

THE VOICE

Weekly Newsletter 7-19-20

7th Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

A branch can't produce
fruit by itself,
but must remain in the vine.

John 15:4



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

JULY 19, 2020

7th Sunday After Pentecost - 10 a.m.

Presence

Prelude	Excerpt from Nocturne Op. 15 #1	Chopin
Gathering Prayer		Barry Petrucci
Songs	Taking Over Now The Way	New Life Team
call To worship		Jess Davenport
Pastoral Prayer...The Lord's Prayer		Barry Petrucci
children's Time		Andrea Trantham
Hymn	I Need Thee Every Hour	Shannon Rininger & TISSIE Hughey
Scripture	Psalm 122, John 15:1-11	
Message	Presence	Jess Davenport
Special Music Offering	I'll walk with God	Shannon Rininger
closing Liturgy		
Hymn	Jesus Shall Reign	
Song	Take My Life (and Let It Be)	
Sending		
Postlude	Etude in Ab Major	Chopin

Welcome Associate Pastor

Jess Davenport!

I'm thrilled to be joining you all as an Associate Pastor at Portage Chapel Hill. It's a new and challenging time to figure out how to be the church together. As an extrovert, this is not the transition I had hoped for, *and still* I am delighted to safely get to know you, what Portage Chapel Hill means to you, and where God is working in your life over the coming months.



My husband Torey and our three-year-old Tommy have already enjoyed livestreaming and are looking forward to connecting further to the congregation. We are also expecting a little one late November.

Virtual VBS is Here!

Join all your friends from Portage Chapel Hill for a weekly Virtual Vacation Bible School the whole month of July. Even if you missed the first two weeks it's not too late to get in on the fun! This activity is intended for kids ages 3 to 12. Director of Children's Ministries Andrea Trantham is putting together fun activity packs for each child. Pick up your packet from church after 10 a.m. every Wednesday. Inside you will find a story, craft, and access to videos. The theme this year is **Mission: Deep Sea**. To register, please visit pchum.org/vbs. Even though this year's Vacation Bible School will not be in-person, registration is still important for planning all the fun.

Be sure to invite your friends to join you for **Mission: Deep Sea!**

Summer Book Study

Chapel Hill's summer book study is *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* by Michael Eric Dyson. This book has been chosen to bring awareness to systemic racism. *Tears We Cannot Stop* is an emotional read. It will take you through a long list of emotions; you will be required to feel something. Please be prepared, the language can be strong at times, harsh, profane, but is necessary to convey the message of the sermon.

Portage Chapel Hill Church supports keeping resources and dollars in the community, so people are encouraged to purchase the book at a local bookstore. If you have any trouble with that, or if cost of the book is of concern, please contact the office at office@pchum.org.

There is no set time frame for this book study; the study will not coincide with a sermon series and not all groups need to study this book at the same time. This book study is for you to have a starting point in dismantling racism, a safe place to ask your questions, and you may find the answers come in the form of more questions. Chapel Hill is honored to help you, and to be part of dismantling racism. To find out more about small groups contact Tonya Boot at tonyaboot@pchum.org.

Michigan Annual Conference

In prior years, Pastor Barry and a delegation of folks from Chapel Hill attended the Annual Conference of the Michigan United Methodist Church the last weekend in May. Due to COVID-19, this year's conference was pushed back to late July and is being presented online for anyone to be able to take part. For more information about 2020 Annual Conference please go to 2020.michiganumc.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

New Portage Chapel Hill Logo

Last Sunday, a new Portage Chapel Hill Church logo was revealed. The new logo conveys the church's mission, vision, values, and welcoming statement while also affirming its identity as a "church where all are welcome."

The result is an energetic heart that grounds and wraps around a cross, symbolizing an active church community, God's loving embrace, and Christ at the foundation of our faith.



Over the next several weeks, you will start to see this logo appear in places connected to Chapel Hill, including a new digital sign in front of the church. Take a drive by the church and check it out.



A Portage Chapel Hill COVID-19 Update

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I continue to pray for you and your health in this unprecedented time. As the messages of governmental leaders have not always been consistent or clear, I intend to continue to lead Portage Chapel Hill in this time with best practices as guided by both science and the faith tradition we share.

The science is clear that in this time we honor each other best by doing all the stuff we have been hearing about since February: wash hands for 20 seconds, use hand sanitizer, stay socially distanced (at least 6 feet apart), don't touch your face or other people, enjoy the outdoors but use the same standards, and wear a mask. Last Sunday we tested our readiness to be together in the sanctuary for worship. 11 youth confirmands, their parents and siblings, the worship team and staff, plus one couple who simply saw the cars in the parking lot and came in to worship were the live congregation, while the virtual community participated in the livestream worship on Facebook. It went smoothly! Everyone was greeted at the door. Temperatures were taken and hands sanitized. Everyone wore a mask (masks are available for those who forget). You can expect to see the same moving forward. Hand sanitizer is EVERYWHERE. No bulletins will be handed out, no Friendship Folders or Offering Baskets will be passed. The sanctuary space is set up so that there are lots of individual seats at least 6' from others, plus "family groups" of chairs for folks who have been living together in this COVID time.

I so want to be in physical worship with you all. But my bottom-line message right now is that we need the sanctuary to be occupied by physically healthy people, folks with the LOWEST risk should they contract COVID-19. Stay home if you are dealing with any kind of immune deficiency, if you are "aged", if you have young kids (there is no childcare or Sunday School right now), or if you are just not sure you are ready to be in shared interior space with other folks. We will be prepared for seating for around 70 people in the sanctuary and another 20 or so "overflow" in the lobby. Worship is designed now to maximize the livestreaming experience, as I believe that getting back to what we once knew as "normal" is still a long way away. I also know that livestreaming will be a regular ministry of Chapel Hill even after something like "normal" re-emerges.

Even as science directs us in how best to take care of our physical selves in this time, I encourage you to take advantage of other builders of spiritual, psychological, and social strength offered online by Chapel Hill and other progressive Christian resources. In these often-confusing, always stressful times we need to find more ways to keep ourselves connected to Jesus, the rock of our faith.

Be safe, be well, be blessed~



Pastor Barry