



HPC CONNECTIONS

APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 18, ISSUE 4

Resurrection ... The Other Side

We finally made it! Our Lenten journey is complete for this time. We stayed on the pathway all the way to the cross, following Jesus, learning from him, observing his ways. We learned about love that has no boundaries as we listened in on the conversation with the Samaritan woman; as we observed Jesus – the Son of God – on his knees, washing the feet of his friends as a servant would do. We learned from Jesus that God loved the world full of sinners, so much that he sent him – Jesus, his only Son – so that we all would have salvation, forgiveness, and eternal life if we only believed in him. We witnessed the power and the compassion of Jesus the human and the divine as he raised his friend, Lazarus, from death to life. We followed along as Jesus rode into Jerusalem with people greeting him with palms waving and shouts of “Hosanna!” We took part in the supper he gave to us as a remembrance of his love and sacrifice for us. Each time we eat the broken bread and drink from the cup we do remember his body and his blood that was given so that we would have forgiveness and eternal life. We watched the horror of Jesus’ suffering and of his dying on the cross. We followed on the pathway to the tomb where they laid his lifeless body. We heard the final slamming of the stone rolled into place, and we felt the hopelessness and finality of death.



But on that morning, while it was still dark, we followed Mary Magdalene into the hush of the garden where she was shocked to find the stone rolled away. She ran back to tell the disciples and we soon saw Peter, and another disciple, racing to the tomb. First one, then the other look in. They see the body gone but the grave clothes lying there, neatly folded, which is amazing. If someone stole the body, why would they take the time to remove the grave clothes and to fold them? Perhaps they began then to remember what Jesus had told them about his rising from the dead. And they ran back to tell the rest of the group what they had seen.

But Mary stayed and cried. And we watched her grief and confusion turn from sorrow into astounding joy as she heard Jesus call her name and suddenly realized who he was.

And isn't that what we too have learned on this pathway to the cross? That the Son of God, sent to redeem the world turns sorrow, sickness, sin and confusion into joy and wholeness and new life? Everywhere we went he transformed people's lives and situations, not to mention their hearts and minds, from darkness to light, from despair to hope, from sorrow to joy, from death to life. All of those lessons are resurrection moments – all along the pathway to the cross – until Jesus himself took all the sin, all the despair, all the darkness unto himself where he died but then was raised to new life; where he conquered the threat of death forever and replaced it with eternal life.

Our key verse for Lent was from Psalm 25:4 that says “Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.” I pray that now that you are on the other side of the cross again, you will look back on the journey and know that Jesus has taught us great lessons about living and being on the paths he takes. And even more so, I pray that you sense that great transformation that he gives in this amazing gift of resurrection, redemption and everlasting life. Yes, even at the grave we make our song: “Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!”

Jesus told Mary to "go and tell ..." Tell the disciples that he is alive. Tell everyone that he lives. Still today, we are asked to spread that great news.

He is alive! He is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Amen!

Peace and Grace,
Rev. Sharlyn

April Anniversaries

Pete & Fran Olson | Apr 3rd | 53 years

Jerry & Charlee Litten | Apr 16th | 54 years

Walt & Barb Brown | Apr 21st | 56 years

Congratulations on so many years together!



Care Team

Quote for the month: *May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.*
Psalm 33:22

I place my hope in you at all times. Help me to never invest myself and my faith in the things of the world.

Pantry Upcoming Dates: Friday, Apr 13th 10:00 a - 12:00 p; Saturday Apr 21st 10:00 a - 12:00 p; Fri Apr 27rd 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, April 22nd. Don't forget to see Nurse Char or Nurse Karen. Your health could depend on it.

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



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

Izabel Batten	April 1st
Jerry Litten	April 12th
Margaret Perry	April 13th
Gerry Jackson	Apr 17th
Cathie Killewald	Apr 18th
Sharlyn Gates	Apr 20th
Broady Cook	Apr 22nd
Kathy Henn	Apr 23rd
Jan Bradshaw	Apr 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

Submitting In-Kind Receipts

Several of you make purchases such as items for the baby pantry or food pantry, Halloween candy, or school supplies. If (and only if) you itemize on your income taxes and want to submit receipts to be included on your giving statements, please do the following:



On your receipt, or an attached piece of paper, add your name, and how the purchased items will be used (baby pantry, school supplies, etc.) Please circle the date of purchase on the receipt, and the items you purchased for the church. Add up the cost of the items (including tax if applicable), and write that down as well.

