

# THE VOICE

Weekly Newsletter 8-9-20 10th Sunday After Pentecost

## WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

When you call me  
and come and pray to me,  
I will listen to you.

*~ Jeremiah 29:12*



**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)

# AUGUST 9, 2020

10th Sunday After Pentecost - 10 a.m.

## Shall We Be "Fervent"?

Prelude	Traumerei Op. 15 #7	Robert Schumann
Gathering Prayer		Jess Davenport
Songs	I Will Not Be Moved Take My Life (Holiness)	New Life Team
call To worship		
children's Time		Barry Petrucci
Hymn	Spirit of the Living God	
Scripture	Jeremiah 29:1-14	
Message	Shall We Be "Fervent"?	Barry Petrucci
Special Music Offering	Sweet Hour of Prayer	Lisa Drzick
Prayer Stations		
Song	Just A closer walk with Thee	
Hymn	Every Time I Feel the Spirit	
Sending		
Postlude	Arabesque Op. 18	Schumann

## Dismantling Racism: What Can You Do?

The Faith In Action Team from Portage Chapel Hill is encouraging everyone to engage in activities to help dismantle racism in our society. Here are some ideas that you and your family can do:

- **Join the Summer Book Study:** Chapel Hill's Summer Book Study is "Tears We Cannot Stop" by Michael Eric Dyson. This is a challenging read, and you will encounter some harsh language. While this is a read-at-your-own-pace book study, and it doesn't directly coincide with a sermon series, Director of Discipleship Tonya Boot has formulated discussion questions to go along with the book. Email [tonyaboot@pchum.org](mailto:tonyaboot@pchum.org) to get the questions, or to join or form a book study group. Please purchase your copy from a local bookseller; if cost is prohibitive please contact the church office.
- **Check out other books and resources:** Tonya Boot has been posting book reviews and reading lists of antiracist literature on Chapel Hill's Facebook page. Go to [pchum.org/racism](http://pchum.org/racism) to find these resources.
- **Attend an "Introduction to Systemic Racism" Workshop:** Chapel Hill will pay the \$150 registration fee for all those who attend this 2-day workshop put on by ERACCE (Eliminating Racism & Creating/Celebrating Equality). These virtual workshops are offered August 12-13, September 23-24, and October 21-22. Go to [eracce.org/event-calendar](http://eracce.org/event-calendar) to register, then contact the church office at [office@pchum.org](mailto:office@pchum.org) for reimbursement.
- **Attend a family-friendly peaceful protest:** "Portage Kids Peaceful Protests" is a group of families who gather each day at the corner of Centre Ave. and Westnedge Ave. in Portage from Noon to 1 p.m. for a family-friendly Black Lives Matter peaceful protest. Find the group on Facebook.
- **Take a "Virtual Journey to D.C. for Racial Justice":** ISAAC (Interfaith Strategy for Action & Advocacy in the Community) invites the whole family to run, walk, bike, or roll on a virtual journey to Washington, D.C. from August 15—September 20. Registration is free; simply get out and move, track your miles and log your journey on ISAAC's website and social media. For more information please go to [walk.isaackalamazoo.org](http://walk.isaackalamazoo.org).

If you have any questions, concerns, or additional ideas to share, please contact Faith In Action Team Chair Richard Derenne at [richard.derenne@stryker.com](mailto:richard.derenne@stryker.com) or the church office at [office@pchum.org](mailto:office@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

## Get To Know Pastor Jess at Three Virtual Open Houses!

- Sunday, August 23 at 4 p.m.
- Sunday, September 20 at 4 p.m.
- Sunday, October 11 at 4 p.m.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will be hosting three virtual Open Houses where congregants can say hi and get to know Pastor Jess Davenport and her family. These will be done on Zoom; the Zoom link for each will be shared here in the Voice, on Facebook, and in an email in the week leading up to each Open House, so keep an eye out for that. Bring your own cake, cup of coffee, and make sure to drop in to say hi!

## Covenant Partnership: Prayer

This week as part of worship Pastor Barry will be talking about prayer. As you and your family prepare for worship, please have ready a bowl of water and a candle.



## Notes from Annual Conference

from Dar Perkins

It was with gut-wrenching emotions of annoyance, nervousness, anxiety, frustration and much trepidation that I faced Annual Conference this year on Sunday, July 26—Monday July 27. It was virtual.

The theme for the 2020 conference was Sowing Seeds. Michigan United Methodist Church Bishop David Bard spoke on the parable of the sower, underlining the fact that some seeds will fall on stony ground, or wither without root systems, or be blown away. Some will grow and blossom into full ripe plants. We, as the body of Christ, are to sow seeds of joy, thanksgiving, invitation, hope, faith, justice, mercy, kindness, friendship, and love. God's love, and to love one another. We are to do this with abandon, dancing, and with glad hearts because no matter where the seeds fall, some WILL sprout and grow into fruit-filled spirits sharing God's love.

Monday morning's session began with a call for the Church to become more conversational, invitational, relational, 'glocal' (both global and local), digital, and foundational. There was discussion of the ways the Church has fallen short as responsible believers in Christ, by harming and neglecting Native peoples, slaves, and outsiders. We were urged to follow the examples and teachings of Christ by seeking forgiveness, then repentance, to finding peace, and finally thanksgiving to God.

In the afternoon, we were reminded that pastors do not work alone; all members of a church community should look for their own talents and spiritual gifts, and find ways to use those gifts as part of a church's ministry.

Rev. Dwayne Bagley will remain as the District Superintendent for the Greater Southwest District of the Michigan UMC, of which Portage Chapel Hill is a part.

Bishop Bard closed Annual Conference with prayer and a reminder that our primary job is to sow, with joy and dancing, any seeds available to us. We don't know which ones will fall on fertile ground.