



Holly Presbyterian Church

Your Monthly News & Updates for September 2017

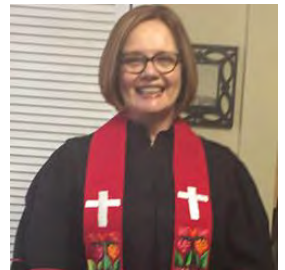
Find out what is going on in your church- Kick off Sunday when is it? What's it all about? Read on:

A Reflection from Rev Sharlyn..... **New Revival, a Blazing Fire**

There is an inspirational story that's been shared on social media a good bit. The author is Dr. John MacArthur. It's titled ***The Lone Ember*** and goes like this:

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination. As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail."

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. Just before the pastor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so



much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon... I shall be back in church next Sunday."

The point, of course, is that we lose our zeal - our inner fire - when we are away from the rest of the body of believers. We are much stronger spiritually when we are not alone. But I've been thinking about this a lot lately and I think there is another point of view here. When I was in Oklahoma in June, my family and I were at the cabin for one last wiener roast before the cabin was sold the next day. The guys had thrown a lot of wood on the fire and it was roaring for a good while. When it was time to finally leave, we had to put the fire out, of course. So, they took sticks and starting spreading the wood, separating the logs and burning embers so they could not keep hot with the heat and fire of each other. Where there had been a huge flame, now the fire began to die down fairly quickly. Finally, they poured water on the logs and easily put out what remaining fire was left.

Consider this: when we remove ourselves from the body of Christ, we begin to lose our "flame" - that inner spark that keeps us inspired and full of faith and life for Christ and his ministry. When we aren't being fed on God's Word, or studying together, or in fellowship with our church family, we are in danger of losing our spark. But, what is also true is that when the congregation begins to thin out, to separate from one another, the whole church feels it and it too begins to lose it's spark. We need one another in order to be on fire for the one we serve - Jesus. We can't keep the fire burning strong if we are scattered.

Fall is coming quickly and the church is in need of its members to be on fire for the ministries of Christ. We need team members and leaders and greeters and ushers. We need teachers, nursery workers, choir members and people to help with the baby pantry and Friends with Needs.

If we are to be an active vital church in our community, we need to all be present, growing spiritually, being in fellowship with one another, bringing our children to Sunday School and Teens for Christ, so they will be growing and learning. Without them, we have no children's program. The time is upon us to regroup and to ask "what can I do to help keep the fire going?" It's time to grow, time to serve. Don't wait to be asked. Just come and add to the flames. We will all be revived.

Peace and Grace!

Rev Sharlyn

Care Team

Quote for the month:

"We all have much to give, to share, to contribute wherever we find ourselves living.

Holiness starts in the home, by loving God and those around us for his sake."

Mother Teresa



Baby Pantry Upcoming Dates: Fri Sept 8th 10a - 12p; Sat Sept 16th 10a - 12p; Fri Sept 22nd 10a - 12p.

Financial donations can be placed in the crib in the narthex, or donations can be placed in the offering plate with a notation on the envelope marked "Baby Pantry". Thank you so much for your continued support.

Baby Updates: We are in need of size 4 diapers and wipes.

Healthy Check up - will be on Sunday, September 17th. Don't forget to see Nurse Char and Nurse Karen. Your health could depend on it. Don't forget to drink lots of water especially on warm days.

Finance Team

Your Finance Team has decided that we want to let you know in the bulletin how our church is doing financially on a weekly basis. This is to be sure that all of you can be informed where we stand on keeping our church financially sustained and stable for our future mission. God will continue to bless us

as long as we continue to maintain full stewardship of this church he has given us. It is very important for us to know where we stand financially as we go from week to week throughout the year. The Holy Spirit will surely bless this effort on God's behalf.



August 2017 - Summaries

Date

Attendance

Average

Income

		Budgeted Needs	Received
August 6th	46	\$ 12,406.39	\$ 9,744.80
August 13th	44		
August 20th	36		
August 27th	36		

Finance Team - Bob Killewald, Vicki Lyles, Carrie Duncanson and Laura Parker

Kick off

On Sunday, September 10th, come and join your church family after worship with a pot luck to celebrate the new fall season getting started. At that time, we will have a chance to hear from our team leaders, to find out what they are planning and how we might get on board. Be sure you come, and remember **worship begins again at 11 a.m.** with Sunday School starting at 9:30 a.m. See you then!

How was your summer?

Here is a pictures from worship in the park on July 9th.



