

December 2024/January 2025

THE CHALLENGE

The Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron

811 Wall Street, Port Huron, MI 48060 - (810) 985-6191

PASTOR POINT

As I sit in my church office pondering the last four months since beginning as pastor of First Presbyterian, I'm reflecting on all that has passed in this short period of time. Beach preaching beside Lake Huron. Vacation Bible Camp. Singing Camp Sunday songs along with Price and Steve before eating a feast at our annual Picnic in the Park. Experiencing history and heritage in the annual Kirkin' of the Tartans worship service. Celebrating years of service with the Gary Rhody recognition. Bible studies and Sunday School. Walking alongside each other in life and death. Each moment has been a gift from God as I get to know you as a congregation and as individuals. It is a great gift to serve you.

Looking ahead to the next four months, I have hope and excitement. Finalizing my call to you with the Presbytery of Detroit Installation Service as your Minister of Word and Sacrament. Seeing our beautiful sanctuary decorated again, this time for the Advent and Christmas season. Hearing music and stories with the historic Dodson Saxworth Band Community Concert. Watching the story of Christmas through the eyes of our children and their annual Christmas play. And excitement for future worshiping, learning, serving, eating and laughing together as we support each other through the winter months. I anticipate the gift these future activities will be to us and those we ask to join along.

In this season of gift giving, I hope you also reflect upon the gifts that have already been given to you, especially the ultimate gift of God-with-Us, Jesus Christ. I love this quote from writer Ann Voskamp:

"God gives God. That is the gift God always ultimately gives. Because nothing is greater and we have no greater need, God gives God. God gives God, and we only need to slow long enough to unwrap the greatest Gift with our time: time in His Word, time in His presence, time at His feet." - The Greatest Gift

May every day, not just the Christmas season, bring reflection and gratitude for the gift of your life, our church, and the greatest gift whose arrival we again celebrate in the weeks ahead!
- Pastor Kathy

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Adult and Children Christian Education**
- **Stewardship Update**
- **Session Highlights**
- **Important Information**
- **Upcoming Events**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

A DEEPER DIVE INTO LUKE

**Adult Bible Study, Monday mornings at 10:30 a.m., Church Parlor
Taught by Reverend Tessin**

The Revised Common Lectionary for this coming church year will be covering the Gospel of Luke for most of the Gospel passages for worship and preaching. This class will slowly read through this gospel, taking a deep look at a set of verses or chapter each week and the historical, social, literary and theological themes that contribute to the unique perspectives of this book of the Bible. Will continue through the spring.

There will be no study on December 23rd and December 30th. Happy Holidays!

SARAH CIRCLE

**Presbyterian Woman's Bible Study, Second Wednesday of each month, 1:00 p.m.
Taught by Judith McLean**

Sarah Circle is currently studying "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care For Neighbors and All Creation." Women are welcome to join anytime.

DISCIPLESHIP ADULT STUDY

**Wednesday evenings, *NEW TIME* 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
Facilitated by Reverend Tessin and other group leaders**

There will be no study on December 25th and January 1st. Happy Holidays!

W.I.N! CLASS

(WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION FOR NEWCOMERS)

Taught by Reverend Tessin

Are you new to First Presbyterian Church, and new to worshiping in a Presbyterian Church (USA) environment? This is your opportunity to learn a little more about the "why" of how we worship, how we confess our faith, and how we covenant to live with each other as a PC(USA) congregation. This introductory course is for anyone - from those visiting us on occasion all the way to those members that want a refresher to better explain our beliefs and traditions to others.

LEARNING "THE STORY"

Second and Third Sundays, 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Taught by Beth Shoffner

This class is a supplement to Sunday School and an opportunity to learn all of the people and big events of the Bible - our story of faith! Anyone from ages 8 to 98 is invited to participate. Come hear, read, and explore with us the stories from Adam and Eve to Peter and Paul. Will continue through the Sunday School year.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

G.I.F.T. (Growing In Faith Together): 3 years to 3rd Grade

Mountain Movers: Grades 4th-8th

Children meet in the 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service. After the Children's Message, the children will go to their classrooms with their teachers.

