

Holly Presbyterian Church Connections

November 2021 Newsletter

Volume 21-Issue 9



From the desk of Pastor Brooke Pickrell

I am so very happy to have been called as your new pastor, and I feel God's gracious companionship in guiding me to Holly Presbyterian Church and the welcome you have offered to me and my family. I am slowly getting to know you, little by little, as the Sundays go by. I greatly appreciate and hold as sacred many of the short conversations that we are able to have, primarily before or after worship. With the combination of the realities of Covid-19 and the necessary precautions that accompany this pandemic, as well as my half-time status, our ability to get to know one another is taking a slow pace, but it is happening, and I am grateful for the conversations that we are able to share. I am generally in my office on Wednesdays, and though the office is closed, please know that I am available for conversation. We can meet downtown for coffee, for example, or out on the back lawn of the church. Please email me at revbrooke@hollypc.org or talk with me after worship if you would like to get together.

In His Service,

Pastor Brooke

From Session

If you receive an email or text message from Pastor Brooke, please double-check that the email address is, indeed, revbrooke@hollypc.org. Only respond to this email address. Pastor Brooke generally does not text, so it is a good idea to email or call her directly if you receive a text message claiming to be from her. There have been a lot of scamming messages sent out recently, claiming to be from Brooke that are not from her. If you receive a message supposedly from the pastor asking for money or gift cards, know that this is a scam. Contact Pastor Brooke if you have questions.

Outreach Team



Trunk or Treat!

Mandie Banks is again hosting Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 30th at 3 pm – 5 pm. This is when the businesses will be having Trick or Treating. Additional cars are needed to join in on the fun. We will not be handing out candy on the 31st so this is the only opportunity to see those smiling faces. Donna will have bags made up with the candy for you to give out. Please contact the office 248-634-9494 or Mandie 248-820-0657 to sign up your car.

Finance Team

Finance Team Thoughts

It is clear that God has given us the gift of giving. Being extravagant with our generosity in giving of our time, talents and money to further God's mission here glorifies Him in the best way we can. This is so exciting!

It truly is a gift from God that allows us to give of ourselves and show God that we trust in his ability to provide for us and know that He will always take care of our needs.

Remember, we can never outgive God. Think through the years.... God has blessed us all so much. He even gave us His Son, Jesus!!

We are all members of the "Generosity Team" here at HPC. Each one of us is a vital part of determining the success we have in fulfilling our mission.

God will surely bless all of our efforts.



Income	September	\$5,504.78	YTD	\$66,364.09
Expense	September	\$9,235.19	YTD	\$59,905.54

Please note that these numbers do not include the cost of the concrete work, which is being paid from the building fund and Pennies from Heaven.

Your Finance Team,
Carrie Duncanson, Vicki Lyles and Bob Killewald

Remembering the Saints will be held on Sunday, November 7th.

Also, remember that you will gain an extra hour of sleep when you go to bed on November 6th. Set your clocks back one hour.



Session Highlights from October 20, 2021

Outreach - Mandie Banks is heading up Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 30 from 3 – 5 pm. More volunteers are needed. Donated candy will be used for this event. We will also re-open the Baby Pantry beginning in November if it can be done safely.

Christian Ed – Charlee Litten and Jennifer Chanter are willing to leave the Sanctuary with younger children and work with them using Brooke’s sermon as a basis. The Fellowship Hall would be the safest area with regard to space/ventilation and the kids and teachers wearing masks. Another possibility would be a “take-home” Sunday School kit, with materials prepared in advance and sent with the kids. Other ideas would be a web-based curriculum.

Personnel- For now, we are currently looking for a new, part-time custodian. As we get past the pandemic and things open up, we will need full time.

Care - The team will reach out to those we haven’t seen in church for a while.

IT - All five church computers have been brought up to date with the latest Microsoft updates. It was decided to remove Session members phone/email addresses from website due to scam emails and texts received “supposedly” from Brooke asking for help/money. All inquiries will be directed to the church’s phone number and email address.

Pastor- Brook is focusing on adult and children’s sermon preparation, worship planning, bulletins and attending meetings most relevant to her work. She is generally in the office on Wednesday mornings or early afternoon. She plans to take a week of continuing education beginning October 24.

Property- October 2 workday was a success with many tasks accomplished. We are also currently deciding on snow removal options.

Finance – Presbytery approved a technology grant for the church and sent a check for \$1,184 in late September. A financial review of the church records was conducted, and the report was received by the Finance Team in late September. No problems were found.

Nominating Committee- The team is currently evaluating ways to reduce the number of elders/teams on Session since our congregation has changed in size

over the years. Changes would require a modification to the church by-laws, which will need to be voted on by the congregation.

Worship – Discussion took place on how we should handle winter church services with the ongoing pandemic. A few options are currently being explored.

Jan Bradshaw

From the Lion's Den- October 20th

Sunday, October 31 is Reformation Sunday on our liturgical calendars. It commemorates the time in 1517 when Martin Luther, a German monk, posted ninety-five theses, or topics for debate, on the door of the cathedral in Wittenberg, critical of unbiblical practices by the medieval Catholic Church. It is regarded as the start of the Protestant Reformation.



Two years later, a Swiss lay priest named Ulrich Zwingli launched a more radical criticism and reform of the church. This Swiss Reformation became the branch of Protestantism known as "Reformed." It differs from the Lutheran and Anglican branches by a stricter adherence to biblical authority as the norm for theology and practice, and a rejection of priestly authority in favor of shared power by both ruling and teaching elders ("presbyters").

