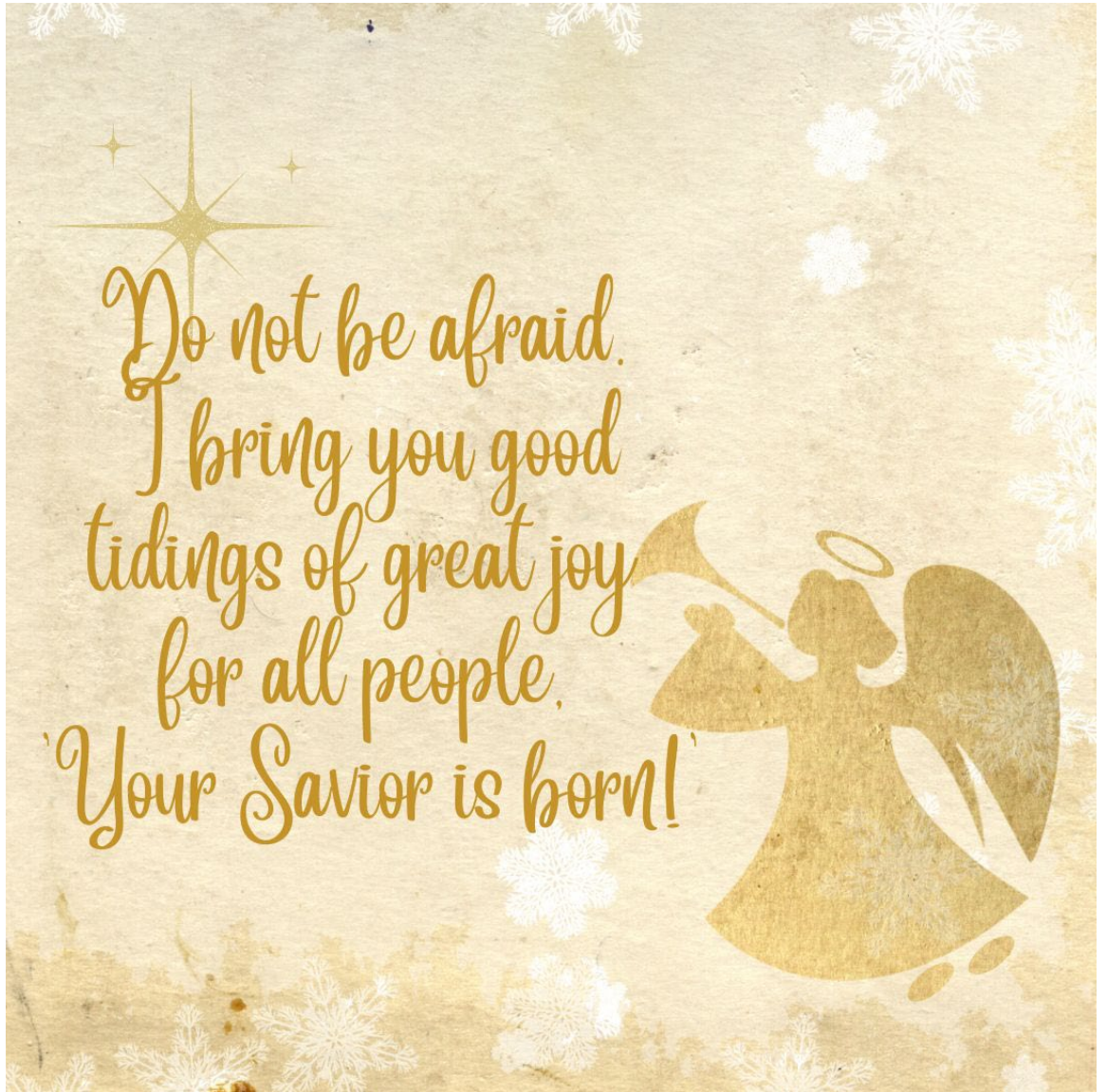


**WELCOME TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF PORT HURON**



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 2023 – 10:00 AM
PASTOR ROXIE DAVIS

~Let Us Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship~

Preaching Series: The Road to Bethlehem

PROCESSIONAL AND PRELUDE

Pianist Elizabeth Roe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Roxie Davis

Please remember to sign the Friendship Register, pass it to others in your pew, and greet each other after worship. A special welcome to all our guests: please give us your preferred contact information so we stay in touch with you, and let you know what other events and ministries are going on through this church family. We are glad that all of you, new visitor or long-time attender, are here to worship God.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

Liturgist Steve Ahlquist

We gather today to worship the One who created us.

We worship the One who calls us by name.

We worship the One who loves us without end.

We worship the One who brings us great joy.

