
HPC Connections

Knowing, Growing, Sharing, and Serving

April 2017 Newsletter
Volume 17, Issue 4



A message from Reverend Sharlyn

Easter Reflections ...

When I was growing up, every Easter my grandmother would parade my brother and me outside of her house to take our picture. There we stood, elbow to elbow, trying not to touch, in front of the daffodils at the side of the house. I don't know where most of those pictures are any longer but the ones I remember seeing had us both squinting at the sun, trying to smile and look nice for the Easter memory she was taking.

That's what pictures are for, right? Memories. They remind us of a special day and time in our lives. We look at the picture and are taken back to that place where our young selves stood. I vaguely remember being there but the picture reminds me that I was, whether I remember or not.

In Bible Study the other night we read about the picture God put in the sky after destroying the earth with a flood. He was sorry he had done it, in spite of the sinfulness of humanity and he promised Noah that he would put the beautiful rainbow in the sky. Why? God said it would be a reminder to himself that he would never again destroy the earth with a flood. Even God needed a picture so He would remember.

Unfortunately God would need to look long and hard at that reminder of



his promise. The people tested him greatly over and over again. God must have had to really stare at that rainbow many times to remind himself that he would not flood the earth again.

We've been looking now at Covenant - God's promises to the chosen people in the Old Testament. God chose the Israelites, promising to be their God and that they would be his people. He shaped and molded and used them in mighty ways. God disciplined them when it as needed. And yes, it was needed often. But God loved his people and never broke his promise to be their God.

We are now looking at the New Testament Covenant. How is it different? Now, in the New Testament, we read that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was written in the Old Testament. Now we discover that, in Christ Jesus, the Light of the world shines and seeks all of us - Jews (the Israelites) and Gentiles (that would be us) alike. The New Covenant is about grace - a free gift of love from God who realized we humans could not keep from sinning, from breaking covenant. So God sent Jesus, his Son, to do - once and for all - what we could not do - free ourselves from our sins. In Jesus death on the cross, in his blood being poured out for us, we find grace; we have forgiveness and mercy.

And in Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we believe that death is conquered and life will go on into eternity. Death does not have the final victory. Alleluia!

And Jesus said, "This cup is the New Covenant, sealed in my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins."

This Easter, may we fully realize that God has given us amazing grace through his own Son on a cross. Because, in Jesus' death on that cross, we have come to have life abundant. May the cross be a constant reminder to us that we belong to God. Thanks be to God!

Reverend Sharlyn



Pete and Fran Olson on April 3rd 52 years
Jerry & Charlee Litten on April 16th 53 years
Walt & Barb Brown on April 21st 55 years

Wow all 50 something this month! Congratulations and God Bless you all!



Maundy Thursday - 6:30 p.m.

Come join us on April 13th for a very special Maundy Thursday supper and service. We will eat together and observe a modified Passover meal with a Christian focus. This service will give an overall sense of the Jewish Passover but also will observe the Last Supper that Jesus gave us. We will start at 6:30 p.m. The entire service will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan on attending this special, meaningful service. It would be most helpful if you would sign up so we know how many to plan for. Hopefully, we will have a large group! You can sign the sign-up sheet that will be started on Ash Wednesday or you sign up on Facebook. Hope to see you there!

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





April 2017

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

- 7:00 pm Presbyterian Men's Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Bible Study thru Lenten

Schedule of Additional Events

- Apr 2 10:00 am Fellowship **Team Meeting**
- Apr 4 **Team Meetings**
 - Information Technology 6:30pm-7:30pm
 - Worship 6:30pm-7:30pm
 - Personnel 7:00pm-7:30pm
 - Christian Education 7:30pm-8:30pm
- Apr 5 1:00 pm Grief Support Group
- Apr 6 7:00 pm AYSO
- Apr 7 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
- Apr 9 Palm Sunday
 - 11:00 am Worship-Marching in the Sanctuary with the Palms from the Narthex
 - Bake Sale
- Apr 11 **Team Meetings**
 - Finance 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Care 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Outreach 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Property 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Apr 13 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm Dinner & Service
Apr 14 Good Friday
Apr 15 Newsletter Articles Due
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Apr 16 Easter Sunday
12:00 pm Healthy Check up
Apr 18 7:00 pm Session Meeting
Apr 19 1:00 pm Grief Support Group
Apr 21 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry

A Word from Pastor Shaun

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."



Can you believe spring is right around the corner? I know you may not believe spring is coming since we just had a few inches of snow but, if you look closer the green buds are coming up from the ground. Then before too long we will be seeing the beautiful flowers blooming and the green grass taking over the brown grass in our lawns.

