



Holly Presbyterian Church

Your Monthly News & Updates for October 2017

Find out what is going on in your church- Did you say Rummage Sale? When? I want to help. Find more information in this newsletter.

Changes ... Reflections from Your Pastor

Like it or not, it seems everything is constantly changing, doesn't it? As I write this it doesn't feel like the weather is changing from the heat of summer to the cool, crisp autumn air. Oh, but we are fully aware that it is about to change. In fact, by the time you read this article the temperatures will probably be much lower. And I won't even mention what will be coming along right behind the fall weather.



Things are changing in the church as well. It always does change with the seasons. Summer is more laid back with very few programs going on. Many of us are gone up north or on vacation somewhere. But with the fall, everything kicks back into high gear. The kids are going to school, Sunday School and Bible Study begins again, and don't forget how we love the coffee and fellowship time that starts back up in the fall. I'm excited for those changes and very ready for things to get in full motion again. I like the church when we are very active!

Of course, there are other changes that we may not like too much but we really have to accept them because, like it or not, they are going to happen. A beloved family member dies; someone begins having poor health; another falls and breaks a hip and can't be

around as much. A family moves away to be closer to grandchildren. So many things we wish didn't happen but we really have no control over.

One of the hardest things for us is to say good bye to someone who has been such a gift and blessing to the entire church. As you know Pastor Shaun will be leaving us, with October 1st being his last Sunday as our Commission Ruling Elder (CRE). Five years ago, Shaun Hardimon came to my office asking if I would be open to mentoring him in ministry as he was going through the training for CRE's (formerly called "Lay Pastors"). I was honored and happy to help, and the Session voted to do it. So, Shaun came to us with his lovely wife, Michele, and worked with us as an intern. We were all surprised and pleased when he finished the training program and asked if he could be commissioned to Holly Presbyterian Church. He knew we did not have the financial resources in our budget to compensate another pastor but he wanted to serve us in ministry. And so it happened that we had this blessing of Shaun as our Associate Pastor for all these years - an unexpected gift that God gave us.

We witnessed changes in Shaun and Michele's family as they adopted Abby Hope and we watched her grow. We have loved being part of that time with them.

But things do change and pastor's go through discernment periods trying to determine what God is calling them to do. And sometimes that call means something new and different. And sometimes we just walk by faith and don't have a clue yet as to what is next. That is where Shaun is now in his call to ministry. We must accept it and honor him as we lovingly let him go; sending him out to serve in new ways, thankful that we had the blessing of him and his ministry; happy that we had a part in his growing in ministry. Sadly, as most pastors do, he and Michele and Abby will be worshipping somewhere else. It's just part of a pastor's transition.

There are lots of changes coming our way. We can choose to lament over them or we can choose to accept them, with God's help. I will choose to accept because there is so much to do. We may face changes but one thing never changes - that is the mission of being the church of Jesus Christ. Serving, giving, teaching, preaching, studying, feeding the hungry, helping the poor, showing compassion ... the list goes on and on. And it is an exciting challenge that we, my friends, are up to.

God says in Isaiah, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

God is leading us as we faithfully walk into the future, changes and all!

Pastor Shaun's Letter

To Rev. Dr. Sharlyn Gates and the Holly Presbyterian Church

After much consideration I have decided to submit my written resignation letter to Holly Presbyterian Church. Instead of renewing my contract I will be making my last day at the church October 1, 2017. I will always be grateful to both Rev. Dr. Sharlyn Gates and Holly Presbyterian Church for everything they have done for me and my family over the last several years. In addition, I would like to write a personal thank you to both Reverend Dr. Sharlyn Gates and the Holly Presbyterian Church:

Rev. Dr. Sharlyn Gates - I would like to thank you for being willing to take me on as an intern and then as a peer. Since the first day I stepped into the church you have allowed me to explore and be involved with any activity both inside and outside of the church. Furthermore, I would like to thank you for allowing me to be involved with the different parts of peoples lives. Over our time together I have been with people during some of their happiest times, lives such as baptisms, pre-marriage counseling sessions and on their wedding day. While at the same time I have been given the opportunity to be with people who are dealing with a variety of issues in their lives from the death of a loved one to personal struggles in their lives.

