

October/November 2024

# THE CHALLENGE

The Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron  
811 Wall Street, Port Huron, MI 48060 - (810) 985-6191

## PASTOR POINT

The weather is still in the 80's, the sun is brightly shining, and people are still enjoying weekend time on water and sand. As I write this month's "Pastor Point", we're experiencing Michigan summer in September. I check the weather app on my phone before dressing every morning, so I am wearing something that is "weather appropriate." And my washed sweaters, ready to wear, will sit on my closet shelf for a few more weeks if the forecast is correct!



This weather is a bit of a disconnect, with the routines and rhythms of the fall beginning around us. Even if you are retired, even if this season of life keeps you home most days, you feel the quickening pace of life as schools resume and work schedules fill. It may feel like summer but, as fall will do, the activities of our lives are filling up our calendar.

We hear the words of Ecclesiastes 3 frequently: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot ..." Beyond the weather, the month on a calendar hanging on the wall, what season are you in? Are you in a season of doing, of creating and making things happen? Are you in a season of growing, of taking on new ideas and changing the way you approach life and view the world? Are you in a season of rest, contemplating where you have been and where you are going?

As you reflect upon this season you are in, I hope this church continues to be an integral part of it. There are many ways to be around other people. There are few that offer true fellowship in seasons of celebration, illness, loss, sadness. During this Stewardship Season, think about the many ways this church has been part of your seasons of life, and how you can continue to help it be a part of others' seasons in the future.

Blessings, Pastor Kathy

**Please look for a special announcement in the upcoming weeks regarding the Service of Installation for Reverend Kathy Tessin later this fall.**

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Adult and Children Christian Education
- Thank yous
- Stewardship Season
- Session Highlights
- Important Information
- Upcoming Events



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

## A DEEPER DIVE INTO LUKE

**Adult Bible Study, Thursday afternoons from 12:00-1:30 p.m., Church Parlor  
Taught by Reverend Tessin**

The Revised Common Lectionary for this coming church year will be covering the Gospel of Luke for most of the Gospel passages for worship and preaching. This class will slowly read through this gospel, taking a deep look at a set of verses or chapter each week and the historical, social, literary and theological themes that contribute to the unique perspectives of this book of the Bible. Will continue through the spring.

## SARAH CIRCLE

**Presbyterian Woman's Bible Study, Second Wednesday of each month, 1:00 p.m.  
Taught by Judith McLean**

Sarah Circle is currently studying "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care For Neighbors and All Creation." Women are welcome to join anytime.

## DISCIPLESHIP ADULT STUDY

**Wednesday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Church Parlor  
Facilitated by Reverend Tessin and other group leaders**

This faith formation opportunity uses video and handbooks to explore our own experiences of faith through different contemporary media to strengthen our discipleship as followers of Christ. This group from both the community and this church just completed viewing and discussing Season 4 of "The Chosen." Starting September 9 through October 16 we will be viewing video, and having a discussion, based on the book "Not a Fan" by Kyle Idleman. Drop in any time - you don't need to attend every week to fully participate!

## W.I.N! CLASS

### (WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION FOR NEWCOMERS)

**Sundays, October 20th at 11:45 a.m.  
and November 17th, 11:30 - 12:30, Church Parlor  
Taught by Reverend Tessin**

Are you new to First Presbyterian Church, and new to worshiping in a Presbyterian Church (USA) environment? This is your opportunity to learn a little more about the "why" of how we worship, how we confess our faith, and how we covenant to live with each other as a PC(USA) congregation. This introductory course is for anyone - from those visiting us on occasion all the way to those members that want a refresher to better explain our beliefs and traditions to others.

## LEARNING "THE STORY"

**Second and Third Sundays, 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.,  
Church Parlor beginning October 13th  
Taught by Beth Shoffner**

This class is a supplement to Sunday School and an opportunity to learn all of the people and big events of the Bible - our story of faith! Anyone from ages 8 to 98 is invited to participate. Come hear, read, and explore with us the stories from Adam and Eve to Peter and Paul. Will continue through the Sunday School year.



# CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS RESUMED!

Children meet in the 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service. After the Children's Message, the children will go to their classrooms with their teachers.

**G.I.F.T. (Growing In Faith Together): 3 years to 3rd Grade**  
**Mountain Movers: Grades 4th-8th**



## SUMMER BIBLE CAMP (VBS) THANK YOU



Thank you to the many volunteers who helped us "Start the Party" at this year's VBS! To those who prepared food, decorated, taught rotations, served as group leaders, helped with technology, worked registration, cleaned up, and so many other tasks, we could not be more grateful for your time and energy. Thirty-one children participated in our program this year and seemed to have a lot of fun at VBS, as well as at our movie night at Sperry's. We had some new faces too, as well as some return visitors. Thank you again to the congregation for your dedication to our children both with time and finances. The Christian Education Committee could not hold this event without your support.

Sincerely,  
The Christian Education Committee





# SONSHINE SISTERS TEA



# WORSHIP AND ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC





# YARD SALE THANK YOU

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make our annual August Yard Sale a financial and spiritual success. For those who cleaned out their attics, basements and garages that provide us with plenty of items to sell, for the tireless volunteers who helped clean, sort and display these items, and those who came early and stayed late to set up, take down and assist our shoppers - without you the sale would have not happened and for that we are very grateful. The sale raised \$1,725 with an additional \$55 being given by the children who ran the refreshment table. The money (along with what the committee raises at its upcoming bake sale) will be given to the city's four shelters- Pathways and Carolyn's Place (for women and families), The Harbor for Teens, and the Blue Water Area Rescue Mission (men).

But as with our past sales, the money we receive is only part of the story. What so many of us who worked the sale days witnessed are the stories of the people who came to shop but who also gave us the reason to keep doing this: the family living in a motel room while waiting to move into a home who left with school clothes and warm coats for her children as well as sheets, blankets and basic housewares to get them started; the mother who found the perfect Halloween costumes for her children when she thought that she wouldn't be able to afford any this year; a man, who after shopping and leaving, kept coming back to help his neighbors carry home their purchases; the homeless man and his friend who helped us set up and take down the sale as well as watch over the items in our parking lot on Friday night; the people who could only give us pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters for their purchases and those who bought one small item but gave much more than what it was worth. All of them, as well as the workers, receive so much more than the money we put in the till. Thank you!

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## WHEELCHAIR USE

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for loaning me the church wheelchair so that I could attend my Family Reunion on August 28th at the KOA. I spent five hours visiting with my four children, 14 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren. I had a day filled with wonderful memories!

Sincerely, Ann Crandall



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## THE GOLDEN AGES LUNCHEON



The Golden Ages Luncheon was held on Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. in the Gathering Room. The guests enjoyed a meal catered by Joy's Catering. We played "Name That Tune" and "Who's Answer was That?". Individual pictures were taken in front of the Parlor's fireplace for a scrapbook. The honored guests took home special sugar cookies, corsages/boutonnieres and great memories. Everyone had a wonderful time!



# STEWARDSHIP 2025: "A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY"

What does it mean to have "A Culture of Generosity?" We know that our church is alive and well today because all of the members and friends that came before us heard God's call to become a part of this community, and generously gave what they could of what they themselves had been given. We know that there are many ways to give, including our time, our talents, and our treasures, and that our capacities to give in each of these areas will fluctuate throughout our lives. We know that as we prayerfully consider what we are being called to contribute to this community in the coming year, we must ultimately trust in God's guidance and provision for our church. As you think about your pledge, we ask you to spend some time considering what this church family has meant to you, and what it could continue to mean in the future.

By now you should have received your pledge cards, with an invitation to consider your financial commitment to First Presbyterian Church in 2025. Your pledge card can be returned to the church through the mail, in the offering plate, or dropped off at the church office. October 6th will be dedication Sunday, with the goal of remaining pledges being turned in during worship, followed by a reception celebrating the many years of service of long time organist, Gary Rhody.

Please reach out to your stewardship committee with any questions or concerns.

