
HPC Connections

Knowing, Growing, Sharing, and Serving

December 2016 Newsletter
Volume 16, Issue 12



A message from Reverend Sharlyn

Keep Awake! Advent Reflections from Rev. Sharlyn

Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Matthew 25:13



In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the parable of the 10 bridesmaids. They all were excited and anticipating the coming the bridegroom for the wedding. They brought their oil lamps because they knew it could be a bit of a wait before the festivities began. But Jesus says that five of those bridesmaids were wise. They were thinking ahead. They made a plan so they would be prepared for a longer wait than might be necessary. They brought extra oil - just in case!

The other five, unfortunately, were less prepared. They did not think it through. They were giddy with excitement, thinking of the fun they would have. Not thinking about how long the wait could be, how sleepy they might become, how weary of waiting and most of all - how at the last minute they would not have enough oil to finally see the bridegroom come.

The wait was long. Who knows what was going on during all that time. They all fell asleep and when they woke, five of the bridesmaid's lamps were out. They had run out of oil! They begged the others to give them a little oil but, of course, those who prepared did not want to end up in the same predicament, so they refused. The five who ran out of oil hurried off to buy more but while they were gone, it happened. The bridegroom came, ushered the wedding party into the reception hall and the doors were locked. Those who were unprepared were not allowed in later on.

Waiting on the bridegroom. I can relate to that in a way that I've never considered before. Even as I write this message, I am sitting in the hospital room with my dad as he also is waiting for the time when the bridegroom - the Lord - comes and says, "James, I've come to take you home now." The waiting will finally be over. The Lord of life will come. We do not know what hour it will be but we wait, knowing it is going to happen. I find myself trying to stay awake, to be alert when that time comes but the truth is, at some point my eyes get very heavy and I nod off. Then, suddenly, I wake and look to see if it has happened yet. At some point it will. I don't want to miss it. I'm trying to be ready. I hope I'm prepared. I don't know what it will be like for him and really, I don't know what it will feel like, for sure, for me. But I trust that Jesus has it all under control. He knows the perfect time. He is prepared. In fact, he told the disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them, and it's the same for us as well. We may not always feel prepared for his coming, but we can trust that he is perfectly prepared for us, in his grace.

As we begin the season of Advent, the time of waiting and preparing, I urge you to do it with some real care. Advent isn't just about preparing for the celebration of the birth of Christ our Lord, but it is also a time to remember that Jesus has promised to come again. When he does, it will be very different from the first time. He won't come as a tiny, poor homeless baby. He will come with trumpet sound. He will come in glory and all tears and pain and sickness will be gone. Advent is a time for preparing for his coming.

This Advent, think about how you would prepare differently if you really knew that in a short time, he would finally come and the great banquet would be set. The bridegroom would usher his bride (the Church) into the eternal celebration of new life. After the long wait, suddenly everything is changed forever.

Jesus comes to us in many ways at many different times. Think about all the ways you need to be prepared and then *keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour* but know he will keep his promises and he will come. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!



Light OF HOPE

The people who walk in darkness
will see a great light.
For those who live in a land of deep darkness,
a light will shine.

Isaiah 9:2

If you would like to help those affected by Hurricane Matthew Disaster Relief, see the forms on the table in the narthex thru Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Give. Act. Pray.

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



Carols, Candles & Communion

Saturday December 24th 8:00pm will be our Christmas Eve service. Please join us.



Hanging of the Greens

This is scheduled for Sunday, November 27th, following worship. Please stay and help with a merry spirit and a helping hand as we "Deck the Halls". A sign up sheet will be available in the narthex.



Adopt a Family Christmas Outreach Project

We will be doing our annual Christmas Adopt-a family mission again this year. We are taking entries from any of the Baby Pantry families who are interested and in need. From the entries two families will be selected by lottery on Sunday November 13th. The gift tag boards will be displayed on Sunday December 4th. Gifts will be delivered on Christmas Eve. Each tag will include only the person's first name plus the type of gift, including sizes. Members of the congregation will choose a gift tag, purchase the gift, wrap it, and bring it to the church with the tag on the gift. Members of the Outreach Committee will deliver the gifts to the homes of the two families Christmas Eve after our service that evening at the church.





