



March 2016 Newsletter

Lenten Reflections from Reverend Sharlyn

Greetings!

As most of you know, this season of Lent has been focused so far on how God is like a Potter and we, his people, are like the clay. Unfortunately, I'm not a pro at the potter's wheel so you only get to see me struggling to create something. But the point is that our Potter is trustworthy, and is completely able to form us into his beautiful creation if we are willing to trust and to submit ourselves wholly to him. While we might become impatient for our new selves to be finished, the great news is that God, our Potter, is never finished with us! All of



our lives, we can be sure that, if we are willing, He is working in us and on us. I hope you have had some time to read and meditate on the Scriptures in the Lenten Meditational Guide I gave you.

As we continue this Lenten journey we will begin to turn our focus onto Jesus and his journey to the cross. We are moving toward Palm Sunday and Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, we enter with a sense of excitement, thinking about how it was on that day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey. People waved palm branches and threw down their cloaks to honor the one they were sure was the King - the promised Messiah.

But we know there were some who looked on with anger and determination to put an end to Jesus and all the excitement he was stirring up. Palm Sunday changes quickly into Passion Sunday as we move into the darkest week ever to be seen - Holy Week. Jesus is with his disciples sharing his last meal - the Passover Meal that is a remembrance of how God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and led them through the wilderness for forty years and finally into the Promised Land. And that meal turned into a different remembrance as Jesus said, "Now do THIS - eat this bread and drink this cup - in remembrance of ME.

On Maundy Thursday we will come together for a meal, as we always do. This is the meal where we share fellowship together, just as the disciples did so long ago. And then we move to the sanctuary to remember Jesus' last meal and to share in that Last Supper ourselves.

On Friday - Good Friday - we remember how Jesus went to the cross and to his death. He did this for us, freeing us from slavery just as God freed the Israelites so long ago. Because of what Jesus did for us, we are freed from the bonds of sin. We are forgiven!

To walk through that dark week called Holy Week gives us pause to remember all that Jesus went through out of love for you and me. It is in experiencing, as much as we can, the passion and pain Jesus felt that we come to Easter with a new sense of great joy and awe. It is in Easter - the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus - that it all comes together and we are able to see ourselves as that new creation the Potter has been working on!

The journey continues ...

Rev. Sharlyn

Information from our bulletins and calendar as well as special projects and disaster relief can be found on our website www.hollypc.org



A Message from our Associate Pastor

Can you guess one of my favorite documents to read each year? If you guessed the Church's Annual Report, then you guessed right. The reason this document is so great to read is that it shares all the hard work and effort put forth by our congregation.

This report is like a living and breathing document that shares what each of our teams and the members of our church have done throughout the year. We should all be so proud of what we have done this last year as a congregation.

Please take the time in the next few days to read through the different teams, and pastor's reports while not forgetting to review the budget. You will truly be amazed at all the work we have accomplished as a church family.

So, if you were unable to obtain a copy while attending the congregational meeting, then next time you come into the narthex look on the table or request a copy from the office.

-Pastor Shaun

From the Lion's Den

"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." These words from the Ash Wednesday liturgy not only remind us of our mortality, but also raise our awareness that life is fraught with transition. Transition is the process of adapting to change. Everyone experiences transition. We experience as we grow up, leave home, marry, start a family, grow old, and prepare to die. We manage transition when we move from one home to another, enroll in a new school, start a new job or career. We grieve and ultimately accept the loss of family and friends. Sometimes we choose our transitions, and at other times they choose us. Either way, transition can be a time of stress and anxiety even in joyful contexts (think of the stress of planning a wedding!).



The same is true in the life of God's people. The story of the Hebrews' sojourn in the wilderness is one of transition from slavery to freedom, full of the trials of forming a nation. The gospel stories that suffuse our worship in Holy Week follow Jesus and the disciples as they face the death and resurrection not only of Jesus, but of their hopes and dreams as well.

The transitions we face as congregations can be either sudden - like a change in pastoral leadership - or long-term, like the cultural forces shaping our role and influence in society. All of them involve five stages: (1) the original status quo; (2) a time of "unfreezing" as we react to the prospect of change and unlearn old patterns that no longer work; (3) a "neutral zone" period in which we might feel lost or wandering as we scan for new solutions; (4) a "refreezing" period in which we begin to implement the behaviors that adapt to the change; and (5) the emergence of a new status quo.

For Israel the five stages can be concisely identified as Egypt/ Exodus/ Wilderness/ Conquest/ and Canaan. For congregations in pastoral transition, they might be experienced as old pastor/ departure & early interim/ Interim (with interim pastoral leadership)/ call & "honeymoon"/ and new pastor. Each phase is necessary to navigate the change successfully. Rushing to a new pastor by compressing or omitting a phase will almost always compromise the ability of the new pastor to bond with the congregation, leading to a "de

facto interim" pastorate. It is like rushing into a new marriage following divorce or the death of a spouse; we aren't emotionally ready to enter into a mature relationship between emotionally whole persons, putting the new marriage at risk.

