



HPC CONNECTIONS

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 18, ISSUE 5

The Rhythm of the Church

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

This year it seemed like we jumped into Advent and Christmas and, with hardly space to breathe, we found ourselves immersed in Lent. Finally, Easter came and it was glorious! And it was early and cold. In fact most of April was cold. We wondered if spring would ever come this year. Seasons come and seasons go; they flow along just like the church calendar flows as well. Some seasons seem long and some go by too quickly. With the month of May upon us we are praying for warm weather, for green trees and blooming flowers.



And now that those busy liturgical seasons are past, what are we hoping for in the church? How can these coming days compare with the busy, special days of Christmas and Easter? We will soon be changing our colors to green, which is the color we see most of the days of the year in the sanctuary. Green is the color for what the Church calls “Ordinary Time.” And it is fitting because, like life, most of our days are more ordinary than they are big celebrations. Which is good because, as much as we love celebrations, they can be exhausting. The truth is, if every day was a big celebration they would probably stop being that special.

But really, when you think about it, it is in the ordinary times of our lives when we study, we share our friendship and fellowship, we have fun, we have sorrow and grief, we prepare ordinary meals that sustain us, we work, we play, we laugh, we love. We live and we die. When you look at all we do in those ordinary days, they are actually pretty special, aren't they?

Green is the color that represents growth. Grass grows, flowers, plants and trees grow. We grow physically, and hopefully, we are growing each day in our faith and our knowledge of the Bible as we read and study and pray. Our focus isn't necessarily on the birth or resurrection of Christ but on all the messages of the scriptures. On the lessons from Jesus life; on the stories of the Old and New Testament. And there is so much to learn about how the church came alive and grew, how the apostles' were empowered to preach the gospel of salvation through Jesus, and to start churches.

Which brings us to Pentecost. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and suddenly they were empowered to do the work that Christ had commissioned them to do – to go into all the world, baptizing in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the breath of the Church. It is the power that keeps the Church alive, that gives it's members courage and encouragement, perseverance in the face of persecution or simply the threat of becoming extinct. It is the breath of the church that keeps us flowing and growing along in those ordinary times; it is the reason we can read the scriptures and understand the truth that is there. It is the reason the Church is still alive today after more than two thousand years.

So, before we change our colors to green for Ordinary Time, we will celebrate one more very special occasion in the Church – the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Luke tells us that there was a mighty rushing wind and something like tongues of fire that came that day upon the disciples and they began preaching about Jesus to all who were present in each of their own languages (tongues). And Christ's

Church was born!

We celebrate the Season of Pentecost with the color red. We wear red on that day (May 20th) and we have red for our Communion and liturgical cloths.

Let us celebrate with joy the birthday of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit, which gives us life and breath and power; the Spirit that sustains us in special times and in ordinary times. Thanks be to God!

Peace and Grace,

Rev. Sharlyn

May Anniversaries

Bob & Cathie Killewald | May 12th | 28 years

Jack & Cathy Henn | May 17th | 45 years

Broady & Dessalee Cook | May 26th | 34 years

Congratulations on so many years together!



Care Team

Quote for the month: As in **Matthew 25:35-36**, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

May I truly see you in those I will help today. And when I cannot, give me the strength to continue giving. Because even when I am blind to you, You are the one who stands before me asking for more.
Hope Lyda.

Baby Pantry Upcoming Dates: Friday, May 11th 10:00 a - 12:00 p; Saturday May 19th 10:00 a - 12:00 p; Fri May 25th 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, May 20th. Don't forget to see Nurse Char or Nurse Karen. Your health could depend on it.

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.





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

May birthday wishes go out to:

Joie Hecht	May 1st	Keaton Banks	May 18th
Gene Stevens	May 6th	Karen Haneline	May 26th
Gordie Dryer	May 7th	Mason Amory	May 28th
James Duncanson	May 9th	Lisa Martin	May 31st
Beau Dryer	May 10th		
Donna DeNise	May 11th		
Kevin Lyles	May 11th		
Brian Parker	May 11th		
Angel Vliet	May 12th		

Finance Team



Income | March \$10,410.52 | YTD \$28,271.95

Expenses | March \$10,250.74 | YTD \$41,061.54

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

Our Church Family Prayers - Concerns & Joys



- Remember to *pray daily* for this church and our pastor.
- **Strength, renewal, and healing for: Strength, renewal, and healing for:** Melinda Jones (Loretta Weiss cousin), Jeff O'Connor (Ellen Paulson's son-in-law), Don Colegrove, Nathan Prater (nephew of Don & Doris Colegrove), Andy Schram (Julie Parish's son), Norm Clement, Peggy Ranger, Jan DeHaven Owens, Keaton, Hadleigh, Josh & Mandie Banks, Lee Demesles (Elizabeth Kicis' daughter-in-law's parent), Beverly Glass (Elizabeth Kici friend's daughter), Dawn Spring (Colleen Spring's niece), Jesse Jones, Kyle & Jessica Elliott, Linda Voorheis, Linda Kelly, William Woodard (Rev Fred Gates grandson), Dan Nash, and Ken Hecht.
- Peace and comfort for the families of Rod Haneline's father (Karen Haneline's former husband), Doris Wood (Judy Wood's mother) - Friends with Needs.
- 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.
- For our country and its leaders.

