

# EXPRESSIONS



CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC (USA)

We all know that “normal” is a concept that helps us feel comfortable and safe. If we were normal in High School, we didn’t stick out or get too much attention. If we are normal now, we feel we fit in with most people and we get along with most. We also know that “normal” is an illusion. No one is truly normal, but we need some kind of measuring device to gage if we are safe within the crowd or herd. The pandemic has shown us how different we all are. We may not feel safe within the crowd or maybe our crowd is much smaller. The popular term for this is tribalism. We may no longer be able to seek the comfort of being normal, but we can be normal according to our tribe. This represents a group of people who have the same beliefs or worldview. Instead of thinking there is a normal way to think and act, we just convince ourselves our group is the best and we defend it. Most of our defense is to attack the other groups who represent to us, all the problems of the world. It’s our new normal but it causes more anxiety.

Anxiety comes as a result of fear, and I like to differentiate between real fear and perceived fear. Real fear is what you feel when you meet a bear in the woods. That fear should help you escape and live to tell the story. But perceived fear is something in your head. It’s the fear that another group will take over and your group will lose out. It’s the fear that comes from thinking your way is the only right way and those who are wrong must be stopped. The fear of a bear will be temporary. The adrenaline will wear off and you will return to normal in a few hours. The fear (anxiety) that comes from the way you think, is with you most of the time. It feels like you must keep up your guard or your rights will disappear. It feels like you must be ready to defend your group even if you are at church or a dinner party.

This anxiety is a killer. It causes heart issues and stress that cripples the body over time. It robs a person of peace and can destroy families. Though this kind of anxiety is harmful, many people stay in this condition because it feels justified. They treat the problem like it’s a bear. They convince themselves that the other group is the problem (bear) and they must stop them at all cost. Though this behavior is widespread, even among Christians, it is the opposite of faith. Faith is the belief that your life and the whole world are in God’s hands; not yours. Living by faith means living with hope and expectation that God is at work. Faith is the opposite of fear. The Bible is filled from beginning to end with stories of humans getting in trouble and fearing the worst, but God reveals a path towards life, hope and peace. The fate of our world, our country, and our own lives, are in good capable hands. Trust God and let go of angst.

## **2 Timothy 1:7**

*for God did not give us a spirit of fear, but rather a spirit of power and of love and a sound mind. NKJV*

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	231-676-0368

### Class of 2023

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

**HELP NEEDED:** We are looking for four volunteers to help weed the Memorial Garden on Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – noon. Please contact Dee Lynch if you can help (231-377-7077). Please wear gloves and bring your digging tools.



We had a successful first Prayer Shawl Ministry gathering on June 14. Many skeins of yarn and charms were taken by knitters and crocheters. Our next gathering will be Monday, July 12 at 11 am in the Undercroft at the Church.

Questions, call Barb Antosik 602 -509 -2051 or Olga Cairns 231-350-1023. Blessings to all

# JULY



Rem and Janet Siekmann	02-Jul
Larry and Penny Geresy	11-Jul
Fred and Marty Harris	17-Jul
Don and Kathy Hoyt	18-Jul
Ron and Dee Lynch	29-Jul

## *Save the Date!* *Antrim County High Tea* FOR BREAST CANCER PREVENTION

Sunday, August 8, 2021

At Shanty Creek

11:30 am: table viewing

12:00 pm: program and luncheon

Tickets call Bonnie Kershner 231-620-4255

Interested in designing a table  
call Kristi Meyer 317-695-6446

Any questions call Tammy Lockwood 231-377-2002

*If you attend our in-person worship services, please remain seated and quiet during the Postlude.*

## CONCERT in AUGUST

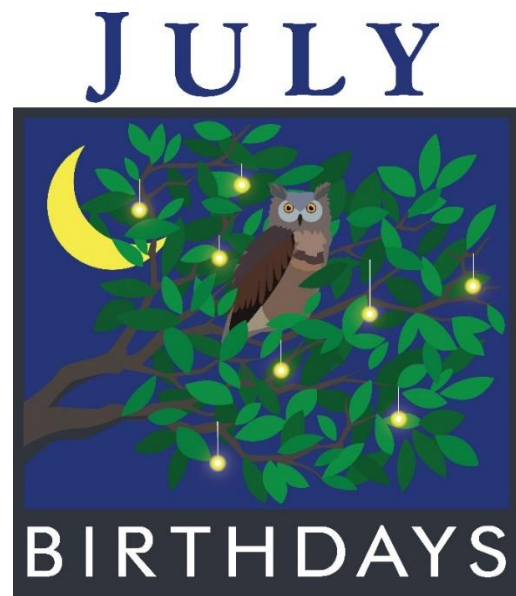
I am thrilled to announce that we are able to schedule concerts at CITH. So far, we have one planned for Tuesday evening, August 10th at 7:30 p.m. Music in the Hills will feature "Gypsy Jazz" performed by pianist Steve Stargardt and cellist Crispin Campbell. Mr. Stargardt has performed several times for us at CITH with other musicians and is well-known in the area. Mr. Campbell is a retired cello instructor from Interlochen's Arts Academy and to quote a 2020 *Northern Express* article, "His repertoire is outside the normal realm of orchestra and chamber music, including rock, jazz, gypsy and classical." This duo has performed at the Charlevoix library as well as at the Music House Museum and been very favorably received. I haven't the musical vocabulary to describe "gypsy jazz" but having heard this duo, I can say with great confidence that you are going to enjoy this immensely. Tickets for \$20/adults and \$10/students are available from choristers or purchased at the door on concert night.

