



Holly Presbyterian Church Connections **January 2020 Newsletter | Volume 1, Issue 1**



Please take time to thank God for all he has done in the last year and ask for what you want in the coming year. He says we must ask, expecting it to be and meditating on it day and night. Do you do that for everything you do?



We are in need of help in the following areas: Usher, Greeter, Communion Servers, Baby Pantry, Coffee and Snacks. Please see the sheets in the Narthex to sign up where you can help out.

We do a lot and if you do two things a month, that would take the load off of so many.



Birthdays for this month:

God bless you all on your special day!

Donna Miller Jan 15th

Rick Perry Jan 17th

Doris Coleglove Jan 30th



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 Der-Gerabedian who is serving in Lebanon.

Keefe family



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

Iobst family

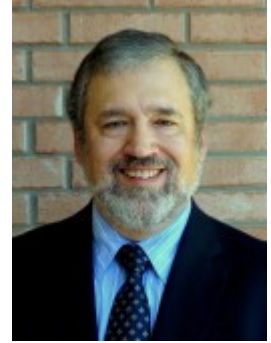


The office will be closed from Dec 24th through Jan 1st for the Christmas Holiday. If you need anything in that time, please call a member of Session. The phone numbers are listed on page 7 of the newsletter.



From the Lion's Den

A friend of mine in another presbytery has been putting together a nativity scene for the church's Christmas Eve service. "I think it would be great for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to be people of color," he suggested. From the response, you'd have thought he'd sprung horns and a tail and carried a pitchfork!



Christmas is a season saturated in tradition, whether personal, family, social, or ecclesiastical. Pastors know that you don't mess with tradition without paying a price. Pastors know, for example, that "there was no room at the inn" most likely means the guest room (i.e., the "upper room" per Luke 22:11) was occupied, and doesn't refer to a commercial establishment at all, but probably the home of a relative. Likewise, the "manger" wasn't in a stable, much less a cave, but was inside the home. But as we say, those details won't "preach," and the nativity scene would look quite different set in a room off the kitchen.

No, people like their Christmas traditions unchanged. But what if those traditions prevent us from hearing and responding to the full biblical meaning of the story? Take for example, the baby Jesus in your Christmas nativity: most likely, the baby is white skinned, blond, and blue-eyed. How did that happen?

In a recent article, Baptist pastor Laura Mayo asks, "What if white Christians had a more realistic image of Jesus, a dark-skinned, religious-minority refugee?" She explains:

While shades of brown are debated, it is clear that Jesus was not white. The earliest depictions of an adult Jesus showed him with a brown complexion. But by the sixth century, some Byzantine artists started picturing Jesus with white skin, a beard and light hair parted down the middle. This image became the standard.

In the colonial period, Western Europe exported its image of a white Christ worldwide, and white Jesus often shaped the way Christians understood Jesus' ministry and mission. Some 19th-century Christians, eager to justify the cruelties of slavery, went out of their way to present Jesus as white. By negating his true identity as a dark-skinned, oppressed minority, slaveholders were better able to justify the master-slave hierarchy and forget Jesus' ministry to set the oppressed free (Luke 4:18).

Our dominant, white Christian culture has white-washed Jesus. Instead of expanding our understanding of those who are different from us (including many who in fact look more like Jesus than we do), we have replaced them and their stories with a light brown-haired, blue-eyed lie.

The myth of the white baby Jesus goes hand-in-hand with the depiction of God as an old, white, male. They say more about our own values and prejudices than about the nature of God or Christ. They subtly reinforce what we consider “normal” or “different”; whom we favor and whom we disrespect. Early Presbyterians rejected all depictions of Jesus because limiting him to one identity limited his true nature and violated the Second Commandment.

A more satisfactory answer is to use a variety of depictions of Christ, showing how he belongs to all cultures and all people. You can find different cultural images of Christ here, and here, and here – plus many more if you Google phrases like “African nativity,” “Asian nativity,” and “Aboriginal nativity.” If we come to see Jesus more like those who look different than we do, we might just be more likely to see him in those people, too (Matthew 25:40).

Perhaps this Christmas, some traditions are worth changing. May your Christmas be holy and blessed!

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

Wishing Happy Anniversary this January to

Helen & Jeff McNamara | Jan 2nd | 44 years

Loretta & Bill Weiss | Jan 5th | 57 years

Donna & Donald DeNise | Jan 16th | 27 years



Coming to our pulpit very soon is:

Jan 5th Rev. Teresa Jobe

Jan 12th Rev. Janice Langwig

Jan 19th Rev. Teresa Jobe

Jan 26th Rev. Ray Langwig

Feb 2nd Rev. Don Neuville



Regular Weekly Events

Sunday

- 9:30 am Adult Sunday School
- 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 11:00 am Worship
- 11:00 am Gathering Place for Kids



Monday

- 7:30 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday through Thursday

- 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Friends with Needs—not on New Year's Day

Wednesday

- 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study - Not on Jan 1st
- 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study - Not on Jan 1st

Thursday

- 6:30 pm Creative Spirits Group

Schedule of Additional Events

- Jan 4th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Comfort Circle
- Jan 5th 10:00 am ***Fellowship Team Meeting - all are invited***
- Jan 7th ***Team Meetings - all are encouraged to get involved***
 - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Outreach
 - 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Personnel
 - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Information Technology
 - 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Christian Education
- Jan 9th 7:00 pm AYSO
- Jan 10th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
- Jan 14th ***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
- Jan 15th News articles Due
- Jan 19th Healthy Check up
- Jan 21st 7:00 Session Meeting



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

Strength, renewal, and healing for: Barb Brown, Den ny Owens (Sharlyn Gat es brot her-i n-law mar - ried to Jan Owens i n h o spic e), Mart i n Ly les (Jim Ly les fat her), Jim Smit h (Mandie Ban k s gr andfat her), Co dy Glover (Car rie D uncanson's sis - t er-i n-law's ne phew), Sue Tamm (Carrie Duncanson and her mother-in-law's friend), Gordie Bradshaw, Joe Watkins (Laura Parker's brother), Had - leigh 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: Rev. Ken Hetzel, retired who is battling cancer.

Our Mission aries - The lobst family (now i n Fr anc e), The Keefer family (Athlet es i n Act ion), Lucy Der-Gar abedian servi ng i n Lebanon, Cat hy Chang and family servi ng i n the Phil ippi nes, and M ichael & Rachel

God bless you and God bless our church.

Income November \$8,255.52 YTD \$121,082.62



Expenses November \$8,244.25 YTD \$92,235.47

Your Finance Team

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.

Jan. 5th 10:00 am ***Fellowship Team Meeting***

Team Meetings for Jan 7th

Team Meetings for Jan 14th

6:30 pm Outreach

6:30 pm Care

7:00 pm Personnel

6:30 pm Worship

7:00 pm Information Technology

7:00 pm Property

7:00 pm Christian Education

7:30 pm Finance

2020 Session

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 Property Team (248) 320-0375

Tom Schettling Worship Team (248) 245-8810

Walt Brown Technology Team (810) 629-1618

Class of 2022

Mandie Banks Christian Ed Team (248) 820-0657

Charlee Litten Personnel Team (810) 694-0095

Carrie Duncanson Finance Team (248) 459-3426

Moderator Cassie Todd (248) 459-9334



**Poinsettias on display in the
sanctuary are 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
Judy Watkins | Leon Parker