In Christ,

Pastor Kathy Tessin

Linda Hall, Chairperson

Liz Lozen

Pat Schattler

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## CALLING ALL READERS

If you are finding yourself with an abundance of reading material and limited storage space, please consider donating them to our Little Free Library. Novels, mysteries, science fiction, westerns and historical fiction as well as books for young adults, teens and children (in good or gently used condition) are welcomed to find a new home in our library. Just bring them in and leave



them in the front office or give them to Judith McLean. Please note: our readers are not fans of non-fiction or magazines (including cookbooks, gardening and how-to books, biographies and book about faith). If you wish to donate these types of books, please consider giving them to the Friends of the St. Clair County Library for their quarterly book sales. These books can be dropped off Monday through Friday in the back of the Port Huron library off the parking lot.



# CHURCH UPDATES AND INFORMATION

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

SHELLEY KAMER,  
CLERK OF SESSION

### **AUGUST**

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on August 12, 2024:

- Approved using Endowment Funds to support the Beautiful Me workshop that will be held at the church on September 17, 19, 24, and 26th.
- Approved moving the start time of the Regular Session meetings from 7:00 p. m. to 6:30 p. m. beginning in September.
- Approved the purchase of a church computer for use by Rev. Kathy Tessin. Funds will come from Endowment.

### **SEPTEMBER**

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on September 9, 2024:

- Approved use of the building for a concert by The Dodworth Saxhorn Band on November 22, 2024.
- Approved the transfer of membership for Tom and Nancy Hunter to Eastminster Presbyterian Church, East Lansing, Mi.

## ONLINE GIVING

Did you know you can now pledge online to First Presbyterian Church by using the safe and secure service from Tithe.ly? You can use your credit card or debit card. Your gift can be a one-time contribution, or a recurring monthly contribution.

Check out the "Give" link on our website ([fpcporthuron.org](http://fpcporthuron.org))!

## JOB OPENING

### **Children Christian Education Coordinator**

First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron is seeking a faithful leader for our children's Christian education program. Interested applicants should have experience working with children, youth, parents, and volunteers, joyously helping to develop their faith. We are searching for a passionate, creative Christian able to draw outside the lines to share the love of Christ in new ways.

This flexible position requires approximately 10 hours a week with responsibilities including leading and developing programs and materials, coordination of volunteers and planning of youth events.

Interested candidates should contact Steve Ahlquist, [steve.ahlquist@yahoo.com](mailto:steve.ahlquist@yahoo.com) or the Personnel Committee: Shelley Kamer, Marilyn Dunn for further details.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

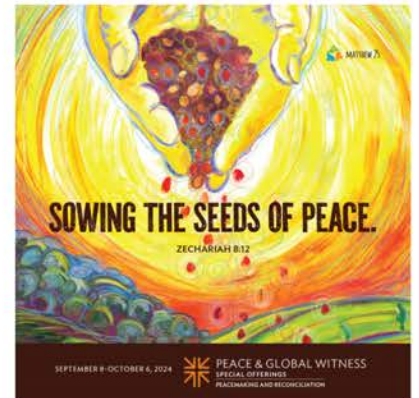
## OPERATION TRANSFORMATION (OT) ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

**Thursday, October 3rd**

Operation Transformation will have their annual benefit dinner on Thursday, October 3rd. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the program begins at 6:00 p.m. at Alexander's in Marysville, MI. If you would like to attend this event, there are complimentary tickets available, please call (810) 966-8660 or email [cseppo@optrans.org](mailto:cseppo@optrans.org).

## PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS

The Mission Committee will be collecting a special offering promoting peacemaking and reconciliation this fall. The Peace and Global Witness Offering is one of four collections taken each year by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Its purpose is to draw Presbyterians together "as active peacemakers ... and provide us with the tools to share Christ's peace with one another, connecting us beyond our doors, beyond our communities and across borders and boundaries."



Of the money we collect, 25% remains with us to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our community, 25% goes to help efforts through regional presbyteries and synods and 50% is given to efforts specially advocating for Christ's peace and justice. Last year, our congregation raised \$961.