Holly Presbyterian Church - I would like to thank all the members of the Session and the church for making me, my wife, and daughter feel welcomed and part of the church family. You have shown this by your kind words of encouragement over the last couple of years, but also by being there to laugh and cry with us through the adoption and raising of Abby.



Gratefully,
Shaun Hardimon

Care Team



Quote for the month:

"Loving must be as normal to us as living and breathing, day after day until our death. To understand this and practice it we need much prayer, the kind that unites us with God and overflows continually upon others."

Mother Teresa

Baby Pantry Upcoming Dates: Fri Oct 13th 10a - 12p; Sat Oct 21st 10a - 12p; Fri Oct 27th 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, kleenex, clothing sizes 3, 4, and 5T.

Healthy Check up - will be on Sunday, October 15th. Don't forget to see Nurse Char and Nurse Karen. Your health could depend on it.

Finance Team



September 2017 - Summaries

Date	Attendance	Average Budgeted Needs	Income Received
September 3rd	44	\$ 12,406.39	\$ 8,461.50
September 10th	52		
September 17th	53		
September 24th	45		
		Needed	Received

September 24th

\$3,101.60

\$2,813.90

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

World Communion Day October 1st and saying goodbye to Pastor Shaun and his family with potluck

Come join us for a potluck Sunday Oct 1st for World Communion Sunday. Please bring your favorite international (or any favorite) dish to pass and your own table service. This is also a special time to recognize Pastor Shaun and to say goodbye to him and his family.



Sunday School for children of all ages begins Sunday, October 1st :

Sunday School for children of all ages begins on October 1st from 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Gathering Place.



Angel Vliet is the teacher, along with volunteers from the congregation helping with different projects. We will use the One Room School House concept with appropriate resources for every age. There will be lessons learned by various methods through each month, focusing on one theme per month. In October the theme will be on Baby Moses. Children will learn the stories of Moses through story telling, drama, art, food, etc. It will be a great time of learning and fun for our children! Our main goal is to teach our children that God is real in their lives and that God loves them very much.

Trick or Treat Outreach

In an effort to keep ourselves visible

to the children of Holly and our neighbors, we will again be hosting "Trick or Treat at HPC".

Wrapped candy will be needed by October 29th and can be placed in the basket in the narthex.

Volunteers will be needed on Tuesday October 31st for set up between 5 and 6 PM and between 6 and 8 PM for the Trick or Treating. Come join in the fun!

If you are able to help that night, please sign up in the narthex.



Fall Rummage Sale

Fall Rummage Sale will be October 19th - 21st. Sale times: 9:00 a - 5:00 p Thursday and Friday; 9:00 a - 12:00 p Saturday. Clean up begins at 12:30 p Saturday.

You can start bringing in items Sunday October 15th, and leave them in the back of the Fellowship Hall. You can continue bringing in items Monday thru Wednesday (October 16th - 18th) between 9:30 a - 1:30 p.

We will start setting up on Monday October 16th at 9:30 a.

Many volunteers are needed to set up and run the sale. Please look for the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Thank you,
Margaret Perry



Fellowship Team



- Our next Fellowship Team Meeting will be on Sunday, October 8th at 10:00 a in the back of the Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday, October 1st - Come join us for a potluck for World Communion Sunday. Please bring your favorite international (or any favorite) dish to pass and your own table service.
- There also will be another potluck the first Sunday of November, the 5th, celebrating All Saints Day.
- Coffee hour is at 10:30 a each Sunday. Please come be a part of Coffee and Fellowship.

Coffee & Snack Volunteers for this month:

Oct 1st	Ellen Paulson and Elizabeth Kici
Oct 8th	Judy Studer and Cathie Killewald
Oct 15th	Jan Bradshaw and ?
Oct 22nd	Penny Schettling and Loretta Weiss
Oct 29th	No one is signed up at this time

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 a 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



Joys and Concerns

- Remember to pray daily for this church and our pastor.