GARY'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION



CHILI COOK-OFF & BAKE SALE



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!



KIRKIN OF THE TARTANS



SERVICE OF INSTALLATION FOR KATHY ANN TESSIN





STEWARDSHIP 2025: WRAP UP

As 2024 is drawing to a close, the stewardship committee is pleased to report that we have exceeded our goal for this year's campaign! Seventy-five pledges have been received as of 11/5/24, for a total of \$238,330. This is \$4000 over and above last year's total.

With this result, we have witnessed that a "Culture of Generosity" is alive and well in our congregation, and this is truly something to be celebrated! We look forward to the coming year with joy, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to God's work in this congregation and community. We sincerely thank all who contributed their time, financial commitments, and prayers in support of this year's campaign. If you still wish to submit a pledge, please do so as soon as possible so that accurate budgets can be set for next year.

Your stewardship committee,
Pastor Kathy Tessin
Linda Hall, Chairperson
Liz Lozen
Pat Schattler

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In case of inclement weather, Sunday morning worship will proceed. Updates will be provided on our Facebook page or by email. Please be safe and use your best judgement. If you cannot attend the service in person, tune-in for our live stream on our YouTube page! During weekdays, if Port Huron Area Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the office will be closed.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

December 23: Open 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

December 24: Open 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

December 25: Closed- Merry Christmas!

December 26: Closed- Merry Christmas!

January 1: Closed- Happy New Year!

January 2: Closed- Happy New Year!

CHURCH UPDATES AND INFORMATION

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Shelley Kamer, Clerk of Session

OCTOBER

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on October 14, 2024:

- Approved Endowment Funds to secure additional security equipment and the proposed Church Key Control Policy.
- Approved vacation time for Rev. Tessin on October 16, 17th, and November 27th.
- Approved collecting money for the PCUSA Peace and Global Witness offering, and the Christmas Joy offering.
- Approved a single 10:00 a. m. service on October 27th for the Kirking of the Tartans.
- Approved hosting a movie at Sperry's Moviehouse on November 10, 2024.

NOVEMBER

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on November 11, 2024:

- Approved holding a single service at 10:00 a. m. on December 22nd and 29th.
- Approved serving Communion on the December 24th Christmas Eve service.
- Approved Officer/Elder/Deacon training for Saturday, January 11th, and the Ordination/Installation Service on Sunday, January 12th during the 10:00 a. m. service.

ONLINE GIVING

Did you know you can now pledge online to First Presbyterian Church by using the safe and secure service from Tithe.ly? You can use your credit card or debit card. Your gift can be a one-time contribution, or a recurring monthly contribution. Check out the "Give" link on our website (fpcporthuron.org)!



POINSETTIAS

Thank you to those who provided beautiful poinsettias this advent season. Please pick up your poinsettias and take them home on Christmas Eve.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

FIRST LIGHT CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

First Light Contemporary Worship will be on **December 1st, 8th, and 15th**. Then, First Light will be on hiatus until the Spring of 2025. Please note, the Traditional Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. will continue.

UPCOMING EVENTS



BUNE FESTE (HAPPY HOLIDAYS)

Sunday, December 1, 2024

The church has been decked out in its holiday finery and it is time to take a deep breath, enjoy the sparkle and tantalize your taste buds with something Italian. To celebrate the beginning of Advent, the Membership and Outreach Committee will be hosting a special First Sunday of Advent Lunch immediately after the December 1st Traditional Worship service. In addition to our monthly Birthday and Anniversary cake, the committee will be hosting a Pasta Bar featuring a variety of Italian specialties including stuffed shells and pasta salad. It's the committee's way of saying "Buon Natale" (Merry Christmas)!



ANGEL TREE



Angels will be available in the fellowship hall after the service beginning on Sunday, November 24 until the angels are gone. Each child will have 5 angels this year - 2 red for clothes, 2 green for toys and 1 blue for coat/hat/gloves. We ask that you please do not spend more than \$25 per angel if possible.

