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# ***HPC Connections***

Knowing, Growing, Sharing, and Serving

May 2017 Newsletter  
Volume 17, Issue 5



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## **A message from Reverend Sharlyn**

### ***Reflections from your pastor ... The Ministry of Prayer***

At our April Session meeting, I led us in a time of Scripture reading and discussion. We talked about how important it is to reach out to people and offer the hope and encouragement we have in the risen Lord. We discussed how people are looking for more than just a fun place to be but many are hurting and needing what only we as a family of faith have to offer. When we are talking to each other or to a friend, our conversations can become serious at times. When we trust each other, it is not unusual to share a problem or emotions with one another. Those are the times when we should offer what we have found gives us hope and encouragement and joy. We offer Jesus' love and forgiveness. We offer his new life that is found in the resurrection.

Out of that conversation came a discussion about who we are as elders - leaders in the church. We are more than Session members; more than team leaders of specific teams that do certain jobs that need to be done. Elders are spiritual leaders in the church. They are "set aside" - consecrated - in their ordination for a work that is to minister to others. Elders are called to pray for others.

James 5:13-16 says: Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are



any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

Prayer is such an important part of ministry. We agreed at Session meeting - the meeting of the current, active elders - that we would provide a quiet place for prayer after worship each Sunday. If you are wanting someone to pray for you or for a loved one - if you are hurting or sick or in need of forgiveness - come to the corner in the back of the sanctuary where there will be a prayer space and an elder or two there, waiting to pray with you. Anything you say to them will be confidential.

They will listen and offer prayer and you will feel encouraged by the Holy Spirit who will be present among you.

Please take advantage of this prayer ministry. If you wish to be one who offers prayer at times, let us know. It isn't just elders who are called to pray. But if you just want prayer, please come and receive a blessing.

Pray for this prayer ministry to be a blessing to many in our congregation and perhaps extend out to others in the community.

My the risen Lord be present to us in our prayers in a mighty, yet sweet way. Amen.

*Reverend Sharlyn*

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Bob & Cathie Killewald on May 12th 27 years  
Broady & Dessalee Cook on May 26th 33 years

How amazing! Congratulations and God Bless you all!

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## 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

- May 2     **Team Meetings**  
Worship 6:30pm-7:30pm  
Personnel 7:00pm-7:30pm  
Information Technology 7:30pm - 8:30pm  
Christian Education 7:30pm - 8:30pm
- May 4     7:00 pm AYSO
- May 7     10:00 am **Fellowship Team Meeting**
- May 9     **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
- May 12    10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry  
First Day to bring Rummage Sale Items in 9am - 3pm
- May 14    Bring in your Rummage Sale Items after Church
- May 15    Set up & Bring in your Rummage Sale Items 9:00am - 3:00pm  
Newsletter Deadline
- May 16    Set up & Bring in your Rummage Sale Items 9:00am - 3:00pm  
7:00 pm **Session Meeting**
- May 17    Set up & Bring in your Rummage Sale Items 9:00am - done
- May 18    9:00 am - 5:00 pm Spring Rummage Sale
- May 19    9:00 am - 5:00 pm Spring Rummage Sale
- May 20    9:00am -12:00pm Spring Rummage Sale then cleanup til done  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
- May 21    12:00 pm Healthy Check up
- May 26    10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
- May 28    11:00 am Worship- Communion-**NOTE-NEXT** Sunday

## A Word from Pastor Shaun

While visiting a church last year I noticed the congregation had put a puzzle in their narthex. At first I thought it had to do with some type of sermon series or a piece of scriptures but, after asking around I found out the pastor was asking each person of the church to place a piece of the puzzle together to show they could accomplish anything when they work as a church family.

So you may be wondering what does this have to do with Holly Presbyterian church. Well thanks for asking.

Just like that church came together to put a puzzle together we need everyone to come together to accomplish some things around the church in the month of May like working in the Baby Pantry, setting up and working the Rummage Sale, and maybe even a church clean up date. If we all come together to help and even bring someone else it will make light work having many hands. Thanks in advance for your help!

