



HPC CONNECTIONS

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 18, ISSUE 11

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

-Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Friends,

Over the years I've learned that, whether we like it or not, what the teacher of Ecclesiastes says is so true: There is a season and a time for every thing under heaven. Just as the seasons change from winter to spring; spring to summer; summer to fall and then back to winter, so it is with life and work.

I started ministry later than some. I was 48 when I graduated from seminary and was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). That was now over 22 years ago. My, my how time flies! Together, Fred and I have served in ministry in seven different states. On March 1, I will celebrate 8 years here in Holly with one of the best congregations in the world.



I've always said that I hoped I could keep going until I was 70 and then I would retire. It seemed like a long time away – for a lot of those years. So, how is it that this coming April I will turn 70? For the most part I do not feel that old. And I know those of you who are 70 and up don't normally feel your age either. What a gift from God that is!

But now a new season is approaching us. If you were in worship on October 28th then you heard my announcement about my plans to retire on April 30th of this coming year. I am ready for a new season in my life; ready to slow down a little and to spend more time with Fred and my family. It is bittersweet, because I have much peace and excitement about retirement yet, on the other hand, it does seem like our time together has rushed past and I will be sad to leave you.

However, I am not gone yet! Please see this: I AM NOT GONE YET. I am going to be your full time pastor and leader right up to the last day. I will be putting my full energy and attention into this time with you as we are now in the busiest time of the year for the church. We will be focusing this month on being thankful; on giving; on generosity and how important giving with love is to our own spiritual growth. November 11th will be our stewardship pledge Sunday and I pray you will participate with joy and thankfulness for all the blessings God has showered over you. The church will be blessed by your generosity which will enable all of you to continue with many ministries and outreach.

We will then be immersed into the beautiful season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. After all that, we will find ourselves in a season of Ordinary Time – a time for growth, for planning, for training of elders, for visioning. For study. It will be a time for preparation as we look ahead.

In March we begin the Lenten Journey making our way to Holy Week and finally to Easter – the glorious celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am thankful for all of you and I trust you will enthusiastically join me with all these seasons coming up. Together we will do many things to serve our God, to be loving and in fellowship with one another as we worship, study and reach out to our community.

Yes, there will be a new season coming for you, and for Fred and me, but I believe God has new and wonderful things for us all.

The Lord speaks this promise through Isaiah 43:19: *Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall Spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.* (NKJV)

Peace, Grace, Joy and Love!

Reverend Sharlyn

November Anniversaries

Rachel & Mark Sparling | November 27th | 19 years

Congratulations and God Bless you on so many years together!



November birthday wishes go out to:

Don Colegrove	Nov 3rd	Roberta Single	Nov 25th
Beth Dryer	Nov 19th	Barb Brown	Nov 27th
Jim Single	Nov 19th		
Eric Davis	Nov 22nd		

God Bless you all on your special day!

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! **November Dates:** Card orders placed on **Nov 4th**, are available for pick up on **Nov 11th**.

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.

The **Christmas Community Sing** that goes along with the **Dickens Festival** will again be at HPC. It will be on **Friday, November 23rd from 5:00 pm - 8:00pm**. The parade will pick you up as they go into town and light the tree and see Santa. It's a wonderful outreach. Hot drinks and cookies are served. This is a free event.



GETTING INTO THE WORD OF GOD



Worship

As our Adventure continues as we give thanks for our blessings and giving back. What new things will be revealed to you? Come and find out on Sundays at 11:00 am. Fellowship & Coffee starts at 10:30 am.

Men & Womens Bible Study

What do you have to be thankful for? Have you received any blessings? Let's see what God's word has to say on this.

BE BRAVE, BE BOLD, AND JOIN US ON THIS ADVENTURE

Wednesday nights 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm



**Children's Sunday School - Sundays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm*

November's theme will be giving thanks, generosity and love plus getting ready for Christmas.

December's theme will be "Christmas Gifts That Don't Break". We will also be lighting a small advent wreath and preparing for our Christmas performance.

**Nursery provided*

Care Team

Quote for the month: "Let us thank God for all his love for us, in so many ways and in so many places. Let us in return, as an act of gratitude and admiration, determine to love him. - *Mother Teresa From the book "Everything Starts from Prayer"*

Baby Pantry: Upcoming dates when the Baby Pantry is open: Fri, Nov 9th; Sat Nov 17th; Fri Nov 30th 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, October 21st. Don't forget to see Nurse Char or Nurse Karen. Your health could depend on it.

