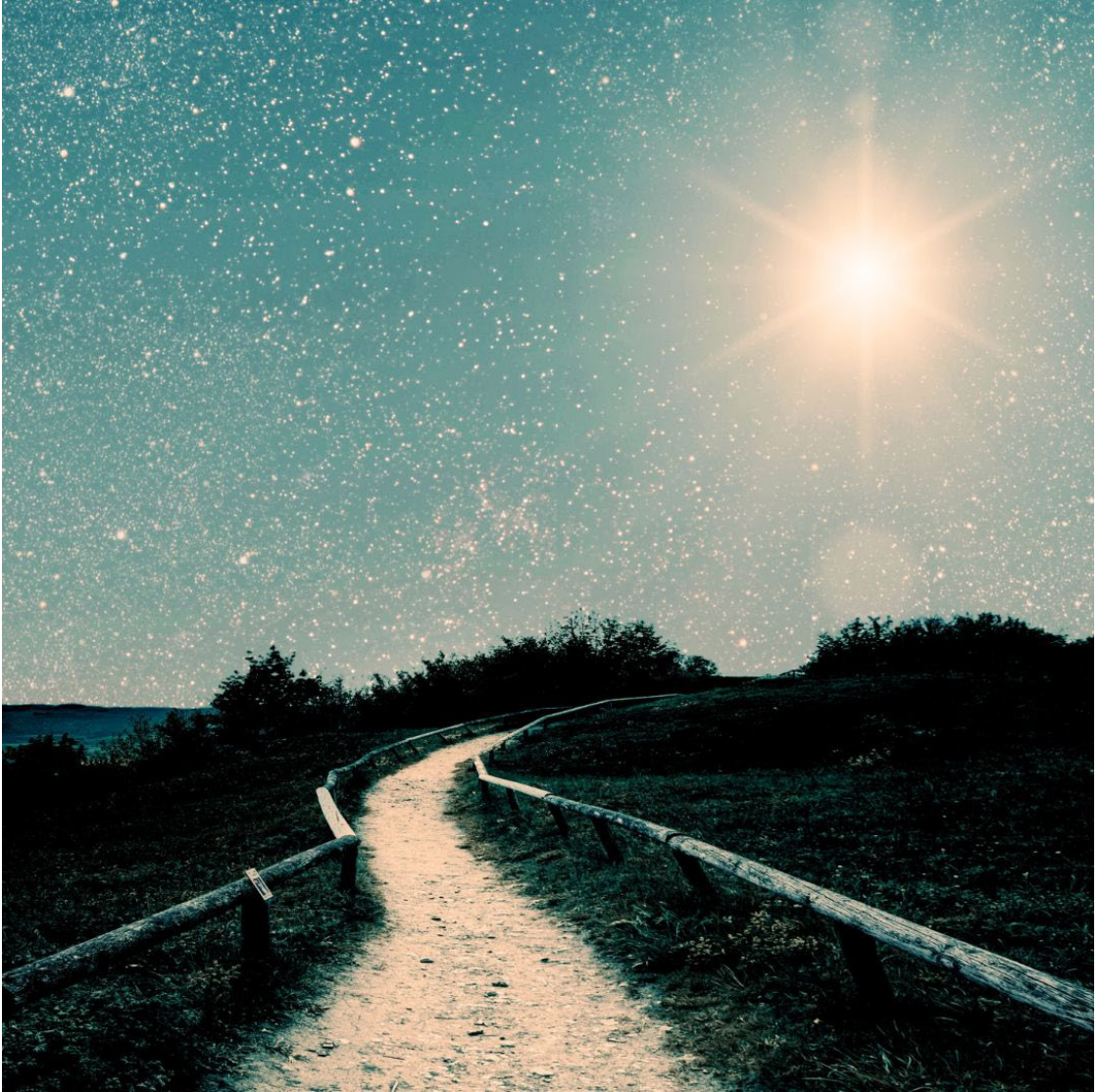


WELCOME TO THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF PORT HURON



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.
PASTOR ROXIE DAVIS

~Let Us Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship~

PREACHING SERIES: ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

PROCESSIONAL

Pianist Elizabeth Roe

(During the Processional, please quietly take time, to prepare your heart and mind for God's presence in worship)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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.