Wrapped gifts, with the angels attached, are due back on December 15th with delivery or pickup on December 22nd. If you prefer not to shop, but would still like to contribute, cash donations will be accepted for food items and cleaning supplies. If you have any questions, please text or call Lisa Matthews.

ADVENT LUNCHEONS

Thursdays December 5th, 12th and 19th at 12:00 p.m.

St. John's United Church of Christ
(710 Pine Street, Port Huron)

Olde Town Churches will be having their Advent Luncheons the first three Thursdays in December at 12:00 p.m. at St. John's United Church of Christ. Everyone is invited to join for a delicious lunch as well as a short presentation given by various Olde Town Church clergy. These luncheons are free to attend. Reverend Tessin will be speaking at the first one, Thursday, December 5th.

MOVIE EVENT

Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Families are invited to watch the movie "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" on Sunday, **December 15th at 1:00 p.m.** at Sperry's Moviehouse. There are 35 seats available and the tickets will be provided free of charge. Concessions will be available for purchase. Families only may sign up until Saturday, December 7th, then we welcome anyone to sign up. There is a sign up sheet on the office counter.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

Sunday, December 22nd

Please invite your family and friends to join you for the children's play, "The King's Birthday" on **Sunday, December 22, 2024** during the 10 AM Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary.

Rehearsal Schedule for Participants:

Sunday, December 1: Following Worship, 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, December 15: Following Worship, 11:15 a.m.

Saturday, December 21: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 22: Before worship, 8:45 a.m.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Collection Date: December 22nd

By giving to the Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need. It also aids in developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 PM

Invite your friends and family to join us for a candlelight worship service at **5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th.**



ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME DOWN

Saturday, January 11, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

The Membership and Outreach Committee is looking for volunteers to help "undecorate" the church and put away its holiday finery beginning at **9:00 a.m. Saturday, January 11th.** There is no need to sign up, just show up. The more hands on hand, the faster the work will go.

TRAINING ELDERS AND DEACONS

Saturday, January 11, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

All Deacons and Elders (newly elected and continuing) are required to attend this training session on Saturday, January 11th from 9-12:00 p.m. Breakfast will be provided.


At 11:00 p.m. Pastor Kathy Tessin will be providing her 6 month observations and projections for the future. The whole congregation is invited for this portion of the meeting.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

Sunday, January 12, 2025
during the 10 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

CURTAIN GOING UP

Sunday, January 12, 2025
3:00 p.m.



To help chase away the post-holiday blues, the Membership and Outreach Committee is planning a theater outing on **Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025**. Port Huron's Enter Stage Right theater troupe at the Citadel Theater will be performing "Our Town." A limited number of tickets will be available for the **3:00 p.m. matinee** with an optional pre-theater dinner at **1:00 p.m.** at Pompeii's restaurant. Thornton Wilder's three-act Pulitzer Prize winning play has been described as "the greatest American play ever written." It tells the story of the fictional Grover's Corners, N.H., between 1901 and 1913 through the everyday lives of its citizens and, more specifically, the Webb and Gibbs families. Tickets for the play are \$10. Please pay the church prior, if able. For those wishing to attend, a signup sheet will be available in the church office. Also, so we can make the reservation, please let us know if you would like to join us for dinner beforehand.

TOUCHDOWN!

Sunday, February 9, 2025

To help get everyone primed and ready to hopefully cheer on the Lions, the Membership and Outreach Committee is hosting its annual SOUP!er Lunch **immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service on February 9, 2025**. Everyone is invited to wear their Lions gear as they enjoy steaming bowls of homemade soups prepared by some of our favorite cooks. Watch this space or upcoming bulletins for more information.



DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

- December 1: First Sunday of Advent; Holy Communion; December Birthday/Anniversary Celebrations; Advent Enhanced Coffee Hour; Children's Play Rehearsal 11:15 AM
- December 5: Advent Luncheon at St. John's United Church of Christ 12:00 PM
- December 8: Learning "The Story" Class at 11:30 AM
- December 9: Deacon Meeting at 4:00 PM; Session Meeting at 6:30 PM
- December 11: Sarah Circle at 1:00 PM
- December 12: Advent Luncheon at St. John's United Church of Christ 12:00 PM
- December 15: Children's Play Rehearsal 11:15 AM; Movie Event "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at Sperry's Moviehouse 1:00 p.m.
- December 19: Advent Luncheon at St. John's United Church of Christ 12:00 PM
- December 21: Children's Play Rehearsal 9:00-11:00 AM
- December 22: Children's Play Rehearsal 8:45 AM; Christmas Joy Offering; Children's Christmas Program 10:00 AM
- December 23: Office Hours 9:00 AM-12:00 PM; Christmas Eve-Eve Family Sing-a-long at Lynch's Tavern
- December 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 5:00 PM
- December 25-26: Merry Christmas! Office Closed
- December 29: Lessons and Carols Worship

JANUARY

- January 1-2: Happy New Year! Office Closed
- January 5: Holy Communion; January Birthday and Anniversary Celebration
- January 8: Stitch and Chat Resumes 10:00 AM; Sarah Circle at 1:00 PM
- January 11: Undecorating of the Church 9:00 AM; ALL Elder and Deacon Training 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- January 12: Ordination and Installation of New Elders and Deacons; Learning "The Story" Class at 11:30 AM
- January 13: Deacon Meeting at 4:00 PM; Session Meeting at 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY

- February 2: Holy Communion; February Birthday and Anniversary Celebration
- February 9: Soup!er Bowl Sunday Luncheon at 11:15 AM
- February 10: Deacon Meeting at 4:00 PM; Session Meeting at 6:30 PM

SOUND/VIDEO BOARD VOLUNTEERS

The Tech Team is looking for volunteers to assist with the sound and video board during Sunday Traditional Worship at 10:00 AM so we can continue to successfully live stream our services to those who cannot be with us in person! Please let the church office know if you are interested in being trained.

Happy Birthday!

DECEMBER

Alan Kuester	12/02
Daniel Shogren	12/03
Anne Wilton	12/04
Cyndi Beerbower	12/07
Mary Bell O'Connor	12/10
Kathy Emery	12/14
Darla Hayes	12/17
Robert Williams	12/17
Richard Tinsley	12/22
Robin Ferguson	12/23
Mollie Brown	12/26
Ann Crandall	12/31

JANUARY

Judy Hall	01/01
Christopher Lee	01/07
Judith McLean	01/07
Taylor Matthews	01/09
Helen Weston	01/09
Jennifer Carolan	01/13
Dene Tyrrell	01/14
Sheryl Neal	01/17
Jacqueline Green	01/18
Maryann Kiger	01/30
Sally Meier	01/30

Happy Anniversary!

DECEMBER

Steven and Jill Emery	12/01
Ross and Jacqueline Green	12/11
Patrick and Peggy Dempsey	12/28
Robert and Joan Vandawaker	12/30

Join us on the first Sunday of each month during Fellowship time to celebrate your birthday or anniversary!

THANK YOU FROM DOLORES EVENINGRED

Dear Church Family,

You are all such a blessing to me.

Thank you for remembering me in your prayers, I believe they were felt and helped in my healing.

I, also, thank you for all the cards, phone calls and the delicious food which I so enjoyed and appreciated.

I am so thankful and blessed to have visits from Rev. Kathy bringing me comfort and support.

To my regret I no longer can attend Sunday services with all of you, however it still remains the most important part of my life.

May God Bless you. Faithfully, Dolores Eveningred

WORSHIP WITH US!

Sunday Worship

First Light Worship - 8:30 a.m.
(through December 15th)

Traditional Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship time immediately
following Traditional Worship.



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

OUR STAFF

Reverend Kathy Tessin

Pastor

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Christian Education Coordinator
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Paige Cronce/Laura Gaffney
Social Media/Marketing Tech
portpresby.social@gmail.com

Kristie Lamb

Financial Secretary

fpcbookkeeping811@gmail.com
(Tuesday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Elizabeth Roe

Musician

Price Smith

Musician

Laura Gaffney

Administrative Assistant
portpresby@gmail.com
(M-TH: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.)

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