



# *Holly Presbyterian Church (USA)*

# *HPC Connections*

February 2015

Holly Presbyterian Church is a community of faith in God that values peaceful, loving, and just relationships in our church, families, and the world.

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## *Love Stories*

*I've been reading love stories lately. No, they aren't Harlequin romance stories. They are stories in the January/February edition of Presbyterians Today. They are stories about people who have a*

**Thank You!**

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**Bake Sale**

**BOILER FUND  
BAKE SALE!  
February 8th**

Whether you are a baker or a buyer, get ready for our monthly bake sale! The table will be open for donations before and after worship.

If you would like to donate baked goods and have a questions please call or email Margaret Perry (Contact Information listed in Session List at the bottom of this email)

**Healthy Church  
Check In!**



*deep love for God and for all the people God loves (which of course, is everybody). I read a touching story about a pastor who met a man who was dying, whose eyes told the story of his struggle with alcohol. He invited this man to his church and the man wanted to rededicate his life to Christ. About half the congregation came up to lay hands on this man as they prayed and when he took off his sunglasses to reveal his problem, the people loved him and showed him great acceptance and care. The man died soon after that, but he was a new man with a new heart full of gratitude and love. A love story if ever I read one!*

*There are numerous other stories of love in that edition of our Presbyterian magazine. But, I also heard a couple of love stories just recently from two of our newest members. With deep, genuine love they told the story of their journey of faith and how it brought them to us at Holly Presbyterian Church. They were meeting with the Elders at our January Session meeting and before they were finished sharing several of us were wiping tears out of our eyes. Someone said later "It feels like I've been to worship!"*

*The thing is, all of us have love stories to tell. They are stories of how we've experienced God's leading us; of how we knew Jesus was beside us in a difficult situation, or in a time of great joy like on our wedding day or the birth of a baby. Some of them are stories of when we wandered off the path and how the Holy Spirit nudged us back (or sometimes shoved us back!)*

*We all know that February 14th is Valentine's Day - a day for expressing our love to our sweetheart or even someone else who means a lot to us. But I have an idea. On Sunday, February 15th, I would like for your love stories to be a big part of the message that day. I know some of you might not feel comfortable standing up and sharing your journey of faith; your story of loving and being loved by God. But I'm pretty sure some of you would be happy to have that opportunity.*

On Sunday, February 15th after worship. Nurse Karen will be available to check your

- blood pressure
- oxygen rate
- heart rate
- blood glucose levels

Get your vitals checks and be in charge of your wellness!

Note: These screenings are not intended to be substitute for your doctor's care. Results are strictly for your information, and is not medical advice.

## Our Missionary Updates. . .



Univ. of Michigan Athletes in Action missionaries, Colby and Sarah Keefer, continue to reach college athletes in the name of Christ.

To catch up with them and their latest news click the link below.

*February 15th is the day of our Annual Congregational Meeting. It is a great day to celebrate the ministries and mission of our church. It is a perfect day to also celebrate our love stories of faith! And I will have a little surprise ending for you.*

*So please be thinking about your journey of faith, your story of love with the one who claims you as His precious child. Please come and plan on staying for the meeting that will be a celebration of the accomplishments God has led us through in 2014. We will not have a meal that day but there will be extra goodies during coffee time so you can fill up!*

*Part of my love story is that God has led Fred and me to Holly, Michigan where we sincerely love the people in the church, who I am called to serve as pastor - all of you!*

*In Christ's Love,  
Reverend Sharlyn*



## *Reflections from Pastor Shaun. . .*

As a new year begins I have been reflecting on how fortunate and thankful Michele and I are to be part of the Holly Presbyterian Church family. I say this because ever since we brought Abby to the church two years ago everyone has made Abby part of their lives.

Let me explain why we feel so fortunate: Since the first day we have brought our bundle of joy and energy to the church people have been there to reassure us to not worry when she

[Keefer January Newsletter](#)



**OPERATION TRANSIT!**

CRU missionaries, Allen and DeeDee Iobst, continue to reach people in the name of Christ and distribute bibles.

To catch up with them and their latest news click the link below.

[Campus Crusade for Christ Operation Transit Website](#)

[Iobst January Prayer Letter](#)

has cried in church and has been willing to make sure to help Michele when she has her hands full of a diaper bag in one hand and a little girl on the other hand.

