



# HPC CONNECTIONS

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 18, ISSUE 3

## Lenten Reflections ...

*Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Psalm 25:4 (NKJV)*

As we continue on the pathway to the cross during this Lenten season, we keep looking at ways to lighten our load so we can persevere and make it all the way through. The path isn't easy. It is rough and steep with rocks that can cause us to stumble and fall behind. On the first Sunday of Lent I used a large suitcase full of unnecessary items to suggest what might not be helpful to us on this journey – a couple of pairs of fancy dress shoes with heels, a heavy novel, a dressy, loud jacket, lots of make-up and blingy girlie-girl things. Some chocolate. Oh, and a bottle of wine, because wine can relax you and help you forget that you are bone tired. (Tired of lots of things, maybe.)

Now, don't get me wrong. While none of those things are necessary items for living, I'm going to take a stand and say that I like my girlie-girl things and I personally don't think any of the other things are bad, as long as we don't over do with them, and especially as long as we keep them in the place they belong in regards to what is important in life.

Let's face it, there really are a lot of stumbling blocks on this pathway. Obstacles that can cause us to lose our focus on keeping the main thing the main thing – that is, learning the lessons Jesus' teaches on the way to the cross; examining our lives and our faith; spending more time in the Scriptures and in prayer. What are the stumbling blocks? Oh so many things! Things like a disagreement with a friend or family member that upsets you and so you turn to one of those goodies that make you feel good and you forget that you were going to lighten the load and keep an empty space open for God. Now, it's filled again with STUFF.

OR, a stumbling block on the path could be a special occasion. And isn't food always a part of celebrating? So, you decided to give up some favorite food or drink during the Lenten journey but it's just too tempting to not indulge. Which is okay really, as long as you are committed to getting back up and back on the path.

That's actually what it's about, I think. Because even in ordinary times we are trying to walk the path with God yet there are so many things that knock us down. Maybe one of the lessons in Lent is how to get right back up and keep on persevering. Not giving up and not giving in; not saying "Well, forget it. I just can't do it, so I'm not going to try anymore."

I speak from the heart and I know from my own experience that this happens. In fact, I'm pretty sure it will happen to me on Fred's and my anniversary. And I will give myself grace and not dwell on my weakness, but I will observe it and do my very best to use the God-given strength I have to pull myself up and take that first step back on the path and I will shout out to all my disciple friends "Hey! Wait for me! I'm still here and I'll catch up."

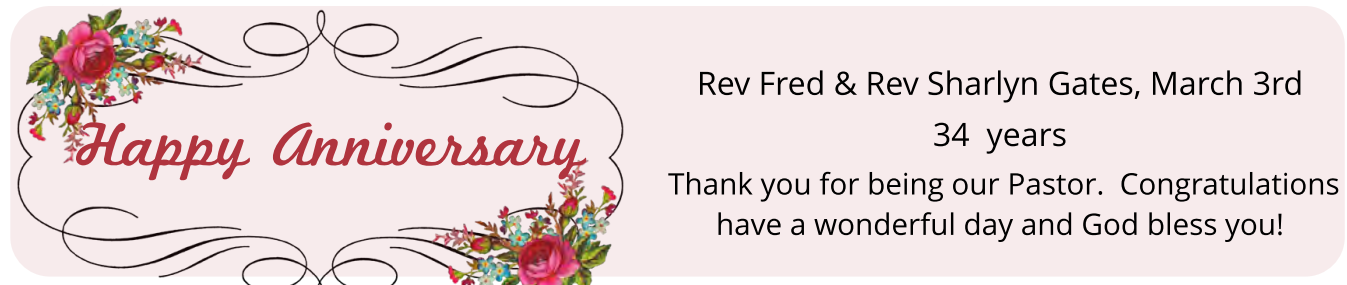
At the end of that first Sunday in Lent, I put on my practical walking shoes and packed up a backpack with a few necessary items: a healthy snack; a devotional/bible; and a journal and pen. I didn't pack water because the very first stop in the next Sunday's lesson was at the well in Samaria where Jesus gives "living water." Water that quenches forever. In my journal I will record how many times I stumbled on



the journey but then I will celebrate how many more times I was successful and strong and how much I'm learning from Jesus as we get close to the cross. I am confident that on the other side of the cross there is resurrection; there is "*alleluia*." But I will keep on the path with my friends, following Jesus because it will make me strong; it will grow my faith and my relationship with our Creator, Grace-filled God. And I pray you will persevere as well, dear companions.

May we be blessed as we continue on the path together, helping each other when we fall, encouraging and understanding. And then ... then we will joyfully sing *ALLELUIA!* on Resurrection Sunday.

Peace and Grace,  
Rev. Sharlyn



#### Care Team

**Quote for the month:** Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy --

*Pope Francis*

Nothing, how little so ever it be, if it is suffered for God's sake, can pass without merit in the sight of God -- *Thomas A. Kempis*

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

**Baby Needs:** We are in need of size 3 diapers, 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, March 18th. Don't forget to see Nurse Char or Nurse Karen. Your health could depend on it.



Have a wonderful birthday and may  
God Bless you now and always!

