



Holly Presbyterian Church Connections

March 2021 Newsletter Volume 21 Issue 3

From the Lion's Den (February 3rd)

Of the many great movies released in 1993 – a pantheon that includes Schindler's List, The Piano, and The Remains of the Day, among others – over the years, one less heralded film has emerged as a classic of equal or greater stature. It is Groundhog Day, starring Bill Murray and Andie McDowell. One notable critic has listed it among the ten greatest American films ever made.

Groundhog Day is the story of a sour, self-centered Pittsburgh TV weatherman named Phil Connors who is sent to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to cover the Groundhog Day ceremonies. It is an assignment he detests. After the ceremonies, a blizzard closes the roads and the news crew is forced to stay overnight in town. But when Phil awakens the next day something strange happens. The clock radio is playing the same song as the day before. Indeed, everything is the same as the day before. It is once again February 2. He is caught in a time loop, of which only he is aware, and from which there is evidently no escape.

Every day is a repeat of Groundhog Day, a kind of personal hell. At first, Phil is confused, but he soon learns that he can take advantage of the situation. With no fear of consequences, he learns secrets from the town's residents, seduces women, steals money, and lives entirely for himself. However, the one thing he truly desires eludes him: the love of his news producer Rita.

Eventually, Phil grows despondent and tries desperately to break the time loop: he even kidnaps Punxsutawney Phil and drives off a cliff into a quarry, trying to kill both himself and the groundhog. Still, he wakes up to find that nothing has changed. Further attempts at suicide are just as fruitless, and the words "I Got You, Babe" that he hears on the radio every morning taunt him.

Over thousands of Groundhog Days, however, the desire to love and be loved transforms him. Since Phil knows everything that will happen in the small town, he decides to make life easier for everyone around him, and in so doing he becomes more lovable himself. He learns to play piano, sculpt ice, and speak French. He saves lives, helps townspeople, and lives for others, especially Rita. One analysis of the screenplay estimates that he goes through forty years of Groundhog Days until he lives the perfect day and wins the heart of his producer. Only then does he wake up to discover it is February 3.

Groundhog Day is a film about growing up – not "coming of age" but becoming mature, selfless, caring, and capable of love. It is about discipleship. It is about what theologians call "sanctification." It is about becoming a person for others.



Did you know the messages of Groundhog Day (both the holiday and the movie) have their roots in Christian tradition? February 2 is historically the Feast of the Presentation, commemorating when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Christ to the Temple, and Anna and Simeon beheld the hope of redemption through him. In our secular festival, a groundhog prophesies the end to winter and the coming of spring; in the movie we are encouraged to persevere in hope that our wintry hell might become the place of our redemption. They foreshadow the long discipline of Lenten sanctification when we pursue holiness and justice in grateful response to Christ's saving death and triumphant resurrection.

For many, life in the pandemic is eerily like Phil Connors' living hell. We grow tired of the sameness of our days. It feels like time is standing still. But it is still time that we can do the hard work of discipleship and strive to live more for others. It might seem like a wintry Groundhog Day world, but Easter is coming (and in fact has already come). May we persevere in faith and hope as we await better days ahead.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

Lions Den (February 17th)

The 2019 Disney movie Frozen 2 is not your typical princess story. It follows up on the 2013 smash hit based on the Hans Christian Andersen story, "The Snow Queen." But Frozen 2 isn't a fairy tale, but rather a powerful exploration of the ecological and cultural consequences of colonialism on indigenous peoples.

The film follows the journey of Queen Elsa of Arendelle as she comes to grips with both the ecological and cultural damage caused by her ancestors. It is inspired by real-life stories of how conquering Europeans disrupted the lives of the Sámi people (whom settlers call "Laplanders"). And it addresses important ethical issues for Americans, too, as we come to terms with our past history of colonialism and genocide.

This history is rooted in "the Doctrine of Discovery," which Presbytery moderator Linda Langrill has selected as the theme of our Presbytery gatherings in 2021. It is also the theme chosen for our denomination by our General Assembly co-moderators this year.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency explains: "The Doctrine of Discovery was first articulated in 1452 by Pope Nicholas V as the Papal Bull 'Dum Diversas' and in 1496 by King Henry VII of England as a patent granted to John Cabot, which authorized and justified the destruction, killing, and appropriating of the lands of indigenous peoples and nations. The Doctrine of Discovery was incorporated into U.S. law in the 19th century when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case, Johnson vs McIntosh, 1823, stating that European nations had assumed dominion over the lands of America upon

discovery and as a result Native Americans had lost their rights to complete sovereignty as independent nations and retained a mere right of occupancy in their lands. A U.S. Supreme Court case as recent as 2005, *City of Sherrill v. Oneida Nation of Indians*, utilized the Doctrine of Discovery as legal precedent for the final decision. This doctrine laid the groundwork for the genocide of indigenous peoples around the world; the colonization of Africa, Asia, Australia, the Pacific Islands, and the Americas; and the transatlantic trafficking in persons used as slave labor."

