

# THE VOICE

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 12-2-18

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

“Not the presents, not the carols, but  
the humble heart that receives the  
wondrous gift of Christ.”

PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL  
Lead Pastor - Barry Petrucci

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

## CHRISTMAS IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY, ANYWAY!

Advent is the beginning of the church year, when we spend four weeks waiting for the birth of Christ into our world and our lives...again! But our culture tells us that Christmas is the time to go out and get stuff for each other, whether we need stuff or not. This year our four weeks of waiting will invite us into a time of remembering that Christmas is not our birthday and, so, it is not all about us. We will be invited into considering a downsizing of our Christmases so that we can give gifts to folks who would be of particular interest to Jesus: those living on the margins. Come and hear more about it beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, December 2.



Barry Petrucci, Lead Pastor

## FREE STORE DONATIONS

The Free Store of Kalamazoo offers free clothing and household items to those in need. Each year the Free Store does a Big Give celebration which gives new toys to children. Chapel Hill once again will be collecting donations of new unwrapped toys for children of all ages. Donations for the Christmas Big Give Celebration are due Wednesday December 12 and can be dropped off under the tree in the Sanctuary.

## MINISTRY WITH COMMUNITY UNDERWEAR DRIVE

The season of snow is here! To help our community members stay warm this winter, Ministry with Community is once again hosting a winter clothing drive, collecting new adult winter accessories and undergarments. The wish list includes:

- Men's and Women's underwear in adult sizes, S - 3XL
- Socks
- Winter accessories - hats, gloves, scarves
- Thermal undergarments - Men's and Women's pants and long sleeve shirts

Look for the donation box in the lobby. All donations will be delivered to Ministry with Community on Wednesday December 5.

## DROP-IN CLASSES AND GROUPS SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

Upper Room ~ Room #209

Traditional Bible study

FaithLink ~ Room #218

Discussion of current events

## FERMENTING FAITH

- Every Tuesday ~ 6:30pm - 8:00pm
- Lodo Company ~ 153 W. Centre Ave., Portage

Gather some friends for dinner and come to "Fermenting Faith" at Lodo Company restaurant in Portage every Tuesday night for casual conversations on life, faith, God, and the world. Topics will be selected in advance by participants, and soft drinks will be provided.

## BLUE CHRISTMAS

- Sunday December 16 ~ 6:00pm ~ Sanctuary

Presented by Chapel Hill's Stephen Ministry  
Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other diagnosis that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations that make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregation and communities. This Blue Christmas service is a time to gather in community for reflection, and holding out healing and hope.

## YEAR END GIVING

As we move into the close of 2018, the Finance Team reminds you of the benefits of giving toward the general fund for all of the ministries at Chapel Hill. Extravagant generosity is one of the cornerstones of our faith. As we give in so many ways through Christmas, you are encouraged to remember the needs of the faith community we value and love.

## WEATHER CLOSING POLICY

**WEEKDAYS:** When Portage Public Schools are closed due to weather, the church building will also be closed.

Daytime and evening events will be cancelled. **SUNDAYS:** In the event of inclement weather, Chapel Hill will post closings on WWMT Channel 3, on the Chapel Hill voicemail at 327-6643, and on the homepage at [www.pchum.org](http://www.pchum.org). An email will also be sent to you. Worship would only be cancelled in an absolute weather emergency.

## ADVENT CELEBRATION POTLUCK

- Today ~ Noon ~ Fellowship Hall

Join us in celebrating the Advent season with a potluck and Open Mic performances. Meat dishes will be provided, so please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share with a crowd. If you have a song or poem you would like to present at the Open Mic portion of the potluck just show up with music in hand. Please sign up at [pchum.org/adventpotluck](http://pchum.org/adventpotluck). Contact Jean Christie for more information, 269-327-2313.

