



HPC CONNECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 18, ISSUE 9

The Adventure Begins

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. Genesis 12:1-2

When Abram (later named Abraham by God) heard the voice of God, calling him to set out with his immediate family, his servants and his livestock, and to leave everything that was familiar – his kinfolk, his home, his land – for something that was unknown, guess what he did? He had faith, and he went! And he was an old man. And his wife, Sarai was an old woman. I mean OLD. As in close to 100! Well, they were actually in their 70's when they first set out. Okay, so maybe not so old yet. Little did he know they would have their first child at the age of 100! Living in the desert. In a tent. What???

Why? Why in the world would a couple in their 70's set out on an adventure into the unknown, leaving the comforts and security of what they had always known; leaving their relatives and home, to do this crazy adventure? Well, the only possible answer is that they heard the sweet voice of the Spirit of God wooing them – calling them to go in faith. They were inspired by this God who calls, and they somehow trusted that God would show them the way and would truly bless them and make them a blessing, as promised.

Did Abram and Sarai do everything right? Did they hear and follow exactly what God was saying? Did their adventure go just as God planned all the time? No way. They had many adventures on the way. They made some mammoth mistakes and they got themselves into some trouble a few times too. They had many ups and downs, much discouragement at times, but they didn't give up. They kept trusting and learning and trying new things. They wandered in the desert and they wondered what God was doing. But they kept going, step by step in faith that God was truly leading them, even into the unknown. What an adventure it was! And God did keep His promise to bless and make Abram a great nation.

Well, Church, we too are called to an adventure! We have already left the unknown and we are off the map, trying new things, faithfully continuing to answer the call that Spirit has given us. Like Lewis and Clark, we have believed our journey would be one way and we find instead, huge mountains to cross. We don't know what's on the other side and we don't know what will happen on the way. It's an exploring expedition to be the Church today. It is actually exciting to see what is on the horizon.



This fall, we are starting our programs with the theme of Adventure and Exploring. We will start with Abram and Sarai and with Lewis and Clark. We will be courageous and brave as we start this new adventure. Like Abram and Sarai, we will have familiar comforts with us – we have each other, we have our beautiful old church building, and we have our map – the Holy Bible.

But I want to invite and encourage you to begin this adventure as the Church – looking for new things that God is calling us to. Exploring new ways that we can do ministry, ways to reach out to the community, ways to help those who do not know Christ, to come to that wonderful relationship with Him that we have. That has always been the mission of the Church. God may be trying to nudge us out of our comfort zone, to call us to a new adventure so we can accomplish the mission of reaching others.

Be not afraid. We go together on this adventure. Best of all, God is in the lead. Let's go!

Rev. Sharlyn

September Anniversaries

Jim & Vicki Lyles | Sept 15th | 39 years

Josh & Mandie Banks | Sept 25th | 8 years

Tim & Sherry McLaughlin | Sept 28th | 33 years

Congratulations and God Bless you on so many years together!



Norm Clement - has moved to Mission Point, 313 Sherwood St, Holly, MI 48442. He is in Room 131. This is the old Holly Convalescent Center in the Airport Subdivision. Let's pray that the next address is home!



Orientation to the Adventure!

Make sure you come to church on Sunday, September 16th. There will be a presentation during and after Worship. You won't want to miss it!

Sunday, September 23rd come to start *the Adventure*.

We will begin **The Adventure** with Adult Sunday School at 9:30 am in the Community Room. Barb Brown is teaching.

Children's Sunday School will be from 11 am -12 pm in the Gathering Place (during worship). Charlee Litten is the head teacher.

Men's & Women's Bible Study will begin on **Wednesday, September 19th** at 7pm .

A daytime study on Revelation will be coming.
Date and time tbd.





September birthday wishes go out to:

Linda Burns	Sept 2nd	Anderson Muenzer	Sept 12th
Carlee Muenzer	Sept 8th	Loretta Weiss	Sept 20th
Bob Killewald	Sept 12th	Gladys Havenstein	Sept 22nd (she will be 103 years old!!)
Allison Muenzer	Sept 12th	Bronwyn Cook	Sept 25th

God Bless you all on your special day!