PRELUDE

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

The Bell Choir

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

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

Three Sundays ago, we lit the candle of Hope.

Two Sundays ago, we lit the candle of Peace.

Last Sunday, we lit the rose-colored candle: the candle of Joy.

Congregation: "God so loved the world that God sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Reader: Today we light the candle of Love. We remember that God loves us and there is nothing we can do about it. God's love in Jesus Christ comes to us as a gift.

Reader: Let us pray. Jesus Christ, You are the Love of our life. May You constantly remind us of Your love. May our hearts be filled with Your love as we walk toward Bethlehem this week. Amen.

Sung Response: "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 the 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 wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to
God the King and peace to all on earth.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)** Liturgist Sid LaFrance
During Advent, we anxiously await the celebration of Jesus.
God's promise to be fulfilled in the person of Jesus.
We wait to see His star.
It reveals anew Jesus' arrival into our hearts.
We trust the well-loved story.
Emmanuel, God is really with us.

***OPENING HYMN "The First Nowell" (Verses 1, 2, and 6) #56**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist Sid

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Liturgist Sid

Shepherd of our souls, we look forward to Your coming. But we do not feel ready. We have done too much, and not done enough. We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on You and others. Restore us, O God. Let Your face shine upon us, so that we might be forgiven the wrongs we have done. Help us to be prepared in our souls to celebrate You at Christmas.

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

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (Responsively)

Liturgist Sid

Emmanuel did not come into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world.

God does not come to scold us, but to save us.

God comes to set us free.

Because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we are loved and we are forgiven all our sins.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SUNG 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!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Still, Still, Still”

The Bell Choir

SCRIPTURES

**Gospel Readings
MARY AND THE ANGEL**

Luke 1:26-28

Pastor Roxie, Liturgist Sid

THE MAGNIFICAT (MARY'S SONG OF PRAISE)

Luke 1:46-55 (Responsively) Congregation, Liturgist Sid, Pastor Roxie

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,"⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **For he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.**

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name;

⁵⁰ **Indeed, God's mercy is for those who fear Him, from generation to generation.**

⁵¹ God has shown strength with his arm;

God has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² **God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;**

⁵³ God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ **God has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,**⁵⁵ according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to His descendants forever."

JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

Matthew 1: 18-25

Liturgist Sid and Pastor Roxie

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Roxie

SERMON Journey to Bethlehem—Mary and Joseph

HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

#25

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Music

Liturgist Sid
Pianist Elizabeth

***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 Sid

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Pastor Roxie

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Joy to the World!”

#40

***BENEDICTION (In Unison)**

Pastor Roxie

“For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulders and He will be called: Wonderful Counselor; Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

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 Sid LaFrance. The greeter today is Mark Schian. The coffee hour host is Anne Wilton.

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.

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, January, and February. Please sign-up in the book located on the office counter.

G.I.F.T. AND MOUNTAIN MOVERS: There will not be G.I.F.T. and Mountain Movers today.

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

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE: The Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service will be at **5 PM TONIGHT** 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 **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 episode 8 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

