



Coming Back Together in a New Reality

Grace and Peace to all of you!

There is no doubt that we are living in new and strange times. It has been weeks since we came together in worship and we have been learning together how to navigate the ins and outs of technological worship. Despite the challenges, the Holy Spirit has been moving and we have come together online for prayer, worship and Bible study. We have also come together to give back to the community; we have members who have been sewing cloth masks, members who have been working the front lines in health care and as essential workers and now we have a new ministry starting to bring goody bags to health care workers. Through all of these changes the Spirit has continued to move and guide us.

As we start to anticipate gathering together in-person again, many of us have hopes of things returning "to normal" and yet, the reality is that we won't be returning to the same reality we had before this pandemic. This experience has changed our lives and our society and created a 'new normal' for us. We don't yet know what this new normal will be like for our congregation; it may include wearing masks during worship, spacing in the Sanctuary and new Communion practices. Whatever this new normal brings we will adapt and thrive.

The truth is, going back to a world that has changed so dramatically is scary; we may wonder if gathering as a community of faith will feel the same, we may feel out of place in this new reality of social distancing, occasional quarantining and pervasive illness. We might continue to experience anxiety about gathering together, we might even be tempted to continue to hunker down in our homes where it is safe. And, truthfully, we will have some or all of these feelings as we begin to transition to life outside of our homes, and that is okay. You are not weak or wrong to feel out of place and anxious. Those feelings are completely normal. Please allow yourself to feel them.

One thing that is certain, you are not alone. We are surrounded by the Holy Spirit, our loving God walks with us in our journey and we are also held in the arms of the community of faith. Whatever the challenges ahead, we, as a community of faith united in Baptism and filled with the Holy Spirit will meet them head on, we will support each other through them, we will give to our community and live out our calling to be the Body of Christ in the world.

We may be returning to a new social reality, but what is truly real--the hope that comes through Jesus Christ, the one who defeated death, who gives us the ability to live without fear trusting in the God who is Life—will never change. I look forward to gathering in person with you all, and we will keep you informed as to when and how that will happen, and I pray daily for all of you.

May you be well, may you make space for your feelings, may you experience the support and love of those around you, may you have rest and joy in these days, and may you live every moment knowing that God is fully with you. In the name of the Creator, the Loving Son and the Holy Spirit who guides us all. Amen.

Pastor Jess

LIVESTREAM SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Livestream on Facebook March 29 - May 10, 2020

Sunday Services, 10:00-11:00am
Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00am

LIFE DURING COVID-19

April 13, 2020

Worship Committee meeting via Zoom.

Council and our Committees are still meeting, despite the isolation needs of COVID-19, working to continue Good Shepherd's missions and programs.

Thanks to all!



SUMMER HOURS BEGIN MEMORIAL DAY



New Summer Hours!

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00pm

Beginning Memorial Day week, May 25, 2020, —
Ending on Labor Day, Sept. 7, 2020.

NOISY OFFERING

Holland Free Health Clinic Noisy Offering

The Holland Free Health Clinic does not treat COVID 19 but there are many ways they help those in our community who have no insurance, are under-insured or low income. HFHC provides services such as dental, vision, hearing, medication assistance, diabetic support, chiropractic care, foot clinic that includes socks and shoes, and mental health. Check out their website for more information: <http://www.hfhclinic.org>.

With no noisy offering cans to pass while we stay home, our March and April noisy offering donations have been low. For this reason we have decided to continue with the HFHC through the month of May.

You can donate to the general fund, building/mortgage fund, and noisy offering by mailing checks to the office, 3990 112th St Holland, Mi 49424. You could throw a dollar or two in for noisy offering with a check. You could also go to our website and choose the GIVING link: <http://goodshepherdhollandmi.com>.

Thank you for your continued support of Good Shepherd and our ministries.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School —
Giving our youth a fun and meaningful
experience!
Sunday School Schedule: May 17, 2020



BOOK CLUB NEWS

Hello Everyone -

I hope everyone is well and that you got to enjoy a little bit of the glorious day we had yesterday! The weeks seem to run together this past month, so it was extra nice to be able to work in the yard, etc, a little bit.

Under the Bishop's new mandate that all church services, gatherings, and activities are cancelled through May 10th, I think we are going to cancel Book Group for the rest of this season. I will add the books for April and May to next year's rotation and hopefully in September we can start up again like normal.

Normal sure sounds nice right now, doesn't it?

Duane and I are still working from home - I actually go into the office about 1 time per week to help out - and we are taking all precautions during this frightening time. And praying A LOT!

