

Big Rock Congregational Church Atlanta Michigan

A Community of Grace

# CHIPS

Off the Big Rock



## April 2024



### The Power of Prayer

TIM DUBEAU  
MIDEAST REGIONAL PASTOR for CCCC

The first guiding value of our Conference is our desire to foster a culture of “Believing Prayer and Intercession.” Many of us are prayer warriors in our own right, unafraid to lift our supplications on behalf of ourselves and others, firmly convinced of the power of prayer. But how many of us humbly ask others to pray on our behalf? We know the Apostle Paul asked others to pray for him in almost every one of his epistles. The substance of Paul’s prayer requests focused on personal safety and effectiveness in his ministry.

There are other reasons for us to humbly ask others to pray. I did so upon receiving the somewhat harrowing and unexpected diagnosis that eventually led to CABG (coronary artery bypass grafting) surgery. Unsure of what I faced, I invited every minister and church in the Mideast Region along with many others to pray for me. My request rapidly multiplied as God saw fit to ordain still more to pray on my behalf.

From the beginning I have rested in the sovereignty of God to do with me as He pleases. Yet I can attest that one way the power of prayer has been made manifest to me is through the many expressions of support and encouragement received from those whom God inspired to pray for my physical and spiritual welfare. Their responses have played a huge part in inspiring me to press on. This is the beauty of being part of the body of Christ and according to Paul in Romans 15:5-6, one of the many ways we can glorify God.

### Pastor of BRCC:

Pastor Keith Jones

### Moderator:

Gail Fehr

### Deacons:

David Bradley  
Nancy Mantz

### Trustees:

Judy Hoffman  
Wayne Isbell

We exist to worship God, to share His love that all might be saved and to become more like Jesus Christ our Lord.



Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

*Luke 12:27*

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

989-785-2062, [bigrockchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bigrockchurch@gmail.com), <https://www.bigrockchurchatlantamichigan.org/>



**Robert & Terri Harmon**  
**Ministry Update**  
**March & April 2024**



**News:**

Since joining I-TEC in 2020, God has sent Robert to many remote locations including ones in Mexico, North Africa and Burundi. In March, he'll be going to **Papua New Guinea** which is quite literally "on the other side of the world" from where we live! It certainly brings new meaning to the words of Jesus in Acts 1:8 that say, "You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and *to the ends of the earth.*" Please be praying for Robert and the I-TEC team as they **travel** and **serve** the Lord in Papua New Guinea.

This trip has two goals. First is to install a solar electric system for a mission station run by a ministry called **Friends in Action**. Second, is to do a survey for a possible future project for **Samaritan Aviation**. Both ministries are helping to take the Gospel message to people groups who are still waiting to hear the **Name of Jesus for the first time!** We are thankful that Robert can be a part of that!

Terri's ministry with education consultants is in full swing. Currently, she is **mentoring 11 consultants from 10 mission organizations!** She meets with them over Zoom and through email. Her mentees are serving in missions in Gabon, Thailand, Spain, Japan, England, North Africa and the United States. Pray for her as she encourages, shares and provides educational resources with them.

**Prayer Requests:**

- Pray for Robert as **he serves in Papua New Guinea for 3 weeks in March**. You can follow the projects at [www.itec.org](http://www.itec.org)
- Pray for the finances to cover the **expenses of this trip** which are \$4,000. We are thankful that some gifts have already been given and are trusting God to provide the rest. If you'd like to contribute to this need, follow the instructions below.
- March 12 – 15th, Terri will be attending a conference "virtually" called MK Synergy. It is for missionary personnel working with families overseas. **Pray that she will gain insight** as she listens to presentations on various topics related to MK Care & Education.
- Pray for Terri's Dad as he goes through cancer treatments.

