

Big Rock Congregational Church Atlanta Michigan

A Community of Grace

CHIPS

Off the Big Rock



April 2026

Jesus is Risen Indeed!!

By Michelle G. (Shelly)

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay" (Matthew 28:6).

If you do not know, there is a quote that says, "Christmas begins what Easter celebrates." I'm not sure who this is by. But Easter is the most joyous time for us as believers. There are roughly 4,000 religions in the world. However, only one God rose from the dead! I cannot imagine how Mary Magdalene must have felt when she came to the tomb of Jesus and saw the stone rolled away. "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance" (John 20:1, New International Version). There is no other god in this entire universe who is alive. (I realize this is repeated. I'm just excited because Easter is my absolute favorite.) Jesus truly is alive and risen again! Just as Scripture and Jesus Himself promised that He would rise again, "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). There are many places in Scripture where Jesus predicts His own death and resurrection. One of those places is in Luke 24:7, "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." There are many ways I know Christianity is the only true religion. Just one of those ways is how I see many try to disprove the faith, but I don't see them do that for any other religion. And some people do end up finding out Christianity is true even when they try to disprove it.

(Cont. on next page)

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

Big Rock Congregational Church 8258 M-32, PO Box 683, Atlanta, MI 49709

989-785-2062, bigrockchurch@gmail.com, <https://>

(Jesus Is Risen Indeed!! Continued)

No one could ever convince me that Jesus did not rise from the dead. I have seen way too much to not believe! Hosanna truly does save us! If you do not know what Hosanna means, it means Jesus saves. However, Resurrection Sunday is not the only day we can celebrate the good Lord's rising from the dead. We can celebrate His resurrection every day! Because He is still Risen to this day, just as He rose many, many years ago! Thank You, Lord, for rising from the dead on the 3rd day just as You promised You would.



16 CCCC ordained clergy currently serve as Active, Reserve, or National Guard chaplains across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. At this moment, two Massachusetts Army National Guard chaplains, Chris Ziegler and Chris Thomae, are away from their homes, families, and churches serving in deployed settings

It is especially important now to keep all of our chaplains, their families, and the military communities they serve in your prayers. The stress of military operations goes across the entire force. Specific prayers for those actively engaged and their families are deeply appreciated as well as asking God to work through chaplains of faith to share the power of the Gospel with our military men and women. Lift in prayer the other 14 CCCC chaplains who labor on your behalf in support of U.S. military personnel. The following “storyboards” are approved by their commands to relay the significance and scope of the work these chaplains are doing.



Reaching the Vulnerable

She saw the team walking toward her home, and fear came first. In her 80 years, Veronica had never experienced strangers arriving like this. When they

said they came to pray, her fear only grew. She wondered if they meant harm, even asking herself, “Are they going to put a curse on me?”

But then something unexpected happened. They offered simple gifts - food, soap, sugar. They sat with her. They shared stories and read from Romans 8, speaking about a love she had never known before, a love that says every person is seen and valued by God. Slowly, fear gave way to something new.

By the time they left, Veronica understood love in a way she never had in her entire life. What began with fear ended in peace. **Just one more day in the work of Y-Malawi, where lives are changed in ways no one expects.**



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 is planning a rummage sale for August 29th as a fundraiser. This will be a sale like last year, each person will be in charge of their own setup, selling, and clean up. They will ask community members to join them for this event. There will not be a charge for setting up, but they do ask that those selling donate 10% of their sales to Women's Fellowship to help fund projects in the church.

If you notice something that Women's Fellowship could purchase for the kitchen, please let Joanna S. know.

It is a while before Christmas, but they are collecting items for Operation Christmas Child. If you would like to purchase something for the boxes that we fill, please look on the white board in the Fellowship Hall for items that are still needed.

The lunch at Iron Kettle that was planned for March will be discussed at the April meeting.

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 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*. April studies will be on April 8th and 22nd.

Library: A work day is planned for March 29th, this is a Tuesday, but Juli and Jessica are off that day. We hope to be able to get more books on the shelf. Watch for more work days so we can get the library up and running soon.

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*. They are now in the Toddler room, which is ready for children.

Children's Church: Gail and Shelly will be leading Children's Church during April. Children's Church just finished a seven-week study of *The Fruit of the Spirit*. They will be returning to the Trueway studies of the New Testament after they study the events of Easter Week on Palm Sunday. There will not be Children's Church on Easter Sunday.

Bible Adventure Kid's Club: The four-week study, *Easter Journey*, was the subject of the four-week Spring Bible Adventure Kid's Club. The sessions were well attended, the children enjoyed the study and learned about the importance of Easter Week and what it means in their life.

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 April 28th at 5:30. We will begin with homemade pizza and fellowship, followed by the movie "The Ten Commandments" second half. Come enjoy great pizza, fellowship, and finish a classic movie.

VBS will be held on June 23rd - 25th. Set up day will be Monday, June 22nd. This year's theme will be *Esther Puts Her Trust in God*, and we will again join forces with Full Gospel church. If you would like to be part of VBS in any way, please let Marilyn or Gail know. We will need shopkeepers, actors for the plays, kitchen help to make snacks, and helpers setting up the village on Monday. VBS days with children will be from 9:30 to noon, and a family picnic on June 25th at noon.

Next Meeting of CE&D will meet on **April 16th** at 4:30. We will continue to make plans for



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Jan F. 13th
Justin J. 19th
Gail F. 20th
Janessa B. 21st

Keith & Marilyn J. 19th

Choir News



Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Psalm 85:1

Thank you to the choir members who have put in hours of listening and practicing to present the cantata "Redeemer, The Timeless Story of Easter" from DiscoverWorship.com.
The choir will be taking a short break and will again resume in June to get ready for Singspiration at the Fairgrounds.

Upcoming Events

- April 3rd:** Good Friday services are at St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 1:00 PM
- April 5th:** Easter Services at Big Rock are:
Early Service 8:00
Brunch 9:15
Worship Service and Easter Cantata 10:30
- June 22nd:** VBS Setup day 9:30
- June 23rd-25th:** VBS 2026 *Esther Puts Her Trust In God* 9:30 to Noon

Prayers, Praises & Blessings - April 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:

Bruce A.

Prayers for Healing:

Allen P.	Sonya
Ricky J.	Don B.
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.	Joshua P.
Esther R.	Ava K.
Kay L.	Tanya
Terry H.	David B.

Prayers in General:

The family of Martha C.
The family of Theila H.
The family of Steven T.
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.
Jan & Michelle (*trip to Tennessee*)

Praises & Blessings:

Thank You, God, that our salvation is based on Christ's righteousness and not our own and that You do not judge us as we deserve. Only through trusting in the work of the cross can we spend eternity in Your presence.

APRIL 2026

“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.” – 1 Corinthians 15:22

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Palm Sunday 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 at St. Mark's at 1:00	4 Choir 10:00
5 Early Service 8:00 Brunch 9:15 Easter Service 10:30	6	7	8 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Missions Meeting 10:30 Bible Study 5:30	9	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 CE&D Meeting 4:30	17 Vision Dinner New Life Pregnancy Event 6:30	18
19 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Potluck Sunday	20	21	22 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Bible Study 5:30	23	24	25
26 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Movie Night 5:30	27	28	29 Prayer Breakfast 9:00	30	1	2