Please take care, keep in touch, and know that you are all in my prayers.

Laurie



GENEROSITY

Because of Your Generosity... Sunday Children's Sermon

If our children have a loving relationship with God it will give them the strength and confidence they will need to face all obstacles they will encounter in life. Their education must start early and last a lifetime. The Sunday Children's Sermon is a good first step to instill a belief in a loving God who loves them dearly and always will.



OFFERING OPTIONS

Continuing our Generosity...

Even though we are not able to gather in person for worship services right now, the work of our church continues and your financial support of our ministries is still important. Here is a list of ways you can continue your offerings at this time.

Mail: You may mail a check to the church office at 3990 112th Avenue, Holland, MI 49424.

Phone: On a temporary basis, Vanco Payment Systems, our online giving provider, will accept contributions for Good Shepherd over the phone. The phone number is 800-675-7430.

Online: Contributions may be made online using the "Giving" link on our website (www.goodshepherdhollandmi.com). Contributions can be made to any fund (general, 10C-P, noisy offering, etc.) and can be set up as one-time or recurring contributions.



Tithes and offerings

If you have questions regarding giving online or by phone, contact Elizabeth Rohrer at 616-633-5480 or elyrohrer@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM NIGER

From Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Presbyterian Mission
on behalf of Michael and Rachael Ludwig - March 25, 2020, (received April 3, 2020)

Dear Mission Connections letter reader:

Due to COVID-19 and a mandate in the state of Kentucky to close all non-life-preserving businesses, effective Friday, March 27, 2020, the Presbyterian Center will close for business until it's safe to open the building again. Therefore, we will be unable to print and mail Mission Connections letters at this time.

If you would like to continue to receive Mission Connections letters you can read them online on your home computer, phone or tablet. To sign-up to receive email alerts when your mission co-workers letters are posted online, please follow these steps:

1. **Go the Mission Connections web page:** pcusa.org/missionconnections.
2. **Click on “Subscribe to mission co-worker letters.”**
3. **Use the alphabetical list** to find the mission co-worker whose letters you want to read on your electronic device and click other name to subscribe.
4. **Fill out the form.** Include your first name, last name and email address, and hit **“Submit.”**
5. **Note:** after their next letter is published on the Mission Connections website (about four times a year), you will receive an email with the subject line, “Read the latest from [co-worker’s name here] — Presbyterian Mission Agency.” This will come from info@info.pcusa.org.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or other staff on the Mission Connections team if you have questions about letters and how to subscribe:

Mary Nebelsick: mary.nebelsick@pcusa.org, 502-569-5075
Sue Budd: susan.budd@pcusa.org, 502-569-5110

Peace be with you,
Ellen Sherby, Coordinator
Mission Connections Presbyterian World Mission
ellen.sherby@pcusa.org, 502-569-5612



FIT 4 MOM



Update: Jaclyn is still on Maternity Leave
No May Fit 4 Mom and Yoga classes.



OFFICE HOURS DURING COVID-19

Office hours during the COVID-19 crisis are:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Be aware that though Deb is still working in the office, the outer doors are remaining locked. If anyone should need to come to church during open hours, Deb will need to be notified ahead of time to let them in.

OPERATION CARE COVID-19

Operation Care Covid-19

Like many of you we have had some time on our hands and decided to do some research on current Thrivent projects being done around MI. One that particularly caught our interest was making “care bags” for community workers involved on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. This would include a small bag of goodies along with a handwritten note from church members to let them know that we are thinking of them, appreciate them, and are praying for them. We wrote to Thrivent for a grant for start up money and the project was immediately approved! These bags will be delivered to hospital employees and nursing home employees depending on how many we can make.

We would love it if you could participate in this project too! We have listed the items below that we will be packing in the bags and if you would wish to donate something to help you have several options; you could bring items to our home (we have a table on our front porch where you could place items, 4212 Elizabeth Ave., Holland, 49424), we would be willing to come to your house to pick items up, or if you can't get to a store and wish to make a financial donation to the project you could send a check to the church (be sure to indicate that it is for COVID or Operation Care).

Thank you so much for considering donating and please be in prayer about this project, it's a very tangible way to show our community members the love and appreciation that our church members have for them. We will be wrapping this project up on May 10th and delivering the bags that week. Please call or email us to let us know what you can provide so that we can cross it off of our list. Our phone number is 616-399-4153 or you can email us at parrott@chartermi.net. Thank you very much and God be with all of you.

