



HPC CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 19, ISSUE 1

New Year Reflections: Looking Back, Looking Forward

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. - [Isaiah 43:19](#)

Every new year is a time when we naturally look back at the year we just closed and think about all the things we did, the people we enjoyed, the loved ones we lost, the things we were successful with and some that we were not. As we enter this new year of 2019 I find myself looking, not only at the past year but at the last 22 years. I was 40 when I felt God was leading me to go back to school and finish my bachelor's degree. I barely started that when I had a strong, crazy sense of God calling me to go to seminary which I literally laughed out loud at, being married to a pastor and living in a very rural area of SE Kansas with no seminary anywhere close. The next fall I was living in Iowa with my 13 year old daughter and my husband still back in Kansas. I was in both undergrad and graduate school working on both my bachelor's in social work and my seminary degree. I graduated with my BS in Social Work in 1994 about with my Master of Divinity in 1996.



How can it be that so much time – 22 years – has gone by? How can I possibly be as old as I am now? How can it be time now to retire and slow down? It doesn't seem possible. 'There have been so many changes over the years. You know – children grown and have their own children. We've lived and served in ministry in several places. We are older. Definitely older.

What about you? How has life changed for you over the years? I know you have many good memories of people and places and events in your lives. I also know you have had heartache and loss over the years as well. Life is what it is. We humans are on a journey of life and it is full of twists and turns some very enjoyable and some we can barely tolerate.

The church is the same way. We have a so many good memories of years gone by – times when the church was so packed there was no place for latecomers to sit without the ushers putting in more chairs; children were everywhere; youth group was booming. And now, times are different. It's happening everywhere – churches are declining in membership; we don't see many children or young families; etc., etc., etc. Just like those of us who mourn the loss of a loved one and long to have things back as they were, the church mourns the loss of the past – the good old days. We long for those time when we “were bursting at the seams.”

But we have good news! We have just celebrated the birth of the Christ-child and he is called Emmanuel, which means that God is with us. God told the angel to make sure that people knew that name. Not only was it told in the birth stories of the New Testament but it was also told by prophets of old. It is important for us – in our personal lives and in the life of the church – to remember that God is with us always. Yes, Jesus grew and died and is no longer here as a human. In fact, that is good news in itself. The birth of Christ would not mean so much had Jesus not gone to the cross, suffering and dying for us, rising from the dead, so that we might always have life and grace with God. The gift that he sent us – the Holy Spirit – is with us always everywhere we are, no matter what!

We are filled with hope, love, joy and peace because of the Holy Spirit with us. Those gifts really are Christmas gifts that never break and remain with us always – when life changes, when the church changes, when we make transitions – always. God is with us.

May the new year bring many blessings along with the transitions and changes that are inevitable.
Peace, Grace and Joy be to you all!

Reverend Sharlyn

January Anniversaries

Helen & Jeff McNamara | Jan 2nd | 43 years

Loretta & Bill Weiss | Jan 5th | 56 years

Donna & Donald DeNise | Jan 16th | 26 years

Congratulations and God Bless you on so many years together!



January birthday wishes go out to: God Bless you all on your special day!

Ryan Day	Jan 1st
Donna Miller	Jan 15th
Rick Perry	Jan 17th
Rachel Sparling	Jan 25th
Doris Colegrove	Jan 30th

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! **January Dates:** Card orders placed on **Jan 6th**, are available for pick up on **Jan 13th**.

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.

Pastor Sharlyn and Sherry will be out of the office and the offices closed from December 25th through January 8th. The telephones and mail will be checked during that time. If you have a question or concern, please contact, Pastor Sharlyn, Sherry or a member of Session.

GETTING INTO THE WORD OF GOD



Worship

Start your new year off right...with God.

Sundays at 11:00 am. Fellowship & Coffee starts at 10:30 am.

Men & Womens Bible Study

Resumes on January 16, 2019.

Join us back in the word with new eyes.

Wednesday nights 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

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



January's theme is David & Goliath.

*Nursery provided



Care Team

Quote for the month: Happy New Year! Psalm 65:11 "You crown the year with your goodness, and your path drips with abundance."

Baby Pantry: Upcoming dates when the Baby Pantry is open: Fri, Jan 11th; Sat Jan 19th; Fri Jan 25th 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, January 20th. 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

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

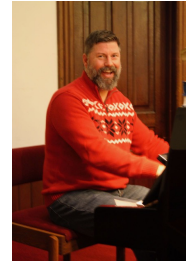
Schedule of Additional Events

Jan 1st	Happy New Year
Jan 5th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Comfort Circle
Jan 6th	10:00 am <i>Fellowship Team Meeting</i>
Jan 8th	10:00 pm Freedom Work Opp. (FH) 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Friends with Needs (FH) <i>Team Meeting-all are invited to attend</i> NO Outreach 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Information Technology 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Personnel 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Christian Education
Jan 10th	7:00 pm AYSO
Jan 11th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Jan 15th	<i>Team Meeting-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
Jan 16th	12:00 pm Administrative Secretaries meet Villagers
Jan 19th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Jan 20th	Healthy Check up
Jan 22nd	7:00 pm Session Meeting
Jan 25th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Jan 27th	Children's Presentation
Jan 28th	4:00 pm Confirmation Class

Rev. Sharlyn and Sherry will be out of the office until January 9th. Telephone messages will be checked and mailed picked up during that time.



