



Holly Presbyterian Church Newsletter September 2025

Thoughts From Jamie



From the Rev. Jamie Milton, Pastor of Bay City-Westminster and Co-Moderator of the Mission Coordinating Committee.

One of the more memorable experiences I had during my time in seminary was a travel seminar to Cartagena, Colombia, and it didn't have anything to do with being able to escape January in Chicago for two weeks. In addition to learning about some of the ways the church accompanies the oppressed in modern day Colombia, we visited sites that recounted some of the worst atrocities human history has to tell, the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Cartagena was one of the three Spanish ports in the Americas that received enslaved Africans. While Colombia was a Spanish colony, from the early 16th-19th centuries, hundreds of thousands of enslaved Africans were brought into the area, most arriving through the through the port of Cartagena, where, by the early 17th century, 25% of the population was made up of African slaves.

"Given its geographic location, it became specialized in the arrival and distribution of slaves on the continent," explains historian Javier Ortiz Cassiani. "The life of the entire city was shaped by the arrival of new ships loaded with Africans. Tradesmen, notaries, doctors, foremen, etc. The professions of those living in Cartagena were organized around the slave trade and at the same time further developed it."

Unfortunately, Cartagena is just one example of many throughout the Caribbean and the Americas whose histories are stained with the evils of the International Slave Trade that claimed the lives of close to two million people as they crossed the Atlantic, and enslaved over 12 million African people between 1501 and 1867 (<https://ejj.org/report/transatlantic-slave-trade/>).

August 23 of each year has been chosen to commemorate the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. This date was chosen partly to remember the uprising that began on that date in 1791 in what is now the Republic of Haiti that played a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

While we cannot undo the harm that was done to families, cultures, and entire countries during the 400 years of the Slave trade, it is another important part of our history that cannot be forgotten. As a Matthew 25 presbytery, we are committed to continuing to educate ourselves around the history of racism and white supremacy in our country and around the world while also actively working to dismantle structural racism wherever it is at work.

Annual Picnic

Our Picnic will be on Sunday, September 14th after Worship. We will supply hot dogs, buns, condiments and a drink. Please bring a dish to pass if you are able.



Coffee Hour is back!!

Come join us at 10:30am for coffee, a snack and conversation. Also, if you are able, please sign up to make a snack and coffee. We appreciate you.

Baby Pantry dates are:

Sept. 5th Cathie Killewald & Loretta Weiss

Sept 19th Fran Pelton & _____



Thank you in advance to all our volunteers.

Recycle



We are looking for your used ink cartridges. Bring in your ink cartridges and any batteries you have. Thank you.



Celebrate with us!

Celebrate our new members Chandler Bass and Kaitlyn Estep.

Finance Team

Income July	\$7,102.64	YTD \$59,268.03
Expense July	\$6,649.39	YTD \$52,717.80

Building Fund July	\$220.00	YTD \$2,502.00
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Bob Killewald & Vicki Lyles



September Birthdays-God bless you!

Sept 8th Carlee Ramirez

Sept 12th Bob Killewald

Sept 20th Loretta Weiss



**September Anniversaries
God enrich these lives together!**

Jim & Vicki Lyles Sept 15th 46 years!

Tim & Sherry McLaughlin Sept 28th 40 years!

September Quote

A watercolor illustration featuring two large sunflowers with bright yellow petals and dark brown centers. They are surrounded by green leaves and smaller white and yellow flowers. The background is a light, textured grey.

**So do not fear, for I am
with you; do not be
dismayed, for I am
your God. I will
strengthen you and
help you; I will uphold
you with my righteous
right hand.
Isaiah 41:10**

From the Congregational Care Team

If you have prayer requests, please submit them to Karen Haneline (email address- haneline526@gmail.com , phone 248-894-3489) of the Congregational Care Team.

Prayer Concerns

Please remember to pray for **Pastor Chris and his family**, and our church, every day.

Pray for: Paul and Ashley Dryer had their twin girls.; Donna Miller recovering at her new residence.; Dale Huffman prayers for recovery and increased strength.; Alex Searfoss (great grandson of Donna Miller) Update-feels good and is back to work. Prayers that he continues to improve. Also, they had a new baby.; Mark Bolan treatment for cancer; Charly (Bob & Cathie's friend) age 16 had her liver transplant but is going through difficulty.

