

Big Rock Congregational Church Atlanta Michigan

A Community of Grace

CHIPS

Off the Big Rock



November 2025



Great Is His Faithfulness

By Michelle (Shelly) Grant

We are now approaching the season of Thankfulness. The flowers may have fallen, but our God is always faithful, and His Word never fails us. As Scripture tell us in Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withers and the flowers fall,

but the word of our God endures forever" (New International Version). We might thank God for the big things, but sometimes we forget to thank God for little things in life. Sometimes, it is those little things that can take up the most room in our hearts. Try to find joy in the little things as well. This could be coffee in your favorite mug on a chilly morning or flowers blooming in the Springtime, and even the way God paints the sky in the mornings and evenings. I am someone who gets so excited with the way God paints the sky. He is such a wonderful artist!

We can use this time of year to practice having a heart of gratitude. This can be thanking God for something BEFORE it even happens. Trusting that God will always be faithful no matter what your situation may be. "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up" (Daniel 3:17-18). Daniel and his friends knew God was able to deliver them, but He may choose not to deliver them. However, God is always good and always faithful. Even if that thing hasn't happened yet and even if it doesn't happen, God is still good. Remember to thank God for His no because it means He has something even better planned.

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 page 1)

There is a hymn (many of you may know) that goes "Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness, morning by morning new mercies I see." By Thomas O. Chisholm (1923 version). If today wasn't so great, take comfort that God is still faithful and tomorrow is always a new day.

"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). We can have that faith in God that He will always be faithful to us. We can always rejoice in the faithfulness of God. Use this time of year to give your thankfulness to God for His faithfulness and all of the blessings He has provided in your life, and in others around you. I would also like to add we can thank God for the people in our life He gave to us that He knew we needed as well. What are you thankful to God for? Take time this season to reflect on those things. The faithfulness of the Lord is truly so, so great. I don't know where any of us would be without the faithfulness and thankfulness of God. Thank You Jesus for Your constant faithfulness to us. We are thankful for all the blessings You've provided for us, Lord.

CE&D Update

Adult Sunday School: Join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15**. We will continue our study of the book of Isaiah with reading and discussion. We are on chapter 50 in our reading as of our last meeting.



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". Come join us on November 12th for a light supper and digging deeper into the woman's encounter with Jesus at the well. There will be no study on November 26th with Thanksgiving being on the 27th.

Library: At this time there is not a day planned to work in the library, but we could use some help cleaning up the rooms down in the fellowship hall any Wednesday after Prayer Breakfast.

Children's Sunday School and Children's Church: Michelle and Juli will continue with Children's Sunday School at 9:15 using the study *The ABC's of the Bible*. Marilyn and Melanie will lead the Children's Church during November. Children's Church will continue to use the TrueWay Kids and Bible Stories for the Young curriculum on stories from the New Testament.

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.

Bible Adventures Kid's Club began in October and will continue to meet for four weeks in November. The children have been enjoying the new format and their interest has been high in learning about God's Story. We began with the story of Abram and Sari and have been learning how we have to trust God for our future plans.

Family Movie Night will be on November 2nd at 5:30. We will have Pizza followed by a movie, "Home Alone".

Next Meeting of CE&D will meet on **November 20th** at 4:30.

Dear Church Family,

Missions News



You are receiving this email because a Field Officer recently made a visit to Maupo Hackson. She loves hearing from you. You can communicate with her by simply replying to this message. The Field Officer assigned will personally carry your message to her. Please be sure to use Maupo Hackson as the subject of your message.

Message from Maupo – "Dear Big Rock Women's Fellowship, Thank you so much for the lovely letter and for keeping us in your prayers! We're grateful for the fellowship at Big Rock Congregational Church and appreciate you sharing about your summer celebrations and the beautiful fall colors in Michigan. I'm doing well here in Malawi. I have been enjoying the local food and culture, and it's been a blessing to connect with the community. We're looking forward to celebrating Christmas and sharing the joy of the season with those around us. The picture you've sent me is so beautiful and it really shows you enjoyed everything that you had. I'm so happy for yo brothers and sisters in Christ. Continue encouraging me with my spiritual Way because being in touch with God always helps to change our lives. For your present in my life I am so grateful to God because you are a blessing to me and my family. Thank you again for your prayers and for being part of supporting me and my family. We appreciate you! Stay blessed and may God continue blessing you and bless your church."

