



Tower Chimes

A Publication of
First United Methodist Church of Port Huron

March 2021

Post-Impeachment Reflection

Since his acquittal, I've been reflecting quite a bit on the second impeachment trial of Donald Trump. Analysis of Trump's influence on the American political system, and politicians in particular, remains a common topic on TV commentary shows. Whether or not you like Trump as a person, politician, or leader, or agree with his beliefs and the political policies he championed, there's no denying the fact that his stamp on our nation has left an indelible mark. From what I can tell, even were he to fade into the background as a political leader, the effects of his presidency will be felt for decades to come.

I will go on record to say that I believe the House Managers successfully showed that the events of January 6 were the direct result of the actions and words of President Trump over the course of his four years in office. The fact that Mitch McConnell, one of Trump's most ardent supporters and defenders, came to the same conclusion, lends a boatload of credence to this perspective. From the evidence I saw and heard presented, personal political biases aside, I think the facts are indisputable. What may be disputable is the constitutionality of convicting a non-sitting president. However, in this case the U.S. Senate *determined by official vote* that it *was* constitutional to try a non-sitting president. So, with the constitutionality argument against conviction removed, based on the evidence alone, I believe 'guilty' was the only verdict that would have any integrity to it.

Back to my self-reflection. In the days since, I'm experiencing an emotion that, for the most part, is foreign to me. That feeling is **deep disappointment**. I think my sense of disappointment is rooted in my own commitment to living a life of integrity even if doing so somehow "costs" me. Personally, I put a lot of stock in Jesus' statement that it's the truth which sets us free from the emotional and spiritual bondage caused by lies (see John 8:32). I believe most of those who voted to acquit the President ignored the evidence (even if they publicly said they were not convinced), and instead put their own political ambitions ahead of standing for the truth. Their unwillingness to stand against the actions, and certain inactions, on the part of the President for the purpose of maintaining their own position of power deeply disappoints me.

At first, then, the object of my disappointment were the leaders—mostly Republican—whose vote all along the way supported not holding the president accountable.

But then I heard that little voice in my head which almost always speaks up whenever I start to dole out blame. The first thing I heard that voice say was, "Drew, do you really believe that had the shoe been on the other political foot, Democrats would have acted differently?" As I emotionally positioned myself in the "balcony" and tried to get a better view of the big picture, I was able to see that this really isn't a Democratic-Republican problem. **It's a human problem**. Self-preservation at all costs is our human condition. As much as I'd like to think I'd always stand up to what's wrong and do the right thing no matter the cost, it's probably more likely that I, too, would choose saving myself were my back against the wall. Ouch!

Then that voice spoke some more, reminding me of one of the thirty-four 'marks of discipleship' from the DISCIPLE Bible Study. The starting place for each DISCIPLE Bible study lesson is a 'human condition,' and closes with a 'mark of discipleship,' which is the Christian response to the human condition.

Lesson 9 is about when Israel asked Samuel for a king. Even after he warned them about the ramifications of having a king, they still wanted one, so that they could be like all the other nations around them. When Samuel took this request to God, God told him, "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king" (1 Samuel 8:7). The human condition for lesson 9 is *We demand leaders, hoping they will bring security and peace. We want our leaders to make decisions for us, to tell us what to do so we won't have to take responsibility for ourselves and our actions. But power tends to corrupt; and we discover our leader, like us, have feet of clay.* For this lesson, the ultimate mark of a disciple (a follower of Christ) is this: *Disciples maintain a perspective on leadership that supports and respects godly leaders but gives true allegiance to God.*

With this, the disappointment I'm feeling is put into proper perspective. Yes, I'm still disappointed that many of them put their own ambitions first. But I can also see that my disappointment is rooted in my experience of our human condition, which is that there's a real part of me that expects those in public office to live by superhuman standards, when the truth is probably that very few of us would do so were we in their shoes.

Maybe the disappointment I'm feeling is really a disappointment in the reality of human brokenness and sin. Maybe I'm experiencing the metaphorical scales falling from my eyes. I mentioned at the top that disappointment is a foreign feeling to me. Generally speaking, I've always maintained a pretty high regard for the motives and standards of our elected leaders. But this situation is a stark reminder that ultimately, there's only one leader and person who will never disappoint us, and who always did the right thing even when it eventually cost him his life, and that's Jesus Christ. As Christians, our true allegiance is to God alone.

Pastor Drew

UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* EVENTS




Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!

