

# THE VOICE

March 14, 2021

4th Sunday in Lent

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

## Seeing Differently and Imagining the Possibilities



**OPEN TO EVERYONE SINCE 1998**

Pastor Barry Petrucci — Pastor Jess Davenport

(269) 327-6643

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

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# Holy Vessels: A Season of Recovery

Prelude	Three Scotch Folk Songs 1 & 2	arr. by Percy Granger
Pastoral Welcome		Barry Petrucci
Call To Worship		Jess Davenport
Songs	The River	New Life Team
	Lord I Need You	
Pastoral Prayer		
Children's Time		Andrea Trantham
Hymn	God the All Wise	
Scripture	Matthew 9:18-26	
Message	Different Pictures	Barry Petrucci
Offering & Special Music	When You Believe	Elaina Trantham
Dedication		
Hymn	We Walk By Faith	
Closing Liturgy		Tonya Boot
Song	Holy Water	
Blessing		
Postlude	Folk Song #3	arr. by Granger

## Lenten Mission Project

On this Week #4 of Portage Chapel Hill's Lenten Mission Project we are asking folks to pick up **movie streaming gift cards, such as Redbox, Amazon, Netflix, or Hulu.**

As a reminder, Chapel Hill is putting together "Dinner and a Movie" packages for families housing foster kids in the Kalamazoo area. Our goal is to create a fun night in for 20 area families. We are asking for donations of restaurant gift cards (locally-owned restaurants are encouraged), snacks and juice boxes, movie streaming gift cards, and homemade notes of support. We ask that you hold onto your donations and pray over them daily, then bring them to the church on **Palm Sunday, March 28 from 9 am—Noon.**

To see the full list of needed items please visit [pchum.org/lent](http://pchum.org/lent) or send an email to Andrea Trantham at [andreatrantham@pchum.org](mailto:andreatrantham@pchum.org).

## UMCOR Sunday

- Sunday, March 14

Portage Chapel Hill Church has a long history of generous donations to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, better known as UMCOR. UMCOR responds when disasters occur anywhere in the world. From the Haiti earthquake in 2010 to flooding in the Midland area of Michigan in 2020, UMCOR is there giving aid and providing relief where it is needed most. To give to UMCOR please go to [pchum.org/give](http://pchum.org/give) and find "UMCOR Sunday" under the Faith In Action section. To give using your Realm account, go to the Giving section, click the +Give button, and select UMCOR from the Fund drop-down menu. Thank you for your generosity!

## Coffee With The Pastors

- Every Sunday on Zoom at approximately 11 am, immediately following worship

Sunday morning Coffee With The Pastors is a time that is intentionally focused on connecting about each Sunday's worship. Since we can't worship in person quite yet, this is intended to be a gathering where we can reflect on the scripture, music, message, and liturgy and where they are intersecting with us in our lives. You are invited to join Pastor Jess and Pastor Barry to ask questions and share how God was speaking to you during worship. The Zoom link can be found at [pchum.org/events](http://pchum.org/events).

## Time Change—Spring Forward

- Sunday, March 14 at 2 am

Be sure to move your clocks one hour ahead before you go to bed Saturday night, or you'll be late for church!

## State of the Nation, State of the Faith

- Thursdays at 7 pm on Zoom

All are invited to join the conversation about Portage Chapel Hill's efforts to fight racism in our community. If you are interested in seeing Chapel Hill become an example of an anti-racist congregation, please go to [pchum.org/events](http://pchum.org/events) at 7 pm every Thursday and click on the Zoom link. Can't make it Thursdays but still want to be involved? Contact the office at [office@pchum.org](mailto:office@pchum.org) or call (269) 327-6643.

### 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

# A Church in Waiting

## Indefinite Gestation

Following the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, the Christ, followers emerged who organized to be together as seekers of the empire of God, staying together against the empire of the Caesars. There may have been clear unity for a heartbeat about who the leaders were and where this Body of Christ, this "Church," was going. And so it has been. The Church, in all of its unity and in all of its fragmentation, has always been waiting for a more perfect union. The United Methodist Church came together in 1968 as a more perfect union of the People Called Methodist. And in moments it was. And then it wasn't. We have been waiting, not passively, for sure, but marking the years as quadrenniums come and go for the voice of The UMC, the General Conference, to clarify vision, direction, clarion call.

COVID has been a lesson of creativity in the midst of tedium for the world. And it has been impossible for a global denomination to meet virtually to ask critical questions on what unity and separation might look like. Now the delayed 2020 General Conference has been delayed again. Critical "Holy Conferencing," conversations, debates, votes that will allow groups on the theological and ideological edges of the denomination to depart. Likewise, the battered, bruised, but still kicking corpus of United Methodism will need to decide what it believes and how it will be organized going forward.

We could take this time as a time to sit on our hands and do nothing, waiting for Godot to hand us a church we will then decide to be a part of...or not. But indefinite gestation does not bring life. A church in waiting must take the time to be in graceful conversation in groups seeking a more faithful union. How will we be for the values we hold to be core, non-negotiable? We can be a progressive congregation waiting impatiently and frustrated about a broken denomination, or we can spend the time in holy conferencing together to know more deeply, in the very bones of this Chapel Hill Church, who it is this God of ours is calling us to be.

Pastor Jess and I will be talking with the Guidance Board to set up some opportunities for these conversations in the near future. For now, talk with each other about what you believe is essential in your faith, in a church, then a denomination. We will need to make some decisions at some point about what it is God is birthing in and through us. Best to have Spirit-Led conversations along the way to give us practice in listening and in being graceful with one another.

Blessings in the Waiting~



Pastor Barry

If you are interested in what other pieces of The United Methodist Church are organizing for the future, here are a couple of places to start:

Wesleyan Covenant Association — [wesleyancovenant.org](http://wesleyancovenant.org)

Liberation Methodist Connexion — [thelmx.org](http://thelmx.org)

# 19th Annual Peace Service

Kalamazoo Interfaith Coalition for Peace and Justice

## "Raising HOPE Amidst a Pandemic"

Keynote Speaker: Gwendolyn Hooker, C.E.O. of H.O.P.E.  
Helping Other People Exceed thru Navigation

**Kalamazoo Interfaith Coalition for  
Peace and Justice Virtual Peace Service**

**Sunday, 21 March at 5 p.m.**

**ZOOM Meeting ID: 989 6001 6687**

**Passcode: 495175**

**We of KICPJ** are individuals from many faith communities working to bring peace and justice into the world. We are inspired by our faith in the value of each human being. We seek to promote justice and further the cause of peace only through nonviolent means. And we're committed to the protection of the environment, the divine creation entrusted to our care.



We thank Kalamazoo Nonviolent Opponents of War [KNOW] for their support.



At H.O.P.E., Gwendolyn helped to create a new project to support re-entry of the formerly incarcerated and the homeless by the building of tiny houses. She has worked with various Kalamazoo authorities to lessen gun violence attacking its root causes of racism, economic exploitation and despair. She was the former Volunteer Coordinator at Local Initiatives Support Corporation [LISC] AmeriCorps at Northside Association for Community Development [NACD]. Currently she serves on numerous community boards.

For information, call Rev. Harold W. Beu at 269-381-6439

Website for KICPJ is <https://interfaithkazoo.org>