

Big Rock Congregational Church Atlanta Michigan

A Community of Grace

CHIPS

Off the Big Rock



October 2026

Thank You, Pastor Keith, Marilyn, and Family For Being Who You Are

By Michelle (Shelly) Grant

As most of you probably know, October is known as Pastor Appreciation Month. Do not forget to show your appreciation to Pastor Keith and his family this month. One way to do this is to pray for each of them by name every day in October. But do not stop there. Please continue to pray for Pastor Keith and his family by name every day through the rest of this year. Pastor Keith, Marilyn, and the rest of the family are not only a blessing to us here at Big Rock, but to the entire body of Christ. It is a blessing and joy to know them. We are all proud to call you our brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank God for each of you every day. As Scripture says, "We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers" (1 Thessalonians 1:2). Thank you, Pastor Keith, for blessing us each week with the Word of God and learning more about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We all have enjoyed your sermon series on our core values of the church so far. And thank you for everything else you do that you don't have to do.

Thank you, Marilyn, for also being a true blessing to us at Big Rock. We all enjoy having you. Not just for what you do, but for who you are. You are a joy to our church family. And thank you for everything you do for this community. You are a true blessing to all who know you. Please never forget that you are fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image (Psalm 139:14). Thank you for supporting all of us in everything we do. Our lives would not be the same without you.

And thank you to the rest of the family for not only what you do, but for who each of you are. You all are a blessing to each of us and a joy to us all. You all are always in our prayers by name. You all are such a sweet family. God's blessings on each of you every day.

Pastor Keith, Marilyn, and family, we all love you very much,

Your Family at Big Rock.

Pastor of BRCC:

Dr. Keith Jones

Moderator:

Judy Hoffman

Deacons:

David Bradley
Gail Fehr

Trustees:

Michelle Grant
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

Pastor Appreciation - Double Honor

By Dave Bradley

1 Timothy 5:17

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of **double honor**, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.*

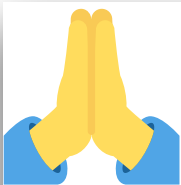
The relationship between the Pastor and the church can be quite varied. In some churches the Pastor is just an employee and has no authority or power. On the opposite extreme, the Pastor wields great power and complete authority. I feel neither extreme is healthy. A Pastor needs some power and authority if he or she is to shepherd the body. And yet, they need to be accountable.

I believe we, at Big Rock, have a well-balanced relationship. Pastor Keith leads us and offers advice in the operation of the congregation, yet he does not demand his own way. He normally gets his way, not through demands or intimidation, but because his ideas are well thought out and are beneficial for the church. In many cases, his ideas actually work against him personally. His ideas amount to self-sacrifice for the good of the congregation.

A few years ago, I came across a statistic concerning pay based on education. It stated that with an Associate's degree one could expect an income of about \$50,000. \$75,000 for a Bachelor's degree; \$100,000 for a Master's and \$150,000 for a Doctorate. Yet Pastors' salaries fall way below that. Where in the secular world one could expect to work 40-60 hours a week, Pastors are on call 24/7. No field expects more from folks while paying less than in the Pastorate. It is their service to the congregation and more importantly, to God. That is why they deserve double honor.

And yet, Pastor Keith has elected to suspend his salary due the financial situation here at Big Rock. Doubling, no... tripling his sacrifice. October is Pastor Appreciation Month. We have much to appreciate. So, instead of giving Pastor Keith double honor, double or even triple the amount of honor normally given this month.

Be Blessed
Dave Bradley



Happy Pastor Appreaction!

Pastor Keith, Marilyn and family, thank you for all you do. We all appreciate you. Thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord. Thank you for your kindness and compassion in the Lord. We all love you and you all are always in our prayers. You all are a true blessing not only to us at Big Rock, but to the entire body of Christ. God's blessings and protection on all of you always.

Love your Big Rock family.



our deepest
Gratitude

Pastor Appreication 2026



Robert & Terri Harmon Ministry News

September & October 2026



News:



Thank you for praying for Robert as he worked in **Nigeria** in **August**. The Lord was very gracious to allow for a **successful installation** of I-TEC's Power Pac for **ECWA Hospital and Nursing College**. There were some unexpected issues to be resolved, so Robert **stayed a few extra days** to help with them. We are **thankful** he could be there in-person to talk through logistics and train local technicians. **Please keep praying for this project** and any follow-up that may be needed. Check out this link to see pictures from this project and others: **www.itec.org**

Terri will be **mentoring 22 education consultants** this fall **online**! Some of them are new to the consulting ministry while others have been serving in education for many years. Terri enjoys interacting with these missionaries as they **pray together**, **share** resources and **discuss basic issues** related to the education of missionary kids (MKs). Pray that she can **be an encouragement** to these education consultants as they help missionary families around the world.

Praise & Prayer Requests:

- 1) Praise for **strength and stamina** while Robert was in Africa. He'll be meeting with a doctor in September to discuss **possible reasons for his ongoing fatigue**. Pray for this appointment and possible future testing.
- 2) Pray for **I-TEC's 20th Anniversary Celebration** at the end of September. Both of us are involved in the final preparations for this event.
- 3) Pray for Robert as he **consults from a distance** on various I-TEC projects.
- 4) Terri's **part-time tutoring job** will be in three locations this school year. Pray for her as she has longer commute times and several more students to help. Pray that she can **show Christ's love** to these struggling teens.

Thank you for your **prayers** and **financial support** for our ministries. It is a privilege to serve the LORD and help those **sharing the Gospel** across the globe. We appreciate **your part** in these endeavors!