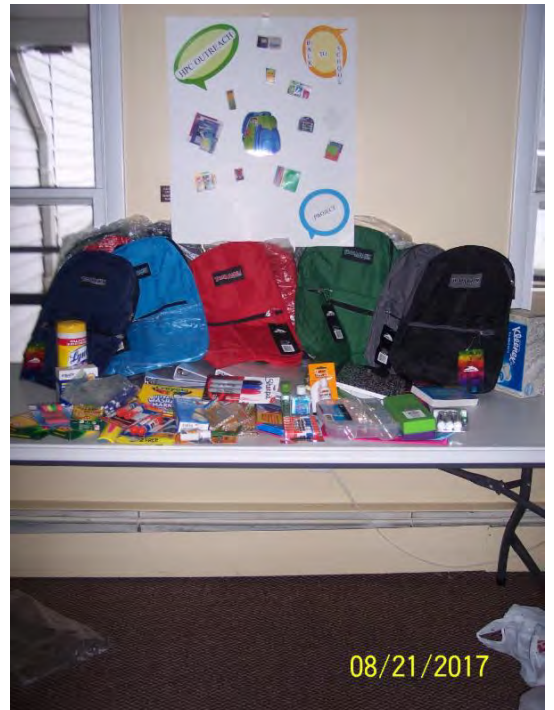


Back to School Outreach Project

The Outreach team would like to thank you for your contributions. This will help make Holly children ready for school.

Sincerely,

Reisa Hamilton
Outreach Team Leader



Mark your calendar for our Fall All Church Work Day on Saturday September 9th from 9:00 a to 3:00 p. Come for the whole day or just part of it whatever works for your schedule. We will be serving lunch for workers.

See you there!



Randy Cook
Property Chairman

Fellowship Team



- Our next Fellowship Team Meeting will be on Sunday, September 13th at 10:00 a in the back of the Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday, September 10th is Kick Off. We will have a potluck after worship. Please bring a dish to pass and your own tableware.
- Coffee hour will begin on Sunday September 10th. Please sign up for it. Also, please come at 10:30 a and be a part of Coffee Hour and Fellowship.

Coffee & Snack Volunteers:

Sept 10th	Margaret Perry & Fran Pelton
Sept 17th	Doris Colegrove & Beth Dryer
Sept 24th	Mary Renico & Roberta Single

From the Lion's Den

By now you are probably aware that an "alt-right" rally and march in Charlottesville, Virginia this weekend turned violent, resulting in one death and dozens injured, mostly among counter-protesters who were attacked by alt-right supporters or struck by a vehicle driven by an alt-right sympathizer. The night before the rally, participants in a peaceful counter-protest were



assaulted and sprayed with mace by a torch-bearing assemblage of alt-right marchers.

"Alt-right" is the generic self-designation of various White Supremacist and White Nationalist groups including the KKK, Neo-Nazis, and their sympathizers. What were once fringe groups have been emboldened and empowered in the present political climate in our nation. Many of them embrace a false form of Christian faith that claims divine endorsement for racial discrimination, violence against Jews, and subjugation of women and people of color.

I have personally been the target of their hatred as a Christian minister of Jewish ancestry. Early in my ministry I served congregations in Idaho and Eastern Washington close to the compound of the Aryan Nations cult of white supremacy. On two occasions, after profiles about me ran in the local papers, I received racist hate mail from anonymous persons, questioning my ministry and seeking to intimidate me because of my ethnicity.

When faced with such hatred, now as then, it is important for us who follow Christ to bear a faithful witness to him. This involves offering a clear and positive testimony to Jesus' gospel of peace, grace, and welcome while denouncing attempts to invoke his name for purposes antithetical to his teaching and present Lordship. We have done this as Reformed Christians at various times through our confessions and as a denomination through social witness statements.

Both the Confession of 1967 and our newest confession, The Confession of Belhar, explicitly condemn racial hatred and division and obligate the church to work against discrimination and for reconciliation. When it added the Confession of Belhar to our Book of Confessions, our most recent General Assembly adopted an anti-Racism policy and study guide.

The policy states,

Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. It is the rejection of the other, which is entirely contrary to the Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ. It is a form of idolatry that elevates human-made hierarchies of value over divinely-given free grace. Through colonization and slavery, the United States of America helped to create and embrace a system of valuing and devaluing people based on skin color and ethnic identity. The name for this system is white supremacy. This system deliberately subjugated groups of people for the purpose of material, political, and social advantage. Racism is the continuing legacy of white supremacy. Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. It is also a lie about God, for it falsely claims that God favors parts of creation over the entirety of creation.

Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) must stand against, speak against,

and work against racism. Antiracist effort is not optional for Christians. It is an essential aspect of Christian discipleship, without which we fail to proclaim the Good news of Jesus Christ.