Field Officer – Catherine Daudi
How old is she? - 27 years old

How is her health and home life? – She is in good health and continues living with her husband and children

What is her spiritual condition? – Her spiritual condition has improved since she is active in her churches bible study

How many pairs of shoes does she have? – She has 2 pairs of shoes

What is the weather like in Malawi at this time? – We are in the summer season, which is hot and dry.

Who are the people who live in her house and how are they related to her? – 5 People living in the house; herself, her husband and 2 children

Besides working in her field, is she doing anything else to improve her life? – She tries to find piece work, working in other peoples farms for low wages

Comment from Field Officer about the Sponsored – Maupo is a lovely lady. She always enjoys our time when we visit. Your letter really encouraged her and she was all smiles.

What was provided? – Maize flour, salt, sugar, cooking oil, soya and laundry soap. We prayed with her and encouraged her with scripture.

Prayer requests – Pray for good health, protection and God's provision to the family.

Thank you for joining our Y-Malawi team in helping to transform the life of the person you sponsor, her family and her whole community. We pray that in the process you are also being transformed. Blessings.

Y-Malawi Sponsorship Team

October-December 2025
Vol. 30 no. 4



The Fentons

SERVING IN NEW ZEALAND



FIVE-PRONGED MINISTRY

The year after we completed our first church plant, the Lord led us to develop a five-pronged ministry for gospel work here in New Zealand. They are: (1) church planting, (2) furlough support, (3) church seminars, (4) church leader restoration, and (5) counselling. Following are some of the ways in which we have been able to minister in four of those five prongs.

CHURCH PLANTING

The two possibilities we mentioned in our last prayer letter of starting new works have both dead-ended. We continue, however, to look to where God might open doors for us. In the past few months, two of our leading couples have moved out of town. While they still attend our church plant, I wonder if the Lord is beginning to move towards starting churches with them in their new locations. Please pray as we seek His will. Lisa and I recently ran into one of our former deacons, who informed us that, because of hurt, he has been out of church for the last year. We have invited him to start attending our church plant. Please pray that he will be restored to fellowship with the Lord and His people.

SEMINARS

I had the opportunity to speak at a sister church's sportsmen's dinner, where many unsaved people attended the banquet who would not have otherwise attended a church service.

Lisa spoke at a church's women's meeting about her cancer journey, again sharing the truth of God's love and power in difficult situations.

We taught at another church's relationship seminar, having the opportunity to teach biblical principles of healthy marriages.

We are thankful that the Lord has given us these exciting opportunities to share from our life lessons.



Teaching at International Baptist Church Marriage Refresh seminar

COUNSELLING

In a recent counselling session with an unbeliever, he told me that he considers Jesus to be just a good teacher. When he finished his explanation, I asked him if I could respond, to which he agreed. After several short responses from God's Word proving Jesus' divinity and provision of salvation, the client agreed that he may not actually be correct and would think about what I told him. Please pray for C as we continue to work together.



Another speaking opportunity: preaching at a Filipino Church's anniversary service

MINISTERING TO CHURCH LEADERS

Over the past several years, Lisa and I have led a weeklong retreat for burned-out missionary and national pastor couples. This year, however, Lisa and I spent our time and money resources in upgrading our garage into an apartment where we can host individual couples for more personal focus in counselling and restoration. We will restart the retreats again next year and will have both of these avenues to help support our fellow ministers here in this difficult field.

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.

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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

Difficulties Living with Dementia

By Joanna & Gabriel Secrist

Some of the cognitive degradations of dementia can lead to expressions that may, at times, sound like personal affronts or seem insensitive and callous. The person suffering this disease bears a form of blindness in understanding, an inability to retain a prior level of awareness and comprehension. The behaviors this disorder can result in are not personal by intent, they are the challenging side effects of neurological disease.

Understanding some of the more common signs and symptoms and being prepared with strategies to manage them will save you a great deal of energy as a care giver. In this article we will look at behaviors you may encounter and some skills you may want to develop.

Sometimes your loved one seems totally fine in front of others but then they fall apart back at home. This is called “showtiming,” where the dementia sufferer can pull it together briefly for social occasions, but at home around ‘safe’ people, the mask drops and the energy returns to baseline.

In other cases, the one suffering from dementia will insist they are not suffering at all, that they can drive or manage money or that there are cars in the trees. This isn’t willful obstinance, it is a clinical lack of awareness called “anosognosia” that arises from various forms of brain damage.