Care Team

Quote for the month: *For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you. 2 Corinthians 2:4*

Lord grant me a portion of your heart for others. I do not always know what needs a person has or what sorrows he or she holds inside. Give me your eyes to notice such things. It is easy to distance myself from the hurt of a stranger or even the struggles of friends or family who do not speak out. Give me a love so deep that it forgives, it covers, it embraces, and it protects the people you bring into my life.

Baby Pantry: Upcoming dates when the Baby Pantry is open: Fri, Sept 14th; Sat Sept 22nd; Fri Sept 28th 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, September 16th. Don't forget to see Nurse Char or Nurse Karen. Your health could depend on it.

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

Finance Team

Income	July \$10,526.51 YTD \$75,706.58
Expenses	July \$ 9,895.88 YTD \$84,653.90



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



Clean up Saturday will be Saturday September 15th from 9 am - 3 pm. Pizza will be provided for lunch. Randy will be posting a list of jobs to be done. Please bring any tools you have and check off his list that you plan on doing that job.

Regular Weekly Events

The Adventure Begins!!!

THE ADVENTURE ...Where will we go?

Sunday

9:30 am Adult Sunday School - **Starts** September 23rd
 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee - **Starts** September 9th
 11:00 am Worship - **Starts** September 9th
 3:00 pm AA

Monday

7:30 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday thru Thursday

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

Wednesday

7:00 pm Men's & Women's Bible Study - **Starts** September 19th



Schedule of Additional Events

Sept 2nd	10:00 am Worship - Last Sunday for Summer Hours No Fellowship Team Meeting
Sept 3rd	Labor Day
Sept 4th	Team Meetings-all are invited to attend 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Outreach 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Information Technology 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Personnel 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Property 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Christian Education
Sept 9th	10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee 11:00 am Worship - Resume Fall & Winter Hours
Sept 11th	Team Meetings-all are invited to attend 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Care 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Property 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Finance
Sept 14th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Sept 15th	Newsletter Articles Deadline 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Clean up Day
Sept 16th	11:00 am Worship - Orientation to the Adventure
Sept 18th	10:00 am Freedom Works (FH) 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Friends with Needs (FH) 7:00 pm Session
Sept 19th	7:00 pm Men's & Women's Bible Study
Sept 22nd	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Sept 23rd	The Adventure Begins!!! ...9:30 am Adult Sunday School (CR) ...10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee ...11:00 am Children's Sunday School (Gathering Place) ...11:00 am Worship
Sept 26th	12:00 pm Holly/Davisburg Administrative Assts. Meet
Sept 28th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry



The Outreach Team would like to thank everyone for their donation for the Back to School. It was a great success.

Donna

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! **September Dates:** Card orders placed on **Sept 2nd**, are available for pick up on **Sept 9th**.

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

See both Lobst & Keefer's latest Newsletter by double clicking on [lobst](#) & [Keefer](#) at the beginning of the email.



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=ui1K-V0SR6I>

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

From the Lion's Den



The news headlines on Tuesday were sickening: a Pennsylvania grand jury issued a accusing six Roman Catholic dioceses (their equivalent of a presbytery) of covering up child abuse by over 300 priests affecting over a thousand known victims and unknown thousands of others over a period of seventy years. The incidents of abuse are horrific, and many will never be adjudicated or compensated because of the statutes of limitations and the deaths of accused priests. But the report also focuses on the actions of the dioceses in failing to discipline offenders, in covering up the offenses, relocating offenders to other dioceses, and failing to care for victims. The report notes improvement over the past fifteen years, but the problem persists.

Sexual abuse by clergy and other church leaders is a very real concern for all denominations. Any sexual misconduct is contrary to both our morals and ethics. Sexual abuse violates a trust relationship and targets vulnerable members for personal pleasure or gain. It is a rejection of the gospel itself.

I want to take this opportunity to do two things: first, to help our readers understand what protections and processes are used in the Presbytery of Lake Huron to minimize and address incidents of sexual abuse, and secondly, to open a conversation about past incidents in our presbytery that may not have been addressed appropriately. One thing the Pennsylvania report indicates is that it is never too late to bring justice and healing.

