



# HPC CONNECTIONS

JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 18, ISSUE 6

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## Ordinary Time ... Reflections From Your Pastor

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24*

So here we are. What a journey we have been on since last fall! We jumped into Advent, had a joyous Christmas and before we knew it, Lent and Easter was upon us. There was hardly a break between one observance to the next. And on May 20th, we celebrated the birthday of Christ's Church with the coming of the powerful Holy Spirit and ended the month with Trinity Sunday as we gave thanks for the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Now with June here, we go back to what the liturgical calendar calls *Ordinary Time*. After all the big celebrations that sounds kind of ... well ... ordinary, doesn't it? I know, I wrote some about it just last month, but now that it's here, let's think about it a little, shall we?

I'm actually very thankful for Ordinary Time. I think our Worship Team is, as well. We have a little bit of a break with not so much to plan for a while. There are no big things to consider – things like where to put the lilies, or where to put the décor, or the cloth, on the big cross; what songs will we sing for these special days; what might we have to hand out as a memorable token, etc. No. For a little while now, for summer, we will just go back to being ordinary.

That doesn't mean we won't plan worship with excellence. We always want to do our very best in worship. It doesn't mean we don't need to come to worship. We should keep our commitment to worship strong and consistent.

The thing is, our liturgical color for Ordinary Time is green, which reminds us of new growth. But we are taking a break from Sunday School and Bible Study so we have to concentrate, to put a little more effort into making sure we are growing in this time. If we don't attend worship and read our Bibles, our devotional books, and study at home, how will we grow?

So, here is what I think I will do for this summer of Ordinary Time. I will use my blog site to post the upcoming Sunday's Scriptures and theme so you can go there and read and use those tools to do your own reading and study. If you are so inclined you could journal and look up questions you have. You could comment on my blog site and ask questions, or give your thoughts. All those things will be a help to me as I think about the message God is giving me for that Sunday. And will keep me writing more regularly. I really want to encourage you to participate in this with me. Go online to

[www.sharlyndgates.com](http://www.sharlyndgates.com)

I also want you to know that June is not completely ordinary. On June 3rd, we will be honored to welcome our Executive Presbyter, the Rev. Dr. Dan Saperstein, who will be worshipping with us that day. I will be in worship as well, but Dan likes to visit the congregations in the presbytery and is looking forward to meeting you and preaching the Word. I sincerely hope you will come and meet Dan and hear what he has to say.

I will be gone the week of June 16-23 to General Assembly (G.A.) in St. Louis, MO. I have been elected and will be commissioned to go as the Clergy Commissioner for the Presbytery of Lake Huron. Please pray for me as I take seriously my role at this G.A.

Remember that even in our ordinary days God can use us, speak to us, grow us and call us to new service. Are your ears open? Listen, for the Holy Spirit is always at work, maybe especially in Ordinary Time.

Peace and Grace,

Rev. Sharlyn

### June Anniversaries

Shaun & Michele Hardimon | June 1 st | 20 years

Gordie & Jan Bradshaw | June 21st | 44 years

Congratulations and God Bless you on so many years together!



### Care Team

**Quote for the month: Full of Grace** *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:5-6*

**Baby Pantry Upcoming Dates:** Friday, June 8th 10:00 a - 12:00 p; Saturday June 16th 10:00 a - 12:00 p; Fri June 22nd 10:00 a - 12:00 p.

**Baby Needs:** We are in need of baby shampoo, baby wash, baby wipes, diaper cream and baby lotion. 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, June 17th. Don't forget to see Nurse Char or Nurse Karen. Your health could depend on it.

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

### Come join us on **Memorial Day**

as we will be out in front of our church handing out small bottles of water to the parade participants. It will be a fun way to be more visible in the community. Parade starts at 9:30 a on



Come and show your patriotism!

