

THE VOICE

April 25, 2021

4th Sunday of Easter

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

At the end of the day
love is made real
in what we do.



OPEN TO EVERYONE SINCE 1998

Pastor Barry Petrucci — Pastor Jess Davenport

(269) 327-6643

pchum.org

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4th Sunday of Easter

Wisdom of Love: Big Talk, No Action

Prelude	Farewell to Stromness	Peter Maxwell Davies
Pastoral Welcome		Barry Petrucci
Call To Worship		Jess Davenport
Songs	All Are Welcome Eagle's Wings	New Life Team
Pastoral Prayer		
Children's Time		Andrea Trantham
Hymn	The King of Love My Shepherd Is	
Centering Video	Let Us Love	
Scripture	1 John 3:16-24	
Message	Big Talk, No Action	Barry Petrucci
Offering & Special Music	Let Your Healing Love	Lisa Drzick
Dedication		
Hymn	Christ Has Broken Down The Wall	
Closing Liturgy		
Song	They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love	
Blessing		
Postlude	Every Time I Feel The Spirit	arr. by Carter

Portage Kids Peaceful Protests

- Every Sunday and Wednesday from Noon–1 pm
- Corner of S. Westnedge Ave. and Centre Ave. in Portage

Join Pastor Barry and other members of the Portage area community at Noon each Sunday at the corner of S. Westnedge Ave. and Centre Ave. to demonstrate for justice. Portage Kids Peaceful Protests is an opportunity for people of all ages to take a stand against racism and injustice in our society. Every Wednesday and Sunday from Noon–1 pm this family-friendly group gathers to peacefully demonstrate. Bring your kids and your homemade signs and make your voices heard!

Living in an anti-racist community is important to all of us. Get involved in Portage Chapel Hill's emerging anti-racist group which meets on Zoom every Thursday night at 7 pm. Find the Zoom link at pchum.org/dismantlingracism. This group meets to discuss active and immediate steps Chapel Hill can take to be an anti-racist congregation.

Take A Stand Against Voter Suppression

Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community (ISAAC) invites everyone to reach out to your representatives in the federal government and tell them not to support efforts to suppress the rights of voters in America. Please visit pchum.org/dismantlingracism to find links to letters to Rep. Fred Upton, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, and Sen. Gary Peters. Portage Chapel Hill Church is a member of ISAAC.

CHUM Co-Op Preschool

After 50 years of history at Portage Chapel Hill Church, CHUM Co-Op Preschool has decided to come to an end. CHUM Co-Op Preschool is housed in the Chapel Hill church building on the lower level, but has operated independently from the church in recent years. Church leadership has accepted this decision from the current Board President and the current preschool Teacher/Director.

With this news comes a new opportunity for Portage Chapel Hill Church to re-imagine a progressive faith-based preschool for area families. Members of church staff are actively working to offer a preschool in the church building, under the leadership of Portage Chapel Hill Church, for the 2021-2022 school year. More information will be coming soon!

Sunday Night Youth Group

- Sundays beginning May 2 from 7–8:30 pm
- All youth in grades 6-12

Sunday Night Youth Group is back! All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to come to the church on Sunday nights beginning May 2 from 7-8:30 pm for an outdoor "play date" for older kids. Sunday Night Youth Group will happen each Sunday in May and June, with the exception of May 30, weather-permitting. If there is a 40% chance of rain at Noon on Sunday then that night's Youth Group will be cancelled. Face masks will be required. If you have any questions about Sunday Night Youth Group please contact Pastor Jess at jessdavenport@pchum.org.

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

Summer Bible Study

Portage Chapel Hill will be offering a Summer Bible Study series this summer. Children, Youth, and Adults are all welcome to get involved. Details are still being worked out, so keep an eye on The Voice, the weekly email, and pchum.org for more information as it becomes available.