March 3—United Methodist Women Mission team meet at 1 pm

March 10—United Methodist Men will meet at 6:30 pm in Wesley Hall

HOLY WEEK



March 28—Palm Sunday

April 1—Maundy Thursday

April 2—Good Friday, church office closed

April 4—Easter Sunday

April 5—Church office closed

Your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday on March 14, 2021 (**formerly One Great Hour of Sharing**) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.



Lord, Hear Our Prayers

Freida Brown
 Courtnie Bush, great-niece of Sharon Betts
 Amy Carpenter, cousin of Carolyn Kaidan
 Joan Cubitt, mother of Kay Thomas
 Sharon DeFrain, daughter of Lee and Marilyn Vander Esch
 Ron Doran, brother of Janet Doran
 Collette Gravel, sister-in-law of Pierrette and Jim Thelander
 Suzanne Gray, friend of O'Dells
 Joe Higgins, nephew of Bob & Carol Kandell
 Helen Jewell
 Cyndy Keesler, daughter of Alice Giese
 Stephanie Kresin, niece of Kathy Kelly
 Connie LaFrance

Val Maher, friend of Carolyn Kaidan
 Maryanne McNutt
 Abby Mendez, great-niece of Helen Jewell
 Sue Pettengill
 Ann Poirier, aunt of Carolyn Kaidan
 Larry Sanders, uncle of Carolyn Kaidan
 Joanne Schaefer
 Mark Scott, son of Mel and Ruth Ann Scott
 Joyce Sheffer, mother of Kathy Stein
 Erika Staiger and Andrew
 John Staiger
 Julie & Sharon Staiger
 Donna Taylor

Posie Tuckey, great-great niece of Mary Daniels
 Noreen Wager
 Connie Wedge, sister of Bob Kreger
 Paul & Kathy Williams
 Bonnie Wright, mother of Susan Allen
 Lilly Wright, niece of Rev. Bill and Dayna
 All serving in the Armed Forces
 Jenna and Kyle
 Our homeless community
 Port of Hopes patrons
 Soup Kitchen Staff and Volunteers
 The son of Jean Sones Goff
 Lynn, daughter of Mel & Ruth Ann Scott

Christian sympathy extended to

Kathy Stein and family upon the passing of Tom Stein on January 27

PRAY FOR LEADERS OF THE LIBERIA CONFERENCE

- Bishop Samuel Quire
- Rev. Samuel Kanwea, District Superintendent Grand Gedeh District
- Rev. Morrison Wleh, Nanu Kru District
- Rev. Morris Jarkloh, Sinoe District

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES AND PEACE CORPS

Lieutenant Colonel Eric D. Swanson, 1st CAG Inspector & Instructor, Camp Pendleton, CA (Pearl Swanson's nephew)
 Chief MSgt. Gordon Wager, stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio (son of Bill & Judi Wager, grandson of Noreen Wager)

LCDR John DeLano, serving at Fort McNair, Washington DC. (the Vinande's son-in-law)

Sgt. Nathan Holdburg, serving at Camp Pendleton, CA (son of Marcia Holdburg)

Airman Jared Ward, stationed at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska (son of Jerry & Jennifer Ward)

PRAYERS FOR OUR SISTER LIBERIAN CHURCHES...

William N. Ross UMC-Grand Gedeh District — Rev. Jacob S. Natham, II and Rev. Pewee Wiakanty; R.G. Togba UMC, Nana Kru District — Rev. Aloysius Dugbe and Pastor Matilda Wleh; Tubmanville UMC, Sinoe District — Rev. Lawrence Sackor

The deadline for the April 2021 Tower Chimes is: **Thursday, March 11.** Please submit articles to the church office to be included in the next issue. Everyone is interested in your news and needs your committee information.



If you would like to be included on the weekly church email *News to Share*, please email the church office at phfumc@gmail.com or call 810/985-8107.

RESURRECTION BUNS ARE COMING

This year the youth are unable to offer their traditional Easter breakfast. However, all is not lost. Kathy Ekelund and Carol Miller have graciously agreed to carry on our tradition of Resurrection Buns for Easter breakfast.

144 buns will be made available for take-out. Pick up will be on Saturday, April 3 in the afternoon between 2 and 4 PM. The buns must be preordered and picked up on Saturday. Since the supply is limited to 144, you are encouraged to order early. Once the 144 limit is reached, no more buns will be available.

This will be a fund-raiser for our youth program so a very generous donation is encouraged when you order or you pick up the buns.

Please fill out the order form below and return to the church office. (Mailing it is preferred, or drop it off on Sunday morning)

Name _____

Number of Resurrection buns _____

Phone number _____ (in case we need to remind you to pick up your order)

Cost: A donation toward our youth program

Mail order form to First United Methodist Church, c/o Youth program, 828 Lapeer, Port Huron, Michigan 48060

Youth Group Tentative Schedule

Yay! We're back!



