



HPC CONNECTIONS

NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 17, ISSUE 11

Reflection from the Pastor ...

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever!
- 1 Chronicles 16:34



We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing ...I love November, don't you? November is that month where we transition from fall to winter. The beautiful colors of fall are starting to fade, yet there is still plenty of harvest colors to enjoy. I love Thanksgiving and miss the days when my large family gathered together at my grandmothers for a big meal. She always had a place-card with each name on it and a psalm for each one of us to read before we ate. My mom and my sister, Cindy, and I sang "Bless This House" and then there was a blessing over the food. It was part of our Thanksgiving prayer. Of course some people got pretty impatient looking at the food and wished we would do all that AFTER the meal.

November, with the church family, is also a very special time. On November 5th, we gather together to remember the saints who have passed on to the life eternal in this past year. We celebrate their life and their faith and contribution to the church. We also will give thanks for the memorial gifts that have been used for the ministry of the church in this past year and will remember those whom those gifts were given in memory of. We give thanks for the generosity of all who have given to help build the kingdom of God on earth and continue Christ's mission.

November 12th is that very important day when we will bring to worship our pledge cards with our commitments for next year. Through prayer and discernment we decide how much we are able to give financially to the ministry of the church and we also are invited to commit our time in serving as well. Generosity is about giving ourselves to God and others in various ways. Please bring your cards and in a very special time of dedication we will lay them at the foot of the cross in an act of trust and thanksgiving. Our cards will be turned over and no one except our financial secretary will see the numbers. It is a confidential commitment between you and God.

The Thanksgiving hymn **Now Thank We All Our God** says:
*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

(Catherine Winkworth, Martin Rinkart, Johann Cruger, ©public domain)

Let us all say *Amen!* Let us all give thanks to God for the many blessings we have from Him – especially the blessings of His love given to us through His own Son, Jesus, and for the gift of our church and our church family. I give thanks for all of you!

Blessings!

Reverend Sharlyn



Care Team

Quote for the month: *If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. - 1 Corinthians 13:2*

Baby Pantry Upcoming Dates: Friday, Nov 10th 10:00 a - 12:00 p; Saturday Nov 18th 10:00 a - 12:00 p; Fri Nov 24th 10:00 a - 12:00 p.

Baby Needs: We are in need of size 4 diapers and kleenex, clothing sizes 3, 4, and 5T.

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.

Healthy Check up - will be on Sunday, November 19th. Don't forget to see Nurse Char or Nurse Karen. Your health could depend on it.

Jan Bradshaw. Beth Dryer. Loretta Weiss. Jennifer Chanter. Karen Haneline



God Bless you all on your special day!

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|----------------|----------|
| Don Colegrove | Nov 3rd |
| Beth Dryer | Nov 19th |
| Jim Single | Nov 19th |
| Jordan Howe | Nov 22nd |
| Roberta Single | Nov 25th |
| Barb Brown | Nov 27th |

Finance Team

Finance Team Thoughts

After some research of Biblical references about generosity it has become clear that God's need for our extravagant generosity really is another one of the gifts He has given us.

YES, A GIFT!

It really is a gift because it allows us to exercise our faith in God and belief in what he can do for us. Faith can be looked at in the same way you would a muscle (faith being our spiritual muscle) and the more you exercise it the stronger it gets. As we step out on faith God rewards our efforts and makes the "stepping out" easier the next time. What a special gift that is for us! The stronger our faith the more abundant our spiritual life will be.

Extravagant generosity at home and here at HPC will be honored by God and He will make sure we receive whatever we need so we can continue to fulfill our mission.

There is no way we can out give God – after all he gave us His Son.

We are all members of the "Generosity Team" here at HPC. Each one of us is a vital part in determining our success!

God will surely bless our efforts.

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|-----------|--------------------|----------------------|
| September | Income \$ 8,428.71 | Expense \$9,758.33 |
| YTD | Income \$97,824.71 | Expense \$104,672.38 |

Finance Team: Vicki Lyles, Carrie Duncanson, Laura Parker, Rev. Sharlyn Gates and Bob Killewald

Our Fellowship and Study Opportunities

Adult Sunday School - 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.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study - Wednesday's at 7:00 p. We will be studying the scriptures for the coming Sunday. This is a great time of learning and fellowship, led by Rev Sharlyn.

