November

EXPRESSIONS

CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC (USA)

As we finish the sermon series on Ephesians, I'm struck by the difficulty of preaching about the forces of evil in heavenly places. We all have reactions to any talk of Satan, the devil and demons because we envision pitch forks and horns and strange stories of possession. I've been focusing on anger and bitterness as a way of understanding evil forces from an earthlier perspective. I can easily claim that we become possessed by anger and everyone knows what I'm talking about. The difficulty is understanding how destructive that anger really is and how it divides us. The battle against such forces is real but somehow, we manage to minimize it. I'm hopeful we are willing to take the battle seriously.

I will be offering a movie night soon using "The Matrix" from 1999. In the Matrix, Neo is offered an opportunity to see reality as it truly exists by taking a red pill. He is also offered a blue pill which will return him to his current understanding of reality. In truth, the blue pill will return him to a computer-generated simulation of reality. So, the choice is to enter reality or return to the comfort of an imitation. I find this choice compelling as a Chrisitan because we too are told, through scripture, that Jesus is our way of entering reality. Reality is more than what we see with our eyes and touch with our fingers. Paul clearly tells us in Ephesians: the battle is not flesh and blood but is a battle against evil forces in heavenly places. This reality inspires me to ask you a question. Which pill would you take?

If you choose the blue pill, life continues as you currently understand it. You know how this life works and you've been at it for quite a while. It's comfortable and reasonably predictable. You've had much success navigating the blue pill life so far, but the red pill only promises one thing; the truth. The red pill will initiate the destruction of all false assumptions and facades in your life. If you take the red pill, you will see reality as it exists. The bible gives us hints about reality when it talks about angels and demons, but it also talks about light. In God's reality, the light reveals everything. Nothing is hidden. What would you choose?

I will end with the good news. You've already chosen the red pill when you choose to follow Jesus as Lord. The portal to reality is your faith in Jesus but there are dark forces trying to distract you and obscure your vision of reality. Learn to stand against these forces by trusting Jesus more today than yesterday. Seek His light no matter what it reveals. It will always reveal the truth.

The peace of Christ be with you!

Rev. David Ramage



Antrim County High Tea

It was a chance meeting on a Thursday at her workplace. She shared she was battling breast cancer, her bills were in collections and she still needed an additional procedure. She had a bad tire and couldn't rely on her vehicle to safely make it to Traverse City for the appointment. ACHT (aka The High Tea) went into action, signed her up as a client, met her Friday at the tire store to purchase and install four new tires on her vehicle and by Monday, all her bills related to her breast cancer diagnosis, were PAID IN FULL. She made an appointment for her next procedure within the week. Total costs: $5,100.00. THIS is the power of Antrim County High Tea for Breast Cancer Prevention and how quickly we can financially assist any Antrim resident who is battling breast cancer or needs a mammogram. This year, an average of 20 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer in Antrim. Our last three clients averaged over $5000.00 each, due to high insurance deductibles or lack of insurance. Our team works hard year-round to financially support our clients and educate the community about breast health. You can donate on our website: Antrimcountyhighteaforbreastcancerprevention.org
Schedule your annual mammogram today and tell your loved ones to do the same.

Thank you,

Lee Ellen Kerr
ACHT President



SOUL SISTERS will not be meeting on Thanksgiving Day, but will combine the Nov-Dec lunch dates into one on Thursday, December 3rd. We'll meet at 12:30 at the Rapid City Tavern (formally Critters) on Plum Valley Road, 1/4 mile from Rapid City Road. Turn east at the stone party store. Hopefully, we can avoid the busyness of both holidays and take some time for friends and fellowship. The next lunch date will be Friday, January 29th. Sign up at the credenza or contact Linda Bicum at 231-322-2811 or bicum@torchlake.com.



A Note from the Women's Resource Center

Thank you for your generous donation to Women's Resource Center that we received on October 9, 2026. Your support means so much to us and the families that we serve.



Christmas Families Project

As is our tradition, we will be helping about a dozen local families have a happier Christmas, thanks to the love of people at Church in the Hills. The families are all vetted by Good Samaritan, who gives us the children's ages, sizes, and basic wishes. For each child we provide 2 presents (a 'fun' item and an article of clothing) plus 'stocking stuffers' (coloring books, toothbrushes, etc.). We also provide grocery and gas gift cards and basic hygiene items for the families, as well as wrapping paper and tape (so the parents know what the items are and can balance them out if necessary). The 'wish tree' with 2 slips per child will be out before Thanksgiving, and the items are all due back by December 13 (or earlier, if possible). Monetary contributions, especially for the gift cards should be marked "Christmas Families." As always, thank you for your amazing generosity.