Items needed for packing are as follows:

(Everything must be prepackaged)

Bottled Water

Packaged nuts

Packaged trail mix

Meat sticks

Packaged chips and crackers

Packs of gum and mints

Individual pudding cups, apple sauce, or fruit cups

Packaged cookies, granola bars, etc.

Small handwritten notes

Quart size Ziplock bags



Again, thank you and the project end date is May 10th.

Rob and Lynda Parrott

616-399-4153

parrott@chartermi.net

LOWERING OUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS



THE “10C-P” PROGRAM “UPDATE”

This designation “10C-P” designates extra contributions to the church’s Mortgage Fund that will be used to pay down the principal on the loan. The 10C is the Mortgage Fund account number and the P will be for the principal. Any funds given toward this program should be designated 10C-P on the check or envelope or online designation.

Our current mortgage payment is \$4,258 monthly which is \$51,096 annually. This is a major portion of our budget. On Nov. 1, 2020 the interest rate for our loan will no longer be fixed at 3.875%. It will be the current interest rate that is charged on new loans as of Sept. 15, 2020. That rate will be fixed for the next 5 years of our loan.

Our current principal owed is \$245,000 and the principal owed on Nov. 1, 2020 is expected to be approximately \$220,300. If we can lower our principal owed to an even lower amount before Sept. 15, 2020 we could lower our monthly payment for the next 5 years. Our loan company, the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, calculated that if we could lower our principal by an extra \$35,000 we might have a payment of \$3,367 monthly depending upon the interest rate at that time. **This would reduce our loan payment to \$40,404 annually. A big drop over the \$51,096 we are paying currently.**

The new interest rate will be set on September 15th and the monthly payments will be set based on our principal owed on September 15. Sunday Sept. 6 will be the last collection taken and processed before September 15. All funds for this project must be received by Sunday, September 6, 2020.

Can we raise an extra \$35,000 before Sept. 6, 2020 to make this happen?

As of this writing we have received \$20,955 toward this program.

If you are inclined to help make this happen with whatever you can afford for the next 4 months, please consider doing that. Your gifts should be marked “10C- P” and they will be used to lower our principal owed before the Sept. 15, 2020 deadline.

Remember: this needs to be extra funds over and above what we are already receiving because we will have to pay our current monthly loan payment of \$4,258 each month through Nov. 1, 2020. Any extra contribution, designated “10C-P”, no matter how small, will be used to lower the principal owed

If you have any questions please contact Dennis Willaman, at 616-335-2447 or by email at willamandennis780@gmail.com.

Keeping In Touch?

Breeze Can Help!

During this time of not meeting face to face many want to reach out to those we do not see on Sundays, to check in, to see how we are all doing while we stay home. Have you wished you had an address to send a card or an email address, or a phone number? Our old printed directories may have outdated information, however our Breeze directory should have current up to date contact information. If you signed on when we shared introductory information you can access your login at the website <https://gslchollandmi.breezechms.com>. Here you can access all members, current attendees and friends and their contact info.

If you did not sign on initially we are offering another opportunity to do that. Contact either Elizabeth Rohrer (elyrohrer@gmail.com) or Vicki Russell (vicki0528@gmail.com). Simply tell us you would like access to Breeze. We will send you an email invitation to sign on to Breeze. Sometimes these email invitations are sent to your junk or spam folders because it comes from Breeze and is not recognized. We will also send you an email from us telling you the invitation has been sent so you know to be on the lookout for it and/or check your spam/junk folder. Feel free to contact us with other questions regarding Breeze.

Also, please note that if you change any of your contact info please let us know so we have accurate information.



May

Birthdays

Lucien Preston 2
Chris Simoni 5
Jessica Underhill 8
Jeff Hardy 15
Terry Grossman 22
Carol Ollermann 25
Jon Hurt 26
Vicki Russell 28

Ellen Lichtman 5
Donna Vargo 7
Lynda Parrott 10
Nora Leppala 21
Corinne Becker 23
Bryan Blank 26
Kris Norvell 27



Anniversaries

Carol & Craig Ollermann 18
Merle Malmquist &
Wayne Nestander 23
Kris & Floyd Norvell 24
Perry & Lisa Pearson 25
Laurie & Duane Schuldt 28

OUR THANKS AND PRAISE

Pastor Jess, Friends & Good Shepherd Congregation,

Many, many thanks for the way you keep in contact with me — Joan Josie too. It makes me feel so good to see the names of fellow members in the bulletins and your prayers also.

With my love and appreciation, yours in Christ,

Nancy Hazekamp

rec'd April 8, 2020



The Measure of our Love

No attendance due to Covid-19
Stay Home, Stay Safe requirements.

