

HPBC creates online community to better connect

Beginning this summer, HPBC church members will be asked to join our new online community, called *MyHPBC*. This community will provide an online place where members of the church can share information within the church body.

Church leaders in charge of this project are Pastor Dave Borrer, I.T. Director Andy Veldman and Business Manager Dave Kuntzman. They recently answered several questions posed by *The Connection*.

What is the MyHPBC Online Community?

MyHPBC is our new church management software system that will function, in its simplest form, much like a membership directory, but with a host of additional useful resources for members, groups, ministry teams, and church leadership. Being online and available to all in the *MyHPBC* Community, this will provide a

quick and simple way to keep individual and family information updated. Information like phone numbers, email addresses, ministry interests and involvements, along with current contact information. Privacy controls will be put in place by each individual member to control what information is willing to be shared.

What features will the MyHPBC Online Community have?

Depending on an individual's privacy settings, members of the online community will be able to access other member's name, address, phone number, email address, and profile picture. This software with family and contact information will also serve as the data hub of our current kid check-in process. Group management,

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Photo by Heather Fracassi

Sixth grade girls from the Herd meet in their small group on a recent Wednesday night.

Herd and Crash students will be asked to live life on mission this summer

Students in the Herd and Crash, HPBC's ministries to middle and high school students, will be encouraged this summer to live a life on mission through a variety of new ways including a Bible reading challenge, a Bible study, Munchy Mondays, Wednesday night services, mission trips and more.

Kenneth Gabbert and Jeremy Einem, directors of the Herd and Crash respectively, said they are excited for summer because it provides the opportunity to spend more time with students. During the school year homework and after school activities keep students extremely scheduled, but in summer everything stops.

"As great as it is to have our (SCS) students in the same building with us during the school year, the summer is actually a better time for us to be relational with them because they have so much more free time," said Jeremy. (About 80 percent of the roughly 150

students who attend the Herd and Crash on a typical Wednesday night are SCS students.)

Added Kenneth: "Because students have so much time we are able to live life with these students and take them along our side."

To make the most of this summer, all Herd and Crash students will be encouraged to participate in a 70-day Bible reading challenge. The verses are mostly from the book of Acts and focus on the Great Commission with specific verses assigned for each day.

Also new is a five week at home Bible study. The Bible studies will start in July and sign up is not necessary. Middle schoolers will meet from 7-9pm Sundays at the Gabberts house in Farmington Hills near Gill and Eight Mile roads. They'll play some backyard games, divide into groups – boys and girls – and study the Bible passages from Acts

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"Take a Seat" campaign to help building project end debt-free

Throughout the summer months the HPBC family will hear about and be encouraged to take part in the *Take a Seat* Campaign, a short-term fundraiser designed to ensure the Worship Center renovations end in the black.

The anticipated new brown chairs with light wood armrests will be on display in the foyer area. Donors will be able to contribute financially to fund the cost of one or two or more seats at \$250 each. The campaign hopes to raise enough to pay for 1,000 seats.

"The *Take a Seat* campaign is going to give everyone in the church an opportunity to contribute towards the seating in the Worship Center," said Dave Kuntzman, business manager. "Each seat costs about \$250, so our goal is to raise the \$250,000 needed to be sure we can finish the project without any debt."

Construction crews started renovating HPBC's Worship Center in April as the final phase of the Next Chapter, a three-year church building renovation designed to upgrade our 50-plus year old facility for ministry. The Worship Center is the most expensive phase of the Next Chapter projects. As of May 31, the church had \$2,917,000 on hand to complete the Worship Center renovation, and projections show there could be a shortfall of up to \$250,000 by the time it is completed. This shortfall is directly attributed to the inability of some to fulfill their Next Chapter financial pledges.

Because church leaders are committed that the Next Chapter projects be done on a cash-only basis, leaders hope the *Take a Seat* campaign will provide a fun and tangible way for the HPBC family to fill in the remaining funds that are needed to complete the Worship Center remodel.

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Pastor Brent Slater: Celebrating Our Changeless God

Summer is here. The flowers fill our gardens with color and the trees have cast off their winter drab for the splendor of endless shades of green. Michigan's season blesses us with change. We love change, don't we?



We love it in our children. We applaud each developmental change they achieve and send off videos to grandparents to share each new skill and accomplishment. We want them to grow and change.

Change is everywhere. Cars change with each model year. Clothing styles change almost too fast. Opinions change.

