



# *Holly Presbyterian Church (USA)*

# *HPC Connections*

March

March 2015

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

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or muddled, and we clear away the clutter so that God moves a little more freely through us."

-- A quote from Alive Now (March/April 2012)

I read that quote from Alive Now and really liked the image of "spring cleaning." During Lent we go inside to sweep out the corners of our minds, hearts, and souls. All the clutter of stress and worries, of bad habits and thoughts that pile up through a year of too much to do and do many concerns, and our unhealthy ways of covering those up are all being cleansed out during this time of Lent. At least focusing on Lent gives us that opportunity to be cleansed, if we are willing to participate.

There are numerous disciplines we can use for Lent. Meditation can be extremely



## Boiler Fund Bake Sale! March 8th

Whether you want to buy this cake or bake one like it, get ready for our monthly bake sale! The table will be open for donations before and after worship.

If you would like to donate baked goods and have a questions please call or email  
Margaret Perry  
(Contact Information listed in Session List at the

## Healthy Church Check In!



On Sunday, March 15th after worship. Nurse Karen will be available to check your

- blood pressure
- oxygen rate
- heart rate
- blood glucose levels

Get your vitals checks and be in charge of your wellness!

Note: These screenings are not intended to be substitute for your doctor's care. Results are strictly for your information, and is not medical advice.

## Our Missionary Updates. . .



Univ. of Michigan Athletes in Action missionaries, Colby and Sarah Keefer, continue to reach

helpful as we breathe in and out, taking deep, cleansing breaths of fresh air and pushing out the old. We imagine the stress and the toxins flowing out of us as we sit quietly focused on breathing. We can use a simple prayer to keep us focused - "Lord, Jesus Christ" (we silently say as we breathe in). And as we allow the breath to flow out we might say one of these: "Cleanse me of stress" or "Fill me with your Spirit" or "Have mercy on me." Whatever you need is what you choose to be your mantra.

Fasting is a discipline many people use. You might choose to give up something. But giving up something isn't just about seeing if you can go for 40 days without it. It isn't about losing weight. I think it is about replacing that something with God; filling up that space you are emptying with something that brings you closer to God - like journaling, or simply praying. I read an article somewhere recently that said if you have decided to give up something - like chocolate - for Lent, but then if you end up eating some chocolate, it isn't that you've failed; it isn't a time to give up because you couldn't do it. Instead, observe what happened and how you felt. Reflect on that so that you can grow. Ask God to show you the areas where you need to practice being more dependent on God. And begin again.

Lent is a season for beginning again. I'm praying for all of you, that you are gaining

college athletes in the name of Christ.

To catch up with them and their latest news click the link below.

[Keefers February Newsletter](#)



Operation Transit!

CRU missionaries, Allen and DeeDee Iobst, continue to reach people in the name of Christ and distribute bibles.

To catch up with them and their latest news click the link below.

[Campus Crusade for Christ Operation Transit Website](#)

[Iobst February Personal Letter to HPC](#)

strength and wisdom; that you are able to sweep out the clutter and make room for the Holy Spirit to fill you even more with love and grace.

May God bless us all as we walk this Lenten journey together, making our way to Holy Week, to the cross, and finally to the joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection. May we feel new again when we meet on that day!

Peace and Grace!  
Sharlyn

### *Reflections from Pastor Shaun. . .*

By the time you read this posting the Lenten season will have started. Like so many others I have been trying to determine what to give up this year. After a while I figured out we shouldn't just do something for ourselves but do something for others each day of the Lenten season. So here are some things to try this Lenten season.

- Make a list of forty people or organizations. Then each day go down this list and pray for the person or the organization you have put on the piece of paper.
- For the next forty days of Lent send

out a positive piece of scripture on either your Facebook page or your twitter account.

- Lastly, every day for the next forty days you could perform some type of kindness for someone else without them knowing it was you.

Good luck with your Lenten goals.

Pastor Shaun



## Finance Team Update

### Ways to Financially Support Holly Presbyterian Church

1. Place cash or check in the offering plate.
2. Use you bank's online bill pay system.
3. Use the electronic funds transfer from your savings or checking account, or use a debit/credit card on our website ([www.hollypc.org](http://www.hollypc.org)).
4. Make a gift of stock or other appreciated securities. And, remember the church in your will and estate plans.

Contact the church office for more information on these types of gifts.

