

THE VOICE

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 3-29-20

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

The Lord's power overcame me,
and while I was in the Lord's spirit,
he led me out and set me down
in the middle of a certain valley.
It was full of bones...

Ezekiel 37:1

OPEN TO EVERYONE SINCE 1998!

PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

Lead Pastor - Barry Petrucci

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(269) 327-6643

pchum.org

PASTORAL THOUGHTS FROM EPHESIANS 4

...I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

God has given his grace to each one of us measured out by the gift that is given by Christ. That's why scripture says, When he climbed up to the heights, he captured prisoners, and he gave gifts to people.

What does the phrase "he climbed up" mean if it doesn't mean that he had first gone down into the lower regions, the earth? The one who went down is the same one who climbed up above all the heavens so that he might fill everything.

Social distancing. Flattening the curve. Jargon we have learned in this time of pandemic. Long after we recover, surely broken and bruised from the forced change of lifestyle, but recovered nonetheless, we will still have these phrases and more to keep us connected to this journey in 2020. The wilderness of Lent. We never expected this. And that is the point of the faith we share, the call to which we are called. To respond to the wilderness places as people of faith with humility, gentleness and patience. Remembering that Jesus went into hell to rise up, to ascend victorious. This bit of hell we are going through is mostly no fun. Yet, it is the very place where our faith can guide us to check in with others, to demonstrate care, to vision a more just playing field for everybody on the other side of this pandemic, to be encouraged, to be charitable, to commit to something significant on the other side of this wilderness.

Watch for Chapel Hill folks offering messages of hope. Casting digital teaching, ideas, anecdotes of truth, pictures of heaven ripped from the clutches of hell. Christ gifts us to each other right now to be encouragers who tell truths that might be tough, while pointing to hope that sustains. Right now, let's be there for each other...lets be sustainers!



CONNECT WITH CHAPEL HILL ONLINE

Have you been tuning in to Chapel Hill's Sunday morning worship on Facebook? How about B.S. (Bible Study) with Barry and Jenaba? Have you seen the pictures of the face masks being made by the PCHUM Mission Quilters? Just because we're all at home now doesn't mean the ministries, and the connections, stop. Here are some of the things happening on Chapel Hill's Facebook page:

- Worship ~ Sundays at 10 a.m.
- B.S. (Bible Study) with Barry and Jenaba ~ Monday—Thursday at 3 p.m.
- Devotionals with Pat and Tonya ~ Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.
- Children's worship and activities with Andrea ~ every morning at 10 a.m. on the Children's Sunday School page

To find these events, go to **facebook.com** and search for **Portage Chapel Hill Church**.

KIDS: WE WANT TO SEE YOUR PALM PARADE!

Palm Sunday is April 5 and Chapel Hill wants to continue the tradition of beginning Palm Sunday worship with a children's palm parade. Kids are invited to create their own palms and video themselves (with parents' help) having a palm parade at home. The videos will be edited together and used as part of the Palm Sunday worship service. Go to **Portage Chapel Hill Children's Sunday School** on Facebook to find out how to submit your video. You can also email Andrea Trantham at **andreatrantham@pchum.org**.

OPTIONS FOR GIVING

This is a difficult time for all and finances are not at the top of the list of concerns. Still, we do need the community to stay mindful of Chapel Hill, as the bills do not stop because we are not in the building. There are several options for you to continue your financial giving to Chapel Hill:

- Go to **pchum.org/give**
- Give through your Realm database profile by logging into your account at **onrealm.org/pchum** and clicking on the Giving button.
- Text "PCHUM" to 73256 and follow the instructions. Standard text messaging rates apply.
- Mail a check to:
Portage Chapel Hill
7028 Oakland Dr.
Portage MI 49024

PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENT



The Staff-Parish Relations Committee and I are excited to announce that Bishop David Bard has appointed **Jess Davenport** to Chapel Hill as Associate Pastor.

In this time of uncertainty in both denomination and culture, Chapel Hill is seeking to respond with faith to the changes in pastoral leadership here. Jess will begin this half-time ministry with us the second week of July. This appointment represents a creative expression of ministry cooperation, as Jess is currently Director and Campus Pastor of the Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo. With her appointment to Chapel Hill, Jess will be reducing her responsibilities at Wesley while new staff rounds out leadership in ministry there.

While the full job description is still being worked on, Jess and I will be making use of her experiences on staff in ministry at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church in Washington D.C. and in campus ministry to deepen and actualize our commitment to growing diversity of all kinds at Chapel Hill. We will be full partners in the work of ministry in the parish, with a particular eye toward ways Chapel Hill and Wesley can work together in the ministries to which we are called. Jess has been before the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church and is being recommended for Commissioning as an Elder, with Provisional Membership in the conference. Jess lives in the Winchell neighborhood of Kalamazoo with her husband, Torey, and son, Tommy.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Barry".

STAY CONNECTED

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

WEEKLY EMAIL

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

All are encouraged, at this time of quarantines and unknowns, to care for each other in whatever way is appropriate. Make phone calls, send emails, check in on loved ones using social media, FaceTime or Skype. Pastor Barry and the staff of Chapel Hill are brainstorming creative ways to connect with the congregation online. Check the website, pchum.org, often. And follow Portage Chapel Hill on **Facebook**. Stay safe and healthy!



Please Check-in on Facebook
Or check us out



Domain: ChapelHill_guest
Password: PCHUMguest