

THE VOICE

Weekly Newsletter 8-16-20 11th Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

**Jesus said to him,
“Today, salvation has come
to this household
because he too
is a son of Abraham.”**

Luke 19:9



OPEN TO EVERYONE SINCE 1998

Pastor Barry Petrucci — Pastor Jess Davenport

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(269) 327-6643 pchum.org

AUGUST 16, 2020

11th Sunday After Pentecost - 10 a.m.

Love Your Enemies: Loving the Strange & Stranger

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Lonesome Whistler

Guion

Gathering Prayer

Songs

All creatures of our God and King

New Life Team

My Prayer For You

call To worship

Andrea Trantham

children's Time

Hymn

christ Your words of Love confound us

Scripture

Hebrews 13:1, Luke 19:1-10

Message

Loving the Strange and Stranger

Jess Davenport

Special Music offering

Build Me A world

Elaina Trantham

closing Liturgy

Song

No Matter What

Hymn

Amazing Grace

Sending

Postlude

Dismantling Racism: What Can You Do?

The Faith In Action Team from Portage Chapel Hill is encouraging everyone to engage in activities to help dismantle racism in our society. Here are some ideas that you and your family can do:

- **Read:** Chapel Hill's Summer Book Study is "Tears We Cannot Stop" by Michael Eric Dyson. This is a challenging read, and you will encounter some harsh language. While this is a read-at-your-own-pace book study, and it doesn't directly coincide with a sermon series, Director of Discipleship Tonya Boot has formulated discussion questions to go along with the book. Email tonyaboot@pchum.org to get the questions, or to join or form a book study group. Please purchase your copy from a local bookseller; if cost is prohibitive please contact the church office.
- **Sign Up for Pastor Barry's Small Group Book Study:** Pastor Barry will be leading a 6-week book study of "Tears We Cannot Stop." This small group will meet via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. beginning August 26. Go to pchum.org/dismantlingracism to find the link to sign up.
- **Check out other books and resources:** Tonya Boot has been posting book reviews and reading lists of antiracist literature on Chapel Hill's Facebook page. Go to pchum.org/dismantlingracism to find these resources.
- **Attend an "Introduction to Systemic Racism" Workshop:** Chapel Hill will pay the \$150 registration fee for all those who attend this 2-day workshop put on by ERACCE (Eliminating Racism & Creating/Celebrating Equality). These virtual workshops are offered September 23-24 and October 21-22. Go to eracce.org/event-calendar to register, then contact the church office at office@pchum.org for reimbursement.
- **Attend a family-friendly peaceful protest:** "Portage Kids Peaceful Protests" is a group of families who gather each day at the corner of Centre Ave. and Westnedge Ave. in Portage from Noon to 1 p.m. for a family-friendly Black Lives Matter peaceful protest. Find the group on Facebook.
- **Take a "Virtual Journey to D.C. for Racial Justice":** ISAAC (Interfaith Strategy for Action & Advocacy in the Community) invites the whole family to run, walk, bike, or roll on a virtual journey to Washington, D.C. from now through September 20. Registration is free; simply get out and move, track your miles and log your journey on ISAAC's website and social media. For more information please go to walk.isaackalamazoo.org.

If you have any questions, concerns, or additional ideas to share, please contact Faith In Action Team Chair Richard Derenne at richard.derenne@stryker.com or the church office at office@pchum.org.

Give By Mail:

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7028 Oakland Dr.
Portage MI 49024

Give Online:

pchum.org/give

Give On Realm:

onrealm.org/pchum

Text-To-Give:

Text "PCHUM" to
73256

Get To Know Pastor Jess at Three Virtual Open Houses!

- Sunday, August 23 at 4 p.m.
- Sunday, September 20 at 4 p.m.
- Sunday, October 11 at 4 p.m.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will be hosting three virtual Open Houses where congregants can say hi and get to know Pastor Jess Davenport and her family. These will be done on Zoom; the Zoom link can be found at pchum.org/openhouse. Bring your own cake, cup of coffee, and make sure to drop in to say hi!

Save the Date: October Blood Drive

- Saturday, October 3
- 10:15 a.m.—4 p.m.

Mark your calendars now for Chapel Hill's October Blood Drive, sponsored by the American Red Cross. Contact Blood Drive Coordinator Sue Dueweke at suzydue@sbcglobal.net if you would like to volunteer to work at the event. To make an appointment to donate blood, please go to redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code "CHUM."

A Message to the Families of Chapel Hill..... from Andrea Trantham

Fall has long been a time of big changes for me. Both my kids were born in the fall. I started working at Chapel Hill in the fall. We joined the YMCA in the fall. I've joined Weight Watchers (a few times) in the fall. Fall always comes with anxiety of new things but also the excitement of growing, learning and changing. It was exhilarating to think that 'November Me' would be a new person when compared to "Summer Me."

Then COVID came. Monday looks the same as Saturday. July looks the same as March. The seasons are changing but my life is not. Somedays I take comfort in the predictable routine but far more often I feel bored, angry and, well, just stuck. No Sunday School in the near future for me to plan for, and definitely no children's choir where my best self gets to sing with kids every week. I don't feel like I'm growing during the quarantine. I feel like I'm dripping away instead.

So, how do I get excited again? How to plan ahead when no one seems to know what life will look like week to week? Some days my only goal is survival and I feel good when I accomplish that. But God doesn't call us to just survive. The world is still out there in need of us. So this fall, when I can't change my life, I am working on changing my heart. I'm educating myself in racial inequalities, laws that affect LGBTQIA+ folks, speaking about the kids at the border and finding out what I can do. Going back to normal life may have to wait a while but I cannot wait that long to hear God's call and use God's love in the world. When you see me in a few months, my life and appearance will likely look the same on the outside. I pray, though, that my heart will be brand new.