

Holly Presbyterian Church Connections February 2022 Newsletter Volume 22-Issue 02



As a Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament, I have learned a lot about words and their importance. I have learned about words and their ability to offer us nourishment in the form of prayer and liturgy and preaching. Each week I spend a great deal of time in the study of words as I prepare my weekly sermon. So much of my work is filled with words, words, words- and speaking those words out loud to you. But Psalm 19 is a reminder to us- and to your pastor of so many words- that God's presence is often known apart from words. The Psalmist reminds us,

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

The world outside is able to proclaim the goodness of the Lord, not through words, but simply through its presence. Nature offers us the silent teaching of God's love and care by just being there and available and giving us the space for wonder.

In this deep season of winter, when it is so hard some days to go outside, when the heaviness of life can be particularly acute as we live with mostly leaden skies, we have just outside our windows a

great, quiet teacher, able to show us glimpses of the love of God if we are willing to be open to this silent teacher. I invite you to listen for God in the stillness. I need to do this, too- to set aside the words each day and look and listen and be open to the grace found in rock and pine needle, snow and dirt. Let us try to listen for the voice of God where no words are spoken.

Highlights from the January 20, 2022 Session Meeting

- The IT team is looking into adding the ability to remotely participate with worship service during the live stream.
- The Baby Pantry will be receiving a clothing donation from Fenton Presbyterian Church.
- A new custodian has been hired.
- A date has not been set for the annual congregational meeting. We are looking to hold it when the weather gets warmer.
- The railings on the new exterior staircase on the hill have been repaired.
- Church Workdays are planned for May 14 and October 8. Rainout days will be May 21 and October 15.
- The proposed 2022 Church budget has been approved. The Finance team will be looking for ways to promote giving.
- Rev. Brooke Pickrell's installation service will be held on February 20, 2022, at 2:00 pm at the church.

Jan Bradshaw

Finance Team

Income December	\$9,896.87	2021	\$91,674.24
Expense December	\$9,852.69	2021	\$85,851.10



Our per capita payment of \$29.00 per member is due on February 15. This time of the year presents a serious cash flow issue. If you can help out by contributing to helping to pay a portion of this cost, it is greatly appreciated. Please note on your giving envelope or check memo line the amount that is for this purpose.

Thank you for all you do!

Bob Killewald and Vicki Lyles



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will not be until Spring when the weather is better. The report will be given to you to view well in advance of the meeting.

From The Stated Clerk's Desk January 12, 2022

I had a wonderful grandma, Grandma Dolly, who lived in York, Pennsylvania to the grand age of 104 years... exactly. She died on her 104th birthday. And if you knew my Grandma Dolly, that would not have surprised you. She was an incredibly precise person. She taught English and Latin (back when Latin was taught in public schools) and my sister and I were terrified to write her even the simplest "thank you" note for a birthday or Christmas gift.



Why? Because Grandma Dolly would send our notes back, corrected in red ink for spelling, grammar, and punctuation. And yet she was also the absolute best grandma. To this day, I can remember sitting with her in the living room watching black-and-white reruns of the old Perry Mason show. You could only talk during commercials when watching Perry Mason with Grandma. But if I did that (and my parents were astounded that I could), then we watched that night's Philadelphia Phillies baseball game.

As I was going over those memories once again, I have come to realize how much they (and others) mean to me. But not just because they were special moments from years ago but because they have helped shape

some part of me. In learning how to be quiet I learned that not only might I get to watch a baseball game but I found a love for mysteries to solve. In being able to write clearly, I found a love for the written word that I treasure to this day.

For our Presbytery, much has happened over the previous months. It has led to changes in our Presbytery with leadership, with who we will be and what will we value. We don't know what will come next. Frankly, all of that is a little bit scary.

But what I do know is that if we are willing to sit together, to listen to each other and most importantly, listen to where God is calling, we will find what comes next. And whatever that will be is exactly what God intends. It will require work. It will probably challenge us to let go of some preconceptions and call us to truly listen to what others have to say. It will not be easy but, hopefully, it will be fulfilling.

I miss those times with my Grandma and I wouldn't even mind if she corrected my grammar in these thoughts. But most of all, I am grateful that I learned when to speak and I learned when to listen. Maybe we can do the same as the people of the Presbytery of Lake Huron.

