

# EXPRESSIONS



## CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC (USA)

Did we actually think this pandemic was coming to end? With most of our local congregation vaccinated, I certainly thought we were out of the woods. CDC pundits said it would take longer for normalcy, but I didn't believe them. I guess I was too ready to be done with this whole thing, yet I remain open to learning from this experience even with my patience drawing thin. I hope you are too.

We've all been pushed to extremes this past year. The forces of culture and especially the media thrive when we are divided and angry with a group or party. Many people I've spoken with admit they leave the news on the T.V. all day. Those same people also said that just ten years ago it was the Weather Channel that was on all day. Why the change?

No matter what we are watching at home, we've all had strong feelings and strong reactions about many events this past year. I don't think that returning to normal is possible without a spirit of forgiveness. We need to do something with the anger, disappointment, and frustration we have felt towards others. I believe forgiveness starts with empathy. We must stop our obsession with being right long enough to rediscover God's love within us. Instead of railing on someone for their actions or beliefs, we should allow empathy to calm us down. "There but for the grace of God go I." If we know we can take things too far, why can't we allow empathy for others in the same way? We should also recognize that our anger is often misplaced. This past year has been shaped by a pandemic. I rarely hear anyone simply complain about the pandemic. What good would it do? It feels better to complain about the Governor or the President or the Elders of the Church.

If you fit any of the previous description, I hope you will consider forgiveness. I hope you will consider forgiving those who have hurt or angered you, and I also hope you will seek forgiveness for those you have hurt. If we get back to normal and bury all our pandemic angst, will we truly be back to normal? Rather than get back to normal, I hope we can grow as the true Church or body of Christ. Let's work hard at being the Church by working hard to love one another. I will do my best to admit my offenses during this past year and I will seek the forgiveness of those I offended. I will also work hard to love and forgive those who have offended me. It might sound messy and awkward, but it sounds like the Church.

*Matthew 5:43-47*

*"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?"*

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

### Moms and Tots Baby Bottle Fundraiser

This annual fundraiser begins on Mother's Day and ends on Father's Day. If you would like to contribute, simply write a check to "Church in the Hills", write "Moms and Tots" on the memo line, and mail it to the church.

Moms and Tots is a part of Good Samaritan Family Services and it is located at 9100 Pleasant Hill Road in Ellsworth, Michigan. Ninety percent of their funds come from individuals through direct donations and the annual Baby Bottle Campaign. The remainder of their budget is provided through church and business donations.

Moms and Tots is a highly effective and low-cost ministry. The staff is composed of a Director and Assistant Director and approximately 20 trained volunteers.

Their mission is to provide unconditional love, hope for the future, and valuable education to women and their families by extending spiritual, emotional, and physical support through Christ-like mentoring relationships.

The clients they serve come from over 20 cities in Northern Michigan. Yearly they serve close to 900 families with over 1,500 children ages pre-born up to age 6. The center provides donated baby and maternity clothing and equipment. Most diapers, wipes, baby food, cribs and car seats are purchased. Clothing and equipment donations are accepted from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Moms and Tots provides many educational opportunities to mothers through their Earn While You Learn Program and life skills classes such as money management and cooking lessons. In addition, Moms and Tots houses a GED/HS Diploma Access point and also sends trained volunteers to many local middle and high schools to teach lessons on sexual risk avoidance.

Another way you can support this ministry is to become a volunteer. If interested, just give them a call at 231-588-2200 and set up an appointment.

## *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

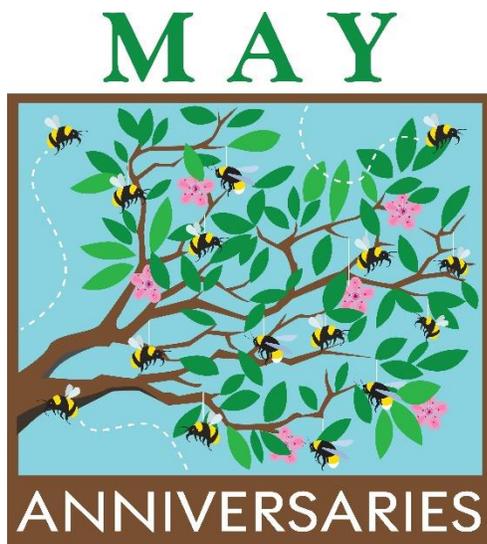
Any questions call Tammy Lockwood 231-377-2002

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Ladies, Gentlemen and Young Adults, you are invited to join the Church in the Hills (CITH) Prayer Shawl Ministry. Two other churches have donated funds to help us continue this project. We will provide good quality yarns, patterns and charms for your shawl. If you have a preferred yarn, we will purchase the skeins for you. Both those who knit and/or crochet are welcome to share in this Ministry.

