

From: Holly Presbyterian Church office@hollypc.org
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Holly Presbyterian Church May 2021 Newsletter

Volume 21 Issue 5



Annual Congregational Meeting

Our meeting will follow our 10 am drive in service on May 2nd. The Rev. Lindsey Carnes will be officiating. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

From the Lion's Den...April 7th

We are in the second year of a global pandemic. Infection rates, hospitalization, and deaths are rising. As I write this, our region is the COVID hot spot of the nation. Amid these trials, the words "Christ is risen!" might ring hollow for many. How can we celebrate in the middle of a deadly crisis?

But it is precisely because we live in a world of death that we must proclaim the resurrection. The resurrection is God's last laugh in the face of death. There is a growing movement to reclaim the Sunday after Easter as "Bright Sunday." The tradition of Bright Sunday began in the early centuries of the church and continues even today in Eastern Orthodoxy. Bright Sunday is a day of holy humor, a day to laugh and be merry because of the resurrection of Jesus.

It was originally observed on Easter Monday. The faithful would gather for a day of joy and laughter with picnics and parties, to celebrate the resurrection. They played tricks on each other, told jokes, laughed, sang, and danced. (Some think it is the origin of April Fool's Day.) Indeed, early church theologians like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa and John Chrysostom proclaimed that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrection was God's supreme joke played on sin and death.

Laughter is central to our theology, and the chief festival of laughter is Easter when God turned the tables and death became victory. But holy humor did not begin with Easter. It has its origins deep in the experience of the Hebrew people. From the very beginning, God has been in the business of turning tables. Our scripture lesson from Genesis relates the absurd tale of how God decided to begin the work of redeeming humankind by taking a hundred-year-old man and his ninety-year-old wife and giving them their first child. Sarah laughed when she overheard the story. I don't think she laughed because she didn't believe it could happen. I think she laughed because she did believe and saw the sheer absurdity of God's plan. She got the joke, and the child she bore a year later was named Isaac, which is Hebrew for "laughter," or more accurately, "He (meaning God) is laughing."

God is a God of laughter, a God who demonstrates sovereignty by turning tables on our expectations. God starts a family with folks who have one foot in the grave. God takes a band of slaves and defeats the most powerful army of its time. God takes an instrument of horrible, torturous death, and turns it into the means of our salvation. Joseph of Arimathea is one of the bit players in the Passion story. He was the man who offered a tomb for Jesus' burial. A neighbor asked Joseph why he gave his beautiful hand-hewn tomb to someone else. Joseph replied, "Well, he only needed it for the weekend."

The story is told of a pastor who was speaking to a group of second graders about the resurrection of Jesus when one student asked, "What did Jesus say right after He came out of the grave?" The pastor explained that the Gospels do not



student asked, "What did Jesus say right after He came out of the grave?" The pastor explained that the Gospels do not tell us what He said. The hand of one little girl shot up. "I know what he said! He said, 'TA-DAH!'"
Praise be to our God, risen and triumphant. The empty tomb echoes with the laughter of God, the last laugh on sin and death. HOWL-lelujah!

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter
dsaperstein@presbylh.org



It's Baseball time. Let's watch our Holly Presbyterian Church Cardinals play ball!

We have sponsored a team, called the Holly Cardinals. Let's show our support and try to be there for every game. Don't forget to wear your name tag. Games start at 6:30 pm. Teams start practice at 6:00 pm. These kids are 11 to 12 year olds. The Coach is listed in case there are questions about game ie rainouts, Covid, etc.
Click on the link below for the dates of games and locations. Please contact Donna DeNise at 248.634.3760 or leave a message at the office 248.634.9494 if you have questions.

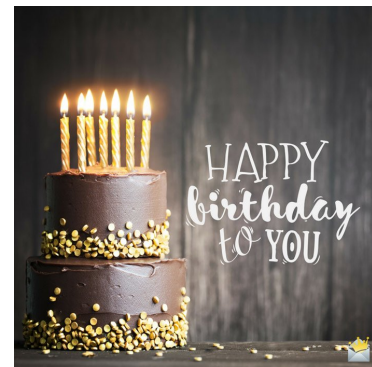
[2021 Schedule of Holly Cardinals](#)

Date
Field/Location
VS

Birthdays for May 2021

May God Bless you throughout the year ahead!