Place the receipt in your offering envelope or just put your receipt in the offering plate. You do not have to submit your receipts within any specific time of purchase, but it would be helpful if you turned receipts in within a month or two of purchase. However, to be credited properly, everything must be submitted by December 31.

If you have any questions, please talk to any member of the finance team: Laura Parker, Vicki Lyles, Carrie Duncanson, or Bob Killewald.

February Income \$8,449.13 | February Expense \$17,861.43

YTD Income \$15,152.70 | YTD Expenses \$30,810.80

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

A P R I L 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 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

Apr 1st	Easter Sunday
Apr 3rd	Team Meetings 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
Apr 7th	10:00 a - 12:00 p Comfort Circle 9:00 a - 5:00 p Private Event - All upstairs
Apr 8th	10:00 a Fellowship Team Meeting
Apr 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 7:00 p - 8:00 p
Apr 12th	7:00 p AYSO 7:00 p Girl Scouts of SE MI
Apr 13th	10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
Apr 14th	Women's Gathering Westminster in Bay City
Apr 15th	Healthy Check up Bake Sale Newsletter Articles Due
Apr 17th	7:00 p Session Meeting
Apr 21st	10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
Apr 27th	10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry

Our Church Family Prayer Concerns & Joys

- Remember to *pray daily* for this church and our pastor.
- New arrivals:** We welcome John Van Dryer who was born February 20th weighing 8 lbs 10 oz 19 3/4 in long. Proud parents are Paul & Ashley, along with siblings Gibby & Beau Dryer. Also, we welcome Ryett River Bradshaw Ferguson, born on March 7th weighing 7lbs 8 Oz and 20 in long. Proud parents are Liz Bradshaw & Mark Ferguson; grandparents Gordie and Jan Bradshaw. This is the first child for Liz and Mark.
- Strength, renewal, and healing for:** Jan DeHaven Owens, Keaton, Mandie & Hadleigh Banks, Ray Kerton (Jim & Vicki Lyles friend), Lee Demesles (Elizabeth Kicis' daughter-in-law's parent), Beverly Glass (Elizabeth Kici friend's daughter), James Abromitis and Doris Wood (Judy Wood mother) - Friends with Needs, Norm Clement, Dawn Spring (Colleen Spring's niece), Jesse Jones, Kyle & Jessica Elliott, Peggy Ranger, Charlee Litten, Don Colegrove, Linda Voorheis, Linda Kelly, William Woodard (Rev Fred Gates grandson), Dan Nash, and Ken Hecht.
- Peace and comfort for the family of Cari Oldenburg - the Keasey's (friend of Cathie Killewald) and Kim Demesles (Elizabeth Kicis' daughter-in-law's parents).
- God's love, joy, and hope surround the people affected by all recent disasters. *They are not forgotten.*
- Prayers for our members who are home bound or in care facilities.



Pray for Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery

Bruce Graham, husband of Rev Linda Graham (Cass City-First and Cass City-Fraser) who was scheduled to have surgery but it was postponed due to other health issues.

Pam Brackbill and the Rev. Tom Brackbill, Pastor of Alma-First who we have been praying for. Pam has Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease and is under care of Masonic Pathways.

Pray for our missionaries: 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.



Information Technology

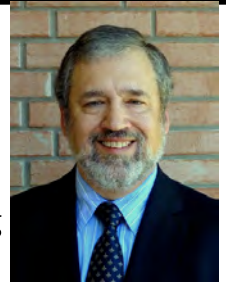
The Sunday Sermon's are now available to you by video or transcript through the Website. Our website is: www.hollypc.org Under Sermon click on "video" or "transcript". Also, there are instructions there about "liking" the sermon(s) and a request to "Subscribe" to the HPC YouTube channel, both very important in terms of encouraging YouTube's algorithms to enhance the search for our channel when someone outside the church is just looking.