Robert.Harmon@itec.org



To Give to our Ministries:

- *Give online at **www.itec.org**
- *Send a check written to ITEC to:
23 Green Hollow Road, Montoursville, PA 17754
- *Designate it for the **ministry of Robert Harmon**

terri@tckconsultant.org



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 **2 Samuel**. This study centers on the Davidic Covenant and highlights themes of the kingship covenant and redemption, showing how David's story points to Jesus as the true Son of David.

Bible Study will begin in October, led by Dr. Keith Jones. We will meet at 5:30 on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month for a light supper and study.

Library: Ladies met in September and sorted books in the Youth House.

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

Children's Church: Shelly and Gail will lead Children's Church in October and will study lessons from the Old Testament using curriculum from *Trueway Kids*.

Bible Adventure Kid's Club: The club will meet for four weeks in October at Atlanta Schools. They will be learning about Moses' life through stories, songs, and activities. If you would like to help with this club. Please see Gail or Marilyn.

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 be on Thursday, October 15th at 4:30.

Choir News



"Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious." – **Psalm 66:2**

BRCC Choir has begun rehearsals on works for Singspiration, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. We welcome all voices to help us sing and praise the Lord. Join us at 5:30 on Thursdays.

Women's Fellowship News



Women's Fellowship met in September and discussed moving Y-Malawi funding to the Missions Committee. They also discussed how they could support the church. If you have any ideas for the fellowship, please see Marilyn or Gail. We will be making plans for the year at the next meeting on October 7th.

We are looking for a chairperson for Women's Fellowship.

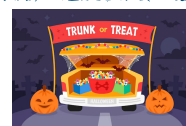
Birthdays and Anniversaries



Carol O.	10-06	Dave B.	10-30
Michelle G.	10-14	Jessica D.	10-30
Tony B.	10-24		
Juli B.	10-25		
Wayne I.	10-27		
Jerry K.	10-28		

Upcoming Events

Bible Adventures Kid's Club	October 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th
Bible Study and Supper	October 14th and 28th at 5:30
3rd Sunday Potluck	October 18th
Trunk-or-Treat	October 31st in Briley Park
Time Change	November 1st fall back
Big Rock Shoe Box Packing Party	November 3rd
National Collection Week	
Operation Christmas Child	November 17th – 24th



BRCC Guiding Values - Reaching Out

At the Shepherd's Meetings, we have been discussing the Guiding Values of Big Rock Congregational church. Pastor Keith has been preaching on these values, and we are sharing the fourth of the values with you here in CHIPS.

We value the opportunities we have to reach out to those around us in our family, circles of friends, and our local community with the good news of Jesus Christ. We reach out because of our love and eternal concern for them, and because Christ has called us to go, and make disciples of all nations. We also reach out to the lost because when we were lost, Christ reached out to save and reconcile us to God. We reach out because we believe that only through the gospel of Jesus Christ may anyone find redemption, peace with God, and the answers our world so desperately needs today.

We reach out to those who are in need. We seek to win others to Jesus Christ through love by ministering to them spiritually, emotionally, physically, or materially. At times we offer help for those who struggle to make ends meet through benevolent acts of charity, expecting nothing in return. We pray for those in distress. We rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. We counsel those who are searching for godly answers. And at other times we minister with our quiet presence when a mere human touch means more than well-intended discourses.

We seek to live our everyday lives as salt and light so that others may glimpse the glory of God's grace at work in us. Rather than withdrawing from the world, we seek to morally and spiritually influence others by actively participating in community groups, events, government, and world missions. And we take those natural opportunities to invite neighbors, friends, and acquaintances to join with us in worship and other special events.



September Update from Marc Gauthier

To listen to Marc Gauthier's September update on the CCCC updated values, click on the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/1227093874?fl=pl&fe=vl>

Prayers, Praises & Blessings - October 2026

Daily:

Pastor Keith, Marilyn, and family
Big Rock Leaders as they begin work on the
2026-27 fiscal year
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
Local, State, Country & World Leaders
CCCC Conference (*National & Local*)
Persecuted Church
First Responders in the community
For church growth in both spiritual & numerical
Church protection against evil

Military:

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

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.	Bill
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.	Rikki
Hayley	Don B.
Michael K.	Betty
Kyle H.	Pat
Melissa	Gabe
Michelle	Debbie S.
Jameson S.	

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
Drena's family
Alaina & Aren H.
Janessa & Sam B.
Jason

Praises & Blessings:

The Budget and Annual Reports passing
The beauty in the changing season of Autumn
Shelly passing her driving test and being able to
drive on her own.

OCTOBER 2026

“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” – Matthew 9:38

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	28	29	30 Prayer Breakfast 9:00	1 Board Meeting 4:00 Choir 5:30	2	3
4 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Communion Sunday	5	6 Bible Adventure Kid's Club 2:50-4:00 Atlanta Schools	7 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fellowship 10:30	8 Choir 5:30	9	10
11 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	12 Columbus Day	13 Bible Adventure Kid's Club 2:50-4:00 Atlanta Schools	14 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Missions Meeting 10:30 Bible Study 5:30	15 Choir 5:30 CE&D Meeting 4:30	16	17
18 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 3rd Sunday Potluck 12.15	19	20 Bible Adventure Kid's Club 2:50-4:00 Atlanta Schools	21 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Shepherd's Meeting 10:30 Garden Club 5:30	22 Choir 5:30	23	24
25 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	26	27 Bible Adventure Kid's Club 2:50-4:00 Atlanta Schools	28 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Bible Study 5:30	29 Choir 5:30	30	31 Halloween Trunk-or-Treat in Brildy Park