- Gene Stevens May 6th
- James Duncanson May 9th
- Beau Dryer May 10th (5 yrs. old)
- Donna DeNise May 11th
- Brian Parker May 11th
- Angel Vliet May 12th
- Keaton Banks May 18th
- Karen Haneline May 26th
- Lisa Martin May 31st



Happy Anniversary goes out to for May

- Bob & Cathie Killewald | May 12th | 31 years
 - Jerry & Charlee Litten | May 16th | 57 years
 - Broady & Dessalee Cook | May 26th | 37 years
- Congratulations! You show us what love truly is!*

REVISED SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – April 20, 2021

- The IT team is working on live-streaming of worship services once we are back in the Sanctuary in June.
- The property team has replaced storm windows with screens. There are problems with crumbling cement steps (both front and back of the church) and with driveway potholes that still need to be addressed.
- Jim Lyles has been elected to chair the 2021 Nominating Committee. The committee will initially need to address two current vacancies on Session (Christian Ed and Property).
- Pulpit supply has been arranged for all five Sundays in May. Worship services will begin at 10:00 am and not 2:00 pm.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 2, immediately following 10:00 am worship in the church parking lot.
- The virtual coffee hour, conducted at 11:30 am every Sunday via Zoom, will be cancelled at the end of April due to the new 10:00 am worship start time beginning in May.
- The PNC is proceeding with a pastoral candidate.

Jan Bradshaw

May In The Pulpit

Rev. Lindsey Carnes - May 2nd - Our Annual Congregational Meeting will follow worship.

Rev. Linda Living-Hawley - May 9th

Rev. Linda Living-Hawley - May 16th

Rev. Linda Living-Hawley - May 23rd

Rev. Don Neuville - May 30th



All services are at 10 am and are drive in services.

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



Finance Team

Income March \$7,308.85 YTD \$20,167.02

Expense March \$5,669.95 YTD \$21,274.36

Sincerely,

Bob Killewald, Carrie Duncanson and Vicki Lyles

Below are the Newsletters for our mission families.
Click on the family name.

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



Iobst family



Keefer family

Prayers from the Presbytery –

Prayers for the families of Ted McCulloch (Saginaw First) who passed April 12th, Rev. Dr. Rodney Shoemaker who served in former Warren Ave. Presbyterian in Saginaw April 13th

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.

From the Care Team:

Prayers of Comfort

- For Rev. Sharlyn and the family and friends of Rev. Fred Gates who passed away into eternal glory on March 25. For more information <https://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com/obituaries/Frederick-Gates-3/#1/Obituary>
- For the family of Linda Klemp, who passed away April 3 and was a dear friend of Loretta Weiss.

Prayers of Joy

- Laura Parker's stepmom's surgery was successful (Carolyn Watkins). The brain tumor appears to be benign. She will be starting re-habilitation in the near future.
- Mandie Bank's mom, Laura, had a successful procedure for kidney stone removal.

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: Jim Pelton, who has been having health issues and is declining rapidly; Keaton Banks, who is fighting a systemic reaction to a mosquito bite and now has developed an infection which is at high risk for sepsis and may require an IV antibiotic; Alison Marchbanks (friend of Peggy Ranger), whose year-old baby niece, who has been in the hospital being treated for spina bifida, now has contracted COVID; Diana (friend of Cathie Killewald) who is facing health issues and medical tests; Jimmie Pernel (friend of Gerry Jackson) who is fighting cancer; Debbie Mikolowski (Penny Schettling's sister), who is undergoing chemo treatments with the hope of having successful surgery in the future; Baby Ryan Washer and his family (friends of Bradshaw's) as he continues to recover at home from multiple surgeries as well as a recent diagnosis of COVID; Josh Banks (Mandie's husband), who will be starting a new work conditioning physical therapy treatment next week with the hope he will be well enough to go back to work in May; Mandie's mom, Laura, has a neuro sheath tumor on her spinal cord and two ruptured discs (she will need a spinal fusion and the tumor removed); Mandie who has been diagnosed with fibromyalgia in addition to most likely systemic lupus and possibly RA (she will be starting on Quercetin BT medicine to help with the pain and weakness she's been having in her legs).

possibly KA (she will be starting an 8-week PT regime to help with the pain and weakness she's been having in her legs); Jim Killewald (Bob & Cathie's son) who has a lot of pain; ongoing prayers for Hadleigh Banks, Fran Olson and Terry & Julie Parish.

- 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

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