



## Time and Talents

*For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. [And] We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...*

*Romans 12: 4-6a*

Grace and peace to you, in the name of the risen Christ!

Every Sunday, there is a point during the worship service where we collect the general offering using words similar to “let us worship God with our offering, sharing the time, talents and treasures that God has first given us.” Time. Talent. *And* treasures. I wonder sometimes if we only hear the “treasures” part of that introduction; if we are so used to this part of the worship service we only hear the part that addresses possessions or money.

The order of the words, I think, is important. We are invited, as part of the act of worship, to give of our time first. In other words, we are invited into a relationship with God where our time is considered valuable and sacred and we are tasked with being good stewards of that valuable and sacred time. So what does that mean? Does that mean we are supposed to give every single open minute to Church stuff? No. It means that time is not an infinite resource. There are only 24 hours in a day and, for the average adult, it seems that there are at least 1 million things to be done in those 24 hours. We run ragged trying to complete “all the things” and for all of that running we usually end up feeling exhausted, frustrated, and burnt out. What if we saw our time differently? What if, instead of seeing time as a commodity to be used we saw time as a gift from God? Would we be more intentional about what we do with our time? Perhaps, if we saw time as a gift and the things that we do with that time as an act of worship, we might view our time at work with a different lens, seeking direction from God on how we can be salt and light during our work hours. We might view rest as being sacred, and take the rest that we need. We might view time with our children as a way of growing our family's faith, and we might view time spent in the communal work of the Church as time spent intentionally cultivating our relationship with God and with the body of Christ in the world.

What about talents? There is something daunting about that word. We live in a society that expects us to be experts at the things that we enjoy. If we love to make music we are expected to be good at it. If we love to paint we are expected to be good enough to sell our artwork. This kind of attitude tends to make us feel that if we are less than proficient at any  
(cont. next page)

## TIME AND TALENTS CONTINUED

Continued from page 1:

given thing then we have no talent, nothing to share with others. Friends, God doesn't think that way. God created us with the capacity for joy, the ability to feel joy in being creative, whether or not we are "good" at it, and I believe that God encourages us to share the things that give us joy. Do you enjoy being artistic? Then share that passion by exercising your creativity! Do you enjoy singing? Then sing loudly, perhaps even in worship, because it makes you smile.

We are joyfully made, and we are made to feel joy. God's concern is not how well we do something or how much we can get done in a period of time, God's concern is how we experience and enjoy the gifts that they have given us and how we use those gifts to build up the body of Christ. When we see our time as sacred and use our time worshipfully we become more attuned to God's work in our lives and in the lives of others, and we become more aware of the needs of our neighbors. When we share the things that give us joy we encourage others to share their joy, creating community and beauty while answering the needs of our neighbor and ourselves. When our time and talents become acts of worship we find our place of belonging and our sense of purpose.

May each of us be opened to God's work in the world and in our lives. May we view our time as a sacred gift and our actions as acts of worship. May we joyfully create without expectation of perfection. May we know that we belong in the body of Christ and may we work together for the good of the World. Amen.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Jess

TIME

Talent



## BOOK GROUP NEWS



Book Group

The Book Group is on Vacation!

Look for our next selection to arrive in August

September Selection:  
*Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

# WINGS OF MERCY PANCAKE BREAKFAST - MET FUND RAISER

## Wings of Mercy Pancake Breakfast - MET Fund Raiser



For the second year running, we are helping support the annual Wings of Mercy Pancake Breakfast. Last year was a blast! Through amazing team coordination, we were able to feed hundreds of community members supporting this great cause.

This year, we again plan to help cook and serve pancakes and sausages for the hungry participants at this pancake fundraiser.

**Date: Saturday, August 17th**

**Location: West Michigan Regional Airport - 60 Geurink Blvd. Holland, MI (Shortly after turning onto Geurink Blvd., look for large red and grey hangar on the right, the same location as last year)**

The sign up for this event is in the commons. We need people to mix pancakes, grill masters, servers, restockers, runners, and friendly faces. We can find a role for everyone. We hope you are able to join us for more pancake flipping fun!