## ORNAMENTS NEEDED!

The Sacred Space Design team would like to put together a grapevine wreath representing the congregation through ornaments. We want homemade ornaments, old ornaments, new ornaments....any ornament that you find meaningful to you and your family. We need them as soon as possible. You can drop them off at the office or the basket in the lobby. Please label your ornament with your name; every attempt will be made to return them after the holiday season.

## GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

- Sunday December 16 ~ 2:00pm ~ Fellowship Hall

At this family fun holiday event your child will receive a mini gingerbread house, a tray full of treats to decorate it with, cookies and hot chocolate. The cost is \$4. Don't miss out on this family fellowship time! Your payment will be collected upon arrival, please make sure you have exact change. When you RSVP please include how many children (with ages) and adults will be attending. You can sign up at [pchum.org/gingerbread](http://pchum.org/gingerbread).

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

### SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM & 11:00AM

Pre-K-4th Grade ~ Room #109

Club 56 (5th-6th Grade) ~ Room #121

Kids will be bringing home Advent Packets today that have projects to do each week of Advent. We invite you to take time as a family to do the projects and talk about Advent. If your child didn't attend Sunday School, you can still get a packet from our Children's Director, Andrea Trantham, after worship.

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

### SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

Confirmation Class (7th-8th Grade) ~ Room #114

9th Grade-12th Grade ~ Room #108

## SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

7:00pm ~ Fellowship Hall

6th-12th Graders are invited for food, fun and fellowship.

## COME JOIN THE ADVENT CHOIR

- Thursdays at 7:00pm ~ Room #211

You are invited to join the Chancel Choir to make beautiful music as we celebrate Advent. The choir is singing a number of very accessible anthems. If you are unable to commit long term but would love to be part of the music that is so special during Advent, then this is perfect for you. See Fred Sang ([fredsang@pchum.org](mailto:fredsang@pchum.org)) or any choir member. All you need to do is show up and sing. Come, make a joyful Advent noise with the Chancel Choir!

## OVER THE CHAPEL HILL GANG

### A MONTHLY GATHERING OF RETIRED PERSONS

- Wednesday December 5, 11:45am
- Fieldstone Grill 3970 W. Centre Ave, Portage

Need a ride? Call: Dorothy Harrington (269-327-0303). Please bring personal care items for the food pantry.

# SMALL GROUP SPOTLIGHT

## SACRED SPACE DESIGN TEAM

This week's spotlight is the Sacred Space Design team. This small group decorates and designs the worship spaces like the altar, the sanctuary, the chapel, and the lobby. The Sacred Space Design team uses Pastor Barry's themes, and the scriptures to help them decorate and design in such a way that people can connect to the message using colors, fabrics, and art in a visual way. This team has a lot of fun connecting with each other as well!

"I love the weekly time in the sanctuary to just enjoy the space. Sunday is such a busy church day sometimes, that to have this extra time to reflect and help plan a part of worship is so fulfilling. I love connecting with this group, it is supportive, and inspiring!" Tonya Boot

"I enjoy working with Sacred Space because it allows me to connect the Scripture and theme through visual imagery. I enjoy the contemplative time in reading scripture and brain storming with the team on how to represent the themes. Working together with the team is a fun hour of fellowship and being creative. It is also good to hear feedback from our church family on how they view and connect with the space we created. There are times where we get started with a rough idea and what we finish is truly spiritual and I am humbled and reminded that I am an instrument of God and He is present in this space always." Meredith Kerr

"I enjoy my time in the sacred space small group because of the lovely folks and the opportunity to be in connection with the more in-depth concepts of the weekly message. There are many types of learning styles and I enjoy the creativity and the challenge to bring concepts to a visible place. Working with sacred space offers more opportunity to explore how the message connects to each other and our daily lives." Jenn Luitje

Sacred Space Design Team meets every Monday night from 6:30-8:30pm...New people are welcome to join! Questions? Contact Meredith Kerr at [mmkerr@parker.com](mailto:mmkerr@parker.com).

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.pchum.org/home)



Please Check-in on Facebook  
Or check us out



Domain: ChapelHill\_guest  
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