Transitions are never easy, but approached with patience, mutual trust, and a sense of humor, they can be times of discovery and growth.

Periodically I will return to the theme of transition in my column to address how we as congregations and as a presbytery can navigate the transitions we confront both from within and without our respective communities of faith. As we head towards Holy Week and Easter, let us remember how Jesus prepared his disciples for the cross and what lay beyond: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1). We don't face transitions alone, but in the company of Christ and the power of his Spirit.

May you have a blessed Lent and a joyful Easter!

Dan Saperstein
Executive Presbyter
dsaperstein@presbylh.org



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering goes to help people in the U.S. and abroad. This special offering will be received on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.



Regular Weekly Events

Sunday

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship and Coffee
11:00 am Worship
3:00 pm AA
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm TFC

Monday

7:30 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday thru Thursday

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Friends with Needs

Wednesday

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Friends with Needs
12:00 pm Lunch Bunch
7:00 pm Presbyterian Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Bible Study ends Mar 16th

Schedule of Additional Events

Mar 1 Confirmation Class 5:00 pm
Team Meetings
Information Technology 6:30pm-7:30pm
Worship 6:30pm-7:30pm
Personnel 7:00pm-7:30pm
Christian Education 7:30pm-8:30pm
Mar 3 AYSO
Mar 4 Alma Youth Mix 4th thru 6th
Mar 6 Fellowship Meeting 10:00 am
Mar 8 Confirmation Class 5:00 pm

Finance 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
 Care 6:30pm - 7:00 pm
 Outreach 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
 Property 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
 Mar 11 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
 Mar 13 Daylight Savings begins 2:00 am
 Mar 15 5:00pm Confirmation Class
 7:00 pm Session Meeting
 Mar 19 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Baby Pantry
 Mar 20 Palm Sunday
 Gather in the Narthex 11:00 am Worship
 Mar 22 5:00pm Confirmation Class
 Mar 24 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Mostaccioli Dinner
 7:30 pm - 8:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
 Mar 25 Good Friday Reflection and Prayer
 The Sanctuary will be open 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
 (Quiety come as you are able)
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry

Finance Team Update

January and YTD are the same
 Income \$11,846.26
 Expense \$15,696.89



Note: this is expected, because our \$4000 annual insurance payment is due in January.

Electronic Giving - It's so easy. Give it a try.

Go to www.hollypc.org, scroll to the bottom of the page "electronic online giving", and click on "give now". You will be directed to the Presbyterian Mission Exchange Website: it will show Holly Presbyterian Church. Choose either one time or recurring. Put in the amount, day of week, start date and end date. The rest is your information (i.e. name, address, credit

or debit card information_____. Then press give now. You did it!!

Note: Presbyterian Mission Exchange sends you by email a notification of each contribution you make. Keep these for your records for tax purposes.

Thanks,

Finance Team

Bob Killewald, Vicki Lyles, Laura Parker and Christine Cook.

Christian Ed



Adult Sunday School-

Barbara Brown is leading this group in a study of the New Testament. This class meets Sunday at 9:30 am.

TFC (Teens for Christ) -

will be meeting Sunday evenings at 6:00pm -8:00pm. Through the end of the year, we are doing a new study, Echo the Story, that will allow teens to discover meaning and a personal identity in the Bible narrative through conversations, meditation, and creativity. If you have questions, please see Shaun Hardimon.

Wednesday Lunch Bunch-Wednesday at Noon. We are currently studying the Psalms. All are welcome to to join us. Bring a little something for lunch! A good time of fellowship and learning. If you have any questions, please see Charlee Litten.

Presbyterian Men's Bible Study Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall upstairs. The current study is based on select scripture reading followed by discussion. The class is led by Randy Cook.

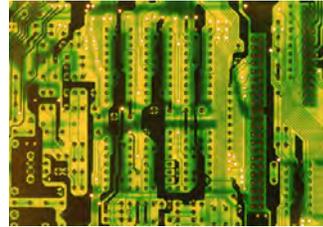
Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Wednesday from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The study is a Presbyterian Women's study entitled 'Come to the Waters' by Judy Record Fletcher. The study will be led by Laura Parker and Christine Cook.

Please call, e-mail or speak to Christine if you have any

questions. cmcook2375@yahoo.com or 248-343-4157.
Ends March 16th.

Information Technology Team



The Information Technology Team members are Walt Brown, Jim Lyles, Brian Parker and Sara Pettit.

Care Team Update



Praying for our church family & friends. .
Concerns

- For those serving, or who have served, in military service.
- Strength, renewal, and healing for: Barbara & Owen Hallberg (Dr. Teryl LaFalce's mother and stepfather), Jimmy Duncanson (son), Todd Duncanson (husband) of Carrie Duncanson, William Woodard (grandson of Fred Gates), Mandie and Josh Banks, Peggy Ranger, Maxine Bolyea, Ed & Barbara Wells, Mary Renico, Terry & Julie Parish and Angel Vliet, Fran Olson, Jim Smith, Celia Pettit, Pete Olson, Bill Parks (brother in law of Ron & Kathleen Howe), Wayne McDonald, Charles Jackson (brother of Peggy Ranger) and Dale Huffman.
- Prayers for our members who are homebound or in Care Facilities.
- Peace, strength, and comfort for the family of Bob Nelson (Linda Burns brother).
- For Flint residents and the water crisis.

