



Holly Presbyterian Church

HPC Tidings

Believe. It's what we do.



April 2010

From The Seminarian's Couch

By Cassie Todd

Deuteronomy 24:5 states, "When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be charged with any related duty. He shall be free at home for one year, to be happy with the wife whom he has married" (NRSV).

This verse was read two Decembers ago at Holly Presbyterian Church during my husband's and my wedding. At the time we thought it was a funny bible verse that would be fun to have at our wedding, but we were also hoping that God would help this part of the Old Testament law to still apply in our first year of marriage. For a year, God did help that law still stay alive in our lives and my husband, Matt, has been able to stay home.

But now, a little over a year later, as many of you have heard, my husband is being deployed to Afghanistan. I still think it is really early on in our marriage to have to go through such a separation, and it has been rough to say the least. In this past two months I have found myself lamenting to God.

During one of my first laments, my husband was around me and made the comment "Don't say that to God, it's not God's fault." I've realized that I've had this thought too in my past when I hear people blaming God for things that go wrong. Somehow as a culture, we have forgotten that lamenting is okay.

We find laments all throughout the biblical texts: through the Psalms, Jesus' time in Gethsemane, Job, and there is even a whole book dedicated to lament: Lamentations. I think this says something about the Christian story we find ourselves living out of. I think that these scriptures help to give us words to our feelings and help us to not ignore our troubles.

In a way, too, I think lamenting really helps our relationships with God grow. When we think about our strongest and longest relationships with other people,

April Calendar

- Apr. 1 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
- Apr. 2 Good Friday Service at Davisburg
United Methodist Church - 12 noon
- Apr. 3 Holy Saturday - Prayer Vigil
- Apr. 4 Easter Breakfast 8:45am
Easter Worship - Communion 10:30am
- Apr. 6 Special Session Meeting 6pm
- Apr. 11 TFC Sun School 9:15am
Sun School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
- Apr. 14 AYSO
- Apr. 15 Newsletter Deadline
- Apr. 16 Blood Drive 1-8pm
- Apr. 18 TFC Sun School 9:15am
Sun School 9:30am
Contemporary Worship 10:30am
- Apr. 19 Session Meeting 7:00pm
- Apr. 25 TFC Sun School 9:15am
Sun School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Check out our [online calendar](#).

Garage Sale - May 20-22, 2010

Mark your calendars and start collecting your old treasures. Items may be brought in *after Easter*.

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil

If you are interested in participating in the prayer vigil and have not yet had the chance to sign up, contact Allie Hoover at the church office for available times and to request a copy of the vigil booklet.

there has always been something that we have struggled through in that relationship which has made it stronger. I think when we struggle with God in lamenting, we grow -- our relationship becomes stronger, and we learn something about who God is and who we are that is beyond what we know in our minds, but something we know in our hearts and entire being as we have lived through it.

As we are in the time of Lent during the liturgical calendar, we also find ourselves in a traditional season of grief. One way of living this out would be to look through Job or Lamentations, or struggle with why Jesus said, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46b). (Beyond stopping at the thought, "Oh Jesus was just quoting Psalm 22".) I really think that as a community, we can all grow closer to God through our struggles and Laments.

Peace be with you during this season,
-Cassie

The Pastors' Corner

Holy Week begins on **Palm Sunday**, March 28th, as we welcome Jesus to Jerusalem with Palms and shouts of Hosanna! The crowds that went with Jesus shouted these same words, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

"O God, who in Jesus Christ, triumphantly entered Jerusalem, heralding a week of pain and sorrow, be with us now as we follow the way of the cross. ...We thank you for these branches that promise to become for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty. Bless them and us that their use this day may announce in our time that Christ has come, and that Christ will come again. Amen!" (United Church of Christ Book of Worship)

On Holy Thursday, **Maundy Thursday**, April 1st at 7pm we will gather in Fellowship Hall to remember our Lord's Last Supper.

"We are invited to the table and this table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must but because you may. ...Come to this table as you are ready to partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age." (United Church of Christ Book of Worship)

Good Friday Services will be held at Davisburg United Methodist Church at noon. We hear these words from Jesus: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Into your hands I commend my spirit. Forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Beginning at 6am on **Holy Saturday**, April 3rd, there will be a **Prayer Vigil** that takes place in homes. This is a guided vigil and can be done even if you are out of town. It is hoped that we will have enough people to go until midnight on Easter Sunday. Please call the church if you want more information and if you would like to participate.

Food Pantry

As the food need for people in our community is still growing, we will continue collecting food for the pantry at Holly First Baptist Church.

Please remember to bring your canned or boxed food and place it in the narthex.

Our Life Together

Please pray...

...for the family of Joyce Walters, the family of Joe Ponton (please keep Bev in your prayers), the family of Barbara Iobst (mother of Allen Iobst, our missionary in Spain), Kay Vander Kuy and her family, and the family of Nell Craft (mother of Rev. Jack Craft) in their time of loss. Pray also for Pat Frank, Jerry Studer, Edith Sargent, Jack Smith, Beth Foss, Ardath Regan, Harriet Striggow, Alice Horak, Cristy Banks and all of the members of the church who are facing health problems.

...for the families of the congregation and for those who are living alone. Pray that we can treat each other with care and compassion. Pray for members of the church who face difficult times or decisions.

...For our Session as they continuously seek God's leading for the life and future of our church...for the leaders and peoples of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine. Pray for peace in those nations and in our world. And please remember the men & women in our armed services in your prayers.

Office Hours

Regular office hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00am - 3:00pm. Pastors Ann and Bill Robertson's hours are on Mondays 1:30 - 8:30 pm and Wednesdays 10:00am-3:00pm. Up-to-date information is available at our [website](#) under "Church News" or you may contact the church at 248-634-9494.

Our Missionaries

Please pray for our missionaries. Up to date information on them can be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall:

Allen and Deedee Iobst
APDO de Correos 188
11201 Algeciras-Cadiz SPAIN
allen_deedee@yahoo.com

Colby and Sarah Keefer
4695 Sycamore Dr

Easter Sunday, April 4th, will begin at 8:45am with a breakfast served by the men of the church. There will be intergenerational activities after breakfast. Our Easter Worship Celebration will be at 10:30am as usual.

"The walls of death are not strong enough to prevail against the power of God's love. This is the power of the resurrection. Death could not contain him. Love incarnate is the victory, and history is forever changed because of God's gift through the Savior."

The Easter Season is celebratory and this mood permeates not only Easter Day but is part of the fifty days of Easter, culminating in the triumph of Pentecost. Joyce Rupp writes: *"Risen One, come, meet me in the garden of my life. Send me forth as a disciple of your unwavering love, a messenger of your unlimited joy. Resurrected One, may I become ever more convinced that your presence lives on, and on, and on. Awaken me! Awaken me!"*

Blessings to all and God's Peace,
-Rev. Ann and Rev. Bill

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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Mission Statement

Holly Presbyterian Church is a community of faith in God that values peaceful, loving and just relationships in our church, families, and the world. Our Mission is to :

- Worship God in a faithful and joyful manner;
- Teach the Good News of the Christian faith, share that faith with each other and reach out to those beyond the church;
- Be a loving family dedicated to the biblical values of peace, love, faith, and justice;
- Develop a dynamic presence in our community under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Visit our [website](#).

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