



HPC CONNECTIONS

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

Reflections on Love ...

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. Love never fails.
And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.- 1 Cor. 13:4,8,13*

As we begin the month of February many of us turn our thoughts to love. Children exchange those cute little Valentines cards and candies with messages. Lovers do romantic things like giving roses or chocolates (I say how about both?). Husbands take their wives out to dinner. Or wives prepare their husband's favorite meal. Beautiful cards are given with loving sentiments. Valentine's Day is a popular day for marriage proposals. So romantic!

That passage I quoted above is from 1 Corinthians 13, sometimes called the "love chapter." I have performed many weddings using that chapter on love, at the request of the bride and groom. I love that Scripture. It was my mother's favorite too.

The Apostle Paul was not writing these words to lovers, however. This was part of the first letter he wrote to the church in Corinth when they were having disagreements and were falling away from the faith that had been established there. Paul is describing how Christians should love one another. It's the same way that Jesus loves us. It is a love that is full of grace; it is patient and kind; it is selfless, not self-seeking. It is the kind of love that puts the other person first; it is considerate and respectful. It gives the benefit of the doubt without jumping to conclusions and getting angry.

Jesus said "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

We who follow Jesus are commanded to love as Jesus loved us. It is part of our discipleship. It is part of our witness to the world. Loving in this way shows the world the example of Jesus. It also shows the love God has for the world by giving his Son for our salvation.

So, is this passage appropriate for reading at weddings? Absolutely! I have said before that I consider marriages and our Christian homes to be like little churches. The home is a very good place to practice loving the way Christ Jesus loves us. We practice not needing to have our own way; putting the other before ourselves; doing little kindnesses; forgiving one another; being patient with each other. Actually, it is sometimes easier to practice this kind of love with people outside our homes than it is those we live with day in and day out. If we can love our families with this mature

Christian love Paul is talking about then I think we have a pretty good grip on Christ-like love, don't you?

In this "love month" let's consider strengthening our practice of Christian love in our homes and everywhere. And may it extend on into the rest of the year, well beyond February.

My love goes out to all of you, my beloved church family!

Reverend Sharlyn



Care Team

Quote for the month: *The Need to Pray*

"You and I have been created for greater things. We have not been created just to pass through life without aim. And that greater aim is to love and be loved." -*Mother Theresa*

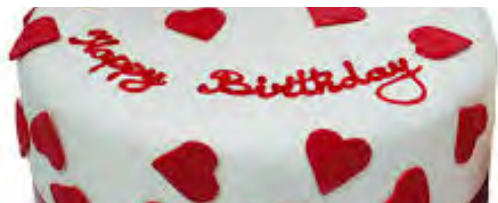
Pantry Upcoming Dates: Friday, Feb 9th 10:00 a - 12:00 p; Saturday Feb 17th 10:00 a - 12:00 p; Fri Feb 23rd 10:00 a - 12:00 p.

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

Donations can be placed in the crib in the narthex. Financial 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, February 18th. Don't forget to see Nurse Char or Nurse Karen. Your health could depend on it.

Jan Bradshaw, Beth Dryer, Loretta Weiss, Jennifer Chanter.



God Bless you all on your special day!

Tim Burns	Feb 2nd
Valerie Bird	Feb 6th
Ben Jackson	Feb 8th
Ben Muenzer	Feb 12th
Judy Studer	Feb 12th
Dessalee Cook	Feb 17th
Christine Hadley	Feb 22nd
Penny Schettling	Feb 23rd
Kian Bird	Feb 25th
David Dryer	Feb 25th

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.



Finance Team Thoughts

We may be the grip of winter weather, but as Christians we are constantly being warmed through the comfort of the Holy Spirit. It is a wonderful way to live! Our Christian walk is so very much the essence of a joyful life. As the songwriter has said "What a friend we have in Jesus". The price has been paid for our salvation. We didn't deserve it, but God loves us so much He wants us to have the opportunity for eternal life with him! How exciting is that?



The only thing God asks us to do is believe in His son Jesus Christ and our salvation is assured. As we continue our walk with the Lord we need to remember to always love God and love one another as we love ourselves.

God has done everything for us. Each one of us needs to pray and meditate about what we can do for His glory. Our time and talents need to be put to use so that God's presence in the world may be expanded and become more meaningful to all.

God surely has a plan for our wonderful little church. Many thoughts and prayers will be needed this year in order for us to meet our mission commitments. Our annual budget will be presented to the congregation in February. We are still struggling with a large deficit. Obviously, this cannot continue. Please pray about our finances in earnest. God's plan can be revealed to us through our prayers and efforts.

Once again it is time for our Per-Capita payment. The amount per person this year is \$26.94. Our payment is due in February so now is the time for us to gather that money.