In addition, every Sunday we get to smile because we see Abby running through the church and peoples legs as she is laughing and giggling. If that is not enough she loves to sit at the small table in the back of the church singing, reading, and coloring as the church service is going on.

So once again thank you for letting our child be a child and be part of the family.

God Bless  
-Shaun



## **Finance Team Update**

The Finance Team has completed the budget for 2015, and the Session has approved it. We appreciate the generous spirits of the HPC family and their commitment to the church. Thank you for your faithful support of ministries that we all love.

### **For You To Consider:2014 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT**

Just as each member helps support our local church, each church has a responsibility to support the mission of the governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Our congregation's share of the support for PC USA General Assembly, Synod of the Covenant, and the Presbytery of Lake Huron amounts to

\$2523.15 and is due in mid-February. The amount billed to our church is calculated by the total of church-wide expenses divided by the total number of members. For 2015 the amount is \$ 25.00 per active member (non-confirmed youth or children are not included in this Per Capita assessment).

"Per Capita is an opportunity for all active members of the Presbyterian Church throughout the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly and independently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicious functions that identify a Reformed church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians." General Assembly minutes, Part 1, 1995)

While our church has paid Per Capita from general funds in the past, for the past few years we have asked each member to pay their own Per Capita expense if possible. Our finances just don't allow us to cover it anymore. Please mail or deposit into the offering plate your check marked "Per Capita" to cover the number of active members in your household. Pew envelopes are also available. The Session gratefully thanks you in advance for this voluntary giving and support of the larger family of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

THANK YOU!

Dear HPC Family,

I wanted to let you know how honored I am to work for such a God loving church. Thank you so much for your prayers before, during and after surgery. I appreciated the meals, calls and cards during my recovery. They just meant so much to me and brightened my day. I am truly blessed to work at HPC. It is so good to be back!

In His Love,  
Sherry McLaughlin  
Office Manager  
God is Good, All the time.

***Sunday School &***



# **Study Opportunities!**

**The Gathering Place for Kids**  
**Now meets during worship following the**  
**children's sermon!**



Our kids program uses the Spark Activate Faith curriculum and is a Workshop Rotation modeled classroom where our kids get to explore their faith through, art, science, cooking, computers, games, stories, music & drama!

[Register your family and Check it out!](http://hollypc.sparksundayschool.org)  
<http://hollypc.sparksundayschool.org>

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014-2015**  
**Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am**  
*(Child Care provided)*

"Comparative Religions" is our current topic. What do the basic tenants of the world's five major religions and philosophies have in common? We will be studying the way these markedly different belief systems have set up their moral codes, showing the great number of similarities, and a number of the differences between them, and looking at how each of the systems currently influences the actions of nations on the world stage.

## **WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH!**

The Lunch Bunch meets at 12:00 noon on Wednesday for an informal Bible study. Charlee Litten is the leader for this study and does a great job of helping look at the scriptures in new ways and with great joy and humor! Everyone is welcome to attend when ever they are able, just bring your bible if you have one (We have loaners too!) and little something for your lunch! We are starting with Esther in our series of women of the Bible.

**MEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Come out on Wednesday's at 7:00pm for the Men's Bible Study. Currently the guys are selecting scripture and discussing how it relates to their lives.

This is a great time of fellowship and learning. Randy Cook is leading.

Great things are happening! Be a part of it.

### **WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Our current study is called "Making Peace With Your Emotions" it is a Women of Faith Bible study. We will examine the idea that not only did God create us and give us emotions, but He feels them Himself too. And we'll look at emotions that are truly a gift-whether it's fear or anger or joy-and unpack their holy dimensions.

The class is lead by Laura Parker and Karen Haneline. Join us for this wonderful time of friendship & learning. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.



***Happy Birthday to these Children of God!***

Feb 6	Valarie Bird
Feb 7	Krystal Caloia
Feb 8	Ben Jackson
Feb 12	Ben Muenzer
Feb 12	Judy Studer
Feb 22	Christine Hadley
Feb 25	Kian Bird

**HEALTH & WELLNESS WORKSHOP:**  
*Body, Mind & Spirit!*



**February 24th 6:30pm**

This free workshop will provide you with the information and skills that you need to improve your wellness . . .

Body Mind, & Spirit!