The same as spring is a new beginning for everyone's flowers and lawn we need to remember that we can also have this same affect on someone's life by forgiving them or even taking the higher road and saying that whatever caused problems in the past is the past and we can now move on.

So today reach out to those who have hurt you and say that today is the season of change in your life and theirs by giving them the same forgiveness and grace that we received by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May you have peace with Christ.

-Shaun

From your Finance Team

Income	February	\$10,587.05	YTD	\$20,267.74
Expense	February	\$13,120.96	YTD	\$28,220.42

Finance Team

Bob Killewald, Vicki Lyles, Laura Parker and Carrie Duncanson

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed toward the per capita bill. You covered over half of the bill, which was very helpful. If you did not make a donation, and still wish to, the amount is \$26.17 per member. Just note on your check or envelope that the money is for per capita. As you can see from the numbers above, the beginning of the year is a very rough time (per capita costs were \$2564.66, and insurances \$4118.00).

Vicki Lyles

Easter Lilies -

Sign Up Sheet is available in the Narthex until April 2nd. Please sign up if you would like to have a memorial plant on Easter.

The Lilies that will be displayed in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday are in Memory of:

~ Bernice & Rudy Schettling ~ Jene Striggow ~ Jean Goss ~ Mary Kay Lyles ~ John Miller ~ Bruce, Paul, Harriette, Keith Dyer ~ Matthew Montreuil ~ Alec Ash ~ Iva Pelkey ~ Jack & Jean Fundis ~ Gordon & Gladys Bradshaw ~ Clyde, Cathleen, Doug Clement ~ Aaron & Margaret Ganshaw ~



Thank you very much

From the Lions' Den

"The great ends of the church are... the preservation of the truth...."

"Jesus answered, '...For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'" (John 18:37-38)



Someone recently remarked to me that "people aren't interested in hearing about the Great Ends of the Church." The comment was offered to support the premise that the church's proclamation needs to be less "churchy" and use less jargon to captivate young worshipers. I readily admit that most people have never heard of our foundational statement about the ends or purposes of Christ's church. But I respectfully disagree that the ends themselves are somehow irrelevant or not of interest to them.

There is no more timely or relevant statement of the church's purpose than "the preservation of the truth." In an age of "truthiness" and "fake news," in a world that has been termed, "post-truth," the church's commitment to the preservation of the truth is more important than ever.

The first and most important aspect of this charge is the church's commitment to the preservation of the Truth with a capital "T". Above all else, the church is charged with the faithful custody of our testimony about Jesus: the witness of the scriptures borne by apostles and martyrs about his person, his teaching, and his saving work. We are reluctant to speak of "heresy" in a church and culture which values individual conscience and tolerating difference, but our commitment to preserve the Truth requires that we graciously, pastorally, and collectively divide truth from error, even if our judgments may at time be too narrow or too wide. To say that it doesn't matter what we believe, or that all beliefs are equally valid, undermines our own profession of Christ as Lord. At the

same time, the preservation of the Truth requires that we be open to correction in our testimony as we come to understand the scriptures more fully.

The church's calling to preserve the truth also requires us to be honest and truthful ourselves, both in our dealings with one another and with the world. Our testimony about Jesus is only as credible as our own reputation for truth and honesty. When the church hides wrongdoing, engages in secret deals, or protects the guilty, we deny the One who said to Nicodemus, "Those who do what is true come to the light that it may be seen that their deeds are of God" (John 3:21). The history of our church - indeed, of all churches - is rife with scandal. That is the unfortunate by-product of any human society. But the beauty of our Presbyterian denomination is its built-in commitment to self-correction and the pursuit of truth. I knew I would become a Presbyterian when I found in the Book of Order the little known and rarely used "Request for Vindication" - the protection afforded every member to seek the vindication of their reputation against false rumors and accusations through investigation and judicial process.

The third and final aspect of "the preservation of the truth" is our obligation to pursue and uphold truth in society. Pontius Pilate was not the first politician to dismiss or distort the truth, and he certainly wasn't the last. The challenge in our current political climate isn't just holding our leaders accountable to truthfulness, but also the difficult discipline of discerning and dispensing truth amid the flood of false, inflammatory, and biased reports in cable television and social media. Before reacting to, reposting, or repeating sensational claims, we should THINK and ask ourselves:

T - Is it True?

H - Is it Helpful?

I - Is it Inspiring?

N - Is it Necessary?

K - Is it Kind?

If you can't answer "yes" to all these questions, it is best to hold your impulses in check. Jesus says he came into this world to testify to the truth. Of all the great ends of the church, preserving the truth is as close to the heart of Jesus' own mission as we get.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

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- has been cancelled.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study Wednesday's at 7:00 pm. This is a class led class. Please join us. Each week we discuss the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday which will focus on our Lenten theme. It is a good learning time and fellowship as well. It will conclude after the Lenten season.