So if you would like to help check out the back of the bulletin and listen during announcement when these events will be happening.

*Shaun*

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## From your Finance Team

### Finance Team thoughts

#### ***Observations about Stewardship from the Bible to enhance our understanding and spiritual growth:***

In Genesis we read the account of God creating man and woman. It is interesting to note that God's next action was to appoint them as God's stewards over every living thing that moves on the earth. God put the first human being into the Garden to till the ground and to give names to all the beasts.



God saw fit to emphasize from the very beginning the necessity of good stewardship. It is important to our Christian journey that we understand how God asks all of us to remember to be ever diligent in our responsibility to His creation and His Covenant with us through Jesus Christ.

Good stewardship is a fundamental need in our Christian walk and for the glory of God.

(More to follow in future newsletters)

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## A Note from Rev. Sharlyn

Please check out my blog site at <http://www.sharlyndgates.com> and follow as I do something I've always loved doing - WRITING. I will be trying to write regularly about life events and how they can help us to experience God in our lives. Please read my experience with feeding goats and fighting one mean rooster while at my daughter's house. It's titled **Fighting Our Demons**. I'd love to hear your feedback.

- Rev. Sharlyn

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## New Prayer Ministry

Each Sunday following worship, there will be elders in the back of the sanctuary ready to pray with anyone who comes. A quiet, sacred space for prayer will be set aside for that purpose. Please come and know that whatever you share with an elder will be held in complete confidence. If you feel called to be one who prays with and for others, please let one of the pastors or elders know. Let's pray for one another!

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Friends

With

Needs



April was a great month for Friends with Needs. Ms. Donna DeNise came in for a visit with Ms. Laura and showed us how to make tie dye blankets. Each of us got to keep our own blanket after it was done.

We all learned how to tie and it was fun. Now we have a blanket to keep us warm as well that we made.

May is hopeful as well. A representative from US Congressman Mike Bishop is coming on Tuesday, May 30th at 2:00pm to speak on what is happening on mental health issues.

Friends with Needs meets three times a week. On each Tuesdays we have some special planned for them to do. Sometimes it's Bingo, which is done by our very own Jennifer Chanter once a month, Bible Study, Game day. This group could use your help. If you feel lead to help organize them with a monthly calendar of events, help with something your good at, maybe a craft or speak to them about your hobby. Pray about it, then go see Reisa or Rev. Sharlyn and tell them you're ready to help.

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## From the Lions' Den

### ***The great ends of the Church are... the promotion of social righteousness.***

The story is told of a country pastor who preached zealously one morning on the topic of sin. Seated in the front pew, right beneath him, was one of church's leading elders. "This church is going to the Devil with all its gossiping!" the preacher proclaimed. The elder nodded in agreement and said quietly, "Great preaching, Reverend."

"This church is going to the Devil with all its pettiness and greed!" the preacher continued. At this the elder looked over his shoulder, and then spoke in agreement, "That's right, preacher. That's good teaching." Then the preacher added, "And this church is going to the Devil with all its drinking!" With this, the elder rose to his feet and said in a loud voice. "Well! Now you've gone and taken to meddlin'!"

In this column, I am returning to the six "great ends" or purposes of the Church. The great ends of the church are among "the foundations of Presbyterian polity" in our Book of Order - cornerstone affirmations of what it means to be Presbyterian. So far, we have considered "the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind," "the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God," "the maintenance of divine worship," and "the preservation of the truth." These are all important - but largely non-controversial - purposes. With the fifth great end - "the promotion of social righteousness" - many believe the church "has taken to meddlin'."

We live in a politically polarized society. Recent studies show that people are more likely to marry a person of a different faith than a person of a different political party. We resent people who challenge our political



convictions. What is more, there is a strong tradition of pietism in American religion - the belief that sin consists only of personal vices and behaviors, and that religion is a private matter not appropriate for the public arena.

That is directly at odds with both biblical faith and the Reformed tradition. The core event of the Old Testament - the exodus from Egypt - is the story of Moses' protest and God's intervention against the most powerful government on earth. The prophets, from Elijah to Malachi, proclaimed God's judgment on unjust rulers and systems. And the New Testament - from Mary's Magnificat to God's final victory in Revelation - affirms that God is Lord of all, including the political powers of the earth.