God bless all of us and our special church fellowship

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

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Regular Weekly Events

Sunday

9:30 a Adult Sunday School
10:30 a Fellowship & Coffee
10:30 a - 11:00 a Children's 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 with Randy Cook
7:00 p Presbyterian Women's Bible Study with Rev Sharlyn



Schedule of Additional Events

Feb 2nd 11:00 a Comfort Circle
Feb 4th 10:00 a Fellowship Team Meeting
Feb 6th Team Meetings
Information Technology 7:00 p - 8:00 p
Personnel 7:00 p - 7:30 p
Christian Education 7:30 p - 8:30 p
Feb 8th 7:00 p AYSO
Feb 9th 10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
Feb 10th 10:00 a - 2:00 p Worship Team Meeting - Planning
Feb 11th Bake Sale
Annual Reports ready for review
Feb 13th Team Meetings
Finance 6:30 p - 7:30 p
Care 6:30 p - 7:00 p
Outreach 6:30 p - 7:30 p
Property 7:00 p - 8:00 p
Feb 14th 6:15 p Ash Wednesday - Soup & Bread
7:15 p Ash Wednesday Service
Feb 15th Newsletter Articles Due
Feb 17th 10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
Feb 18th Healthy Check up
Feb 20th 7:00 p Session Meeting
Feb 23rd 10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
7:00 p Session Retreat
Feb 24th 4:00 p Retreat ends

Our Church Family Prayer Concerns & Joys

- **Strength, renewal, and healing for:** Jesse Jones, Kyle & Jessica Elliott, Peggy Ranger, Mandie Banks, Charlee Litten, Glen Rodden and Frank Thomason (from mobile home fire), Don Colegrove, Loretta Weiss, Haley Haneline (Karen Haneline's daughter-in-law), Billie Stoner (friend of Weiss's and Killewald's), Linda Voorheis, Linda Kelly, Claudia Morton (Peters), Roberta Single, Janis Dorsey, Beverly Glass (Elizabeth Kici friend's daughter), Suzie Dorsey, William Woodard (Rev Fred Gates grandson), Dan Nash, Ken Hecht, Hadleigh Banks, and Cari Oldenburg (friend of Cathie Killewald).
- Peace and comfort for the families of Kyle & Jessica Elliott (baby), Paul Burnett (neighbor of Killewalds), Jonathan Taulbee, Brittani Rodden and their children Carter and Wesley killed in a mobile home fire.
- For the violence, racism, and killings to leave this place and replace it with peace, unity, compassion for others, and people's eyes become open to who Jesus is and his love.
- God's love, joy, and hope surround the people affected by all recent disasters. They are not forgotten.
- Remember to pray daily for this church and our pastor.
- Prayers for our members who are home bound or in care facilities.
- For our country and its leaders.
- Thankful to God that we are a free country and for the people who protect us.



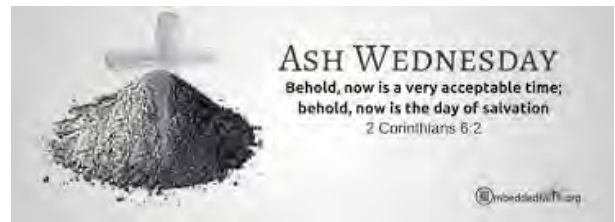
Pray for Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery

- Bruce Graham, husband of the Rev. Linda Graham, Pastor of Cass City-First and Cass City Fraser was scheduled for surgery last month but it has been postponed due to health issues.
- Pam Brackbill and the Rev. Tom Brackbill, Pastor of Alma-First as they deal with all that encompasses Pam's diagnosis of Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease. Pam is under the care of Masonic Pathways.
- 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.



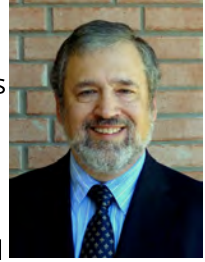
Ash Wednesday Supper and Imposition of Ashes

Don't miss out on the introduction to the Lenten focus as we begin on February 14th with the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Service Of The Imposition Of Ashes. The supper begins at 6:15 p in the Fellowship Hall with a service in the Sanctuary at 7:15 p. Come and join in as we begin this important season of reflection and growth, making our way once again to the cross and to Easter.



From the Lion's Den

In my last column I wrote about how "inside-out, upside-down" congregations engage in incarnational mission. I quoted Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk: Missional leaders take the Incarnation of Jesus with the utmost seriousness. More than just a doctrine to be confessed, it is the key to understanding all God's activities with, through, in, and among us. It points toward an answer to the question of where God is to be found. In the Incarnation we discern that God is always found in what appears to be the most godforsaken of places - the most inauspicious of locations, people, and situations. God seems to be present where there is little or no expectation. (*The Missional Leader*, p. 17)



"Incarnational mission" defines such a church. "Mission," after all, is the essence of being an "inside-out" church - leaving the comfort of our church buildings to go into the world as Christ commands.

