

Holly Presbyterian Church Connections

December 2021 Newsletter

Volume 21-Issue 10



From the desk of Pastor Brooke Pickrell

We have now shared four months together in ministry, and I want to say again how grateful I am to be your pastor. As I write this, I am reflecting upon the meaningful Memorial Sunday from last Sunday, and I want to say thank you and recognize the work of the Worship Committee and Sherry in thoughtfully preparing for this service. Looking ahead, we have many important upcoming Sundays, with Stewardship Sunday to be observed in a few days, and Advent knocking on the door the following week. I am grateful to you for the pledges of money, time, talents, and testimony that you are offering to our community for the upcoming year. I look forward with anticipation to the celebration of Advent alongside of you, what is, my favorite time of the year.

Please remember that I am generally in the office on Wednesdays, usually either in the morning or early afternoon. Please let me know if you would like to meet during these "office hours". I place "office hours" in quotations, as the office is closed due to the pandemic, however we can find a way to safely meet and have a conversation.

May Christ's peace be with you this day,

Pastor Brooke



Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service will be Friday, December 24th at 6:30 pm.

Please feel free to bring your company and family along with you.

We are doing our annual **Christmas Adopt-A-Family Mission** again, this year. The gift tags are on the board in the narthex. Each tag will include the person's first name and type of gifts including sizes. Please wrap your gift and put the tag on it. Return to the church no later than Sunday December 19th. Thank you in advance for helping this family.



Session Highlights from November 17, 2021

- Charlee Litten contacted several janitorial services. There are two who will be meeting for a walk-through at church this week. Both are licensed and bonded. Other options are also being considered. A new part-time janitorial job description was also approved. Volunteers will be sought to take turns cleaning the church every two weeks, until we have a new janitorial service.
- Session discussed options in the event that Rev. Brooke and/or any immediate family member either have been exposed to or contracted COVID-19. There is a recent concern that Mather was exposed and may have contracted the virus. Several ideas were discussed. At the present time, it was decided that Brooke would record her sermon and have a printed copy also available. The recorded sermon could be played on the church's Audio/Visual system, or one of the elders could read the sermon. Jim Lyles will either lead the service or find someone to lead the service on Sunday, November 21, if Brooke is unable to.
- A motion to approve spending up to \$500 to buy HEPA UV air purifiers for the office and Pastor's Study was sustained.
- The Finance team is working on the 2022 budget.
- IT has determined that the five church computers cannot be upgraded to Windows 11. All are currently running Windows 10. Support for Windows 10 will end in Oct. 2025. The team will develop a plan for replacing these computers over the next four years.
- Holly Area Youth Assistance has contacted the church. They have a family for us to support for Christmas.
- More work was done on the front landscaping with new plantings.
- Four HEPA UV air purifiers were purchased and installed in the Sanctuary.
- Railings were installed on the new concrete staircase going down to the office exterior entrance. Work is still proceeding on the railing repairs for the new back porch steps and the front porch steps.
- Irish Brothers was contracted to handle snow and ice removal for this winter.

- We will ask for small groups of people to put up Christmas decorations at various times instead of gathering everyone together after worship service.
 - Christmas Eve worship service will be at 6:30 p.m. LED candles will be used instead of real candles.
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Finance Team

Income October \$9,370.28 YTD \$75,734.37

Expense October \$8,743.33 YTD \$68,648.87

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



Your Donations and Taxes

If you have been donating to the church online, those donations will NOT be on your annual giving statement from HPC. They cannot be counted twice, and have already been acknowledged by the company who processes them.

If you are able to itemize on your income taxes, your last donation for the year must be handled in one of two ways:

1. By mail, be postmarked by December 31, 2021.
2. In person, must be delivered to the church by December 31, 2021.

If you come to church on Sunday, January 2, 2022 and place a 2021 check or offering envelope in the collection plate, we cannot legally count it (for tax purposes) as a 2021 charitable contribution. If you have any questions, please see me (I will not be at worship on December 26; we will be visiting family).

Vicki Lyles, Treasurer

Poinsettias on display in the sanctuary are in Remembrance of:



Jene Striggow, Betty Striggow, Rudy & Bernice Schetting

By Tom and Penny Schetting

Iva Pelkey, Matt Montreuil, Alec Ash

by Donna DeNise

Mary Kay Lyles and Jean Goss

by Jim and Vicki Lyles

Gordon & Gladys Bradshaw & Jack & Jean Fundis

by Jan and Gordie Bradshaw

Aaron & Margaret Ganshaw

by Jennifer Chanter

Ron Howe

by Kathleen Howe

Bruce Dryer, Harriett & Paul Dryer

by Beth Dryer

Donna Huffman

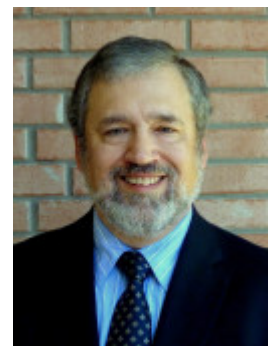
by Dale Huffman



From the Lion's Den- November 17th

Anne Lamott is one of the most popular Christian writers today. Her best-seller, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*, told her story of her coming to faith and discovery of grace in a community of those on the margins of the church. A recent book of hers is *Help, Thanks, Wow*, which addresses the three essential attitudes of prayer.