December 2016

Regular Weekly Events

Sunday

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

Monday

7:30 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday thru Thursday

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

Wednesday

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch
7:00 pm Presbyterian Men's Bible Study

Thursday

7:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Advent Series

Schedule of Additional Events

Dec 1 7:00 pm AYSO Community Room
Dec 4 10:00 am Fellowship Team Meeting
7:00 pm Ambassadors Concert
Dec 6 9:30 am Presbytery Meeting Saginaw
Team Meetings:
Informational Technology 6:30pm - 7:30 pm,
Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm , Personnel 7:00 pm -
7:30 pm, Christian Ed 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Dec 9 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Dec 13 Team Meetings:
Finance 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm , Care 6:30pm - 7:00pm,
Outreach 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Property 7:30
pm - 8:30 pm

Dec 14 1:00 pm Grief Support Group
Dec 17 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Dec 18 Healthy check up
Dec 20 Session Meeting
Dec 24 8:00 pm Carols, Candles & Communion
Dec 28 1:00 pm Grief Support Group



Sunday December 4th at 7:00 pm, join us for the Fenton Ambassadors. A free will offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served after. This is a concert you won't want to miss. Invite your friends and family.

A Word from Pastor Shaun

When this newsletter goes out to everyone we will still be about a week away from celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday. Like most people in the United States we will travel to friends or family members' homes to eat a good meal and sit around and catching up on things like this year's election.

As important as this time is with family and friends I would also like you to start something new this year. I would like you to pray to God for something you are thankful for each day for the next thirty or so days until Christmas.

Below are some prayers you can use when you run out or can't think of anything else to thank God for in the next several days.

Psalm 107:1

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Ephesians 5:20

Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:15-17

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Pastor Shaun-

Christmas Caroling at HPC

Christmas Caroling is Coming Friday November 25th at 6:00pm to our church. The community comes in and sings carols and has refreshments. Then they join the parade and go into town to see Santa. Stop by and check it out.



From the Lions Den

Who Is My Neighbor?

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

- Luke 10:36-37



There are three questions any church or organization must ask itself as it discerns a new future:

Who are we? (The identity question)

What are we called to do? (The vocation or mission question)

With whom are we called to do it? (The partnership question)

Not surprisingly, these are also the questions each of us must answer as we navigate the journey from adolescence to adulthood: "What is my unique identity as an adult, independent of my parents?" "What is my life's work and purpose going to be?" "With whom am I going to share

this journey and this work?" They are questions that chart the trajectory of the life of individuals and congregations.

When a church or presbytery considers God's call, it always returns to these three questions. In our consideration of what it means to be an "inside-out" presbytery, we have already begun conversations on the first two of these questions during the equipping time at recent presbytery meetings. At our upcoming meeting December 6, we will begin the conversation on the third question, the partnership question. Sometimes, the third question is formed in biblical terms: "Who is my neighbor?"- the question that prompted Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus answered that neighbors are those who show mercy to others at personal cost, even when racial, ethnic, or cultural differences are present. This is critical for the church in our age to hear. If the church is to embody the love of Christ in the world, we do so in the same way as the Samaritan of the parable: even and perhaps especially towards those whose cultural backgrounds are different than our own. Becoming an inside-out church means that we don't settle for attracting people who are just like us; it means we meet people as neighbors in the world, wherever God is at work.

That is why our equipping time at the presbytery meeting December 6 will focus on understanding and addressing racial and cultural differences. We will be led by the Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter, Director of Racial-ethnic and Women's Ministries for the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and a member of our presbytery. Dr. Hunter will lead us through exercises that will help make us aware of the invisible barriers and filters that prevent us from seeing others as people to whom we can be neighbors, or that make us invisible to others.

In addition to the equipping time during the meeting, a special opportunity will be offered for presbyters and others to go deeper during a two-hour workshop immediately following the meeting that will have concrete suggestions for bringing this awareness into your congregations.

Our recent national elections laid bare the deep divides of race, class, privilege, and opportunity that afflict our nation. These are especially raw in mid-Michigan, where many communities have suffered neglect and decline, sometimes setting neighbor against neighbor. As Presbyterians we have a calling to be repairers of the breach, peacemakers who follow a vision of a different kind of community, gathered around the welcome table where our Savior is host and all are equally loved and valued. Let's be that kind of church. I look forward to sharing this journey with you at our presbytery meeting December 6, and in the months and years to come.