Time: 11:30 – 2 pm

February 21 – Lunch, planning, devotion, fun and games

February 28 – Lunch, devotion, fun and games

March 7 – Lunch, devotion, fun and games

March 14 – Lunch, devotion, fun and games

March 21 – Lunch, devotion, fun and games

March 28 – Lunch, devotion, fun and games

If you are not able to get your order for Resurrection Buns from the Youth Group fundraiser, below is the recipe for you to make at home.



Resurrection Buns

- 12 Rhodes rolls, thawed
- 12 Marshmallows, normal size
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 Tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup melted butter

Instructions:

1. Heat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Grease a 9 x 13-inch baking dish.
3. Mix the sugar and cinnamon in a bowl.
4. Press the dough out into a 4 inch circle. Put a marshmallow on each circle.
5. Pinch the circle closed around the marshmallow and roll the dough in the butter and cinnamon sugar.
6. Place in the baking dish.
7. Repeat until you've used all the dough.
8. Let rest 15 minutes and then bake for 15 minutes or until golden.
9. Serve immediately.

All-Church Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, March 7, 2021

1:00 ~ 3:00 p.m.

Picture Slide Show at 6 p.m. via ZOOM

Please note that times have changed from what was previously posted



HAVE A CARLOAD OF FUN!!

This is a socially-distanced Scavenger Hunt like you've never seen before! All challenges will be tied to a task in the Port Huron area. Here are a few details:

- Register with your TEAM NAME ~ no limit on number of people per team but all should fit in one car

REGISTER AT: michaeltimm@comcast.net

- Bring the following list of items ~ these will remain in each car and used during the event:
 - 1) A smartphone in order to send pictures (not having one should not keep you from participating!)
 - 2) Two canned goods for donation
 - 3) A \$10-15 gift card to give away from the location of your choice (e.g. Target, Kroger, Meijer, Walmart)
 - 4) Item (s) to donate to Goodwill
 - 5) A small gift for a Club 90 member (e.g. flowers, potted plant, candy)
 - 6) A little cash to pay for drive-thru order behind you (\$5 maximum)
- The hunt begins AT THE CHURCH at 1:00 p.m. where each carload will receive their instructions
- After the scavenger hunt teams will not return to the church but HOME for the ZOOM get-together at 6 p.m. A ZOOM invitation will be sent to your email after you register.

We look forward to sharing a fun afternoon with you that is sure to bring smiles to many faces!

Your Evangelism Committee



IN LOVING MEMORY OF TOM STEIN

Jerome Jonckheere
 David Herrington
 Mike & Debbie Timm
 Gary & Cheryl Crawford
 Gen Johnston
 Bernie & Jeannine Schneider
 Jerry & Jennifer Ward
 Chuck & Janet Clark
 Fred & Marianne Kemp
 Richard & Char Sponseller
 Lon Sommerville
 Joyce & Mike Emrick
 Dennis & Marianne Nicholson
 Barb Bates
 William & Lynn Butterworth
 Howard & Shirley Stein & family
 Steven & Patricia Burroughs
 Brenda Wheatley
 Mary Daniels
 Ed Parks
 Robert & Betty Parsons
 Daniel & Denise Caughill
 Henry & Penny Stein
 Lynda & David Genaw
 Barbara Randall
 Daniel & Carol Smith
 William Fockler
 Terry & Tim Ruff
 Angela Sherman
 Rod & Gale Stein
 Donald & Edith Stein
 Mike & Delta Charles
 Larry & Karen Emery
 Becky & Bria Martin
 Edna McCoy
 Joyce Young
 Nancy Rock & Karee Harrison
 Carol & William Rock
 Tami Morris
 Mary Kay Radatz
 Joseph & Kimberly Randolph
 Gregg & Lana Wagner
 Randy & Christine Vinande
 Charles & Susan McCabe
 Diane Anderson
 Michael Nawrocki
 Gerald Sheffer and Madysen
 Ron & Deborah Havel and family
 Ron, Mary-Margaret, Kaitlyn & Brayden Hunger
 Robert & Joyce Stein family
 Charlie & Debbie Blythe

Thanks to all helped to keep us connected:
musicians, readers, minister and staff.

Pam Ruehle



Dear First Church Friends,
 Words cannot express our gratitude for your prayers and concern for our grandson, Mitchell, for our son, Jeff and his family and for us. We appreciate the prayers, cards, phone calls and expressions of sympathy. We are thankful to have so many wonderful friends at Port Huron First United Methodist Church.