Prayers of Concern at Presbytery of Lake Huron

- Michael and Rachel Ludwig, our Mission Co-Workers who are serving in Niger.
- The Rev. Ken Hetzel (Pastor of Croswell-First) continues to recover at home following his heart attack last month. He and his family greatly appreciate all the prayers that have already come their way.
- Ben Offrink, son of the Rev. Jim Offrink who is doing well in his battle with cancer. But it is still a challenging time for the entire family so continued prayers are appreciated.
- Elder Sally Pomeroy (Croswell-First) who is doing very well in her battle with cancer and has finished her last radiation treatment. Sally is the Clerk of Session for Croswell-First, very involved in the Thumb Ministry Group and has served on presbytery committees including time as the COM Moderator. She and her family greatly appreciate all the prayers that have been said for them.
- The Rev. Cathy Chang and family as they continue training as Mission Co-Workers in the Philippines.

Nurse Karen will be in on Sunday, March 20th after worship. Nurse Karen will be available to check your

- blood pressure
- oxygen rate

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.

Care Team

Karen Haneline, Loretta Weiss, Beth Dryer, Linda Burns,
Jennifer Chanter, Jan Bradshaw.

Property Team

We are a smoke-free property. No smoking on the Grounds or in the Building at HPC.

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.

Thank you,

Property Team

Lori Goldsmith, Randy Cook, Broady Cook, Gerry Jackson, Tim Burns, Tom Schettling and Ellen Paulson.



Worship Team

Weekly Attendance

Don't forget to fill out the blue fellowship book for our record keeping of your weekly attendance. Not only is the entry used for important data the church needs to collect for accounting purposes but it is used to learn visitors names, address corrections, etc. Thank you. Also, Worship is in need of volunteers for the next several months. Open positions include substitutes for worship leader, ushers, greeters, and Communion servers (must be an Elder of the church to serve Communion). If this sounds like something that interests you see Linda Burns for details.



Easter Lilies are available for Easter. You can sign up in the Narthex until March 13th. Single plants are \$15, Double plants are \$25. You can put them in memory of a loved one which will be put in the bulletin for Easter.

Worship Team
 Linda Burns
 Vicki Lyles
 Gordie Bradshaw

Fellowship Team

Fellowship Team will have a meeting on March 6th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.



Coffee Hour sign up for the month of March 2016

Dates	Treats	Set up	Clean up
3/6	Loretta Weiss	Loretta Weiss	Loretta Weiss
3/13	Mary Renico Dessalee & Bronwyn Cook "	Mary Renico	Mary Renico Dessalee Cook
	One More Person Needed		
3/20	Charlee Litten Beth Dryer	Charlee Litten Beth Dryer	Charlee Litten Beth Dryer

**3/27 No one has signed up so far. Please sign up today!
 We need two people for each position.**

If you can help, please sign up today! Fellowship and Coffee is something we all enjoy!

**Maundy Thursday Dinner March 24th 6:30pm.
 Mostaccoli provided.** Please bring a dish salad, bread or dessert to pass.

7:30pm -8:00pm Maundy Thursday Service.

Sunday, April 10th after Worship we will be having a Bake Sale.

Save up now for all the goodies next month!

Margaret Perry
Fellowship Team

Outreach Team



In The Beginning News!

We are looking for **new** volunteers for the Baby Pantry Team. 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, March 11th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, March 19th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Friday, March 25th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

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)

We are in need of Diapers size 4 and 6 as well as wipes. Kleenex, wipes, ointment, lotion, body wash & diaper rash cream are an ongoing need.

If you feel called to this ministry please see 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.

Mental Health Prevention Group- is now forming. Meet with others who feel the need to talk. In turn becoming a listener. No electronic devices needed; Simple homelife support.
VOICE-Vocalize Ones Innner Conflicts Effectively
For details call 248-634-5594, Marlo Davidson

The Outreach Team Laura Parker, Jennifer Chanter, Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash, James Lyles.

Supporting Our Missionaries



Iobst Family picture 2015

Iobst Link: [January 2016 Newsletter](#)



Keefe Family picture 2014

Keefe Link : [February 2016 Newsletter](#)

The Outreach Team Laura Parker, Jennifer Chanter, Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash, James Lyles.

Personnel Team News



Needed: March 17th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm -One slot left.

Volunteer to answer phone while Sherry is gone on her cruise. Please contact Sherry at 248-634-9494.

The office will have limited hours March 15th thru March 24th. It will be open 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm for lunch.

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

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

School Supplies-Holly Area Youth Assistance
School Supplies for Haiti

Our 2016 Session

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

Class of 2018

Charlee Litten	Personnel Team	(810) 694-0095
Ellen Paulson	Clerk	(248) 320-0375
Walt Brown	Technology Team	(810) 629-1618
Linda Burns	Worship Team	(586) 482-3091

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)