Thank you Fenton Ambassadors Show Choir for your performance on December 2nd. It was a great success. Thank you to all who provided snacks and helped with this event.



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



Ethel & Charles Wiethoff | John & Ellen Braun | John & Ethel Millington



Thank you for purchasing poinsettias. They looked wonderful in the church. Worship Team

Finance Team

Income Nov \$8,297.06 | YTD \$115,135.41

Expenses Nov \$10,095.20 | YTD \$125,442.93



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 & Deedee Iobst & family in Spain.

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



The Lion's Den



One unfortunate consequence of the decline in sending and receiving Christmas cards in recent years is the disappearance of Christmas art. The variety of cards brought a variety of images - some secular, some sacred - depicting aspects of the season.

While most of the cards we received in the Saperstein home featured snowy winter scenes or smiling Santa Clauses, many had more religious themes. Most of the sacred images depicted the Holy Family, or the Madonna and Child. Stars and angels and mangers also abounded. Some were classical images, others modern.

One Christmas image I encountered a few years back has stuck with me. It is a modern depiction of the journey to Bethlehem, by Portland comic book artist and illustrator Everett Patterson. Titled *Jose y Maria*, it was his Christmas card for 2014 but has gone viral in the years since.

Jose and Maria (Joseph and Mary) are presented as a young Latino/a couple looking for shelter outside an urban gas station convenience store. He is wearing a work shirt with his name embroidered, she is sporting a hoodie from "Nazareth High School." The picture is filled with many creative references to the Biblical narrative: for example, a "no vacancy" sign at the "Dave's City Motel" with a signboard announcing the new "manger" (manager with an "a" missing).

Patterson says on his blog (everettpatterson.com), "The main goal of this illustration was to pack as many clever biblical references into the scene as possible. I won't list every one (there are at least a dozen), but a few that I'm proudest of are: the verse from the prophet Ezekiel in the graffiti on the phone kiosk, the way the "Save More!" behind Mary's head looks kinda like "Ave Maria!," and the two ads for "Glad" and "Tide" on the newspaper (get it?)."

But more important is the subtext of the illustration: that Jesus is born among us on the margins of our society - among humble, even homeless, people. Patterson writes, "for this image, I chose very, very wide vanishing points. The result is what I occasionally call 'middle-class white people perspective.' Rather than feeling immersed in the scene, the viewer is looking at it as if from across the street or from the warmth and safety of his or her passing car. I have a small hope that this Christmas image will come to mind when we see other 'down and out' people huddling outside of gas stations, reminding us that our Savior's parents (and indeed, Jesus himself) were at one time similarly troubled."

Patterson has granted permission for churches to reproduce the image for one-time, non-commercial use with attribution to the artist.

As we enjoy the blessings of this season, may we be inspired to leave our distanced perspectives and welcome Christ wherever he is born among us.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presby
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.
- **Strength, renewal, and healing for:** Dale Huffman, Jim Striggow (Penny Schettling's cousin), Joe Watkins (Laura Parker's brother), Cindy Glenn (Elizabeth Kici's granddaughter's mother-in-law), 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, 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).
- **Prayers and comfort to the parents, siblings, and family** of Ben Atkins (9 year old who was in Physical Therapy -Elizabeth Kici & Sherry).



Fellowship Team

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

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY ARE:

Jan 6th Shar Hecht & Ellen Paulson

Jan 13th Mary Renico (weather permitting) & Colleen Spring

Jan 20th Elizabeth Kici (weather permitting) & Pam Remillard

Jan 27th



Thank you volunteers. Without you we could not hold Coffee & Fellowship.

- **Fellowship Team Meeting this month is January 6th .** 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 January highlighted in blue [PP January](#)



TEAM MEETINGS FOR JANUARY

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.**

Fellowship Team Meeting January 6th at 10:00 am back of Fellowship Hall

Team Meetings for January 8th

Care 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

No Outreach

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 January 15th

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 January 22nd at 7:00 pm



2019 Session

Class of 2019

Laura Parker | Christian Ed Team | (248) 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) 248-634-3760

Jim Lyles | Clerk | (248) 396-4695

Class of 2021

Ellen Paulson | Personnel Team | (248) 320-0375

Tom Schettling | Worship Team | (248) 245-8810

Walt Brown | Technology Team | (810) 629-1618

Moderator

The Rev. Dr. Sharlyn DeHaven Gates

(248) 390-0378