

# Christmas Eve Worship

Portage Chapel Hill Church - 12-24-20

The Preparation	Once In David's Royal City	Shannon Rininger
Lesson One	John 1	Barry Petrucci
The Lighting of the Christ Candle		Keith & Lisa Mulder Family
Congregational Carol	O Come, All Ye Faithful	Vocal Ensemble
Lesson Two	John The Baptizer	Logan Bates
Congregational Carol	Joy To The World	
Lesson Three	Jesus Is Born	Troy & Brynnica Thrash
Song	Come True Light	New Life Team
Lesson Four	The Shepherds	Brendan & Andrea Trantham Family
The Gift of Song	Some Children See Him	Ruby Drzick
Lesson Five	The Wise Ones	Josh Ruhrup Family
Congregational Carol	The First Noel	
Pastoral Prayer for Christmas		
A Gift of Music	Angels From The Realms Of Glory	Chapel Hill Ringers
Christmas Meditation	Wrapped In Memory	Barry Petrucci
The Giving of Gifts	Little Town	
Lesson Six	And Then...	Sarah Kusisto Family
Instructions on Candle Light		
Congregational Carol	Silent Night	
Christmas Greeting		
Postlude		

Christmas Eve, 2020

Dear Chapel Hill Community:

2020 has been a year that has forced the redefinition of so much in our world. What it means to "go to" work, or school, or the store, to church have all changed in ways we never could have anticipated. So, in our season of waiting, Advent, we have been considering what "Believing" means in this time of redefinition.



Worship has been mostly in front of our TVs or devices from smartphones, to tablets, to laptops, to desktops, to gaming consoles! Staying safe and believing the science has meant we closed the church building to everything but worship leadership, so that worship could be produced. Ironic, considering during this COVID crisis we have also been able to finally replace the church roof and 85% of the parking lots.

We have wrapped worship around a song by Mark A. Miller, "I Believe..."

*I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining*

*I believe in love, even when I can't feel it*

*I believe in God, even when God is silent.*

A faith statement that believes that God will, indeed, be once again born into this world that is, again, such an utter mess. That is the world into which Christ is born, and it is the world into which Christ invites the Church to proclaim and help create the reign of God.

This year, the Faith in Action Team and I invite our faithful giving of the Christmas Offering to benefit the Western Michigan University Wesley Foundation, the United Methodist faith community on campus. This is in gratitude for our long-standing partnership together, particularly deepened now in our professional sharing of Pastor Jess Davenport. The other half of your Christmas gift will be divided in gratitude among the church's staff members. The Chapel Hill staff has ensured that Chapel Hill continues to live as a faith community, even as we were forced into our homes. This is a gift of gratitude.

As a faith community this year, I am challenging us to go a little over the top in our Christmas Offering. Know that your stretching to give this Christmas gift is so appreciated. To give to the Christmas Offering online please visit [pchum.org/give](http://pchum.org/give) or send a check with "Christmas Offering" on the memo line to 7028 Oakland Dr., Portage, 49024.

Blessings to You and Yours for Christmas~

Pastor Barry Petrucci

## Coming In Worship: Guest Preacher Deb Johnson

The next two Sundays, Portage Chapel Hill will "virtually" welcome guest preacher Deb Johnson. Rev. Johnson is a retired elder in the United Methodist Church. During her 35-year career she served congregations in Manton, Marne, Hudsonville, Lansing, and Sturgis. Please plan to watch worship on those days at [pchum.org/broadcast](http://pchum.org/broadcast) and send your gratitude.

*Please note: There will be no Communion on January 3.*



## Watchnight Service

- Thursday, December 31 at 11:55 pm

The *Watchnight Service* is a long-standing tradition in many Christian faith communities and denominations. It is a time to review the past year, to make individual and collective confession for things done and left undone, while preparing for the new year in prayer, proclamation, and resolution. This service will be available at [pchum.org/broadcast](http://pchum.org/broadcast).

## Red Cross Blood Drive

- Saturday, January 16
- 10:15 am–4 pm
- Fellowship Hall

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at Portage Chapel Hill is happening Saturday, January 16. To donate please go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code CHUM. If you would like to volunteer to work at the drive please email Blood Drive Coordinator Sue Dueweke at [suzydue@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suzydue@sbcglobal.net).

## Winter Blood Drive



January 16, 2021  
10:15A.M. ~ 4:00P.M.

# Virtual Worship Opportunities at Portage Chapel Hill Church

The pandemic may have us all at home, but there are still opportunities to meet and worship virtually with the community at Portage Chapel Hill!

---

Fermenting Faith happens every Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm. Come for casual conversation about scripture and how it pertains to daily life. The conversation is sometimes funny, sometimes serious, but always a captivating way to spend some time. For more information, or to get the weekly Zoom link, please contact Tonya Boot at [tonyaboot@pchum.org](mailto:tonyaboot@pchum.org).



The FaithLink Sunday School class meets Sunday mornings at 9 am. Each week the FaithLink newsletter covers a different topic, taken right from recent headlines, and challenges readers to see the news through their own lens of faith. To join the class please contact Kathy Willhite at [kathleenwillhite@att.net](mailto:kathleenwillhite@att.net)

---

Other small-group opportunities include book study groups, social justice groups, sewing groups and more! To be connected to a small group at Portage Chapel Hill please contact Director of Discipleship Tonya Boot at [tonyaboot@pchum.org](mailto:tonyaboot@pchum.org).

And if you have an idea for a group please reach out!  
The staff and leadership of Portage Chapel Hill are always looking for new ideas to stay connected during these virtual times.

**Be Safe ~ Be Well ~ Be Blessed**