- For Pastor Shaun and his family as they go through this transition.
- For the victims of hurricanes Harvey and Irma.
- Strength, renewal, and healing for: William Woodard (Rev Fred Gates grandson), Richard Murphy (father-in-law of Mandie Banks), Dan Nash, William Graham (nephew of Vicki Lyles), Carlton Pernel (Gerry Jackson's friend), Germaine Sonderegger (Karen Haneline's friend), Jay Bihun (friend of Barb & Walt Brown, Ken Hecht, Norm Clement, Rev Fred Gates, Roy Howe (Kathleen Howe's brother-in-law), Hadleigh Banks, Celia Pettit, Paul Burnett (neighbor of Killewalds), Cari Oldenburg (friend of Cathie Killewald), Barbara Wells, Margaret House. Strength, comfort and peace to the family of Glenn Walters (Loretta Weiss cousin).
- Prayers for our members who are home bound or in care facilities.
- For our country and its leaders.
- For peace and unity in our nation and around the world.

Pray for Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery

- 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.
- The Rev Jim Neumann, Pastor of Saginaw Second who is recovering from back surgery.

Our Fellowship & Study Opportunities



Adult Sunday School -- 9:30 a

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 -- 10:30 a - 11:00 a in the Gathering Place

We will use the One Room School House concept with appropriate resources for every age. "Baby Moses" will be our October theme.

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.

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.

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 or Hurricane Irma. 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 or DR000194 for Atlantic Regional Hurricanes (Irma) in the memo of your check.

Support our Missionaries



Newsletter link: [Keefer Page 1 August 2017](#), [Keefer Page 2 August 2017](#),
[September](#)

Newsletter link : [September 2017](#)

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

Oct 1st	Wesley Carl Charlee Litten Kinsley Todd
Oct 8th	Carrie Duncanson
Oct 11th	Peggy Dryer
Oct 17th	Maureen Amory Andy Schram
Oct 18th	Todd Duncanson
Oct 19th	Rebecca Cook
Oct 24th	Kenzie Nash
Oct 29th	Josh Haneline Julie Parish
Oct 31st	Kevin Magnuson



May God Bless you on your special day!

If you do not see your birthday, please contact the office at 248.634.9494.

Celebrating Anniversaries this month

Happy Anniversary

Todd & Carrie Duncanson
Terry & Julie Parish

October 25th - 32 years
October 25th - 3 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.

If you do not see your anniversary, please contact the office at 248.634.9494 or office@hollypc.org.



October 2017

Regular Weekly Events

Sunday

9:30 a Adult Sunday School
10:30 a Fellowship & Coffee
10:30 a - 11:00 a Kids Sunday School
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

7:00 p Presbyterian Men's Bible Study

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

Schedule of Additional Events

Oct 1st 11:00 a World Communion

Potluck - bring your favorite International dish to pass.

This will be a special time to say goodbye to Pastor Shaun, Michele and Abby.

Oct 3rd **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

Oct 5th 7:00 AYSO

Oct 8th 10:00 a Fellowship **Team Meeting** in back of Fellowship Hall

Oct 10th **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

Oct 13th 10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry

Oct 15th start bringing in Rummage Sale items

Oct 16th Set up for Rummage Sale

Oct 17th Set up for Rummage Sale

Oct 18th Set up for Rummage Sale

Oct 19th 9:00 a - 5:00 p Rummage Sale

Oct 20th 9:00 a - 5:00 p Rummage Sale

Oct 21st 10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry

9:00 a - 12:00 Rummage Sale

Oct 27th 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,
October 3rd:***

- 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, October 8th:

10:00 a Fellowship - back of Fellowship Hall

Team Meetings for Tuesday, October 10th

- 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 October 17th

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

<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Technology Team</i>	
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Class of 2019

Charlene Clement
Randy Cook
Bob Killewald

Christian Education
Property Team
Finance Team

(810) 869-2632
(248) 221-9044
(248) 310-2410

Holly Presbyterian Church
(248) 634-9494

office@hollypc.org | Website - www.hollypc.org