Let us be clear:

- * Ideologies of racial superiority or separation are contrary to the gospel and must be both denounced and actively resisted by the church. This includes alt-right ideologies of white supremacy and white nationalism.
- * Violence and intimidation founded on racial hatred is evil. Minimizing such violence by equating it with actions of self-defense by those being attacked is also evil.
- * The perpetuation of systems of racial privilege or injustice within our society, such as racial bias in law enforcement and criminal justice, is part of the same ideology of racism, only less overt.

What can we do about this? In addition to bearing a clear and faithful witness in our own daily lives, we can learn to recognize covert racism in its various forms in our own lives. There will be several events in and around the visit of General Assembly Co-moderator Denise Anderson dealing with Race, Privilege, and Reconciliation. Rev. Anderson will be leading equipping time at our Presbytery meeting September 12 at Midland Memorial Presbyterian Church on this theme. In addition, a workshop with Rev. Anderson is scheduled to be held on Monday, September 11 at 2 p.m. at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Flint to address issues of Race, Privilege, and Reconciliation. Everyone is invited to all these events.

The images from Charlottesville reminded me of other scenes in our national memory, such as the use of water cannons against civil rights protesters in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963, and the "Bloody Sunday" attacks at the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma in 1965. As painful as they were to witness or experience, they were necessary steps on the way to becoming a better society. Perhaps the violence and hatred displayed so openly in Charlottesville will have the same effect. If that is to be the case, it will require all of us to work together to bear witness to Christ's love and justice in the world.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter
dsaperstein@presbylh.org

**Our church family prayer concerns &
joys**

Concerns and Joys



- **Strength, renewal, and healing for:** Ken Hecht, Norm Clement, Rev Fred Gates, Roy Howe (Karen Howe's brother-in-law), Roberta Single, Grady Griffin (Sharlyn's friend), Lisa Martin's Uncle Scott, Hadleigh Banks, Celia Pettit, Paul Burnett(neighbor of Killewalds), Cari Oldenburg (friend of Cathie Killewald), Barbara Wells, Caroline Parker-Lucido (sister of Brian Parker), Margaret House, Rachel Sparling.
- Peace, comfort and strength to the family of Steve Wilkerson and Mary Ann Barnes, Delores Mikulak (Karen Haneline's mother), and Karen Costco (DorisColegrove's younger sister) .
- Prayers for our members who are home bound or in care facilities.
- For our country and its leaders.
- **For peace.** We don't need racism, we need to unite together as Americans.
- Remember to pray daily for this church and both our pastors.

Pray for Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery

- Strength, comfort and peace to the family of Rev Robert (Bob) Lakey, Honorably Retired who was 90 years old.
- The Rev. Dr. George Baird, Honorably Retired, who has been diagnosed with acute leukemia. He is currently at Mid Michigan Medical Center in Midland.
- The Reverend Cathy Chang and her family serving in the Philippines, Michael and Rachel Ludwig serving in Niger, Colby and Sarah Keefer and family in Ypsilanti (Athletes in Action), and Allen and Deedee Iobst and family in Spain.
- Pray for Rev Dr Tom Schacher of Midland-Memorial and his family as they deal with his diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease.

Our Fellowship & Study Opportunities

Sunday September 10th will be our Kickoff. Here is a list of your study opportunities:



Adult Sunday School -- 9:30 am

The Adult Sunday School class meets on Sundays

at 9:30 a in the Community Room. We are studying the Jewish background of Jesus, and looking at the archeological sites where Biblical events occurred. All adults and high school students are welcome to be part of this class and join the discussions. (Small treats provided; bring your own water or coffee.)

Children's Sunday School -- 11:15 am

Children will join their families to worship and be dismissed about 11:15 am, following the Children's message. This class starts September 10th.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study - - 7:00 p on Wednesdays

Join the women to learn more about the scripture on Sunday. Rev Sharlyn will be leading the class. She will give you a better insight and history of the scriptures. It will be a great class for learning more about the Bible. The first class is Wednesday September 12th.

Presbyterian Men's Bible Study - - 7:00 p on Wednesdays

Join the men to learn more about the Bible. We will be studying the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. You'll be more informed walking into church on Sunday. Also, we have been known to go get an ice cream or bring in a treat. The first class is Wednesday September 12th.

Teens for Christ -- To Be Announced

Information from our bulletins and calendar as well as special projects and disaster relief can be found on our website at www.hollypc.org.



This includes those affected by Hurricane Harvey. To mail a check, you may send it to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700 or call Monday through Friday, 8:00 a - 5:00 p (EST) at 1-800-872-3283. Designate your gifts to DR000169-Harvey in the memo of your check.

