

EXPRESSIONS



CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC (USA)

May is a very important month. For those who live in Northern Michigan, May is the month of victory. Winter and death have been defeated and life starts winning all around us. May is also Mother's Day and Pentecost. Mother's Day is well placed in May because the earth seems to be giving birth to new life all around us. That life needs cultivated, nurtured, and celebrated which sounds like what Mother's Day is all about (I hope you don't mind the stereotype). Pentecost is also celebrating new life through God's Spirit. It was originally a Jewish celebration of thankfulness for the Spring harvest of first fruits. I like to compare Pentecost to the Asparagus Festival in Empire Michigan. It celebrates one of our "first fruits" harvested early in the growing season. This celebration is important because God's faithfulness is demonstrated through the first harvest after Winter. If Winter symbolizes death and scarcity, then the "first fruit" represents God's faithfulness to give life after death.

Pentecost also became associated with the coming of the Holy Spirit because the disciples received the Holy Spirit on that day. God knew what he was doing when he made that day special. God poured out the Spirit on the day of celebration of "First Fruits." The Holy Spirit is the first fruit after death, the death of Jesus. It's God's way of demonstrating his faithfulness after the disciples had watched their rabbi and lord be beaten and crucified. Death seemed to have won the victory but then Jesus was resurrected. He showed himself to the disciples and they were overjoyed and perplexed. No one understood how this could happen and what it meant for faith. It wasn't until Pentecost that Jesus' resurrection made sense.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, was poured out upon all flesh. Jesus' death and resurrection was now understood as complete victory over death. Believers could be filled with the same Spirit that filled Jesus and could continue His work and mission. Because the Spirit was available to all flesh, the believers could share the good news of Jesus without fear. They knew God was with them and that God was faithful to bring life and even life after death.

May is a big month. Victory has been won. Life wins. Love wins. Death has been defeated. Now we are free to live according to the Spirit of God. Thank you, God! for the first fruit of your Spirit.

The Peace of Christ be with you!

David Ramage

ARTS CAMP

We welcome all rising 1st - 8th graders to attend Arts Camp June 24th-28th, 9 am – 12:30 pm. Arts Camp uses music, song, visual art, media, drama, storytelling movement and game-playing centered around this year's theme "PRAISE!". Registration for Arts Camp at Church in the Hills is now open! Camp is free to attend and spots are limited so sign up soon! Registration links are available on our Facebook page and website www.churchinthehills.org. Sign up now!



Nancy Edleman	01-May
Christine Sparks	04-May
Sue Blugerman	10-May
Darrell Christie	12-May
Nancy Taddeucci	13-May
Jim Hatcher	14-May
Dick Milock	15-May
Tyler Hoyt	20-May
Carol Smith	21-May
Jesse Folker	23-May
Marian Racey	24-May
Tom Juntune	27-May
Doris DeLange	31-May



Dick and Diana Milock	06-May
Jim and Gail Preston	18-May
Rick and Bonnie Smith	19-May

SABBATICAL UPDATE

Pastor David will be on sabbatical from July 15 – October 15. The sabbatical committee and the worship committee have been working together, and all the preaching assignments are in place. Rev. Bob Faulman from Boyne City will serve on Communion Sundays and moderate session and congregational meetings. Corey LeCureux will be with us a majority of the other Sundays, and we will also welcome back Homer Nye and former pastor Andrew Pomerville. Arrangements are being made for ongoing congregational care and emergency pastoral needs, and we will keep you updated as these plans are solidified.

DEACONS

Class of 2024

Veta Brooks	586-484-4626
Jean Rowe	231-533-8131
Carol Spellman	231-322-3091

Class of 2025

Judy Heimbuch	440-242-7352
Colleen Jordan	231-670-6888
Barb Salo	231-330-5253

Class of 2026

Barb Antosik	602-509-2051
Pat Hallberg	231-533-6006

FINANCE CORNER NEWS

1st Quarter 2024 Finances

Total Income - \$56,027

Total Expenses - \$55,999

Net Income - \$28

Income was essentially in balance with expenses.

When we established a church budget last fall, we were hoping and planning that the sabbatical/renewal expenses this year for Pastor David and Terrie would be covered by a grant from Eli Lilly. Shortly thereafter, we got the news that it would not happen. After the unfortunate news, Session went ahead and approved a scaled back version of that sabbatical. Preliminary planning for church expenses (\$6 K) and Ramages' sabbatical expenses (\$24 K) total roughly \$30 K. For those wishing to contribute toward the event we have added a giving option via the Vanco Mobile phone app or the donate button on our church web page. As always, you can also donate via check by including a memo/note stating SABBATICAL.

As always, Finance appreciates our church family's generous contributions!

What Forgiveness Is — And Is Not

Forgiveness does not mean ignoring what has been done or putting a false label on an evil act. It means, rather, that the evil act no longer remains as a barrier to the relationship. Forgiveness is a catalyst creating the atmosphere necessary for a fresh start and a new beginning. It is the lifting of a burden or the canceling of a debt.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



"WELCOME HOME SNOWBIRDS"

All are invited to stay after Worship on May 19 for a potluck luncheon, as we use our Snowbirds as an "excuse" for food and fellowship. The Deacons will provide a ham, rolls and beverages. A side dish would be greatly appreciated but not necessary to attend. A sign-up sheet will be available at the back of the sanctuary on April 28, May 5, and May 12. Please join us for great food and great fun.



MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 CHOIR 3:30 PM	2 MENS RAP 9:00 AM FINANCE 2:00 PM	3 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	4 K COLLEGE CONCERT 7:00 PM
5 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	6 DEACONS 10:00 AM	7 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP/MUSIC 3:30 PM	8 SESSION 10:00 AM CHOIR 3:30 PM	9 MENS RAP 9:00 AM	10 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	11
12 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM MOTHER'S DAY	13	14 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	15 CHOIR 3:30 PM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 MENS RAP 9:00 AM	17 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	18
19 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM SNOWBIRD LUNCHEON AFTER WORSHIP	20	21 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	22 CHOIR 3:30 PM	23 MENS RAP 9:00 AM	24 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	25
26 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM MISSION 11:00 AM	27 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	28 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	29 CHOIR 3:30 PM	30 MENS RAP 9:00 AM	31 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	

EXPRESSIONS

MAY 2024

CHURCH IN THE HILLS
*A Presbyterian Community of
Faith and Friendship in Christ*
6401 Shanty Creek Rd
PO Box 319
Bellaire, MI 49615
Phone: 231-533-6001

OFFICE E-MAIL:
office@churchinthehills.net

WEBSITE:
www.churchinthehills.org

Service of Worship: Sunday 10:00 AM
Children's Program: Sunday 10:00 AM

OFFICE STAFFED
Tue – Thu, 9 AM – 1 PM
Lisa Luxton, Office Manager

Church in the Hills is a member of the
Presbytery of Mackinac
The Synod of the Covenant
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Reverend David Ramage revramage@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Mary Ann Waara 231-350-0067

Class of 2024

Paul DeLange	231-377-7333
Marlene Garvey	231-544-1111
Ken Salo	231-944-9972
Cynthia Tschudy	231-544-6167
Mary Ann Waara	231-350-0067

Class of 2025

Lindsay Eggers	989-992-5514
Jerry Walsworth	231-357-9300

Class of 2026

Bev Dickinson	248-217-9393
Dottie Schaefer	231-735-4796

Director of Music

John Dickinson	248-990-6846
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Reverend Mr. Donald E. Gordon, Pastor Emeritus