

Big Rock Congregational Church Atlanta Michigan

A Community of Grace

CHIPS

Off the Big Rock



July 2026



Our Freedom in Jesus Christ

By Michelle (Shelly) Grant

This year marks 250 years since we received our freedom here in the United States. We are free to worship God anytime we want, and anywhere we want. We can pray in our cars, in our bedroom, while taking a walk, or while we are mowing the grass. We are free to do this at any time of the day. We are also free to attend church at any time without the fear of being prosecuted for our faith. Now, other countries are not as free to do this. Please be praying for those brothers and sisters in Christ. When are celebrating this 4th of July, please remember that our true freedom comes in Jesus Christ alone. As Jesus Himself said in *John 8:36*, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (*New International Version*). Reflect on the things Jesus has set you free from this July. This could be things like addiction, mental health, or any physical issues. Those things that only you know, He could set you free from. How He has helped you more than anyone else ever could. Jesus Himself also said in *John 8:32*, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Take a look in the mirror, do you believe what Jesus says about you to be true, or do you believe what other people say about you to be true more? Do not forget that it matters more what Christ says about you vs what other people say about you.

We are definitely not perfect, but praise God, He sets us free from all sin. Notice how free you will feel when you stop engaging in that sin you may have struggled with. However, because we are free, we need to remember that we cannot use that freedom as a cover-up for evil, but to live as servants of Christ (*1 Peter 2:16*).

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

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(Cont. from front page)

Because if we use our freedom to cover up evil things in this world, then we may not be truly following Jesus Christ. We are not truly free if we have one foot in the world and one foot in with Jesus. It is not good to take advantage of the freedom we have in Christ. Yes, we can be thankful for His grace, but we should not abuse the grace He gives to us.

Thank the Lord for dying on the cross for our sins this July, so we could be free and have eternal life with Him. If you have not yet accepted the freedom we have in Christ yet, I would encourage you to do that today. No matter what you are struggling with, Christ will set you free from it. Thank Him for the freedom He gives to you and me.

VBS 2026

Esther Puts Her Trust in God

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this year's VBS so much fun for the little ones as well as the adults. The Bible Time Market Village went up so fast that you would have thought a crew of 50 was there to put it together. It came down and was put away even faster.

Thank you to all the volunteers who took the little ones and helped them make crafts or made them for them so they would have items to remind them of the story of Esther and how she put her trust in God when she was put in a difficult position.



Thank you to the Village Players for their part in bringing the Bible story to life for all of us.

Thank you to all who prayed for VBS 2026. Without prayers, we would not be able to accomplish this task.



Missions News

From King's Garden Children's Home



For more than 30 years, King's Garden Children's Home has remained committed to its mission of providing a safe, loving, and nurturing environment for children while actively extending its services to surrounding communities.

Established in 1994 and located in Upper Sabatan, Orion, Bataan, the institution continues to serve

children who have experienced difficult circumstances, offering them opportunities for education, personal growth, and spiritual development. Established in 1994 and located in Upper Sabatan, Orion, Bataan, the institution continues to serve children who have experienced difficult circumstances, offering them opportunities for education, personal growth, and spiritual development.

Currently, the home cares for approximately 35 children and continues to implement programs that help shape them into responsible and productive members of society.



One of the highlights of this year's community outreach efforts was the successful outreach program conducted in the Aeta community of Bayan-Bayanan. More than 30 volunteers, staff members, and supporters came together to provide assistance, encouragement, and fellowship to indigenous families, reflecting the organization's commitment to service.

In addition to outreach activities, King's Garden Children's Home organized seminars focused on youth development. These seminars addressed important topics such as leadership, character formation, decision-making, personal responsibility, and spiritual growth. Through these learning opportunities, young people were encouraged to develop positive values and prepare themselves for future challenges. The institution also continues to improve its facilities to provide a better living environment for its residents



One of the ongoing projects is the renovation of the boys' comfort room, which aims to enhance sanitation, safety, and overall comfort for the children. This improvement reflects the organization's dedication to maintaining a healthy environment.

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As the new academic year approaches, preparations for the children's education are already underway. The Back-to-School Program supports students from Kindergarten to Senior High School by providing school supplies, uniforms, educational materials, and other necessities for their studies. The program seeks to ensure that every child begins the school year equipped and ready to learn.