**Thank you** for your prayers and gifts of support! **We are grateful** for you!

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**Financial support** designated for Robert Harmon can be given at [www.itec.org](http://www.itec.org) or by sending a check *written to I-TEC* to the I-TEC office at 23 Green Hollow Road, Montoursville, PA 17754

Email: [robert.harmon@itec.org](mailto:robert.harmon@itec.org)  
Call or Text: Robert (573) 745-7388  
[www.itec.org](http://www.itec.org)

Email: [terri@tckconsultant.org](mailto:terri@tckconsultant.org)  
Call or Text: Terri (573) 346-6838  
[www.tckconsultant.org](http://www.tckconsultant.org)

**From:** Robert Harmon <Robert.Harmon@itec.org>

**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 7:53:19 AM

**Subject: Project Update for Robert in Papua New Guinea**

Thank you for praying for Robert in Papua New Guinea! He has a few more days to finish the solar electric project for Friends in Action. Here are the current prayer requests: physical strength in the high heat & humidity; getting tech support from the battery company in the U.S. with the 14 hour time difference being an issue; successful test runs for the new electrical systems; availability of aviation fuel to get the team back to the international airport next weekend; physical help as they make the 2 day journey back to the U.S.

Attached is a picture of Robert working with his teammate in the PowerPac. There are more pictures and updates on the team's blog. <https://itecwewak2024.blogspot.com/>

We value your prayers. Thank you!

Terri - for Robert

## Visions23 God at Work

“I’m here to find the truth,” said a Vision23 attendee from one of the Middle East’s most restrictive nations. Nearly 750 students from 78 countries gathered together in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor to grow in the gospel. Experience a global community, and discern next steps in their spiritual journey. This year’s student conference of Bridges International was the largest since 2017!

The experience included a touring day to Washington, DC and of course, ended with a jubilant multi-nation celebration of the New Year.

In reflecting upon Vision23, Fletcher Maynard, the Bridges Team Leader at UNC-Chapel Hill and my counterpart as the National Prayer Champion, remarked, “For believing students, especially, it opened their eyes afresh to the importance and strategic nature of reaching their fellow international students. I get the sense that Vision is being used mightily to mobilize believers for the Great Commission.”

Meanwhile, a student from Pakistan made his point simply” “This was the best week of my life.”

We roamed the conference site to pray for the worship team, production, videographers, childcare workers and children. We went to each of the six track locations to pray for what would and was happening there. Each track had a prayer point person who connected with someone from our team so that we were kept abreast as to how to pray for all that was going on. God answered many prayers. Eight students placed their faith in Jesus of the 44% of the delegates who came as non-Christians. There is so much more to share and if you have internet access you can read the full report at the following link: <http://mailchi.mp/bridgesinternational/vision-conference-newsletter-1455975>

Thank you for your vital role in making it possible for me to be there, my 32nd such gathering,

Harriet

## Family Movie Night



Family movie night will be on **April 14th** beginning at 5:30. We will begin serving supper at 5:30 followed by the movie *Amazing Grace*. We hope that you will be able to join us for great food, fellowship and the movie.

## SonShine Kid's Club/VBS 2024

The end of the year has come for SonShine Kid's Club. I would like to thank the leaders Marylin J., Melanie S., and Michelle (Shelly) G. for their faithful work with God's little ones. I would also like to thank Atlanta Schools for allowing us to hold club there and for the support of the leadership of BRCC. We look forward to our continued work with the children that attend VBS this year as we present *The Adventures of Daniel and Friends* in June. Please be praying for God's mighty hand to reach out to the children of this community to attend this activity. There will be more to come on VBS 2024 in May's edition of CHIPS.

## Choir News



Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him! *Psalm 147:1*

Thank you choir for all your hard work in preparing the Easter Cantata *Christ Has Risen* and thank you to those of you who came all the way from Texas to join in the praising of our Risen Lord.

Choir will be on break during the month of April. Rest up those voices.

## CE&D Update

**Adult Sunday School:** Come join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15**. Thank you Jessica for leading the studies from DTS



**Small Groups:** Small Group will be continuing their study with a book by Carol Ruvolo, "God With Us". This is a thirteen-lesson survey of the Gospels that will bring us face to face with the central figure in all of Scripture - Jesus Christ. This study will accent the purpose for each gospel writer's account of Jesus' life. We will be meeting on **April 10th & 24th at 5:30** in the fellowship hall.

**Library:** The library is in need of some volunteers to help sort books and to get the shelves ready for use. If you can help, please let Juli or Gail know.

