

THE VOICE

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 1-5-20

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

John 1:1

STILL OPEN TO EVERYONE SINCE 1998!

PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

Lead Pastor - Barry Petrucci

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am - 2pm
(269) 327-6643 www.pchum.org

CHAPEL HILL'S STATEMENTS OF FAITH

Back in the spring, Chapel Hill's Guidance Board gathered the congregation together to set new statements of congregational identity. As The United Methodist Church struggled with identity as a denomination, it was important for Chapel Hill to be clear about who we are as a congregation. The Guidance Board is pleased to offer these statements of life and faith, our understanding of the church:

Mission

(what we are purposefully about every day)

We embrace the love and teachings of Jesus Christ and share them with all people.

Vision

(where we are heading in our future)

We will be a faith community where everyone is loved and responds to God's call.

Values

(our core truths, without which we would not be Chapel Hill)

*Faith – Connection – Family – Inclusion –
Outreach – Social Justice - Stewardship*

Welcoming Statement

(what we say to folks who are coming into this faith community)

*Welcome to Portage Chapel Hill,
a church where all are welcome.*

*We recognize Christ in everyone
and embrace our differences
as gifts from a creative God.*

*We challenge ourselves to reflect
God's unconditional and forgiving love.*

Next, the Communications Team is working with the Guidance Board to incorporate these statements into our communications. Additionally, they will work to create documents reflecting "What We Do?" and "Why We Do It?" for external purposes, like the website. New branding materials are also being created, as we await clarity about the future of the denomination and Chapel Hill's place within "whatever is next."

Questions or ideas? Please contact a member of the Guidance Board:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Stephanie Giguere | Tom Akland |
| Mandy Bates | Jim Freeman |
| Katie Knight | Kathy Propp |
| Greg Salisbury | Bob Spradling |

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

- Upper Room Bible Study ~ Room #209
- Adult Forum ~ Chapel
- FaithLink ~ Room #218

MINISTRY "FIRESIDE CHATS"

- Sunday January 12 ~ 10:00am & 7:00pm
- Wednesday January 15 ~ 6:00pm

Have you been wondering about the Chapel Hill building lately? No? Well, did you know the roof is pushing 25 years old and that church sewage currently goes to the parsonage? And did you know that most Sunday morning foot traffic actually comes through the west parking lot door, an access not designed as a primary entrance? Maybe you have been wondering when and how this second pastor thing you have been reading about is going to happen? Sometimes churches, like families, need to get together to talk about what's coming up and how it's going to get done. That is the purpose of January "Fireside Chats" hosted by the Finance Team with support from Staff-Parish Relations Committee and the Facilities Team. You can come to any one of three chats: Sunday January 12 at 10:00am in the Chapel or 7:00pm in the Sanctuary, OR Wednesday, January 15 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Please note: The 10:00am Fireside Chat on January 12 is in place of the Adult Forum class.

"BLUE" BLOOD DRIVE

- Saturday, January 18 ~ 10:15am-4:00pm

Chapel Hill is partnering with local law enforcement at our next American Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday January 18. The drive will be a "Blue Blood Drive," bringing recognition to MI-COPS (Michigan Concerns of Police Survivors), an organization which helps families and communities when officers are killed in the line of duty. We expect a higher than usual number of blood donors, so we are adjusting our food and hospitality expectations as well. Please contact Blood Drive Coordinator Sue Dueweke (suzydue@sbcglobal.net) to sign up to help.

UN-HANGING OF THE GREENS

- TODAY ~ 3:00pm

What goes up must come down... Come lend a helping hand this afternoon at 3:00pm as the beautiful Christmas decorations that have been enjoyed by so many are packed away and stored again until next year.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CHAPEL HILL AT THE BELONG CLASS

- Sunday January 19 ~ 2:00pm ~ Conference Room

The New Year... another chance... a new opportunity... a new path... a new deeper journey.... What will you do with your New Year? Chapel Hill's membership classes would be a great place to start. There are a series of three classes that can be taken in any order. The first class of the year will be the **Belong** class on Sunday January 19 at 2:00pm. This class is an excellent opportunity to intentionally connect to Chapel Hill and deepen your faith. All are welcome, whether you are new to Chapel Hill or have been attending for years, whether you are mature in your faith or just beginning the journey. During the Belong class you will get to know Pastor Barry Petrucci, and learn about Chapel Hill and its plans for the future. The next two classes, **Discover** and **Respond** will follow in the coming months.