Jan Bradshaw, Beth Dryer, Loretta Weiss, Karen Haneline and Tom Schettling

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Regular Weekly Events

Sunday

The Adventure Continues

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee
11:00 am Worship
11:00 am Children's Sunday School
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



Schedule of Additional Events

Nov 1st	All Saints' Day
Nov 3rd	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Comfort Circle 11:00 am - 5:00 pm Private Party (FH) Time change - Fall back 1 hour
Nov 4th	10:00 am <i>Fellowship Team Meeting</i> 11:00 am Memorial Service Worship 12:15 pm Memorial Reception
Nov 6th	10:00 am - 3:00 pm Freedom Work Opp (FH) <i>Team Meeting-all are invited to attend</i> 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Outreach 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Information Technology 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Personnel 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Christian Education
Nov 9th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Nov 11th	11:00 am Worship - Stewardship Sunday
Nov 13th	10:00 am - 3:00 pm Freedom Work Opp (FH) <i>Team Meetings-all are invited to attend</i> 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Care 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Property 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Finance
Nov 15th	Newsletter Articles Due
Nov 17th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Nov 18th	12:15 pm Healthy Check up
Nov 20th	10:00 am - 3:00 pm Freedom Work Opp (FH)
Nov 22nd	Thanksgiving Day
Nov 23rd	Office Closed 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Christmas Community Sing/Parade
Nov 27th	7:00 pm Session Meeting
Nov 28th	7:00 pm - 8:15pm New Study "Christmas Gifts that Won't Break"
Nov 30th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry



Sign up now for the Advent study *Christmas Gifts that Won't Break*, based on the four traditional Advent candle themes. This is an all church event that will include Children's Sunday School and Sunday sermons. Men and women will be together during Advent. Sign up by November 18th so we are sure to have enough books. Children do not need a book. Books are \$11.50 each. Starts November 28th; sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

From Your Pastor -

Thank you all for the cards, gifts and video you gave me for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. I definitely feel loved and appreciated by all of you. And I appreciate you as well. Thank you! Thank you for the many loving affirmations. God bless you.

Reverend Sharlyn

Hanging of the Greens

Join us for the most wonderful time of the year - to decorate our church for Jesus' birthday. We will start Sunday, November 25th through Saturday, December 1st. We need everyone's help. Please see the sign up sheet and destinate what days and times you are available. The Ambassadors are coming on the 2nd and we want it to be completely decorated.



Finance Team

Income Sept \$ 9,293.73 | YTD \$ 93,486.14

Expenses Sept \$10,729.99 | YTD \$104,835.65

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



Pray for Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery

- Laura Wint, elder daughter of the Rev. Jim and Trish Neumann, took her own life earlier this week. Jim is the long-serving pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Saginaw.
- Blanc Kirkridge wife Debbie and family. Their daughter, Caitlin Ritenour is battling cancer.
- **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.



From the Lion's Den

Most congregations are in the midst of what is commonly called "stewardship season" - which in its best form is an opportunity for every member to reflect with gratitude on all that God provides, and to share with the same selfless generosity of spirit and substance for God's mission in the world. Sometimes, however, it becomes a power struggle between those who have financial resources in the church and the pastor or elected leaders over the church's mission and direction.



The latter reflects the worldly version of the "golden rule" that has governed the Christendom model of the church: that "those who have the gold make the rules." The affiliation of the gospel with structures and sources of power - both political and financial - compromises the integrity of the church's mission and witness to Jesus Christ. It reduces the church to a patronage system in which the voice of the Spirit is subject to the voice of the major donor.

Last week, the gospel lesson of the common lectionary told the story of the rich man who would not follow Jesus because of his attachment to wealth (Mark 10:17-31). The disciples are confused. They are caught up in the model that associates wealth with divine blessing. Even though Jesus reiterates the upside-down nature of his glory - that the Son of Man must suffer and die to be resurrected - they still anticipate a patronage model of God's reign in which positions of honor confer personal power and privilege (Mark 10:35-45). By contrast, it is the blind beggar who casts aside all he possesses[i] to follow Jesus in "the way" (Mark 10:45-52).

The displacement of the church from the center of social power to the margins presents us with both a crisis and an opportunity. I have written before about the "financial meltdown" of mainline denominations ([here](#)) and noted that the crisis exists only if we seek to maintain the Christendom model of the church which identifies success as being the biggest, most prosperous, and most powerful. If we adopt an inside-out, upside-down posture, however, and are willing to surrender the privilege and power that comes with the Christendom model of success, then we can be truly liberated for mission.

