

THE VOICE

December 19, 2021

4th Sunday in Advent

In the depths
of who I am
I rejoice
in God my savior.



Advent: Housing The Holy

Blue Christmas:

December 19 at 6 pm

Christmas Eve Worship :

5 pm - Family Worship

8 pm - Service of Lessons and Carols

11 pm - Worship with Communion

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4th Sunday in Advent

Advent 2021: Housing The Holy

Pastoral Welcome		Barry Petrucci
Opening Liturgy and Song		
Advent Candle Lighting—Candle of Love		Don and Sandy Mertz
Passing the Peace		
Song	Come Emmanuel	New Life Team
Children's Time		Andrea Trantham
Scripture	Micah 5:2-5a	Tonya Boot
	Luke 1:36-55	Jess Davenport
Anthem	Unto Us A Child Is Born	Children's Choirs
	<i>Children in Pre-K—4th grade are invited to Children In Worship, downstairs in Room 109, after the song. Adults may pick up their kids downstairs after worship.</i>	
Message	A Room With A View	Jess Davenport
Offering & Special Music	Make Room	Angela Brcka
Doxology		
Prayers of the People		Tonya Boot
Song	Come Thou Long Expected Jesus	
Benediction		
Postlude	Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella	arr. Beck

Blue Christmas

- Sunday, December 19 at 6 pm

Portage Chapel Hill's Blue Christmas worship service is a special time to honor the fact that not everyone feels joy at Christmas time. Loss, illness, anxiety... there are many ways people struggle at this time of year. All are welcome to share in this service of healing and hope.

God's Kitchen Christmas Meal

- Wednesday, December 22 from 5–6 pm

God's Kitchen of Michigan will be serving Christmas dinner on Wednesday, December 22 from 5–6 pm. On the menu is ham, lobster tail, and steak along with vegetable and dessert. In addition to the dinner there will be toys handed out to all kids. This free meal is open to everyone, so please help spread the word throughout the community.

If you would like to donate a new, unwrapped toy for this event, please bring your donation to the church by Wednesday afternoon.

Preschool Open House

- Tuesday, January 4 from 5–7 pm

Kaleidoscope Kids Preschool, a ministry of Portage Chapel Hill Church, will be having an open house on Tuesday, January 4 from 5–7 pm. Come and meet Executive Director Luann Begeman and tour the classrooms. Kaleidoscope Kids Preschool is always open to new enrollment.

Opportunities for Giving this Holiday Season

Make giving a part of your holiday season. Portage Chapel Hill Church has several ways you can help share the love of God with the Kalamazoo/Portage community.

- Meijer or Walmart gift cards in any denomination will be given to Haverhill Elementary School and the church's Helping Hands fund.
- New, unwrapped toys will be given to God's Kitchen's Christmas meal and families at Haverhill Elementary.
- Packages of new underwear, thermal underwear, scarves, hats, and gloves will be given to Ministry with Community.
- Financial resources can be given to Refugee Resettlement or the church's Helping Hands fund.

Look for the collection bins in the lobby (to the right of the Sanctuary doors) throughout Advent. For more details on where your giving goes please visit pchum.org/advent.

UMCOR Tornado Relief

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responds whenever and wherever disaster strikes. UMCOR is working with local churches to help those who have been devastated by recent tornadoes across Kentucky and other areas of the southern and mid-western U.S. To give to UMCOR please go to umcmmission.org/umcor.

Give By Mail:

Portage Chapel Hill
7028 Oakland Dr.
Portage MI 49024

Give Online:

pchum.org/give

Give On Realm:

onrealm.org/pchum

Text-To-Give:

Text "PCHUM" to
73256

Where Can You Serve?

Servant leaders are needed in so many ways in the life of the church. You can help the tech team on Sunday mornings with live-streaming the worship service. Get involved with some of the behind-the-scenes administration for the church. Give a few hours of your time to help serve meals with God's Kitchen. Or maybe you'd like to lead a book study group. Portage Chapel Hill Church is so much more than Sunday morning worship! Please consider how you might use your gifts to serve this community. Call Pastor Jess or Pastor Barry in the office at (269) 327-6643, or email the office at office@pchum.org with any questions you may have.

Red Cross Blood Drive

- Saturday, January 15
- 10:15 am—4 pm in Fellowship Hall

The next Red Cross Blood Drive hosted by Portage Chapel Hill Church will be on Saturday, January 15. Please consider giving your time to help this cause. Go to pchum.org/blooddrive to find out more, or contact Blood Drive Coordinator Gail Thompson at gkdt@sbcglobal.net

Office Closed

The church office will be closed December 27—December 31. Office staff will continue to check emails and voicemails during that time. We will reopen on Monday, January 3 at 9 am.

In the Simplicity of the Mask: Love God, Neighbor and Self

Your pastors have been talking. Well, that in and of itself is probably not surprising to you... But what we have been talking about might just be. We have been singing the praises of this congregation because the vast majority of you have supported and lived by our COVID 19 requests, rules, and regulations. You have done this with little complaining or push back, AND with lots of positivity and support. Several of you have even made Chapel Hill your church home during this pandemic *because* we have taken the prevention of community spread of this virus seriously. We are grateful for you all.

We talked some more about what a positive impact it would have on our communities if we all made the commitment to social distancing and mask-wearing as we live, move and have our being in the larger community. Even as CDC and local guidelines have changed — and then been changed back — we know that the science supports the benefit of safe social distancing, and mask-wearing. We also know that this pandemic will not end like the flip of a light switch. What if we all just continued to practice social safety, demonstrating that we get to love God, our neighbor, and ourselves by simply staying masked when in public spaces? We know, we know... no one likes the mask, but we do *love* the mask. To keep our masks on and social distance as able is to love God who gave us these amazing bodies, and to love our neighbor who we do not want to get sick, and to love ourselves because WE don't want to get sick! So, let's be the radical minority and keep our distance and our mask-wearing as we move through Christmas and into the New Year.



Pastor Barry Petrucci



Pastor Jess Davenport