



## HPC Connections

Knowing, Growing, Caring, Serving

May 2016 Newsletter



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### ***A Word From Reverend Sharlyn***

***But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.*** John 14:26



May 15<sup>th</sup> is an exciting day! It is the Sunday when we will celebrate the coming of the promised Holy Spirit and the birthday of the world wide Church. It was on the day of Pentecost (50 days after Passover) when the disciples were in Jerusalem, along with a great crowd of devout Jews from all the nations. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples like a rushing wind and like tongues of fire and they began to speak about Jesus in other languages - all the languages that those

who were there spoke. Many people became believers in Jesus as the Son of God and they went back to their countries and the Good News spread and Christ's Church began!

We wear red on Pentecost to remember the Spirit coming like tongues of fire. We celebrate with joy the birthday of the Church. We give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit among us and in us.

But there is even more to look forward to as we plan for May 15<sup>th</sup>. On that day four of our young people will be confirmed in the faith. They will confirm the vows that were made for them at their baptism. Now, they will have an opportunity to share what they believe, and to profess their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

In Confirmation class we have been talking about the Holy Spirit - who and where the Holy Spirit is; what the Holy Spirit does. We all have the gift of the Holy Spirit in us. Each of us receive that gift when we are baptized. We are empowered by this amazing gift - empowered to tell others about God, about Jesus, and what he has done for us in his death and resurrection.

The Holy Spirit helps us when we pray; helps us to know what to pray for; helps us to discern what is coming from God, and what is not. We have help in understanding the Scriptures; we have comfort when we are in sorrow and grief; we have assurance that God is right there with us. Our faith comes from the Holy Spirit.

May 15<sup>th</sup> is a big day for the church and for our young Confirmands: Emily Martin, Ben Muenzer, Ellie Goldsmith and Angel Vliet. I am so proud of them and the interest and work they are doing.

May 15<sup>th</sup> - Pentecost Sunday is a big day for celebrating and I hope you will be praying about it; praying for our young people; planning on being present and giving them support. I pray that we might all experience the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit on that day, on into the Season of Pentecost, and all year long!

Peace and Grace to You All,

Rev. Sharlyn

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Information from our bulletins and calendar as well as special projects and disaster relief can be found on our website [www.hollypc.org](http://www.hollypc.org)



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## Missionaries of the Next Age

Josiah, Phoebe & Thomas Iobst are inviting us to become a Ministry Partner Team. They have an opportunity to go on an international summer outreach program to Port Shepstone, South Africa from this summer. The purpose is to talk to people about a personal relationship with Christ. More info available on bulletin board.



Make check payable to "CRU" and send to: Josiah, Phoebe & Thomas Iobst c/o Stanley Iobst, 5279 Hale Dr., Troy, MI 48085. Please include designation #0870599. On line you can give thru [give.cru.org/0870599](http://give.cru.org/0870599). Money due to them by June 2nd. They need \$11,000. Prayerfully consider.

Please click on the link below to read the letter they sent to learn more about it.

[Iobst Kids Summer South Africa Project 2nd page](#)

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## A Message from our Associate Pastor

What weird weather we have had this winter. As I am writing this newsletter, we are having a mixture of snow and rain to start off spring.

The snow is dotted with little red buds from the maple trees and I can see the green leaves of the tulips sticking up through the snow. Although we may not be able to see the beautiful flowers, green grass, and a canopy of leaves hanging from the trees today, give it a few more weeks and there will be a sea of green with little dots of color popping up all over.

Just like spring brings the new life to our lawns and flower bed we

have several members who will be graduating both from high school and college in May.

As a church family we must not just congratulate these members on their accomplishments but, remember to support them as they begin their next steps in their journey of life. So please remember to help them stay focused on their goals in life. While also helping them to remember God is the center of their lives as they begin to see the beauty of their new lives unfold in front of their eyes.

-Shaun



Spring Rummage Sale-

Thursday May 19th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Friday May 20th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday May 21st 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Donations will be accepted starting Sunday May 15th. You may bring in donations Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please bring spring and summer clothing. Save the fall and winter clothing for the fall Rummage Sale.

Help is needed to set up on

Sunday May 15th after worship

Monday May 16th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tuesday May 17th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Wednesday 18th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Volunteers are needed for all positions. No experience required. Fun is had by all participants. See Margaret Perry.