Also, there is a new link on our Website that is below the sermons that goes to the electronic giving information. It is another way you can give, especially if you are not at church.

Information Technology team: Jim Lyles, Walt Brown, Brian Parker

From the Lion's Den

At last week's Presbytery meeting I delivered a sermon on the topic "The Cruciform Community" - that is, the church that is shaped by the cross. I have received several requests for the sermon, so I decided to reprint a portion of it here:



A few years back, a psychologist at Yale University put forth "the ladder" as the defining image of our way of life. He discovered that underlying the deep questions of meaning and purpose -- for person after person all over the country -- there is a sense that life is a ladder to be climbed. Somehow, you find your way onto a rung of the ladder -- and then, your purpose in life is to climb as far and as fast as you can. *Success* is reaching the top of the ladder.

As you make your way to the top, at each rung of the ladder, there are certain perks, powers, and privileges. You could call them *advantages*, or maybe *entitlements*. The higher you climb, the greater and more numerous the advantages and entitlements become. It's a compelling image, the ladder of *success*. To understand just how powerful and pervasive it is, consider what has happened to the church. We're not all that different from society at large. We have followed the ladder of success for our endeavors as well.

... The ladder is such an appealing symbol, we are so captive to our culture that it's hard to think of success in terms of any other image than buildings, budgets, baptisms, and beautiful people streaming in and out of our doors.

But, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are not people of the ladder. Our defining image is something far different. We are people of the cross!

The ladder speaks of *upward mobility*. The cross speaks of *downward mobility*. The ladder says, "*Climb.*" The cross says, "*Descend.*" The ladder says, "*Step on whoever gets in the way and push them out of the way.*" The cross says, "*Serve all who are on the way and help them along the way.*" The ladder says, "*Me.*" The cross says, "*You.*"

... In order to be an inside-out church we must also become an upside-down church - a church that divests itself of power and privilege to come alongside and serve those who are on the bottom rung of the ladder. It is a church based not on the ladder, but the cross.

As we head towards Holy Week, we remember that Jesus laid aside divine majesty and chose the cross. As we follow him, let us climb down the ladder, take up our cross, and follow him as the upside-down people of God.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

Comfort Circle

We are in need of any fabric, yarn and sewing notions you might have to give. We are making fidget blankets and arm bracelets for Mission Point. Please put in the tote in the narthex. See Loretta Weiss or Donna DeNise for questions. We meet on the first Saturday of the month, from 10:00 a - 12:00 p. Next meeting is April 7th.



..... Easter Lilies are in Memory of

~ John Miller ~ Len Ranger ~ Clyde & Cathleen, & Doug Clement ~
~ Charles & Ethel Wiethoff ~ Rudy & Bernice Schettling ~ Jene Striggow ~
~Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Call ~ Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Perreault ~
~Matthew Montreuil ~ Alec Ash ~ Iva Pelkey ~
~ Ellen Braun ~ Loma Lyles ~ Ethel Millington ~ Marie Vickery ~
~ Christine Cook ~ Shannon Cook ~ Jack & Jean Fundis ~
~ Gordon & Gladys Bradshaw ~ Aaron & Margaret Ganshaw ~
~ Barbara Buckner ~ William & Mae Gates ~
~ Bruce, Paul, Harriette & Keith Dryer ~



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:

Apr 1st	Dessalee Cook & Charlee Litten
Apr 8th	Kevin Magnuson & Penny Schettling
April 15th	Mary Renico & Fran Olson
Apr 22nd	Colleen Spring & _____
Apr 29th	Pam Remillard & Cathie Killewald



Please look at your calendar and see if you can help on April 22nd.

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

Fellowship Team: Cathie Killewald, Margaret Perry, Beth Dryer, Donna Miller, Colleen Spring, Roberta Single, Elizabeth Kici, Judy Studer, Fran Olson and Mary Renico.

TEAM MEETINGS FOR APRIL

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 April 8th

10:00 a Fellowship Team - back of Fellowship Hall

Team Meeting for April 3rd

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 April 10th

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 April 17th



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