

EXPRESSIONS

CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC (USA)



Matthew 6:9-13

“Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.”

Last month I wrote about the importance of prayer in worship and talked a little about the “Prayers of the People.” This month, as we enter the season of Lent, I’d like to spend some time talking about the Lord’s Prayer in hope that you might spend this season in deeper prayer.

It’s easy to believe we are to say the words of the Lord’s Prayer as an act of piety. Jesus didn’t expand too much after telling his disciples to “Pray in this way.” Simple obedience is certainly useful and faithful but there’s much more to praying than repeating words. It is clear throughout the Bible that God cares about the heart. The heart or spirit of a human is where good and evil begins. If we focus only on the outward, flesh and blood, we will believe the Lord’s Prayer just needs to be said and God will be pleased. This is completely false. God wants to change us from the inside (heart) out (flesh). The value in saying words comes when we believe them and incorporate them into our faith. Saying the words alone, does help us memorize the words which helps us remember them when we try to pray from the heart.

In worship, we say the Lord’s Prayer too quickly to truly engage the heart. You might be able to let a few deeper thoughts wash over you, but there’s just not enough time. This article isn’t trying to get you to pray the Lord’s Prayer, during worship, with your whole heart. If that were the goal, we would need to change the format. I’m advising people to pray the Lord’s Prayer in private when you have time to apply the words to your faith and life. Jesus taught the prayer to his disciples because they asked. They knew his power came from prayer and they wanted that same power. Jesus taught them and still teaches us to pray “in this way.” Let the Lord’s Prayer guide your prayers. If you want to ask God something, remember to praise Him first (hollowed be thy name). If you want to confess something to God, remember Jesus teaches us to praise God and ask for His will to be done before we confess. Following the format of the Lord’s Prayer changes prayer from your agenda to God’s. I hope you take some time during Lent to pray “in this way.” Let the Lord’s Prayer form your prayers and see if you discover the power Jesus was offering.

The Peace of Christ be with you!

David Ramage

DEACONS

Class of 2020

Grace Adamek	989-619-1573
Sarah Juntune	231-533-9403
Terrie Ramage	231-392-1704

Class of 2021

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

Class of 2022

Phil Drick	208-890-3180
Carol Gregory	231-590-8604

MARCH

Birthdays

Liam Folker	1-Mar
Rick Smith	2-Mar
Kaela McManus	5-Mar
Amy Christie	15-Mar
Pat Hull	19-Mar
Judith Smith	22-Mar
Ron Tschudy	22-Mar
Dick Turk	22-Mar
Dave Gregory	26-Mar
Tom Anderson	26-Mar
Sharon Frey	27-Mar
Connie Garcia	31-Mar

WORSHIP SERVICE SUPPORT

The Worship Committee is asking for your help. As you know, it takes many volunteers to help provide worship on Sunday mornings. There are 3 ways you can help support Sunday morning Worship. First of all, we need greeters. It's an easy job and a great way to meet people as you hand out bulletins. Please sign up to be a greeter!

Secondly, we need ushers. Ushers help with the offering, but also light candles, prepare the sanctuary for worship and a few other things. Please sign up to usher!

Finally, we need liturgists. We are blessed to have excellent liturgists, but worship could be enhanced with more participation. If you would like to be a liturgist, please sign up. We would love to add your voice to the voices of worship on Sunday morning.

All sign-ups are located on the credenza by the kitchen service window.

Thank you!

Thank you -Thank you to all my friends who have sent their love, prayers, cards and goodies during the days of my recovery from Mohs surgery on my nose.

Miracles do happen & I praise my wonderful surgeon and her team for the excellent care. The basal cells were much more than we had expected and without treatment could have affected my eye. 112 stitches later I am healing!!

I know the power of prayer through this ordeal; that comfort and prayers do heal. I praise my Lord for his tender healing.

In Christ's Love to all, Dee Lynch



Don't forget to
SPRING FORWARD
March 8th

by setting your clocks ahead before
you go to bed Saturday night



EASTER LILIES are being ordered again this year for \$15 each. Please fill out the form (on the credenza by the kitchen), make your check payable to "Church in the Hills" and write "Easter Lilies" on the memo line. Deadline for orders is Sunday, March 22nd.