Finance Team Update

Income October \$13,142.42 YTD 118,476.15

Expenses October \$11,266.92 YTD 119,123.51

Thanks,
Finance Team
Bob Killewald, Vicki Lyles, Laura Parker and Carrie Duncanson

Christian Education

Adult Sunday School The Adult Sunday School class meets on Sundays at 9:30 am in the Community Room. We are starting a new study of the Jewish background of Jesus. All adults and high school students are welcome to be part of this class and join the discussions. (Small treats provided; bring your own coffee or water.)

Wednesday Lunch Bunch Bible Study- Each Wednesday at noon. We will be studying Luke. You are welcome to join us. Please bring a little something for your lunch! A good time of learning and fellowship. If you have any questions see Charlee Litten.

Presbyterian Women's Advent Series

This will be taught by Sara Pettit. We will begin each week at 7:00pm on Thursday beginning December 1st. See Sara Pettit for more information.

Presbyterian Men's Bible Study Wednesday's at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the Gathering Place. This is a class led class. Please join us. Each week we discuss the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. It is a good learning time and fellowship as well.

Grief Support Group

The grief support group will meet every other week on Wednesday. For December, we will meet on the 14th and 28th at 1:00 pm in the



Fellowship Hall. Even if you have not lost a loved one, but have a life changes you are struggling with, or if you just feel the need to be with others for support, please join us! This group will be led by Reverend Sharlyn and Elder Linda Burns, our Stephen's Minister.

Technology Team

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

Care Team

Praying for our church family & friends. .
Concerns



- For those serving, or who have served, in military service.
- Strength, renewal, and healing for: Laura Parker, Fran & Pete Olson, Joey Olson, Joe (Laura Parker's brother), Beth Krauss (Laura Parker's friend), Judy & Max (Linda Voorheis' friends), Jim Lyles, Rev. Sharlyn Gates, Joan Davis, Carole Cohee Soya (friend of Linda Voorhies), Sandi (Carrie Duncanson's friend), Donna Miller, Buck Buchanan (Kathleen Howe's brother), Alisha Sollund (Carrie Duncanson's friend), Celia Pettit, Amber (Dorothy Leaming's granddaughter), Terry & Julie Parish & Angel Vliet, Margaret Rainey, Cecilia Borema (Margaret Rainey's granddaughter), Peggy Ranger, Barb Brown, Bob Killewald, Paul Burnett (friend of Cathie Killewald), Tom Schettling, and Lois Caryl.
- For peace and comfort for the family of Jim DeHaven (Rev. Sharlyn's Gates father)
- Virginia & Wayne McDonald's Children & Grandchildren missing their loved ones.
- Prayers for our members who are home bound or in care facilities.
- For our country and for World Peace in a time of trouble.

- Pray for our Missionaries:

The Rev. Cathy Chang and family serving in the Philippines.

Michael and Rachel Ludwig serving in Niger.

Colby and Sarah Keefer & family in Ypsilanti (Athletes in Action)

Healthy Check up will be Sunday December 18th Nurses Karen and Char will be available to check your

- blood pressure
- oxygen rate
- glucose check

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, Judy Studer, Ellen Paulson, Lisa Martin, Charlene Clement and Emily Martin.

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 Judy Studer or Cathie Killewald if you are interested in supporting this ministry.



UPCOMING DATES:

Friday, December 9th 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, December 17th 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Friday, December 23rd 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

Items we need include: We are low on many clothing sizes:

- Boys pants (12-18 mo, 24 mo, 2T)
- Boys shirts (3T, 4T)
- Boys PJ's (18-24 mo, 2T, 3T, 4T)

We are in need of size 4 diapers. Also we need Kleenex, baby wash, wipes, diaper ointment, kleenex and baby socks.

Any donations can be placed in the crib in the narthex, or financial donations can be placed in the offering plate with a notation or envelope marked "Baby Pantry". Thank you for your generous support.

If you feel called to this ministry or just want to see what it is about please see Judy Studer or Cathie Killewald.