Beyond education and facility improvements, King's Garden Children's Home has also launched an environmental stewardship initiative through a tree-planting project within its property. Staff and children recently planted fruit-bearing trees, including orange, dalanghita, and rambutan trees. The project aims to promote environmental awareness, sustainability, and responsibility among the children while contributing to the home's future food resources

Montmorency 4-H Fair

July 21-25

Blue Jeans and Country Dreams

Fair week is just around the corner. Here are a few events you may be interested in.

Monday 20th:

We will be setting up the booth. If you can help with setting up the booth, please meet us at the church at 10:00.

Tuesday

Fair Starts at 5:00 with the grand opening ceremony, with color guard, flag raising, and national anthem. We will have our local youth Ally Krzszton sing the national anthem.

Wednesday

Princess party, kids games, face painting, Dot the balloon artist, the Beachbillies Music, and Laser Tag. Big Rock will have a craft table set up near the kids' games from 1:00 to 4:00.

Thursday

Smokey the Bear, games, bounce house, bubble blast fun, kids crafts, root bear floats, line dancing, Singspiration at 6:00 with ice cream social following.

Friday

Twisted Free Style (acrobat and juggling), Smokey the Bear, games, bounce house, and make your own ice cream in a bag.

Saturday

Children's king and queen crowning, candy bar bingo, safety tours and demonstrations (Fire, EMS, Police, DNR, U.S Marshall, and Search and Rescue), homemade apple butter and bread, and Tommy Sargeant Musician.

Hi Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



At the backpack give away In August of 2012 I met Lupita and several of her children. I shared the gospel that day with them and several of them indicated faith in Jesus. Later I went to their home to give one of her children a gift as it was his birthday. I could hear Lupita's husband's voice when I got to their house (though I never saw him).

A year later Lupita's husband died in a tragic automobile accident. About a month after she was widowed, I shared the gospel with her again and this time she was more open and ready to fully surrender her life to Jesus.

I disciplined her for awhile and one by one her children all came to faith in Jesus as well. For example, on the day I turned 80 her oldest son came to Christ, along with his wife, I went through follow-up lessons with all three of them at Lupita's house. However, Lupita was still not really involved in the church.

More recently, she has not only gotten more involved in our Spanish-speaking church, but she is part of a women's small group, helps greet people on Sunday mornings, has sometimes been able to sing with the worship team, and on Father's Day, she created a beautiful backdrop that people used for taking photos.

The photo above shows the two of us together. Here's a better look at the whole backdrop she created. (Feliz Día del Padre means "Happy Father's Day")

Thank you for making it possible for me to influence people like Lupita and now see her blossom for Jesus! It's been a process of many years, but I'm SO grateful to have played a small part in her story of transformation.

On another topic, I've been to the ER twice this year and that has been a costly process. Please join me in praying that the Lord will supply additional funding to cover those costs.



Thank you for your partnership with me in the life-changing gospel of Jesus,

Harriet

CCCC of Michigan

What's in a Name: Letters or Meaning?

By Jeff Griffith

For several decades, we have discussed a name change for the CCCC. We realize that as North American culture changes, and it will continue to do so, words and names can change meaning as well.

The reality is that no matter what name we give ourselves, it will require definition. How a name is defined is not usually determined by what the letters spell, the majority of the time. Some denominations have had great names, yet they have still drifted far from the orthodox truths of the Christian faith and from things that are important to us. While the letters used proclaim something excellent, the literal definition of each word communicates something very different from what some of us understand those denominations to be now.

Though all of us are part of the CCCC family, the letters of my name do not match the letters of your name. When we first meet, it is normal to introduce ourselves. At other times, a common friend provides the introduction - because we have a desire to define ourselves and each other. This indicates that each of us is essentially defined not so much by the letters of our names as by our relationships, character, and behavior in thought, word, and deed. These are the identifying marks that truly define what the letters of our names mean.

This indicates that each of us, individually and corporately, is responsible for defining what the CCCC, or whatever combination of letters we choose to use in a name, communicates. Our name does not define us. We define our name. This is at the heart of our desire for a name change - a recognition that we are striving to become ever more who God desires us to be! So let us put more effort into defining the CCCC through our passionate love for God, our great love for others, and our devotion to making disciples of Christ Jesus. Without these unmistakable identifiers, developing a new name - or keeping the CCCC - will be a meaningless endeavor.

So, what's in a name? It is summed up in this, that there is ONLY one name that has any significance, and that is the name JESUS, the ONLY name by which anyone can be saved.

CE&D Update



Adult Sunday School: Join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15.** Jessica D. is leading us through a DTS video series on **Bible Study Methods.** Come watch the video and join in the discussion questions that follow.