With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE (Responsively)

The Extended Family of Sue Brackenbury

Reader: During this Advent Season, we light four candles, three purple candles and one rose colored candle, for each Sunday before Christmas. On Christmas Eve, we light the white Christ candle.

Two Sundays ago, we lit the candle of Hope.

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Peace.

Today we light the rose-colored candle: the candle of Joy.

Congregation: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad. The desert shall rejoice and blossom. Like the cactus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing... Here is your God...He will come and save you.” (Isaiah 35:1,2,4)

Reader: As we light the third candle, we remember that the coming of Christ brings us joy.

Reader: Let us pray.

Emmanuel, God with us, You are the Joy that gives us strength. May your joy spread throughout the land and sink deep within our hearts. Amen.

Sung Response: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (#9, Verse 3)

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

***CHRISTMAS CAROL “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #31**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist Steve

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Liturgist Steve

Loving Father, during this time of the year, we get rattled. We often become anxious; short tempered with each other. We get stressed about how we will celebrate Christmas; how we will get everything done. We have high human expectations of this Christmas season. Lord God, revise our focus. Help us to en“Joy” Your Son’s birth. Open our ears to hear the words of the Angels: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good tidings of great joy for all people, ‘Your Savior is born.’

(A moment of silent prayer to confess our own personal sins) Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (Responsively)

Liturgist Steve

None of us are too far gone, not to be granted God's forgiveness.

God loves all of us.

God forgives all of us.

God grants us His hope, peace and joy, through His forgiveness.

Believe the Good News: through Jesus Christ,
we are loved and we are forgiven all our sins.

Thanks be to God.

***SUNG RESPONSE "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (Verse 3) #28**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, with heart and soul and voice,

**Now we need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls
you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to
save! Christ was born to save!**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

"ANGELS AMONG US"

SCRIPTURE USED WITHIN THE CHRISTMAS PLAY

Luke 1: 26-31 Matthew 1: 20-21 Luke 2: 3-16

SPECIAL MUSIC WITHIN THE CHRISTMAS PLAY

"Hallelujah"

"Let's Go, Let's Go"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (FOR ADULTS ALSO!)

Pastor Roxie

PRAYERS OF THE CHILDREN

Pastor Roxie

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS CAROL “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” #22

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS Liturgist Steve

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER Liturgist Steve

***CHRISTMAS CAROL “Angels We Have Heard on High” #23**

***BENEDICTION (In Unison)** Pastor Roxie

May the power of Jesus Christ give us HOPE.

May the love of God the Father give us PEACE.

May the presence of the Holy Spirit give us JOY.

May we endeavor to listen to the “Angels Among Us.”

POSTLUDE

†††

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH FRIENDSHIP: Please sign the Friendship Register. Make sure others around you have a chance to sign it, also. **We welcome all of you**

to the worship of God, especially those who are visitors. We welcome you as part of our church family; please give us your e-mail or phone number so we can make you aware of other events happening in the church. The Friendship Sheets go in the Offering Plates.

THANK YOU for sharing your gifts with us! Our liturgist today is Steve Ahlquist. The greeter today is Mark Schian. The coffee hour hosts are Helen Weston and Robin Ferguson. The Sanctuary Flowers are provided by Betty and Judith McLean in memory of Kevin McLean.

PNC PRAYER TIME: Prayer is critical as Churches and Pastors discern what is in their future. Please pray each day for insight and energy for the PNC: Steve Ahlquist, Rick Cameron, Jennie Carolan, Jacquie Green, Linda Hall, Judith McLean.

SANCTURARY FLOWERS/COFFEE HOUR HOST: There are available dates in the months of December and January. Please sign-up in the book located on the office counter.

MEMORY CHRISTMAS TREE: Place an ornament on the Blue Christmas tree in the Gathering room in memory of a loved one or just something close to your heart that you are missing this year during the holidays.

POINSETTIAS: Thank you to those who have placed orders to fill our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias this Advent season. Please pick up your poinsettia from the sanctuary after worship, 10 AM or 5 PM, on Christmas Eve- depending on which service you attend.

G.I.F.T. AND MOUNTAIN MOVERS: There will not be G.I.F.T. and Mountain Movers today due to the Children's Christmas Play.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE THIS SEASON:

- *Christmas Ornament Sale:* 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 and please indicate "Paper Ornament Sale" in the memo line.
- *Food Depot:* Please remember those who are suffering from food insecurities by donating non-perishable food to the Bluewater

Community Food Depot. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Please indicate "Food Depot" in memo line if donating by check.