Yours in Christ,

Ted McCulloch

Stated Clerk

tmcculloch@presbylh.org

From The Stated Clerk's Desk January 26, 2022

I have had to come to grips with the fact that after spending more than 30 years in this Presbytery, I am one of the "old fogey" of the Presbytery (and if you don't know what an "old fogey" is, you've proved my point!). I have seen so many churches (almost 20) finish their ministry. I have met, shared ministry with and said "good-bye" to almost countless ministers, elders, and lay people. Some went to new places, some to retirement, some to their final rest. There is a lot of history that I have been privileged to witness here.

Yet one of the things I enjoy most about the Presbytery is getting to know our congregations, our pastors, and our leadership who are serving in our churches right now. It's been exciting to see a half-dozen new clergy begin

ministry in our Presbytery – witness the several installations we’ve had and the several other installations that are scheduled in the coming weeks. Each one will bring new gifts, new dreams, and new energy to their congregations and to the Presbytery as a whole.

It is our hope and our intention to not only welcome this new life but to share in it together. One of the best ways to do that is making sure we communicate with each other. Whether it’s sharing what our ministries are doing or what’s going on in our churches (we need your help for that!) or what we are planning for the future, it all starts with sharing with each other. As the Presbytery, we need to do that as well.

One small thing that we will do now that we haven’t done before is include a brief summary of the most recent Presbytery Council meeting in the following Bi-Weekly Brief. It’s a small but hopefully meaningful attempt to keep us informed about some of the things happening in our Presbytery especially as we wrestle with potentially new directions of our own.

Hopefully this and other steps will bring us together as we seek to serve the cause of Christ from Tawas to Holly, from Alma to Croswell and all our churches in between. So let us know what’s going on in your congregation or ministry and share it with each other and then, together, we can be the body of Christ

Yours in Christ,

Ted McCulloch

Stated Clerk

tmcculloch@presbylh.org

From the Congregational Care Team

Commented [PO1]:



Quote

Prayers of Comfort ... Jim Pelton (brother of Fran Pelton and Margaret Perry, nephew of Peggy Ranger) who passed Jan. 17th after a long battle with Lewy Body Dementia with covid.



Prayers of Joy –

- One more lady in waiting-**Katie Davis**. Still cooking her little one.
- **Sloan Irene Sink** (Karen Haneline's grandchild) has blessed us with her presence on Saturday 1.8.2022. Mom, dad and Sloan are home getting their routine ironed out.
- Nicole, Jordan and Emery Howe are welcoming two girls born on January 4th. **Vera weighed 4 lbs 15 ozs and Edie weighed 4 lbs 7 ozs**. The girls and Nicole are doing well.
- **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:
Jessie Ramirez (Carlee's husband) recovery from stroke and found out he had Covid. Minimal residual effect from stroke. Please lift him and the family up in prayer. **Banks family** (especially Hadleigh) as Josh has had an exposure to Covid at work.; **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; **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; **Laura**, Mandie's mom who is still having back pain from surgery; **Jim Killewald** (Bob & Cathie's son) who has a lot of pain; **Keaton**



Banks is having kidney issues and will be on medication for six months; ongoing prayers for **Hadleigh Banks; 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.

Jeanette Gillette, whose husband, the Rev. George Gillette, passed to eternal life last week.

Our churches currently in pastoral transition.

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.



Baby Pantry dates and volunteers

February 4th -Fran Pelton and Jan Bradshaw

February 18th -Jennifer Chanter and Pam Remillard

May God bless you all year long!

Tim Burns Feb 2nd

Ben Muenzer Feb. 12th

Judy Studer Feb 12th

Debra Miller Feb 13th

Dessalee Cook Feb 17th

John Dryer Feb 20th

Penny Schettling Feb 23rd



Session Members

Clerk.....Jan Bradshaw.....2023

Christian Education.....Charlee Litten.....2022

Congregational Care.....Cathie Killewald...2023

Finance.....Bob Killewald.....2022

Information Technology..Brian Parker.....2024

Outreach.....Donna DeNise.....2023

Property.....Jim Lyles.....2023

Worship.....Tom Schettling...2024