

June/July 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 -From Pastor Kathy

We've been exploring the rhythms in our faith life over the last month – finding spiritual habits that help us grow as Christians, practices that support and sustain us as we live into the image of Christ. Dedicated time focused on God, time spent with Scripture, prayer, nurturing spiritual relationships, ways that we restore ourselves within ourselves and with the external world, and reaching out to others – there are many practices that both challenge us and nurture us.

Life's rhythms around the church year are another practice of re-creating the life and mission of Jesus and the church. We have celebrated many church year events in my first 10 months here at First Presbyterian: wrapping up the summer months with our Picnic in the Park; the annual Kirking of the Tartans worship service; Advent and Christmas season; Lent and Easter season. We've supported each other in grieving over loved ones who are no longer with us; we've prayed for each other through sickness and health crises. We've celebrated new life in Christ and the Church with a baptism and welcoming new members into this family of God. Each season renews memories, and creates new ones.

And the next season is upon us: Beach

Season! This congregation has had a weekly early morning Beach Service for almost 15 years; it has become part of our identity. There are many reasons why people like the beach service – the one common denominator I hear is the closeness to God that people feel sitting outdoors by the lake, feeling the sun and breeze on them, hearing the sounds of nature. With the Thumbcoast's identification with water, this season of worship is a rhythm that is enjoyed by many members, summer residents, and visitors. We look forward to offering it again to the community.

Our Beach Service will start as it did last year – on Father's Day at 8:00 a.m. June 15th, at Lighthouse Beach. This year we will worship around a sermon series I am calling "A Good Beach Read: The Short Stories of Jesus!" Bring your own chair and sunglasses – but shoes are optional! We look forward to worshipping God next to our community's greatest natural resource. Of course, we will also continue to worship God at a second service in our Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. As I round the corner to completing my first full year of ordained ministry and serving you as your minister, I look forward with anticipation to a full beach service season with First Presbyterian!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Session Highlights and Thank Yous
- New Member Spotlight
- Important Dates and Upcoming Events
- Birthdays and Anniversaries

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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Shelley Kamer, Clerk to Session

APRIL 2025

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on April 14, 2025:

- Approved Cindy Buchheister, Sarah Miles, Michael Palmer, and Rayna Palmer for membership into FPC. They will be received by the congregation on Sunday, May 11th.
- Approved time off for Rev. Tessin from August 11 through August 17th for Continuing Education.
- Approved the Annual Chili Cook-off and Bake Sale for October 19, 2025.

MAY 2025

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on May 12, 2025:

- Approved the end of year activity for the Youth. It will be held at Sawmill City on June 25th.
- Approved participation in the Habitat for Humanity "Rock the Block" on June 28, 2025.
- Approved participation in Blue Water Boat Week Parade on July 9th, and hosting a booth during Family Night on July 10th.
- Approved the Annual Church Picnic at Fort Gratiot County Park on Sunday, September 7th.
- Approved an outdoor concert fundraiser for CROP WALK 2025. It will be held on the church grounds on September 21st.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The youth of our congregation, along with the Pastor, their teachers, and many volunteers crafted and created interactive stations of the cross on Palm Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.





THANK YOU!



Thank you to all those volunteered on Sunday, May 18th to help clean up the neighborhood and beautify the church. Thank you for all your hard work and time spent cleaning

and spreading mulch to enhance the beauty of our neighborhood and church grounds.



From Pat Schattler
Thank You

Whether you spoke kind words, shared a memory, sent flowers, or gave in remembrance, we are thankful for your sympathy and kindness in this time of sorrow. The support and comfort you provided will always be remembered by the family of

Michelle Clingenpeel



A Heartfelt Thank You

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who has lovingly and graciously given to several recent special offering requests. To date, we have received \$1,735 for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's ongoing work alongside churches and communities that were devastated by January's wildfires in Southern California. We also have collected, to date, \$1,622.10 in the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering which benefits not only the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance agency but also the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People programs within the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

And, on Mother's Day, the Mission and Community Ministry Committee collected \$771.00 that will benefit Port Huron's two shelters for women: Pathways and Carolyn's Place.

