



## Holly Presbyterian Church Connections

### May 2020 Newsletter I Volume 20, Issue 5

Dear Friends,

It has been decided by Session to keep the church closed until Tuesday, June 2nd. The office is planning to reopen on **Tuesday**, June 2nd. However, we know all of that can change. Sherry will still be receiving messages, so if you need something leave a message and she will get back with you.

While so much is out of our control, here are some things we can all do:

#### **7 Spiritual Strategies during the pandemic**

- 1) Pray
- 2) Stay connected with family and friends via phone, email, letters, cards, video programs ie: Zoom, Skype, or Google Meet.
- 3) Reach Out see what others may need - sometimes a simple call to say I'm thinking of you is all a person needs.
- 4) Be grateful
- 5) Slow Down and do the things you've always wished you had time for
- 6) Engage in meaningful work - whatever makes your heart happy
- 7) Love-the more you give the more you receive.

In His Service,

Sherry

Office Manager

#### **Finance Team**

Although our expenses have dropped during this time, they have not gone away. While we are shut down you may send in your tithes and offerings to HPC (Holly Presbyterian Church), 207 E. Maple St., Holly, MI 48442

Income	March	\$6,206.04	YTD	\$20,649.59
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Expenses	March	\$4,952.77	YTD	\$25,075.51
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Thank you,

Your Finance Team

Carrie Duncanson, Bob Killewald and Vicki Lyles

***May God Bless you on your anniversary!!***

May 12th Bob & Cathie Killewald 30 years

May 16th Jerry & Charlee Litten

May 26th Broady & Dessalee Cook 36 years



***Wishing the May birthdays God's blessing each day of the year!***

May 6th Gene Stevens 85 years old

May 9th James Duncanson

May 10th Beau Dryer 4 years old

May 11th Donna DeNise

May 11th Brian Parker

May 12th Angel Vliet

May 18th Keaton Banks 11 years old

May 26th Karen Haneline

May 31st Lisa Martin



***Comfort Circle News***—We have suspended meeting until October. The next meeting will be Saturday, October 3rd from 10:00 am—12:00 pm. Have a great summer!

Loretta Weiss

***Rummage Sale Information***

The Rummage Sale has been postponed for May. However, we still need your help. How? Well since you have had this extra time, have you been cleaning out drawers and closets? I know I have. We want your stuff. We will let you know when you can start bringing things in. We are looking for Spring and Summer items.

Cathie Killewald will be leading the sale up. For any questions, please call Cathie at 248.310.2411 or email her at

[bob\\_killewald@comcast.net](mailto:bob_killewald@comcast.net)



## May Calendar

***Team Meetings-will be done by each team Leader. See page 8 for leaders to get involved.***

May 15th            Newsletter Articles Due

May 19th            7:00 pm Session Meeting



Jennifer & Tony Book have been really busy. They have cleaned all the pews in the sanctuary. Currently they are working on polishing the floors downstairs. Here are some pictures.





## ***From the Lion's Den***

In my last column, I ended with a question (borrowed from a friend): “What if God is using this experience of mini-exile from our places of worship, this experience of separation, of worship-by-Facebook, as a way of teaching us that we should not be looking back to the way things were, but eagerly anticipating God’s new thing? What if the word we hear when we go back to our church sanctuaries is ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here – he is risen! He goes before you into the world, and you will find him there.’”



As we continue in our period of “mini-exile” under the shelter-at-home directives of the pandemic, I have been impressed time and again with the resilience of our congregations. During our weekly Zoom check-ins with congregational and presbytery leaders, through phone conversations, emails, and other contacts, I am encouraged by the creativity and faithfulness exhibited by the pastors and members of our presbytery. We are truly living into our ordination commitments “[to] serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.”

A while back, I was asked how the coronavirus pandemic will affect our churches in the long-term. I answered at the time that I thought it would take one of two directions. I said for many churches, the social distancing would likely act as an accelerant. That is, they would remain on the same trajectory of decline, but arrive at their destination sooner. Churches that might have run out of members, money, or ministry momentum in four years would hit the wall in two. I hope that is not the case, but it could happen.

But for other churches, I said, this could be a turning point for a new direction. Clearly for many – perhaps most – of our churches, this is a real possibility. I see evidence for that in a number of observations:

- We no longer take the fellowship of the church for granted. Electronic, virtual worship and meetings are a huge blessing, but they are not a substitute for the real thing. For many of us, this time of forced isolation helps us realize how much we miss the relationships we have made in congregations and the blessing of Christian community.
- The flip side, obviously, is the openness of our congregations to adopt new ways of connecting electronically. Even our smallest churches have ventured into sharing worship by livestreaming on Facebook or Zoom. Many will want to continue that form of connection even after we are able to meet again in person. This is especially helpful

for those who are home-bound or who have moved away physically but not spiritually.