**Remembering with gratitude those who sacrificed for our freedom.**





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

### June birthday wishes go out to:

Desiree Cook	June 1st	Ellie Goldsmith	June 25th
Fred Gates	June 6th	Janet Lyles	June 25th
Cora McDonald	June 6th	Charlene Clement	June 26th
Larry Remillard	June 12th	Reisa Hamilton	June 28th
Laurie Herrgott	June 22nd	Hadleigh Banks	June 30th
Marissa Cook	June 23rd		
Sara Goldsmith	June 23rd		
Elizabeth Kici	June 23rd		
Carol Ohlmacher	June 24th		

## Finance Team



**Income** | April \$11,338.37 | YTD \$39,610.32

**Expenses** | April \$12,308.50 | YTD \$53,370.04

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:** Jeff O'Connor (Ellen Paulson's son-in-law), Caroline Lucido (Brian Parker's sister), Peggy Ranger, Denny & Jan Owens, Penny Schettling, Sherry Duncanson (Carrie Duncanson's mother-in-law), Don Colegrove, Nathan Prater (nephew of Don & Doris Colegrove), Andy Schram (Julie Parish's son), Norm Clement, Keaton, Hadleigh, Josh & Mandie Banks, Lee Demesles (Elizabeth Kici's daughter-in-law's parent), Beverly Glass (Elizabeth Kici friend's daughter), Dawn Spring (Colleen Spring's niece), Linda Voorheis, Linda Kelly, William Woodard (Rev Fred Gates grandson), and Ken Hecht.
- Peace and comfort for the families of Dan Nash and Melinda Jones (Loretta Weiss cousin).
- For God's love and hope to surround the victims, students, their parents and faculty of Santa Fe High School in Texas;
- For our country, its leaders and for world peace in a troubled time;
- Prayers for our members who are home bound or in care facilities.
- For our country and its leaders.
- For those who are suffering from natural disasters.



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### Regular Weekly Events

#### Sunday

10:00 a Worship

3:00 p AA

#### Monday

7:30 p AA & Alanon

#### Tuesday thru Thursday

12:00 p - 3:00 p Friends with Needs



### Schedule of Additional Events

Jun 2nd	10:00 a - 12:00 p Comfort Circle
Jun 3rd	10:00 a Worship - Rev Dr Dan Saperstein Senior Recognition with Reception after <b>Fellowship Team Meeting - all are invited</b>
Jun 5th	<b>Team Meetings - all are invited</b> Worship 6:30 p - 7:30 p Information Technology 7:00 p - 8:00 p Personnel 7:00 p - 7:30 p
Jun 8th	10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
Jun 12th	<b>Team Meetings all are invited</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
Jun 14th	7:00 p AYSO
Jun 15th	July & August Newsletter Articles Due
Jun 16th	10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
Jun 17th	Healthy Check up
Jun 19th	2:00 p - 3:00 p Sen David Robertson & Rep Joe Graves here
Jun 22nd	10:00 a - 12:00 p Baby Pantry
Jun 26th	7:00 p Session Meeting

## Neighborhood Block Party -

After some discussion at the May Session meeting the decision was made to **cancel the Block Party**. Session feels there are not enough people to be able to make it a success and it would be too costly. Thank you to all who have participated in some of the planning.

## Comfort Circle

Comfort Circle had their work blessed on Sunday May 13, 2018.

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 June 2nd. We will then take a summer break and return in the fall.



## 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

Find what you need on line:

**Presbytery of Lake Huron** <http://www.presbylh.org/>

**The Presbyterian Church (USA)** <http://www.pcusa.org>

**Holly Presbyterian Church** <http://www.hollypc.org>

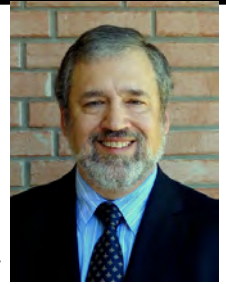
**Rev. Sharlyn's Blog** <http://www.SharlynDGates.com>

**Worship Video on YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCy06Ql2s8k>



## From the Lion's Den

In this season I have been exploring dimensions of what it means to become an "upside-down" church. Following the model of Christ in Philippians 2, an upside-down church empties itself of privilege, inverts the social ladder, and adopts the role of a servant.