January 2015  
& YTD are the same



Budgeted income: \$10,824.40

Budgeted expense: \$16,323.98

This large difference between income and expenses was expected, primarily because of the bill for insurance on the building coming due.

Is there some class below that would fit into your schedule that would perhaps give you a better understanding of the Bible, God and Jesus? Take a look...



## ***Sunday School & Study Opportunities!***

**The Gathering Place for Kids**  
**Now meets during worship following the children's sermon!**



Our kids program uses the Spark Activate Faith curriculum and is a Workshop Rotation modeled classroom where our kids get to explore their faith through, art, science, cooking, computers, games, stories, music & drama!

[Register your family and Check it out!](http://hollypc.sparksundayschool.org)  
<http://hollypc.sparksundayschool.org>

**Adult Sunday School 2014-2015**  
**Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am**  
*(Child Care provided)*

"Comparative Religions" is our current topic. What do the basic tenants of the world's five major religions and philosophies have in common? We will be studying the way these markedly different belief systems have set up their moral codes, showing the great number of similarities, and a number of the differences between them, and looking at how each of the systems currently influences the actions of nations on the world stage.

**Wednesday Lunch Bunch!**

The Lunch Bunch meets at 12:00 noon on Wednesday for an informal Bible study. Charlee Litten is the leader for this study and does a great job of helping look at the scriptures in new ways and with great joy and humor! Everyone is welcome to attend when ever they are able, just bring your bible if you have one (We have loaners too!) and little something for your lunch! We are in mothers of the Bible and then tree women who demonstrated bravery. Some series are longer than others in our series of women of the Bible.

**Men's Wednesday Bible Study**

Come out on Wednesday's at 7:00pm for the Men's Bible Study. Currently the guys are selecting scripture and discussing how it relates to their lives. This is a great time of fellowship and learning. Randy Cook is leding. Great things are happening! Be a part of it.

**Women's Wednesday Bible Study**

Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Our current study is called "Making Peace With Your Emotions". It is a Women of Faith Bible study. We will examine the idea that not only did God create us and give us emotions, but He feels them Himself too. And we'll look at emotions that are truly a gift-whether it's fear or anger or joy-and unpack their holy dimensions. The class is led by Laura Parker and Karen Haneline. Join us for this wonderful time of friendship & learning. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.



***Happy Birthday to these Children of God!***

Mason Day	March 5th	Age 3
Macie Whalen	March 9th	Age 4
Mary Renico	March 12th	
Brandon Bird	March 18th	
Laura Parker	March 23rd	
Pete Olson	March 25th	
Fran Olson	March 30th	



**Easter Lilies & Spring Bulb Plant-** Sign Up Sheet is available in the Narthex until March 22nd. Please sign up if you would like to have a memorial plant on Easter.

***The Care Team's Loving Kindness Meditation***  
***We remind you during Lent to take time for yourself...try this.***

Sit quietly, breathe normally  
Gather all your attention around the repetition of the phrase:

*"May I be happy, may I be peaceful."*



Whenever your attention wanders, gently let those thoughts go, and come back to the phrase. After repeating that phrase for yourself, offer it up to include all beings everywhere, saying:

*"May all things be happy, may all things be peaceful."*



## March 2015 Calendar

- Mar 1 Adult Sunday School 9:30am
- Fellowship & Coffee 10:30am
- Worship 11:00am
- Youth Sunday-No Sunday School

Alma Youth Mix Ends 3:30pm Pickup

AA 3:00pm

Mar 2 AA & Alanon 7:30pm

Mar 3 Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Presbyterian Meeting @ Midland Memorial

Mar 4 Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Lunch Bunch 12pm-1pm

Women's Bible Study 7:00pm (Fellowship Hall)

Men's Bible Study 7:00pm (Community Room)

Mar 5 Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Ayso 7:00pm

Mar 8 Adult Sunday School 9:30am

Fellowship & Coffee 10:30am

Boiler Bake Sale Before and After Worship

Worship 11:00am

Gathering for Kids 11:15am - Following Children Sermon

AA 3:00pm

Mar 9 AA & Alanon 7:30pm

Mar 10 Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Team Party Night 6:30pm

Mar 11 Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Lunch Bunch 12pm-1pm

Women's Bible Study 7:00pm (Fellowship Hall)

