



HPC CONNECTIONS

JULY/AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 18, ISSUE 7

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 we will 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

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

July/August Anniversaries

July 17th | Tim & Linda Burns | 47 years

July 23rd | Jim & Roberta Single | 52 years

July 25th | Brian & Laura Parker | 31 years

August 21st | Rick & Margaret Perry | 36 years

Congratulations and God Bless you on so many years together!



Care Team

Quote for the month: *Where does love begin? In our homes. When does it begin? When we pray together.*

I am asked what is one to do to be sure one is following the way of salvation. I answer: "Love God. And above all, pray." **Mother Theresa**

Baby Pantry: Upcoming dates when the Baby Pantry is open: Fri, July 13th; Sat July 21st; Fri July 27th ; Fri Aug 10th; Sat, Aug 18th; Fri Aug 24th, all from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

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, July 15th and August 19th. Don't forget to see Nurse Char or Nurse Karen. Your health could depend on it.

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

Worship in the Park

Join us this year at Lakeside Park on July 15th at 10 am at the Pavilion. We will have Worship and then food of course!



The church will furnish hot dogs, buns, condiments, lemonade, and water. Please bring a dish to pass, your own table service, and a lawn chair if you wish.



July/August birthday wishes go out to:

Sherry McLaughlin	July 2nd	Helen McNamara	Aug 11th
Jennifer Chanter	July 17th	Patrick Weiss	Aug 19th
Beau Dryer	July 19th	Dale Huffman	Aug 29th
Toni Duncanson	July 19th	Mandie Banks	Aug 31st
Jim Lyles	July 23rd		
Ryan Shiel	July 25th		
Peggy Ranger	July 29th		
Janis Dorsey	Aug 7th		
Pete Olson	Aug 9th		
Randy Cook	Aug 11th		

**God Bless you all on your
special day!**

Norm Clement - Has been moved back to Heartland Heath Care-Briarwood. He has a different room number (506 Bed B). New labels are in the Narthex in an envelope for your convenience. His temporary address is:

Heartland Health Care - Briarwood
Norm Clement Room, 506 Bed B
3011 N. Center Road
Flint, MI 48506

We know he would love to hear from you!

Finance Team

Income May \$ 9,017.77 | YTD \$48,628.09
Expenses May \$10,925.44 | YTD \$64,295.48



Finance Team Thoughts

In the interest of keeping all of our members totally informed about our financial status we are coming forward with the following information.

We are approaching a point when we will be unable to meet our overhead responsibility. This will require us to make critical decisions for our financial future. All ideas will need to be on the table.

We all love our little church and as member we will all need to earnestly pray and ask God to help us motivate our church to step-up with either ideas to increase our income, or to help us all increase our own generosity; whichever God wants us to do.

God will provide a solution for us if we just ask and believe.

Thank you for your prayers.

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

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Regular Weekly Events

Sunday

10:00 am Worship

3:00 pm AA

Monday

7:30 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday thru Thursday

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

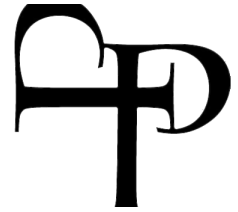


Schedule of Additional Events

July 3rd	Team Meeting- all are invited 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Worship All others cancelled
July 4th	Holiday - church office closed
July 10th	Team Meetings- all are invited 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Finance 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Outreach 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Property
July 12th	7:00 pm AYSO
July 13th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
July 14th	11:00 am Dan Nash Memorial Service w/luncheon
July 15th	10:00 am Worship in the Park Healthy Check up
July 21st	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
July 27th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Aug 7th	Team Meetings- all are invited 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Information Technology 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Personnel
Aug 9th	7:00 pm AYSO
Aug 10th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Aug 14th	Team Meetings- all are invited 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Finance 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Care 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Outreach 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Property
Aug 18th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Aug 21st	7:00 pm Session Meeting
Aug 26th	Fellowship Team Meeting following worship
Aug 28th	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Attorney General office Speaker - Nancy Burgeson
Sep 2nd	10:00 am Worship - Last Sunday Summer hours

The Parish Paper - *Ideas and Insights for Active Congregations*

Grab your copy of The Parish Paper. You can download it as you did the this Newsletter where you see: [July](#) [August](#) or get a hard copy on the table in the Narthex.



Acting in faith

Food Pantry: In support of the important work being done in the community by our brothers & sisters in Christ at the First Baptist Church of Holly, we continue to collect non-perishable food for their Food Pantry. Place items in the collection tote in the Narthex. Thank you for your support.

Great Lakes Scrip Program - Support our church by buying your gift cards from HPC. If you have any questions please see Vicki. Thanks for your support! **July & August Dates:** Card orders placed on **July 1st and August 5th**, are available for pick up on **July 8th and August 12th**.

Do you shop on Amazon? If so, please sign up on Amazon Smile. You can select Holly Presbyterian Church as your organization. Then shop as usual. A part of the proceeds will come to us. It doesn't cost you anything! It is that easy!

Recycle - Please bring in your ink cartridges and batteries. We can turn some of them into cash for office supplies.