Ongoing prayers: Jody (sister of Randy Cook) small cell lung cancer-very aggressive-stage 1-praying the treatment stalls it.; Micah

Swanson (Sherry's second cousin) possibly has throat cancer but does have testicular and bladder cancer; Jennifer Cotaling (Randy Cook' sister-in-law) Mike Schettling (Tom Schettling's cousin) cancer; Tom Schettling; Penny Schettling; Jerry Watkins (Laura Parker's dad); Mike Pelton, Don Neuville, Steve in FL, and Jim Killewald.

Prayers for those suffering: for all those affected by war, severe weather, hunger, gun violence, abuse, and/or addiction.

Donna Miller has moved. Her address is 14480 N. Holly Rd., Apt 316, Holly, MI 48442 (Hampton Manor)

Come and see our new refurbished sanctuary starting August 31st. We think you will like it.



Mon	Sept 1st	Labor Day
Tues	Sept 2nd	7:00pm Information Technology
Wed	Sept 3rd	6:30pm Zumba
Fri	Sept 5th	10:00am Baby Pantry
Sun	Sept 7th	10:30am Coffee
		11:00am Outreach Team
		11:15am Worship
Tues	Sept 9th	7:30pm Property
Wed	Sept 10th	6:30pm Zumba
Fri	Sept 12th	1:00pm Kitchen, Fellowship Hall & Sanct. Reserved
Sat	Sept 13th	Kitchen Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary Reserved
Sun	Sept 14th	10:00am Bible Study
		10:30am Coffee
		11:15am Worship
		12:15pm Picnic
Wed	Sept 17th	6:30pm Zumba
Fri	Sept 19th	10:00am Baby Pantry
Sun	Sept 21st	10:30am Coffee
		11:15am Worship
		12:15pm Worship Team
Wed	Sept 24th	6:30pm Zumba
Sun	Sept 28th	10:00am Bible Study
		10:30am Coffee
		11:15am Worship
Thurs	Sept 25th	7:00pm Session

Coming in October

Fall workday will be October 4th.

Our Rummage Sale set up will be October 5th thru October 8th. The Sale will be October 9th thru October 11th.

Our Missionaries:

Allen & Deedee Iobst family-Paris, France

Colby & Sarah Keefer-Athletes in Action

Cathy Chang and family.



Iobst Family



Keefer Family



Rev. Cathy Chang and husband Juan Lopez

Our own Rev. Cathy Chang and her husband Juan Lopez served as Mission Co-Workers in the Philippines for nearly a decade until the recent changes within the denomination took place. They have now moved to California and wanted to update the presbytery before they change their membership.

Dear Friends in Christ;

Warm greetings from Sacramento, California – our new home and community. It's been about a week since we've relocated – and we're slowly but surely settling down.

We've tried to stay connected these past months – so this relocation might be news to some of you. Attached is our last newsletter as mission co-workers.

On behalf of our family, we appreciate the prayers for our relocation. We also are praying that you are enjoying your summers.

Amidst the many transitions and changes, one thing remains: our ongoing work of solidarity and support, related to migration and anti-human trafficking. **July 30 is the United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons.**

In my new role of Global Ecumenical Liaison with partners around Asia and the Pacific, I imagine that many of you will wish to stay connected and ACTIVE in this ministry.

Here are some timely updates and invitations for a specific letter barrage campaign to Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr:

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/7/9/rev-jihyun-oh-co-signs-letter-seeking-clemency-and-release-human-trafficking-victim-mary-jane-veloso>

This letter campaign is specifically designed for US congregations/faith communities, mid-councils, Presbyterian Women circles, and whomever else – feel free to share widely. (Letter template included in this article.)

2025 Session Members

Clerk.....	Jim Lyles.....	2026
Christian Education.....	OPEN.....	2027
Congregational Care.....	Margaret Perry ...	2026
Finance.....	Bob Killewald.....	2025
Information Technology..	Walt Brown	2027
Outreach.....	Fran Pelton.....	2027
Property.....	Randy Cook.....	2025
Worship.....	Dessalee Cook.....	2025
Moderator Pastor Chris Thomas		



Please remember to check your mailbox for any mail, etc