All we can say is thank you for your giving hearts and generosity. Our church has been truly blessed.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

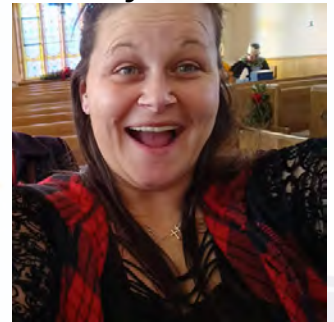
CINDY BUCHHEISTER

SARAH MILES



Hello everyone, my name is Sarah, I'm 38 and have 3 amazing children that some of you may already know, Shyann is 17, Stephan is 14, and Sage is 12. I enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, kayaking, and fishing! I walk the Mackinac Bridge every year on Labor Day. It's something I have done since I was a child and now my children do it with me. I absolutely love worship music! I also love to cook and bake! I'm always willing to try/learn something new! I feel beyond blessed to be welcomed into this

congregation with open arms when I was legitimately at my lowest. God knew what he was doing when he sent me to First Pres last year. I'm so very thankful to grow my relationship with God and all of you!!!



MICHAEL AND RAYNA PALMER



Mike and I are happy Port Huron residents with our kids, Layne and Owen. We were married at First Presbyterian Church on June 16, 2001 with all of our family and friends around us. We are both proud to work in Education for the last 25 years in Port Huron Schools. Our time off is spent traveling and loving on our pup, Enzo. First Presbyterian has been incredibly welcoming and it has been great getting back to First Presbyterian where our story began.

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- June 1: Holy Communion; June Birthday and Anniversary Celebration
- June 8: Pentecost Special Offering
- June 9: Deacon Meeting at 4:00 p.m.; Session Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- June 15: Father's Day; Nail Sale, Beach Worship Begins at 8:00 a.m.
- June 21: Face Painting Class 10:30 a.m.
- June 22: Olde Town Church Tours 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- June 25: Youth Outing to Sawmill City
- June 28: "Rock the Block" Volunteer Event
- June 29: Detroit Tigers Game 1:40 p.m.

JULY

- July 6: Holy Communion; July Birthday and Anniversary Celebration
- July 9: International Rotary Day Parade Float 6:00 p.m.
- July 10: Operation Transformation Family Night 5:00-9:00 p.m.
- July 14: Session Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

- August 3: Holy Communion; August Birthday and Anniversary Celebration
- August 5-7: Vacation Bible Camp
- August 8: Family Event
- August 31: Last Beach Worship 8:00 a.m.

"POUR OUT YOUR SPIRIT"

In Acts 2:17, Luke writes that on the day of Pentecost, Peter tells his fellow disciples and others who have gathered, "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams."

On **Sunday, June 8**, the Mission Committee is once again asking you to "pour out your spirit" and show "we are there" for the Presbyterian Mission Agency's annual Pentecost offering.

This offering is dedicated to helping youth build a strong and solid foundation of faith not only within our own congregation and community but nationally and throughout the world. It is collected on the day of Pentecost - the day that Jesus ascends and the church is born - to underscore the message that if his mission and ministry is to continue, it is up to us to keep it going. It is with that in mind that all of the money collected on this day is used to support and create ministries for children, youth and young adults.

The money we collect will be divided four ways with 40% staying with us to support our own youth ministries, 25% going for the agency's Young Adult Volunteer programs, 25% helping to support national and international youth ministries and 10% going toward the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative.

It is through these gifts that we are given an opportunity to join with other Presbyterians to creatively support and enrich the faith and lives of young people,

Since its inception in 1988, the Pentecost offering has raised nearly \$18 million for ministries benefiting the church's youngest members. Last year, First Presbyterian collected \$1,328 with our share (\$498) being used to help support our annual Vacation Bible School/Camp program. The money raised this year will also be used for our VBS program.