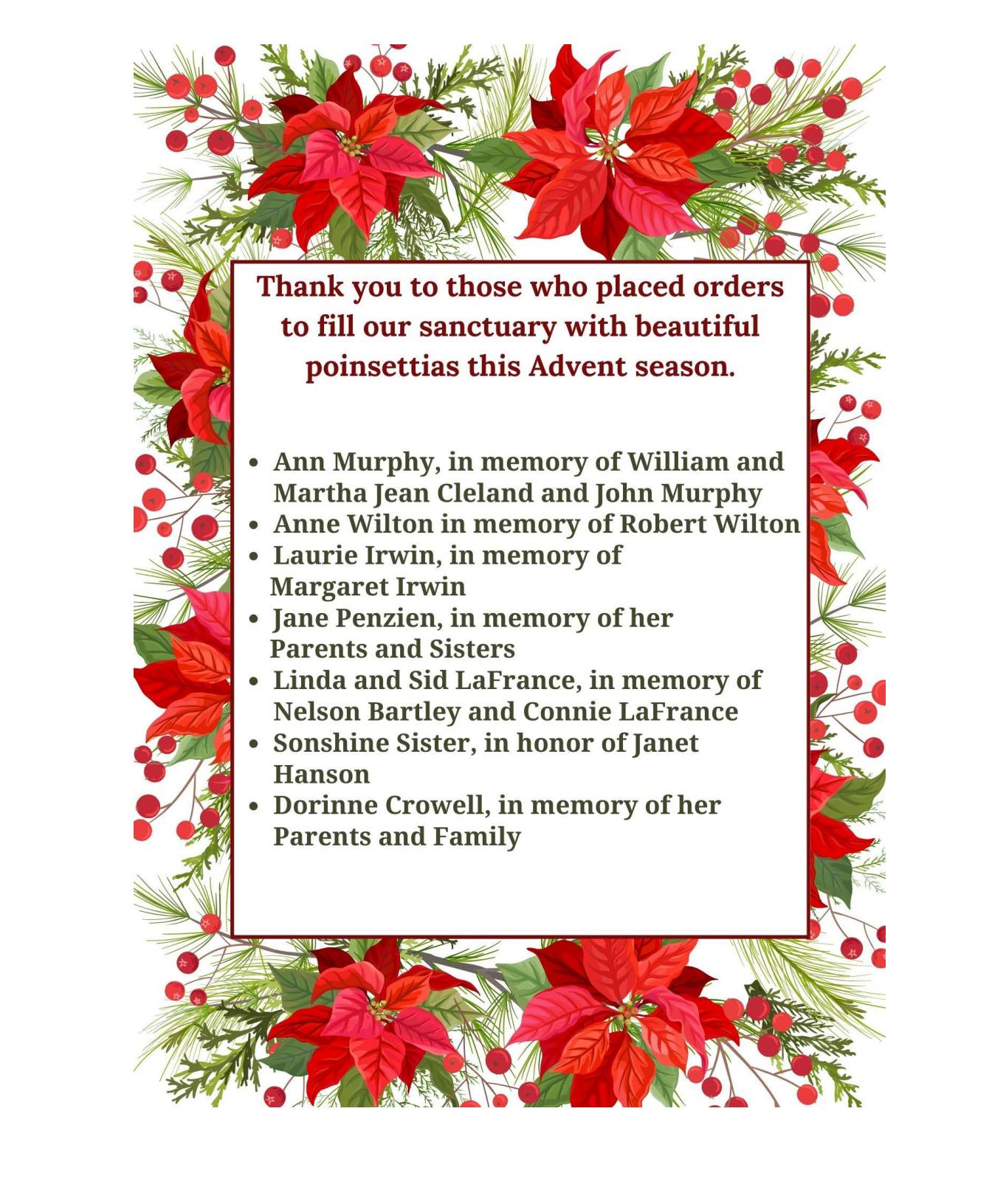
Nursery Attendant: Elizabeth Block

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.***



**Thank you to those who placed orders
to fill our sanctuary with beautiful
poinsettias this Advent season.**

- **Ann Murphy, in memory of William and Martha Jean Cleland and John Murphy**
- **Anne Wilton in memory of Robert Wilton**
- **Laurie Irwin, in memory of Margaret Irwin**
- **Jane Penzien, in memory of her Parents and Sisters**
- **Linda and Sid LaFrance, in memory of Nelson Bartley and Connie LaFrance**
- **Sonshine Sister, in honor of Janet Hanson**
- **Dorinne Crowell, in memory of her Parents and Family**

Contemporary Worship Service

NEW WORSHIP SERVICE
STARTING FEBRUARY 4, 2024
AT 8:30 AM

Please join us for the new casual contemporary worship service held at First Presbyterian Church in the Community Activity Room. The services will be about 45 minutes long and include relevant messages and contemporary worship music played by Price Smith.

There will continue to be Tradition Worship Service at 10 AM on Sundays.

811 Wall Street, Port Huron
fpcporthuron.org (810) 985-6191