I'm not sure what state guidelines regarding COVID will be in August, but at present assume that vaccinated people will be admitted without masks. Unvaccinated people are urged to wear masks and socially distance.

Please save the date and plan to enjoy a wonderful evening of "Music in the Hills."  
Dorothy Clore

**DINNER & VESPERS SERVICE** at CITH on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. The Deacons will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, beverages and paper products. Please bring a side dish to pass and your own chair.

The Membership Committee is offering a new member orientation class in August. If you are interested in learning more about the Presbyterian Church and Church in the Hills, please consider registering with the office or on the signup sheet on the credenza. You will be contacted once the details are finalized.



Ron Kershner	01-Jul
Linda Bicum	06-Jul
Laura Foerster	07-Jul
Marge Glyshaw	07-Jul
Steve Grill	08-Jul
Terrie Ramage	08-Jul
Marv Olson	10-Jul
Grace Adamek	11-Jul
Mike Card	18-Jul
Phil Weiss	20-Jul
Olga Cairns	22-Jul
Rita McNeill Drudge	22-Jul
Lew Lesperance	23-Jul
Mary Ann Waara	24-Jul
Carol Gregory	25-Jul
Patty Moore	28-Jul

Words from Father Firas, our Palestinian guest (2015 Mission to USA)

Greetings to you! I (Caron Christopherson) have been keeping in touch with Father Firas. He asked me to greet all of his friends here in the USA. He says he misses us all. In his own words:

"I will keep hope alive for my living stones, we together are stronger than the storm. We are invited to say the truth and keep up the good work in spite of the hatred and violence. I will never lose hope because my ministry in Zababdeh is a ministry of peace, prayers, and reconciliation between God and every one. Keep me in your prayers. You are in my daily prayers."

"I am safe here. Thank God the war in Gaza has stopped. Near us we have some violence in Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, but not in Zababdeh. Please pray for peace and reconciliation and the permanent end to hatred and violence. Thank you. Please keep hope alive. The Holy Spirit is not retired. He is listening to our prayers."

Please share this message with all who heard Father Firas' speak of teaching peace and reconciliation on the desktops of the school children in his community -- teaching love not hate; teaching hope not fear or despair. Please remember his work to build hope in his community by starting up small businesses that make olive oil soap, olive wood carvings, embroideries, and other items to sell -- giving the people purpose and a sense of worth.


**Anyone who might be interested in supporting this work, let us join together to**

**buy some of these wares.** Please let me know and we can come up with a plan.

Thank you for your time and prayers.

God's Peace,  
Caron Christopherson  
United Presbyterian Church, Ishpeming  
906-869-2266

Caron attached a picture from his visit at Big Bay school, and I have added one at CITH with Caron included.



**COFFEE HOUR IS BACK!** The Deacons will host coffee hour and would greatly appreciate any donations of homemade or purchased cookies.

# JULY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> MEN'S RAP 8:00 AM	<b>2</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM  WORSHIP/MUSIC 3:30 PM	<b>7</b> CHOIR 3:30 PM	<b>8</b> MEN'S RAP 8:00 AM  FINANCE 1:00 PM ZOOM	<b>9</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM  DINNER AND VESPERS 4:00 PM	<b>12</b> PASTOR ON VACATION  PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 11:00 AM	<b>13</b> PASTOR ON VACATION	<b>14</b> PASTOR ON VACATION  CHOIR 3:30 PM	<b>15</b> PASTOR ON VACATION  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>16</b> PASTOR ON VACATION	<b>17</b> PASTOR ON VACATION
<b>18</b> PASTOR ON VACATION  WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	<b>21</b> CHOIR 3:30 PM  SESSION 10:00 AM	<b>22</b> MEN'S RAP 8:00 AM	<b>23</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM  MISSION 7:00 PM	<b>28</b> CHOIR 3:30 PM	<b>29</b> MEN'S RAP 8:00 AM	<b>30</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>31</b>

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## JULY 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	C.E./Mission	231-544-6167

### Class of 2022

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

### Class of 2023

Linda Bicum	Membership	231-322-2811
Tom Juntune	Finance	231-533-9403
Terry Moore	Bldg. & Grounds	616-510-6583

### Music Staff

Dorothy Clore, John Dickinson, Carol McLeod

Reverend Mr. Donald E. Gordon, Pastor Emeritus