"And he took the children in his arms, put His hands on them and blessed them." Mark 10:16

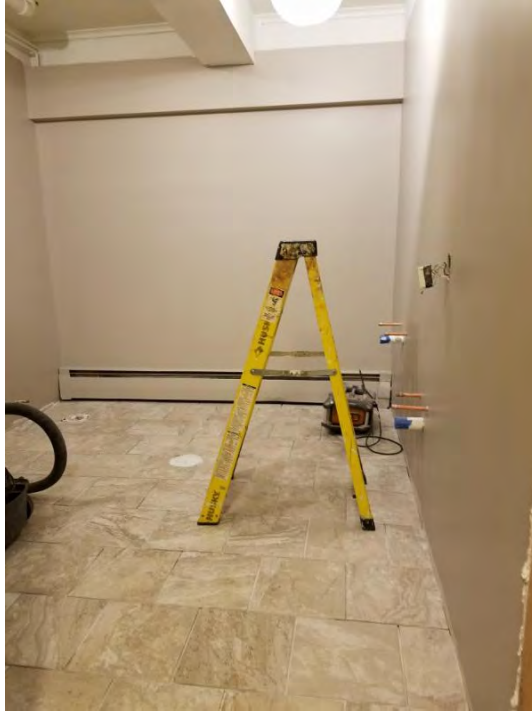
Prayer requests from our families

- New families to the community that are struggling to make it. They appreciate the help we give them. They are in need of a better job or a job to keep their family going.
- 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.

Thank you,
Judy Studer, Cathie Killewald, Jennifer Chanter, Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash and Reisa Hamilton.

Property Team

The basement bathroom is almost done. Here is a picture of the most recent work.



Awesome, right!!

The following jobs still need to be completed:

- Clean and paint boiler room floors
- The entire lower level need to be wiped down.
- Power wash and stain stairs leading to lower level
- Scrape and paint railings at rear entrance.

Supplies and materials will be provided.

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.

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

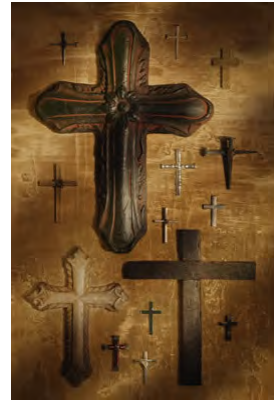
Thank you.

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. Open positions include substitutes and monthly positions for worship leader, ushers, greeters, and communion servers (must be an Elder of the church of serve Communion).

This month, we will need five (5) families (including Christmas Eve) to speak and then light the Advent candle. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring your family together at Christmas.

If this sounds like something that interests you see Linda Burns for details.

Worship Team
Linda Burns
Vicki Lyles
Gordie Bradshaw

[November Newsletter](#)

[Support our Missionaries](#)

[Jobst Family picture 2015](#)
[Josiah Phoebe, Thomas,](#)
[Deedee and Allen from Left to Right](#)

[November Newsletter](#)

[Newsletter link:](#)

[Kids Newsletter: Summer Project 2016](#)



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Keefe Family picture 2014

Colby and Sarah Keefe
and family

Newsletter link: [November Newsletter](#)



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

Fellowship Team

- Fellowship Team meeting will be on Sunday December 4th
at 10:00 am in the back of the Fellowship Hall.
- The Ambassadors Concert is scheduled for Sunday December 4th at
7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Please see
the sign up to get your cookies on the list.

Thank you.

Fellowship Team

Margaret Perry, Beth Dryer, Donna Miller, Colleen Spring, Roberta Single,
Cathie Killewald, Elizabeth Kici, Judy Studer, Fran Olson and Mary Renico.

Personnel Team

Charlee Litten, Jennifer Chanter, Judy Studer, Dale Huffman

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)

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

2016 Session

Class of 2016

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

Class of 2017

Margaret Perry	Fellowship Team	(810) 735-7692
Karen Haneline	Care Team	(248) 894-3489

Class of 2018

Reisa Hamilton	Outreach	(248) 634-2641
Charlee Litten	Personnel Team	(810) 694-0095
Ellen Paulson	Clerk	(248) 320-0375
Sara Pettit	Technology Team	(810) 730-8357
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)
