

# THE VOICE

November 8, 2020

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

Keep your heart  
with all vigilance,  
for from it  
flow the springs of life!

*Proverbs 4:23*



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

# NOVEMBER 8, 2020

23rd Sunday After Pentecost - 10 am

## Finding Peace In An Anxious World

Prelude	It Is Well With My Soul	Phillip Bliss arr. by John Carter
Welcome & Announcements		Barry Petrucci
call To worship		
Songs	The River My Prayer For You	New Life Team
Pastoral Prayer		
children's Time		Andrea Trantham
Hymn	Great Is Thy Faithfulness	
Scripture	Proverbs 4:20-26	
Message	courage to change the Things we can	Jess Davenport
offering & Special Music	Stand By Me	Darlene Sang & Kitty Clark
Dedication		
Hymn	How Firm A Foundation	
closing Liturgy		
Song	old church choir	
Sending		
Postlude	Troika Op. 37 #11	Tchaikovsky

## Statement from the Guidance Board and Pastors

Portage Chapel Hill will always be an accessible place to gather and worship. However, due to the recent increase in cases of COVID-19 it has become clear that church leadership must once again restrict access to our facilities. We are committed to maintaining a safe environment for this congregation and the community.

Starting on November 8 we will no longer be offering in-person worship for our congregation and will close our indoor facilities for meetings and gatherings. We will continue to offer our online worship service created by our talented worship team, available on [pchum.org/broadcast](http://pchum.org/broadcast), as well as Facebook and YouTube. As for now, socially distanced masked outdoor meetings are permitted on the Portage Chapel Hill grounds.

We will continue to respond to this pandemic in a thoughtful data-driven manner and will continually evaluate our strategy. We ask for your understanding and support in the challenging weeks and months ahead. God's love endures.

The Guidance Board  
Pastors Barry Petrucci and Jess Davenport

## Weekly Email

The staff of Portage Chapel Hill sends out a congregational email each and every week with the latest information and events that are happening in the life of the church. It gets sent each Thursday at 12:30 pm. If you are not receiving this email and would like to be added to the list, please contact the church office at [office@pchum.org](mailto:office@pchum.org) or call (269) 327-6643.

## Realm Update

Updating of Portage Chapel Hill's online directory is nearly complete. This work is being done so that folks in the Chapel Hill congregation are able to stay in touch with one another, something that is especially important during this time of pandemic.

### All are encouraged to do these things:

- Set up your Realm account if you haven't already. Go to [onrealm.org/pchum](http://onrealm.org/pchum) to set up your account today.
- Look to see if your contact information is correct. Updating your contact information is the best way to stay up to date with the church and the congregation.
- Upload a picture. A directory full of names but no faces can be uninviting. Please upload a profile picture so that everyone can see who you are!

As a reminder, sharing your personal contact information is always your own choice. By creating an account in Realm you are in control of deciding what information others are able to see. The church office will *never* share your private information with a third party. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Office Manager Lisa Drzick at [lisadrzick@pchum.org](mailto:lisadrzick@pchum.org).

## Kids' Blessings Scavenger Hunt

Families with young kids are invited to join in a Blessings Scavenger Hunt! Go to the Portage Chapel Hill Facebook Page at [facebook.com/PCHUM.church](https://facebook.com/PCHUM.church) on Sunday, November 15 for all the details. November is a great time to be thankful for all that God has given us. All of those who complete the hunt and email a picture, get a fun prize! Send your pictures of your finished scavenger hunts to Andrea Trantham at [andreatrantham@pchum.org](mailto:andreatrantham@pchum.org).

### 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

## Reflections on the Heart of Democracy: The Vote

Memory matters. Collective memory is critical for a people attempting to live together with a set of central shared values. As people who work to follow Christ, we are part of a great Judeo-Christian heritage in which we understand God, then Jesus, to keep calling us, even ordering us, to "remember." The Hebrew *zakhor* points to that core responsibility. Outside the imposing structure that is *Yad Vashem*, the Israeli Holocaust Memorial, the words of Rabbi Baal Shem Tov are inscribed: *Forgetfulness leads to exile; remembrance is the secret to redemption.*

I thought of these things on Tuesday morning, Election Day, as I came to the church building at 5:30 am to open the doors for poll workers. I remembered the many times in my 20 years at Chapel Hill I have had the honor to do this and my appreciation for workers who, far too often, had far too little work to do as Americans forgot the essential responsibility and power of the vote. This year, I watched poll workers risk far more than boredom, as they prepared to ensure the vote in a COVID world. I was grateful that they remembered the importance of this responsibility in ensuring shared values had a chance of preservation, and I was grateful that they were willing to take the risk.

To forget leads us down the road to exile, to being alienated from our core, from all that our collective history has said was important. As I write this on Friday morning, we still do not have a clear victor in this quadrennial exercise in democracy far too often reduced to political theatre and increasingly reduced to sound bites, tweets, and memes. Our democracy is bigger than that because it is supposed to ensure constant conversation and action on what is *politic*, what is the common good. Literally, *politics* points to *affairs of the cities*, where decisions were made to benefit the masses, not just those who held the most power. As I write this, we are being asked by many, some in leadership at the very top of that pyramid of power, to believe that this core instrument of democracy, the vote, has been corrupted on the broadest of scales. We had best remember, sisters and brothers, that these tactics have been used the world over to place question marks on the work of the people to ensure democracy. In fact, we would do well to remember that for a very long time the U.S. was the nation to watch over, to ensure, the vote. We know how to do this work, and we must not forget just because those who appear to be losing do not like the results. Remember we must. If we forget then exile will begin to look an awful lot like tyranny.



Pastor Barry