## CELEBRATION OF GARY RHODY'S RETIREMENT

**Sunday, October 6th**  
**following Traditional Worship (10 AM)**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Please help us celebrate the retirement of Gary Rhody, our long-time organist, at a reception in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, October 6th** following the 10 AM Traditional Worship. The reception will include time to celebrate Gary, enjoy light refreshments, and fellowship together.  
**Thank you Gary!**





# FIRE EATERS NEEDED



Hot and spicy? Full of beans or beanless? Beef, chicken or vegetarian? Thick or soupy? Toppings or plain? It doesn't matter how you like your chili, there will be something for everyone at the Membership and Outreach Committee's annual Chili Cook-Off. Planned for after the 10 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, October 20th** in the Fellowship Hall, the cook-off will feature a variety of chilis and toppings to be judged by a hungry panel of experts: You. And, as in year's past, the committee is issuing the following challenge: We would like each Session and Deacon committee to enter one chili to be judged (at-large entries are also welcomed) with the winner getting bragging rights and a chance to defend his or her title the next year. A free-will offering will be taken.

Afterward, to cleanse the chili palette, the Mission Committee will be selling baked goods to either take home or eat there.

If you would like to enter your award-worthy pot of deliciousness, a signup sheet will be available in the church office or contact Mark Schian (last year's winner) for more information.



# READY, SET, DOUGH!

What better way to chill the heat of a good chili than with a refreshing, gooey, delicious dessert? When you have eaten and judged your fill of chili at our annual Chili Cook-Off on **Sunday, October 20th**, why not step across the floor of the Fellowship Hall and shop for some homemade treats? The Mission Committee will be hosting a Bake Sale that day to benefit everyone's sweet tooth as well as help those who are in need of shelter. A free-will offering will be taken for the homemade breads, cookies, tarts, pies, cakes and brownies on offer with all of the proceeds supplementing what was raised during the committee's summer yard sale to benefit the city's four shelters- Pathways and Carolyn's Place (women and families), The Harbor for Teens, and the Blue Water Area Rescue Mission (men).

But in order to have a bake sale, you need bakers and we need bakers. If you would like to showcase your from-scratch treats, a signup sheet has been placed in the church office or contact Sue Murvich for more information. Note: If you can't wait for the Chili Cookoff to begin, the sale will be open between the First Light and Traditional 10 a.m. Worship services.





# GREAT LAKES PILGRIMAGE

October 11th - October 13th

This Faith Renewal Weekend (called "Pilgrimage") is October 11th – October 13th (Friday to Sunday) at Echo Grove Camp and Retreat Center near Leonard, Michigan. Please pray for those attending, from this congregation and others, the spiritual retreat over that weekend.



38TH ANNUAL

## Kirkin' o' the Tartans

OCTOBER 27, 2024 AT 10 A.M.

Bring your family and friends for the 38th Annual Scottish-themed family service, Kirkin' O' The Tartans, on **Sunday, October 27th at 10:00 AM**. There will be a display of beautiful tartans, authentic bagpiper and Scottish dancers, traditional treats and even a few kilts!

## AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

Sunday, November 10th at 12:00 PM

Before the holiday hustle and bustle begins to fill our calendars, the Membership and Outreach Committee would like to invite you to come, sit a spell, eat some buttery popcorn and enjoy a heart-warming family movie starting at **noon** at Sperry's Moviehouse on **Sunday, November 10th**.



Being shown will be "All Saints," starring John Corbett, Barry Corbin and Cara Buono. Based on a true story, it tells the story of a salesman-turned-pastor, Michael Spurlock (Corbett), who has been sent to a small and financially strapped Episcopal parish in Smyrna, Tenn., to shut it down - the diocese wants to sell the land to a big-box store. While initially on board with his mission, Spurlock is moved by members of his congregation as well as his faith and a group of Burmese refugees to fight for the church's survival, in a unique and surprising way.

The cost is \$9 and a signup sheet will be placed in the church office. Please note: There will be an "enhanced" coffee hour at the church prior to the movie. For more details, check with Mark Schian or Judith McLean.





