



# ***HPC Connections***

Knowing, Growing, Sharing, and Serving

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June 2015

## A New Psalm

Easter is such a time of great joy, isn't it? We've now ended the Easter Season and have entered the Season of Pentecost - a time to put our focus on the Holy Spirit.

I believe in resurrection and in the power of God at work in the world through the Holy Spirit, but even so, I have to admit that the news over the past few months has disturbed me and been a distraction from the joy I normally experience this time of year.

Hearing about brothers and sisters in Christ being taken prisoner and being asked to deny their Christian faith and then being killed was (and is) causing distress in my spirit. I pray for them, but I needed another outlet for releasing some of the anxiety stirring within me. Yet, I could not think of anything. Most of my life I've loved to write - writing prayers and journaling, but I could not get motivated for

writing.

This past month, however, I attended a 5 Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in Alabama. The focus was on praying the Psalms; Psalms for Life. (Find out more by going to [www.academy.upperroom.org](http://www.academy.upperroom.org).) Our wonderful, leaders, Dr. Don Saliers and Dr. Roberta Bondi, gave presentations on the Psalms that motivated and inspired us to write our own Psalms.

In writing this psalm of lament that can be sung to the tune of *Amazing Grace*, I discovered the outlet I needed to be able to release a bit of stress and to feel some connection with those whom I am praying for.

Here is my Psalm. You can probably expect more to come!

Remember Us, O God©

A Contemporary Psalm of Lament by Dr. Sharlyn DeHaven Gates  
*Dedicated to Christians around the world who are losing their lives because of their faith.*

How long, O Lord, we cry how long  
must we wait here in fear?  
Have we been left alone to die  
or are you really here?

From light and joy we've fallen now  
into this slimy pit.  
We're overwhelmed with tears and grief  
in this hell where we sit.

Our enemies threaten us day by day  
"Deny your God, or die!"  
Are you still here protecting us,

or, is it all a lie?

Remember us, O God of love  
give strength for what's ahead.  
To know your Presence in this place  
gives peace instead of dread.

I will remember you, O Lord,  
Your promises of grace.  
I'll hold my head up high and sing  
your praises in this place.

You are my Light, my Life, my Hope!  
You're love will be my song.  
In life or death I will profess -  
to you my soul belongs!

*May 2015*

Peace and Grace to you all!

Reverend Sharlyn

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## *A Word from Pastor Shaun. . .*

Spring has arrived, the grass is greening up from the rain and the dandelions are beginning to pop out like spots on a Dalmatian. In addition, the trees are raining down beautiful flower pedals that would make any bride excited on her wedding day.

As wonderful and beautiful as these sites and smells of spring are we have something that is bright and beautiful that will not cause you to take allergy medicine. And it will last longer than the spring flowers at your home. This new and exciting item is the first edition of the Holy Presbyterian Church's "Parenting Christian Kids" newsletter which is filled with both advice for parents and a good mix of things about our church. Take some time to look at this newsletter and find ways to share this new publication with others both in the church and in your daily lives.

Remember the grass will wither and the flowers will fade, but the word of God will be with you forever. So start today by reading the Spring 2015 edition of "Parenting Christian Kids" and begin planting the seeds of tomorrow by finding ways to use this newsletter in your sharing of God with others in your life.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Shaun



### ***Monthly Calendar of Events***

***June***

#### **Regular Weekly Events:**

**Sunday**

10:00 am Worship (Summer Worship Hours Start this Week!)

3:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Community Room)

### **Monday**

7:30 pm AA (Community Room) and Alanon (Fellowship Hall)

### **Tuesday - Thursday**

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Friends with Needs Group, No Friends on 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th

### **Wednesday**

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch on hiatus until June 24

7:00pm Presbyterian Men's Bible Study Groups

### **Schedule of Additional Events:**

Jun 2 Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian in Fenton 9:00am

Jun 4 AYSO 7:00 pm

Jun 9 Team Meeting 6:30 pm

Jun 11 Trim Healthy Mama 6:30 pm  
Baby Pantry 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Jun 13 Snoop Party 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Jun 14 Teacher Appreciation Sunday  
Broiler Fund Bake Sale Before and After Worship  
Fellowship Meeting- After Worship rear of Fellowship Hall

Jun 15 Newsletter Article Deadline

Jun 16 Session Meeting 7:00 pm

Jun 18 thru 21st Pres. Wom. Church Wide Gathering, Minneapolis, MN

Jun 20 Baby Pantry 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Jun 21 Worship 10:00 am Youth Sunday~Father's Day  
Blood Pressure Checks - Nurse Karen

Jun 25 Trim Healthy Mama 6:30 pm

Jun 26 Baby Pantry 10:00 am - 12:00 pm



## Per Capita Update:

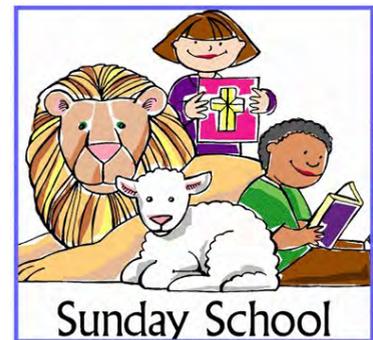
Our budget calls for \$1100 of the total \$2550 cost of per capita to be reimbursed by our members (\$25/member). Currently, we have received \$850. Please consider contributing to this cost if you are able. You can note "per capita" on the memo line of your check, or make a notation on the "other" line of your offering envelope. Thank you.

