

# EXPRESSIONS



CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC (USA)

“Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things.” That’s a quote from *Shawshank Redemption*. A prisoner named Red didn’t think *hope* was a good thing because he had been in prison most of his life and hope had disappointed him. He thought it was better to give up hope. I believe human beings are creatures of hope. It’s what keeps us going when things seem tough. In the midst of pain and disappointment, we find something to look forward to. Many times, our hope is hardly more than denial. We just don’t accept our current situation. I’m suggesting that we are prone to psychological gymnastics in order to tolerate the current trouble. Is that good or bad? I don’t think it matters. We find reasons not to give up the fight. We know that giving up feels like being less human. We must push on.

This new year marks another opportunity for hope. 2020 was filled with unprecedented trouble. 2021 holds promise of a vaccine. 2021 holds hope that hugs are in sight. Gatherings without fear might begin. We’ve been damaged enough not to expect anything quickly, but we sense change is coming. 2021 will include hugs, kisses, parties and gatherings without limits, but we must be patient. We must also allow ourselves empathy for those who may never be normal. Covid-19 has taken its toll on human life and financial security. Don’t be in a hurry to get back to normal without considering those who mourn and those who have lost so much. Remember that our greatest hope is in Jesus. We hope to gather for worship soon, but we hope Jesus strengthens us for whatever comes. We hope to frequent our favorite restaurant, but we hope that Jesus remains our bread from heaven. We hope to get back to “normal life”, but our hope in Jesus as Lord, savior and king, causes us to let go of this life and embrace God’s life. God’s life is the life where all tears are wiped away. In God, all health is restored and community is protected. God’s life, given to us through Christ, is everlasting life. It never ends! May 2021 be the year we put more hope in God’s life than our normal life. “Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things.”

The Peace of Christ be with you!

David Ramage

## DEACONS

### Class of 2021

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Veta Brooks    | 586-484-4626 |
| Barb Salo      | 231-330-5253 |
| Carol Spellman | 231-322-3091 |

### Class of 2022

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Carol Gregory | 231-590-8604 |
| Sarah Juntune | 231-533-9403 |
| Sue Knapp     | 231-676-0365 |

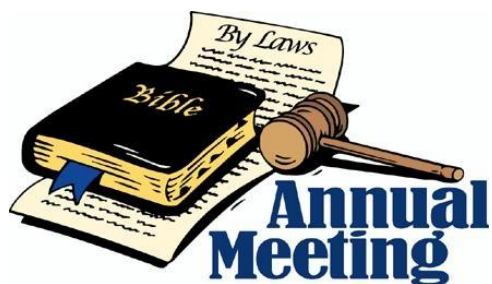
### Class of 2023

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Sue Blugerman  | 231-676-3323 |
| Laura Foerster | 231-350-7181 |
| Pat Hallberg   | 231-533-6006 |

## JANUARY



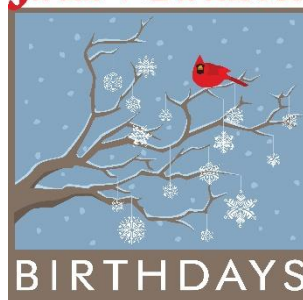
|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Ron and Bonnie Kershner | 13-Jan |
| Dave and Carol Gregory  | 25-Jan |
| Don and Mary Ann Waara  | 26-Jan |
| Joel and Jan Lemmer     | 30-Jan |



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. (details to come)

*Committee Chairs, if you have not already done so, please email your Annual Reports to Lisa not later than January 4<sup>th</sup>.*

## JANUARY



|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Penny Geresy     | 1-Jan  |
| Jane Craigie     | 2-Jan  |
| Dale Hanson      | 3-Jan  |
| Anna Hannan      | 4-Jan  |
| Delores Nicholie | 4-Jan  |
| Sue Brown        | 6-Jan  |
| Dee Lynch        | 8-Jan  |
| Becky Williams   | 10-Jan |
| Truman Bicum     | 12-Jan |
| Ann Havenstein   | 14-Jan |
| Sarah Juntune    | 17-Jan |
| Paul DeLange     | 21-Jan |
| Janet Siekmann   | 27-Jan |
| Joyce Hagmaier   | 28-Jan |
| Bill Stenback    | 29-Jan |



## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

The Mission Committee wants to thank the entire congregation for their amazing support of this year's Christmas Family project. Although we could not distribute 'wish slips' and most of the gifts were purchased online, the congregation contributed enough money for each family to receive even more than usual. Not only did each child receive toys as well as articles of clothing (including coats for all who needed them), but the families received bags with items that can't be purchased with food stamps: paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and disinfecting wipes. We always give them a gift card from Dollar General for food, but this year we were also able to give each family a gas card as well.