Although the United States prides itself on having rebelled against British colonialism, the legacy of colonialism is built into our cultural DNA. Slavery, Manifest Destiny, Native American genocide, American exceptionalism, and white supremacy are just some of the expressions of our own colonialist impulses. Their contemporary expressions and legacy are often unrecognized or dismissed as just the way things are. Efforts to raise awareness or correct them are often condemned as "white bashing," "reverse racism," or anti-American.

In *Frozen 2*, Queen Elsa and her devoted sister Anna seek the truth about their ancestors' relationship with the indigenous people of Arendelle. And they uncover the myths created to cover their misdeeds. In the words of Stanford professor Priya Satia, "the fact that the present people of Arendelle are innocent heirs of the past does not stay Anna's hand. To her, there is no way forward at all without rectifying the crimes of the past. That past exists with and alongside the present and future. It can't be buried with the blunt exhortation that everyone just 'move on.' She perceives that either way, her people will not prosper."

In preparation for our March 13 Presbytery assembly, we are invited to watch the film *Frozen 2* through the lens of colonialism. Our equipping time will reference the film as part of a conversation with Native American and African American church leaders.

In *Frozen 2*, Queen Elsa learns that people are ethically accountable for the past in the present; she must do what is right, whatever the consequences. As we move into a post-colonial future as a church and a nation, may we also do what is right, echoing the words sung by Princess Anna:

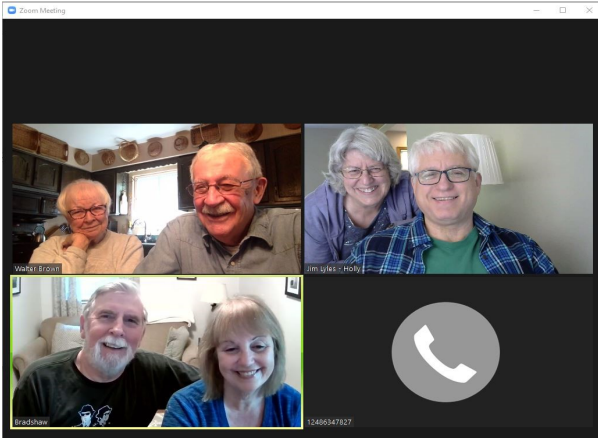
So I'll walk through this night
Stumbling blindly toward the light
And do the next right thing
And with the dawn what comes then?
When it's clear that everything will never be the same again
Then I'll make the choice to hear that voice
And do the next right thing

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

Virtual Coffee Hour - Join us!



11:30 am each Sunday

Click on this link OR Call the number below and follow the prompts.

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

Meeting ID: 897 7878 3372

Password: 104655

By phone call: 1-312-626-6799

meeting,1#,104655#

Meeting ID: 897 7878 3372

Password: 104655

To be spiritually fed:

Rev. Glenn Grant is from Kirkridge Presbyterian, Grand Blanc. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/kirkridgepc/>

Just scroll down to the appropriate Sunday or join live at 10:00 am



Rev. Dawn Russell is from Linden Presbyterian Church and is our moderator. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/LindenPres>

Just scroll down to the appropriate Sunday or join live at 10:00 am

Worship Services for March 2021

March 7th, with Communion

March 21st

March 28th, Palm/Passion Sunday

All services start at 2:00 pm



March Birthdays

Terry Parish	March 5th
Bill Weiss	March 11th
Mary Renico	March 12th
Laura Parker	March 23rd
Tom Schettling	March 24th
Fran Olson	March 30th
Debbie Russell	March 30th



May God Bless you and enrich your lives on your birthday and every day.



March Anniversary

Rev. & Rev. Dr. Fred Gates March 3rd 37 years

Congratulations!

Finance Team

Income	January	\$7,534.38	YTD \$same
Expense	January	\$9,043.91	YTD \$same

Our \$2300 per capita payment has been remitted to Presbytery. We received \$249 toward this expense in January, and about \$365 total as of February 7. If you are able to help with this expense, our cost is \$28.74 per member. It is a great help, because our January expenses include several annual payments, including insurance on the building, in addition to typical winter expenses. Even though we are not in our church building, we still need to heat it. Please mark your envelope or check memo to show how much of your donation is for per capita. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Bob Killewald, Carrie Duncanson and Vicki Lyles

Our Missionaries

Iobst family (now in France)



Keefer Family (Athletes in Action U of M Ann Arbor).