Presbyterian Men's Bible Study - Wednesday's at 7:00 p. Please join us. Each week we discuss the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. It is a good learning time and fellowship as well, led by Randy Cook.

Children's Sunday School -10:30 a - 11:00 a in the Gathering Place. Children of all ages are welcome. Angel Vliet is the teacher. We need helpers please.



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.
- Michael Hosler, son of Elders Alan and Cheryl Hosler, Croswell-First who will be having open heart surgery next week in New York. Michael is 37 years old.



N O V E M B E R C A L E N D E R O F E V E N T S

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

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| Nov 5th | 11:00 a Worship - Memorial Sunday 12:15 p Cake & Coffee Reception |
| Nov 7th | 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 7:30 p - 8:30 p Care 6:30 p - 7:00 p |
| Nov 9th | 7:00 AYSO |
| Nov 10th | 10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry |
| Nov 12th | 10:00 a Fellowship Team Meeting 11:00 a Worship - Commitment Sunday |
| Nov 14th | Team Meetings Finance 6:30 p - 7:30 p Outreach 6:30 p - 7:30 p Property 7:30 p - 8:30 p |
| Nov 18th | 10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry |
| Nov 19th | Healthy Check up following Worship |
| Nov 24th | 10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry 6:00 p - 7:30 p Community Sing |
| Nov 26th | Hanging of the Greens Poinsettia cut off to order |



Our Church Family Prayer Concerns & Joys

Joys and Concerns

- Peace and comfort for the family of Barbara Wells and the family of David Howe (Ron's son).
- God's love and hope surround the people affected by the California wildfires. Josh & Haley Haneline had to evacuate their home, but their home is safe.
- Peace, comfort and healing to the families of the Las Vegas concert tragedy.
- Remember to pray daily for this church and our pastor.
- Those who are devastated by recent hurricanes.
 - *Strength, renewal, and healing for:* Suzie Dorsey, Marty Rodriguez (Kathleen Howes' boyfriend of her future daughter-in-law's sister Kendra), Rose McColl (Dessalee Cook's Mom), 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), Ken Hecht, Norm Clement, Roy Howe (Kathleen Howe's brother-in-law), Hadleigh Banks, Celia Pettit, Paul Burnett (neighbor of Killewalds), Cari Oldenburg (friend of Cathie Killewald), and Margaret House.
- 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.



Fellowship Team

- **Fellowship Team** Meeting on Sunday November 12th at 10:00 a in the back of the Fellowship Hall.
- Coffee & Snack Volunteers for:

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Nov 5th | Jennifer Chanter & Judy Studer |
| Nov 12th | Doris Colegrove & Beth Dryer |
| Nov 19th | Ellen Paulson & _____ |
| Nov 26th | Donna DeNise & _____ |



Please look at your calendar and see if you can fill one of these times for bringing a snack and helping with clean up.

Thank you! Margaret

Commitment Sunday is November 12th. After thoughtful prayer and discernment, please fill out your Pledge Card and bring it on November 12th where we will dedicate our commitments to the Lord in a special service.

Hanging of the Greens

We will be putting up our Christmas decorations and trees on Sunday, November 26th after worship. We also need volunteers to make soup and bread for lunch. Please stay after worship and join in the excitement of getting ready for Jesus birthday. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Parker.



Memorial Sunday - November 5th

Remembering those saints who have passed on and celebrating our memorial gifts. Join us following worship for cake and coffee reception.

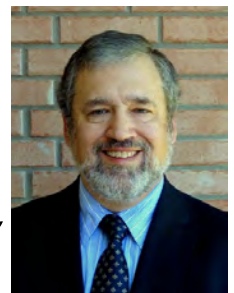
Community Caroling

Friday November 24th from 6:00 p - 7:30 p come to Holly Presbyterian Church for a time of singing carols, drinking hot cocoa and cookies. It promises to be a great night as in years past. Let the community know this is our church. The parade will pick up the carolers and march downtown to light the tree and see Santa.