- Have your vitals checked by nurse, Karen Haneline RN, MSN.
- Enjoy some great healthy snacks and get the recipes at our Healthy Recipe Tasting buffet!
- Learn about the importance of "Functional Fitness" from personal trainer & owner of Snap Fitness Holly, Brian Feldman (BA in Exercise Science, Certified Personal Trainer through the National federation Professional Trainers).
- Experience the relaxation and peace that comes from doing guided meditation, led by Rev. Dr. Sharlyn Gates.

Call the church office at 248-634-9494 today to register!

### *The Care Team's Loving Kindness Meditation*

Sit quietly, breathe normally

Gather all your attention around the repetition of the phrase:

*"May I be happy, may I be peaceful."*

Whenever your attention wanders, gently let those thoughts go, and come back to the phrase. After repeating that phrase for yourself, offer it up to include all beings everywhere, saying:

*"May all things be happy, may all things be peaceful."*





Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help.

*Heather French Henry*

## Our February Calendar

Feb  
1

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 am

FELLOWSHIP TEAM MTG 10:00am

FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am

WORSHIP & COMMUNION 11:00am

GATHERING FOR KIDS 11:15am -Following Children's Sermon

AA 3:00PM

Feb 2

AA & ALANON 7:30PM

Feb 3

FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm

Feb 4

FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm

LUNCH BUNCH 12pm-1pm

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00pm

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00pm

Feb 5

FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm

AYSO 7pm

Feb 8

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 am

FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am

BOILER FUND BAKE SALE Before and After Worship

WORSHIP 11:00am

GATHERING FOR KIDS 11:15am -Following Children's Sermon

AA 3:00PM

Feb 9 AA & ALANON 7:30PM

Feb 10 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
TEAM PARTY NIGHT 6:30PM

Feb 11 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
LUNCH BUNCH 12pm-1pm  
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00pm  
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY (DVD DISCIPLES) 7pm

Feb 12 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm

Feb 13 \*\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE\*\*  
BABY PANTRY 10:00am-12:00pm

Feb 15 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 am  
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am  
WORSHIP 11:00am  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Following Worship  
GATHERING FOR KIDS 11:15am -Following Children's Sermon  
BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK By Nurse Karen  
AA 3:00PM

Feb 16 AA & ALANON 7:30PM

Feb 17 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
SESSION 7pm

Feb 18 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
LUNCH BUNCH 12pm-1pm  
ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER (6:30pm) & SERVICE (7:15pm)  
NO BIBLE STUDY'S THIS WEEK

Feb 19 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm

Feb 20 PRIVATE EVENT (BANKS) 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Feb 21 BABY PANTRY 10am-2pm

Feb 22 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 am  
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am  
WORSHIP 11:00am  
GATHERING FOR KIDS 11:15am -Following Children's Sermon  
AA 3:00PM

Feb 23 AA & ALANON 7:30PM

Feb 24 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
HEALTH & WELLNESS WORKSHOP 6:30pm

Feb 25 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
LUNCH BUNCH 12pm-1pm  
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00pm

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00pm

Feb 26 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm

Feb 27 BABY PANTRY 10:00am-12:00pm

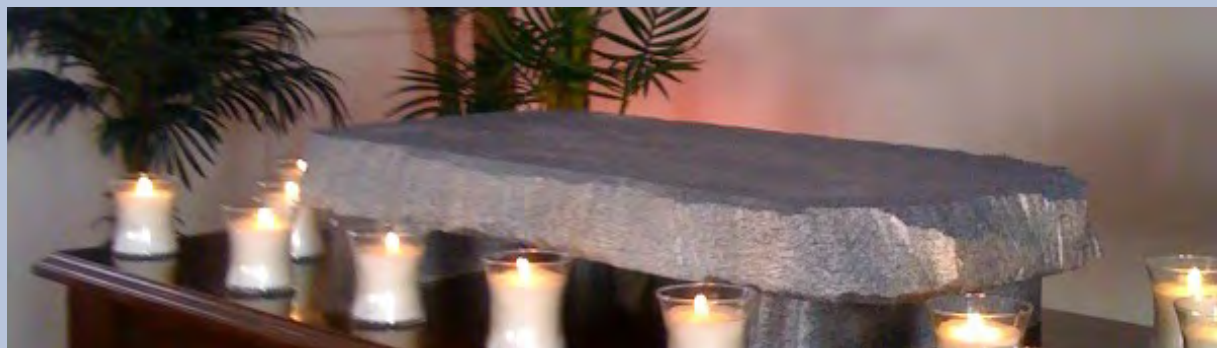
## *Praying for our church family . . .*