In this season of Thanksgiving, I turned to Anne Lamott for inspiration. In the section on "Thanks," she writes, "Gratitude begins in our hearts and then dovetails into behavior. It almost always makes you willing to be of service, which is where the joy resides. It means you are willing to stop being



such a jerk. When you are aware of all that has been given to you, in your lifetime and in the past few days, it is hard not to be humbled, and pleased to give back.” (New York: Riverhead, 2012, 56-57).

She adds, “Saying and meaning ‘Thanks’ leads to a crazy thought: What more can I give? We take the action first, by giving – and then the insight follows, that this fills us... It obviously behooves me to practice being receptive, open for the business of gratitude.” (62)

“A nun I know once told me she kept begging God to take her character defects away from her. After years of this prayer, God finally got back to her: I’m not going to take anything away from you. You have to give it to Me.” (63)

Gratitude is a response to grace that leads to action. How can we express our thanks to God for all God has given to us? What are we going to give to others? What are we going to give back to God – both of our possessions and of our vices?

Our December Presbytery meeting will focus on the theme of how congregations can respond to food insecurity in their communities. Julianne Princinsky, who is Chair of the Board of the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and an elder at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Davison, will offer the message and lead a panel discussion of leaders whose churches are making a difference to address food insecurity in their communities.

As we share our Thanksgiving feasts with family and friends, let us also consider how we might share our abundance – and ourselves – with those most in need.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter
dsaperstein@presbylh.org

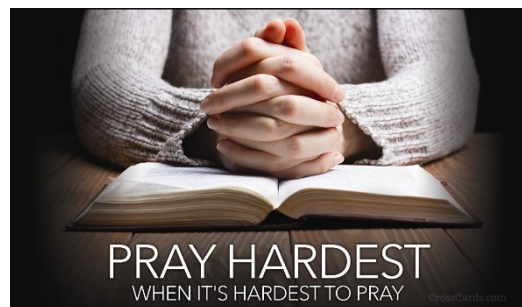
From the Care Team

Prayers of Comfort –

- Comfort and peace to the families of Oxford High School that were lost and injured. Also, to the survivors who may have feelings that are unresolved.
- Prayers of comfort for the family of Betty Striggow (Penny Schettling’s mother).

Prayers of Joy –

- We are overjoyed that Rev. Brooke is able to be here in person.
- Mandie Banks’ grandma is doing well and came home from the hospital after her surgery to remove bile duct stones.



Other Prayer Concerns -

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: **Chris Ridgard** (Pastor Brooke's husband) who has COVID; **Frank Kasperek** (Jan Bradshaw's brother in law) who contracted COVID several weeks ago; **Barb Brown** (testing concerning nodules on her lungs); **Steve in FL** (Friend of Cathy & Bob Killewald) who has stage 4 bladder cancer; **Debbie Mikolowski** (Penny Schettling's sister), who is battling cancer and having a difficult time; **George Dzahristos** (a friend of Randy Cook's) who has suffered an aneurysm in his brain and has a long recovery; Mary Renico who continues with wound treatment; **Melinda** (Elizabeth Kici's daughter), who was diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment; **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 Banks** who has not been feeling well and is going through medication adjustments for Lupus; Mandie's mom, **Laura**, who is recovering from back surgery on November 16; 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 will be on medication for six months; **Fran Olson** and **Terry & Julie Parish**.

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.



We lift up those in prayer from the Presbytery

The Rev. Peter Russell, Honorably Retired, who is residing at Abbey Park in Grand Blanc.

The Rev. George Gillette, who is under Hospice care at Candlestone Assisted Living in Midland.

Our churches currently in pastoral transition.

Happy Anniversary to you both. God bless you.

Debbie & Gerry Jackson December 4th married 39 years

Larry & Pam Remillard December 30th married 54 years



May God bless you all year long!

Dec. 2nd Emily Martin

Dec. 3rd Walt Brown

Dec. 5th Max Muenzer

Dec. 6th Joseph Weiss

Dec. 11th Gordie Bradshaw

Dec. 17th Sierra Sink

Dec. 22nd Emery Howe 3 years old

Dec. 28th Vicki Lyles

Dec. 29th Abby Hardimon 9 years old

