

EXPRESSIONS

CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC (USA)



If you've ever visited a church that is not in the reformed tradition, you'll notice the Prayer of Confession is missing. Our worship service is different from non-denominational churches or what some call "contemporary" services. One service feels more casual and the other more liturgical. Liturgical might be described by some as uptight. Whatever word you use to describe a worship experience, our worship is orderly and intentional.

The best example of this is the Prayer of Confession. This part of our service comes right after the first hymn. The prayer might feel forced or compulsory, but confession is paramount to our readiness to hear God's word. The Confession we pray in unison is a corporate prayer which means we are praying as one people. The words of the prayer don't have to relate to us individually. If the Prayer of Confession says we are sorry for our racism, it doesn't mean you are guilty of that sin. If racism exists in the church or in the world, we can confess it to God. We can confess from our experience as men or women. We can confess as Americans or even as Christians if that name has been used for evil. It doesn't mean we participated in the sin, but we represent some who did. This type of corporate confession reminds us that we are not islands of faith. We are part of the body of Christ. It also may help us acknowledge that we are unwilling participants of evil. We may contribute to evil without knowing we are doing so. We may also be in denial about our participation in evil. It is better to humble ourselves and be open to the possibility that we carry some responsibility for the sins of the world. Corporate confession gives us the opportunity to understand our connection to the problems of the world. The silent Prayer of Confession is our individual time for confession. It is our private time to name the sins we are guilty of and the ways we have been unfaithful to God.

The Prayer of Confession, like any element of worship, can be misunderstood. If we pray and ask for forgiveness in order to continue to sin, we miss the whole point. Every element of worship, regardless of the church, must be done with an open heart. If we confess only to sin again, there is no value. If we sing songs because they make us feel better, that will be the only value. If we open our heart to God's loving, forgiving, transforming presence, then we will be loved, forgiven and transformed. Jesus said, "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24 NRSV). To worship in spirit is to open your heart to God's Spirit. Your heart/spirit is where truth is found. Worship with all your heart!

The Peace of Christ be with you!

David Ramage

DEACONS

Class of 2019

Judy Card	231-676-1616
Nancy Edleman	231-533-8586
Ann Schwandt	231-377-2745

Class of 2020

Marty Harris	231-533-6105
Sarah Juntune	231-533-9403
Terrie Ramage	231-392-1704

Class of 2021

Tamara Byerly	248-470-8857
Barb Salo	231-533-4122
Gloria Weiss	231-377-7168



Joy Whittlesey	06-Apr
Honesty Ray	09-Apr
Susie Stinson	10-Apr
Jari Poll	13-Apr
Bea Berry	16-Apr
Walter Joachim	17-Apr
Joe Bostater	19-Apr
Bonnie Kershner	21-Apr
Carolyn Hatcher	21-Apr
Judy Card	22-Apr
Tom Hedin	24-Apr
Fred Harris	28-Apr

CHURCH LIBRARY “GRAND RE-OPENING CELEBRATION”

The Library Committee invites everyone to visit the “new” Church Library, now located in the Infant Cry Room through the office. Right after worship on **Sunday, April 14**, we’ll have a special treat for all our “bookworms.”

The library has both fiction and non-fiction items, and we’d love for you to “check them out” – in both senses of the phrase. It’s easy to borrow one: just sign it out on the clipboard and return it to the basket when you’re done. We hope having the library upstairs will increase its use; there are some very interesting titles available.

Deacon on call for April
Marty Harris 231-533-6105

SAVE THE DATES FOR MISSION PROJECTS

April 27, Mom to Mom Sale: Help is needed mostly with food and general hospitality. The moms do all the real ‘work.’

May 18, Closet to Closet: We’ll be giving away **spring or summer clothing**. Help is needed all day with setting up **Friday May 17**.

See Mary Ann Waara for details on both projects.

NOTE: Time Change for Book Group

The Last Tuesday Book Group will meet in the Bellaire Library the last Tuesday of each month at **1:00** (instead of 1:30), so those wanting to go to BYI don't have to rush.

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts. "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me," said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me"

He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend, he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along.

"Come here quick," said the boy, "you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls!"

The man said, "Beat it, kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk." When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery.

Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me."

The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord...?" Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last, they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done...."

They say the old man had the lead for a good half-mile before the kid on the bike passed him.

A Penguin "Parable"



During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective "crèches" (French for "cribs"); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can't survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.



Paul and Doris DeLange 11-Apr
Don and Ann Havenstein 14-Apr
Jack and Marge Glyshaw 29-Apr

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Each year on Easter Sunday we participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, an ecumenical relief program started by Protestant churches in 1949. Gifts given by each denomination stay within that denomination, although all are focused on the goal of relief and reconstruction. The PC(USA) divides its offering among Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. All three of the recipients are highly respected Presbyterian programs that help people survive in the United States and around the world.

There is a special envelope for this offering in your boxes, but you can also just put "OGHS" in the memo line of a check. Please help as you are able. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Mackinac Presbytery's Women's Gathering in Boyne City

Saturday, May 4, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Boyne City. The program "Bind Us Together" is more of a retreat with fellowship activities as well as education and worship. There will also be an introduction of the 2019-2020 Bible Study and a worship service with Communion. Please **RSVP by April 16** (to plan lunch, with dietary needs' options available upon request). Call 231-582-7983 or reply to secretary@fpboyne.org.

This is really close; let's try to get a couple of carloads of women to attend. See Sarah Juntune for car-pooling arrangements.

Waiting to Blossom

A 1979 song called "The Rose" (written by Amanda McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages listeners to keep the faith, even when the source of our hope isn't visible.

In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth "with the sun's love" into springtime flowers.

When you're in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God's love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, joy and life.



APRIL 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 PASTOR'S DAY OFF DEACONS 10:00 AM	2 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	3 CHOIR 3:30 PM	4 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM FINANCE 1:00 PM	5	6
7 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	8 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	9 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	10 SESSION 9:00 AM CHOIR 3:30 PM	11 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	12	13
14 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM MISSION 12:00 PM	15 PASTOR'S DAY OFF MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	17 CHOIR 3:30 PM	18 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	19	20
21 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	22 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	23 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	24 CHOIR 3:30 PM	25 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	26	27 MOM TO MOM 10:00 – 2:00
28 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	29 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	30 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM BOOK GROUP 1:00 PM				

Church in the Hills
PO Box 319
Bellaire, Michigan 49615

APRIL 2019

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
Mon – 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 350-0067

Class of 2019

Maureen Stenback	Worship	544-6522
Mary Ann Waara	Mission	350-0067
Phil Weiss	Finance	377-7168

Class of 2020

Paul DeLange	Bldg & Grnds	377-7333
Gordon Harris	Finance	599-2636
Dottie Schaefer	Membership	377-7848

Class of 2021

Jean Rowe	Personnel	533-8131
Bonnie Smith		350-6406
Cynthia Tschudy	Christian Ed	544-6167

Music Staff

Dorothy Clore, Nancy Hanson, Carol McLeod

Edena Williams PW of CITH
Reverend Mr. Donald E. Gordon, Pastor Emeritus