The Presbytery is proactive in addressing potential sexual abuse in the following ways:

- No person is permitted to practice ministry within our presbytery without having submitted to and passed a 50-state criminal background check.
- All clergy are required to participate in regular Boundary Training events (see the announcement for the upcoming event in this Bi-weekly Brief). Those who fail to do so will not be allowed to seek new positions in the church.
- Persons who have been convicted of any form of sexual misconduct in the church and have been restored to ministry must state this fact on their information forms, which must be attested by the stated clerk of the presbytery before it is circulated. In addition, all persons being considered for ministry positions from other presbyteries are subject to confidential executive-to-executive reference checks to identify issues that might not have risen to the level of a conviction.
- We have a robust Sexual Misconduct Policy which applies to all ministers and Commissioned Ruling Elders in the presbytery, as well as all Presbytery staff. It is available on our presbytery website. It is scheduled for review and amendment in the near future.
- All sessions are required to adopt both a Sexual Misconduct Policy governing persons who are accountable to the session (both volunteers and paid staff), as well as a Child and Youth Protection Policy setting forth requirements for screening, reporting, and training of persons working with children and youth, as well as policies and practices to help prevent abuse (such as two-adult rules, worker-child ratios, and auto safety policies).

It is our commitment as a presbytery to ensure the safety of all persons in our churches and to take seriously every allegation of sexual misconduct or abuse so that each is fully investigated and offenders are disciplined. We recognize that this has not always been the practice in past decades, and there are undoubtedly many instances of misconduct that may never have been reported. It is my intent to help bring healing and justice to those who were victimized by sexual misconduct in our presbytery

From the Lion's Den Concluded

regardless of when it occurred. There is no statute of limitations in our Rules of Discipline for instances of sexual abuse (D-10.0401). Even if formal discipline is not feasible, bringing to light what has been kept in the shadows can help heal both individuals and congregations.

May our presbytery be a place where all persons may worship and serve confident of their safety and of the integrity of their pastoral leaders.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

OUR PRAYERS, CONCERNS AND JOYS:

- Remember to *pray daily* for this church and our pastor.
- Jordan & Nicole Howe are having a girl! Grandma Kathleen is very excited and so are we!! Congratulations everyone!! Michael Spring (Colleen's son) retired after 31 years with Michigan State Police as a Sargent Detective. Congratulations Michael!!
- **Strength, renewal, and healing for:** Linda Burns, Ben (from Physical Therapy-Elizabeth Kici & Sherry), Jan Owens (Rev Sharlyn's sister), Julia Belyayeva-Hull, Norm Clement, Diane Scubiak (step granddaughter of Elizabeth Kici), Tammy Vally & Richard Perkins (both are neighbors of Elizabeth Kici), Joan Davis, Cathie Killewald, Linda Voll (Karen Haneline's friend), Mandie, Keaton, Hadleigh, & Josh Banks, Caroline Lucido (Brian Parker's sister), Peggy Ranger, Denny &, Beverly Glass (Elizabeth Kici friend's daughter), Dawn Spring (Colleen Spring's niece), Linda Voorheis, Linda Kelly, and William Woodard (Rev Fred Gates grandson).
- Comfort and Peace for the families of Ken Hecht and Mary Hetherington (sister-in-law of Colleen Spring).
- For our members who are home bound, or in care facilities;
- For those serving, or who have served, in our military;



Fellowship Team

- Join us for Coffee & Fellowship at 10:30am starting September 9th - May 2019.

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR
SEPTEMBER ARE:**

Sept 9th - Cathie Killewald & Margaret Perry

Sept 16th Karen Haneline & Beth Dryer

Sept 23rd Judy Studer & _____

Sept 30th _____ & _____

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.



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

Grab your copy of The Parish Paper in the narthex or you can download it at the beginning of this email by clicking on PP September highlighted in blue [PP September](#)



TEAM MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

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 CANCELLED

10:00 am Fellowship Team - back of Fellowship Hall

Team Meetings for September 4th

Outreach 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Information Technology 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Personnel 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Christian Education 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Team Meetings for September 11th

Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Care 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Property 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Finance 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm



Which one is you?

Session meets September 18th at 7:00 pm



2018 Session

Class of 2018

Charlee Litten | Christian Ed Team | (810) 694-0095

Ellen Paulson | Clerk | (248) 320-0375

Linda Burns | Worship Team | (586) 482-3091

Class of 2019

Laura Parker | Personnel Team | (248) 245-5348

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

NEW (248) 390-0378