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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

- May 1st **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
- May 3rd 7:00 p Girl Scouts of SE MI
- May 5th 10:00 a - 12:00 p Comfort Circle
- May 6th 10:00 a Fellowship Team Meeting
Potluck after Worship
- May 8th **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
- May 10th 7:00 p AYSO
- May 11th 10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
- May 13th 12:00 p Set up for Rummage Sale
- May 14th 10:00 a - 2:00 p Set up for Rummage Sale
- May 15th 10:00 a - 2:00 p Set up for Rummage Sale
5:30 p - 8:30 p Sanctuary Private Event
Newsletter Articles Due
7:00 p Session Meeting
- May 16th 10:00 a - 2:00 p Set up for Rummage Sale
- May 17th 9:00 a - 5:00 p Rummage Sale
- May 18th 9:00 a - 5:00 p Rummage Sale
- May 19th 9:00 a - 12:00 p Rummage Sale
10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
12:00 p - 1:30 p Clean up from Rummage Sale
- May 20th Wear Red for Pentecost Sunday
Healthy Check up

May calendar continued

May 25th	10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
May 27th	Trinity Sunday
June 3rd	10:00 a Worship - Summer Hours Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyterian Preaching Senior Recognition with Reception

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 May 5th.



Pray for Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery

Bruce Graham, husband of the Rev. Linda Graham, Pastor of Cass City-First and Cass City-Fraser who is recovering from recent surgery and has developed an infection.

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.

Pam Brackbill and the Rev. Tom Brackbill, Pastor of Alma-First who has Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease.

Peace and comfort to the family of the Rev Ken Anderson who passed in April.



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

Yesterday (Tuesday, April 24th), the Presbytery took a small but significant step towards becoming more fully the inside-out, upside-down people of God in our region. At a special meeting called for this purpose, we concurred with an overture to the upcoming meeting of the General Assembly directing our church to respond to environmental racism.



It is a small step because our action did not require much from us. The overture, which originated in the Presbytery of Monmouth (central New Jersey) consists of only three requests, that the church:

1. Take action to respond to environmental racism in all its forms.
2. Listen to the perspectives and voices of people most impacted by environmental racism.
3. In accordance with the Gospel, position the church's approach to environmental problems to include responses to the voices most directly impacted by environmental racism.

These are just words. They alone won't change the lives affected by poisoned tap water, or by exposure to lead and asbestos in crumbling buildings, or by historic policies that made it impossible to buy homes in communities away from toxic waste or other industrial hazards.

They aren't even our own words. They are words proclaimed by another group in our church - a group with a different set of problems and concerns than ours. They are good words, but we are only adopting them, instead of raising them ourselves from our own experiences of solidarity with our own impacted church members and neighbors.

But it is nevertheless a significant step, because for the first time in many, many years, our presbytery is bearing a formal, public witness regarding one of the most significant issues in our region. It is a significant step because we who in so many ways have turned our backs toward those who disproportionately have suffered from our public policies have now turned our faces toward them and moved in their direction.

A term coined only in 1981, "environmental racism" describes "the disproportionate burden of environmental problems that people of color take on. People of color are more likely to live in areas more exposed to pollutants in the air, ground, and water. Environmental catastrophes, such as floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes, disproportionately impact people of color, as these communities are more likely to live in substandard housing and within floodplains. And people of color generally have fewer resources to escape environmental disasters." (from the rationale of the overture)

While the overture directs its focus on issues with the Port of New Jersey, the most significant example of environmental racism this century has taken place in our own bounds - the Flint Water Crisis. By concurring with this overture, our voice will be heard by the Assembly as it considers this overture; which means that the voices of the affected residents of Flint will also be heard.

Will our concurrence change the lives of the affected residents of Flint? Not likely; but it can start to change *us*. We can start to learn more about how to love our neighbors; how to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." It can lead us to a more humble and compassionate posture as individuals and communities of faith. It might even help us to recognize our own complicity, not only in environmental racism, but in the hundreds of ways we contribute to racism and racial injustice - one of which has been by our silence. Until now.

Environmental racism isn't the only issue worthy of our attention, but it is one that most of us can recognize and agree demands a response in our time and place. The great reformer Martin Luther said 500 years ago, "If you preach the Gospel in all aspects with the exception of the issues which deal specifically with your time you are not preaching the Gospel at all."

You can read the overture here: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000297>.

It is a small step, but a significant one. So let's keep walking.

Faithfully, Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter, dsaperstein@presbylh.org

Spring Rummage Sale/Bake Sale

Our annual Rummage Sale/Bake Sale will be Thursday May 17th & 18th from 9:00 a - 5:00 p and Saturday May 19th 9:00 a - 12:00 p.

Cleanup will follow which usually takes about an hour with help.

Please bring your Spring/Summer items in starting

Sunday May 13th. Then again Monday May 14th thru Wednesday May 16th from 10:00 a - 2:00 p.

Please bring in your baked goods on Wednesday May 16th.

Thank you!

Cathie Killewald



Fellowship Team

- **Fellowship Team** Meeting on Sunday May 6th at 10:00 a in the back of the Fellowship Hall.
- **Join us on May 6th for a potluck after worship.** Please bring a dish to pass and your tableware.



Fellowship & Coffee meets at 10:30 a during Children's Sunday School.

Coffee & Snack Volunteers for the month of May are:

May 6th Mary Renico & Donna DeNise

May 13th

May 20th Loretta Weiss

May 27th

Please see if you can help on the 13th, 20th, & 27th.



- June 3rd we will have a reception after worship for our Senior Recognition.
- Thank you to all who have made coffee, treats and cleanup. We appreciate you!

Thank you,

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

TEAM MEETINGS FOR MAY

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. All are welcome.

Team Meeting for May 6th

10:00 a Fellowship Team - back of Fellowship Hall

Team Meeting for May 1st

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 May 8th

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 May 15th



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