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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  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm TFC

#### ***Monday***

7:30 pm AA & Al Anon

#### ***Tuesday thru Thursday***

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Friends with Needs

#### ***Wednesday***

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Friends with Needs  
12:00 pm Lunch Bunch  
7:00 pm Presbyterian Men's Bible Study  
7:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

### **Schedule of Additional Events**

May 1 10:00 am Fellowship Team Meeting

May 3 Confirmation Class

#### ***Team Meetings:***

Information Technology 6:30pm-7:30pm

Worship 6:30pm-7:30pm

Personnel 7:00pm-7:30pm

Christian Education 7:30pm-8:30pm

May 5 7:00 pm AYSO

May 10 5:15pm Confirmation Class- Last Class

### **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 13 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry

May 15 Confirmation Sunday/ Pentecost Sunday/ wear **Red**  
Potluck after Worship with Cake. 1st day to bring items in for Rummage Sale. Please bring spring and summer items, save winter and fall items for the fall sale. Place items in back of Fellowship Hall. Any items brought of day of sale **MUST** be already priced. You can bring in your donations Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

May 16 Nurse Karen-Blood Pressure Check after Worship  
Set up for Rummage Sale Time 9:00am-3:00 pm  
Take Donations for Rummage Sale

May 17 Set up for Rummage Sale Time 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Take Donations for Rummage Sale  
7:00 pm Session Meeting

May 18 Set up for Rummage Sale Time 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Take Donations for Rummage Sale

May 19 Rummage Sale 9:00am - 5:00 pm

May 20 Rummage Sale 9:00am - 5:00 pm

May 21 Rummage Sale 9:00am - 12:00 pm and Clean Up til Done

May 27 Baby Pantry 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

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### **From the Lion's Den**

Recently I was visiting with a session in our presbytery that was without a full-time pastor. "We need a full-time pastor who can bring in young families," one elder said. We engaged in an exercise in which the session members spoke about the time that they felt most vital, connected, and alive to Christ in the church. Three of the members said it was in the process of filling the pulpit for their congregation. "Did you ever consider," I



observed, "that if you had a full-time pastor, you might never have had that experience?"

The faces of the whole session lit up. All of a sudden, what they had been regarding as a deficit had become an asset.

Many of us grew up in the "golden age" of American Protestantism. Churches were full, Sunday Schools were booming, coffers were flush. As late as 1974, our presbytery had 58 churches and over 24,000 members, compared to 48 and 7900 today. Over the years, we have ventured various maladaptive responses to this perceived institutional crisis:

- Doing the same thing that succeeded before, only more forcefully
- Turning the clock back to the "golden age" by resisting or reversing cultural forces of change
- Conducting witch hunts and purges, seeking to find someone or something to blame
- "Rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic" - i.e., changing organizational structures
- Fighting over what little remains, trying to protect what's "mine" or "ours"

Others have tried to find a quick fix to turn the tide, imposing radical changes in worship, jettisoning denominational names or ties, or relying on a new minister who will magically "attract young families."

What all of these have in common is a failure to address our changing context of mission by actually changing how we live and act as councils, congregations, and individual disciples. Instead they desperately try to retain what is left of the former paradigm or restore it by an act of personal or political will. These are doomed to fail because they operate out of a deficit mindset, which generates fear and panic, instead of asking what God is really doing in our midst, and changing ourselves to meet the challenge. The latter requires humility and hard work. It involves surrendering nostalgic visions of what used to be and stepping out in faith.

Let me be blunt: WE CAN NEVER AGAIN BE THE CHURCH WE ONCE WERE. BUT WE CAN ALWAYS BECOME THE CHURCH GOD IS CALLING US TO BE.

The decline in numbers in our churches are in large part the result of forces beyond our control, as I indicated in my last column. But the new context that is emerging is not a threat, but an opportunity to