Richard and Char

My heartfelt thanks to each of you who aided in the recent search for me. I'm just beginning to learn how vast the effort was. I've always been the "responder", and am overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and concern directed to me. It is truly a blessing to be a part of PHFUMC!

Dawn Roberts

We just wanted to say thank you so much to Shirley Yorke and FUMC for the nice cards that you send for all of our special occasions! They really make our day and we appreciate them so much!

Thank you!
 Erik, Michelle, Aiden and Colton Carrier

Dear Church,
 I wish to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness in sending cards, phone calls and their prayers during this very difficult time for my family and I. I am so grateful to Pastor Hart for his phone calls and praying with me. All of your support has been very much appreciated, more than you can imagine.
 I do look forward to being able to be in church again.

Kathy Stein

Thanks to everyone for compiling and mailing the Lenten Devotion book to me.

Jerry Hisscock



WINTER



K O A X M G U P N Q D S H O V E L C W F I T
 Z B N I R E T A E W S O J S Y A D I L O H K
 A J T Q H V I M O G T L B R N P X U G E F C
 N T F S O L S T I C E G E I A H R B D L R X
 S D E Z C U B N H L Y P V M F R T A Q W O P
 L I B U K H F O A U P R T D I L S N E G Z O
 W G R D E L C I C I M X A E P T O H T S E B
 H I N F Y O K G L O V E S U M C R D I P N L
 S R X I L B W S P H U F N T R K A E B J Q Y
 C F P A D E C E M B E R O Z H B N G T A S N
 A H T O G R Q H F T L I W V D A E K S N P A
 R E K L W H A P U N O T S B G J C F O U I M
 F C V B E K J O D X N Q H G L Y S W R A T W
 M A S G U N E M B K G Z O P W I B Q F R L O
 U L O K F T N H S W J B E C S A Z P V Y G N
 E P D T I C G A E R O M S F L B K Z H C A S
 Q E J H B I D U L T H N Y L G N I T A K S M
 A R W O E P N B Z F N C S X J O H M U R V G
 B I C L R M H G Q P S E K A L F W O N S D U
 Y F S N V T E K C A J H D Q Z I P L X M B R

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|-----------|---------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| blizzard | frostbite | igloo | skating | snowman |
| December | frozen | jacket | skiing | snowshoes |
| February | gloves | January | sleigh | solstice |
| fireplace | hockey | longjohns | slippery | sweater |
| flannel | holidays | mitts | snowballs | toboggan |
| flurries | hot chocolate | scarf | snowboarding | whiteout |
| frigid | icicle | shovel | snowflakes | wintertime |

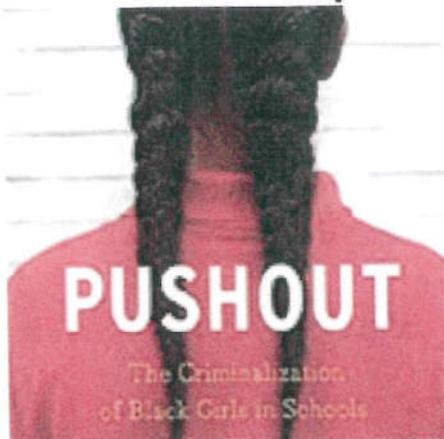


**East Winds District United Methodist Women
Prayer Breakfast and Spiritual Growth Event**

Join us on Saturday, April 24, 2021

at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM

Speakers: Marchelle “Micki” Phelps and Sharon Appling



The program will be based on the book “Pushout” by Monique Morris.

The focus for the program will be on the school-to-prison pipeline.

We will also be having devotions, prayer, and fellowship.

Please send your reservation by April 2, 2021,

to Cyndy Rossman via email to: cynrosjam@gmail.com

Subject line of email: Prayer Breakfast

Please include your name, email address, and your phone number

in your email or you can call Cyndy at (586)757-5146

if you have any questions.

**A few days before the event you will be sent a link to connect to the
ZOOM via internet or via the telephone.**



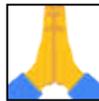
Hello again from your UMW President Joan Fleet.

I pray that all of the world continue to work diligently towards a successful understanding of the Pandemic that is affecting the world today.

Having said that, I want to assure the you that the UMW organization around the world, to include our East Winds Chapter, and yes our own UMW @ FUMC, are up and running in 2021 in Faith - Hope - Love in Action. **The UMW Executive team will meet on Wednesday, March 3, at 1 pm.**

I will continue to include my monthly updates in the Tower Chimes. In the meantime stay safe and healthy as we become Stronger in Prayer

We miss all of you.
Joan Fleet



The 2021 flowers and radio sign-up chart is up on the bulletin board across from Wesley Hall.