**Children's Sunday School:** With young ones in the church, we have changed to Children's Sunday School at 9:15 and then nursery during the church service. We are using the series **God Loves Me Telling the Story to Twos and Threes** as our curriculum. Thank you Michelle for teaching this Sunday school. We will be also have Children's church when the twins come home.

**SonShine Kid's Club:** Club will hold it's last meeting for the year on April 2nd. They have covered the materials from Creation through the fall of Jericho and will be ending the year with Holy Week and Salvation.

**VBS 2024:** VBS 2024 will be held June 18th, 19th and 20th with the 17th being the set up day. The theme this year will be *The Adventures of Daniel and Friends*. We are pleased that the Full Gospel church will be joining us this year like last year. We are looking forward to seeing many of you join us to help with the plays and running the Bible Time Village Market.

**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 **April 18th at 4:30**. If you would like to be part of the planning for VBS 2024, you are welcome to come to this meeting.

# Women's Fellowship News



The Women's Fellowship will be meeting the first Wednesday of the month, April 3rd and discussing the Barn Sale.

Ladies are meeting at the Full Gospel for craft day on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 1-3 to make items for the Samaritans Purse Shoe Box project.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BARN SALE

May 24 & 25, 2024

Hours: 8:30-4:30

Accepting items beginning mid-April

OK, people...it's that time of year again...that pile of stuff you meant to clear out of your house, garage or barn last year is STILL there, looking at you...speaking to you... saying "get rid of me...PLEASE!"



Here are suggestions for items to bring that have traditionally sold well.

- \* antiques, collectibles and curios
- \* "Up North" cabin and "man cave" items.
- \* Hunting and fishing and firearms related gear -ALWAYS strong sellers.
- \* Camping gear - Coleman lanterns, tents, etc.
- \* "Practical items" such as kitchen utensils, small appliances, pots and pans, etc.
- \* Bedding, quilts, towels, sheets that are CLEAN and serviceable.
- \* Small furnishings such as end tables, lamps, book cases, throw rugs.
- \* gardening and lawn tools, such as rakes, shovels, brooms
- \* power tools ( WORKING) and hand tools in usable condition.
- \* Automotive related, such as roof racks, trailer hitches, gas cans,
- \* portable grills, patio chairs, dog crates
- \* children's car seats, toys, furniture
- \* New or lightly used clothing.

Please DO NOT drop off the following:

- \* Outdated electronics, such as VHS players, cassette players, and cassettes, phones, computers, TV's, etc.
- \* ABSOLUTELY NO BOOKS OR MAGAZINES OF ANY KIND!!! We have too many already in the barn.
- \* Used shoes, purses, and well worn clothing.
- \* ANYTHING that is broken!
- \* JUNK, such as tourist trap souvenirs, holiday decorations, schmaltzy girlie-girl gew-gaws, etc.

Nancy Mantz



## Spring Creative Day Retreat

Please join me for my Spring Retreat! It will be a day packed with fun and creativity!! I will be hosting my retreat in Atlanta April 20th from 9am -7pm.

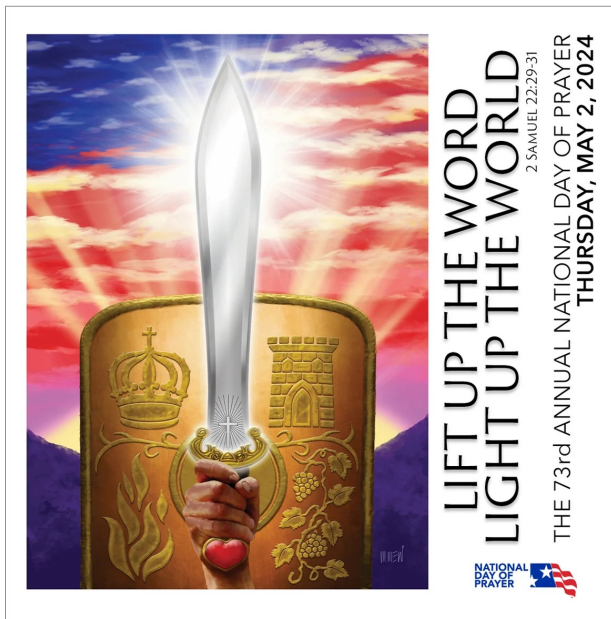
I am offering a Early Bird Special for sign up till February 29th! (Save \$10.00) Price is \$60.00 , after that it will \$70.00