Actual Income	April \$ 9,783.61	YTD: \$41,080.11
Actual Expense	April \$11,032.89	YTD: \$53,956.52

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## Christian Ed Team Update

The Wednesday Lunch Bunch will continue throughout the Summer months and play cribbage. Bring a little something for your lunch! Charlee will be gone on vacation until June 24th when we will resume. All are welcome to come.



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## Care Team Update

### 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.
- Brian Palmero, Maxine Bolyea, Kennedy Todd, Pamela Lender, Ron Mikulak, Beth Krauss, Dan Goodearl, Fred Gates, Connie "C.J." Brummeler, the family of Shannon Cook, Harriett Striggow, Beatrice Johnston, Claudia Morton, Gene Stevens, Steve Yokum, Amber Leaming, Jeff Miller, Don Colegrove, Dylan Drews, Elizabeth Kici, Paul Burnett, Marti Dodge, Barb Brown, Pete Olson, Kathy Palmero, the family of Larry Shiel, the Lehtola family, and Christine Cook.



## Joys

- For the men that take the time to show children the "how to's" and the "what for's". We thank God for all of you.
- For Pete Olson being out of the hospital and at home. Continued prayers as he gets his strength back.
- That Marissa Cook is home from her trip to Germany with Alma College.
- For Sierra Haneline's Mission Trip to Haiti. May it be transformative for her and a blessing to those she helps.

## Prayers of Concern at Presbytery of Lake Huron

- Ben & Shelby Offrink, son and daughter in-law of the Rev. Jim Offink (HR) Ben & Shelby are both battling cancer. They have two children. Please lift the entire family up in prayer.
- Tom & Pam Brackbill. Tom is Pastor of Alma-First. Pam has Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease. She is now under the care of Masonic Pathways.
- The Rev. Peter Russell (Retired) and wife Verna. He has had a setback in his recovery from a brain bleed last month and is recovering from surgery that he had last month. He and his wife, Verna greatly appreciate prayers lifted up for them.
- The Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, Vice Moderator of the 221st General Assembly who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and began chemotherapy last week.
- Those celebrating Ordination Anniversaries-Rev. Fred Gates~June 3rd~25 Years, Rev. Dr. Sharlyn Gates~June 15
- The members of the General Presbyter Search Committee as they continue their work of finding the right leadership for the presbytery.

## Healthy Church Check In!

On Sunday, June 21st after worship. Nurse Karen will be available to check your

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

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

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

## Something to think about. . . .

Coming to church is a huge step for many people. It can make them feel uncomfortable and vulnerable. When we use language that's so foreign to them, it reinforces the idea that they're outsiders, that they don't belong. It may be difficult to be mindful of what we say and how we say it, to work to minimize the insider language and 'church idioms' we use, but it makes your church more welcoming to the people who most need to be welcomed in. And that's worth it.

Church Tech Today by Lauren Hunter

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## Fellowship Team Update

- June 14th Fellowship meeting, back of Fellowship Hall, following Worship.
- June 14th Boiler Fund Bake sale.  
The table will be open for donations before and after worship.



# ***Snoop Party!***

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## FUN TIMES COMING UP!

Fellowship Team will be hosting a "Snoop Party"

Saturday, June 13th, from 7-9 pm  
in the Fellowship Hall.

This is a fun evening playing a gift exchange game that requires a "white elephant" unwrapped "gift" in a brown grocery bag, or, you could choose to buy something under \$5.00. Also, bring an appetizer or something to snack on. Beverages will be provided. If you've never played, come along and bring a friend as well. Card tables will be needed, if you have one.

Any questions contact Roberta Single 248-634-4360

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## Property Team Update



### Building Safety

A reminder to all to check the building for unlocked doors, water, or anything that could be pertinent to the building. It would be appreciated. We could easily prevent disasters.

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## Outreach Team Update

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.



#### UPCOMING DATES:

Friday, June 12th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, June 20th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Friday, June 26th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

UPDATES!

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)

Kleenex, hand soap, wipes, & diaper rash cream are an ongoing need. 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

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 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.

Give & Take Library: We have added a "Give and Take Library" to our baby pantry. We invite the entire HPC family to support this new element by donating children's books (used or new).

## Supporting our Missionaries



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

[Keefer May Newsletter](#) Link



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

[Iobst April Newsletter](#) Link

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## Personnel Team News

Our new Nursery Care Provider is Mary



Dissmore. If you see her at coffee hour, please introduce yourself and welcome her to our great small church.

Our church has many teams that not only accomplish awesome tasks, but have great fellowship and laughter. Please consider joining one of our teams.

Charlee Litten, Jennifer Chanter, Judy Studer, Dale Huffman, Margaret Perry,

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## 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- Easter Baskets  
Pontiac, Mi

HPC Christmas - Adopt a Family

In the Beginning Baby Pantry

Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry  
Holly, Mi

Friend with Needs Outreach

School Supplies-Holly Area Youth Assistance  
School Supplies for Haiti

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## Our 2015 Session

## **Class of 2015**

Charlee Litten	Personnel Team	(810) 694-0095
Dessalee Cook	Worship Team	(248) 634-5680
Jim Lyles	Clerk	(248) 634-4610
Walt Brown	Technology Team	(810) 629-1618

## **Class of 2016**

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

## **Class of 2017**

Laura Parker	Outreach Team	(248) 245-5348
Margaret Perry	Fellowship Team	(810) 735-7692
Karen Haneline	Care Team	(248) 894-3489

Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Sharlyn DeHaven Gates  
(248)369-8893(h), (620) 423-2671(c)

Associate Pastor: Shaun Hardimon  
(810)635.0586(h) (586)292.8772(c)

See whats happening on our social sites.