Prayers from the Presbytery –

Our churches currently in pastoral transition. The Rev. George Gillette, who is under Hospice care at Candlestone Assisted Living in Midland.

Our Mission Co-Workers:

Lucy Der-Garabedian serving in Lebanon., Cathy Chang and family serving in the Philippines. Michael and Rachel Ludwig serving in Niger.

Daylight Savings time

On Saturday March 13th when you go to bed change your clocks ahead one hour as we spring forward.



Annual Congregational Meeting

We normally have our Annual Congregational Meeting in February. However, due to COVID-19 and MDHHS restrictions we are waiting until warmer weather. It has been planned for Sunday, May 2nd after worship.

From the Care Team

Prayers of Comfort ...

For the family and friends of Linda Burns (especially for her husband, Tim, and family), who passed to the Greater Life on February 6.



Prayers of Joy ...

- We're thankful Gerry Jackson's skin cancer surgery was successful!
- Charlotte Tinker-Bryant's surgery went well and will continue to recover for a few days in the hospital (friend of Sherry McLaughlin)
- Baby Ryan Washer has been discharged from PICU and is now home recovering from his surgery (friend of the Bradshaw's)

Prayers of Concern ...

- For all those sickened and threatened by the COVID-19 virus here in the United States and around the world.
- For healing, strength, comfort and peace for: Katie and baby Parker Davis, who have COVID-19, and Eric; Jack Beelby (friend of Bob Killewald) who has been diagnosed with multiple cancers; Jimmie Pernell (friend of Gerry Jackson) who is fighting cancer; Mary Renico who continues to heal from squamous cell procedure; Baby Ryan Washer and his family as he continues to recover from surgeries; Debbie Mikolowski (Penny Schettling's sister), who is having health issues; Josh Banks (Mandie's husband), who has a herniation and tear in a couple discs; Burt Brown (friend of Karen Haneline) who had a heart transplant and then spinal ischemia-now confined to a wheelchair; Fran Olson who is at Carlee and Jesse's, and receiving therapy; Terry Parish as he faces some struggles, as well as his wife Julie; Lisa Martin's mother who continues treatment for lung cancer (and for Lisa and Emily as they help care for her); Karen Haneline's friend who is battling breast cancer and just had a double mastectomy; Charlotte Tinker-Bryant (friend of Sherry McLaughlin) who is recovering from cancer surgery; Sue Polack (Sherry McLaughlin's sister-in-law) who is battling lung cancer; Jim Killewald (Bob & Cathie's son) who has a lot of pain; ongoing prayers for Hadleigh Banks and Jim Pelton.
- For our members who are home bound, or in care facilities.
- For those who are suffering from natural and man-made disasters.
- For those serving, or who have served, in our military.
- For our country, its leaders and for world peace in a troubled time;
- For all the churches in our Presbytery that are in transition.
- And for our church, and our future pastor who is coming to lead us.



2021 Session Contacts

Term ends 2021

Walt Brown Information Technology

12222 Overlook Drive
Fenton, MI 48430
810-629-1618 (home)
810-938-9949 (cell)
bewjbrown@me.com

Ellen Paulson Property

6735 Rolling Meadow Dr.
Davisburg, MI 48350
248-320-0375 (cell)
empaulson0@gmail.com

Tom Schettling Worship

16352 Tucker Road
Holly, MI 48442
248-245-8810 (cell)
tpschettiing42@gmail.com

Rev. Dawn Russell, Moderator

119 West Broad Street
Linden, MI 49451

919-428-0443 (cell)
pastor_dawn@lpcmi.org

Vicki Lyles, Treasurer

6015 Lahring Road, Holly, MI 48442
248-634-4610 (home)
vickilyles@comcast.net

Term ends 2022

Bob Killewald Finance

3474 Grange Hall Rd.
Holly, MI 48442
248-310-2410 (cell)
bob_killewald@comcast.net

Charlee Litten Personnel

8360 Rondale Dr.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810-694-0095 (home)
810-730-3350 (cell)
cml45@att.net

Christian Education

Term ends 2023

Jan Bradshaw Care

6912 Frushour
Holly, MI 48442
248-459-1181 (cell)
jlbradshawjr@comcast.net

Donna DeNise

Outreach Rose
1857 E. Rose Center Rd
Holly, MI 48442
248-534-3552 (cell)
donnadenise248@gmail.com

Cathie Killewald Fellowship

3474 Grange Hall Rd.
Holly, MI 48442
248-310-2411 (cell)
bob_killewald@comcast.net

Jim Lyles, Clerk

6015 Lahring Road
Holly, MI 48442
248-634-4610 (home)
248-396-4695 (cell)
jamesmartinlyles@gmail.com