The Reformed movement was deeply influenced by John Calvin, a second-generation reformer from France who was called (twice) to serve the French-speaking Protestant community in Geneva. Calvin, who was a lawyer and a teacher but not a priest, was a prolific writer and preacher. His theology was summarized in *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, which was named one of the ten most influential works ever written by historians Will and Ariel Durant.

Geneva soon became the center of Reformed Christianity. Calvin's influence extended down the Rhine to the Netherlands, and down the Danube to what is now the Czech Republic and Hungary. Many came to Geneva to learn from Calvin, including Scottish exile John Knox, who brought Reformed faith back to Scotland in the Scottish Revolution. Scottish, North Irish, English, French, German, Dutch, and Hungarian immigrants and exiles brought the Reformed faith to North America, resulting in a rich diversity of cultures and traditions.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shares a Reformed heritage with other contemporary denominations such as the United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church of America, the Christian Reformed Church, the Hungarian Reformed Church, and many more. Presbyterian missionary efforts brought Reformed faith across the world, most notably to Korea, where there are now more Presbyterians than in the United States. Korean immigrant congregations

constitute the largest non-English speaking contingent of churches in the PC(USA).

I am sometimes asked why I am a Presbyterian. I am a Presbyterian by personal choice, having been raised in a secular home. I became a Christian at the age of 17 while a freshman at Occidental College, a historically Presbyterian-related school. As my faith matured and I began to sense a call to ministry, I looked for a denomination in which to grow and serve. I had great respect for the Presbyterian and Presbyterian-trained pastors I had met, so I went to the local pastor near the college and inquired about possibly becoming a Presbyterian.

I remember our conversation vividly. He sat across from me in his study behind a large, cherry, or mahogany desk. He said, "If you are thinking of becoming a Presbyterian you might want to read this" – and he turned to the bookshelves behind him, pulled down a copy of the Book of Order, and handed it to me. I eagerly received it and read it that night, cover-to-cover. By the time I got through what was then called the Book of Discipline (now the Rules of Discipline), I was a Presbyterian!

The Presbyterian Church has much to commend it: a solid, biblical theology, vibrant congregations, a faith that seeks to transform society rather than withdraw from it, a commitment to education and the life of the mind. But what made me a Presbyterian more than anything else was its polity.

Presbyterian polity is based on Calvin's understanding that we need each other to correct our individual tendencies towards sin and self-interest. This is best accomplished through prayerful assemblies of persons chosen from the church for their wisdom and spiritual maturity. Calvin believed that as power and authority increased in the church, representation and accountability also should increase, so that decisions are made with the full witness of the Spirit of Christ through the whole church, not an individual or subsection of the whole.

This Reformation Day, I will have the privilege of sharing my story with the good people of Marlette First and Second Presbyterian Churches. I invite you to join me, wherever you are, in giving thanks for this unique and wise contribution to the life and witness of Christ in the world.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

dsaperstein@presbylh.org

Narthex Bulletin Board

The bulletin board in the narthex is looking a little ragged. It is in need of a fresh look.

We have many activities that the congregation does that are not promoted.
SO.....

Would a person or persons take picture(s) of their activity with their cell phone and have Sherry print them. We then can put them on the bulletin board. Also the picture(s) needs to be sent to Walt so he can put them on the Web.

We will have matting frames for the pictures with a caption.

Some examples are:

Trunk or Treat

Church work day

Baby Pantry workers

Passing out water at parades

Kitchen helpers (for funerals)

Bible Studies (when we start again)

Etc.

May God Bless you all year long!

November 8th	Parker Davis	Turning 1 year old
November 19 th	Beth Dryer	92 years old
November 22 nd	Eric Davis	
November 27 th	Barb Brown	



From the Care Team

Prayers of Concern ...

- For those who are suffering from natural and man-made disasters.
- 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: Barb Brown (testing concerning swollen neck glands; Steve in FL (Friend of Cathy & Bob Killewald) who has stage 4 bladder cancer; Shirley Wimbrow (Mandie Banks' grandmother) recovery from surgery to remove bile duct stones; Betty Striggow (Penny Schettling's mother) who is recovering from hip surgery; Debbie Mikolowski (Penny Schettling's sister), who is battling cancer and having a difficult time; Julie Schram's mother-in-law who is in the hospital with Covid-19; George Dzahristos (a friend of Randy Cook's) who has suffered an aneurysm in his brain issues; Mary Renico who has been undergoing wound treatment; Melinda (Elizabeth Kici's daughter), who was diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment; Sherry McLaughlin for numbness in hands; Jim Pelton, who has Lewy Body Dementia and in decline; Diana (friend of Cathie Killewald) who is facing health issues with her lungs and continues with medical tests; Mandie Bank's mom, Laura, who will eventually have to have surgery to repair discs in her back or have a stimulator placed in her back for pain; Mandie Banks who has started back on lupus treatment; Jim Killewald

(Bob & Cathie's son) who has a lot of pain; ongoing prayers for Hadleigh Banks, Keaton Banks who still is having kidney issues and has started medication; Fran Olson and Terry & Julie Parish.

- For our members who are home bound, or in care facilities.
- 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 during these difficult times.

Prayers from the Presbytery –

- The Rev. Peter Russell, Honorably Retired, who is residing at Abbey Park in Grand Blanc. His health has declined recently.
- The Rev. George Gillette, who is under Hospice care at Candlestone Assisted Living in Midland.
- Our churches currently in pastoral transition.

Our Mission Co-Workers:

Lucy Der-Garabedian serving in Lebanon.

Cathy Chang and family in the Philippines., Michael & Rachel Ludwig in Niger

