

WELCOME TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF PORT HURON



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 3, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.  
PASTOR ROXIE DAVIS

*~Let Us Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship~*  
**The Christmas Preaching Series: “The Road to Bethlehem”**

**PROCESSIONAL**

**“Largo in G”**

**Handel**

**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 throughout this church family. We are glad that all of you, new visitor or long-time attender, are here to worship God.**

**PRELUDE**

**“We Gather Together”**

The Bell Choir

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)**

Liturgist Bruce Morrison

Can you hear it? Can you feel it? Christ is coming!

**We place our hope in the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace.**

Come, friends, the season of Advent begins.

**We gather to worship Emmanuel, God-With-Us.**

**THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE (Responsively)**

The Vandawaker Family

Reader: During this Advent Season, we light four candles:

three purple candles and one rose colored candle, for each Sunday before Christmas.

Reader: On Christmas Eve Night, we light the white Christ candle. Christ is the true light coming into the world.

Reader: Today we light the candle of Hope. We light the first candle of Advent to remember that the coming of Christ gives us Hope.

**Congregation: “Since before time began, no one has ever imagined; no ear has ever heard, no eye has ever seen, a God like Almighty God, who works for those who wait for Him.” (Isaiah 64:4)**

Reader: Let us pray: Emmanuel, God with us, You are the Hope of the world. May You plant hope in our hearts. Amen.

**Sung Response: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” #9**  
**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** Liturgist Bruce  
**“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” #2**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** Liturgist Bruce

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)** Liturgist Bruce  
**Lord, we confess that in this season, many voices claim our attention, our time, and our dollars. We forget that Your One Voice claims our whole being, body, mind and soul. In humility we confess that You may find us more exhausted than filled with joy; more irritated than brimming with hope; more fatigued than full of compassion. Lord, help us to be attentive to Your voice that speaks to us in love and in forgiveness. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Liturgist Bruce

It says in Scripture, when the Savior comes:

**“Every valley is lifted up; every mountain made low.**

The glory of the Lord will be revealed.

**The mouth of the Lord will speak of the salvation of the world.”**

May we know, without a doubt, that our salvation comes through Jesus Christ.

**May we know, without a doubt, that through Jesus Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

## **\*SUNG RESPONSE**

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Amen. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Pastor Roxie

## **SCRIPTURE**

**Old Testament      Jeremiah 33: 14-16**

Liturgist Bruce

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Pastor Roxie

**SERMON      “The Trek to Bethlehem—the Wisemen”**

Pastor Roxie

**HYMN      “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (Verse 1)**

**#8**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

- The Invitation
- The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving responsively.  
The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

- (Prayer of Thanksgiving....)  
And so we lift our voices in joyful praise with the choirs of angels who forever sing to the glory of your name:
- **(Sung #8, Verse 2) Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple, set apart From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.**
- Communion
  - Sharing of Bread
  - Sharing of the Cup
- Prayers of the People after Communion Together  
**Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring Your comfort and peace to those around us...**

## **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.**

## **WORDS FOR THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Liturgist Bruce

## **GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**"Communion Hymn"**

**Picardy**

**\*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.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (Verse 3) #8**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor Roxie

**POSTLUDE**

**“O Come, O Come”**

**Neale**

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**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 Bruce Morrison. The greeter today is Mark Schian. Coffee Hour Host is the Carolyn Ahlquist. Sanctuary flowers are provided by Jacquie Green for the Glory of God.

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.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARIES: Please join us to celebrate those who have a December birthday and/or anniversary during Fellowship Time!

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BAGS: Please stop by the G.I.F.T. room and have your children pick up their activity bags on their hooks for use during

service. Activity bags are available for visiting children- they are located in the basket on the front pew. The children's bulletins are located on the front pew. Feel free to take the children's bulletins home each week.

G.I.F.T. (age 3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade): Please meet us in the Christian Education wing for fun, faith, and friends following the Children's Message.