### *Prayers of Concern*

- *For those serving or who have served us and our country in military service.*
- *For all those who are in nursing homes, shut in, or seeking comfort and healing.*
- *For Raelene Morgan, Brian Palmero, Maxine Bolyea, Kennedy Todd, Pamela Lender, Ron Mikulak, Beth Krauss, Rev. Mark Knisley, Dan Nash, Dan Goodearl, Jim DeHaven, Fred Gates, Marjorie Smith, Connie "C.J." Brummeler, Sharon Lowes, the family of Shannon Cook, Harriett Striggow, LeAnn Book, Jennifer Chanter, Beatrice Johnston, Claudia Morton, family of Jaymi Whalen, Sherry McLaughlin, Karen Haneline, Gene Stevens, Steve Yokum, and Amber Leaming.*

### *Prayers of Joy*

- *Prayers of thanksgiving for the generous support that our ministry, In the Beginning Baby Pantry, has received from our neighboring churches.*
- *Prayers of thanksgiving that Jan Owens' (Rev. Sharlyn's sister) eye sight is restored and the test for MS are negative, and that her Dad, Jim DeHaven is cancer free! Praise God.*



## ***Prayer Requests from the Lake Huron Presbytery:***

- Elder Vicky Bright (Sandusky) and her family. Her daughter Jessica, son-in-law Chris Sampson and their two daughters lost their home to a fire last week. They were unharmed but sadly this is the second fire in five years that has happened to them. Ongoing, Vicky's son Kris Noble, was in a very serious accident this summer and while he's doing as well as expected at this point, he still has a long journey to a full recovery ahead of him.
- Ben & Shelby Offrink, son and daughter in-law of the Rev. Jim Offink (HR) Ben has had a relapse of Hodgkin's lymphoma and is receiving chemotherapy. Shelby has been battling cancer for quite awhile and now battling the very painful pancreatitis. Shelby and Ben have two young daughters.
- Gwen & John Haspels Mission Co-Workers, who were injured when their car was attacked by armed bandits on a rural road in Ethiopia.
- Elder Peggy Ronk, Commissioned Ruler of Breckenridge-Emerson, and her family. Both Peggy and various close family members of hers are experiencing significant health issues.
- The family and loved ones of the Rev. Syngman Rhee, former Moderator of the General Assembly. Rev. Rhee is the uncle of the Rev. Cathy Chang, Associate Pastor of Midland-Memorial.
- Tom and Pam Brackbill. Tom is Pastor of Alma-First. Pam has Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease. In addition to the cognitive issues she is also experiencing significant health concerns related to the disease. She will soon be under the care of Masonic Pathways.



## **Order Scrip for the New Year!**

**Order February 1 - Delivery February 8**

We receive a small profit from the sale of each card, which goes toward our everyday expenses. The church should net approximately \$500 this year from this easy fundraiser.

In addition to the gas, grocery, and restaurant cards that most of us order throughout the year, there are also gift cards available for many major retail stores, amazon.com, and iTunes.

Look at the complete list of cards available by  
[Clicking Here](#)

If you do not feel comfortable using a computer, talk to Christine Cook or Vicki Lyles and we can let you know if what you want is available. Thank you for your support!!

## VG'S SHARE PROGRAM!

VG's grocery store has a new program that will replace the Community Share Points Program we are familiar with now. Please click on the link below to see how you can participate going forward. If you have further questions please see Jan Bradshaw.



[Click Here!](#)

## ***Annual Congregational Meeting February 15th, 2015***



Plan on staying after worship on February 15th for our annual meeting. This is when we look at the progress and blessings of the past year, look at the year ahead, and vote on the Terms of Call for our head pastor, Rev. Sharlyn Gates. All are welcome to attend and participate in discussion. Active members will vote on any motions posed during the meeting, and



participate in discussion. To celebrate we will be having an extra special Fellowship Time before worship - in others words extra FOOD!

## **2014 ANNUAL REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE!**



***Yes, it is that time of year again!***

***The 2014 Annual Reports is complete and ready for your review!***

***You can find a copy on the table in the narthex.***

We will be going over the report and making decisions at our Annual Meeting February 15th following worship.