Outdoor Worship Service with Communion

- Sunday May 2 at 6 pm

As the weather is improving and Portage Chapel Hill Church's Guidance Board has approved outdoor, masked, socially distant gatherings, the church is going to offer a time of outdoor worship once a month this spring and summer. The first of these outdoor worship services will be on Sunday, May 2 at 6 pm in the Memorial Garden, on the East side of the church building. This time of worship will include the sacrament of communion, songs led with guitar, a time of prayer, and devotion. We'll be moving our time of communion to this outdoor worship experience, instead of during the Sunday morning livestream worship, as we hold the power and significance of communion when shared with the gathered body whenever possible. You are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Chapel Hill Community Garden

Spring has sprung and Chapel Hill's Community Garden is calling! There are plots available for the 2021 season. Cost is \$25 (to cover the cost of water usage) and gardeners are required to donate 30% of their produce to the Loaves and Fishes Romence Rd. Food Pantry, housed in the lower level of the church building. To reserve your garden plot please contact Chris Cartner at cartner3030@gmail.com.

Refugee Family Update

In February 2020 Portage Chapel Hill Church, along with Bethany Christian Services, sponsored a family of six to settle in the Kalamazoo area after years of living in refugee camps in Iran, Afghanistan, and Turkey.

Here is a quick update on how they're doing:

- The eldest son continues to take classes at KVCC in auto mechanics and has a job doing car repairs.
- The younger son has moved to Boston. He's living with a friend and working in a restaurant.
- The eldest daughter is working full-time in a factory that makes parts for car dashboards. She continues taking classes at Kalamazoo Covenant Academy in order to finish getting a high school diploma.
- In addition to their studies at Milwood Middle School the twin girls are being tutored an hour each day by a dedicated group of people from Chapel Hill Church. They learn everyday living vocabulary, comprehension, and are encouraged to ask questions. Their tutors find them to be charming children and hard workers.
- Mom and Grandma have both had their vaccine shots. Mom keeps busy by sewing clothes for herself and her family. Grandma likes to sit on the front porch while she connects with her friends in Europe and Afghanistan by phone.

If you would like to know more about Chapel Hill's work with refugee and asylum-seeking families, please contact Refugee Resettlement Team co-chairs Susan Smith (sjs426@outlook.com) or Pat Catellier (pcatellier7711@charter.net). You may also contact the Chair of Chapel Hill's Faith In Action Team Richard Derenne at richard.derenne@stryker.com.

Shrinking Chapel Hill's Carbon Footprint

During the last year, we all noted the amazing "physical plant" work we have been able to do even as the church building has been mostly on COVID Shut-Down. New sewage connection, new parking lots, new roof, new carpeting in the office areas and now moving downstairs into the Christian education rooms.

Over the years we have had a number of analyses around energy efficiency and changes that we might make to become less carbon-dependent. So, I asked long time Chapel Hillian and Maintenance Custodian John Ruhrup to tell me how we are doing on shrinking the carbon footprint of Chapel Hill. His response:

Since April of 2017 we have made the following energy efficient upgrades:

- *Seven furnace/air conditioners have been replaced. The furnaces have variable speed blowers that match the fan speed to the heating & cooling load. The air conditioners are higher efficiency and use an environmentally friendlier refrigerant.*
- *One air conditioner on the west side has been replaced with a mini split that allows for individual room temperature control.*
- *Furnace thermostats have been replaced with WIFI connectable units.*
- *Narthex (lobby) and Sanctuary lighting has been converted to LED, replacing 500 watt halogen bulbs with 30 watt LEDs.*
- *The office and Food Pantry lighting is being converted to LED.*
- *The church sewer connection has been converted to gravity, eliminating the use of pumps.*

Not a bad effort!

Indeed, John, not a bad effort! Kudos to the Facilities Team led by Dan Janecke, and to John Ruhrup for continually considering replacements and upgrades that benefit our stewardship of the earth. It is another place where our faith makes a difference in helping to bring about God's Kin-dom on Earth!

Have ideas for shrinking Portage Chapel Hill's Carbon Footprint? Send a note to office@pchum.org and we will get it where it needs to go!



Pastor Barry