The Wings of Mercy team generously shares some of the funds raised with the pancake breakfast team. This year, these funds will kickstart a fund to upgrade the church sign to be electronic. This sign is aging and very difficult to update. An upgrade for the sign has been in discussion for years.

Wings of Mercy deeply appreciates the contributions of our church for their fundraising efforts. Your help cooking pancakes supports funding for their life-saving mission. Fred Honore visited our church to share their passionate mission to connect patients with the medical care they need. Vicki provided thoughts on the book they provided our church about their mission below.

Thank you for your support!

The MET (Membership and Events Team)  
Branden B., Jess B., Julie W., Pastor Jessica

## EARTH ANGELS

### Earth Angels

When Fred Honore came to Good Shepherd, he told us of his experience as a Wings of Mercy board member and pilot, and brought several copies of the book, **Earth Angels; the story of Peter VandenBosch and Wings of Mercy**. The book tells of Peter's life but also has sections written by pilots and patients.



Peter VandenBosch had a busy life. He had a family, worked hard, attended church, and volunteered. So when he was able to retire early he thought he would be content, living the good life, with 2 homes, time to spend with family, to travel, to fly his plane and to go fishing. On one of those fishing trips in the Gulf of Mexico, he heard someone say "Peter, there is more to life than this." When he looked at his 2 friends it was obvious that they had not spoken to him. That's strange, he thought, then the voice repeated that message. Keeping this to himself for weeks he thought about what it meant. Finally he told his wife that God had spoken to him. After much conversation and talking to friends Peter discovered what the "more to life" was for him. He walked into Holland Hospital and spoke to Social Services about his idea. In July of 1991 he received a phone call accepting his offer. He was going to fly a brother and sister, who needed specialized medical care, along with their mother, to Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for free. As they say, the rest is history.

Wings of Mercy was formed. Since that first flight in 1991, pilots who volunteer with Wings of Mercy have flown over 8,000 flights. Wings of Mercy, founded by Peter, and headquartered in Zeeland, has grown from a few pilots to a 501C3 with 3 chapters in 2 states and many pilots who donate their plane and their time to fly patients.

Copies of the book are available on the welcome center. Feel free to borrow one, read all of it, or read the pilots' or the patients' section, and return it for others to read. He also brought prayer cards with people they have flown. Feel free to take 1 or 2 of those as well.

Vicki Russell

What can those of us who do not own a plane or know how to fly do to help?

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS



Summer hours

Tues., Wed., Thurs.

9:00 am — 2:00 pm

through Wednesday, September 4, 2024



### What Can We Do as Individuals for Future Generations?



Glaciers and the polar icecaps are melting. Extreme weather conditions seem to become more prevalent. The average temperature of the earth is rising. Yes we can see that the earth's climate is changing. One thing we can do as individuals and as a congregation that will help slow the change is to recycle PLASTIC.

Most plastics are made from chemicals that come from [petroleum](#) (oil), natural gas, or coal. Heating these chemicals causes them to break down into [molecules](#). Scientists then join these molecules to make plastics. Different combinations of molecules form different kinds of plastic.

Plastics can be made into almost any shape by heating them at a high temperature. The heat softens the plastic, which can then be poured into a mold. As the softened plastic cools, it hardens. When reheated, some types of plastic will soften again. The plastic can then be made into new shapes. Other types of plastic will stay hard even when reheated.

Plastics are very useful, but they can also cause many problems for the [environment](#). Items made out of plastic do not break down. When they are thrown out they take up room in landfills. A great deal of plastic waste winds up in the oceans, where it can hurt animals. Because they do not break down, things like plastic bags, bottles, and fishing lines collect in large areas of the ocean. Sea turtles and other animals may eat the plastic. The animals can also be hurt when plastic fishing lines get wrapped around their bodies. People who are concerned about the environment try to encourage people to [recycle](#) plastics instead of throwing them away. Recycled plastic can be turned into clothing, outdoor furniture, playground equipment, more bottles and many other items.

You may be surprised at how much plastic is used to get food to our tables or to provide cleaning supplies for use around the house. Since we have been recycling at our home we can fill up a large garbage container every 2 weeks with plastics to be recycled. We wind up with only one tall kitchen garbage bag full of garbage every 2 weeks for the dump.

