



Holly Presbyterian Church Connections

December 2019 Newsletter | Volume 19, Issue 12



Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24th. We will have a candlelight service and communion. All are invited to attend.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you have done this past year for our church. May we continue as we search for a interim pastor.



May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a great new year!

Many Blessings,

Session Members, Cassie Todd, Interim Moderator, Vicki Lyles,

Treasurer, Sherry McLaughlin, Office Manager, Julia Belyayeva-Hull.

Birthdays for this month:

God bless you all on your special day!

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



Fenton Ambassadors Concert.

Start the Holiday Season with a Free Christmas Concert Fenton Ambassadors Choir Show

December 8th at 7:00 pm. A voluntary love offering will be received. Refreshment served following the event.



Pray for Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery—

All churches in transition

Our Missionaries - Colby & Sarah Keefer & family in Ypsilanti (Athletes in Action), and Allen & Deedee Iobst & family in France.

Mission Co –Workers—The Rev Cathy Chang and family serving in the Philippines. Michael & Rachel Ludwig who are serving in Niger. The Rev. Dr. Lucy DerGerabedian who is serving in Lebanon.

Keefer family

Iobst family



See both latest Iobst & Keefer's Newsletter by double clicking on Iobst & Keefer at the beginning of the email.



From the Lion's Den

Most cultures observe a day of Thanksgiving, typically around the harvest, for the fruits of creation which feed and sustain us. The ancient Jews observed two such festivals. One, the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot, or Pentecost), originally celebrated the wheat harvest but later became identified with the giving of the Torah, and in Christian tradition with the gift of the Spirit. The other, the Feast of Booths (Sukkoth, or Tabernacles) celebrated the fruit harvest, but later became associated with remembrance of their wilderness wanderings.



It is not surprising that national days of Thanksgiving can become identified over time with the mythology of national origins. As people give thanks to God for the blessings of the earth, they remember also with thanksgiving their national stories of Divine providence and protection.

Just as the thanksgiving festivals of ancient Israel became yoked with stories of being given “a law and a land,” so also our American Thanksgiving celebration is linked to stories of our origins. We have all been taught how the Pilgrim band came to the New World in search of religious freedom; how they gave thanks to God whose faithfulness sustained them through the difficult voyage and deadly winter; how the natives welcomed them, shared their resources, and joined them in that first celebration. That these popular exist more in legend than in fact (see, for example this New York Times article from 2017) does not diminish their power to shape our identity.

They are foundational to the myth of “American exceptionalism” – that God has established the United States as a unique society that is the “shining city on a hill” and “a light to the nations” both in its founding values and as a Christian dominion. While it is certainly appropriate to give thanks to God for the blessings we enjoy, both from the earth and from our nation, as Reformed Christians we should be careful in how we speak of ourselves before God and our neighbors in the world.

For example, while our history has championed values of equality and freedom that are consistent with the gospel, our history is also filled with stories of how those values have been denied to whole categories of people, and how our Christian faith has been used to justify terrible injustice and even genocide. Christian faith was used to justify the doctrine of Manifest Destiny (an extension of the Doctrine of Discovery) leading to the wholesale slaughter of native peoples. It was also used to justify slavery and “Jim Crow” and the continuing heresy of white supremacy.

As Presbyterians, we affirm the Theological Declaration of Barmen – a response to Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. We reject the false doctrine, as though the Church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation" (Book of Confessions, 8.11-8.12). In other words, we refuse to identify in any unique or special way the blessing of God on any human institution, or to say that God's power or presence has made us in any way superior to other people and nations.

We are not a "Christian nation" nor should we seek to claim any special privilege or status to our Christian faith. If anything, Thanksgiving should lead us to humility as individuals and as a nation; to confession of our sins, and a grateful commitment to live more fully into our national ideals, especially as those reflect our individual religious creeds and values.

