



Holly Presbyterian Church Connections

March 2020 Newsletter | Volume 1, Issue 3

We Presbyterians, as Reformed Christians, historically have had an uneasy relationship with art, especially the visual arts. Rooted in its reaction to medieval Catholicism, one of the hallmarks of early Reformed theology was iconoclasm – its rejection of any visual depiction of God or Christ. Scottish reformer John Knox famously incited a riot in Perth, Scotland after a fiery sermon against idols. A whole chapter of the mid-16th century Second Helvetic Confession is devoted to rejection of “idols or images of God, Christ, and the Saints.” It begins,



"Since God as Spirit is in essence invisible and immense, [God] cannot really be expressed by any art or image. For this reason we have no fear pronouncing with Scripture that images of God are mere lies.... Although Christ assumed human nature, yet he did not on that account assume it in order to provide a model for carvers and painters....

"But in fact in order to instruct [humankind] in religion and to remind them of divine things and of their salvation, the Lord commanded the preaching of the Gospel.... Moreover, he instituted sacraments, but nowhere did he set up images." (*Book of Confessions*, 5.020-5.021)



Presbyterians today are more accepting of art as an aid and inspiration to faith. Nevertheless, we need to be careful not to confuse the image with the reality. For example, Sallman's *Head of Christ*, found in nearly every PCUSA church with its blond-haired, blue-eyed, Aryan Jesus, not only misrepresents Jesus' ethnic identity, but reinforces an image of God that is narrowly white and European.

Artistic depictions can limit our understanding of God and faith (as with *Head of Christ*) but art can also expand our understanding. One of the most spiritual of all painters only painted three works depicting biblical scenes, but nevertheless was thoroughly theological in his work. Vincent van

Gogh wanted to become a minister and spent time both as a minister's assistant in England and as a missionary in southern Belgium.



It was in Belgium that he took up drawing, and his early works show a Christ-like empathy for the poor coal miners and their families. His most famous early work, *The Potato Eaters* has a sacramental quality to it. He depicts the poor family as truly human (literally, made of dirt) in dark

shades; the composition evokes the Last Supper, and the bread and coffee are the elements. Here is depicted a counter-image of Christ's church, not in the splendor of cathedrals, but in among the humble, honest working poor.

His later work reflected themes of darkness and light; suffering and joy; and life and death. His famous depictions of olive groves, near the sanitarium in Auvers where he spent his last days, reminded him of Christ's suffering in Gethsemane. The one here includes tiny red flowers suggesting the drops of blood which Christ was said to have sweated. The tortured trunks reflect Christ's own suffering and torturous death. Van Gogh believed, in fact, that Gethsemane was a truer depiction of faith than Calvary, because it was the point in which Christ made a conscious choice to suffer in order to accomplish our salvation.



Van Gogh's work, as truly great art, is less a representation than an interpretation of Truth. Like a good sermon, it gives us new eyes to understand God and the gospel.

This summer, the Detroit Institute of the Arts is hosting a major exhibition of Van Gogh's work. A digital "immersive" exhibition is coming to Toronto this spring. I plan to see both, and I hope you will try to make at least one as well.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

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FINANCE TEAM

Income January \$8,590.93 YTD \$8,590.93

Expenses January \$14,675.85 YTD \$14,675.85



Your Finance Team

Happy March Birthday

Terry Parish	March 5th
Bill Weiss	March 11th
Mary Renico	March 12th
Norm Clement	March 16th
Pam Remillard	March 18th
Laura Parker	March 23rd
Tom Schettling	March 24th
Fran Olson	March 30th
Debbie Russell	March 30th



May God Bless You on Your Special Day!!

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Rev. & Rev. Dr. Fred Gates March 3rd 36 years

May God Bless You on your special day!