Snippets of Church History: John Knox (1513 – 1572)

John Knox was ordained a Catholic priest, but in a battle for the Catholic Church of Scotland, he was accused of a plot against the cardinal and fled to Switzerland. There he studied with John Calvin, whose reforms greatly influenced him. He returned to Scotland and began preaching about church reform. In 1561, the Scottish Parliament adopted the Church of Scotland's *First Book of Discipline,* creating Presbyterianism, in which congregations are ruled by sessions and bound together in regional presbyteries. He and five other clergy wrote The Scots Confession, the earliest statement of faith written for this new church. It can be found in the Book of Confessions, part 1 of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



Annual Giving Statements will be going out the second or third week in January. If you have a change of address or just want to verify the address we have on file for you, please contact Becky at 231-533-6001 or office@churchinthehills.org. Thank you!



Steve and Donna Grill	19-Nov
Dennis and Jari Poll	25-Nov
John and Bev Dickinson	26-Nov



Eileen Hedin	03-Nov
Ken Salo	04-Nov
Diana Milock	09-Nov
Jim Racey	14-Nov
Rick Munger	14-Nov
Dorothy Clore	20-Nov
Katrina Marshall	27-Nov
April DeLange	30-Nov

NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE 4:00 PM	2 DEACONS 10:00 AM	3 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM ELECTION DAY	4 CHOIR 3:30 PM	5 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM FINANCE 1:00 PM SERMON ON THE MOUNT 3:30 PM	6 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	7
8 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	9  10:00 AM	10 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP 1:30 PM	11 VETERANS DAY SESSION 10:00 AM CHOIR 3:30PM	12 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM SERMON ON THE MOUNT 3:30 PM	13 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	14
15 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM ELDER/DEACON ORDINATION	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MISSION 3:00 PM	17 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	18 CHOIR 3:30 PM	19 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM SERMON ON THE MOUNT 3:30 PM	20 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	21
22 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	23	24 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	25 CHOIR 3:30 PM	26  OFFICE CLOSED	27 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	28
29 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	30	DECEMBER 1 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	DECEMBER 2 CHOIR 3:30 PM	DECEMBER 3 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM FINANCE 1:00 PM SOUL SISTERS RAPID CITY TAVERN SERMON ON THE MOUNT 3:30 PM	DECEMBER 4 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	DECEMBER 5
DECEMBER 6 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	DECEMBER 7 DEACONS 10:00 AM	DECEMBER 8 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM	DECEMBER 9 CHOIR 3:30 PM	DECEMBER 10 MEN'S RAP 9:00 AM	DECEMBER 11 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	DECEMBER 12

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

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



Easy Sticky Toffee Pudding Cake (Pamela Salzman internet recipe)

Ingredients:
½ lb. (about 10 – 15) whole medjool dates: pitted and chopped
1 teaspoon baking soda
4 Tablespoons softened butter (1/2 stick)
1 1/3 Cups all -purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
¾ Cup dark brown sugar
2 Tablespoons granulated white sugar
2 large eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Toffee sauce (see following recipe)

Instructions:

1. Place chopped dates in a medium heat proof bowl with the baking soda. Pour 1 cup boiling water over them and let them soak 1 hour. Put the dates and liquid in a food processor and pulse until mixture seems mostly smooth, no big chunks
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
3. Grease and flour 8" square cake pan (or use cooking spray)
4. Sift flour and baking powder onto a large paper plate
5. In a stand mixer (or hand -held mixer) cream butter and brown and white sugars together until light and fluffy (about 4 minutes, medium high speed)
6. Add eggs and beat until well combined, add vanilla
7. Add date mixture and flour mixture, about 1/3 of each alternating until all are added and the mixture is well combined. Don't overbeat.
8. Pour in prepared 8" square pan and bake in the oven 35 -45 minutes, toothpick inserted in the center should be clean.
9. Remove the cake from the oven, poke holes with a thin skewer over the top and pour ½ cup warm toffee sauce over the cake.

Toffee Sauce (make about 1 cup, you may want to double the recipe)
Make this while the cake is baking so it is warm when you pour it on the cake

½ cup brown sugar
6 tablespoon butter
¼ teaspoon salt
¾ cup heavy cream
Melt butter in a heavy saucepan.
Stir in brown sugar and salt, keep stirring until dissolved, this takes 4 -5 minutes and you need to watch it
Slowly stir in the heavy cream (carefully, it may start boiling) Once it starts to boil reduce the heat to a simmer and let in cook and thicken for about 5 minutes.
Serve the cake with additional toffee sauce and whipped cream

This is pretty rich so you will get lots of servings! Cynthia Tschudy