



# Holly Presbyterian Church Connections

**Summer-July/August2020 Newsletter I Volume 20, Issue 7**

We will continue to meet on Zoom on Sundays at 11:30 am. To do so, click on the link below. If you don't have a computer, call into the number provided. It is a chance for us all to see and talk with one another.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89778783372?pwd=L1hwS2YwcVdyQUxHTWFXR3pESU45QT09>

Meeting ID: 897 7878 3372

Password: 104655

One tap mobile

1-312-626-6799, Meeting #89778783372,1#,Password #104655 US (Chicago)

**Just to be clear,  
the Church has not been closed,  
so it doesn't need to be re-opened.  
We have simply stopped worshipping  
in our buildings for a time  
to protect the health & well-being  
of our people & our communities.  
The Church does not require a building  
in order to be the Church.  
What is required is love, compassion,  
& the presence of God.**

You can go to Kirkridge Presbyterian or Linden Presbyterian Churches and do a drive in service. You may also watch them by clicking on these links at 10:00 am. Linden will have a drive in service again on June 28th.

<https://www.facebook.com/kirkridgepc>

<https://www.facebook.com/LindenPres/>



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

July 17th Tim & Linda Burns 49 years

July 23rd Jim & Roberta Single 54 years

July 25th Brian & Laura Parker 33 years

Aug 3rd Nick & Sue Armory 12 years

Aug 8th Scott & Jennifer Studer 22 years

Aug 21st Rick & Margaret Perry 38 years



***Wishing you all God's blessing on your birthday and each day of the year!***

July 2nd Sherry McLaughlin

July 17th Jennifer Chanter

July 19th Gibby Dryer

July 19th Toni Duncanson

July 23rd Jim Lyles

July 25th Ryan Shiel

July 29th Peggy Ranger

Aug 11th Helen McNamara

Aug 11th Randy Cook

Aug 29th Dale Huffman

Aug 31st Mandie Banks



**Class of 2020 CONGRATULATIONS!!**

**Ben Muenzer** was one of 3 recipients of the Brad Stone Scholarship (worth \$4,000 toward their college tuition). This was on pg. 4 of the June 10, 2020 Tri-County Times. Here is a link to it online: [https://www.tctimes.com/columnists/from\\_the\\_editor/the-brad-stone-scholarship/article\\_64fce750-aa8e-11ea-b26b-c3debe5aaf0f.html](https://www.tctimes.com/columnists/from_the_editor/the-brad-stone-scholarship/article_64fce750-aa8e-11ea-b26b-c3debe5aaf0f.html)



**Ellie Goldsmith** graduated from Holly High School. She will either go to Wayne State to study film production and journalism or she will join the service, Air Force.

**Rebecca Cook** graduated from Saginaw Valley State University with a bachelors degree in psychology. She will be going to Western for grad school in the fall.



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

As a Presbytery we have endured quite a Spring. We are in the middle of a pandemic. We have suffered catastrophic floods. But I want to use my report today to talk about a different affliction, another pandemic facing our church and our nation—the virus of racism.



By now, everyone is aware of the murder of Minneapolis resident George Floyd, an African-American, while in police custody and in full view of onlookers. Although Floyd was handcuffed and posed no threat, and while two officers held him down and a third kept watch, another officer pressed his knee on George Floyd's neck for 8 minutes 46 seconds, including over two minutes after Floyd failed to register a pulse. Nine times in the last five minutes of his life Floyd told the police "I can't breathe." Onlookers shouted at the officers, "You're killing him."

Floyd's murder, along with the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and so many, many, more are not just the actions of a few rogue individuals. They are symptoms of a social virus that has infected every corner of this land for 400 years and it must end. That virus is racism. In the name of justice; in the name of humanity; in the name of God it must end.

I am a white male who holds a position of social trust and power. I am the beneficiary of white privilege. I cannot speak personally about the African-American experience of either personal or structural racism and do not presume to speak for my black friends, neighbors and church members. But I can speak to the church as a pastor and leader, and for myself as a follower of Christ.

