



Holly Presbyterian Church Connections

April 2020 Newsletter | Volume 20, Issue 4

Dear Friends,

The office is officially reopening on **Tues. May 12th**. However, Sherry will be receiving messages, so if you need something leave a message and she will get back with you.

The church will reopen on **Sun, May 10th**. Come join us for Fellowship and Coffee at 10:30 am. Worship will be at 11:00 am.

In order for our church to continue to effectively serve you, we would appreciate your offering being sent to the church. You may do this by check or online banking. Send payments to HPC, 207 E. Maple St., Holly, MI 48442.

Please change your directories for Shar Hecht as she is now at Abby Park. Her address is: 3221 E. Baldwin Rd. Room 123, Grand Blanc, MI 48439. Her phone # is 517-230-0249.

We will update you if anything changes.

In His Service,

Sherry

Office Manager



Finance Team

Income \$6,373.10 YTD \$14,443.55

Expenses February \$7,041.92 YTD \$20,122.74

Your Finance Team



Advisory Statement from the Presbytery Council

March 23, 2020

“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” – Isaiah 40:31

Dear Friends in Christ,

On March 13, we issued an advisory letter urging our congregations to take responsible and proactive responses to the rapidly evolving coronavirus pandemic. We are grateful that so many of you have taken our advice to heart and have responded in faithful and creative ways for your congregations and communities. Many of these responses have been spotlighted on our Presbytery Facebook page. We are writing you again to update our previous letter and to make you aware of new resources and opportunities for your congregation.

Congregational Worship

As you are aware, cases of COVID-19 are rapidly increasing in our state. They are expected to continue to escalate for several weeks. On March 15, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) advised that gatherings of 50 or more people be suspended for eight weeks (until May 10) to control the spread of the virus. While more than half of our congregations have *fewer* than 50 in attendance, they should also take into consideration that persons over 60 years of age are in a “high-risk” category that should not meet in groups larger than 10. It is possible that stricter state requirements will come into effect requiring an extended period of “lockdown.” Today, Governor Whitmer has issued a “stay-at-home” order effective through April 13; and while she has clarified that churches are exempt from public meeting restrictions, gatherings of any size are likely to expose vulnerable people to infection.

Accordingly, the Presbytery Council advises that churches plan to extend suspending face-to-face meetings **until May 10**. This will help to reduce the incidence of infections that are already testing the capacity of our health care system in some areas. It is the best, most efficient way for us to love our neighbors in this health crisis. *This advice is subject to change as the extent of the pandemic becomes clearer. Please check with your own Session and congregational leadership for plans for your church.*

Assistance to Congregations in Need

Because this will undoubtedly cause a financial hardship to many congregations, the Council and the Trustees have authorized **grants and zero-percent interest loans** for con-

gregations experiencing financial stress. The initial limit for the grants and loans will be \$4000 (\$2000 grant + \$2000 loan), but that limit can be revisited as the extent of the need becomes known. The loans will be repayable without interest for up to 20 months, beginning six months from the issuing of the loan. Look for the application form on the coronavirus resource page of our presbytery website www.presbylh.org.

In addition, the Council and Trustees are **postponing payments** by churches who have presbytery loans, for a period of six months beginning immediately. Normal payments will resume in September. Additional accommodation for congregations, such as postponing unpaid per capita assessments or mission pledges, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Both the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) have asked congregations experiencing temporary financial distress to contact them regarding outstanding or ongoing obligations.

Grants from both the presbytery and the Board of Pensions are available to **pastoral leaders** who are experiencing financial difficulties due to the pandemic. For more information, they should contact Executive Presbyter Dan Saperstein.

Communication and Information

Communication is vital during our time of social distancing. Accordingly, the Council has authorized the Presbytery to **assist congregations in obtaining and using electronic meeting services** from Zoom meeting services. The Presbytery will pay for congregations that so wish to obtain a basic Zoom license for two months (\$15/mo.). This level allows meetings for up to 100 persons by video, smart phone, or voice with no time limit as to meeting length. It allows for documents and even videos to be shared by any member of the group. If a church wishes instead to get an annual license, the Presbytery will provide half the cost of a one-year group license for up to 9 congregations through Tech Soup, which gives a discounted Zoom rate of \$75/year (one-half the usual rate). If more than 9 congregations are interested, we will contact you regarding arrangements. Reliable broadband internet service may be required. Please send an email of your session's interest in such a license **by April 1** to Staci Percy at the address below.

To assist with peer-to-peer communication, the Presbytery has set up two weekly Zoom meetings: one for Presbytery leadership and larger church pastors, and one for smaller church pastors or clerks of session (if there is no pastor). Information on these meetings can be obtained from Executive Presbyter Dan Saperstein.

