

Big Rock Congregational Church Atlanta Michigan

A Community of Grace

CHIPS

Off the Big Rock



September 2026

A Back-To-School Prayer

By Michelle (Shelly) Grant

Dear Lord Jesus,

Please be with all students and staff members as they return to school. Please keep them safe and protect them from any harm. We pray Psalm 91 over them, Lord.

Be with those little ones just starting school and those starting their senior year of high school. Be with the parents who are dropping off their kids at preschool or kindergarten for the 1st time.

Jesus, please be with those who may be starting their 1st year of college soon. Keep them safe and protect them from any harm as well. Comfort anyone who may be overwhelmed by any financial aid problems. Remind them that You always work things out, even when we cannot see that. Please, Lord, also be with those college students who may be entering their very last year. Please also provide them with a job that they went to school for.

Lord, please help all schools put You at the center, both secular and Christian.

Lord, please also help all staff and students stay close to You in and outside of school settings. Help them all to be a reflection of You, even if they are not necessarily allowed to talk about You in a school setting. Lord, please also be with any staff or students who may not know You. Help them to have an encounter with You. Show them how very real You are, Jesus. Please show them that You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Thank You, Lord,

We say all of this in Your Name,
Amen.

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

Missions News



Hi Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Some of you have asked me to tell you about how God answered prayer for the different summer missions that I mentioned in May so I'm, including a few quotes below from participants and how they were impacted by the experience.



1. New York City CoMission - "This mission trip reminded me that I am part of the Great Commission. My prayer is that this is only the beginning of what God will do through me, through Bridges International, and through believers all over the world." (Ruth, a Bridges intern from Nigeria)

2. Yeshotsav, from Hindu background believers (HBB) - "One thing I learnt was that everyone coming from a different faith background goes through the same challenges as I did, and that I'm not alone I would continue to put my hope in Jesus even when it gets hard in life." - (Aksha, an HBB attendee)

3. Sydney Summer Mission -

"Students we befriended are

experiencing community as they continue participating in the various activities we introduced them to, and our visiting students now have a vision for boldly engaging in spiritual conversations as they move on to their next season of life." (Craig, a Bridges staff member from Arizona)

4. **Paris Summer Mission** - "God enlarged my understanding of the global church, deepened my desire to reach the lost, specifically atheists/agnostics and softened by heart towards people who know they need Him, but aren't ready to accept Him yet". (Mya, an American who studies in Louisiana)
5. **San Francisco CoMission** - "Many people are looking for and are only interested in a God they can see. As Christians, we need to go back to taking our responsibility of staying in God's presence and getting to know Him, as well as obeying Him, very seriously so that they can see Him through and in us." (Taire from Nigeria)
6. **Philadelphia CoMission** - "Many people are looking for and are only interested in a God they can see. As Christians, we need to go back to taking our responsibility of staying in God's presence and getting to know Him, as well as obeying Him, very seriously so that they can see Him through and in us." (A man named Christian from Bonaire)



Prayer Emphasis this Fall - When We Pray God Works!

On a totally different topic, you are invited to join us as we begin a time of preparation in prayer for the 75th anniversary of Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ). This will culminate in our founding anniversary on October 6th. The prayer emphasis begins this Sunday, August 23rd.

The campus ministry begins a 40-day prayer emphasis on the same day, and Bridges will be hosting prayer Zoom calls on Monday and Thursday afternoons during those same 40 days. Attempts were made to begin Cru several times for more than a year, but it didn't really "take off" until a 24-prayer chain was in motion. Following the prayer chain, during a sorority meeting at UCLA, more than half of the 60 women present expressed a desire to receive Christ. Soon, more than 250 students at UCLA had committed their lives to Christ. Now, 75 years later, Cru is present in more than 190 countries around the world.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Thank you for the role you have played in making it possible for me to serve the ALAord through Cru for the last 56 years of those 75 years. You have been such a vital part of all that you read about in my updates. We are a team!

Thank you again for your partnership with me in the life-changing gospel of Jesus.

Harriet

From the desk of Franklin Graham

Dear Friend,

Twenty-five years ago, Americans watched in horror as terrorists carried out the deadliest attack ever on U.S. soil.

I was in Boone, North Carolina, on Sept. 11, but just a few days later, I was standing at Ground Zero. I'll never forget the carnage—and the deep spiritual need of the survivors, first responders, and volunteers.

We set up a prayer center in Lower Manhattan to offer emotional and spiritual support to whoever needed it—and this ministry grew into the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team. Today, we deploy crisis-trained chaplains around the world in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters to point people to the hope and peace found only in Jesus Christ.

As our chaplains worked in a Ukrainian village, they spoke with Nataliya.* She shared that one of her sons had been killed in the fighting and another son continues to serve in the military. Sharing from Scripture, our chaplain told Nataliya of the hope that God gives—even in the midst of war, loss and uncertainty. God's Word pierced her heart, and through tears she prayed in repentance and faith to receive Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

Will you join me in asking God to draw countless others to faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, as we continue to proclaim His Gospel? I am grateful for you and your heart for evangelism.