## ...AND THE BAND PLAYED ON

Members of the congregation, their families and friends are in for a unique and fun musical experience when the Dodworth Saxhorn Band will perform in concert at the church from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, November 22nd.**

The band, which is based in Ann Arbor, is known as "America's Premier 19th Century Brass Band dedicated to bringing America's Musical Past to Life." Taking its name from the Dodworth Band of New York City which performed throughout the mid-19th century, it was recreated in 1985 by historic musical instrument collector Alexander Pollack. Since then the band, which features percussion and brass instruments known as "saxhorns" as well as vocalists, has frequently performed at Greenfield Village and throughout Michigan. It has also been featured in the Ken Burns documentary series' "Baseball," "Jazz," and "The Roosevelts."

The evening promises not only to be entertaining but fun. There is no charge for the concert, thanks to the generosity of several donors, but a free-will offering will be taken. And for a preview of coming attractions, check out the band's website ([www.dodworth.org](http://www.dodworth.org)) as well as Facebook and YouTube.



## DECKING THE HALLS

**November 30th at 9:00 AM**

The Membership and Outreach Committee is looking for volunteers to help get the church dressed in its holiday finery starting at **9 a.m. on Saturday, November 30th.** Mark Schian has promised that the decorators will be finished by noon (something about a football game that afternoon featuring Michigan and Ohio State). And, as the saying goes, many hands make light work, so the more volunteers that show up the faster the holly and the ivy will be hung and swagged.

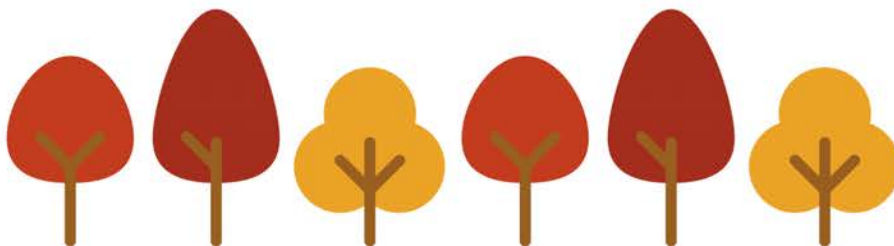


## ADVENT LUNCHEONS

**SAVE THE DATES: December 5th, 12th, and 19th at 12:00 PM**

**St. John's United Church of Christ**

Olde Town Churches will be having their Advent Luncheons the first three Thursdays in December at St. John's United Church of Christ. Everyone is invited to join in a delicious lunch as well as a short presentation given by various Olde Town Church clergy. Reverend Tessin will be speaking on **Thursday, December 5th.**





# **DATES TO REMEMBER**

## **OCTOBER**

- October 6: Holy Communion; Special Stewardship Service; October Birthday/Anniversary Celebration; Celebration of Gary Rhody's Retirement
- October 9: Sarah Circle at 1 PM
- October 13: Learning "The Story" Class at 11:30 AM
- October 14: Deacon Meeting at 4 PM; Session Meeting at 6:30 PM
- October 20: Learning "The Story" Class at 11:30 AM; W.I.N. Class 11:45 AM; Annual Chili Cook Off and Bake Sale 11:15 AM
- October 27: Kirking 'O The Tartans Worship at 10 AM

## **NOVEMBER**

- November 3: All Saints Day; Holy Communion; November Birthday/Anniversary Celebration
- November 10: Learning "The Story" at 11:30 AM; "All Saints" Movie at Sperry's Moviehouse 12:00 PM
- November 11: Deacon Meeting at 4:00 PM; Session Meeting at 6:30 PM
- November 13: Sarah Circle at 1:00 PM
- November 17: Learning "The Story" at 11:30 AM; W.I.N. Class at 11:30 AM
- November 22: The Dodworth Saxhorn Band 7:00-9:00 PM
- November 28: Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed
- November 30: Decorating the Church for Christmas 9 AM
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## **DECEMBER**

- December 1: Holy Communion; December Birthday/Anniversary Celebrations
- December 5: Advent Luncheon at St. John's United Church of Christ 12:00 PM
- December 9: Deacon Meeting at 4:00 PM; Session Meeting at 6:30 PM
- December 12: Advent Luncheon at St. John's United Church of Christ 12:00 PM
- December 19: Advent Luncheon at St. John's United Church of Christ 12:00 PM
- December 23: Christmas Eve-Eve Family Sing-a-long at Lynch's Tavern
- December 24: Christmas Eve Worship
- December 25: Merry Christmas! Office Closed
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## **SOUND/VIDEO BOARD VOLUNTEERS**

The Tech Team is looking for volunteers to assist with the sound and video board during Sunday Traditional Worship at 10:00 AM so we can continue to successfully live stream our services to those who cannot be with us in person! Please let the church office know if you are interested in being trained.



