



EXPRESSIONS

CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC (USA)

We are so fortunate to live in the United States and as we celebrate 250 years, we should evaluate our progress. Our current political divisions might cause concern but 250 years of trying to govern people with the goal of human equality is no small task. It's easy to criticize things we've gotten wrong and we might be tempted to overemphasize the things we've done well. The fact remains that our form of government seems to be the best the world has ever seen when it works as it should. That statement might be debated but the freedoms we have here draw millions of people every year to our land and our system. Celebrating 250 years can hopefully be a moment to stop fighting for a few minutes and just be thankful for what has been accomplished.

This article is not meant to be political, but I've taken the risk so that something godly may be learned. God, throughout scripture, treats the world according to nations, peoples and communities. God reveals himself to individuals, but his purpose is always to draw together the community or people. The concept is simple but it's difficult for us to perceive. God treats nations as one unit. God treats marriages as one person. God treats all Christians as one body. We think of marriage as two people trying to get along. We treat a nation the same way. It's just a bunch of people trying to get along. God is love and his purpose is always to gather everything together. If we take this concept seriously, we will learn to work beyond our individual faith and salvation to help others come into community. We are more than individuals who are getting saved. We are God's ambassadors helping fulfill his mission to gather the creation together.

I'm shining some light on this concept because it is important that we think of America as one thing. When we say we, "love America," we are claiming that we love the whole thing. If we are not honest about the wrongs committed in her name, we may slip into delusion or even idolatry. The godly approach is to treat our country the same way we treat ourselves when it comes to faith in God. If we turn our backs on God and sin against him, we must repent of our wrongs and seek God's forgiveness. Since America is a nation, she needs to do the same. We need to be able to admit when we've done wrong and make amends. Of course, it's more difficult to get a whole nation on the same page but the concept is the same. As Americans, we should be able to criticize our nation and, at least, individually repent of her sins. This process is God's system of stopping sinful behaviors that lead to atrocities against humankind.

We have a lot to be thankful for, and we have things to repent of, but America is one nation under God. We have the privilege and freedom to keep working on her under God's love and grace. May our nation and our land remain as long as God sheds his grace on her.

The Peace of Christ be with you!

Rev. David Ramage

Soul sisters

SOUL SISTERS will be meeting at Twin Birch Restaurant and Golf Club in Kalkaska on Thursday, July 30th at 12:30. Run away from your full house or bring them with you for a delicious lunch in an inviting setting. Plan on walking the trails before or after lunch. Sign up at the credenza or contact Linda Bicum (bicum@torchlake.com or 231-322-2811) for your RSVP.



Rem and Janet Siekmann	02-Jul
Bob and Jamie Davidson	14-Jul
Fred and Marty Harris	17-Jul
Don and Kathy Hoyt	18-Jul
Ron and Dee Lynch	29-Jul
John and Lee Kerr	30-Jul

JUNE FINANCIAL CORNER

Church in the Hill's financial summary through June is shown below.

Total Income:	\$115,501.40
Total Expenses:	\$109,645.21
Net Income:	POSITIVE \$5,856.19

June's net income was a negative **\$1,705.14**.

2 Corinthians 9:7 states "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

As always, the Finance Committee appreciates our church family's contributions!



The deacons helped Connie and Dick Garcia celebrate their 70th anniversary a bit early with a surprise coffee hour June 7. (Their actual anniversary was June 16.) Congratulations to an awesome couple.



Ron Kershner	01-Jul
Estela DeLange	04-Jul
Linda Bicum	06-Jul
Laura Foerster	07-Jul
Marge Glyshaw	07-Jul
Steve Grill	08-Jul
Terrie Ramage	08-Jul
Grace Adamek	11-Jul
Linda Stephenson	17-Jul
Mike Card	18-Jul
Phil Weiss	20-Jul
Olga Cairns	22-Jul
Lew Lesperance	23-Jul
Mary Ann Waara	24-Jul
Carol Gregory	25-Jul
Patty Moore	28-Jul

Helping Families with “Bags and Bubbles”

It’s hard to think about, but in less than 2 months children will be returning to school. For many years members of Church in the Hills have donated Backpacks and Supplies to area schools. These backpacks have always been appreciated by the schools and the children receiving them. For families in financial need it is a great opportunity for their children to begin school prepared.