The type of cognitive impairments that arise from dementia can lead to conflicts in unexpected ways. Various “delusions,” or strong false beliefs resistant to logic and reason, can occur suddenly. Typically involving a degree of paranoid fear, such as petty theft or nosy neighbors, it’s like they are convinced of something irrational. Arguing as with someone healthy will only escalate frustration.

Particularly with “hallucinations” in which case the patient genuinely perceives clearly impossible or nonexistent things, telling your loved one “it is not real” may lead to fear or distrust. But you learn to deal with it, as one young woman did when her dad stated there were men in the back yard. Although there were no men in the back yard, she asked him if any of them were cute. That got her dad laughing and life carried on.

Sometimes carrying on gets a little more difficult, as in the case of “delerium.” This is a sudden onset state of agitated confusion that can be caused by medical emergencies. Certain kinds of infections, problematic medication interactions, and dehydration have been known to cause this sort of situation. If your loved one suddenly seems “much worse,” although reversible, it is urgent and worth contacting a doctor immediately.

These sort of struggles are inconsistent and will cause variations in the ability to function. The brain fluctuates and changes or it can flicker like old lights, but it can change moment to moment and it is not your loved one trying to be manipulative or deceitful.

Although they may say things that aren’t true, like “you haven’t been here in weeks!” despite seeing them the day before, it is not their intent to lie. Their mind is short-circuiting and then trying to fill in the blanks. It’s not possible to see something that we are blind to!

Cont. on next page

Tactics for Dealing with Dementia:

Don't argue with them – Logic and reason are directly damaged by dementia, and by trying to "fix" it, we might increase stress and damage trust.

Don't use dementia against them – Reminding them of their diagnosis and limitations may trigger fear or shame. It will not help and often escalates a situation.

Don't take it personally – You will deal with more from them than others because you are their "safe" person.

Don't ask why – Asking them to explain themselves will only add confusion to tension because sometimes they genuinely cannot understand the reasons for their own behavior.

Bringing forgiveness and understanding to difficult situations will reduce your frustration in the moment and help you navigate the symptoms more effectively. A disease is blinding their minds to things they once were able to see and they can't tell what's what all the time.

A person with dementia cannot, from inside, tell what is wrong with their behavior. They are not trying to be manipulative, purposefully illogical, or frustratingly irrational; they are suffering. Your compassion for their suffering will bring peace to you both, and compassion is a practice and a process which demands patience!

Women's Fellowship News



Women's Fellowship met on October 1st and discussed their Packing Day plans for Operation Christmas Child. Packing Day will be November 5th after prayer time. If anyone in the church would like to help pack the boxes, please feel free to join in the fun, the more the merrier. There is also two packing days, Nov. 7th and 8th, are planned at Full Gospel Church where we have helped pack boxes for the area in the past. The hall will be open most of the day come join in the fun.

Women's Fellowship visited the home of Sandy H. for a time of fellowship. If you have a desire to have the women visit, please let Joanna or Judy know. We plan visits on the third Friday of the month and meet at the church at 10:00 am.

Women's Fellowship also discussed asking the school how we could help at Christmas time with families in need.



On October 19th Big Rock Congregational Church welcomed two new members into the flock. We extended the hand of fellowship to David and Marilee Gibbs. We will miss them as they travel back to Texas and wish them a safe journey and pray that they will be able to join us in December for the Christmas Cantata and Dinner on December 14th.

