



EXPRESSIONS

CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC (USA)

October is beautiful in Northern Michigan, but it is also the “Get Ready” month. We all know what’s coming and how to get ready, but do we know how to get ready for what God is doing next? The snow will come but what’s next for God’s plan? I’m a believer in the idea that the Holy Spirit leads us intuitively toward God’s plan. Our intuition may not be very sharp but the books we read, the movies we watch and the activities we engage in may be subtly affected by God’s gentle nudge. In other words, our interests might have been influenced by God’s Spirit. Because I believe that, I think it’s helpful to discuss our interests as a way of finding God’s hand in our lives. My favorite way to do this is to watch and discuss movies.

I’m trying to resurrect the Movie Discussion group. It was very successful but difficult to organize long term. I want to have a movie discussion once a month at the church. If you are interested, please contact me with suggestions for days and times. It seems difficult for many to attend after dark but let’s see if that’s the case. The discussion group watches the movie together and then discusses it, which means the time commitment is between 2 ½ and 3 hours. There may be opportunities to watch some movies at your leisure and then gather to discuss. I would appreciate any feedback on these ideas.

I’ll finish by giving a rationale for a movie discussion group. We all watch movies and we easily evaluate them as great, good or a waste of time and money. The difficult question is the key for potentially discovering God’s hidden plan: “Why do we like it?” The movie discussion group tries to answer that question and I’ll warn you; it’s not easy. You may love “Shawshank Redemption” but not know why. Trying to answer the “why” question is like trying to crack open a safe when you forgot the combination. Together we will try to discover the reasons behind our interest. God speaks through scripture, through nature, through the church and maybe through the movies we love. I even think he speaks through the movies we hate. Let’s dig in together.

The peace of Christ be with you!

Rev. David Ramage

Presbytery Committee Needs

Just as the local congregation has committees that bring proposals to the Session for action, the Presbytery of Mackinac has committees to bring proposals to help the Church run smoothly across our vast area. Most meetings are by Zoom, so time and travel commitments are minimized. Several committees are in need of members: Education and Leadership, Mission, Personnel, Representation and Nominations, the Presbytery Point Camp Board, and the Commission on Ministry. If you can help in any of these areas (or have questions), please talk with Pastor David or Sarah Juntune (our congregation's Commissioner to Presbytery). Thank you for prayerfully considering helping the Church beyond our local community.



During the month of October, "**Adopt a Shelter Pet Month**," we will be collecting **monetary donations only** to purchase supplies for the pet food banks that serve Antrim County. Pet surrenders and food requests have increased, while adoption and food donations have decreased. One of the main reasons that pets are relinquished is because their owners cannot care for them, and that includes being able to afford to feed them. Relinquishment is not a pet problem; it is a poverty problem. Another reason to contribute to the pet food pantry is that many people feed their pets before they feed themselves. By donating to the pet food banks, you can help someone in need, so he or she can support his or her companion animal without, in some cases, having to make a sacrifice. Please write "Pet Food Drive" on the memo line of your check.



Rick and Kathy Munger 06-Oct
Carol and Jerry Walsworth 18-Oct
David and Terrie Ramage 27-Oct



Garnett Anderson 03-Oct
Jean Rowe 08-Oct
Ted Whittlesey 13-Oct
Kathy Hoyt 18-Oct
Dick Garcia 19-Oct
John Dickinson 26-Oct
Dennis Poll 26-Oct
Lorraine Barnes 26-Oct
Marty Harris 26-Oct
Marlene Garvey 28-Oct
Barb Harcus 29-Oct
Sharon Moeke 31-Oct

From the Food Pantries We Serve

Thank you for your surprise donation to our food pantry. Your support is so appreciated! Thanks for thinking of us.

Star Township FD Pantry (Alba)

Thanks so very much for your continued support. It is appreciated & much needed. Recently we are helping an additional 200 people per month. Again—thank you.

Mancelona Food Pantry

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Our 2026 Closet to Closet Clothing Giveaway held on September 12th was a success and all because of the donations we received and the volunteers that helped make our guests feel comfortable and loved. We could not do what we do without your contributions of clothing, time and effort. More than 100 people came and took clothing for family and friends. I have no doubt that at least 400 people were gifted with beautiful, warm and comfortable clothes for winter. Not only did we give out gently used clothing but we had purchased 14 new children's coats and they were all given away. The look in the children's eyes made it all worthwhile! We took orders for 16 more coats and will shop for the sizes needed. Any financial donations are very much appreciated to keep our little people warm! Once again **Thank You!** . . .
From Mary Ann Waara and the Church in the Hills Mission Committee

Jesus said in Matthew 25: 36, 38 & 40 I was without clothes and you gave me something to wear. The people asked "Lord, when did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear?" Then Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me".



World Communion Offering - October 4

Micah 6:8 tells us that the Lord requires us "to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." October 4 is World Communion Sunday, when Christians all over the world take time to recognize their oneness across societies and cultures. One of only three annual churchwide offerings, the World Communion Offering lets us participate in activities promoting justice, global witness, and interfaith engagement with others around the world. Please join in helping all God's children live into the fullness of Micah's prophecy. Contributions can be accepted until the end of the year, but we will recognize our unity on Oct. 4. Checks should have "World Communion" in the memo line. Thank you for your humble generosity.

Soul sisters

We will be gathering at Casa Nuevo, south of Mancelona on 131, Friday, October 30th at 12:30 pm for a pre-Halloween Mexican lunch. Sign up at the credenza or contact Linda Bicum at bicum@torchlake.com or 231-322-2811. Come and enjoy friends, laughter and good food.



Soul Sisters on September 24th at The Front Porch in Ellsworth. Please join us this month.

CITH Lakeside Worship July 26th

The outdoor service was a lovely event, despite low attendance. The setting was beautiful; the weather was a little warm (hello it is summer) but thankfully there was some shade, and the music and message were Holy Spirit inspired! We would love to do this again next summer but need more arms, legs and brain power to make it happen. The more people are involved, the more ideas and excitement are generated. We will need to experiment with times, days of the week, location, advertising, etc. to determine the right combination. We will start planning the services in early Spring, so if you are interested, please reach out to Lindsay Eggers at lindsayseggers@gmail.com.



OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	2 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	3
4 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	5 DEACONS 10:00 AM	6 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP 1:30 PM	7 CHOIR 3:30 PM	8 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM Finance 1:00 pm	9 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	10
11 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	12 PRAYER SHAWL GROUP 10 AM INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY	13 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	14 SESSION 10 AM CHOIR 3:30 PM	15 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	17
18 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM MISSION 11:30 AM	19	20 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	21 CHOIR 3:30 PM	22 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	23 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	24
25 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	26	27 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	28 CHOIR 3:30 PM	29 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	30 PASTOR'S DAY OFF SOUL SISTERS CASA NUEVO 12:30 PM	31 SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK

CHURCH IN THE HILLS
A Presbyterian Community of
Faith and Friendship in Christ
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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

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:
pastor@churchinthehills.org
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	231-322-2811
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

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