

# THE VOICE

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 2-16-20

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

Hope has two beautiful daughters.  
Their names are anger and courage;  
anger at the way things are,  
and courage to see that they  
do not remain the way they are.

~ Unknown

**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](http://www.pchum.org)

## SHROVE TUESDAY AND CHOCOLATE-LESS LENTS

Soon enough we'll be gathering for the Ash Wednesday service here at Portage Chapel Hill, entering the Lenten season with our kinfolk from Milwood United Methodist Church. First, however, comes Fat Tuesday—also called Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day, and Pączki Day, finishing off the season of Mardi Gras where beauty and beads vie for attention in multiple parades. What on earth is that whiplash change from sugar to seriousness?

The concept, if not the marked day, of Ash Wednesday has been around for about 1,500 years. The idea of using ashes as a way to symbolize the death of one's sinful side built on penitential practices taken from Christianity's Jewish heritage. One of those practices, fasting, became an important part of Lent. In the changeable climate of Europe, especially, this was practical as well as spiritual; for many folks, the end days of winter were times of stretching whatever food had been stored away from the previous year's harvest until the snows receded and the earth began to produce once more. As food storage technology changed and the Christian Church came into a different kind of power, fasting for the symbolic 40 days gained a preceding habit of eating everything that would be forbidden during the fast, including things like lard, sugar, and eggs.

Enter pancakes and pączki.

These and other treats like the muffaletta sandwiches and beignets of New Orleans are deliberately rich and flavorful items not because Lent is a time of missing out on good food but because it helps hammer in the difference of the season. Let's be clear: Lent isn't meant to be 40 days of beating ourselves over the head about how terrible we are at the faith thing. Lent is simply a more contemplative part of the year; people often mark it by giving up something like chocolate or soda or adding in something like daily Bible study. It's an opportunity to take stock of one's life and devotional practices and recognize that we don't get it right all the time before the great 50-day celebration that is the Easter season.

So for those of you who have been keeping an eye on Sweetwater's advertisements for pączki (a Polish treat especially popular in Michigan and Illinois) or are gearing up for a pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday, celebrate away. There's nothing wrong with delighting in the things that make our mouths and hearts happy, and those saints who have come before us would eagerly join us in the richness of the kinds of foods we have here in 21<sup>st</sup> century America. But I challenge myself and you to recognize that every sugar high needs to come down at some point or we get sick on the emptiness of nothing but sweet. Consider using this Lent to take away something that makes you spiritually ill, or add something that gives you emotional strength. And come join the worship on Ash Wednesday as we ponder what that might look like; maybe even join a book study for the season. However you observe the season, may you recognize the Spirit walking beside you as we go through the 40 days together, sugar on our fingertips and all.

~ Jenaba Waggy

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

### SUNDAYS @ 10 A.M.

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

*If you would like to learn more about Chapel Hill's Adult programs please contact Tonya Boot at [tonyaboot@pchum.org](mailto:tonyaboot@pchum.org).*

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

- Wednesday, February 26 ~ 7 p.m.
- Portage Chapel Hill's lobby

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a 40-day period of reflection and restoration leading us into Easter. On a dark and chilly night in February, come gather in silence in this church's lobby for a contemplative service shared by Portage Chapel Hill and Milwood United Methodist Church. In song and reflection we'll remind each other that things aren't perfect, that the world is sometimes dark and chilly, *and* that the Easter sunrise is on its way.

## NO UMW MEETING THIS MONTH

Please note that the monthly meeting of the United Methodist Women (UMW) has been cancelled this month. The next scheduled UMW meeting will be Tuesday, March 17 at 1 p.m. The guest speaker will be Amy Anderson from Confections with Convictions Chocolate Shop.

## JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR FOR LENT

If you like to sing but are unable to commit to being in the Chancel Choir each week, please consider joining the choir for Lent. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26 and concludes with Easter Sunday on April 12. The choir rehearses each Thursday evening from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Choir Room #211, and participates as part of the 9 a.m. worship service. Contact Chancel Choir Director Fred Sang at [fredsang@pchum.org](mailto:fredsang@pchum.org), or speak to any of the choir members if you need more information.

## “DISCOVER” SOMETHING NEW

- TODAY ~ 2 p.m. ~ Conference Room

**Discover** something new about yourself, and **Discover** something new you didn't know about Portage Chapel Hill! The Discover class is one of three components in Chapel Hill's membership series. Participants in this class will discuss the United Methodist Church and Chapel Hill, where it has been and where it is going. Today's class will be at 2 p.m. in the Conference Room and all are invited, even if you didn't RSVP. If you can't make it today but would like to know more about Chapel Hill's membership classes please contact Tonya Boot at [tonyaboot@pchum.org](mailto:tonyaboot@pchum.org).

## LENTEN BOOK STUDY COMING SOON

A new congregational book study is coming up for the season of Lent. Director of Discipleship Tonya Boot has chosen the book *Made For A Miracle* by Mike Slaughter. Books will be available soon for a suggested donation of \$10 (ALL are encouraged to take a book, regardless of your ability to pay). Once you have the book please consider joining a small group for the book study! Small group book studies are a great way to meet new people. Next week's Voice newsletter will have information on new book study groups.

## CHUM PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

- Saturday, February 22 ~ 9:45—10:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Hall

Open Enrollment for CHUM Co-op Preschool has begun! Register on or before February 22nd and the activity fee will be waived. There will be an Open House on Saturday, February 22 from 9:45—10:30 a.m. After the open house, stick around for the preschool carnival. For questions about enrollment, please contact the Admissions Chairperson at [chumcoopreschool@gmail.com](mailto:chumcoopreschool@gmail.com) or by calling (269) 251-2131.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays @ 10 a.m.

Pre-K-4th Grade ~ Room #109

*After starting together, children will divide by age group for stories and games.*

## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Sundays @ 11 a.m.

Pre-K-4th Grade ~ Room #109

*Children will stay together for games, music, and crafts.*

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays @ 10 a.m.

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 p.m. ~ Fellowship Hall

6th-12th graders are invited for food, fun and fellowship!

*If you would like to learn more about Children's programs at Chapel Hill please contact Andrea Trantham at [andreatrantham@pchum.org](mailto:andreatrantham@pchum.org). For Youth programs contact Jenaba Waggy at [jenabawaggy@pchum.org](mailto:jenabawaggy@pchum.org).*

## BE PART OF THE SPRING CHILDREN'S CHOIR MUSICAL!

- Rehearsals: Wednesdays 6—7 p.m.
- Performance: Sunday, April 26 at 4 p.m.

All kids and youth from Preschool—12th grade are invited to take part in Chapel Hill's Spring Children's Choir Musical "A Not So Terrible Parable." Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 6—7 p.m. and the deadline to sign up is Wednesday, February 19. Talk to Andrea Trantham, Director of Children's Ministries, for all the details! She can be reached at [andreatrantham@pchum.org](mailto:andreatrantham@pchum.org) or by calling the office at (269) 327-6643.

## ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT SUMMER CAMP?

It's not too early to start thinking about summer camp for your kids! Go to [pchum.org/camp](http://pchum.org/camp) for more information about United Methodist Camps. Chapel Hill is proud to offer 50% scholarships to all campers and their families.

# WELCOME STATEMENT

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.

## MISSION

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

## VISION

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

## VALUES

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

## 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  
Password: PCHUMguest