"Incarnational," similarly, is the essence of being an "upside-down" church-leaving our places of status and privilege to go to the "godforsaken places" not in a patronizing way, but in solidarity with those on the margins. That is the model of Christ's own mission, who "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness" (Phil. 2:7a).

This is not an easy path to follow. As I write this, the Twitterverse and Blogosphere are lit up over comments attributed to the President about our immigration policy. If we move beyond the sensationalism of the quote we find a sentiment that reflects the opposite of Jesus' model of mission. Reading it charitably, the President questioned the wisdom of receiving immigrants from [godforsaken] countries instead of from economically developed lands. We may scoff, but that is the same sentiment I hear among many Presbyterians and other wealthy, privileged, (and predominantly white) denominations regarding mission. We might want to help those on the margins (whether the margins be global, national, or local), but do we really want to embrace them in a way that changes us, that requires us to step outside our comfort zone, to surrender our privilege, and engage them where they are?

But that is precisely what Jesus did in taking on flesh and becoming human. As Roxburgh and Romanuk remind us, that is where he is to be found now - not in the places of privilege, but in the very "godforsaken" places of our communities and our world. Jesus did not seek out the wealthy and the powerful - though some did follow him. Instead, he went to those on the margins of his society - and even beyond that to the stranger, the foreigner, and the "other."

The task of setting aside our own privilege and removing injustice based on privilege is therefore central to our missional task as Christians in the world. Privilege takes many forms: race, gender, class, and able-ness are just a few of the most common. Privilege is often something to which we who are privileged are blind, so a basic task of incarnational mission is to recognize and unmask privilege in ourselves and in society.

For those who want to address racial privilege, I encourage you to undertake two activities. First, read the book *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving, which our General Assembly Co-moderators offered for churchwide study last year. Second, consider registering for the 19th Annual White Privilege Conference. This national event will be held in Grand Rapids April 4-7, and is one of the most transformative events I have experienced in learning how to be more just and loving neighbors and citizens. Discounts are available to PCUSA members and friends (see the information elsewhere in the Bi-Weekly Brief). I have already registered - I hope you will join me.

Incarnational mission isn't easy, but it is both biblical and faithful. We can't get there overnight, but as with all matters of discipleship, it takes what Eugene Peterson called "a long obedience in the same direction."

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyterian

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

Fellowship Team

- **Fellowship Team** Meeting on Sunday February 4th at 10:00 a in the back of the Fellowship Hall.
- Coffee & Snack Volunteers for 10:30 a on Sundays are:

Feb 4th	Dessalee Cook & Ellen Paulson
Feb 11th	Vicki Lyles & Doris Colegrove
Feb 18th	Cathie Killewald &
Feb 25th	Penny Schetling & Margaret Perry



Please look at your calendar and see if you can help on February 18th with Cathie.

Please join us for coffee, snack and fellowship from 10:30 a to 11:00 a every Sunday.



We will be having a Bake Sale on Sunday, February 11th. Please come hungry!

Thanks for your continued support.

Thank you!

Cathie

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational meeting will be on February 25th following worship. Please mark your calendars to be at this important meeting.

Annual reports will be available for your review on February 11th.

If you find an error, please report it promptly before the February 25th meeting. Thank you.



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.

Please remember these people are still hurting and are still trying to rebuild their town. Puerto

TEAM MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY

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 February 4th

10:00 a Fellowship Team - back of Fellowship Hall

Team Meeting for February 6th

Christian Education 7:30 p - 8:30 p

Personnel 7:00 p - 7:30 p

Information Technology 7:00p - 8:00p

Special Team Meeting for Planning February 10th

Worship 10:00 a - 2:00 p

Team Meeting for February 13th

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 February 20th



2018 Session

Class of 2018

Charlee Litten | Personnel Team | (810) 694-0095

Ellen Paulson | Clerk | (248) 320-0375

Linda Burns | Worship Team | (586) 482-3091

Class of 2019

Charlene Clement | Christian Ed. Team | (810) 869-2632

Randy Cook | Property Team | (248) 221-9044

Bob Killewald | Finance Team | (248) 310-2410

Class of 2020

Cathie Killewald | Fellowship Team | (248) 310-2411

Jan Bradshaw | Care Team | (248) 459-1181

Donna DeNise | Outreach | (248) 634-3760

Jim Lyles | Technology Team | (248) 396-4695

Moderator

The Rev. Dr. Sharlyn DeHaven Gates

(620) 423-2671