Recycling is not always easy but if you try it you may find that you like it. Future generations will thank you for it.

Dennis Willaman



# Be a Beacon of Hope

Donate blood

**SCHEDULE YOUR  
DONATION NOW**

Tuesday  
August

13

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Helpful tip:  
Make sure to eat a healthy meal  
and drink plenty of water before  
donating.

Get your  
Versiti tote bag!



For eligibility questions:  
Call 866.642.5663

## Noordeloos Christian Reformed Church Community Blood Drive

In the Fellowship Room  
4055 112th Avenue  
Holland, MI 49424

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED:  
Call 866-642-5663, visit [versiti.org/mi](http://versiti.org/mi)  
-OR- scan the QR code below.

\*Walk ins welcome, as schedule allows

\*Donate and get a custom Versiti tote, while  
supplies last.



Blood Center of Michigan

# NOISY OFFERING

## July/August Noisy Offering Benjamin's Hope



### *The Ben's Hope Way:*

*Committed to loving God and others, we fiercely respect the dignity, intelligence and value of all humans. We are creative, courageous and committed to excellence. Through the love of Christ we live the abundant life together.*



Benjamin's Hope is a Live, Learn, Play, Worship farmstead community seeking to welcome all peoples, all abilities and all stories. Ben's Hope believes all people are beautifully created and all people need hope. They pour their hearts into ensuring those with intellectual and developmental differences connect to their community and thrive.

"Benjamin's Hope was built around a simple question: "What makes life wonderful?" We believe life is richer when all people share access to a safe home, purposeful work, a community they enjoy, and a church where every expression of worship is recognized and all participants are affirmed as vital." Krista Mason, Co-Founder.

The 52-acre campus offers semi-independent housing opportunities uniquely designed for adults with autism and other disabilities. The walking trails, worship experiences, petting barn and gardening activities are enjoyed by people throughout Ottawa County and beyond. The neighborhood of Ben's Hope offers a place where adults of varying abilities choose to live and cultivate community with one another.

Benjamin's Hope receives national attention as a non-profit leader for the way they serve a growing autism population. Their sustainable farming practices offer common ground for growing purpose, creativity and connection for people of all abilities.

Ben's Hope currently serves over 30 adult residents. Residents are empowered to make choices throughout their day that lead to wellness, connection and growth; enjoying the control of self-autonomy while also experiencing the safety of a community environment. Residents are encouraged to enjoy life as they see fit-participating in learning and work initiatives, cooking at home, growing community and enjoying leisure activities both as part of the neighborhood and beyond it.

One of the core values at Ben's Hope is Dignity-Based Communication. "We presume intelligence, and communicate with one another accordingly." One program non-verbal residents use is a letter board to assist communication known as RPM or Rapid Prompting Method training. Another program uses images to assist with communication. Still another encourages residents to write out what they wish to express, then reading out loud what they have written giving some non-verbal residents the means to become verbal.

Central to all is The Church Of Benjamin's Hope, an interdenominational community for people of all abilities. The Sunday evening service draws people together from all over

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## NOISY OFFERING CONT.

Benjamin's Hope cont.

West Michigan for a time of worship, teaching and connection and is supported by churches throughout the region.

### Additional ways to support Ben's Hope:

Become a volunteer. There are many and varied ways to contribute at Ben's Hope from working with the residents to gardening and tending the animals to assisting with creating the goods made by Ben's Hope residents and sold online and in their small shop area.

Attend public events. One such event is the upcoming Harvest Festival, Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm at Benjamin's Hope (Also a GWOH project). Community programming also includes enrichment classes and activities as well as attending the on campus worship services Sunday night at 6:00pm.

Purchase Ben's Hope gift items. The items created by the residents include soaps, lip balm, hand cream, greeting cards and notecards, sachet bags and items made from hair from the alpacas on site such as yarns and dryer balls. Other items include hats, shirts and sweatshirts. These and other items can be found at [benjaminshope.net](http://benjaminshope.net) or at the stand in the main building.