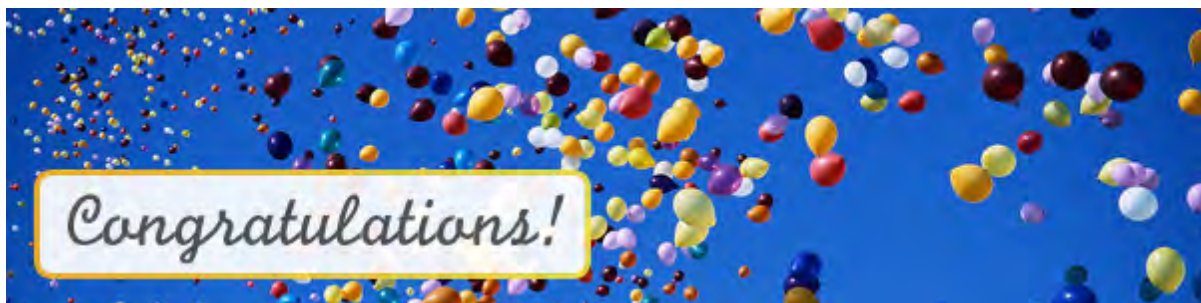
respond faithfully and to discover the excitement of being God's people in new ways. As we adapt to our changing context, a new way of being the church is emerging. The gospel has not changed, but how we live it out in mission and witness has. We are witnessing a shift

- From top-down hierarchy to bottom-up networks
- From professional clergy to entrepreneurial lay leadership
- From the center to the margins
- From privilege to servanthood
- From "go to church" to "be the church"
- From membership to discipleship

Like the session members I spoke with, these changes can be seen either as deficits to be overcome or opportunities to experience God's power and to share our gifts in exciting ways. But that will involve changing ourselves and our 40, 50, or 60 year-old perceptions of what the church ought to be. God has blessed us with gifts we haven't even begun to tap, if we are willing to step out in faith to use them.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter  
dsaperstein@presbylh.org



We have Four HPC Graduates this year, three from High School, one from College. Alli Muenzer, Anderson Muenzer, Beki Cook, and Marissa Cook. Plan to stay after church for the Graduation Tea June 5th. WAY TO GO AND CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

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## Finance Team Update



Income:            March \$12,303.64        YTD  
                      \$33,663.49  
Expenses:        March \$10,594.96        YTD    \$40,808.06

### **Electronic Giving - It's so easy. Give it a try.**

Go to [www.hollypc.org](http://www.hollypc.org), scroll to the bottom of the page "electronic online giving", and click on "give now". You will be directed to the Presbyterian Mission Exchange Website: it will show Holly Presbyterian Church. Choose either one time or recurring. Put in the amount, day of week, start date and end date. The rest is your information (i.e. name, address, credit or debit card information\_\_\_\_\_). Then press give now. You did it!!

Note: Presbyterian Mission Exchange sends you by email a notification of each contribution you make. Keep these for your records for tax purposes.

Thanks,  
Finance Team

Bob Killewald, Vicki Lyles, Laura Parker and Christine Cook.

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## Christian Ed



### **Adult Sunday School-**

Barbara Brown is leading this group in a study of the New Testament. This class meets Sunday at 9:30 am.

### **TFC (Teens for Christ) -**

will be meeting Sunday evenings at 6:00pm -8:00pm. Through the end of the year, we are doing a new study, Echo the Story, that will allow teens to discover meaning and a personal identity in the Bible narrative through conversations, meditation, and creativity. If you have questions, please see Shaun Hardimon.

**Wednesday Lunch Bunch**-Wednesday at Noon. We are currently studying the Psalms. All are welcome to to join us. Bring a little something for lunch! A good time of fellowship and learning. If you have any questions, please see Charlee Litten.

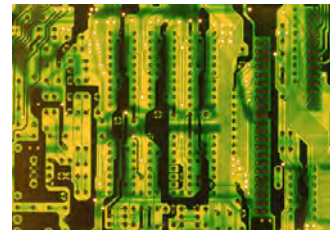
**Presbyterian Men's Bible Study** Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall upstairs. The current study is based on select scripture reading followed by discussion. The class is led by Randy Cook.

**Presbyterian Women's Bible Study** Wednesday 7:00 pm. The current study is based on select scripture readings followed by discussion. Come on out for a great time of learning. The class is class led.

**Note:** Adult Sunday School and TFC will end for the Summer on May 22nd.

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## Information Technology Team



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

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## Care Team Update



Praying for our church family & friends. .

- For those serving, or who have served, in military service.
- Strength, renewal, and healing for: Barbara & Owen Hallberg (Dr. Teryl LaFalce's mother and stepfather), William Woodard (grandson of Fred Gates), Barbara Wells, Terry & Julie Parish and Angel Vliet, Fran Olson, Celia Pettit, Pete Olson, Bill Parks (brother in law of Ron & Kathleen Howe), Charles Jackson (brother of Peggy Ranger), Dale Huffman, Beth Krauss (friend of the Parker's), Mandie Banks, Paul Burnett (friend of Cathie Killewald), Baby girl of Brianne Studer's friend, Troy Duis (Jim

Lyles sisters ex-son-in-law), Baby girl of Brianne Studer's friend, Gene Stevens, Dan Nash, and Mark Freeman.

