

Big Rock Congregational Church Atlanta Michigan

A Community of Grace

CHIPS

Off the Big Rock



February 2026

The Love of Christ is The Greatest Of All

By Michelle (Shelly) Grant

February is known as the "love" month, more specifically for Valentines Day. To the world this love may be different. It may be based off more on couples and their love for one another. As believers in Christ, we can take comfort in the fact that there is absolutely no one in this world that will ever love us more than Jesus does. Jesus still loved us when He died for us on the cross knowing there was a chance we may not love Him back. If you really want to know what love looks like, then look to Jesus Christ Himself. There is nothing we could do in this world that would make God love us less or more. *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (New International Version, Romans 8:38-39). How wonderful is it that nothing in this world can separate us from the love the good Lord has for us? Jeremiah 31:3 is sometimes known as God's phone number. Which says, *"The LORD appeared to us in the past saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with an unfailing kindness.'"* Whenever you are feeling down or overwhelmed, meditate on that verse and call on His Name. Remind yourself of the everlasting love God has for you. As well as His kindness He has always shown you. It is not easy to be in this world, but we can always remember Jesus is the One who will never stop loving us. We can have confidence in that. I pray you feel the everlasting love of Christ and remember that His love is the greatest of all.

Pastor of BRCC:

Dr. Keith Jones

Moderator:

David Bradley

Deacons:

David Bradley
Gail Fehr

Trustees:

Judy Hoffman
Lynn Scharer

Our Vision:

We exist to worship God, to share His love that all might be saved and to become more like Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Guiding Values:

- Being a house of prayer
- Spirit-led congregational governance
- Loving Fellowship
- Reaching out
- Developing spiritual maturity in all members
- Being faithful stewards of God's blessings

Missions News

January-March 2026
Vol. 31 no. 1



The Fentons

SERVING IN NEW ZEALAND



CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Just before Christmas, our church identified several unsaved families that were struggling financially. We put together care baskets for these families along with a gospel tract and personally delivered each of the baskets. One of them went to our 91-year old neighbour, whom we have been working with for years. Please pray that the Lord will use the action and message to shine His light into these people's hearts.

AN ADDITION TO THE FAMILY

In the first week of January, our oldest daughter, Ashley, gave birth to our fourth grandchild, Emma Lisa Mae Luxton. We praise the Lord for a healthy delivery, and mother and child are doing well.



CAN YOU HELP?

From time to time, churches and individuals ask us if we have any special projects we need help with. Well, we do now.

Lisa and I would like to purchase a small motorhome that would enable us to travel for extended trips throughout the country, assisting in church planting work. We will continue to plant the church in Hastings, but as it matures, Lisa and I will be freed up for ministry further afield.

If you would like to help with the purchase of this motorhome, please make a cheque out to Christian Missionary Clearinghouse and send to:

CMC
PO Box 219228
Houston TX 77218-9228

Please write on the info line of the check "Fenton motorhome."

Road damage led to a stuck vehicle and an unusual opportunity for evangelism



VISITORS FROM AFAR

We were privileged to have our home church's missionary pastor Steve and Karen Ridge visit us in November of last year. They were a huge encouragement to us in the ministry here.

A week later, an unsaved couple from Australia I hiked with two years ago visited for an extended weekend. After attending our church plant service, Lisa and I had a long afternoon of sharing the gospel and answering questions from this couple. Please pray that the Lord will continue to bring believers into their lives to continue the gospel work.

COUNSELLING CLASS

Beginning in March, I will be teaching a Biblical counselling class online to a sister church. Bible Centre is a church we have ministered in quite frequently over the years, and we look forward to this new method of helping missionary Pink Davis in his church-planting work near Wellington. Please pray that the Lord will use this class to strengthen the believers for further work in their area.

AN UNUSUAL WITNESSING OPPORTUNITY

I've mentioned Niall before; we met him a year or so after moving to NZ. After a number of years of losing contact, the Lord has brought him back into our lives through our joint hiking passion.

Recently, he and I went on an overnight hike where the weather was abysmal. Heavy rain saturated our clothes and gear, but gave us camaraderie through the misery. Following the hike, as we were driving out, we came to a small ford that had been washed away by the heavy rains. While waiting four hours for a tow truck to come and help us across, we had some good conversation about how the Lord works in people's lives. Pray for Niall. He knows the gospel but has had some bad experiences in the past. Pray that the Lord will break the blindness to his need for salvation.