VISION STATEMENT

A vision statement is a concise declaration of what an organization aspires to become or achieve in the future, describing the ideal end state rather than the path to it. Its purpose is to provide direction, inspire alignment, and serve as a benchmark for strategy and decisions. Unlike a mission statement, which explains why an organization exists today, a vision points forward to what success will look like.

CCCC Vision Statement

A mosaic of Christ-abiding churches multiplying and making disciples one life at a time

MISSION STATEMENT

A mission statement defines an organization's core purpose—why it exists, what it does, and who it serves—anchored in the present rather than a future aspiration. Its purpose is to guide day-to-day decisions and priorities, communicate identity and values, and keep the organization focused on its core purpose as it grows or considers new opportunities. Where a vision statement asks "where are we going," a mission statement answers "what do we do and why does it matter."

CCCC Mission Statement

We develop Christ-like leaders, build disciple-making churches, and multiply gospel-centered congregations to advance God's kingdom.

CCCC Strategic Priorities



CE&D Update



Adult Sunday School: Join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15.**

Jessica D. has led us through a DTS video series on **Bible Study Methods**. Join us as we decide on our next study.

Bible Study we will be deciding in September when Bible Study will resume and what we will be studying.

Library: Volunteers and Jessica have been sorting books to be shelved and some to be given away. If you could help with this project, please see Gail or Jessica.

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* by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee.

Children's Church: Marilyn and Melanie will lead Children's Church during September and looking at lessons from the Old Testament.

Bible Adventure Kid's Club: We will again be planning on a 6- to 8-week club for students at the Atlanta Community Schools after-school program.

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 meet on Thursday, September 17th at 4:30 when we will begin planning for Bible Adventure Kids' Club.

Choir News



"Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song." *Psalms 95:1-2*

BRCC Choir will resume practice on September 10th at 5:30. At this time, we will begin work on songs for the Community Thanksgiving service and the Christmas service. All voices are welcome to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Women's Fellowship News



Women's Fellowship will meet on September 2nd to plan how to support the church and update its purpose statement. We would love to have you join us for this discussion after Prayer Breakfast.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Elora D. 9-8
Keith J. 9-12
Curt B. 9-19
Prabhu D. 9-19
Melanie S. 9-25

Wayne & Cathy I. 9-11
Curt & Juli B. 9-16
Don & MaryAnn M. 9-19
Pat & Joanna S. 9-19

Upcoming Events

August 31st: Annual Reports due in the office
Sept. 3rd: Consolidated Board Meeting 4:00
Sept. 20th: BRCC Annual Meeting following worship service
Sept. 24-27: 42nd Elk Festival



September brings a fresh wave of energy, and the right words can shape your mindset. Starting the month with uplifting thoughts helps you align with September's blessings and embrace a peaceful and blessed month. These messages act like seeds. Plant them daily, and they slowly grow into confidence, clarity, and calm.

1. May this September fill your heart with peace, purpose, and the courage to follow your dreams each day.
2. Step into this month with confidence, knowing that God's promises for the future are always working in your favor.
3. Let this month remind you that every small step forward brings you closer to your bigger purpose in life.
4. Welcome September with hope, and allow new opportunities to unfold naturally with patience and faith.
5. Begin today with gratitude, and watch how your mindset transforms everything around you in powerful ways.
6. This month is your chance to reset, refocus, and rebuild your energy with a positive outlook.
7. Trust life's process, and remember that growth often happens quietly behind the scenes.
8. Every sunrise in September is a fresh chance to rewrite your story with courage and strength.
9. Let your thoughts be filled with hope, and your actions guided by purpose throughout this month.
10. Embrace change, because it often leads you exactly where you are meant to be.
11. Allow yourself to grow slowly, knowing that meaningful progress takes time and patience.
12. Focus on what you can control, and let go of unnecessary worries holding you back.
13. Choose positivity daily, even when challenges try to cloud your perspective and motivation.
14. Let September be the month where you finally believe in your own potential again.
15. Start each day with intention, and let your actions reflect your goals and dreams.

From [blessingful.com/september-blessings/](https://www.blessingful.com/september-blessings/)

Prayers, Praises & Blessings - September 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 spiritual growth

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.	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.	Stephanie
Ava K.	Kay L.
Tanya	Terry H.
Linda S.	Joan
Hayley	Don B.
Michael K.	Betty
Kyle H.	Pat
Melissa	Herb
Michelle	Debbie S.
Sue	Bill
Terry	Marilyn

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
Emotional healing for Deana's family
Elaina & Erin H.
Crystal S.

Praises & Blessings:

Job for Prabhu with Samaritan's Purse
A year of blessings

SEPTEMBER 2026

“To everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fellowship 10:30	3 Consolidated Governing Board Meeting 4:00	4	5
6 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Communion Sunday	7 Labor Day	8	9 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Missions Meeting 10:30	10 Choir 5:30	11	12
13 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	14	15	16 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Shepherd's Meeting 10:30	17 CE&D Meeting 4:30 Choir 5:30	18	19
20 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Annual Meeting 12:00 3rd Sunday Potluck	21	22	23 Prayer Breakfast 9:00	24 Choir 5:30	25	26
27 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	28	29	30 Prayer Breakfast 9:00	1 Governing Board Meeting 4:00 Choir 5:30	2	3