



Holly Presbyterian Church Newsletter May 2025



Thoughts from Katrina

We regularly like to give our very busy Stated Clerk a small break and have a member of Presbytery Council or a committee write an article for the Bi-Weekly Brief. For this edition we are grateful to the Rev. Katrina Pekich-Bundy, Pastor of Alma-First and a member of the Mission Coordination Committee.

Last week I was invited to a lunch group (I usually eat alone at my desk like the introvert I am). I jokingly said I hoped I wasn't crashing their really cool lunch club, and someone responded, "We're not exclusive...but we're not inclusive." Before I could close my mouth I said, "That's how church works sometimes, isn't it?"

It's not how it's supposed to be, nor is it our intention, but often by design church becomes a place where we are complacent and forget to shake things up and find out how we can be more inclusive in our worship and ministry.

Speaking in a class called Queer Religion, I invited students to first read [On Liturgy: Queering Worship](#) (see next article). It demands us to consider whose perspective is included in worship, and who is writing liturgy, and who feels included. When we worship, whose voices are being heard? We can do this thought exercise with anyone - does our worship lift up queer people? Trans people? Or is it centering white cisgendered heteronormativity?

The Mission Committee has been asked to write articles once a month for the Biweekly, and this month I thought I'd consider the inclusion of Autistic people in worship and faith life. April is Autism Awareness or Autism Acceptance month. Awareness and acceptance are bare minimums. How many of our churches are ADA compliant? Even if our buildings are compliant, ADA doesn't always encompass intellectual disabilities, or invisible disabilities. ADA is essential - but hasn't been able to grow and expand since it was first created as Section 504 in 1973.

After listening to Autistic people I have come to see the ways in which the disability often stems from a lack of inclusion and ableism. There are times disabilities aren't the hindrance - the inaccessible world is the barrier.

You might have noticed that I've written Autistic person/people instead of person with Autism throughout this article. While there are some Autistic people who prefer person-centered language, most I have engaged with prefer to be called Autistic. It's always best to use the preference of the Autistic person - not the neurotypical person - so it's a great question to ask someone what they prefer. Person-centered language began through healthcare and was created by neurotypical people, as a means to lift up the human and not the disability. As

person-centered language has become more common, many in the Autistic community have pushed back, preferring "Autistic," as they lift it up as part of their identity and remind people that "disability" isn't a bad word - but the attitudes and lack of accessibility are problematic.

The beauty of neurodivergence (neurodiversity is a term that includes neurotypical and neurodivergent people; neurodivergent describes everyone outside of neurotypical, and can include Autistic people, ADHD, and other ways in which the brain functions outside of "normativity," which is a construct), is that there is no one way to be neurodivergent. You've probably heard the phrase, "If you've met one Autistic person, you've met one Autistic person." God didn't create us to be the same, even within disabilities. So, you aren't going to leave this article with "the holy grail" that will help you be more inclusive for Autistic people. The Autistic people in my congregation are different from each other, and probably won't be the same as the Autistic people in your congregation. Just like some people like music, others are there for the snacks – Autistic or not.

The most impactful thing I have learned in working with Autistic people, is to listen to Autistic people. Don't assume you know how they feel, or that they *don't* feel just because their facial reactions and body language might not be what you expect. Communication is key. Don't assume nonverbal means they cannot communicate. All behavior is communication.

Something else I learned is the concept of Universal Design. It was first described to me in architecture terms, but is also used in curriculum, and anything we do. In architectural terms, Universal Design means creating a building that is accessible for everyone from the very beginning. When making the blueprints, it means making all entrances at the same level, no stairs, and seats large enough to fit all body sizes, and doorways large enough to accommodate wheelchairs. It means lighting that isn't too bright, and a sound system that works for everyone. I used the word "accommodate" here, but it isn't an accommodation if it's created for everyone. When Universal Design is used, everyone benefits, and accommodations aren't needed, because all people were thought of at the beginning of the project. The same can be true of our worship services. If you want to learn more, I've listed some resources which are available at the link below. All but one are written by Autistic people.

Yours In Christ,

The Rev. Katrina Pekich-Bundy, Pastor, Alma-First



Start your Sunday off by coming for Coffee and Fellowship at 10:30am. We take a break for the summer starting in June.

Baby Pantry dates are:

May 2nd Fran Pelton & Cathie Killewald
May 16th Jan Bradshaw & Fran Pelton
Thank you in advance to all our volunteers.

**Work Day**

We plan a workday for Saturday, May 3rd starting at 9am.
See the list in the Sanctuary of items to do.

