



# HPC CONNECTIONS

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 18, ISSUE 12

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## Advent Reflections

*'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'* (Matthew 1:23 - NRSV)

The Advent Season has arrived and what a beautiful time it is for us in the church! The color purple is prominent for Advent (some churches use blue but we traditionally use purple). Purple is the liturgical color used for passion and royalty. In Lent we use purple as we think of the passion Jesus had for the world as he sacrificed his life on the cross out of love for us. In Advent, we are deeply grateful for the passion God has for the world, shown to us in the gift of his Son, Jesus – born as we are: a human baby.



Our theme this year is taken from the Bible Study book written by James W. Moore titled ***Christmas Gifts That Won't Break***. We focus on the four themes that we usually use for each of the Advent candles: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. With each week's Bible Study, and then Sunday's message, we are going deeper into our thoughts about what it means to us that Jesus' came to earth bringing hope to the world; showing love that is amazing; giving us a joy that never leaves in spite of what is going on around us; and giving us a peace inside our very souls, and a hope and longing for peace in the world, even when it looks impossible.

The Bible tells us that Jesus has many names: Jesus (which means Savior) was the name the angel told Joseph to give to the baby that Mary would give birth to. He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, the Messiah (or Christ, the anointed one of God), Redeemer.

Isaiah 7:14 prophesied that the Messiah would be born and named Immanuel, and Matthew 1 says the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall name him Emmanuel. (the difference in the I or the E spelling is a difference between the Hebrew of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament. Both ways mean 'God is with us.')

Of all the names for the Christ-child, Emmanuel is my favorite. To think that God loves us so much that he gave us such an intimate part of himself – his heart, his love, his grace; knowing all that this child would face; revealing through Jesus just who God is and how he is always with us; providing for us forgiveness of our sins and a way to break the chains that sin and death have on us. Through Jesus we have this great, deep hope (which I translate more as faith and belief) in eternal life – life after this life.

The promise of Emmanuel – *God is with us* – is everything. To believe that God is with us in our all of our lives truly is a gift of hope. In spite of grief and fear and discouragement, in spite of signs that nothing is right, we have hope of good and wonderful things because God is with us.

*God is with us* is a gift of love. We are deeply loved by God who gave us his Son to demonstrate that love in amazing ways. If God loves us that much, we can love others as well, and we can even love ourselves.

*God is with us* is a gift of joy. For Christians, we can have losses and sickness and grief; we can be in difficult situations yet we have a joy deep in our soul because we have God with us at all times. He is our refuge, our strength and our mighty Savior.

*God is with us* is a gift of peace. We long for world peace, for hatred to be gone, for wars to cease. We pray for unity and yet, we have a difficult time seeing that it is ever going to happen until Jesus returns, as he promised. But, even in all that strife we still have peace inside us. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He has

brought us peace in our reconciliation with God as we are forgiven for our sins. We have peace with ourselves as we know God's of Emmanuel, we have many Christmas gifts that won't break. And the best one of all is that God is with us.

May you have a deep sense of God with you through out this wonderful season and through all the new year!

Hope, Love, Peace and Joy!

Reverend Sharlyn

### December Anniversaries

Gerry & Debbie Jackson | Dec 4th | 36 years

Larry & Pam Remillard | Dec 30th | 51 years

**Congratulations and God Bless you on so many years together!**



### December birthday wishes go out to:

Emily Martin	Dec 2nd	Gordie Bradshaw	Dec 11th
Walt Brown	Dec 3rd	Sierra Haneline	Dec 17th
Max Muenzer	Dec 5th	Margaret House	Dec 23rd
Joseph Weiss	Dec 6th	Vicki Lyles	Dec 28th
Abby Hardimon		Dec 29th	

**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! **December Dates:** Card orders placed on **Dec 2nd**, are available for pick up on **Dec 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.

### 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.



## GETTING INTO THE WORD OF GOD

### *Worship*



See the Advent season in a whole new light as we open "Christmas Gifts That Won't Break". Do you ever get sucked into shopping and forget what this season is about. Come and find out on Sundays at 11:00 am. Fellowship & Coffee starts at 10:30 am.

### *Men & Womens Bible Study*

"Christmas Gifts That Don't Break" is based on the four traditional candle themes.

**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*

### *Season of Advent*



### **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 which will be December 16th.

*\*Nursery provided*

### **Care Team**

**Quote for the month:** "I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone! The Savior - yes the Messiah, the Lord - has been born tonight in Bethlehem!" *Luke 2:10-11*

**Baby Pantry: Upcoming dates when the Baby Pantry is open:** Fri, Dec 14th; Sat Dec 22nd; Fri Dec 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, December 16th. Don't forget to see 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 Gift that Doesn't Break hmmm...*

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 "Christmas Gifts That Don't Break" Study



## Schedule of Additional Events

Dec 1st 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Comfort Circle

Dec 2nd 1st Sunday of Advent

### No **Fellowship Team Meeting**

7:00 pm Fenton Ambassadors Show Choir

Dec 3rd 7:00 pm Dryer Funeral Home Memorial Service

Dec 4th 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Freedom Work Opp (FH)

### **Team Meetings-all are invited to attend**

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Care

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

Dec 5th 7:00 pm "Christmas Gifts That Won't Break" Study

Dec 9th 2nd Sunday of Advent

### **Team Meetings-all are invited to attend**

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Worship

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Property

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Finance

Dec 12th Newsletter articles due

7:00 pm "Christmas Gifts That Won't Break" Study

Dec 13th 7:00 pm AYSO

Dec 14th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry

Dec 16th 3rd Sunday of Advent

Children's Presentation

12:15 pm Healthy Check up

Dec 18th 7:00 pm Session Meeting

Dec 19th 7:00 pm "Christmas Gifts That Won't Break" Study

Dec 22nd 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry

Dec 23rd 4th Sunday of Advent

Dec 24th 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service "The Gift" with Carols, Candles, and Communion

Dec 26th NO Bible Study

Dec 30th 1st Sunday after Christmas

Note: Office Closed Dec 25th through Jan 8th





The office will be closed from December 25th - January 8th. The Pastor will be on retreat and vacation after Christmas and extending to Wednesday, January 9th. The office manager will be gone as well during that time on vacation. Messages will be checked and returned and mail will be collected during that time.