- *Feminine Hygiene Products*: Females in our area need our help to supply feminine hygiene products which they have difficulty providing for themselves. To help these girls and women we would like to ask you to bring one or more boxes of feminine products to donate during the month of December. There will be a box located in the entry way where you may place your donations. The products will be placed in the Angel Tree Baskets and others will go to service agencies for girls and women in the area. If you have any questions, please contact Jacquie Green @ 810-434-1748 or Linda Hall @ 810-357-1226. Thank you for your support.

OFFICE HOURS CHANGED: Please note that the office hours for the week following Christmas are changed. *The office will be closed Christmas Day, December 25th. The office hours December 26th-December 28th will be from 9-12 PM.*

"PRAYING FOR OUR SCHOOLS" SIGNS: Please pick up a yard sign from the office vestibule. Our schools really need our prayers and others in our neighborhoods need to be encouraged to pray for our schools also. Pick up a sign today.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- FINANCIAL COUNTERS: The finance team is looking for one to two church members willing to come count the weekly offerings on Monday mornings with a partner. Please let the church know if you are interested by email portpresby@gmail.com or phone.

LARGE PRINT HYMNS AND BULLETINS: Large print hymnals and bulletins are available for use during the worship service. Please let the ushers know if you would like one for the service.

PRINTED SERMONS: Pastor Roxie's printed sermons are available on the table near the church office desk.

FUTURE EVENTS

STITCH AND CHAT: Stitch and Chat will not meet again until January due to the holidays.

ADULT CLASS “NOOMA”: Join the viewing and discussion of the video series “NOOMA” by Rob Bell. Come watch episode 7 in the Parlor on **Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00 PM**

ADULT CLASS “THE BACKSTORY”: 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays- This **Thursday, December 21st, will be a special class.** We will have an opportunity to review all the Christmas scriptures so that when the Day of Christmas comes, we will rejoice in knowing the Backstory of the Christmas Event.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY EVENT: On **Saturday, December 23rd, from 6-9 PM** there will be a Christmas Sing Along/Raffle/Bagpipes/Jazz/Brass Quintet and more. This is at Lynch’s Irish Tavern, organized by our own Price Smith, who will soon be our musician at the Contemporary Worship, starting in February. The tickets cost \$10.00. Sign up at the office asap, and go with Pastor Roxie and others. We have purchased 20 tickets, hoping for a crowd from this church to support the efforts of Price to bring the community together.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday this year. We will have our regular **Traditional Worship at 10 AM** with the Bell Choir playing. *There will be no GIFT or Mountain Mover Classes during the 10 AM worship.*

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE: The Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service will be at **5 PM on December 24th** with the reading of the Scriptures and a short message. Families are encouraged to attend this worship (children have their own special candles). The children will dress in costumes and portray the Christmas Story as it is read.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER: Pastor Roxie would like to extend an invitation to anyone (single, couple, whomever) who would like to join them for

Christmas Day Dinner. Come any time after 4:00 PM, we will eat at 5:00 PM. Bring a dish to pass! Please let Pastor Roxie know your intentions.

TRAINING NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS: Pastor Roxie will hold a training for all new Elders and Deacons, who were elected during the Congregational Election Meeting. If you did not come to the training last Monday evening, please plan to come on **Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM** for the training session. You will attend the Session meeting, at 7:00 PM, following the training on the same day, to be approved as new Deacons and Elders.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Mon./12-18:	Financial Counters	9:00 a.m.
	Deacons	4:00 p.m.
Tues./12-19:	Worship and Music	1:00 p.m.
Wed./12-20:	Adult Class: NOOMA	7:00 p.m.
Thurs./12-21:	SPECIAL*Adult Class: The Backstory	10:00 a.m.
Sat./12-23:	Christmas Family Event at Lynch's	6:00 p.m.
Sun./12-24:	Traditional Worship	10:00 a.m.
	Candlelight Service	5:00 p.m.

**Families with children: Please be advised that our worship service, including the Children's Message, is streamed live online. If you would not like your child's face in view, please sit with your child in the Parlor where the service is played on the TV.*

First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron
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(810) 985-6191 / portpresby@gmail.com
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Facebook: @FirstPresbyterianChurchPortHuron
YouTube: 1st Presbyterian Church Port Huron
Website: fpcporthuron.org
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Roxie Davis
Financial Secretary: Kristie Lamb
Administrative Assistant: Laura Gaffney
Media/Marketing: Paige Cronce
and Laura Gaffney
Custodian/Maintenance: Bill Briscoe
Nursery Attendant: Elizabeth Block
Nursery Assistant: Amy Block
Organist: Gary Rhody
Pianist: Elizabeth Roe

***Our mission is know the Love of God,
grow in the Christian faith,
and go share our faith in Jesus Christ.***