

# THE VOICE

November 29, 2020

1st Sunday in Advent

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

**“Comfort,  
comfort my people!”  
says your God.**

*Isaiah 40:1*



**OPEN TO EVERYONE SINCE 1998**

Pastor Barry Petrucci — Pastor Jess Davenport

(269) 327-6643

[pchum.org](http://pchum.org)

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# Believing Even When...

Prelude

Pastoral Welcome

Crossing The Threshold

I Believe...

ULV Virtual Choir

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Mallette Family

Advent Song

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Songs

Hope Is A River  
Everything Changes

New Life Team

Children's Time

Andrea Trantham

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

People Look East

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-11

Message

Hope For Tomorrow

Barry Petrucci

Offering & Special Music

Prepare He Is Coming

*Alana Dyer, soloist – Haylee Ryder, trumpet*

Dedication

Hymn

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Prayers in the Stillness

Tonya Boot

Advent Song

Blessing

Song

Slow Kingdom Coming

## Advent Devotional

Go to [pchum.org/advent](http://pchum.org/advent) to download your copy of Portage Chapel Hill's Advent Devotional. Filled with stories, reflections, poetry, and art, we hope the Advent Devotional is a source of meaning and joy to you as we wait for the birth of the Christ Child.

## Copies of The Voice Newsletter

If you're reading this, that means you have found The Voice newsletter on the website, [pchum.org/thevoice](http://pchum.org/thevoice). Congratulations! But some folks in the congregation don't know how to access The Voice, or they don't have a computer or internet service at home. We want to make sure everyone is able to get the weekly newsletter and stay connected to Portage Chapel Hill Church. If you know of someone who would appreciate being mailed a paper copy of The Voice each week please email Office Manager Lisa Drzick at [office@pchum.org](mailto:office@pchum.org) or call the office at (269) 327-6643.

## Giving Tuesday, December 1

Giving Tuesday is a day set aside to remember the needs of others as the frenzied holiday shopping season gets underway. If you would like to participate but aren't sure where to start, Portage Chapel Hill has two suggestions for you:

- United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by war, conflict or natural disaster. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response to people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. To donate please go to [umcmmission.org](http://umcmmission.org).
- Sunnyside United Methodist Church's Free Store is holding its annual Big Give Toy Drive now through December 4. New unwrapped toys may be donated to the Free Store at 2800 Gull Rd, Kalamazoo, 49048. You may also bring your donations to Chapel Hill and we will deliver them to the Free Store for you. For more information please call Sunnyside UMC at (269) 349-3047 or email the Chapel Hill church office at [office@pchum.org](mailto:office@pchum.org).

## Communion Elements

Portage Chapel Hill will hold the sacrament of Communion on Sunday, December 6. As we cannot be together for worship in the Sanctuary, Chapel Hill is providing the Communion elements, known as Fellowship Cups, for folks to pick up and take home with them. And while you're at the church getting your Fellowship Cups, be sure to pick up the December Sunday School packet for your kids, and drop off a new, unwrapped toy for the Kalamazoo Free Store's Big Give Toy Drive! If you have any questions please email [office @pchum.org](mailto:office@pchum.org) or call (269) 327-6643.

Pick-up times are:

- Thursday, December 3 from 5–7 pm
- Friday, December 4 from 9 am–Noon
- Saturday, December 5 from 11 am–2 pm
- Sunday, December 6 from 8 am–9 am

### Give By Mail:

Portage Chapel Hill  
7028 Oakland Dr.  
Portage MI 49024

### Give Online:

[pchum.org/give](http://pchum.org/give)

### Give On Realm:

[onrealm.org/pchum](http://onrealm.org/pchum)

### Text-To-Give:

Text "PCHUM" to  
73256

# Advent: How Much More Waiting?!

In 2010, on his album *So Beautiful or So What*, Paul Simon included a track he penned and sang called *Getting Ready for Christmas Day*.

From early in November to the last week of December  
I got money matters weighing me down  
Oh the music may be merry, but it's only temporary  
I know Santa Claus is coming to town  
In the days I work my day job, in the nights I work my night  
But it all comes down to working man's pay  
Getting ready, I'm getting ready, ready for Christmas Day

Getting ready, oh we're getting ready  
For the power and the glory  
And the story of  
Christmas Day

If I could tell my Mom and Dad that the things we never had  
Never mattered we were always okay  
Getting ready, oh ready, ready for Christmas Day  
Ready, getting ready  
For the power and the glory and the story of the  
Christmas Day

This has been a singular year, this 2020. A year where it has felt like we have been doing little except waiting. We were just beginning to get through another Michigan winter, when this virus we had only just heard about in another part of the world showed up here and everything changed. And we waited. For information about what this virus was and how dangerous it just might be. And we waited for PPE and ventilators and toilet paper and hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes. And we waited. Leadership stood tall and told us truths we did not particularly want to hear, or short-sold the realities because the American people could just not handle being alarmed. And we waited. To get our act together and do the simple tasks of hand-washing and social distancing and the dreaded masking. And we waited for things to get better and they did...for a time. And we got tired of waiting. Now a vaccine, no, at least THREE vaccines are on the horizon. And we are waiting for something like a miracle to finally stop this thing so we can get back...

We do not like to wait. So for me to tell you that this Sunday begins four weeks of waiting for Christmas day in a culture of two-day delivery, well, that seems ridiculous. But the Church, the global Body of Christ, has recognized the need for us to shift our gears from waiting for whatever it is we think we are waiting for that looks like "normal," to four weeks of focusing on the birth of Christ-possibility into the world. The four weeks of "Believing Even When..." invite us to enter into the Reign of God intentions for Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. As Paul Simon sings it, all that we thought were so important, "those things we never had," are found to be not quite so important. Birth refocuses us on something, someone that calls us to reprioritize our waiting and our continued living as a faithful people.

I invite you into this season of Advent, waiting with me, in virtual worship live-streaming on Sundays at 10 am, in prayerful learning using the Advent devotional on the Chapel Hill website, in staying healthy as a mark of your commitment to be well as we follow to the manger...and beyond.

Pastor Barry