## **In The Beginning News!**



**We are looking for new volunteers for the Baby Pantry Team for 2015! Giving your time or resources to this wonderful outreach ministry will bless you in so many ways! Contact Laura Parker if you are interested in supporting this ministry.**

### ***Prayer requests from our families***

- Pray for all those in difficult relationships, struggling with emotional and physical abuse, and self doubt. May they be comforted by the love of Christ.
- Pray for families expecting new arrivals this year. May they experience healthy pregnancies and safe deliveries.
- Pray for those parents who are not getting enough hours on their work schedules.

- Pray for those parents who are seeking work.
- Prayers for baby, James Grant Saucier, born this month with a cleft palette. May God bless him and be with him, and with his parents as they learn what is ahead, and learn to manage life with a newborn.

**UPCOMING DATES:** Fri. Feb. 13, 10am - 12pm  
Sat. Feb. 21, 10am - 2pm  
Fri. Feb. 27, 10am - 12pm

**Items we need include:**

***We are low on many clothing sizes:***

- ***Girls pants*** (12-18 mo, 24 mo, 2T)
- ***Girls shirts*** (3T, 4T)
- ***Boys PJ's*** (18-24 mo, 2T, 3T, 4T)
- ***Boys Pants*** (6-9mo, 12mo, 18 mo)

***Kleenex, hand soap, wipes, & diaper rash cream!***

If you feel called to this ministry please see a Judy Studer, Christine Cook, or Laura Parker.

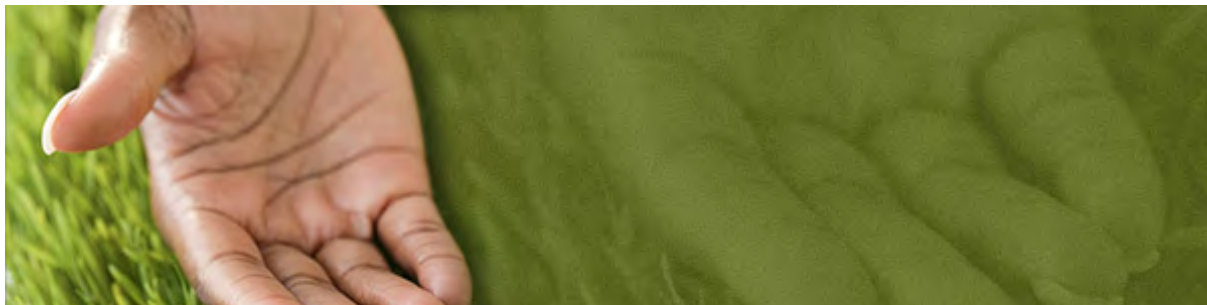
*"And he took the Children in his arms, put His hands on them  
and blessed them."*

*Mark 10:16*

**For Your Information. . .**

- If you have something that you would like included in the newsletter please submit it to the church office by the 15th of the month prior. Thanks!
- If you are not receiving the Email Newsletter and other e-updates and would like to, please call the office at 248-634-9494 and we would be happy to add your email to our list!
- If you have had a change of phone, email or mailing address in the past year, we would like to know so that we can make sure everyone's contact information is current in our database.

# Supporting Missions . . .



**The Keefer Family-Athletes in Action**  
Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor, Mi

**The Iobst Family- Operations Transit**  
Algeciras, Spain  
(Both Working Under Campus Crusade for Christ)

**Grace Centers of Hope**  
Pontiac, Mi

**Ennis Foundation**  
Pontiac, Mi

**HPC Christmas - Adopt a Family**

**In the Beginning Baby Pantry**

**Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry**  
Holly, Mi

## YOUR 2015 SESSION

### **Class of 2015**

Charlee Litten	Personnel	(810) 694-0095
Dessalee Cook	Worship	(248) 634-5680
Jim Lyles	Clerk	(248) 634-4610
Walt Brown	Technology	(810) 869-4883

### **Class of 2016**

Christine Cook	Christian Education	(248) 887-2012
Lori Goldsmith	Property	(810) 397-9722
Bob Killewald	Finance	(248) 310-2410

### **Class of 2017**

Laura Parker	Outreach	(248) 245-5348
Margaret Perry	Fellowship	(810) 735-7692

Karen Haneline

Care

(248) 894-3489

**Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Sharlyn Gates**

248.369.8893(h)

620.423.2671(c)

**Assoc. Pastor: Shaun Hardimon**

810.635.0586(h)

586.292.8772(c)