## POINSETTIA MEMORIALS IN REMEMBRANCE OF



Judy Watkins | Leon Parker | Jack & Jean Fundis | Leonard Ranger



Gordon & Gladys Bradshaw | Bruce, Keith, Paul & Hariette Dryer



Iva Pelkey | Matthew Montreuil | Alec Ash | Gerald & Eileen Call



Wilfred & Cecile Perreault | John Miller | Aaron & Margaret Ganshaw

Ron Howe | Gene Striggow | Rudy & Bernice Schettling | Ken Hecht



John & Ellen Braun | John & Ethel Millington



### Finance Team

**Income** Oct \$13,312.14 | YTD \$106,798.28

**Expenses** Oct \$10,512.09 | YTD \$115,347.73



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

### Pray for Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery

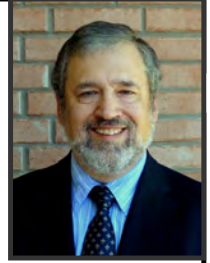
- **Mission Co-Workers** -The Rev Cathy Chang and family who are serving in the Philippines. Michael & Rachel Ludwig who are serving in Niger.
- **Our Missionaries** - Colby & Sarah Keefer & family in Ypsilanti (Athletes in Action), and Allen & Sarah Keefer & family in Spain.

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



## From the Lion's Den

Last month I celebrated the third anniversary of the beginning of my ministry among you as your Executive Presbyter. One of the unexpected joys of my ministry has been the warm reception of this column in the Bi-weekly Brief. It has provided me an avenue to educate, to motivate, and (I hope) to elevate our presbytery to be a more faithful community of Christ.



I recently looked back at some of the early columns I have written, and apart from noticing how the length of the columns has increased, was pleased to see how well they hold up three years later. In my very first column, I set forth some of the core convictions that have shaped and guided my ministry:

1. Ministry is about relationships. As we nurture healthy relationships in the church, we build up the church and show Christ to the world.
2. The first mission of the church is the faithful proclamation of the gospel; the second is the nurture and shelter of the people of God; the third is our embodiment of the gospel in concrete service to the world.
3. Polity matters. It is the lived expression of our theology. To borrow a phrase from former General Assembly moderator Marj Carpenter, I am "sinfully proud" to be Presbyterian because of our polity.
4. Healthy processes make for healthy organizations. Trust is built and maintained through transparent and accountable leadership.
5. Despite our anxiety over change in the church and society, Jesus Christ is still Lord and Head of the Church. God is doing a new thing in our midst. Executive leadership involves helping to clarify our vision of what that new thing might be, and to assist congregations and leaders to pursue it in their particular contexts.

I still believe these to be true. As we have lived, worked, and grown together, the vision of a church and presbytery whose identity and mission is "inside-out, upside-down, and sticky" has emerged, and if I were writing that column today, I would add that as an addendum to the second conviction. Nevertheless, I have sought to embody the convictions and I believe we have seen significant transformation in our presbytery as we have tried to live them out.

I write this column at the close of the liturgical year as we prepare for Christ the King Sunday. In the secular calendar, it is Thanksgiving week. I give thanks to God for the opportunity to continue to serve you as your Executive, as we affirm together that Jesus is still the Lord and the only Head of the Church. As his Lordship took the form of a servant who emptied himself of all but love, may his example inspire us all in the new year ahead.

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

**Christmas Eve Service will be at 8:00 pm on Monday December 24th.**

Join us for this special service, as we talk about "The Gift", celebrating with Carols, Candles and Communion. Bring your family and friends.



**OUR PRAYERS, CONCERNS AND JOYS:**

- Remember to pray daily for this church and our pastor.
- Congratulations to great grandparents Cathie & Bob Killewald as welcome Ryver Williams, along with his parents Zach & Cearra Williams. Ryver was born on November 18th, weighing 7 lbs 6 in and 21 in long.
- **Strength, renewal, and healing for :** Helen Timko (Penny Schettling's friend), Joan Davis, Kenzie Nash's friend, Amy DeNise (Donna's stepdaughter), Hadleigh Banks, Fran Olson, Jim Pelton, 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 (neighbor of Elizabeth Kici), Linda Voll (Karen Haneline's friend), 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  
DECEMBER ARE:**

Dec 2nd      Ellen Paulson & \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dec 9th      Elizabeth Kici & Pam Remillard  
 Dec 16th      \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dec 23rd      \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dec 30th      \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_



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

- **No Fellowship Team Meeting this month.** All are welcome to attend.

## 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 December](#)



### TEAM MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER

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.**

No Fellowship Team Meeting this month- back of Fellowship Hall

#### **Team Meetings for December 4th**

Care 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

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 December 11th**

Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Property 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Finance 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm



Which one is you?

**Session meets December 18th at 7:00 pm at Rev Sharlyn's home.**



### 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