BEACH WORSHIP SERVICE



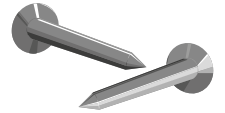
Sundays, June 15-August 31st
8:00 a.m. at Lighthouse Beach

This summer, join us for worship at Lighthouse Beach (2900 Conger Street, Port Huron). This year's theme is "A Good Beach Read: The Short Stories of Jesus!" Where we will learn more from the parables of Jesus. The service will be casual and begin at 8:00 a.m. Father's Day, June 15th. Bring your own lawn/beach chair and your family and friends.



FOR WANT OF A NAIL

In addition to barbecues, outings to baseball games and fishing holes, or just plain hanging out with Dad in the backyard, Father's Day (June 15th) is also noted at First Presbyterian for its annual Nail Sale to benefit Habitat for Humanity. On that day men (and women) of the church will be donning aprons and symbolically selling nails to benefit Blue Water Habitat projects. Collections will be taken at the 8 a.m. Beach service at Lighthouse Park and the 10 a.m. sanctuary service. Last year, our "nail sellers" raised \$954 to help Habitat with local new builds and renovation projects.



OPEN FOR COMPANY

On **Sunday, June 22nd from 1:00-4:00 p.m.**, First Presbyterian will be welcoming visitors taking part in the annual Historic Olde Town Church Tour. Sponsored by the Port Huron Museum, churches within the historic neighborhood will be open to those taking part in the Sunday afternoon trolley tour or simply walking from church to church to visit the sanctuaries and learn some of each church's history. Last year, more than 40 people stopped by First Presbyterian to enjoy a cookie and learn a little more about our building. If you would like to help this year, please contact Judith McLean for more details. And remember, history does not have to be BORING.



SPENDING TIME IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS, PART 1

Blue Water Habitat for Humanity will once again be "rocking the block" on **Saturday, June 28th from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**, and is looking for volunteers. The nonprofit's annual outdoor beautification project, Rock the Block, will cover four blocks near 11th and Division streets on the city's South Side. Volunteers will be helping clean up yards and do minor outdoor repairs throughout the morning with lunch provided by First United Methodist Church. If you would like to join the fun and work off a little energy, please sign up at the church office.



SPENDING TIME IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS, PART 2

Fans, and who isn't a fan these days, are invited to don their blue and orange and join us for a trip down to Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Minnesota Twins on Sunday, June 29. Membership and Outreach is providing the bus, Christian Education is helping offset the cost of the tickets and everyone is invited to root, root, root for the home team. The bus will be leaving the church parking lot at 11:15 a.m. (Pastor Kathy has promised to keep her sermon short that day) and will return in the early evening. The game begins at 1:40 p.m. Our tickets will be on the lower level near the third baseline. The cost is \$20. If you have signed up, please pay at the church on or before **June 22nd**. **There is a wait-list for tickets**, please contact the church office for more information.

LEARN TO FACE PAINT

Date: Saturday, June 21st at 10:00 a.m.

Please see the bulletin or talk to Sue Brackenbury for more information!

SAWMILL CITY

Date: Wednesday, June 24th

Please see the bulletin for more information!

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DAY PARADE

Date: July 9th

Parade Start Time: 6:30 p.m.

Rotary International Day Parade will be in downtown Port Huron. The 2025 Parade Theme is National Library Summer Reading, "Color Our World". The parade will be on **Wednesday, July 9th beginning at 6:30 p.m.**



OPERATION TRANSFORMATION

FAMILY NIGHT

Date: July 10th

Time: 5:00-9:00 p.m.



WORSHIP WITH US!

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship - 10:00 a.m.

*Fellowship time immediately
following Traditional Worship.*

Beach Worship - 8:00 a.m.

*Begins June 15th, at Lighthouse Beach
(2900 Conger Street, Port Huron)*



OUR MISSION:

KNOW the love of God,
GROW in the Christian faith,
GO share our faith in Jesus Christ.



Connect with us!

Website: www.fpcporthuron.org

Facebook: @FirstPresbyterianChurch
Port Huron

YouTube: @FirstPresbyterianChurch



ONLINE GIVING

Did you know you can 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)!

Staff

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Paige Cronic/Laura Gaffney

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Kristie Lamb

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



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