Current Project List

- Janitor's closet
 - Needs light sanding before sheet installation, caulking
 - Acquire & install new faucet
- Bathroom
 - Need topcoat of joint compound before sanding to paint
 - Needs glue stripped from floor before proceeding
- Ice storm cleanup
 - ~~Around barn & youth house~~
 - Tops on ground back along windbreak
 - Sticks in lawn
 - Remove stumps at parsonage
- Outdoor painting:
 - Doors
 - Yellow safety posts
- Big Rock Park
 - Lawn mowing: ongoing
 - ~~Branch cleanup~~
 - String trimming
 - Spray Roundup to reduce trimming
 - Transplanting daylilies
 - Dig & plant remainder
 - Water
 - ~~Fertilize daylilies & lilacs~~
 - Sign repair/repainting
 - Additional dirt so care easier & safer
 - Remove old stump at top of hill
 - Kill/Remove scrub trees from ditch banks
- Library
 - Shelve and organize books (ladies working on this)
- Church & Parsonage lawn & landscape
 - Lawn mowing: ongoing
 - Personal lawnmower repair
 - Fertilize lawn?
 - Weed control?
 - ~~Fertilize trees & shrubs~~
 - ~~Insecticide on lawns: completed~~
 - ~~Spray Trees & Shrubs with insecticide~~
 - ~~Tent caterpillars & beetles~~
 - String trimming around church and parsonage
 - Weed flower beds
- Siding removal & replacement
 - Parsonage siding repair
 - Waiting on crews
- Photo directory
 - On hold
- Background checks
 - New company & new forms
- Church office
 - Clean
 - Organize
 - Re-file older documents
- Kitchen Door Awning
 - Support repair/replacement
- **Remove cement blocks from front stoop**
- ~~Rebuild border around front bed~~
- ~~Trim back suckers on front trees~~
- ~~Remove dead plants (e.g. rose bushes)~~
- Remove or reset black plastic borders
- Raise ground & install plastic, cement pavers in back corner
- Freshen mulch
- Clean walls of car port
- Psi wash back wall of parsonage
- ~~Replace dryer vent at parsonage~~
- ~~Replace front spigot @ parsonage~~
- Repair/replace 2 leaking faucets in parsonage
- Parsonage deck
 - Replace rotting boards
 - Psi wash
 - Stain or seal
- Picnic pavilion
 - ~~Cleaned & prepped for use~~
 - ~~Tables & chairs brought from barn & cleaned~~
 - ~~Grill brought up from barn~~
 - ~~Fill propane tanks~~
- Move fire pit
- Change banners/Put away Lent & Easter Deco.
- Change to green paraments
- Switch in men's room
- Speaker switch in nursery
- Wasp nests
- ~~Open nursery window~~
- ~~Spread mulch under swingset~~
- Est to replace broken basement windows
- Est for generator cutoff connection
- Sewer line clean & repair



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Dixie B. 11/5

Seth H. 11/16

Lynn S. 11/24

Prabhu & Jessica D. 11/07

Tony & Dixie B. 11/23



Choir News

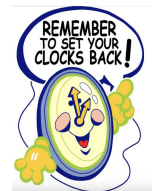
Sing when the sky is darkest, sing when the thunders roll; sing of a land where rest remains, rest for the weary soul.

Fanny Crosby

The choir is busy working on music for the Community Thanksgiving Service to be held at Full Gospel on Sunday, Nov. 23rd. We are also preparing music to be presented on Dec. 14th during the morning worship service and Christmas Dinner.

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 31st:** 5:00 Trunk or Treat in Briley Park/ Your Missions Team will be there, come by and say Hi!
- Nov. 2nd:** 3:00 **Time Change**, set clocks back one hour
- Nov. 2nd:** 5:30 Family Movie Night and Pizza
- Nov. 5th:** 10:30 Women's Fellowship OCC Shoebox Packing Party
- Nov. 23rd:** 5:00 Community Thanksgiving Service and Dinner at Full Gospel
- Nov. 27th:** Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 30th:** First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 14th:** 10:30 Christmas Cantata and Dinner



Prayers, Praises & Blessings - November 2025

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
May every member find ways to use their gifts
That we will find ways to serve God in this community

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:

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

Prayers in General:

The family of Pat F.
The family of Gaye K.
The family of Lois C.
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
Sandy H. & David (*Trip*)
Judy H. (*Trip*)
Sara Q., Juan and daughter
Monica and Tim A.

Praises & Blessings:

The arrival of Prabhu
Kim getting a full time job
New Members added to BRCC
Rebecca has found a home in her township
Dear Lord, Thank you for authentic lives and laughter. In a challenging world, it's nice to come to a safe place to worship and connect with real people.

>>> November

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!
Psalms 150:6

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Family Movie Night 5:30	27	28 Bible Adventure Kid's Club 2:55-4:00	29 Prayer Breakfast 9:00	30 Choir 5:30	31	1
2 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Family Movie Night 5:30	3	4 Bible Adventure Kid's Club 2:55-4:00	5 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fellowship 10:30 OCC Packing Party 10:30	6 Board Meeting 4:00 Choir 5:30	7	8
9 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	10	11 Bible Adventure Kid's Club 2:55-4:00	12 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Bible Study 5:30	13 Choir 5:30	14	15
16 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Thanksgiving Dinner	17	18 Bible Adventure Kid's Club 2:55-4:00	19 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Shepherd's Meeting 10:30	20 O&D Meeting 4:30 Choir 5:30	21	22
23 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Community Service 5:00	24	25 Bible Adventure Kid's Club 2:55-4:00	26 Prayer Breakfast 9:00	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	1	2	3 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fellowship 10:30	4 Board Meeting 4:00 Choir 5:30	5	6