Pastor Jess & family, Good Shepherd's
Congregation and all the Workers at G.S.

I am well - using my walker - but walking!
Obeying the "Lock Down" orders - although
hating it.

I appreciate living her at The Village at
Park Terrace...love the safety, the heat, the food,
etc. I'm independent but appreciate everything I
have!

Thank you all for the news of Good
Shepherd!

Yours in Christ,
Nancy Hazekamp

rec'd April 20, 2020

PASTOR'S SHELTER-IN-PLACE SCHEDULE



Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Friday

via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: pj.gslc@gmail.com

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

Ellie Buggeln	(616) 399-0591; elliebuggeln@gmail.com
Elliott Eisaman	(716) 785-0918 elliott.eisaman@gmail.com
Debbie Kleinjans	(616) 88607918 deborahkleinjans@gmail.com
Chris Manzo	(616) 405-3048 chrismanzo@outlook.com
Jessica Underhill	(616) 848-9367 brianjessunderhill@yahoo.com

IN OUR PRAYERS

In Our Prayers...

- **Our Sympathies:** to Derek & Dawn Sjaarda and family on the passing of Dewey Sjaarda, Derek's grandfather, on April 8, 2020; to Stan & Debbie Kleinjans on the death of his sister Glenda (Glennie) Bruursema; to Bryan Blank and family on the death of Karen, April 2, 2020; to Sally Ponstein and Ellen Lichtman on the death of their brother Kim; to Michele, Marty, Gavin and Mitchell (friends of Chris Manzo) on the death of their son and brother, Pierce..
- **Healing/Peace:** Rick Artwick (Dawn Sjaarda's uncle), Jill & Jordan Berens and their unborn son (granddaughter of Jim Dyke), Beth Brumbalow (friend of Lois Robinson), Russell Bradfield (Patricia's husband), Gretchen Buggeln (Ellie's daughter-in-law), Lucas Barton, Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Bryan Blank, Karen Blank, Olivia Boomershine (friends of the Norvells, youngest daughter of Ross and Kelly), Cassie, (friend of Chris Manzo), Kodi DeHaan, Carol Essig (Bret D'Agostino's aunt), Judy Forsten (Marijo's Sister), Alyssa Gorraiz, Kate Haaser (daughter of Rose Hechel), Erlene Haskin, Hilda (member of Emanuel A. de D.), Jared P-H, (Dawn Sjaarda's cousin), Julie and family (friends of Dawn S.), JM & RM (friends of Sjaardas), Cathy Kelly, Brandi Ketchum (friend of Underhills), Andrew Linn (friends of the Beckers), Bob Lutz, Helen Lynam (friend of the Beckers), Joan Jose, Alex Norvell (Kris and Floyd's nephew), Sue Norwick, George Preisler and wife Donna (former members), Roland Rivera, Richard Russell (Mike's brother), Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Terry Speese (Friend of Pastor Jess), Christopher St. John (son of Bonita Zielke), Roland Walters, (Father-in-law of Tammy), Myrlene Weishaar, Jon Wiening, Bonita Zielke.
- **Prayers for Our World:** Knowing that we are part of the body of Christ in the world and that we are fellow residents, we pray for the planet and the global community. We pray for all those communities, ecosystems and habitats devastated by wild fires and floods. For all those who have been devastated by the recent volcanic eruptions. For areas in the world torn apart by war, famine and disease. For those who are separated from their families because they have been detained or incarcerated. For religious communities, schools, workplaces, military bases, cities, communities, families and people who have been devastated by violence. We pray that the presence, peace, healing and reconciliation of God be felt and practiced in each of these places.
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Allan Malan, (Eve's dad), Ruth Bergan (relative of Corinne Becker).
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Tessa Hurt, Hillarie Kinne (Parrott's daughter), Samantha Wagner (Patricia's granddaughter-in-law). Mariah Vixayphone (Som's granddaughter).
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Kody DeHaan, Steve Dyke, Ben Johnson (Parrotts' nephew), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Eric Johnson (Steve & Kerry's son), Kayla Kleinjans (Stan & Debbie's granddaughter), Alex Miller, Andrew Wagner (Patricia Bradfield's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Wayne Shearier, Niles; Bethany Lutheran Church, Rev. Chriysanne Timm, Northport; Faith Lutheran Church, Rev. Ellen Schoepf, Okemos; Hope St. John's Parish Oscoda, Supply Pastors, Oscoda; Montana Synod, Bishop Laurie Jungling, Great Falls, Montana.