

Big Rock Congregational Church Atlanta Michigan

A Community of Grace

CHIPS

Off the Big Rock



March 2026

Thank You, Jesus

By Michelle (Shelly)

We are now in the Lent season. This is a time we can use to reflect on what the Lord has done for each of us on the Cross. I know I cannot imagine what Jesus went through on the cross for us many years ago. He was brutally whipped, yet Jesus still chose to forgive them (*Luke 23:33-34, New International Version*). Good Friday... what is so good about this, you may ask?

Back then, this was not a happy day. It was the day Jesus took upon the sins of the entire world. He paid the price for our sins (past, present, and future), so we would not have to. Thank Jesus for that. However, as most of you know, Resurrection Sunday is coming! The Lord did not stay dead.

This is also a time for some of you to choose to give up something during Lent. These could be things like candy, junk food, pop, watching tv, etc. While those are good things to give up, there are some better things we could give up. We could try replacing bitterness with gratitude. Sadness with joy (*as the joy of the Lord is our strength, Nehemiah 8:10*). Replace anxiety with God's peace that surpasses all understanding. Replace anger with remaining calm. Replace complaining with being content in all circumstances. Replace comparison with remembering who are in Christ.

Without Christ dying for us on the cross, we would be the ones on that Cross instead, so thank God we did not have to do that. Because I don't know where we would all be today without Him.

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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Missions News

God Moving the Mountains/Stories from Vision 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Enjoy these stories from our Vision conference and praise God for what He did in Denver as 2025 came to a close. Though this is long, it's totally worth the read.

"I am here because I want to know the true God," noted Abhinav, an international student from Nepal. He was one of nearly 600 international students representing 75 nations who gathered in Denver, Colorado, for Vision 2025. Surrounded by the beauty of the mountains, participants at Vision 2025 realized that God was doing something even more beautiful in the hearts of students throughout the conference.

Jesus' words in Matthew 17 remind us of this: "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Throughout Vision 2025, we witnessed how small steps of faith, taken in trust and obedience, created space for God to work in powerful ways.

If you would like to read these stories, just click on the link below.

<https://mailchi.mp/cbed6ae0db2f/god-moving-mountains-at-vision-2025?e=cce8bfec14>

Sincerely,

Harriet S.



Used Smartphone or Computer?

When you upgraded your phone or computer, the old one probably ended up in a drawer, still working but no longer needed. What feels outdated to us can open doors for a student in Malawi, giving them access to schoolwork, research, and new opportunities. If you have a smartphone or computer you are willing to share, just reply to this message. Let's start a conversation. What is unused in your home could help shape someone's future.

Needs

- Bibles change lives, they cost \$15 each.
- More irrigation tools, solar pumps and wells. Any amount can help.
- One additional Community Center, \$12,000.
- We have university students who need school support, \$1,500 per year.
- Many women and girls are waiting for sponsorship, \$35 per month changes a life.



Gaylord New Life Pregnancy Resource Center is excited to be hosting their annual Vision Dinner to share about what God is doing and where we are going in the future! There will be a program with a speaker, testimonies and dinner.

Punch Reception: 6:30

Dinner: 7:15

You can register online at <https://friendsofnewlife.com/vision-dinner/> or let Gail know, and she will register you. RSVP by April 8th.

An opportunity for a financial faith promise investment will be provided.

Women's Fellowship News



Women's Fellowship will be meeting on the first Wednesday of the month after prayer breakfast. We have been discussing the possibility of a flea market like we had last fall to raise money. If you like this idea, please start saving items for the market. It would be like last year, where everyone is responsible for their own booth or set-up area and would collect their own money. The date for the market would be August 29, 2026.

The ladies received a thank-you note from New Life Pregnancy Center for their donation of clothing and money for Michigan's Largest Baby Shower. They mentioned that they are always in need of prayer and diapers sizes 4-7. If you could donate diapers, you could bring them to church, and we will make sure they get delivered or drop them off at the center in Gaylord. The center is hosting its Vision Gayla at Treetops on April 17th. If you would like to attend this event to help support the center, please see Gail for more information.



The Way of the Cross

March

Daily Reading Plan

- Day 1: Galatians 3:13
- Day 2: Matthew 27:32-44
- Day 3: Galatians 2:20
- Day 4: Galatians 6:14
- Day 5: Galatians 5:24
- Day 6: Matthew 10:38-39
- Day 7: Matthew 16:24
- Day 8: Luke 14:26-27
- Day 9: Mark 10:17-29
- Day 10: John 12:24-25
- Day 11: Matthew 26:39
- Day 12: Luke 23:34
- Day 13: Matt 27:46, Jn 19:28
- Day 14: John 19:30
- Day 15: Luke 23:46
- Day 16: Romans 6:1-14
- Day 17: Romans 4:3, 17
- Day 18: Romans 6:15-23
- Day 19: Romans 7:4, 6
- Day 20: Romans 8:3
- Day 21: 1 Cor 2:2, 4
- Day 22: 2 Cor 13:4-5
- Day 23: 2 Cor 4:10, 12
- Day 24: Hebrews 9:14
- Day 25: Hebrews 10:19-20
- Day 26: Hebrews 12:1-2
- Day 27: Hebrews 13:11-13
- Day 28: 1 Peter 2:24
- Day 29: 1 John 3:16
- Day 30: Rev 14:4
- Day 31: Rev 1:5-6

*May I never boast except in the cross of our
Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has
been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

Galatians 6:14

Raiseyourword.com

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 Wednesdays of the month. We begin with a light supper and fellowship, followed by a bible study. The studies will be "Encounters With Jesus". March studies will be on March 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. We are hoping to meet on March 25th after breakfast.