The day will consist of your class, at least \$35.00 in product, new Annual Catalog, Pillow gifts, light snacks, Lunch / Dinner and water / coffee. We always have a great time and good food! Hope you will join us at either retreat. Any questions. Please contact me (Kelly) at 1-989-874-6988 or click on the link below to register for this class.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/z82g837>

**Location:** Big Rock Congregational Church, 8258 M-32, Atlanta, MI 49709

## National Day of Prayer-May 2. 2024 12:15 at the Court House in Atlanta



2024 Theme

LIFT UP THE WORD - LIGHT UP THE WORLD

*For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.*

*2 Samuel 22:29-31*

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries



Jan F. 4-13  
Justin J. 4-19  
Gail F. 4-20  
Janessa J. 4/21

Pastor Keith & Marilyn J. 4/19

## Upcoming Event

- April 14th:** Family Movie Night 5:30  
**April 21st:** Potluck Dinner  
**May 2nd:** National Day of Prayer 12:15 @ the courthouse in Atlanta  
**May 11th:** Pastor Keith's Graduation  
4C's Spring Rally  
**May 19th:** Quarterly Meeting and Elections  
**May 24th & 25th:** Barn Sale  
**June 17th:** VBS set up day  
**June 18th-20th:** VBS  
**July 16-20th:** Montmorency County 4-H Fair  
**July 26 & 27:** Community Connect



# Prayers, Praises & Blessings - April 2024

## Daily:

Pastor Keith, Marilyn, and family  
Big Rock Leaders will serve humbly as godly  
examples to all.  
Big Rock Congregation  
The Ministries of Big Rock  
Missions of Big Rock  
Our School District, staff & students  
Local, State, Country & World Leaders  
CCCC Conference (National & Local)  
Persecuted Church  
First Responders in the community  
Maupo H. & Aleina B. (World Relief Y-  
Malawi women)  
Sari (Compassion Child)  
The the church's prayers be infused with  
biblical ambition, honesty, and humility.  
Nominating Committee and May Elections  
VBS 2024

## Military:

Curtis B.  
Michael C.  
Cabria C.  
Rachael L.  
Beto V.  
Megan R.

## Missionaries:

Jeremy, Joy & family  
Robert, Terry & family  
Kurt, Lisa & family  
Harriet S.  
Susan S.  
Caleb C. and family

## Homebound:

Theila H.  
Jean S.  
Rose Mary K.  
Bruce A.  
Gaye K.  
Elaine & Richard V.

## Prayers for Healing:

Pastor Keith  
David G.  
David B.  
Ritch H.  
Jan F.  
Michelle G.  
Jim G.  
Joshua K.  
Paul K.  
Pat and Joanna S.  
Asher  
Naomi  
Ricky J.  
Allen P.  
Juan  
Peter G.

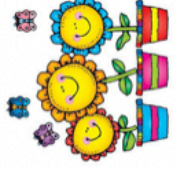
## Prayers

Ritch & Sandy H.  
Rivka, and Isaiah D.  
Jessica & Prabhu D.  
David and Marilee G.  
Nancy M. and Family  
Sam M.  
Owen M.  
Paul  
Jessica M. and children  
Amy J. and family  
Dixie, Tony and Cecilia

## Praises & Blessings:

For the many servants that God has provided  
in this congregation  
For our church family  
For our Prayer Warriors  
The health of the congregation  
That prayers have been answered  
Don S. (Judy's cousin)  
God gave you His greatest gift, salvation  
through relationship with His son

# APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Early Service 8:00 Brunch 9:15 Easter Service 10:30	1	2 Last Meeting of this school year SonShine Kid's Club 2:50	3 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fellowship	4 Board Meeting 4:00	5	6 
7 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	8	9	10 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Small Group 5:30	11	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Family Movie 5:30	15	16	17 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Shepherd's Meeting 10:30	18 CE&D Meeting 4:30	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Pot-Luck Dinner	22	23	24 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Small Group 5:30	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	29	30	1 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fellowship	2 Board Meeting 4:00	3	4