Bible Study will not be meeting during July and August. We would like to plan a couple of bonfires and Sunday trips to the ice cream shop in Lewiston, where we can share fellowship and food.

Library: Keep your eyes and ears open for a work day in the library. We are going through boxes of books and deciding what to keep since we have more books than shelves.

Children's Sunday School: Michelle G. and Juli B. will continue with Children's Sunday School at 9:15 using the study *The Story for Little Ones* by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee.

Children's Church: Marilyn and Melanie will be leading Children's Church during July.

Bible Adventure Kid's Club: The club will take a break during the summer.

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.

Next Meeting of CE&D will meet on August 20th at 4:30, where we will review VBS 2026 and begin planning for Bible Adventure Kid's Club.

Choir News



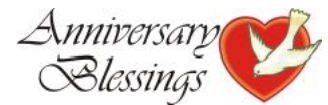
The choir will meet on July 9th and 16th at 5:30 to put the finishing touches on the three songs for Singspiration at the Fair, to be held on Thursday, July 23rd at 6:00.

Women's Fellowship News



Women's Fellowship meets on the first Wednesday of every month. This month, We are in search of a new leader for Women's Fellowship. If you feel God asking you to step forward and do this job, please talk to Gail.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Jamie & Melanie S. 7/18

Cathy K. 7/4
Jameson S. 7/20
Cathy I. 7/27
Joanna S. 7/31

Upcoming Events

July 19th: Congregational Information Meeting after Sunday service
July 20th-25th: Montmorency 4-H Fair
July 20th: Fair Booth set up, meet at the church at 10:00
July 22nd: BRCC crafting at Children's Day at the Fair 1:00-4:00
July 23rd: Singspiration at the Fair

Remodel Supreme



Not only did King's Garden Children's Home get a bathroom remodel. Pastor Keith did an outstanding job of remodeling the restroom in the Fellowship Hall. It is so nice with the new flooring, new wallboard, fresh paint, new curtains, and no water leaking in from the back room's janitor's sink. It was well worth the wait, Pastor Keith. We cannot thank you enough for all the work you put into this remodel.



June brought a great outdoor service and Father's Day cookout.



Prayers, Praises & Blessings - July 2026

Daily:

Pastor Keith, Marilyn, and family
Big Rock Leaders
Big Rock Congregation
The Ministries of Big Rock
 VBS, Sunday School, Children's Church, Adult
 Bible Study, Bible Adventures Kid's Club
Missions of Big Rock
 New Life Pregnancy Center, Lydia's Gate, OCC,
 Maupo H. & World Relief Y-Malawi Women,
 Compassion Child & Sari
Our School District, staff & students
Our Community
Local, State, Country & World Leaders
CCCC Conference (*National & Local*)
Persecuted Church
First Responders in the community
BRCC finances
Protection and safety during our Summer
travels

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
Dan & Angie H.
Anna Marie

Homebound:

Bruce A.

Prayers for Healing:

Allen P.	Sonya
Jerry K.	Peggie O.
Sarah R.	Darell
Cindy	Andy V.
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.	Stephanie
Ava K.	Kay L.
Tanya	Terry H.
Linda S.	Joan
Hayley	Don B.

Prayers in General:


Jessica & Prabhu D. & Family
Jim Z. (*Jail Ministry*)
Bill H. (*Jail Ministry and health*)
Amy C. & family
Becky H. & family
Shelly G.
Dixie, Tony, and Cecilia
Dorcy C.
Kim W.
Tanya & Juan
Emotional healing for Dena's family
Elaina H.
David P.

Praises & Blessings:

New job for Jessica D.
Sam & Janessa's new home
News from Bill H.
Michael K. Successful surgery
Amanda & husband are home and recovering
For the VBS volunteers and the children who
came.

JULY 2026

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	29	30	1 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fellowship 10:30	2 Board Meeting 4:00	3	4 
5 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Communion Sunday	6	7	8 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Missions Meeting 10:30	9 Choir 5:30	10	11
12 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	13	14	15 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Shepherd's Meeting 10:30	16 Choir 5:30	17	18
19 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Congregational Meeting Pot-luck Sunday	20 Fair Booth Set Up 10:00	21	22 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Big Rock Crafts at the Fair 1:00-4:00	23 Singspiration 6:00 Icecream Social following	24	25
26 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	27	28	29 Prayer Breakfast 9:00	30	31	1