Yet, while the tectonic plates of change shift beneath us, we still live in houses from the old paradigm. We have buildings that must be maintained, ministers who rely on our offerings for support, and missions that depend on faithful supporters to bring God's love and justice to the world. What then, does this mean for our practice of stewardship in the church?

I recently read a blog post on [philanthropic leadership](#) in which the author, writing from a secular perspective, identifies the same issue, that "philanthropy holds a disproportionate amount of power; it serves as a gatekeeper for the resources that belong to our communities," while those who serve "continue to struggle with identifying and funding existing capacity on the ground."

The author adds, "A funder's role, then, is to build our own individual and institutional skills to receive and incorporate the insight these leaders and communities provide. We must listen to them, follow them, and respond in ways that help us model the systems change... they are creating." Translated into churchspeak, that reads: "good stewards listen to the people they support and serve, and empower them to take ownership of their own mission." This is a key component of inside-out, upside-down, sticky mission. She identifies five practices for responsive stewardship (philanthropy):

- **Be responsive to the way people and movements organize themselves.** Stewards shouldn't prescribe how they think the mission should best be conducted.
- **Support organizational capacity, as well as the capacity of individuals, networks, and coalitions.** Collaboration is necessary for effective mission.
- **Make space for divergence and debate in movements, rather than force consensus and uniformity.** There is more than one way to be faithful; don't require everything to conform to your theology or politics.
- **Ask your partners what they need to be healthy and present in their work.** Well-supported pastors and staff make for healthy and effective leaders.
- **Provide long-term, flexible (general operating) resources at a level that allows leaders to dream, build, implement, and realize the change they seek.** Our stewardship practice should liberate, not limit, the church's mission. As we consider our own stewardship this season, may we use our gifts not as a means to advance our own agendas or to reclaim the past, but as responsive partners in God's ever-changing mission to the world.

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Faithfully,
Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

[i] i.e., his cloak, spread before him to receive alms and gifts.



Fenton Ambassadors Concert - We are delighted to welcome back the Fenton Ambassadors again this year. It will be Sunday, December 2nd at 7:00 pm. Be sure to invite all of your friends and family to a great concert that will be sure to get you in the spirit of Christmas.

OUR PRAYERS, CONCERNS AND JOYS:

- Remember to *pray daily* for this church and our pastor.
- **Clara Josephine has arrived!!** She was born October 24th at 11:00 am weighing 7lb 11 oz. Proud parents are Todd & Wendy Monty and grandma (Mary Renico's son). We are just delighted.
- **Congratulations to** Katie Parker & Eric Davis who were married October 20th. Please see Corrections to Your Directory on the table in the narthex for address if you'd like to send a card.
- **Strength, renewal, and healing for:** Fran Olson, Jim Pelton, Pam Remillard, Jack Cotaling (Randy Cook's nephew), Linda Larmon & Susan Houghton (Mandie Banks' aunts), Terry Parish, Linda Burns, Ben (10 year old in Physical Therapy-Elizabeth Kici & Sherry friend), 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), Linda Voll (Karen Haneline's friend), Mandie, Keaton, Hadleigh, & Josh Banks, Denny &, Beverly Glass (Elizabeth Kici's friend's daughter), Dawn Spring (Colleen Spring's niece), and William Woodard (Rev Fred Gates grandson).



Fellowship Team

- Join us for Coffee & Fellowship at 10:30 am

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER ARE:

Nov 4th Margaret Perry & Cathie Killewald
Nov 11th Mary Renico & _____
Nov 18th _____ & _____
Nov 25th _____ & _____



Without volunteers, we won't be able to hold Coffee & Fellowship.

- **Sunday November 4th** at 10:00 am will be our **Fellowship Team Meeting**. All are welcome to attend.



Poinsettias - Memorial Poinsettias will be put in the church on Dec 9th. This year we will have flower cards showing who they are in memory of and who purchased them. As soon as we get the information on pricing, I will let you know. This is a great way to memorize your loved one. Single's and Double's will be available.

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 November highlighted in blue

[PP November](#)



TEAM MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER

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 November 4th

10:00 am Fellowship Team - back of Fellowship Hall

Team Meetings for November 6th

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 November 13th

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 November 27th 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