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Home Address

205A Windsor Ave.
Hastings, NZ 4122
krfenton@icloud.com

Sending Church

Calvary Baptist Church
1380 S. Valley Forge Rd.
Landsale, PA 19446

Thank You!

We are so grateful for your faithful support and co-labouring with us here in NZ.

Kurt & Lisa Fenton

For Caregivers of Dementia Patients

By Joanna S.

The day may come where you are a full time caregiver or know someone who is. I found a great book for beginners. It could be called Caregivers 101. It was written by Bruce Willis's wife, Emma Heming Willis. Bruce has (Frontotemporal dementia) FTD, but the book has principles for any type of dementia or caregiving need. I figured she had the money to find experts and she did. I found the book at Barnes and Noble. It is half price on-line right now. The name of the book is *The Unexpected Journey*.

It talks about the process of dementia decline but the most important chapters in my thinking are about taking care of yourself so you can take care of someone else. It speaks of the importance of having community and taking time for yourself so you don't burn out or neglect your own health. It has a chapter on how to speak to your children/grandchildren about the changes happening so it isn't so scary for them. It is not a Christian book. We have the added benefit of God's peace and guidance in our lives that Emma does not. It has a lot of good training and advice though.

Guiding Values of BRCC

Spirit-led congregational governance

We value being an autonomous, self-governing church that is formed and led by the Holy Spirit and established by covenant in the bonds of Christian love and faithfulness. We gladly receive into our number any of like faith who are willing to be faithfully bound by these same ideals. We appreciate the gifts with which God has endued upon us as individuals for the common good. For this reason, we appoint from among our own number proven godly leaders who can help to faithfully shepherd the church in fulfilling its God-given mission. Though we are all far from perfect, we recognize the valuable contributions every member makes regardless of the visibility or popularity of their service.

Because we value being an autonomous, self-governing church that is formed and led by the Holy Spirit, we trust his leading to call specially trained and gifted men to shepherd us under his loving care. When appropriate, we may affirm their ministries through professional development and credentialing. And should we become aware of professional or spiritual malfeasance that severely damages the reputation of our Lord, and or church, it is also our painful, though necessary, responsibility as the body of Christ to prayerfully reevaluate and potentially sever those professional ties while seeking to preserve all dignities, ministries, and reputations in the bonds of Christian love, grace, and mercy.

Because we value being a complete local body of Christ, we endeavor to submit to one another out of reverence to him. We value our shared life as a body and hold open meetings where together we make decisions regarding the business of the church. We welcome the varied perspectives of our individual gifts and callings. And prayerfully trusting the leading of the Holy Spirit, we use democratic means to ascertain the unity of mind he has given to us. Striving for unity in achieving our mission we treat one another with respect to our differences, and together we celebrate our successes and mourn our losses.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for partnering with Operation Christmas Child to help take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to millions of boys and girls around the world. The shoebox gifts that you prayerfully packed in 2025 total 12,205,900, praise God! will help open doors for us to reach even more children with God's love in the new year.

These shoeboxes go to the very ends of the earth - from jungles to deserts, from megacities to remote villages. One of the most powerful testimonies we've received recently comes from one of our teams deep in the Amazon rainforest of Peru. The Chapra people are an indigenous tribe, far removed from modern life in many ways. Recently, more than 1,000 Chapra children received shoebox gifts, most of them hearing about our Savior for the very first time.

Operation Christmas Child invites you to experience what our Lord is doing in the jungles of Peru through a multimedia presentation. If you are viewing this as a digital edition, click on the orange arrow in the picture to the right to view this presentation.

To God be the glory!



Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship collected items for the New Life Pregnancy Center in Gaylord. They also donated \$150.00 for diapers for the center that ended up being an answer to prayer that the center had prayed for just hours before. Thank you to all who donated to this project.

Each month on the third Friday of the month, at 10:00 we set up a visit with a woman from the church. If you would like a visit from the fellowship, please contact Joanna S. or Judy H. If you would like to be part of the visiting team, please come to the church parking lot at 10:00 and we can carpool if you so desire.