Communications Manager Staci Percy continues to develop the coronavirus resource page, with links to helpful information and suggestions for addressing the pandemic and its impact on your ministry and mission. It can be reached by clicking the banner on our presbytery website. In addition to our Facebook page, which includes information up-

dates for the Presbytery, an additional Facebook group for Presbytery Leaders to exchange information and ideas has been started. It can be publicly viewed; posting rights are limited to pastoral leaders of the presbytery. For an invitation, email Staci.

Presbytery Update

Meanwhile the Presbytery Office will be closed for all but essential business until further notice. Staff will ordinarily work from home but will be available by email to respond to your needs. Voice mail messages left on the office phones might take longer for reply. The staff emails are:

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter dsaperstein@presbylh.org

Ted McCulloch, Stated Clerk tmcculloch@presbylh.org

Staci Percy, Communications Mgr/Recording Clerk spercy@presbylh.org

Rose Onan, Office Administrator ronan@presbylh.org

Tracy Carr, Financial Secretary tcarr@presbylh.org

The Presbytery will continue to cancel all face-to-face meetings for the duration of the crisis. Committees and Groups that wish to meet electronically may contact their Presbytery staff resource person for assistance.

“So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” - Galatians 6:10

These are unexpected challenges. But God is bigger and more powerful than any virus and empowers us through the Spirit to serve God and our neighbors with Christ’s love. But we don’t serve alone – so take time for your own physical, spiritual, and mental health. As you care for others, let others also care for you. Know that the Council and Presbytery staff are praying for all our congregations and pastoral leaders. With God’s help, we will get through this.

In Christ’s Fellowship, The Presbytery Council

Happy April Birthday

May God Bless You on Your Special Day!!



Jerry Litten April 12th

Margaret Perry April 13th

Gerry Jackson April 17th

Cathie Killewald April 18th

Sharlyn Gates April 20th

Broady Cook April 22nd

Jan Bradshaw April 25th

What's Happening at HPC

All church events have been cancelled through May 9th.

Church services will resume on **May 10th**, starting with:

10:30 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour

11:00 am Worship

Mon. May 11th 7:30 pm AA and Al Anon

Tue. May 12th 10:30 am—Freedom Works Opp
12:00 pm—3:00 pm Friends With Needs

Team Meetings

6:30 pm Care

6:30 pm Worship

7:00 pm Property

7:30 pm Finance

Wed. May 13th 12:00 pm—3:00 pm Friends With Needs
7:00 pm Men's and Women's Bible Study

Thur. May 14th 12:00 pm—3:00 pm Friends With Needs

Fri. May 15th 10:00 am—12:00 pm Baby Pantry

Sun. May 17th 10:30 am Coffee Hour
11:00 am Worship
3:00 pm AA

Mon. May 18th 7:30 pm AA and Al Anon

Tue. May 19th 12:00 pm—3:00 pm Friends With Needs
7:00 pm Session

Joys & Concerns

Remember to pray daily for this church and for who our transitional pastor will. **Strength, renewal and healing for:** Beth Dryer, Margaret House, Fran Olson, Shar Hecht, Sherry McLaughlin, Vicki Lyles, Stan Iobst (Allan's dad), Barb Brown's sister KJ's former husband, Jim Killewald (Bob's son), Hadleigh Banks, Peter Kici, Helen Timko (friend of Penny Schettling), Jake Veeder (Kenzie Nash's friend), Jim Pelton, Linda Burns, Jan Owens (Rev. Sharlyn's sister), and William Woodard (Rev. Fred Gates' grandson).

Prayers from the Presbytery – All the churches in transition, and Rev. Ken Hetzel; retired, who is battling cancer. Bruce Graham, husband of the Rev. Linda Graham, Davison-St. Andrews, who is recovering from a recent stroke. Elder Don Wixson, Commissioned Ruling Elder of Vassar-First, who is being treated for cancer.

Our Missionaries - The Iobst family (now in France), The Keefer family (Athletes in Action-U of M Ann Arbor).



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

TEAM MEETINGS FOR MAY – 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 will be up to leaders.

6:30 pm Outreach

7:00 pm Personnel

7:00 pm Information Technology

7:00 pm Christian Education

Team Meetings for May 12th

6:30 pm Care

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! *We will order on whatever Sunday we gather again for worship. (currently May 10th) and then resume our normal schedule of the first Sunday of the month.*

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

Class of 2020

Fellowship Team: Cathie Killewald (248) 310-2411

Care Team: Jan Bradshaw (248) 459-1181

Outreach Team: Donna DeNise (248) 634-3760

Class of 2021

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

Class of 2022

Christian Ed Team: vacant

Personnel Team: Charlee Litten (810) 694-0095

Finance Team: Carrie Duncanson (248) 459-3426

Moderator Cassie Todd (248) 459-9334