Reformed Christianity - the family of faith that includes Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and others - believes that the church is called not to withdraw from the world, but to transform the world to a more faithful reflection of God's will. In our own society, this put Presbyterians among the leaders of the American Revolution. James Madison and Alexander Hamilton - the principal framers of our Constitution - both were strongly influenced by Reformed and Presbyterian theories of government.

But that also has led to disagreements and even divisions over what constitutes "social righteousness." The deepest and longest lasting division in American Presbyterianism was over the issue of whether chattel slavery was consistent with God's will. More recently, the civil rights movements, the war in Vietnam, women's rights, gay rights, climate change, and Middle East policy have all generated intense debate, and sometimes division, within the church as we seek to determine and pursue God's call to promote social righteousness.

But the same principle that informs our desire for social righteousness - that God alone is God - also shapes our conviction that "God alone is Lord of the conscience." So, when, often after intense debate, the church bears prophetic social witness, it only speaks to the church, not for the church. That is, we continue to respect that people of good faith may differ on these matters, and our fellowship as Presbyterians and Christians does not depend on uniformity of opinion. In fact, we recognize that we may even at times be mistaken in our witness, and we need the ongoing voices of faithful dissenters to bring us to repentance and correction.

Can we conduct our debates with greater respect, prayerfulness, wisdom, and love? Certainly. But the alternative - not "meddlin'" at all - is not acceptable for those of us who believe in a God of justice who reigns over the kings of the earth. To say "Jesus is Lord" is to say he is Lord of politics, too. And imperfect as we might be in honoring his Lordship, our faith compels us to do so in all areas of life.

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.)



**Presbyterian Women's Bible Study** Wednesday's at 7:00 pm. This class is led by Rev. Sharlyn. Please join us. Each week we discuss the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. It is a good learning time and fellowship as well.

**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.

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## Information Technology Team

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

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## Care Team

**Quote: Love is patient - love is kind, It always protects, always trusts, always hopes! Love never fails. I Corinthians 13:4-8**



## Praying for our church family & friends. . Concerns & Joys

- Strength, renewal, and healing for: Ron Howe, Paul Burnett (Cathie Killewald's neighbor), Margaret House, Joan Davis, Sheila Ostrander (Amy Davis's cousin), Doris Colegrove, Fran Olson, Rachel Sparling.
- Congratulations to Grandparents Jan & Gordie Bradshaw welcoming Isaac Lee Horton into the world on April 25, 2017 at 1:

Horton into the world born 4/25/2017 1:14 pm 8 lbs even, 20 1/2 inches

long.

- For peace and comfort for the family of Dorothy Leaming.
- 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 Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery**

- Prayers for peace and comfort for the family Leonard Grant on April 7th, father of Rev Glenn Grant of Grand Blanc Kirkridge.
- 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.
- 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 May 21st 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 Dwyer, 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, May 12th 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, May 20th 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Friday, May 26th 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 jobs or a job to keep there 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.

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## 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.

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## 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



## Support our Missionaries

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

[Newsletter Link: March](#)  
[Newsletter link: April](#)



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[Keefer Family picture December 2016](#)

[Colby and Sarah Keefer](#)  
[and family](#)

[Newsletter link: March](#)  
[Newsletter link: April](#)



[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 May 7th at 10:00am in the back of the Fellowship Hall.
- We will be having our Spring Rummage Sale May 18th - May 20th. Thurs & Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00pm with cleanup after.  
There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for help setting up and work days on the days on the sale.
- You can start bringing in your Spring & Summer merchandise starting May 12th during office hours.

- June 4th is Pentecost Sunday and Senior Recognition Sunday. We will have a cake and coffee to celebrate after worship which will be at our **new time** of 10:00 am

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.

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### Personnel Team

Charlee Litten, Lisa Martin, Jennifer Chanter, Judy Studer, Dale Huffman

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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)

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

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## *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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