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 which will focus on our Lenten theme. 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 April, we will meet on the 5th and 19nd 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 Elder Linda Burns, our Stephen Minister.

Information Technology Team

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

Care Team

Quote: The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice.
-Henry Knox Sherrill



Praying for our church family & friends. .

Concerns

- Strength, renewal, and healing for: Andy Schram (Julie Parish's son), Dorothy Leaming, Doris Colegrove, Fran & Pete Olson, Rachel Sparling, Barb Wells, Cheryl (Jan Bradshaw's sister), Patty Davis (Jan Bradshaw's friend), Margaret House, Lisa Martin, Barb Brown, Donna Miller, Caroline Lucido (Brian Parker's sister), Hadleigh Banks, John Miller (Donna Miller's son), Dolores Mikulak & family (Karen Haneline's mom), Carlton Pernel (Gerry Jackson's friend), Celia (CC) Pettit, Laura Parker, Terry Parish, Peggy Ranger, Paul Burnett (friend of Cathie Killewald).
- For peace and comfort for the family of Pat Downing (ex mother in law of Julie Parish).
- Prayers for our members who are home bound or in care facilities.
- For our country and its leaders. For peace.
- Pray for this church and both our pastors.

Pray for our Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery

- Prayers for peace and comfort for the family of Rev Carol Miller, retired Minister of Lake Huron Presbytery. She served as Pastoral Visitor and Adult Sunday School teacher at Saginaw First. She passed on March 21, 2017, for the family of Elder Joe Adamson, Lapper First, who passed on March 20, 2017, the family of Elder Nadine Baxter, husband John Baxter (Grand Blanc Kirkdridge) on March 10th, and the family of Elder Bill Churchill, Sr.(Flushing), wife of Virginia Churchill who passed on March 25th.
- 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), and Allen and Deedee Iobst & family in Spain.
- Kathy Grimes, Comm. Ruling Elder of Elkton Chandler and Kinde First continues treatment for breast cancer.
Pam Brackbill and the Rev. Tom Brackbill (Alma-First), as they deal with all that encompasses Pam's diagnosis of Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease. Pam is under the care of Masonic Pathways.

Healthy Check up will be Sunday April 16th 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 **anyone** who would like to volunteer for the Baby Pantry Team.

Giving your time or resources to this wonderful outreach ministry will bless you in so many ways! Just reach out to Judy Studer or Cathie Killewald if you are interested in supporting this ministry.



UPCOMING DATES:

Friday, April 7th 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, April 15th 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Friday, April 21st 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

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

- Boys pants (2T, 3T, 4T, 5T)
- Boys shirts (2T, 3T, 4T, 5T)
- Boys PJ's (2T, 3T, 4T, 5T)

We are in need of Size 4 diapers and kleenex.

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.



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.

Property Team

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 - Randy Cook, Lori Goldsmith, 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).

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

Worship Team
Linda Burns
Vicki Lyles
Gordie Bradshaw



Support our Missionaries

Jobst Family picture 2015
Josiah Phoebe, Thomas,
Deedee and Allen from Left to Right

[Newsletter link:February](#)



-
[Kefer
Family
picture](#)



[December 2016](#)

[Colby and Sarah Kefer
and family](#)

[Newsletter link: February](#)

[The Outreach Team-- Reisa Hamilton, Laura Parker, Jennifer Chanter,
Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash, James Lyles.](#)

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Fellowship Team

- Fellowship Team meeting will be on Sunday April 2nd at 10:00am in the back of the Fellowship Hall.
- Get ready for the Bake Sale on Sunday, April 9th. Lots of goodies to be had.
- Sign up for April 13th Maundy Service & Supper 6:30pm We will eat together and observe a modified Passover meal with a Christian focus. This service will give an overall sense of the Jewish Passover but also will observe the Last Supper that Jesus gave us. We will start at 6:30 p.m. The entire service will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan on attending this special, meaningful service. It would be most helpful if you would sign up so we know how many to plan for. Hopefully, we will have a large group! You can sign the sign-

up sheet that will be started on Ash Wednesday or you sign up on Facebook. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please see one of us below.
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, Lisa Martin, 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

Our 2017 Session

Class of 2017

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

Class of 2018

Reisa Hamilton	Outreach	(248) 766-7719
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

Class of 2019

Bob Killewald	Finance Team	(248) 310-2410
Randy Cook	Property Team	(221) 221-9044
Charlene Clement	Christian Ed	(810) 869-2632

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)

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