Pray for Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery

- Pam Brackbill wife of Rev Tom Brackbill, Pastor of Alma-First who is dealing with Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease. She is in the care of Masonic Pathways.
- **Mission Co-Workers** - The Rev Cathy Chang and family who are serving in the Philippines. Michael & Rachel Ludwig who are serving in Niger.
- **Our Missionaries** - Colby & Sarah Keefer & family in Ypsilanti (Athletes in Action), and Allen & Sarah Keefer & family in Spain



Information Technology

Find what you need on line:

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

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

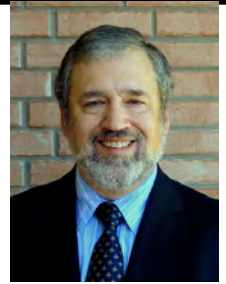
Holly Presbyterian Church <http://www.hollypc.org>

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

Worship Video on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCy06QI2s8k>

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

From the Lion's Den



The 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) starts on Saturday in Saint Louis. The issues of sexuality, marriage, and ordination have run their course and been resolved in true Presbyterian fashion (by granting sessions and presbyteries the authority to determine their own practices). Now the energy in the denomination has moved to other matters. This year, much of that energy is focused on the future of the denomination in an age of shrinking membership and fewer dollars.

In a previous column, I spoke of a significant proposed increase in General Assembly per capita rate, totaling nearly \$4 per member over the next two years. I am pleased to report a change in the proposal that represents some marginal improvement. The original request of a two-year increase of 48% has been pared back to about 21% - a total of \$1.62. The good news is that it will postpone major impact on congregations and presbyteries. The bad news is that it virtually guarantees at least another round of 10% annual increases in the next biennium.

The compromise may take enough edge off the issue to drop it from the number two spot in my pre-assembly listing of top issues being considered. As you will notice, the list is dominated by issues of internal structure and denominational identity.

10. Changes in the General Assembly rules proposed by the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly. These include limiting access to committees and giving greater discretion to the Stated Clerk.
9. Proposed changes to the Rules of Discipline. The Rules of Discipline are being comprehensively revised. Several overtures seek to amend them prior to the rewrite, including lowering the standard of proof for conviction in disciplinary cases.
8. Whether to establish sexual and gender identity as a representational (protected) category in the church. This could potentially affect promises made when ordination standards were changed ensuring local determination of fitness for service.
7. A call for an administrative commission to address allegations of disorder in the Synod of the Covenant(which includes our presbytery). The synod is contesting the request which has been submitted by five of the eleven presbyteries.
6. Middle East issues. If it's General Assembly, we will be debating Israel and Palestine.
5. Trust clause erosion: An overture seeks to limit the applicability of the "property trust clause" of the denomination.
4. Restructure of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board. Their request would shrink the size of the Board and increase the power of the Board over the agency.
3. G.A. per capita assessment increase (dropped from #1). The looming financial crisis at the national level comes home to roost.
2. Fossil fuels divestment. This is the third time this request to withdraw denominational investments in some 130 corporations doing business in fossil fuels has come to the Assembly. Forty concurring presbyteries square off against the denomination's policy on Mission Responsibility through Investment.
1. The "Way Forward" for the PCUSA. Three major reports trying to chart a new course for our future come before a single standing committee (which I will advise on behalf of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution). Will we embark on a new course or stay as we are, only smaller.

There are many other, more exciting proposals coming to the Assembly, including the overture on environmental racism with which we concurred. We will also elect new moderator(s) and enjoy uplifting

From the Lion's Den Concluded

worship and bible study, but these are the issues generating the greatest "buzz."

Our commissioners to the Assembly are teaching elder [Sharlyn Gates](#) of [Holly](#) and ruling elder [Jacob Bennett](#) of [Bay City Westminster](#). You can follow my reports from General Assembly at my blog, *An Insider's Guide to the 223rd General Assembly* (<http://ga223.blogspot.com>). I will be posting as often as my schedule permits, usually once a day.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

OUR PRAYERS, CONCERNS AND JOYS:

- Remember to *pray daily* for this church and our pastor.
- Strength, renewal, and healing for:** Linda Voll (Karen Haneline's friend), Mandie, Keaton, Hadleigh, & Josh Banks, Norm Clement, Jeff O'Connor (Ellen Paulson's son-in-law), Caroline Lucido (Brian Parker's sister), Peggy Ranger, Denny & Jan Owens, Penny Schettling, Don Colegrove, Nathan Prater (nephew of Don & Doris Colegrove), 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.
- For our members who are home bound, or in care facilities;
- For those serving, or who have served, in our military;
- For those who are suffering from natural disasters;
- For our country, its leaders and for world peace in a troubled time;



Fellowship Team

- Fellowship Team** Meeting on Sunday August 26th after church in the back of the Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday July 15th is Worship in the Park.**

Please bring a dish to pass, and your table service. We will provide the hot dogs, condiments, lemonade and water.

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 JULY/AUGUST

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 only August 26th

10:00 am Fellowship Team - back of Fellowship Hall

Team Meeting for July 3rd/August 7th

Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Christian Education **Not Meeting**

Personnel 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm - **August only**

Information Technology 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - **August only**

Team Meeting for July 10th/August 14th

Finance 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Care 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm - **August only**

Outreach 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Property 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Session meets **only August 21st**



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

vacant | 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