- Peace and comfort for the family of Ed Wells and Dan Goodearl.
- Pray for Pastor Sharlyn.
- Prayers for our members who are home bound or in care facilities.
- For Flint residents and the water crisis.

## Prayers of Concern at Presbytery of Lake Huron

- Tom Miles of Mt. Pleasant First whose wife, Cindy passed to the larger life on April 4th after a six year battle with cancer. Please pray for Tom and their four children and family.
- The Rev Cathy Chang and family who are now in the Philippines settling in and beginning their onsite work as Mission Co-Workers.
- Michael and Rachel Ludwig, our Mission Co-Workers who are serving in Niger.

**Nurse Karen** will be in on Sunday, May 15th after worship. Nurse Karen will be available to check your

- blood pressure
- oxygen rate

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.

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## Property Team

We are a smoke-free property. No smoking on the Grounds or in the Building at HPC.

### 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.

A big thank you for a great job on the Spring clean up. Thanks for all your help. Many hands make the light work.

Thank you,  
Property Team

Lori Goldsmith, Randy Cook, 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 for the next several months. Open positions include substitutes for worship leader, ushers, greeters, and Communion servers (must be an Elder of the church to serve Communion).

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

Worship Team  
 Linda Burns  
 Vicki Lyles  
 Gordie Bradshaw

## Fellowship Team

Fellowship Team will have a meeting on May 1st at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.



### Coffee Hour sign up for the month of May 2016

#### Dates

	Treats	Set up	Clean up
5/1	Penny Schettling Beth Dryer	Beth Dryer	Beth Dryer
5/8	Cathie Killewald Fran Pelton	Cathie Killewald Fran Pelton	Cathie Killewald Fran Pelton
5/15	Mary Renico We need one more person for this week please.	Mary Renico	Mary Renico
5/22	Loretta Weiss We need one more person for this week please.	Loretta Weiss	Loretta Weiss
5/29	We need two people for this week.		
6/5	Graduation tea- two people needed.		

We will be done with Coffee hour for the summer after the Graduation tea. If you can help, please sign up today!

Spring Rummage Sale is May 19th, 20th and 21st. May 15th is the 1st

day you can bring items after church. Then May 16th, 17th and 18th, from 9:00 am to 3:00 am you may bring items in. I will need people volunteers to help set up and run the Rummage Sale. Please only spring and summer, save fall and winter items for the fall sale. The sale runs 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on the 19th and 20th and 9:00 am - 12:00 pm on the 21st. We will then clean up.

Margaret Perry  
Fellowship Team

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## Outreach Team



In The Beginning News!

We are looking for **new** volunteers for the Baby Pantry Team. 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.

### UPCOMING DATES:

Friday, May 13th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, May 21st, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Friday, May 27th 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

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)

We are in need of Diapers size 4, 5, and 6 as well as wipes. Kleenex, wipes, ointment, lotion, body wash & diaper rash cream are an ongoing need.

If you feel called to this ministry please see Laura Parker.

"And he took the children in his arms, put His hands on them and blessed them." Mark 10:16

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.

The Outreach Team Laura Parker, Jennifer Chanter, Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash, James Lyles.

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## Supporting Our Missionaries



Iobst Family picture 2015

Iobst Link: [Iobst March 2016 Newsletter](#)



Keefer Family picture 2014

Keefer Link : [Keefer March 2016 Newsletter](#)

The Outreach Team Laura Parker, Jennifer Chanter, Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash, James Lyles.

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## Personnel Team News



Charlee Litten, Jennifer Chanter, Judy Studer, Dale Huffman, Margaret Perry

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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  
School Supplies for Haiti

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## Our 2016 Session

### **Class of 2016**

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

### **Class of 2017**

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

### **Class of 2018**

Charlee Litten	Personnel Team	(810) 694-0095
Ellen Paulson	Clerk	(248) 320-0375
Walt Brown	Technology Team	(810) 629-1618
Linda Burns	Worship Team	(586) 482-3091

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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