Men's Bible Study 7:00pm

Mar 12 Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm

Mar 13 Baby Pantry 10:00am-12:00pm

Mar 15 Adult Sunday School 9:30am

Fellowship & Coffee 10:30am

Worship 11:00am

Gathering for Kids 11:15am - Following Children Sermon

Blood Pressure Check- by Nurse Karen

\*\* Newsletter Articles Due\*\*

Wedding Off Campus (Shaun Quinn Elliott) 11:30am

AA 3:00pm

AA & Alanon 7:30pm

Mar 16 Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm

Mar 17 Session 7:00pm

Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Mar 18 Lunch Bunch 12pm-1pm  
Men's Bible Study 7:00pm  
Women's Bible Study 7:00pm (Fellowship Hall)  
Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Mar 19 First Day of Spring  
Mar 20 Baby Pantry 10:00am-12:00pm  
Mar 21 Adult Sunday School 9:30am  
Mar 22 Fellowship & Coffee 10:30am  
Worship 11:00am  
Gathering for Kids 11:15am - Following Children Sermon  
AA 3:00pm  
AA & Alanon 7:30pm  
Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Mar 23 Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Mar 24 Lunch Bunch 12pm-1pm  
Mar 25 Women's Bible Study 7:00pm (Fellowship Hall)  
Men's Bible Study 7:00pm  
Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Baby Pantry 10:00am-12:00pm  
Mar 26 Adult Sunday School 9:30am  
Mar 27 Fellowship & Coffee 10:30am  
Mar 29 Palm Sunday Worship 11:00am  
Gathering for Kids 11:15am - Following Children Sermon  
AA 3:00pm  
Holy Week Begins  
Mar 30 AA & Alanon 7:30pm  
Mar 31 Friends with Needs Outreach 12:00pm-4:00pm

*Praying for our church family . . .*  
*Prayers of Concern*

- *For those serving or who have served us and our country in military*

service.

- For all those who are in nursing homes, shut in, or seeking comfort and healing.
- For Raelene Morgan, Brian Palmero, Maxine Bolyea, Kennedy Todd, Pamela Lender, Ron Mikulak, Beth Krauss, Rev. Mark Knisley, Dan Nash, Dan Goodearl, Fred Gates, Marjorie Smith, Connie "C.J." Brummeler, Sharon Lowes, the family of Shannon Cook, Harriett Striggow, Jennifer Chanter, Beatrice Johnston, Claudia Morton, Gene Stevens, Steve Yokum, Amber Leaming, Jeff Miller, Don Colegrove and Dylan Drews.

### *Prayers of Joy*

- *Prayers of thanksgiving for the generous support that our ministry, In the Beginning Baby Pantry, has received from our community.*
- *With thanksgiving for our children and youth who will be our bright future.*



### ***Prayer Requests from the Lake Huron Presbytery:***

- Eileen & John Best (John is the General Presbytery of Lake Michigan Presbytery) on the passing of Eileens father in February.
- Jerry Maxson of Midland Memorial went to be with the Lord.
- Ben & Shelby Offrink, son and daughter in-law of the Rev. Jim Offink (HR) Ben has had a relapse of Hodgkin's lymphoma and is receiving chemotherapy. Shelby has been battling cancer for quite awhile. Both

are experiencing significant side effects from their treatments. Shelby and Ben have two daughters, ages 3 and 1. We lift the entire family in prayer. There are a couple articles in the media about the family [MLife](#) article and [Fox17](#) that includes a video.

- Tom & Pam Brackbill. Tom is Pastor of Alma-First. Pam has Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease. In addition to the cognitive issues she is also experiencing significant health concerns related to the disease. She will soon be under the care of Masonic Pathways.
- The Rev Ernesto Badillo, Board of Penions Representative is experiencing significant and serious health issues as a result of his battle with colon cancer.



## Order Scrip for the New Year!

**Order March 1 - Delivery March 8**

**If you would like to place an order, you can put it in the offering plate, give it to Christine Cook or Vicki Lyles or Click on the link below.**

We receive a small profit from the sale of each card, which goes toward our everyday expenses. The church should net approximately \$500 this year from this easy fundraiser.

In addition to the gas, grocery, and restaurant cards that most of us order throughout the year, there are also gift cards available for many major retail stores, amazon.com, and iTunes.

Look at the complete list of cards available by  
[Clicking Here](#)

Thank you!!

