

THE VOICE

Weekly Newsletter 9-6-20 14th Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME TO PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL

“Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: ‘Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River...’”

Exodus 1:22

“Beloved, let us love one another, for everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

1 John 4:7



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

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

14th Sunday After Pentecost - 10 a.m.

Love Your Enemies: And They May Remain Enemy

Welcome & Announcements		Barry Petrucci
Prelude	Here I Am, Lord	by Dan Schutte
Gathering Prayer		Lisa Drzick
Songs	The River My Prayer For You	New Life Team
call To worship		Tonya Boot
Pastoral Prayer		
children's Time		Andrea Trantham
Hymn	christ Your words of Love confound us	
Scripture	Exodus 1:22-2:10	
Message	Love Your Enemies: And They May Remain Enemy	Barry Petrucci
communion	Let us Break Bread Together	
Hymn	Bind us Together	
Song	They'll know we Are christians By our Love	
Sending		
Postlude	Simple Gifts	arr. by R. vandall

Monday Night Book Study

- Mondays at 7 p.m. beginning September 7, using the Zoom online meeting platform

Hopefully everyone has had a chance to pick up a copy of *Tears We Cannot Stop* by Michael Eric Dyson, Portage Chapel Hill's summer book study selection. Another study group is forming on Monday nights beginning Monday, September 7 at 7 p.m. If you would like to be a part of this group please contact the office at office@pchum.org.

Poll Workers Needed!

In the presidential election in November, very large numbers of citizens are expected to vote by mail and also at polling locations. One of the best ways you can help today is by signing up to serve as an election worker on Election Day to assist voters and count ballots. Election workers are the front lines of our democracy.

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, democracy will march on in November. Election workers are pivotal to the success of these upcoming elections and will adhere to health guidelines and best practices to keep all staff and voters safe.

If you are a registered voter in Michigan or a 16-17 year old looking to do your part in this critical moment, learn more and sign up at Michigan.gov/DemocracyMVP. If you are 18+ and not yet registered to vote, you can register to vote online (at Michigan.gov/VoterRegistration) and then sign up to serve as an election worker. You will be paid for your time on Election Day, and you will be a crucial part of the team helping to protect and defend Michigan's elections.

Virtual Walk to D.C. for Racial Justice

- Runs through Sunday, September 20

Portage Chapel Hill, along with ISAAC (Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy & Action in the Community), encourages everyone to get out and walk, run, or roll to raise awareness for racial justice. For many People of Color, simply going outside to take a walk or a run in their neighborhood is not a safe activity. You can help raise awareness of racial inequities by going to walk.isaackalamazoo.org and logging your miles; while you're there you'll find inspirational videos, music playlists, and more that will help keep you motivated on the journey.

Chapel Hill wants everyone to be involved in local and national efforts to Dismantle Racism. For more ideas of what you can do please visit pchum.org/dismantlingracism.

The Trouble with Online Worship

The office staff of Portage Chapel Hill Church has heard from a number of folks who have expressed frustration in finding the worship services online. When the COVID-19 pandemic began in early March, Chapel Hill moved to online worship using Facebook — a *no-cost* alternative that enabled the worship team to continue to provide a weekly worship experience. Recognizing that online worship is here to stay, Chapel Hill has a team of volunteers currently working on making access to our worship videos easier for everyone. As this involves significant time and expense, we ask for your continued patience.

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

Virtual Communion

The first Sunday of the month is quickly approaching and we are again going to celebrate the sacrament of Communion in worship. At the beginning of this pandemic, it seemed safe and wise to pause and reconsider how we did certain parts of worship. That led Portage Chapel Hill, along with most United Methodist churches, to discontinue the practice of having Communion as a part of online worship. Considering that online worship will be around for the foreseeable future, and that we strongly believe that Communion is an essential Christian practice and means of grace, we have decided to incorporate it back into our worship practice. We started the first Sunday in August, and will continue in these coming months.

This might feel weird and uncomfortable for some. If you are not comfortable taking Communion via livestream, or coming to the limited-attendance service, know that we value and appreciate your dedication to this Sacrament and it's meaning.

We celebrate Communion in worship. When you worship online, you are still considered part of the gathered body and present in communal worship. For that reason, we would ask that if you plan to take Communion, you do so at the appointed time during the Sunday service when we gather together as a communal act.

Chapel Hill will be providing "to-go" items for the Communion elements available at the church. They will have individually sealed crackers and a sealed container of grape juice (we are unable to provide a gluten-free option at this time). These elements have been prayed over by Pastor Barry and Pastor Jess, blessed as ordinary elements set apart for the use of communion in worship Sunday. Please note: they have not been consecrated as a part of Communion; that will happen as part of the worship service.

Please stop by the church to pick up juice and crackers this week in preparation for Sunday worship. We ask that you take one container of juice and one package of crackers per household.

Pick-up times are:

- Saturday, September 5 from 11 a.m.—2 p.m.
- Sunday, September 6 after 8 a.m.

If you are unable to stop by the church, you may pick up grape juice and bread on your own and share the elements at home at the appointed time. Please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns.

Blessings...

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Pastor Barry' and the signature on the right is 'Pastor Jess'.

Pastor Barry and Pastor Jess

A Note from Pastor Barry

These are weird times, right? Since the second week of March we have been pretty much constrained to our homes, church stuff has been almost exclusively online, and staff and leadership have continued to look to the daily needs and to the long-range plans of Chapel Hill. I could not be prouder of the ways you all have prayed for the church and leadership, wrote notes of support and longing, and kept commitments of financial support to general fund, capitol expenses, and missions (particularly Helping Hands for those struggling financially right now).

We are in a very good financial position as a church, and I celebrate that with you. Even as I say that, I am aware that we had to spend some money in the last few months that stretched the budget. Several huge trees needed to come down on edges of our property bordering our neighbors. Our move from in-person worship to pre-recorded to live-streamed online presence required equipment that will continue to support us as live-streaming continues long after we return fully to our sanctuary. Equipment and supplies to keep us all safe as we slowly come back to ministries within the building were, of course, unbudgeted.

All of this is to encourage us all to keep up the faithful giving to keep us strong so that ministries we all want to be about do not go unfunded because of some costs that were way outside of anything we anticipated! Above all keep your church in prayer, and do everything you can to stay connected to each other by phone, email, with safe distance visits, or notes done in ink or digitally during Facebook worship! The Church continues in all the places we are individually and collectively. I am strengthened daily by your witness!

Be safe, be well, be blessed~

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pastor" and the last name "Barry" clearly distinguishable.

Pastor Barry