For the freedom to do so this Thanksgiving and every day, I give thanks.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

Wishing Happy Anniversary this December to

Gerry & Debbie Jackson | December 4th | 37 years

Larry & Pam Remillard | December 30th | 52 years



Coming to our pulpit very soon is:

Dec 1st Pastor Shaun Hardimon

Dec 8th Elder Lisa Naveen

Dec 15th Elder Julianne Princinsky, EdD

Dec 22nd Rev. Don Neuville

Dec 24th Pastor Shaun Hardimon

Dec 29th Pastor George Hockley

Jan 5th Rev. Gus Nussdorfer

Jan 12th Rev. Janice Langwig



Regular Weekly Events

Sunday

- 9:30 am Adult Sunday School not on Dec. 29th
- 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 11:00 am Worship
- 11:00 am Gathering Place for Kids not on Dec 1st, or Dec. 29th

Monday

- 7:30 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday through Thursday

- 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Friends with Needs—not from Christmas to New Years Day

Wednesday

- 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study - Not on Dec. 25th or Jan 1st
- 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study - Not on Dec 25th or Jan 1st

Thursday

- 6:30 pm Creative Spirits Group—not on Dec 26th

Schedule of Additional Events

- Dec 1st 10:00 am **Fellowship Team Meeting - all are invited**
- Dec 3rd 9:00 am Poinsettia Orders Due
- Team Meetings - all are encouraged to get involved**
- 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Outreach
- 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Personnel
- No Information Technology
- 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Christian Education
- Dec 7th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Comfort Circle
- Dec 8th 7:00 pm Fenton Ambassadors Concert w/reception
- Dec 10th 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Freedom Works Opp.
- Team Meetings - all are encouraged to get involved**
- 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
- Dec 12th 7:00 pm AYSO
- Newsletter Articles Due -Early
- Dec 13th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry

The Circle of Light

Finding Christ in Our World

Keeping Christ in Our Hearts



- Dec 13th Poinsettias Delivered
- Dec 15th Healthy Check up
- Dec 17th 7:00 pm Session Meeting
- Dec 24th 8:00 pm Carols, Candles & Communion
- Dec 25th Happy Birthday Jesus
- Dec 27th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry



Remember to pray daily

For this church and for who our transitional pastor will be, and the pastor coming to lead us into the future.

Praises and Joy: Terry Parish has been released from prison.

Strength, renewal, and healing for: Cody Glover (Carrie Duncanson's sister-in-law's nephew), Steve Downey (Julie Parish's ex-husband), Sue Tamm (Carrie Duncanson and her mother-in-law's friend), Gordie Bradshaw, Joe Watkins (Laura Parker's brother), Hadleigh Banks, Betty Striggow (Penny Schettling's mother), Linda (Elizabeth Kici's neighbor), Jesse Ramirez (Carlee Olson-Ramirez's husband), Carla Rigsby (Penny Schettling's friend), Linda (neighbor of Elizabeth Kici's daughter Melinda), Peter Kici, Janice Jackson (Gerry's mom), Jake Vedeer (Kenzie Nash's friend), Cindy Glenn (Elizabeth Kici's granddaughter's mother-in-law), Helen Timko (Penny Schettling's friend), Norm Clement, Jim Pelton, Linda Burns, Jan Owens (Rev Sharlyn's sister), and William Woodard (Rev Fred Gates grandson).

From the Presbytery: The Rev. Philomena Ofori-Nipaah, Vice Moderator of Presbytery, who was in an accident while visiting Ghana. She is expected to arrive back in the states soon, All the churches in transition, and Rev. Ken Hetzel, retired who is battling cancer.

Fenton Ambassadors Concert

Coming to Holly Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 8th at 7:00 pm. Please come and invite your friends and neighbors and get ready to be put into the Christmas spirit. Refreshments will be served. A free will offering will be taken.



God bless you and God bless our church.

Income September \$8,255.52 YTD \$94,789.54

Expenses September \$4,480.24 YTD \$79,163.86



Your Finance Team

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.

December 1st 10:00 am ***Fellowship Team Meeting***

Team Meetings for December 3rd

6:30 pm Outreach

7:00 pm Personnel

NO Information Technology

7:00 pm Christian Education

Team Meetings for December 10th

6:30 pm Care

6:30 pm Worship

7:00 pm Property

7:30 pm Finance

2019 Session

Class of 2019

Laura Parker Christian Ed 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 Team (248) 634-3760

Jim Lyles Clerk (248) 396-4695

Class of 2021

Ellen Paulson Personnel Team (248) 320-0375

Tom Schetting Worship Team (248) 245-8810

Walt Brown Technology Team (810) 629-1618

Moderator Cassie Todd (248) 459-9334



In Remembrance of

Mary Lyles | Jean Goss | Jene Striggow | Elmer Massingill

Ron Howe | Rudy & Bernice Schettling

Iva Pelkey | Alec Ash | Matthew Montreuil

Aaron & Margaret Ganshaw | Gordon & Gladys Bradshaw

Jack & Jean Fundis | Ken Hecht

Bruce Dryer | Paul & Harriet Dryer | Lee & Leone Gordon