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, which is ready for children.

Children's Church: Marilyn will be leading Children's Church during March. Children's Church will be using the TrueWay Kids and other studies to learn about the Fruit of the Spirit.

Bible Adventure Kid's Club: We are planning a four-week club in March. If you could help with this club, please see Gail or Marilyn. The club will meet on Tuesday from 2:50 to 4:00 at Atlanta Schools in room 142. They will be learning about Holy Week and what it means to us today.

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 March 22nd at 5:30. We will begin with homemade pizza and fellowship, followed by the movie "The Ten Commandments". Come enjoy great pizza, fellowship and a classic 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.

Next Meeting of CE&D will meet on **March 19th** at 4:30. We will be making plans for this year's VBS.

THE FORESEE UPDATE

SUSAN MOODY & BOB BUFORD
CO-CHAIRS - NAME2028 COMMITTEE

There is much to appreciate about the Congregational model of church governance. One key aspect is our emphasis on listening together for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

At the 2024 Delegate Meeting of the Annual Gathering, a motion was made to change the name of our conference. The Constitution required a year of conversation, prayer, and research. At the 2025 Delegate Meeting, after gracious discussion and consideration of the motion, the proposed name was defeated.

A second motion was made and unanimously approved to charge the Board to continue the process of seeking God's will concerning a new name for our organization. Accordingly, the Board of Directors appointed a committee to lead this effort.

The Name2028 Committee is committed to pursuing this process in the congregational way. We seek to listen, with the leaders and members of this Conference, to the Holy Spirit's direction.

Name2028 will survey Conference churches and members to inform the naming process and ensure the final name reflects the heart and mission of the gathering. With 64% of our pastors over age 60, the goal is a name that engages future generations while preserving the conference's historical commitments. There will be concerted individual and corporate prayer efforts to seek God's will and direction on this matter. We will gather options for a suitable name to propose in 2027 with a confirmation vote in 2028. We ask every member to lay aside their own preferences, joining us in seeking the will of the One who is sovereign over all things. Together we will arrive at a name to honor Christ and His gospel, our congregational legacy, and the diversity of the body of Christ.

Please feel free to direct questions or suggestions to Co-Chairs Bob Buford and Susan Moody at their shared email address: Name2028@cccusa.com



SPRING
Forward
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR

March 8th



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Terri H. 3/01

Marilee G. 3/01

Robert H. 3/20

Choir News



Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord
Ephesians 5:19 (NIV)

The choir is meeting on Thursdays at 5:30. We are working 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

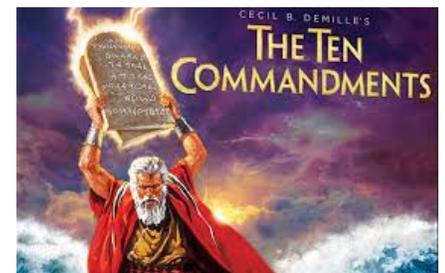
March 8th: Daylight savings Time Begins

March 13th-14th: Church Ministries Conference in Grand Rapids

March 22nd: Family Movie Night and pizza buffet 5:30

April 3rd: Good Friday

April 5th: Easter Services



Prayers, Praises & Blessings - March 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

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.
Joshua P.	Andy V.

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
Monica and Tim A.

Praises & Blessings:

Praise and thank you, God, for the provision and protection that we have been blessed with as a church! He continues to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or think according to His power at work within us.

Glory to God!

MARCH 2026

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
Matthew 21:9 (NIV)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Communion Sunday	2	3 Bible Adventures Kid's Club 2:50	4 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fellowship 10:30	5 Board Meeting 4:00 Choir 5:30	6	7
8 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Time Change	9	10 Bible Adventures Kid's Club 2:50	11 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Missions Meeting 10:30 Bible Study 5:30	12 Choir 5:30	13 Ministries Conference Grand Rapids	14 Ministries Conference Grand Rapids
15 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Potluck Sunday	16	17 Bible Adventures Kid's Club 2:50	18 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Shepherd's Meeting 10:30	19 CE&D Meeting 4:30 Choir 5:30		21
22 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Movie Night 5:30	23	24 Bible Adventures Kid's Club 2:50	25 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Tent. Library Work Day 10:30 Bible Study 5:30	26 Choir 5:30	27	28
29 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	30	31	1 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fellowship 10:30	2 Board Meeting 4:00 Choir 5:30	3 Good Friday Services	4