More recently, the school counselors have organized a closet or pantry where children can go to pick up hygiene items for themselves or family members. Once again this is a great chance for us to help children and their families with hygiene items that may be difficult to afford.

This year we are collecting both backpacks and supplies (Bags) along with hygiene items (Bubbles) throughout July and August. There will be collection boxes at the back of the Church for all donated items. If you prefer to write a check and have us shop for you, make it out to Church in the hills and specify what your donation is intended for on the memo line: Backpacks and Supplies or Hygiene Items. We are including a list of items at the end of this note.

Backpacks will be assembled on Sunday, August 23rd. And delivered to schools before start up. Help will be needed so PLEASE mark your calendar! Thank you so much for caring about others less fortunate in our area. ❤️
CITH Mission Committee
Mary Ann Waara and Robyn Dobbrastein
Project Coordinators

Items Needed

Backpacks
Lined, 3 Subject Notebooks
Loose Leaf Paper
Folders
Pens

Body Wash
Deodorant
Shampoo
Conditioner
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Feminine Needs Products
Laundry Soap



Household Hazardous Waste Collection, July 25

The Bellaire collection is from 8am – noon at the school parking lot on Forest Home Ave. The full list of accepted items is posted on the bulletin board, but it includes batteries, chemicals (cleaners, pesticides, gasoline, etc.), electronics, fluorescent lights, fire extinguishers, and oil-based paints. **There is a charge for electronics** (determined by the size) and **latex paint** (because it's not hazardous). They do not accept appliances. If you cannot attend, please bring smaller items (batteries, smaller electronics, or fluorescent bulbs) to church on July 19. No paint or large items, please. The event is very well organized, but **they need more volunteers** to make the process go even faster. *Contact the Conservation District at 231-533-8363. (As a bonus: volunteers do not pay a fee for any recyclables.)*

Tip: There's usually not a long line between 9:30-10:30.



Rubber Ducky Parade Volunteers Needed!

The Membership Committee is looking for volunteers to work the RUBBER DUCKY parade. We'll need walkers, candy tossers, coat shed hauler, t-shirt wearers. Contact Linda Bicum if you are interested in participating (bicum@torchlake.com or 231-322-2811).

JULY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 CHOIR 3:30 PM	2 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	3 PASTOR'S DAY OFF OFFICE CLOSED	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
5 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	6 ARTS CAMP 9:00 -12:30 FINANCE 1:00 PM	7 ARTS CAMP 9:00 -12:30 WORSHIP 1:30 PM	8 ARTS CAMP 9:00 -12:30 CHOIR 3:30 PM	9 ARTS CAMP 9:00 -12:30	10 ARTS CAMP 9:00 -12:30 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	11
12 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	13 DAVID'S VACATION DEACONS 10:00 AM PRAYER SHAWL 11:00 AM	14 DAVID'S VACATION NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	15 DAVID'S VACATION CHOIR 3:30 PM	16 DAVID'S VACATION	17 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	18
19 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	20 MISSION 1:00 PM	21 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	22 CHOIR 3:30 PM	23 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	24 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	25
26 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	27	28 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	29 CHOIR 3:30 PM	30 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	31 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	

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.org

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

Becky Watrous, 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.)

Rev. David Ramage revramage@gmail.com

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

ELDERS

Class of 2026

Bev Dickinson 248-217-9393

John Kerr 248-770-5923

Lindsay Eggers 989-992-5514

Class of 2027

Linda Bicum 231-322-2281

Cynthia Tschudy 231-544-6167

Mary Ann Waara 231-350-0067

Veta Brooks 586-484-4626

Jim Heimbuch 216-390-4535

DEACONS

Class of 2026

Barb Antosik 602-509-2051

Pat Hallberg 231-533-6006

Janet Siekmann 513-315-8760

Class of 2027

Tammy Hickman 231-350-0090

Patty Moore 616-681-2450

Terrie Ramage 231-392-1704

Class of 2028

Robyn Dobbrastine 517-819-9916

Judy Heimbuch 440-242-7352

Sarah Juntune 231-676-3996