Since we couldn't use the church, all the presents were collected at one home. It was not possible to wrap everything, but each family received Christmas paper and tape, and the moms can not only get things to the correct child but also feel some ownership in their Christmas celebration.

Special thanks to those who shopped for items (the Eggers and Salos, Cynthia Tschudy, Dorothy Clore, Gail Preston, Roseann Winkler, Laura Foerster, and Olga Cairns) and for those who helped deliver (Garcias and Salos). Extra special thanks to Judy Thoma who knit 20(!) 'one-eyed

monster pillows' (see the picture below). Each child received either a pillow or a bear and also a vintage Beanie Baby donated by a friend.

We had some very, very needy situations this year, including three situations where two families are sharing the same tiny dwelling (because the guest family had to leave a previous place).

In all, you helped 11 families, with 35 children and 22 adults, and the expressions of gratitude were both heartfelt and amazed.



# JANUARY 2021

| SUN   | MON                               | TUE   | WED                              | THU                             | FRI   | SAT |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----|
|   |                                   |   |                                  |                                 | 1<br>PASTOR'S<br>DAY OFF<br><br>NEW YEAR'S<br>DAY       | 2   |
| 3<br>WORSHIP<br>SERVICE<br>ONLINE   | 4                                 | 5<br>BIBLE<br>STUDY<br>10:00 AM<br>ZOOM<br><br>WORSHIP/MUSIC<br>3:30 PM<br>ZOOM | 6                                | 7<br>FINANCE<br>1:00 PM<br>ZOOM | 8<br>PASTOR'S<br>DAY OFF                                | 9   |
| 10<br>WORSHIP<br>SERVICE<br>ONLINE  | 11<br>DEACONS<br>10:00 AM<br>ZOOM | 12<br>BIBLE<br>STUDY<br>10:00 AM<br>ZOOM  | 13<br>SESSION<br>9:00 AM<br>ZOOM | 14                              | 15<br>PASTOR'S<br>DAY OFF<br><br>NEWSLETTER<br>DEADLINE | 16  |
| 17<br>WORSHIP<br>SERVICE<br>ONLINE  | 18                                | 19<br>BIBLE<br>STUDY<br>10:00 AM<br>ZOOM  | 20                               | 21                              | 22<br>PASTOR'S<br>DAY OFF                               | 23  |
| 24<br>WORSHIP<br>SERVICE<br>ONLINE<br><br>ANNUAL<br>MEETING<br>DETAILS TO<br>COME | 25                                | 26<br>BIBLE<br>STUDY<br>10:00 AM<br>ZOOM  | 27                               | 28                              | 29<br>PASTOR'S<br>DAY OFF                               | 30  |
| 31<br>WORSHIP<br>SERVICE<br>ONLINE  |                                   |   |                                  |                                 |   |     |

# EXPRESSIONS

## JANUARY 2021

**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 2021

|                 |              |              |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Jean Rowe       | Finance      | 231-533-8131 |
| Bonnie Smith    | Mission      | 231-350-6406 |
| Cynthia Tschudy | Christian Ed | 231-544-6167 |

### Class of 2022

|                |           |              |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| Bob Brooks     | Personnel | 231-533-8005 |
| Lindsay Eggers |           | 989-992-5514 |
| Rem Siekmann   | Worship   | 440-527-4416 |

### Class of 2023

|             |  |              |
|-------------|--|--------------|
| Linda Bicum |  | 231-322-2811 |
| Tom Juntune |  | 231-533-9403 |
| Terry Moore |  | 616-681-2450 |

### Music Staff

Dorothy Clore, John Dickinson, Carol McLeod

Reverend Mr. Donald E. Gordon, Pastor Emeritus