Mountain Movers (4<sup>th</sup> grade-8<sup>th</sup> grade): Mountain Mover students will remain in worship **TODAY**. There is a worksheet for them to fill out, and they are encouraged to leave their worksheets with Pastor Roxie.

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 13th, 2023 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. Gifts will be delivered on Sunday, December 17, 2023. 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.

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.

“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.

ADULT CHOIR: The spontaneous Adult Choir will sing on December 10<sup>th</sup> during worship. Any adult is welcome to join the spontaneous Adult Choir. Rehearsal will be on **TODAY at 11:10 a.m.**, and **December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.** in the Sanctuary.

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**

MOVIE EVENT: The Membership and Outreach Committee is renting a theater at Sperry’s **TODAY at 12:30 p.m.** – The movie is a musical, called “Journey to Bethlehem” (rated PG) and it is about Joseph, Mary, and the birth of Jesus. The **movie starts at 12:30 p.m.; previews begin at 12:15 p.m.** There are 40 seats available. Tickets will be \$8.50 per person.

STITCH AND CHAT: A group of women meet each **Wednesday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to Stitch and Chat.** Are you a stitcher or a chatter? Whichever—come! Bring your latest project or just come and chat!

ADULT CLASS “NOOMA”: Join the viewing and discussion of the video series “NOOMA” by Rob Bell. Come watch episode 5 in the Parlor on **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.** (NOOMA means “spirit” in Greek.)

ADULT CLASS “THE BACKSTORY”: There will be NO “Backstory Class” on December 7, 2023 because there is a Finance Committee Meeting.

OLDE TOWN ADVENT LUNCHEONS: You’re invited to St. John’s Church (corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Pine) for Advent Luncheons on **Thursdays, December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.** There is a freewill offering for the local Soup



Kitchen. The theme of the luncheons is “Welcome Jesus, Prince of Peace.” Pastor Roxie will be speaking on December 14th and we will be providing lunch, courtesy of Rob Williams.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PLAY AND REHEARSALS: The Children will be presenting “Angels Among Us” on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** during the worship service. Rehearsals will be **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> after worship at 11:15 a.m., Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11 a.m. and Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.**

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday this year. We will have our regular **Traditional Worship at 10:00 a.m.** with the Bell Choir playing. There will be no GIFT or Mountain Mover Classes during the 10:00 worship.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE: The Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service will be at **5:00 p.m. on December 24<sup>th</sup>** 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.

WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Mon./12-4:	Financial Counters	9:00 a.m.
Tues./12-5:	Properties Committee	4:00 p.m.
	Membership and Outreach	7:00 p.m.
Wed./12-6:	Stitch and Chat	10:00 a.m.
	Adult Class: NOOMA	7:00 p.m.
Thurs./12-7:	No Adult Class: The Backstory	
	Finance Committee Meeting	10:00 a.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: @FirstPresbyterianChurchPort Huron  
YouTube: 1st Presbyterian Church Port Huron  
Website: fpcporthuron.org  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Roxie Davis  
Financial Secretary: Kristie Lamb  
Administrative Assistant: 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.***



First Presbyterian Church  
of Port Huron invites you for

# Christmas

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## DECEMBER 10TH

- 10 AM Adult Choir sings during Worship Service

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## DECEMBER 17TH

- 10 AM Children's Advent/Christmas Play during Worship Service - "Angels Among Us"

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## DECEMBER 24TH

- 10 AM Worship Service, Bell Choir plays
  - 5 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service- The children, in costume, portray the Christmas Story during the service.
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Olde Town  
Churches  
Thursday Advent  
Luncheons

**Join us for fellowship, food and a message. A freewill offering will be taken to support the Food Pantries of St. John's UCC and Grace Episcopal Churches.**

- November 30th •
- December 7th •
- December 14th •

**12-1 PM**

**St. Johns United Church of Christ  
710 Pine Street  
Port Huron, MI**