## VG'S SHARE PROGRAM!

VG's grocery store has a new program that will replace the Community

Share Points Program we are familiar with now. Please click on the link below to see how you can participate going forward. If you have further questions please see Jan Bradshaw.



[Click Here!](#)



**There is so much we can do if we only ask our heavenly father!**

## In The Beginning News!



**We are looking for new volunteers for the Baby Pantry Team for 2015! Giving your time or resources to this wonderful outreach ministry will bless you in so many ways! Contact Laura Parker if you are interested in supporting this ministry.**

***Prayer requests from our families***

- 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.
- Prayers for baby, James Grant Saucier, born this month with a cleft palette. May God bless him and be with him, and with his parents as they learn what is ahead, and learn to manage life with a newborn.

**UPCOMING DATES:**        Fri. Mar. 13, 10am - 12pm  
                                      Sat. Mar. 21, 10am - 2pm  
                                      Fri. Mar. 27, 10am - 12pm

**Items we need include:**

***We are low on many clothing sizes:***

- ***Girls pants*** (12-18 mo, 24 mo, 2T)
- ***Girls shirts*** (3T, 4T)
- ***Boys PJ's*** (18-24 mo, 2T, 3T, 4T)
- ***Boys Pants*** (6-9mo, 12mo, 18 mo)

***Kleenex, hand soap, wipes, & diaper rash cream!***

If you feel called to this ministry please see a Judy Studer, Christine Cook, or Laura Parker.

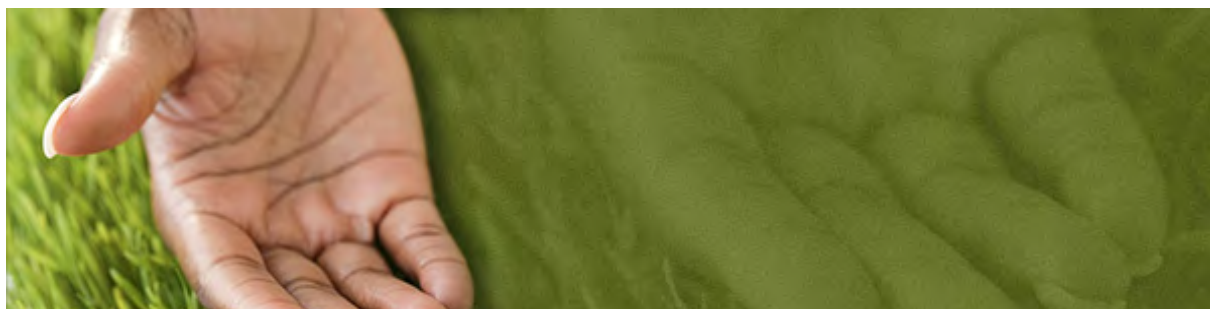
*"And he took the Children in his arms, put His hands on them  
and blessed them."*

*Mark 10:16*

**For Your Information. . .**

- If you have something that you would like included in the newsletter please submit it to the church office by the 15th of the month prior. Thanks!
- If you are not receiving the Email Newsletter and other e-updates and would like to, please call the office at 248-634-9494 and we would be happy to add your email to our list!
- If you have had a change of phone, email or mailing address in the past year, we would like to know so that we can make sure everyone's contact information is current in our database.

# 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)

**Grace Centers of Hope**  
Pontiac, Mi

**Ennis Foundation**  
Pontiac, Mi

**HPC Christmas - Adopt a Family**

**In the Beginning Baby Pantry**

**Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry**  
Holly, Mi

## YOUR 2015 SESSION

### **Class of 2015**

Charlee Litten	Personnel	(810) 694-0095
Dessalee Cook	Worship	(248) 634-5680
Jim Lyles	Clerk	(248) 634-4610
Walt Brown	Technology	(810) 869-4883

### **Class of 2016**

Christine Cook	Christian Education	(248) 887-2012
Lori Goldsmith	Property	(810) 397-9722
Bob Killewald	Finance	(248) 310-2410

## **Class of 2017**

Laura Parker	Outreach	(248) 245-5348
Margaret Perry	Fellowship	(810) 735-7692
Karen Haneline	Care	(248) 894-3489

**Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Sharlyn Gates**

248.369.8893(h)

620.423.2671(c)

**Assoc. Pastor: Shaun Hardimon**

810.635.0586(h)

586.292.8772(c)