

# THE VOICE

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 2-23-20

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

But Jesus came  
and touched them.

“Get up,” he said.

“Don’t be afraid.”

*Matthew 17:7*

**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).*

## CHURCH DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

The church office has printed new church directories which are available in the lobby — help yourself! Even if you are not planning to take a directory, please take a look to make sure your contact information is up-to-date. Any updates can be made by checking your profile on Chapel Hill's online database, Realm, at [onrealm.org/pchum](http://onrealm.org/pchum). While you're there don't forget to add a profile picture! If you have any questions contact Chapel Hill's "Realm Guru" Lisa Drzick at [lisadrzick@pchum.org](mailto:lisadrzick@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. 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.

## OVER THE CHAPEL HILL GANG

- Wednesday, March 4 ~ 11:45 a.m.
- Main St. Pub ~ 7509 S. Westnedge Ave, Portage

The Over The Chapel Hill Gang is open to all retired folks who like to gather for lunch. Meetings are the first Wednesday each month; check the Voice for locations. If you are interested in carpooling please call Doris Mettler at (269) 327-8272.

## LENTEN BOOK STUDY SMALL GROUPS BEGIN THE WEEK OF MARCH 8

- Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Chapel, led by Tonya Boot.
- Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Upper Room #209, led by Jenaba Waggy.
- Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Library, led by Deacon Pat Catellier; *a light dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m.*
- Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, led by Pastor Barry Petrucci.

The Lenten congregational book study, *Made For A Miracle* by Mike Slaughter, begins the week of March 8 and runs four weeks. Books are available in the lobby 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 connect with new people. Check with your existing groups, or visit one of the groups listed above. Please contact Director of Discipleship Tonya Boot at [tonyabout@pchum.org](mailto:tonyabout@pchum.org) if you have any questions.

## 18TH ANNUAL PEACE SERVICE

- Sunday, March 15 ~ 5 p.m.
- Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church  
212 Park St. Kalamazoo

Rabbi Brant Rosen of Tzedek Synagogue in Chicago will be the guest speaker for the Kalamazoo Interfaith Coalition for Peace and Justice Annual Peace Service on Sunday, March 15 at 5 p.m. at Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church. Visit [interfaithkazoo.org](http://interfaithkazoo.org) to learn more about the Interfaith Coalition's mission to promote peace and justice in our world.

## "MANNA" - FOOD PANTRY BENEFIT CONCERT

- Sunday, March 22 ~ 7 p.m.
- Portage Chapel Hill's Sanctuary

The choirs and bell choirs from Milwood United Methodist Church and Portage Chapel Hill are coming together to present "Manna," a special concert benefiting the food pantries at both Milwood and Chapel Hill. A free-will offering will be taken. Childcare will be provided.

## 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).*

## EASTER EGG HUNT

- Saturday, March 28 ~ 10:30 a.m.
- All kids from babies through middle schoolers are invited

This year's Easter Egg Hunt will have a children's mission theme. Kids will be collecting eggs with coins in them and using them to donate to three children's charities. There will also be some candy and surprises to bring home. Children age four and under will be getting Monopoly money in their eggs to be replaced by real money after the event—no choking hazards for them.

Spare change will be collected each Sunday in the month of March during 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday School. Encourage your kids to earn some coins and then have them bring them in each week to our donation container. There will also be a donation location near the Sanctuary for adults who wish to donate some change.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held outside on Chapel Hill's lawn, weather-permitting. It will be moved into Fellowship Hall in case of rain or snow.

# 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