Pray for Missionaries & Lake Huron Presbytery—

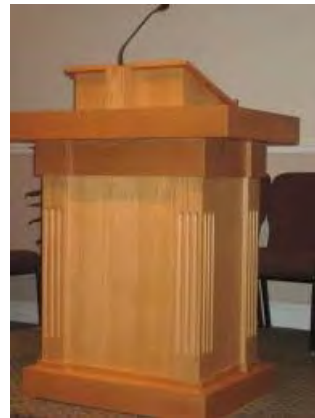
All churches in transition

Strength to Elder Don Wixson, who had a serious car accident; and Rev. Ken Hetzel, retired who is battling cancer.

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.

Coming to a pulpit near you:

- Mar 1st Rev. Don Neuville
- Mar 8th Elder Julianne Princinsky, EdD
- Mar 15th Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi
- Mar 22nd Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi
- Mar 29th Rev. Janice Langwig
- Apr 5th Rev. Don Neuville
- Apr 12th Pastor Shaun Hardimon



Comfort Circle News: We delivered 24 hats to veterans and their spouses. 32 more hats were delivered to the Karl Richter center for local veterans to use.



We also plan to give 48 beanie babies to the hospital.

Thank you for your yarn contributions; we could use more if you have it.

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

Wednesday

7:00 pm Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Thursday

6:30 pm Creative Spirits Group



Schedule of Additional Events—not happening all week/month

- Mar 1st FELLOWSHIP IS NOT MEETING this month
- Mar 3rd ***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
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Christian Education
- Mar 7th 10:00 am Comfort Circle
- Mar 10th ***Team Meetings - all are encouraged to get involved***
CARE IS NOT MEETING this month
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Worship
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Property
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Finance
- Mar 12th 7:00 pm AYSO
- Mar 13th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
- Mar 15th Newsletter articles Due
Healthy Check up
- Mar 17th 7:00 Session Meeting
- Mar 27th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry

Joys & Concerns

Praise & Prayer of Joy that Allison Muenzer has been accepted to Princeton Theological Seminary in the fall with a full tuition scholarship.

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.

Strength, renewal, and healing for: Sherry McLaughlin, Stan Iobst (Allan's dad), Barb Brown's sister KJ's ex-husband, Jim Killewald (Bob's son), Rev. Ray Knudsen, Norm Clement, Jennifer Chanter, Hadleigh Banks, Jesse Ramirez (Carlee Olson-Ramirez's husband), Peter Kici, Helen Timko (friend of Penny Schetting), Jake Vedeer (Kenzie Nash's friend), Jim Pelton, Linda Burns, Jan Owens (Rev. Sharlyn's sister), and William Woodard (Rev. Fred Gates' grandson).

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

See the latest Iobst & Keefer Newsletters by double clicking on Iobst & Keefer family at the beginning of this email.



Keefer family



Iobst family

TEAM MEETINGS FOR MARCH – You can also visit the website for times and dates.

If you would like to join a team or see what it is all about, please verify the meeting with the Team leader (see page 8) or other team member. We always need input and ideas.



Fellowship Team Meeting is not meeting this month

Team Meetings for Mar 3rd

6:30 pm Outreach

7:00 pm Personnel

7:00 pm Information Technology

7:00 pm Christian Education

Team Meetings for Mar 10th

No Care meeting this month

6:30 pm Worship

7:00 pm Property

7:30 pm Finance

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! *Nov Dates:* Card orders placed on Nov 3rd, are available for pick up on Nov 10th.

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.

2020 Session: Fellowship Team: Cathie Killewald (248) 310-2411

Care Team: Jan Bradshaw (248) 459-1181

Outreach Team: Donna DeNise (248) 634-3760

Clerk: Jim Lyles (248) 396-4695

Property Team: Ellen Paulson (248) 320-0375

Worship Team: Tom Schettling (248) 245-8810

Technology Team: Walt Brown (810) 629-1618

Christian Ed Team: vacant

Personnel Team: Charlee Litten (810) 694-0095

Finance Team: Carrie Duncanson (248) 459-3426

Moderator Cassie Todd (248) 459-9334