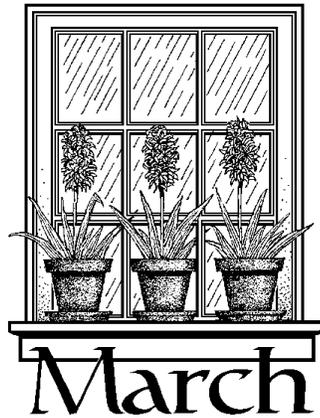


Thanks to those who have supported the Flower and Radio Ministries:

Radio

February 28—In appreciation of the musicians who have provided music during the shut-down from Mary Ecker

| Less | More |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Talking | Listening |
| Television | Reading |
| Planning | Doing |
| Soda | Water |
| "Being Connected" | Putting the Phone Down |
| Junk Food | Fruits and Vegetables |
| Complaining | Encouraging |
| Excuses | Responsibility |
| Worrying | Hoping |
| Doubting | Believing |
| Procrastinating | Achieving |
| Frowning | Smiling |
| Selfishness | Giving |
| Weakness | Confidence |
| Ignorance | Understanding |
| Ungratefulness | Thankfulness |
| Of the World | of God |



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 3—Evan Crawford | 11—Precious Fetterly | 18—Betty Christler | 26—Brodey Hornby |
| 5—Jane Heithoff- Gladstone | 11—Nancy Ryan | 18—Kathy Ekelund | 27—Beverly Friedland |
| 5—Phillip Johnston | 13—Christine Reno | 18—Bob McClellan | 28—Sylvia Johnson |
| 7—Laurie Dinger | 14—Shiree Fetterly | 19—Ann Morse | 29—Jack Rowley |
| 9—Evan Redmond | 14—Ryan Duda | 19—Judy Parent | 30—Noreen Wager |
| 10—Sue Hadden | 15—Shirley Yorke | 19—Judi Kuschel | 30—Grady Butler |
| 10—Ken Mapley | 16—Brian Duda | 21—Michael Saunders | 31—Elizabeth Hurd |
| 10—Bob Hisscock | 17—Jean King | 21—Steve Grattan | 31—Niklas Thomas |
| 11—Chris Vinande | 17—Joshua Fetterly | 21—Charlene Welics | |
| | 17—Lee Vander Esch | 23—Celeste Kempf | |



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 1—Rob & Becky Genaw
- 12—Fred & Joanne Schaefer
- 15—Sally & James Basnaw
- 26—Peter & Beth Tseng



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

828 Lapeer Avenue Port Huron, MI 48060

February 17, 2021

Pastor:
Drew Hart

Youth Leaders:
Kathy Ekelund
Brian Miller
Carol Miller

Director of Music:
Steve Grattan

Organist/Accompanist:
Kathy Cay

Music Director, Emerita:
Sylvia Johnson

Office/Finance Manager:
Debbie Timm

Secretary:
Eileen Haight

Dear Friends in Christ,

The reopening committee has excellent news. Due to low COVID case numbers and the positivity rate in St. Clair County, **in-person worship will resume Sunday, February 21.** Numbers of worshipers are not limited and preregistration is not required. You are invited to come as you are able.

However, the following precautions will be taken:

- Masks are required. Masks must cover both your mouth and nose. If you are unable to wear a mask, we encourage you to continue to worship via radio or Facebook Live.
- A distance of at least six feet must be kept between members of different households.
- Upon entry, your hands will be sanitized by a greeter.
- Please go directly to the sanctuary and take your seat. You will be allowed to seat yourself. Every other pew will be roped off. Again, please be sure to put six feet of space between you and other worshipers.
- Bulletins will not be available and singing will not take place but feel free to hum along to the hymns.
- You will be asked to register your attendance by filling out a small card and dropping it in a basket as you exit the sanctuary.
- At the end of the service, ushers will dismiss from back to front to avoid congestion. Please exit directly to the parking lot.
- Gathering in the narthex or gathering space is highly discouraged in order to avoid congestion.

The church will reopen to standing committees and in-house groups starting Monday, February 22, 2021. Unfortunately, we will not open to outside groups at this time.

The church office will remain closed for now. Please call ahead if you need to interact with office staff.

We are pleased that we can resume in-person worship earlier than planned.

Rev. Drew Hart
Kathy Kelly

Bob Beedon
Barb Hurd

Bernie Schneider
Joan Fleet