I don't know what it is to be black in America, but I do know the meaning of "I can't breathe." I don't know how to root out racism in the hearts and minds of my white neighbors, but I can see the racist assumptions and attitudes that I also struggle with in my own heart and mind.

On Sunday, we heard the story of Pentecost, when the Spirit of God, the breath of God, came upon the gathered disciples and sent them out to proclaim God's saving love to all the world. Our Confessions of 1967 and Belhar teach us that racism has no place in the church and out of faithfulness to Christ, must be resisted and dismantled in the world.

This is a kairos moment, a time when the church is called to bear witness to what we believe. Our response must reflect our deeply held values of



respect for human life and dignity for all who bear God's image. Media attention in the past few days has shifted from the brutality of George Floyd's murder to the riots that escalated from protests against it in many of our cities. This is a distraction. While we certainly deplore the riots and the looting, we cannot equate the loss of property from the lawlessness of those who have been deprived justice with the loss of life from the lawlessness of those who are entrusted to enforce justice. We must keep in mind the words of Martin Luther King, Jr: "riots are the language of the unheard."

As a church, let us hear. Let us hear the cries of "black lives matter" from those who live in fear, exhaustion, grief, and pain from the brutalization of black bodies and the terrorization of black communities. Let us not dismiss them with bromides like "all lives matter," or "I don't see color." Not all lives are singled out and brutalized for the color of their skin – black lives are. And to say "I don't see color" is to say "I don't see you. I don't see your suffering. It's not my problem." Racism is our problem. The real terrorist threat to America is the terror that we inflict day in and day out on our black neighbors all across this country who can't jog, can't drive, can't walk down the street, can't BREATHE without fear.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the NBA hall of famer turned author and cultural ambassador wrote in the Los Angeles Times on Sunday, "Racism in America is like dust in the air. It seems invisible — even if you're choking on it — until you let the sun in. Then you see it's everywhere."

A white member of one of our churches recently asked, where do I go from here to make a difference? I replied, first, learn to listen humbly. That means hearing and seeing our black neighbors; it means practicing humility about ourselves and working on checking our own racism and white privilege. It means resisting the temptation to substitute our own judgments and experiences in these matters for the wisdom and guidance of respected black activists, thinkers, and leaders. We have a lot to learn.

Second, as white Christians we need to act courageously: to speak up when we encounter racist comments and actions. If we can't call out racism among our own families and friends, and of course, in our church, then we will never help dismantle it in society. It also means using our privilege and power not for ourselves or others like us, but to advocate for those who lack privilege and power.

As a Christian who is white, I want to say – and I want our presbytery to say – to our black brothers and sisters, we hear you and we see you. We acknowledge your grief and pain and our part in contributing to it. Help us

learn what we need to do to repent of our sin and to follow your lead to help make our church and our world a place where everyone can live and breathe without fear.

At our March meeting, this presbytery committed to becoming a Matthew 25 presbytery, including a commitment to work to dismantle structural racism.

This is our kairos moment as a church and as a presbytery to do just that. As Charon Barconey, the Associate Executive in Detroit Presbytery challenged her presbytery, "If our commitment was more than just 'checking a box and patting ourselves on the back'" then we have work to do. With humility, courage, and love, let us do it.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

**Outreach Team will be doing hopefully** Summer Fun Bags for Traverse Place. These will replace the Easter Bags we were doing.

Here is what is needed: **deodorant, socks, little games, playing cards, crossword puzzle books, gum, all kinds of candy, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving cream, shaving blades, nail polish and remover, shampoo, cream rinse, nail files, hair brushes/combs, wash cloths, Kleenex, body wash soap.**



We will collect our these items when we are back together.

Thanks,

Donna DeNise

## Finance Team

Income	May	\$7,331.77	YTD	\$36,528.87
Expense	May	\$4,176.81	YTD	\$34,372.78

Thanks,

Carrie Duncanson, Vicki Lyles, and Bob Killewald.