CE&D Update



Adult Sunday School: Join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15.**

Jessica D. is leading us through a DTS video on **The Nicene Creed**. Come watch the video and join in the discussion questions that follow.

Bible Study with Pastor Keith is meeting at 5:30 on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. We begin with a light supper and fellowship, followed by a bible study. The studies will be "Encounters With Jesus". February studies will be on February 11th and 25th.

Library: If you could help with getting the library up and running, please talk to Juli B. or Jessica D. about the times you could help.

Children's Sunday School: Michelle G. and Juli B. will continue with Children's Sunday School at 9:15 using the study *The ABC's of the Bible*. They are now in the Toddler room that is ready for children. Thank you to Joanna, Gabriel, Prabhu, and Michelle for getting the room ready for toddlers.

Children's Church: All four teachers will take turns leading Children's Church during the month of February. Children's Church will be using the TrueWay Kids and other studies of the Fruit of the Spirit. They are also in the Toddler room for Children's Church.

Bible Adventure Kid's Club: We hope to hold a four week club in the month of March. If you could help with this club, please see Gail or Marilyn. Club would be on Tuesday from 2:50 to 4:00 at Atlanta Schools in room 142.

Prayer Breakfast will continue to meet at 9:00 in the fellowship hall on Wednesdays. Join us after for prayer. If you could make breakfast on Wednesday, please sign up on the sheet in the kitchen.

Family Movie Night will be on February 8th at 5:30. We will begin with home made pizza and fellowship, followed by the movie "Herbie Fully Loaded". Come enjoy in on great pizza and a relaxing, fun movie.

Church Ministries Conference will be held in Grand Rapids on March 13-14 this year. The theme of the conference is BE COURAGEOUS. Jeremy Kimble, author and Bible teacher from Cedarville University, will be challenging us to serve with courage. There will be 70 + workshops offering training for all those who serve. For more information and a booklet with all the breakout sessions described, please see Gail. We need to know if you would like to attend by February 25th so we can meet the pre-registration dead line of \$50/person and make lodging arrangements.

Next Meeting of CE&D will meet on **February 26th** at 4:30.



G R E G
WILCOXON
CONFERENCE TREASURER

The year 2025 has come to an end.

I first want to thank our pastors, member churches, and all of our members in the conference for your continued prayers and financial support over the past year. I know it's been a struggle with inflation, forcing each of us to make choices about where our money goes.

In the midst of these challenges, our Conference has accomplished wonderful Kingdom work through our three priorities: Church Development, Church Multiplication, and Conference Care. Church Development continues as we assess where churches are in their life cycle and help them grow and thrive. Our Church Multiplication continues to support and equip our pastors as they plant and replant churches. Our four Regional Pastors also continue to support, care for, encourage, and bless the churches within their regions. These are the things you are resourcing through your generous contributions.

However, as a Conference, we are facing significant resource challenges. Our budgeted giving from member churches was about \$100,000 below budget. In 2025, 60% of our churches contributed to our Conference. I'm grateful for the generosity of each of these churches. However, this means that 40% of our churches made no contribution to support our Conference's three priorities.

I'd like to remind us of our 2% challenge. Each of our churches is encouraged to prayerfully consider setting aside 2% of its annual budget to support the Conference's work. Here's a link to our 2% challenge brochure. We hope to resource and build initiatives in pastoral leadership development in the coming year. Every dollar helps.

In addition to our budget shortfall, our expenses exceeded our budget by over \$90,000. There is a cost to our continued resourcing of our priorities, and as a Conference, we have also experienced the challenges of inflation. In the coming year, we will do our best to manage our budget so that we faithfully steward your generous contributions.

Please join me, our Board, and Staff in praying for our pastors, churches, and our mission within the CCCC.

God's blessing to all,

Greg Wilcoxon
CCCC Treasurer.