ADD YOUR PROFILE PICTURES TO REALM

"Realm" is Chapel Hill's online church directory, and we would love to see more smiling Chapel Hill faces there! Simply log in to Realm, go to the Directory, and search for your own name. From there you can edit your contact information and add a profile pic, as well as update your privacy settings. If you've never logged into Realm, go to onrealm.org/pchum to register. If you have any trouble navigating the site, please call Office Manager (and Chapel Hill's "Realm Guru") Lisa Drzick at 327-6643 during office hours, or stop by. You can also send an email any time to lisadrzick@pchum.org.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays @ 10:00am
Pre-K-4th Grade ~ Room #109

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Sundays @ 11:00
Pre-K-4th Grade ~ Room #109

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays @ 10:00am
Club 56 (5th-6th Grade) ~ Room #121
Confirmation (7th-8th Grade) ~ Room #114
Senior High (9th Grade-12th Grade) ~ Room #108

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Sundays @ 7:00pm ~ Fellowship Hall
6th-12th graders are invited for food, fun and fellowship!

OVER THE CHAPEL HILL GANG A MONTHLY GATHERING OF RETIRED PERSONS

- Wednesday January 8 ~ 11:45am
- Café Meli ~ 5200 Portage Rd., Portage

Need a ride? Call: Doris Mettler (269-327-8272). Please bring personal care items for the food pantry.

QUILT SUPPLIES NEEDED

You know that soft, warm, squishy stuff inside a handmade quilt? It's called quilt batting, or "batts." Chapel Hill's Mission Quilters donate approximately 60 quilts annually to organizations such as the Deacon's Conference, Sunnyside UMC Free Store and Samuel's Blankets, but our batt supply is shrinking. We need twin and full size polyester quilt batts (Mountain Mist is a favored brand) which can be purchased locally at JoAnn's and other fabric stores. They can be dropped off in the office or in Room 108. If you have any questions please call or text Gayle Franklin at 269-217-6866, or email pgfrankl@ameritech.net.

YWCA DONATIONS

The YWCA is in need of diapers and wipes. Look for the collection bin to the right of the main Sanctuary doors, or drop off diapers in the office. Your help is appreciated!

As we are officially into 2020, I thought it was time to give a bit of an update on the state of The United Methodist Church and the ministries of Chapel Hill. The decisions of the 2019 Special General Conference are now in effect, including changes in language to The United Methodist Book of Discipline with punitive measures for clergy who officiate at non-heterosexual weddings. While the harmful decisions of the 2019 conference are now in force, efforts continue to bring progressive ways of being and doing Church before the scheduled 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis, May 5-15. Many groups have been at work to forge a faithful way of moving forward as a single denomination, or the creation of multiple denominations or of amicable splits. For those interested in reading the details on those possibilities, there are materials available in the lobby.

Chapel Hill has been working on self-understanding and looking to the future.

- The Guidance Board has published updated Vision, Mission, Values and Welcoming Statements. This work is foundational for Chapel Hill to be a stronger congregation in connection to The United Methodist Church, in connection to an emerging denomination, or as an independent congregation. We clearly continue to see value in being part of a connection of congregations centered in Christ with roots in the theology of John Wesley.
- Staff-Parish Relations Committee and I are looking to the best future for Chapel Hill in proposing a second pastor functioning in a co-pastor capacity as the denomination, congregation and Lead Pastor go through periods of significant transition in the next few years.
- The Facilities Team understands the asset Chapel Hill properties represent to ministries of both church and community. As such, a capital improvement plan has been laid out.

The staffing and facilities proposals will be discussed in further detail during the “Ministry Fireside Chats” at 10:00am and 7:00pm on Sunday January 12, and 6:00pm on Wednesday January 15.

What is critical to remember is that these are destabilizing times. In the midst of chaos, God called forth creation. At Chapel Hill it is important that we not simply wait for change to happen TO us, but to engage change creatively, working faithfully to move us into the Vision: *We will be a faith community where everyone is loved and responds to God's call.*

I am always happy to respond to questions...or point you in the direction where answers might be found!

Here's to a Creative New Year!



NEED SOMETHING?

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like to be lifted in prayer or added to the prayer chain, contact Shirley Freeman (shirleytupperfreeman@gmail.com, 269-381- 8208).

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES AS WELL AS LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AND BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE SEE AN USHER.

NAME TAGS FOR ALL

Please stop by the self-serve display in the lobby, located across from the Coffee Bar. Magnetic badges are available.

WEEKLY EMAIL

Want to find out all the important events at Portage Chapel Hill? Sign Up for our weekly email. www.pchum.org/home



Please Check-in on Facebook
Or check us out



Domain: ChapelHill_guest
Password: PCHUMguest