Politicians promise change. We like change. It offers something new, a sense of hope, the anticipation of improvement.

Yet, the Almighty God never changes. Why is His changelessness something to celebrate? Doesn't a lack of change imply stagnancy, inevitability, or predictability?

Our God cannot and should not change, because He is perfect. He is perfect in essence, in who He is, and in practice, in what He does. Because He is perfect, **any change would be a move away from perfection.** He is not stagnant. Instead, He is perfectly creative. No development is needed. His justice, love, and plans are all completely righteous and without flaw. Any change would be imperfection. God has no need to improve, for He is the very standard of exact excellence. He is immutable, indisputably

perfect, and completely true.

The fact that He doesn't change is our salvation. *"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."* (Malachi 3:6) His changelessness gives us hope, for every good gift proceeds from His perfections. *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."* (James 1:17)

This world is broken and in need of change. Lives are scarred and wounded by decisions that have been maliciously twisted by sin. We need to be changed by the changeless One, Jesus Christ. *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* (Hebrews 13:8)

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assigned in the 70-day challenge. The middle school Bible study starts July 10 and runs for five straight weeks through Aug. 7.

High schoolers are reading the same passages, but will meet on Monday nights, starting July 11. Locations were still being worked out at the time of this publication.

On Wednesday nights when students meet at church, sermons will center on these daily verses. In the summer the Herd and Crash services are roughly every other week from 6:30-8:30pm – thirty minutes longer than during the school year.

Also new in the Herd is something called "Herd Munchy Mondays" on selected Mondays from 11am-3pm at the church. On these days students show up at 11am with \$10 and a release form. Kenneth and staff will take them out to lunch, and then they will come back to hang out. Jeremy will also be regularly connecting with high schoolers throughout the summer in various ways – though not on a specific day and time.

Also both ministries are planning to go to Central Detroit Christian for their annual summer missions trips. Middle schoolers will go June 26-29 and will do various work projects. High schoolers will go July 17-23 and will run a day camp for kids and do several work projects. The work projects are also expected to be transformational.

TO HELP: If you would like to get involved, both the Herd and Crash could use volunteers to cook meals and take them to students during their mission trips. They are looking for help in other ways this upcoming year as well. To learn more contact Sara at sveldman@hpbcc.cc



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ministry tracking, volunteer and service opportunities, along with online giving will also be available. Access to the Online Community will be available from any personal computer or mobile device.

Why do this?

We've been operating with an outdated data system and it has been nearly impossible to keep up with ever-changing family information, track ministry involvement, and have a centralized way to accurately follow ministries and ministry teams. A simple way to facilitate communication has also been a huge challenge, along with managing attendance and individual member involvement. MyHPBC provides a way for church information to be as accurate as possible and be all in one place. It has great capability for many groups, such as ABF's, small groups, board members, and ministry teams to interact with each other.

How could this furthering closeness among members?

It will give us an enhanced opportunity to connect with each other - personally and in groups – all with accurate and up to date contact information. Members of the online community will be able to indicate interest in a group or ministry, and be able to explore opportunities to get involved in the life of HPBC.

How would a person or family join?

Each member of the Online Community will be asked to login, set up a password, and provide update individual, family and church involvement information, and establish privacy settings. There will always be the option to edit your profile.

What about privacy?

The software developer services a large number of churches and ministries across the country and is confident in its security. With that said, we will provide detailed information on security provisions and a Q/A document to help alleviate concerns.

What are you asking members to do right now?

Sign up for our church family will begin this summer. Meanwhile, our office staff and key volunteer leaders are learning about the program and beginning the process of developing personal and family profiles.

Anything else?

We believe this resource will significantly improve our communication and connectivity throughout our church community. It will become an integral tool to being organized, connected and well informed, to better live out our mission to Grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, Worship God with all that we are and have, and Go to serve others, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Consider Enrolling Your Child at Southfield Christian

HPBC's ministry to students is more than Sunday and Wednesday - Join us Monday through Friday! Become a student at Southfield Christian School. The Scriptures repeatedly point to the importance of teaching our children to know and love the God who created all of the wonder that surrounds them. SCS partners with parents to provide excellent academics based on Biblical truth. SCS is enrolling now for fall. For more information contact Carri Hammers, Director of Admissions at 248-357-3660 x 258 or chammers@southfieldchristian.org.

New app makes sermons, more just a click away



Miss a Sunday and need a way to easily access Senior Pastor Brent Slater's sermon? Or are you trying to remember the details on an upcoming church event?