This is a necessary shift not only in mission but in our internal power structures as well. The upcoming General Assembly being held in mid-June in St. Louis will be a test as to whether the PCUSA has the courage and will to begin this transformation in its own power structures. In that regard it may be the most significant Assembly of the century for the future of the church. This Assembly will receive reports from three task forces charged with addressing the future mission of the denomination:

- *The Way Forward Commission* was charged with finding ways to bring our denominational structures in line with the new realities of shrinking membership and declining finances.
- *The Vision 20/20 Task Force* will make an initial report on its charge to present a new mission statement and direction for the denomination's public profile.
- *The All-Agency Review Committee* will issue its once-every-six-years report on how our General Assembly agencies collaborate for the good of the church and its mission.

But much of the energy at the upcoming Assembly will be focused on a proposal to raise the General Assembly portion of the per capita assessment by 39% in 2019 and another 7% in 2020, an increase of nearly \$4.00 per member. Per capita assessments fund the administrative costs of operating our church agencies and holding the biennial General Assembly. Presbyteries are required to pay the assessment in full, based on their total membership. A presbytery may pass the expense on to its churches together with a per capita assessment for its own operation.

The problem is that many churches do not have the available resources to add \$4 per member to their denominational support without decreasing mission giving proportionally. This is the opposite direction from an "inside-out, upside-down" church. There are many good reasons why the per capita budget must increase (it has been kept artificially low for a decade) - but what is disappointing about this increase is that it represents a failure of missional imagination and adaptive leadership.

The same is true of the three task force reports coming to the Assembly - at a time when bold vision is needed, for the most part their recommendations are designed to maintain the status quo rather than chart a new direction. We face challenges that cannot be met with technical fixes. If the challenge is defined as "How does the PCUSA fulfill the mission of Christ in a post-Christendom, post-denominational society?" Then I think the model of mission and governance would need to change:

- Change the model of a "congregation" to discipleship and mission communities
- Change the model of "minister" to discipleship and mission leader. Give greater latitude to adapting standards locally by presbytery.
- Move away from a membership model (and membership based funding model) to a model based on a shared commitment to mission
- Shift the function of the national church (if one is needed) from serving institutions to serving mission
- Ground our connectional life in commitment to shared principles and mission goals, not shared laws (what organizational leaders call a "centered-set" model, as opposed to a "bounded-set" model)
- Allow maximal local interpretation of mission priorities

## From the Lion's Den Concluded

This would lead to some structural changes, but the form would follow function. For example, it might lead to smaller presbyteries where executive leadership would not be required; the reduction of synod functions to administrative and judicial review; a rethinking of the property trust clause; and restructuring national offices to support congregations and grassroots mission networks.

The result would be a leaner, bottom-up model of mission and governance for a post-denominational society, while preserving core Presbyterian values. I doubt that will happen at this Assembly, but it is a direction in which we need to head if we are to become the inside-out, upside-down church for our time.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter, [dsaperstein@presbylh.org](mailto:dsaperstein@presbylh.org)

### Graduation 2018 - Emily Elizabeth Martin

Daughter of Lisa Martin. Emily is graduating from Holly High School.

Emily has been active in NHS, Rho Kappa, NTHS, Science Olympiad and at her church. She is going to go to Alma College in the fall to study Biochemistry. A Senior Recognition will be held on Sunday

June 3rd.

*Congratulations, Emily!*

### New Directories

The new directory has been completed! You can get a your copy in the narthex. If we run out, please contact the office.



### Fellowship Team

- **Fellowship Team** Meeting on Sunday June 3rd after church in the back of the Fellowship Hall.



- 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 JUNE**

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 June 3rd**

10:00 a Fellowship Team - back of Fellowship Hall

**Team Meeting for June 5th**

Worship 6:30 p - 7:30 p

Christian Education Not Meeting

Personnel 7:00 p - 7:30 p

Information Technology 7:00p - 8:00p

**Team Meeting for June 12th**

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 June 26th

**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**

| Christian Ed. Team |

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