If you have any questions, please contact Randy Cook at
248-221-9044 or rjcook2365@yahoo.com

Recycle

We are looking for your used ink cartridges. Bring in
your ink cartridges and any batteries you have. Thank
you.



Finance Team

Income Mar \$6,939.33 YTD \$20,353.10
Expense Mar \$7,396.81 YTD \$24,695.61
Building Fund (includes special donation for office remodel):
Mar \$220.00 YTD \$1,370.00

Bob Killewald & Vicki Lyles



May Birthdays-God bless you!



May 6th Gene Stevens-90th!

May 11th Brian Parker

May 26th Karen Haneline

May 29th Amaris Thomas

May God enrich your lives together!

Bob & Cathie Killewald May 12th 35 years!

Jerry & Charlee Litten May 16th 61 years!

Broady & Dessalee Cook May 26th 41 years!





From the Congregational Care Team

If you have prayer requests, please submit them to Karen Haneline (email address-haneline526@gmail.com , phone 248-894-3489) of the Congregational Care Team.

May Quote

Spring Flower Sale-

Thank you to those who contribute to our Spring Flower and gift card sale. Your flowers and gift cards will be here May 11th.



Thurs	May 1 st	6:00pm Masons
Fri	May 2 nd	10:00am Baby Pantry
Sat	May 3 rd	9:00am Work Day
Sun	May 4 th	10:15am Outreach Team
		10:30am Coffee
		11:15am Worship
Tues	May 6 th	7:00pm IT Team
Wed	May 7 th	6:30pm Zumba – Gathering Place
Sat	May 10 th	11:00am Wilma Perry Celebration of Life
Sun	May 11 th	10:00am Bible Study
		10:30am Coffee
		11:15am Worship
Tues	May 13 th	7:30pm Property Team
Wed	May 14 th	6:30pm Zumba – Gathering Place
Thurs	May 15 th	7:00pm Session-Zoom
Fri	May 16 th	10:00am Baby Pantry
Sun	May 18 th	10:30am Coffee
		11:15am Worship
		12:15pm Worship Team
Wed	May 21 st	6:30pm Zumba – Gathering Place
Sun	May 25 th	10:00am Bible Study
		10:30am Coffee
		11:15am Worship
Mon	May 26 th	10:00am Memorial Day Parade
Wed	May 28 th	6:30pm Zumba – Gathering Place



Prayer Concerns

Please remember to pray for Pastor Chris and his family, and our church, every day.



For healing: Tim McLaughlin (Sherry's husband) shoulder replacement; **Bill & Rose** (biological dad of Julie Schram) Bill has a hiatal hernia and needs surgery and Rose has health issues; **Aletheia Thomas** knee.

Ongoing prayers: Micah Swanson (Sherry's second cousin) has been diagnosed with testicular and bladder cancer started treatment; **Jennifer Cotaling** (Randy Cook's sister-in-law) diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.; **Mike Schettling** (Tom Schettling's cousin) cancer; **Won Chea** (Tom Schettling's brother-in-law) cancer; **Tom Schettling; Penny Schettling; Jerry Watkins** (Laura Parker's dad); **Alex Searfoss (great grandson of Donna Miller)** Third degree burns over 40% of his body.; **Mike Pelton, Don Neuville, Steve in FL, and Jim Killewald.**

Prayers for those suffering: for all those affected by war, severe weather, hunger, gun violence, abuse, and/or addiction.

Our Missionaries:

The Allen & Deedee Iobst family as well as they has asked for prayers for: Ruthie-complications after knee replacement and contracted staphylococcus infection.; **Jean-Claud** is a local pastor for two churches has lung cancer that has metastasized to the brain and bones.; **Pedro** who worked in Operation Transit, had a stroke which left him fully dependent and unable to talk.; **Raymond** husband of my teammate, Patricia. He has advanced Alzheimer's at a young age.; **Elaine** who was our office manager but retired. She is suffering from cancer and receiving treatment.

Colby & Sarah Keefer-Athletes in Action

Cathy Chang and family serving in the Philippines. They are coming to the US in July.



Iobst Family



Keefer Family



2025 Session Members

Clerk.....Jim Lyles..... 2026
Christian Education.....Bob & Dessalee....2027
Congregational Care.....Margaret Perry ... 2026
Finance.....Bob Killewald..... 2025
Information Technology..Walt Brown 2027
Outreach.....Fran Pelton..... 2027
Property.....Randy Cook..... 2025
Worship.....Dessalee Cook..... 2025
Moderator Pastor Chris Thomas

Please remember to check your mailbox for any mail, etc