All of this, and more, is now just a click away through the new HPBC Southfield app.

The church app is now available at the app store, for iPhone users, or Google Play for android users. Just go to the appropriate site, search HPBC Southfield, and download it for free.

The app offers instant access to sermons, the church calendar, e-giving, the Bible, HPBC's social media sites on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, plus more.

"Now you do not have to go home to a computer to connect to us. If you are looking to use those resources they are in one central spot in your pocket," said Pat Nagle, director of creative arts.

Recently the church started offering Pushpay as an option for giving. Pushpay is a New Zealand based company that recently started marketing its e-giving product to larger North American churches. The app is free and it allows users to give tithes through e-giving. Users can also use the app to pay bills and make other financial transactions outside of church.

Besides offering e-giving to churches, Pushpay created a custom made app for our church. Pat said, "taking advantage of the company's custom app just made sense."

"We want to make sure we are using every tool at our disposal to reach our church body and our congregation," said Pat. "With the times, and the generations coming up, these are normal parts of life. Smart phones and apps and technology – there is just a large percentage of the population using them and we want to remain in touch as well."

Take advantage of the resources now available using the HPBC Southfield app.



Photo by Heather Fracassi

Ministry Associate Chris Norman (left with mic) leads the Young Adult ABF on a recent Sunday

ABF Profile: Young Adults class offers millennials a place to connect, grow

HPBC has 12 Adult Bible Fellowships (ABFs) that meet at 10:10am each Sunday. ABFs are a place where life-long friendships are formed as members pray, study the Word and fellowship together. This is part of an occasional series profiling our ABFs. To learn more visit the Welcome Center.

Welcoming. Friendly. Authentic.

The Young Adult ABF (Adult Bible Fellowship) is a fun-loving community of millennials who gather every Sunday morning at 10:10am in the Chapel, plus at other times throughout the month, to grow in their faith together.

The group targets anyone who recently graduated from high school, attends college or is getting established in a career (roughly age 18-30ish). Besides Sundays, the ABF regularly meets together in small groups to study the Bible, meets with accountability partners, or simply get together spontaneously for fun.

"There is a lot of natural community here, not forced community," said Dayna Anderegg, 26, a regular attendee.

Young Adult ABF (age 18-30)
Teachers: Jimmy Smith & Chris Norman
Location: The Chapel
Regular Events: summer camping trip, themed Christmas party, overseas mission trips, small groups and spontaneous get-togethers throughout week

Young Adults and Young Families Pastor Jimmy Smith and Ministry Associate Chris Norman teach every other week. Mike Byl, 24, said a sermon Jimmy did a couple years ago on the spiritual disciplines awakened in him a desire to pray, read the Bible, and share his faith with unbelievers. The teachers are always available to answer questions, their messages are relevant to where the class is in life, Mike said.

Kali Archibald, 21, said she appreciates the emphasis on studying the Bible, and accountability. She also appreciates that everyone in the class is in the same stage of life, experiencing similar things. Sharing life with Christians who share similar struggles and

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Photo by Dave Veldman

THANK YOU to the 60 once-a-month volunteers who are part of a Weekend Team that join with HPBC staff on Saturday mornings at 8:00am to set up the Gym and Overflow Room with a total of 730 chairs, along with sound, tech, staging, resource tables, and carts; then tear it all down and put away each Sunday after the second Worship Hour.

Church Calendar

June 19: Take A Seat campaign begins

June 20-24: Spring Hill Day camp

June 26-29: Herd Work Week at CDC

July 10-August 28: Faith Quest – Sunday mornings at Kid City – the El

July 10: Herd Home Bible studies begin, 7:00pm in Farmington Hills

July 17-23: Crash Detroit Ministry Week at CDC

July 24-27: SEND Family Conference

Aug. 22: Southfield Christian School First Day Back

Aug. 24: Herd and Crash Fall Kick Off

Sept. 7: HPBC Annual Meeting

Go:Detroit project seeks summer volunteers

HPBC volunteers filled four full-sized commercial dumpsters with debris from Central Detroit Christian's new 30,000 square foot building this spring as the church-wide missions project called Go:Detroit officially got underway.

More HPBC volunteers are expected to head to CDC throughout the summer, doing everything from restoring a gym floor to painting walls to getting the former church building ready for ministry.

"So far we've cleaned the parking lot, took fences down, removed debris from the building, cleaned up graffiti, and completed a whole host of other small projects," said Dave Kuntzman, HPBC's business and missions director. "The goal is to get a preschool up and running this fall."