Support our Missionaries



Colby & Sarah Keefers and family
2016 picture



Josiah, Phoebe, Thomas,
Deedee and Allen Iobst
2015 picture

Newsletter link: [August](#)

Newsletter link: [July](#)

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. In my blog I write about life events and how they can help us to experience God in our lives. The latest post is titled: The Me I Have Become. I'd love to hear your feedback.

Celebrating Birthdays this month

- Sept 2nd Linda Burns
- Sept 6th Suzie Dorsey
- Sept 8th Carlee Muenzer
- Sept 10th Barbara Wells
- Sept 12th Bob Killewald
- Anderson Muenzer
- Allison Muenzer
- Sept 20th Loretta Weiss
- Sept 22nd Gladys Havenstein - 102 years old!
- Sept 25th Bronwyn Cook



May God Bless you on your special day!

Send your friends and family a birthday wish. If you do not see your birthday, please contact the office at 248.634.9494.

Celebrating Anniversaries this month

Happy Anniversary

Jim & Vicki Lyles

September 15th - 38 years

Josh & Mandie Banks

September 25th - 7 years

Tim & Sherry McLaughlin

September 28th - 32 years

*Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things*

(Corinthians 13:4-8)

What God has brought together let no one separate.



September 2017

Regular Weekly Events

Sunday -Starting September 10th

9:30 a Sunday School

10:30 a Fellowship & Coffee

11:00 a Worship

12:15 p Prayer Ministry

3:00 pm AA

Monday

7:30 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday thru Thursday

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

Wednesday

Starts September 13th

7:00 p Presbyterian Men's Bible Study

7:00 p Presbyterian Women's Bible Study/Rev Sharlyn

Schedule of Additional Events

Sep 3rd 11:15 a Fellowship Team Meeting after worship

Sep 5th **Team Meetings**

Worship 6:30 p -7:30 p

Christian Education 7:30 p - 8:30 p

Personnel 7:00 p - 7:30 p

Information Technology 7:30p - 8:30p

Sep 8th 10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry

Sep 9th 9:00 a - 3:00 p Church Work Day

Sep 10th Fall Kickoff Sunday

9:30 a Sunday School

10:30 a Fellowship & Coffee

11:00 a Worship

Prayer Ministry

Mission Ministry

12: 15 p Potluck - All our welcome

Sep 12th 9:30 a Presbytery Mtg Midland Memorial

Team Meetings

Finance 6:30 p - 7:30 p

Care 6:30 p - 7:00 p

Outreach 6:30 p - 7:30 p

Property 7:30 p - 8:30 p

Sep 13th Bible Study starts back weekly

7:00 p Presbyterian Men's Bible Study

7:00 p Presbyterian Women's Bible Study/Rev Sharlyn

Outreach 6:30 p - 7:30 p

Property 7:30 p - 8:30 p

Sep 15th 6:00 p Deadline for baked goods to be at Church

Articles Due for Newsletter

Sep 16th 10:00 a - 2:00 p Bake Sale at Bowman Chevrolet

10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry

10:00 a - 12:00 p Friends with Needs Bake Sale-Holly Foods

Sep 17th Healthy Check up

Sep 19th Session Meeting

Sep 22nd 10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry

Team Meetings this month

The times indicated are approximate and may vary. If you would like to join a team or see what it is all about, just come at the selected time to the church and see the Team leader. We always need input and ideas.



Team Meetings for Tuesday, September 5th:

7:00 p - 7:30 p Personnel

6:30 p - 7:30 p Christian Education

7:30 p - 8:30 p Information Technology

6:30 p - 7:30 p Worship

Team Meetings for Sunday, September 10th

10:00 a Fellowship - back of Fellowship Hall

Team Meetings for Tuesday, September 12th

6:30 p - 7:30 p Finance

6:30 p - 7:00 p Care

7:30 p - 8:30 p Outreach

7:30 p - 8:30 p Property

Session Meeting is September 19th

HOPE TO SEE YOU AND YOUR INPUT THERE!!

OUR 2017 SESSION

Class of 2017

Margaret Perry	<i>Fellowship Team</i>	(810) 735-7692
Karen Haneline	<i>Care Team</i>	(248) 894-3489
Reisa Hamilton	<i>Outreach Team</i>	(248) 766-7719

Class of 2018

Charlee Litten	<i>Personnel Team</i>	(810) 694-0095
Ellen Paulson	<i>Clerk</i>	(248) 320-0375
Sara Pettit	<i>Technology Team</i>	(810) 730-8357

Class of 2019

Charlene Clement	<i>Christian Education</i>	(810) 869-2632
Randy Cook	<i>Property Team</i>	(248) 221-9044
Bob Killewald	<i>Finance Team</i>	(248) 310-2410