

# EXPRESSIONS



## CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC (USA)

He is risen! He is risen indeed! This proclamation became a greeting in the early church. We are less formal in our greetings and I wonder if we miss something by being informal. We usually just say, “hi” and move on to our conversation. There’s certainly nothing wrong with saying, “hi” but communication has become less formal over the years and is less distinctive. We don’t want to stand out. We want to blend in and not offend. I’ve noticed during the passing of the peace that most people reduce it to, “Peace be with you” and I occasionally do the same. I hope we are not removing “Christ” because we are afraid to acknowledge him. We are probably just being efficient and casual. Still, we are less distinctive. We are communicating in a manner that is reduced to what is commonly accepted.

Reading literature or letters from hundreds of years ago reveals a startling difference. People said what they meant. They were much less interested in blending in and getting along. They wanted to be distinctive and clear about what they were saying. It seems they had more arguments too and there was more name-calling than I see now. Generally speaking; people saw value in standing their ground and being unique. We tend to hide our stance and our agenda, wanting to blend in.

I see the value in greeting someone with “He is risen!” It reveals immediately that I am a follower of Jesus. It feels similar to the ease of saying, “Merry Christmas!” We know many people may be offended by such a greeting, but a greeting isn’t supposed to be mutual, is it? Shouldn’t we greet others with our true self? I doubt any of us will adopt the greeting, “He is risen!” but how we greet people is an opportunity to say who we truly are. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our life. We expect to be resurrected by him into eternal life. The resurrection of Jesus is the most important claim of our life. It seems right to risk greeting someone with our first priority. We might greet them wearing our Michigan sweatshirt or our Ohio State ball cap, but can we greet them in the name of our savior? We don’t hide our other loyalties. Why keep the most important loyalty a secret? He is risen indeed!

The Peace of Christ be with you!

David Ramage



Paul and Doris DeLange      11-Apr  
 Jack and Marge Glyshaw      29-Apr

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

These are the shawls from our last blessing. Remember, this is a form of outreach into the community. Family members, neighbors, friends, associates you work with, or if you hear of someone who needs comfort. Reach out. One cannot have too many prayers. While using the shawl, may a person feel God’s arms enfolding them and the positive energy toward healing and comfort. You may call me at home 602-509-2051 and I’ll meet you at church if you need one during the week. Otherwise, any Deacon can assist you Sunday morning. Reach Out My Friends.

Blessings,  
 Barbara Antosik



<b>DEACONS</b>	
<b>Class of 2024</b>	
Veta Brooks	586-484-4626
Jean Rowe	231-533-8131
Carol Spellman	231-322-3091
<b>Class of 2025</b>	
Judy Heimbuch	440-242-7352
Colleen Jordan	231-670-6888
Barb Salo	231-330-5253
<b>Class of 2026</b>	
Barb Antosik	602-509-2051
Pat Hallberg	231-533-6006

**EXPLORING CHURCH IN THE HILLS**

If you’re interested in hearing more about becoming a member or friend of Church in the Hills, we invite you to join one of our upcoming Exploring CITH classes. Get answers to questions you may have about our church such as....

- What do Presbyterians believe?
- What is the history of Church in the Hills?
- What does Church in the Hills do?
- How can I get involved?
- What does being a member of Church in the Hills mean?

The classes are held directly after church and include a light lunch. These classes can be conducted virtually using ZOOM for those that are unable to attend. Please email the church office at [office@churchinthehills.net](mailto:office@churchinthehills.net) to be included in our next quarterly Explorers class!

Lindsay Eggers  
 Membership Co-Chair



Joy Whittlesey	06-Apr
Susie Stinson	10-Apr
Jari Poll	13-Apr
Bea Berry	16-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

### **Dwell in Unity**

Considering the staggering height of redwood trees, we assume they must need incredibly deep roots. But these giants have extremely shallow roots, growing only 4 to 6 feet deep.

Instead of heading downward, the roots extend outward — spreading out as far as 125 feet. Stability occurs because the roots intertwine with those of neighboring trees. This network allows redwoods to stand tall despite strong winds and storms.

In a similar way, such interconnectedness keeps the body of Christ standing strong. Psalm 133:1 urges believers to “dwell in unity” (ESV). In order to inhabit one another’s lives, we must share our stories, offer forgiveness and provide encouragement. Through those actions, our roots spread wide as we support our brothers and sisters in Christ.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The membership committee wants your help to ensure growth in our church by helping visitors and members feel welcome and connected. We would like a few more people to join our committee, especially 1-2 people who primarily worship online through the live stream. We are curious to discover ways to help online worshippers feel part of the CITH family. If you are interested or want to learn more, please contact Lindsay Eggers at 989-992-5514 or [lindsays@Movewithstevens.com](mailto:lindsays@Movewithstevens.com).

*The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.*

Church In the Hills will be simplifying the way it communicates with you! We will be eliminating the email distribution list used for newsletters only and instead will use Constant Contact (the same tool that is now used to send emails regarding announcements, weekly sermons, mission information, and special invites from Church in the Hills). No action is required on your part, unless you currently aren’t receiving emails from us via Constant Contact and would like to be added to that distribution list. In that case, sign up by going to our website and entering in your information at the bottom of the home page or by contacting the church office directly. Thanks for your understanding!

# APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM  WORSHIP/MUSIC 3:30 PM	<b>3</b> CHOIR 3:30 PM	<b>4</b> MENS RAP 9:00 AM  FINANCE 2:00 PM	<b>5</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	<b>8</b> PASTOR ON VACATION  DEACONS 10:00 AM	<b>9</b> PASTOR ON VACATION	<b>10</b> PASTOR ON VACATION  CHOIR 3:30 PM	<b>11</b> PASTOR ON VACATION	<b>12</b> PASTOR ON VACATION	<b>13</b> PASTOR ON VACATION
<b>14</b> PASTOR ON VACATION  WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	<b>15</b> PASTOR ON VACATION  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>16</b> PASTOR ON VACATION	<b>17</b> PASTOR ON VACATION  CHOIR 3:30 PM	<b>18</b> PASTOR ON VACATION	<b>19</b> PASTOR ON VACATION	<b>20</b> PASTOR ON VACATION
<b>21</b> PASTOR ON VACATION  WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	<b>24</b> CHOIR 3:30 PM	<b>25</b> MENS RAP 9:00 AM	<b>26</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM				

# EXPRESSIONS

## APRIL 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](mailto:office@churchinthehills.net)

WEBSITE:

[www.churchinthehills.org](http://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](mailto:revramage@gmail.com)

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

#### Class of 2024

Marlene Garvey	231-544-1111
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