# Happy Birthday!

## OCTOBER

Annie Carolan	10-01
Andrea Mills	10-02
Jim Ryan	10-03
Mary Jo Heck	10-04
Troy Peyerck	10-08
Robert Weston	10-10
Jill Emery	10-11
Marshall Kamer	10-11
Steven Ahlquist	10-14
Chelsea Burns	10-14
Sheri Kaiser	10-16
Linda Tift	10-17
Lisa Matthews	10-18
Jennifer Rise	10-21
Jill Secory	10-21
Linda Phillips	10-23
Jerrydeanna Pretty	10-23
Chris Nurnberg	10-24
Judaline Darczy	10-25
Brendan Tinsley	10-25
Conner Tinsley	10-25
Zachary Kerhoulas	10-27
Jennifer Lee	10-27
Elizabeth Lozen	10-28
Kaylee Watson	10-30
Jane Schuster	10-31

## NOVEMBER

Luke Fletcher	11-02
Jonathan Nurnberg	11-03
Richard Tinsley Jr.	11-05
Barry Meier	11-06
Tamara Andreoni	11-10
John Groustra	11-10
Helen Ingram	11-12
Skye Owen	11-14
Mila Peyerck	11-15
Andrea Rosales	11-16
Dorothy Morehead	11-20
Joan Vandawaker	11-22
Thomas Deaner	11-23
Kathryn Groustra	11-24
Darcy Roe	11-24
Vivian West	11-24
William Emery	11-28
Ty Fletcher	11-30



# Happy Anniversary!

## OCTOBER

Christopher and Megan Chrzanowski	10-15
Robert and Tami Cronce	10-19
Allan and Tamara Andreoni	10-24

## NOVEMBER

Alan and Sara Liter-Kuester	11-16
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*Join us on the first Sunday of  
each month during Fellowship  
time to celebrate your  
birthday or anniversary!*



# WORSHIP WITH US!

## Sundays

**First Light Worship - 8:30 a.m.**  
**Traditional Worship - 10:00 a.m.**  
**Fellowship time immediately**  
**following each worship.**



### **OUR MISSION:**

**KNOW the love of God,**  
**GROW in the Christian faith,**  
**GO share our faith in Jesus Christ.**



### **Connect with us!**

**Facebook: @FirstPresbyterianChurch**

**Port Huron**

**YouTube: @FirstPresbyterianChurch**

**Website: [www.fpcporthuron.org](http://www.fpcporthuron.org)**

## OUR STAFF

*Reverend Kathy Tessin*

Pastor

[portpresby.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:portpresby.pastor@gmail.com)

(810) 985-6191

Christian Education Coordinator

[portpresby.ce@gmail.com](mailto:portpresby.ce@gmail.com)

*Paige Cronce/Laura Gaffney*

Social Media/Marketing Tech

[portpresby.social@gmail.com](mailto:portpresby.social@gmail.com)

*Kristie Lamb*

Financial Secretary

[fpcbookkeeping811@gmail.com](mailto:fpcbookkeeping811@gmail.com)

(Tuesday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.)

*Elizabeth Roe*

Musician, Traditional Worship

*Price Smith*

Musician, First Light Worship

*Laura Gaffney*

Administrative Assistant

[portpresby@gmail.com](mailto:portpresby@gmail.com)

(M-TH: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.)

*Bill Briscoe*

Custodian/Maintenance Director

(Contact for appointments)

*Elizabeth Block*

Nursery Attendant

September-May;

Sundays 9:30-11:30 a.m.

*Amy Block, Nursery Assistant*