

WELCOME TO THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF PORT HURON



UNTO US
a child is born

ISAIAH 9:6

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.
PASTOR ROXIE DAVIS

~Let Us Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship~

The Road to Bethlehem

PROCESSIONAL/PRELUDE

“O Holy Night”

Adam

(During this time, please take time, to prepare your heart and mind for God’s presence in worship)

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

Pastor Roxie Davis

Please remember to sign the Friendship Register so we know you are here. Please pass it to others in your pew and greet each other after worship. Giving us your contact information is very helpful so we can stay in touch with you, especially if you are a visitor and this is your first time worshipping with us. Welcome to all of you, if you are new, or have been here several times before. We are glad you have chosen to worship God this morning.

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Kamer Extended Family

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

Reader:

Four Sundays ago, we lit the candle of Hope.

Three Sundays ago, we lit the candle of Peace.

Two Sundays ago, we lit the rose-colored candle: the candle of Joy.

In this morning’s worship, we lit the candle of Love.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"The Characters in the Christmas Story" Pastor Roxie

(Dismissal of children to get costumes on in the lower level. Invitation for **ALL** children who are attending worship tonight, to be a part of the telling of the Christmas story.)

SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9: 2, 6 Liturgist Barry

CAROL "What Child Is This?" (Verse 1) #53

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

New Testament Luke 1: 26-35 Pastor Roxie

SPECIAL MUSIC "Mary, Did You Know?" Soloist, Sid LaFrance

"THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST"

Liturgist Barry Meier and Pastor Roxie as Narrators

The Children as People and Animals at the Birth of Jesus

The play is presented with the help of the Christian Education Team

MARY AND JOSEPH

CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Verses 1 and 2) #44

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.

**Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

THE ANIMALS IN THE STABLE

CAROL: "Away In a Manger" (Verses 1 and 2) #25
**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

SHEPHERDS AND HEAD ANGEL

CAROL: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" (Verses 1 and 2) #59
**While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the
ground, The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and
glory shone around.
"Fear not", said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind, to you and
humankind."**

THE WISEMEN

CAROL:“We Three Kings of Orient Are” (Verse 1) **#66**
We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

CHORUS REFRAIN OF WE THREE KINGS

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Roxie

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER (Responsively)

Pastor Roxie

Loving Lord, help us remember the birth of Jesus every day.

**May we share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wisemen.**

Help us give the best gifts ever:

The gift of listening to others and showing kindness.

Help us to give the gift of remembering others:

In our visits, in our forgiveness and in our prayers for others.

Oh, Loving Lord, deliver us from the darkness in our lives
and in this world.

Bless us with Christ’s light to lead us and lead others to You.

Teach us to be merry with Your peace and happy with Your hope.

May our Christmas morning make us joyful to be Your children.

May tonight, bring us to our beds, knowing You love us;

Knowing You forgive us, through our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Now let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught 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.

GIVING OF OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD, THANKFUL FOR CHRIST'S BIRTH

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Willis

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! With heart and soul, and voice.

Now ye 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!

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Liturgist Barry

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Holy Night"

Soloist Cathy Rose

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES—TO LIGHT OUR WORLD

Pastor Roxie will light her candle off the Christ candle. Then she will light the candle of two worship assistants; then the candles of each person sitting closest to the aisle will be lit. The person with the lit candle, holds their candle straight up while the person with the unlit candle tips their candle towards the lit candle. All children have battery operated candles.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- FINANCIAL COUNTERS: The finance team is looking for one or 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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE THIS SEASON:

- *Christmas Joy Offering:* The Christmas Joy Offering is a special offering that provides assistance to past, present and future church workers/leaders and their families, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
- *Christmas Ornament Sale:* The Christmas Ornament sale table is set-up in the Gathering Room. 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.
- *Stewardship:* Thank you to those who have made a pledge for 2024 or give on a regular basis to the ministry of this church. If you would like the opportunity to give, there are pledge cards on the office counter.

THANK YOU: The Deacons would like to thank the congregation for the angel tree donations. We served 6 families and 24 children with gifts and food baskets.

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.

“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.

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

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 **TOMORROW**. 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.

LESSONS AND CAROLS: Next **Sunday, December 31st at 10 AM** we will hear the Christmas Scriptures, and sing our favorite Christmas Carols with the historical story of the carol. Multiple people will be leading the service.

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 in the Parlor on **Wednesday, December 27th at 7:00 PM**. There will not be Nooma Adult Class on January 3rd or 10th due to Pastor Roxie time off to see her family.

ADULT CLASS "THE BACKSTORY": This class will resume meeting on January 18, 2024 due to Pastor Roxie's time off to see her family. Please join us upon her return.

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./12-25: Merry Christmas! Office is closed.

Wed./12-27: Adult Class: NOOMA 7:00 p.m.

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.*

**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

811 Wall St. – Port Huron, MI 48060

(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

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.***