CDC is a Christian non-profit ministry that HPBC helps support through its mission's budget. The ministry, located just north of Detroit's New Center area, works to restore lives in one of Detroit's poorest zip codes by providing educational pro-

grams, employment training and economic development. It rehabs homes, provides financial counseling and helps families become home owners. CDC also operates a produce market, laundromat, fish hatchery, healthy soul food restaurant and more.

The building HPBC is helping CDC restore is a former church abandoned in 2010. The property held a \$965,000 mortgage which the bank agreed to forgive if CDC would pay for the cost of handling all necessary paperwork, about \$3,000. CDC plans to move its offices into the building and operate a preschool inside. HPBC has pledged, through Go:Detroit, to do what it can to help.

HPBC's Board of Elders is encouraging everyone at HPBC to help with the summer mission project, volunteering for a day or more. The goal is to bring our church family together in a service project as HPBC also undergoes construction

itself during the Next Chapter renovations.

"As we are engaged in the Next Chapter project at our own facility, we felt it would be of value and importance for us to not just be inward focused but to look beyond our walls," said Dave. "When the CDC opportunity presented itself, everyone thought it was a good opportunity."

HPBC pastors and staff spent two full days working on site in April and three teams of HPBC volunteers were on site for three days in May.

"Thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard in early June to get the site cleaned up for the next phase of reconstruction," said John Christie, HPBC's volunteer Go:Detroit project manager. "Currently the outside work is essentially complete – at least for now."

After finishing all the outside cleanup, CDC brought in professional contractors to remove asbestos and lead. The contractors finished their work in late May, and the next round of HPBC volunteers were to be back June 11, then continuing to rotate throughout the summer.

"We will keep sending teams as long as CDC has a need," said Dave. "There is more than enough work for people to do."

Volunteer sign up is underway now. Volunteers are required to attend an orientation before showing up on their workday.

To learn more visit the information table outside the gym on Sunday mornings or email missions@hpbcc.cc or contact John_d_christie@hotmail.com.



Photo by Steve Donoghue
HPBC pastors and staff kicked off the HPBC local missions initiative called Go:Detroit, working at CDC this spring.

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life experiences is extremely encouraging, she said.

John Scott, 23, and Kevin White, 23, said they recently started attending class. Both men said the group does a good job of teaching the Bible, and John described the atmosphere as having "a really good vibe."

As Chris, 25, looked about the room on a recent Sunday, he said that the future leadership of the country was represented in this group. This is the generation that is up and coming, and it is crucial that the church be purposeful in reaching them. It is a generation that can do great things for Christ, he said.

Dayna and Mike urged anyone in this stage of life looking to get plugged in to be sure and come on by.

"You'll make friends. You'll learn about God. You'll grow in your faith," said Dayna.

And added Mike, "If anyone is looking for a place where they can connect with their brothers and sisters in Christ and grow in their love for God... this is a great place for you to go. There is such a great community here."

Young Adults can keep informed at <https://www.facebook.com/ya.ministry>.



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Pictures of the Worship Center renovations are posted regularly on the church's facebook page (www.facebook.com/hpbcsouthfield) and on the screens outside the sanctuary and the high school gym on Sunday mornings.

"It is exciting to see the actual work starting to happen after several years of planning," said Dave. "Many in our church family have expressed their excitement as things are beginning to happen. It is fun to watch."

All of the demolition work is completed. When the project is done the Worship Center will have updated lighting, electrical, heating and cooling. The platform, where the choirs, band and orchestra are will be larger and more easily changeable between services, among many other modernization benefits.

"They are working primarily now on the new platform and backstage area. They busted through what was the old staff kitchen and a couple off-stage offices," said Dave. "That area is all getting opened up to provide more back-stage area. Incredible amounts of electrical conduit have been run and the work continues. The electrical contractor is here all the time as a big portion of the work is electrical."

During the construction Sunday worship services are held in the high school gym. Volunteers teams set up and tear down each week. About 630 chairs are set up for each Sunday, and an adjacent overflow room provides seating for 100. Attendance is actually running about 8-10 percent higher than last year at this time, said Dave.

Construction work is scheduled to be completed Nov. 13. The first service in the new facility is anticipated to be Nov. 20, just in time for Thanksgiving.

For more on the Next Chapter, visit www.hpbcc.cc/giving/the-next-chapter