- In addition, many churches have used this time to begin to reach out into other ways of electronic connection, whether they be online prayer groups, electronic giving, and more. Some are even exploring electronic congregational meetings, though the polity issues haven't yet been fully worked out. We are also helping our "late adopters" bridge the digital divide so no one is left out.
- Churches have also evidenced a new openness to collaborative ministry in both urban and rural settings. Collaboration will be essential to the future vitality of our congregations.

Finally, and most importantly for the future of our churches, we are responding to the needs of our community with increased urgency and vigor. As a Matthew 25 presbytery, we are committed to moving out of our church buildings and into our neighborhoods with compassionate ministry, especially to those on the margins. With fewer internal issues, our congregations are spending more time and energy sewing masks, feeding the hungry, and supporting our first-responders, health care workers, and other essential workers.

To borrow a phrase from Monty Python, when it comes to our churches, "We aren't dead yet." May the necessities of this moment become the foundation of a new way of being church in the months and years to come.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive  
Presbyter

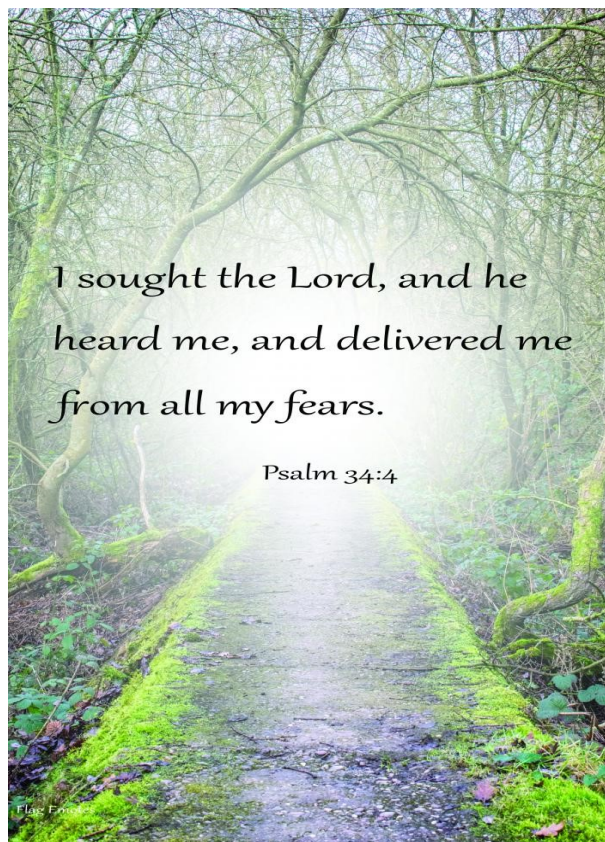
[dsaper-  
stein@presbylh.org](mailto:dsaperstein@presbylh.org)

### **Care Team**

Stay safe, stay  
home. We miss  
you!

Jan Bradshaw,  
Beth Dryer,  
Loretta Weiss,  
and Karen Ha-  
neline

### Quote of the month:





***Iobst family***



***Keefer family***

***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.

## **Joys & Concerns**

***Joys & Praise for*** – Welcoming Blake Law Bradshaw born April 23rd at 6:56 am weighing 7lbs 14oz. And 21 3/4" long. Proud parents Chris and Tiffany Bradshaw! Super proud grandparents are Jan & Gordie Bradshaw.

***Remember to pray daily for*** this church and for who our new pastor will be.

***Strength, renewal and healing for:*** Rick Bugrynski (Margaret Perry's brother in law) and his wife Susan, Donna Ford (Jim Lyles' sister), Beth Dryer, Margaret House, Fran Olson, Shar Hecht, 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 Vedeer (Kenzie Nash's friend), Jim Pelton, Linda Burns, Jan Owens (Rev. Sharlyn's sister), and William Woodard (Rev. Fred Gates' grandson).



**Comfort and Peace for:** the family of Dave Ross (Kathleen Howe's cousin Joanne's husband).

**Prayers from the Presbytery** – All the other 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.



- Rev. Alec Brooks will turn 100 years old on May 3rd. Please send a card or note to him. His address is Rev. Alec U. Brooks, Rosebush Manor, 4210 E. Rosebush Rd., Rosebush, MI 48878.

**TEAM MEETINGS FOR MAY** – You can see page 8 of who is in charge of a team and contact them to see when they are emailing, chatting or zooming. **Our teams are:** Outreach, Care, Personnel, Worship, Information Technology, Property, Christian Education and Finance



**May 19th is Session Meeting at 7:00 pm.**

### ***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 June 7th) 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 Contacts**

### **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