From the Lion's Den

On October 31, 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther posted a list of 95 theses - challenges to the church of his day - on the door of the cathedral in Wittenberg, Germany. This launched what came to be known as the Protestant Reformation, the single most important event in the history of Christianity in the past thousand years. As heirs of that Reformation, we affirm Luther's watchwords, *sola fide*, *sola gratia*, and *sola scriptura* - faith alone, grace alone, scripture alone - to define our core understanding of salvation and the Christian life.



One of the most provocative theories of church history was put forth by the late Phyllis Tickle in her 2008 book *The Great Emergence*. She argued that roughly every 500 years the church undergoes a radical reorganization, what she calls "a giant rummage sale" in which it clears out old, obsolete ways of thinking and acting and replaces them with new ways of being the church. She traces the 500-year pattern back to the start of our story:

(Continued)

From the Lion's Den - Continued

- The Protestant Reformation (16th century)
 - The Great Schism (11th century)
 - The monastic movement (6th century)
 - The birth of the church (1st century)
 - Post-exilic Judaism (5th century BC)
 - Temple Judaism (10th century BC)
 - Mosaic Judaism (15th century BC)
- Abrahamic monotheism (c. 20th century BC)

This month we mark the 500th anniversary of Luther's reformation. If the pattern holds, she argues, then the 21st century should be marked by the emergence of a new form of Christian faith. We are due for a new reformation.

We see signs of this new reformation occurring around us. This reformation is prompted by the death of Christendom - that is, the end to the church-state collaboration that shaped Western civilization since 325 A.D. The church in the U.S. and Europe has been marginalized, creating a new apostolic age in which the church's mission resembles that of the first century more than the twentieth. As with previous reformations, the "rummage sale" we are now experiencing will require parting with some forms and practices that have deep sentimental value, but which no longer serve their purpose. It may mean the death or radical alteration of our twentieth century forms of being the church. This will take time - the Catholic Church is still feeling the effects of the Reformation even today. But we can be sure that though Christendom may be dying, the witness of the Church to God's saving love in Jesus Christ will continue regardless of the institutional forms it embodies. Indeed, many believe that the emerging church is more faithful to Christ's mission than the Christendom church and its awkward power entanglements that gave birth to colonialism, economic exploitation, and Euro-centric racism.

Even now, we are adapting to the new realities of a church that no longer is supported by our communities just by virtue of our existence. We are increasingly required to earn a hearing for the gospel and to demonstrate with our lives and actions the power and reality of Christ's love. We are called to shed the power trappings of Christendom. Denominations are becoming less dominant and mission activity less centralized. Resources still exist in abundance, but they are not centrally stored and no longer support huge organizational structures. They are in our pockets, ready to be shared not out of obligation, but out of our own sense of discipleship and commitment.

As we look back this month, let us also look forward - not in fear, but in hope - knowing that God's new thing may look different than what we are used to, but will continue to bring the gospel to the world in transformational ways.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

TEAM MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER

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 Meeting for November 5th

10:00 a Fellowship Team - back of Fellowship Hall

Team Meeting for November 7th

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

Team Meeting for November 14th

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

Session meets on November 21st.



To help those affected by the

Hurricanes: For those who wish to support through PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) emergency and recovery efforts, go online at: <http://pda.pcusa.org> and select which one you want your money to go to.

If you prefer to mail a check, you may sent it to: Presbyterian Church (USA), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

For Hurricane Harvey DR000169, Irma designate DR000194, and for Puerto Rico designate DR0000194.

Our 2017 Session

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|----------------------|------------------|--|----------------|
| Class of 2017 | Margaret Perry | Fellowship Team | (810) 735-7692 |
| | Reisa Hamilton | Outreach Team | (248) 766-7719 |
| | Karen Haneline | Care Team | (248) 894-3489 |
| Class of 2018 | Charlee Litten | Personnel Team | (810) 694-0095 |
| | Ellen Paulson | Clerk | (248) 320-0375 |
| | vacant | Technology Team (Walt Brown is temporarily leading | |
| | Linda Burns | Worship Team | (586) 482-3091 |
| Class of 2019 | Bob Killewald | Finance Team | (248) 310-2410 |
| | Randy Cook | Property Team | (248) 221-9044 |
| | Charlene Clement | Christian Ed Team | (810) 869-2632 |

Minister: The Rev Dr Sharlyn DeHaven Gates (620) 423-2671