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Sam B.	2-6
Michelle G. (Shelly)	2-10
Ellie H.	2-19

Choir News

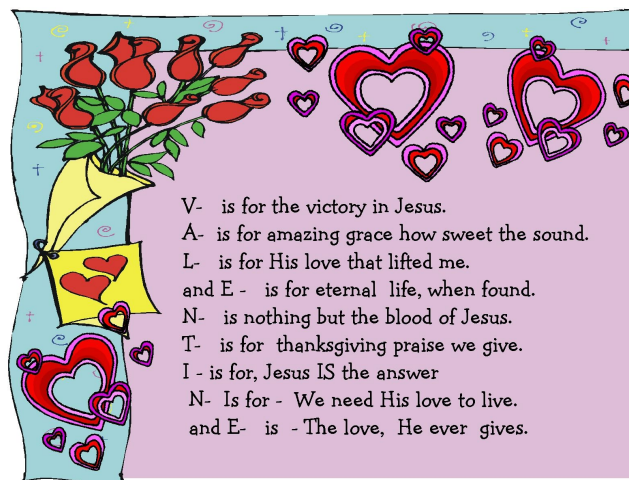


Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation day after day.
Psalm 96:1-2 (NIV)

Choir will be meeting on Thursdays at 5:30 beginning February 5th. We will work on a song for Singspiration and begin work on the Easter Cantata, *My Redeemer*. We would love to have you join us if you like to praise God with your voice.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 8th:	Family Movie Night 5:30
Feb. 18th:	Lent Begins
Feb. 22nd:	Singspiration at Maple Grove
March 13th-14th:	Church Ministries Conference in Grand Rapids
April 3rd:	Good Friday
April 5th:	Easter Services



V- is for the victory in Jesus.
A- is for amazing grace how sweet the sound.
L- is for His love that lifted me.
and E- is for eternal life, when found.
N- is nothing but the blood of Jesus.
T- is for thanksgiving praise we give.
I - is for, Jesus IS the answer
N- Is for - We need His love to live.
and E- is - The love, He ever gives.

Prayers, Praises & Blessings - February 2026

Daily:

Pastor Keith, Marilyn, and family
Big Rock Leaders
Big Rock Congregation
The Ministries of Big Rock
Missions of Big Rock
Bible Adventure Kid's Club
Our School District, staff & students
Local, State, Country & World Leaders
CCCC Conference (*National & Local*)
Persecuted Church
First Responders in the community
Maupo H. & all *World Relief*
Y- Malawi women
Compassion Child & Sari
That the church would grow in being distinct
from the world in love and holiness
That giving would be faithful, as well as joyful

Military:

Curtis B.
Michael C.
Cabria C.
Rachael L.
Beto V.
Megan R.
Andrew H.
Uriah P.

Missionaries:

Jeremy, Joy & family
Robert, Terry & family
Kurt, Lisa & family
Harriet S.
Susan S.
Caleb & Sandy C. and family

Homebound:

Theila H.
Bruce A.

Prayers for Healing:

Allen P.	Sonya
Ricky J.	Don B.
Jerry K.	Peggie O.
Sarah R.	Darell
Steve T.	Cindy
David G.	Joshua K.
Marilee G.	Jamie S.
Dave B.	Pat & Joanna S.
Jan F.	Dick & Naomi R.
Michelle G.	Rajini
Jim G.	Asher
Paul K.	Martha C.
Esther R.	Ava K.
Kay L.	Tanya
Terry H.	David B.

Prayers in General:


Jessica & Prabhu D. & Family
Jim Z. (*Jail Ministry*)
Bill H. (*Jail Ministry and health*)
Nancy M. & Family
Amy C. & family
Shelly G.
Dixie, Tony, and Cecilia
Dorcy C.
Becky H. & family
Kim W.
Tanya & Juan
Sara Q., Juan and daughter
Monica and Tim A.

Praises & Blessings:

The safe trip for Judy
We praise God for his Faithfulness and Love
We thank God for his protection
We thank God for Pastor Keith and his family
leading and guiding us for 15 year.

FEBRUARY 2026

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” John 13:34-35

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Communion Sunday	2	3 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fellowship 10:30	4 Board Meeting 4:00 Choir 5:30	5	6	7
8 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Family Movie Night 5:30	9	10 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Missions Meeting 10:30 Bible Study 5:30	11 Choir 5:30	12	13	14 
15 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Potluck Sunday	16 Presidents' Day	17 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Shepherd's Meeting 10:30	18 No Choir	19	20	21
22 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Singspiration	23	24 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Bible Study 5:30	25 CE&D Meeting 4:30 Choir 5:30	26	27	28