### ***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.

***Prayers from the Presbytery*** – All the other churches in transition, Elder Don Wixson, Commissioned Ruling Elder of Vassar-First, who is being treated for cancer, and Rev. Ken Hetzel; retired, who is praise God who has recently been proclaimed cancer free.

### ***Our Joys and Concerns***

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

***Strength, renewal and healing for:*** Kim Watkins (Laura Parker's sister in law), Fran Olson, Reggie and Marna (Karen Haneline's friends), Rick Bugrynski (Margaret Perry's brother in law) and his wife Susan, Margaret House, 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).

***Please keep us updated on the people we are praying for. Thanks!***

**TEAM MEETINGS FOR JULY/AUGUST** – 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.



**July 21st and August 18th are the Session Meetings at 7:00 pm. These will be virtual meetings.**

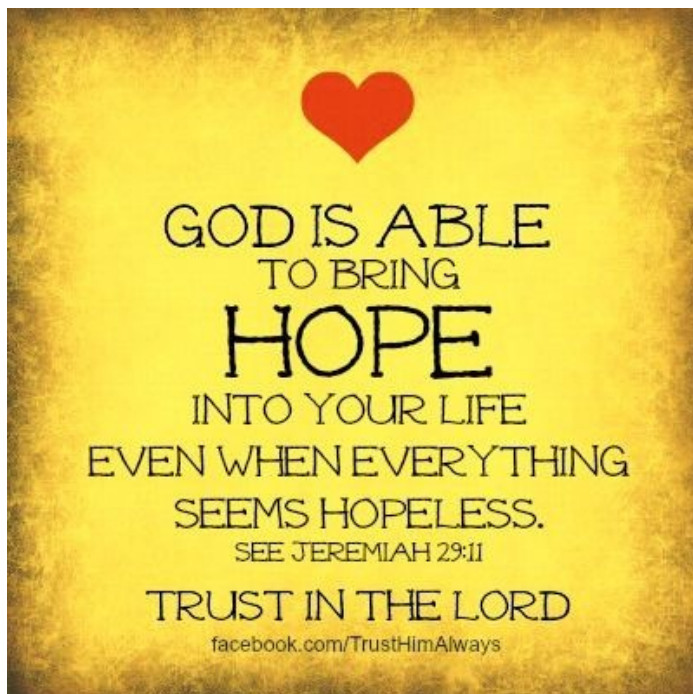
### ***Acting in Faith***

**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.

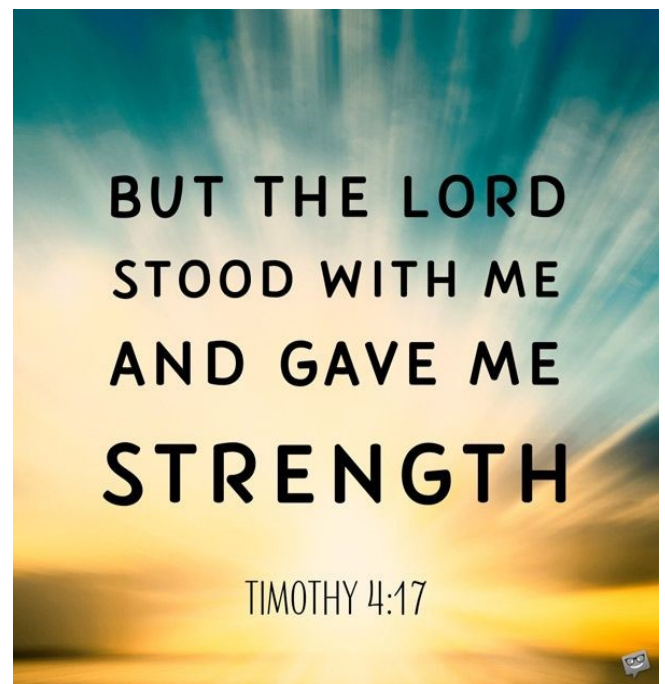
**Great Lakes Scrip Program** - Support our church by buying your gift cards from HPC. If you have any questions, please see Vicki. Thanks for your support! We will resume our regular schedule when we gather again for worship.

**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.



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2020 Session Term Ending

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