We will meet the second Monday of each month in the lower level of CITH (handicap accessible). Our first gathering will be Monday June 14, at 11am. Please consider joining us. *Face masks and social distancing are required.*

Please call, text or email Olga Cairns at 231-350-1023 or [oacairns@gmail.com](mailto:oacairns@gmail.com) with any questions and your interest in this Ministry.



Dick and Diana Milock	6-May
Jim and Gail Preston	18-May
Rick and Bonnie Smith	19-May

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

Please consider taking a Sunday to provide chancel flowers in memory or honor of someone or to celebrate a special event. Please contact the church office for details.

## Serving Seniors in Antrim County

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Mission Committee meet via Zoom with Judy Parliament who heads up the Antrim County Commission on Aging. We were hoping that Judy could share some ways that our church can work with the COA to improve the lives of local seniors. It was a great meeting and Judy shared a lot of ideas.

1. COA hopes to begin a “calling” mission that would reach out to home bound seniors by phone. This is a way to offer companionship and also helps insure that needs and problems do not go unnoticed. A phone call once or twice a week offers connections and cheer.
2. Meals on Wheels always needs drivers. Two people go out on each route. Driving teams generally work one day a week for 2 to 4 hours.
3. Tax Program: qualified citizens help seniors with their taxes. Tom Juntune has been involved in this and can share information.
4. Ramp Building: there is a need for ramps to be built for safe access to homes in the area. COA would like to have some building sessions where volunteers could construct ramps that could be installed as needed. The materials would be provided, we need volunteers with some building experience and tools.

If any of these Mission opportunities interest you, please contact your Mission Committee co-chairs: Cynthia Tschudy at 231-544-6167 or Bonnie Smith at 231-350-6406; or Judy Parliament at the COA at 231-533-8703.

### FREE! Children's Summer Clothing Give-Away

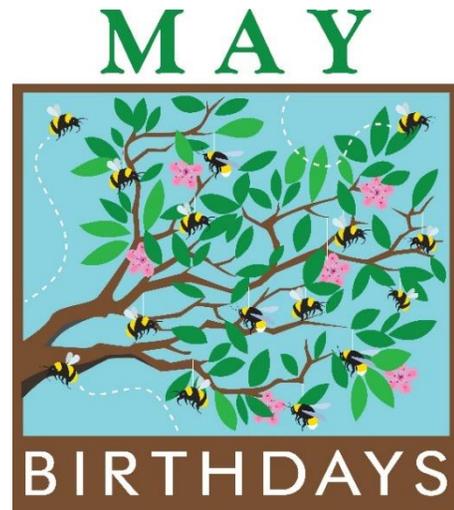
Have your children outgrown their summer clothing? Are you looking for a way to clear out the closet and bureau? This is it! Pack your child's (toddlers through grade 12) clothing into brown paper grocery bags by gender and by size and label them on the outside, for example: Girl, Size 3 or Boy, Size 7. Drop the bags off at the Bellaire Community United Methodist Church on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The clothing will be available for pickup on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Richardi Park, Bellaire. If you would like to make a financial contribution to the purchase of clothing, please make your check out to Bellaire Youth Initiative, and the funds will be put toward needed clothing. Volunteers to help with distribution on that Saturday are welcomed. For further information, contact Dee Lynch at 231-537-5368.

### Social Justice and Black Lives Matter

Reparations versus reconciliation is something I (newsletter editor Bonnie Smith) haven't understood in the issue of American racism until I started reading Jennifer Harvey's book, *Dear White Christians*. It's the story of Zacchaeus who meets Jesus in Jericho. You can read it in Luke 19: 1-10. Dr. Harvey is a professor of religion at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, and this is a second edition of her book. It's part of a series titled *Prophetic Christianity* "that explores the complex relationship between Christian doctrine and contemporary life." Zacchaeus knew instantly what he had to do to make things right with his fellows and with Jesus. I think I'll be on a deep soul-searching journey. Would you be interested in a Zoom book group to discuss Dr. Harvey's points? Let me know. [bonnie.smith@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.smith@gmail.com)

### Teams needed to help in Traumatic Events

Dan Bean and the Sheriff's Office has a program that offers immediate assistance to victims of traumatic events. An example of this would be a house fire or serious accident. This would require training. Sarah Juntune has talked to Dan Bean about this program. If you are interested, please talk to Sarah at 231-533-9403 or phone the Sheriff's office at 231-533-8627.



Nancy Edleman	01-May
Christine Sparks	04-May
Maureen Stenback	04-May
Valerie Sadd	04-May
Sharron Grinwis	10-May
Sue Blugerman	10-May
Darrell Christie	12-May
Nancy Taddeucci	13-May
Jim Hatcher	14-May
Dick Milock	15-May
Tyler Hoyt	20-May
Carol Fent	21-May
Ron VanMersbergen	22-May
Bev Dickinson	23-May
Jesse Folker	23-May
Marian Racey	24-May
Tom Juntune	27-May
Doris DeLange	31-May

# MAY 2021

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

# EXPRESSIONS

## MAY 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