"MISSION CROSSROADS" ARTICLES

The new "Mission Crossroads" magazine focuses on the environment (Earth Day is April 22), and contains several excellent articles, including two of personal interest. The article on p. 6 features our Mission Co-Worker Burkhard Paetzold along with Gary Peyton, both of whom were on the Global Exchange mission trip in 2008. The article on p. 8 concerns the Near East School of Theology, the former president of which wrote the "Horizons" Bible Study on Joshua that's in our CITH library (see the "Check it Out" article). I (Sarah Juntune) was privileged to meet all these amazing people and highly recommend their work. In addition, the articles on the Amazon Rainforest (p. 10) and the Young Adult Volunteer (p. 17) are especially interesting. There are copies in the literature rack by the kitchen. Feel free to take one home to read.

I would like to send out a huge "Thank You" to Olga Cairns, Sarah Juntune, Bonnie Drick, and Cynthia Tschudy for all their help in setting up and food preparation for our recent Liturgist Training. And for everyone who stayed to clean up... It wouldn't have happened without all of you!!

I think we all would agree that Pastor David's leadership in the training session was very helpful.

Marlene Garvey,
Worship Committee

Winter Boredom Buster

GAME NIGHT & Pot Luck Appetizers.

Sunday March 15th at 5:00 pm in the CITH Undercroft. Please bring your favorite appetizer, game, friend & family for an evening of fun & fellowship.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

The Antrim Conservation District will be hosting electronics recycling events on Feb. 29 (in Kewadin), March 28 (Mancelona), and April 25 (Alden). There are minimal fees based on the type and size of the items. Full information is posted in the article in the Mission Corner.



Bob and Olga Cairns	6-Mar
Jim and Marian Racey	20-Mar
Dave and Marianne McBeth	30-Mar

Dear Church in the Hills Mission Committee:

Thank you very much for the financial help while Hank was down in the hospital in Grand Rapids. I know Josh (Hank's dad), Hank, and I are very grateful for you guys being able to help us out so fast too. Hank has been rehabilitating his leg muscles and has gone back to school, he is getting back to his normal self. We also have bracelets that have been gifted to us to raise money for Hank and I am sending some along as a "Thank You."

Sincerely, Nichole Bacon

(For more information on Hank, see the article posted in the Mission Corner.)



"Check It Out"

The *Horizons* Bible Study for 2009-2010 was "Joshua: A Journey of Faith." It was written by Mary Michael, who at the time was president of the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon. As she says in the Preface: "I felt honored to be part of a project of such importance... I also took it as a challenge. *Joshua* is a book criticized bitterly in the Middle East. Like many religious texts, it often is cited in the justification of violence. It is also vehemently dismissed for the same reason." The CITH women were really able to engage with the study.

CHECK IT OUT!

A Lenten history lesson

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning "March") and *lencten* (meaning "spring").

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and "the Lenten fast" to the pre-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus' time in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren't counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they're considered "mini-Easters."

WinSome Women

Come to the Spring 2020 WinSome Women retreats for inspiration, fellowship and fun.

May 12 & 13, 13 & 14 and 14 & 15.

Enjoy enriching speakers, uplifting worship, and the ambiance of the Grand Hotel on beautiful Mackinac Island. Hear award-winning musician Lynda Randle and dynamic international speaker Carol Kent. Come with your friends, be encouraged by gifted Bible teacher Michael Card and worship leader and speaker Sarah Schieber. For more information and to register go to

wsretreats.org

(registration begins March 14th)

MARCH 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 PASTOR'S DAY OFF DEACONS 10:00 AM	3 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP/MUSIC 1:00 PM	4 CHOIR 3:30 PM	5 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM PASTIE MAKING 10:00 AM FINANCE 1:00 PM	6	7
8 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM MISSION AFTER WORSHIP DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	9 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	10 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	11 SESSION 9:00 AM CHOIR 3:30 PM	12 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	13	14
15 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM WINTER BOREDOM BUSTER 5:00 PM	16 PASTOR'S DAY OFF NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	18 CHOIR 3:30 PM	19 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	20	21
22 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	23 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	24 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	25 CHOIR 3:30 PM	26 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	27	28
29 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	30 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	31 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM BOOK GROUP 1:00 PM				

EXPRESSIONS

MARCH 2020

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 231-350-0067

Class of 2020

Paul DeLange	Bldg & Grnds	231-377-7333
Gordon Harris	Finance	231-599-2636
Dottie Schaefer	Membership	231-377-7848

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
Rem Siekmann	Worship	440-527-4416

Music Staff

Dorothy Clore, John Dickinson, Carol McLeod

Reverend Mr. Donald E. Gordon, Pastor Emeritus