Terry Parish	March 5th
Bill Weiss	March 11th
Mary Renico	March 12th
Norm Clement	March 16th
Pam Remillard	March 18th
Andrew Batten	March 22nd
Laura Parker	March 23rd
Tom Schettling	March 24th
Fran Olson	March 30th
Debbie Russell	March 30th

## 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**

January Income \$9,411.60 | January Expenses \$15,758.10

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 p AA

### Monday

7:30 p AA & Alanon

### Tuesday thru Thursday

12:00 p - 3:00 p 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

Mar 1st	Girl Scouts of SE MI
Mar 3rd	10:30 a - 12:30 p Comfort Circle
Mar 4th	10:00 a <b>Fellowship Team Meeting</b>
Mar 6th	<b>Team Meetings</b> Worship 6:30 p - 7:30 p Information Technology 7:00 p - 8:00 p Personnel 7:00 p - 7:30 p Christian Education 7:30 p - 8:30 p
Mar 8th	7:00 p AYSO
Mar 9th	10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
Mar 13th	<b>Team Meetings</b> 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
Mar 15th	Newsletter Articles Due
Mar 17th	10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
Mar 18th	Healthy Check up
Mar 20th	7:00 p Session Meeting
Mar 23rd	10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
Mar 25th	Palm Sunday
Mar 28th	NO Presbyterian Women's or Men's Bible Study
Mar 29th	Maundy Thursday 6:15 p Dinner 7:15 p Service with Communion
Mar 30th	Good Friday - 12:00 p - 1:00 p Reflection and Prayer
Apr 1st	Easter Sunday



## Our Church Family Prayer Concerns & Joys

- **Strength, renewal, and healing for:** Norm Clement, Dawn Spring (Colleen Spring's niece), Jesse Jones, Kyle & Jessica Elliott, Peggy Ranger, Mandie Banks, Charlee Litten, Don Colegrove, Linda Voorheis, Linda Kelly, Claudia Morton (Peters), Roberta Single, 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 Suzie Dorsey, Billie Stoner (friend of Weiss's and Killewald's), Jesse and Felicia Jones (baby), Paul Burnett (neighbor of Killewalds).
- For peace and comfort for the shooting victims at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Parkland, FL, and their families; for the families that lost loved ones; and for all the students who will be going back to school. May God's love shine on them.
- 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

- 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.



## Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 29th we will have our Maundy Thursday Dinner at 6:15 p, followed by our Service with Communion at 7:15 p. Cathie will be sending around a sign up sheet for soup and bread.



## From the Lion's Den

I recently received an email inquiring as to why our Presbytery meetings don't seem to focus on the work of governance - that is, presenting, deliberating, and voting on the business of the church. The writer wondered whether there was any reason for elder commissioners to attend, if not to exercise their commission to speak and vote on matters of importance to the church's ministry and mission.



It is a good question. I responded that governance continues to be an important function of the Presbytery, and there are matters of governance that are addressed at every presbytery meeting. Many of those matters of governance do not require significant debate, and some are presented as actions of presbytery commissions authorized to act on the Presbytery's behalf. This happens for the sake of timeliness, efficiency, and effectiveness, but the Presbytery always has the right to review and override actions made on its behalf. However, when committees and commissions have gifted and dedicated members who do their work under the guidance of wise policies, such reconsiderations are rare.

There are many governance decisions that cannot be delegated to commissions, and these are regularly decided by the Presbytery itself. Some of these are examinations for ordination; changes to by-laws and standing rules; elections of officers; voting on proposed constitutional amendments; and approving the annual budget - including compensation of the Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk, and the amount of the annual per capita assessment.

But a presbytery is much more than just a deliberative body. We are also responsible "for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness" (G-3.0301). To this end, presbytery meetings have four component parts: exemplary worship; useful equipping (training and information) for the building up of congregations and leaders; fellowship over a meal; and governance. The hope is that every meeting of presbytery will be a "value-added" experience for all who attend - that is, they will come away with more tools, insight, and inspiration than they came with. Coming to presbytery meetings just for governance is like going to church just for session meetings. It doesn't make for healthy leadership or healthy decisions.

It is our hope that people will come to these meetings for worship, equipping, and fellowship beyond the ministers and ruling elder commissioners. It is also our hope that those who do attend become "commissionaries" who bring back to their sessions and congregations what they have learned at Presbytery meetings as well as what was decided.

Our upcoming Presbytery meeting Tuesday, March 6 at Linden is especially one that we hope will attract more than just the usual attenders. This meeting will focus on "the mission of the local church" and will feature three workshops that will be of benefit to all of our churches:

·"Building Diverse and Inclusive Faith Communities," led by the Rev. Molly Casteel, Assistant Stated Clerk and Manager for Equity and Representation of the General Assembly

·"Disaster Preparedness Planning for your Church," led by Georgia McCall, Ernestine Jackson, and Debbie Grant, Regional Disaster Response Training Specialists for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

·"Creative Ways of Raising Funds for Mission," led by Steve Keizer, Vice President for Ministry Relations for the Presbyterian Foundation.

All three workshops will be offered in rotation so everyone has the opportunity to attend each of them.

These are great opportunities to equip our churches, offered by gifted leaders of our denomination. I hope many from our congregations will come to learn, grow, and lead in service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

[dsaperstein@presbylh.org](mailto:dsaperstein@presbylh.org)



GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday Service will be Friday, March 30th from 12:00 p - 1:00 p with Reflection and Prayer.

Resurrection

Sunday, April 1st is Easter Sunday. Join us at 11:00 a for Worship.



Fellowship Team

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

Mar 4th	Karen Haneline & Loretta Weiss
Mar 11th	Penny Schettling & _____
Mar 18th	_____ & _____
Mar 25th	_____ & _____
Apr 1st	Dessalee Cook & _____



Please look at your calendar and see if you can help.

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

Cathie Killewald  
Fellowship Team

## TEAM MEETINGS FOR MARCH

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 March 4th**

10:00 a Fellowship Team - back of Fellowship Hall

### **Team Meeting for March 6th**

Worship 6:30 p - 7:30 p

Christian Education 7:30 p - 8:30 p

Personnel 7:00 p - 7:30 p

Information Technology 7:00p - 8:00p

### **Team Meeting for March 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 March 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