Purchase produce. Produce and other items can be found at the produce stand by the entrance to Ben's Hope at 15468 Riley Road.

We appreciate your support!

### **Mission and Outreach Committee**

Carolyn W., Julie W., Branden B., and Pastor Jessica

## ROAD CONSTRUCTION

### Road Work Ahead! Update:

Construction begins on August 5, 2024 between Riley and Quincy. Road will remain open but will be narrowed down to one lane. End of project is expected mid-August.



# It's LWR School Kit Collection Time

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. That learning leads to a better life for the students, their families and their communities.

## Each LWR School Kit Includes:



- 4 - 70-page spiral bound notebooks
- 1 - pencil sharpener
- 1 - 1 x 2.5 inch eraser
- 1 - pair safety scissors
- 1 - ruler (30 centimeters / 12 inches)
- 1 - box of 16 or 24 count crayons
- 5 - blue or black ink ballpoint pens  
(no markers or gel pens)
- 5 - unsharpened No. 2 pencils

Supplies will be collected — Now - August 31, 2024

We are also collecting money to help off-set the cost of backpacks and postage.

Questions? Contact:

Sharon Wendt: 616-399-0204, [kiwiynk@yahoo.com](mailto:kiwiynk@yahoo.com)  
Ellie Buggeln: 616-399-0591, [elliebuggeln@gmail.com](mailto:elliebuggeln@gmail.com)

Drop off supplies at the church,  
Tues/Wed/Thurs  
from 9:00 - 2:00,  
Sunday Mornings or  
Anytime you're in the building.

### **Please:**

- Give new items only.
- Do not donate items with religious symbols or messages or a congregational name.
- Do not donate items with US flags, military or patriotic symbols, references to the armed forces, or anything with camouflage.



## SUNDAY SERVANTS – AUGUST

### Sunday Servants Needed for August

Please help us fill the spaces. Volunteer to be a Sunday Servant

Use the form in the Commons or contact Deb in the office.

616.772.4075 or [gslc.office@icloud.com](mailto:gslc.office@icloud.com)

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader(s)	Usher	Communion Set- Up/Clean-Up	Counters
<b>August 4 11th Sunday of Pentecost</b>	WL- CA-	Sharon Wendt		Deb Ludwig	1. 2.
<b>August 11 12th Sunday of Pentecost</b>	WL - CA-Brian Underhill	Brian Underhill		Terry Grossman	1. 2.
<b>August 18 13th Sunday of Pentecost</b>	WL - CA-			Deb Ludwig	1. 2.
<b>August 25 14th Sunday of Pentecost</b>	WL - CA -				1. 2.

## FELLOWSHIP – AUGUST

### *Fellowship Sign-up.*



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
<b>August 4 2024</b>	Bacons
<b>August 11, 2024</b>	
<b>August 18, 2024</b>	
<b>August 25, 2024</b>	

## CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

### Cleaning Schedule: August 4 – September 28, 2024

Sign-up: 2-week period preferred, however, 1-week period is acceptable. Cleaning includes cleaning all areas of the church building: sanctuary, sacristy, entrance, hallway, bathrooms, kitchen, conference room, nursery and

To sign-up:

Use the Cleaning Schedule form in the Commons  
or Contact Deb in the office:

[gslc.office@icloud.com](mailto:gslc.office@icloud.com) or 616.772.4075



Dates	Name(s)
Weeks of July 7 - 13 July 14 - 20	Russells  Russells
Weeks of July 21 - 27 July 28 - Aug 3	Bill & Suzanne House  Bill & Suzanne House
Weeks of August 4 - 10 August 11 - 17	Fosters  Fosters
Weeks of August 18 - 24 August 25 - 31	Ludwigs  Ludwigs
Weeks of Sept. 1 - 7 Sept. 8 - 14	
Weeks of Sept. 15 - 21 Sept. 22 - 28	

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



### *The Measure of Our Love*

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 165

Families: 5

Average Sunday Attendance: 41

# AUGUST

## Birthdays

Marcel Letourneau 5  
Chan Vixayphone 13  
Ellery Pearson 27  
Elliot Eisaman 30



## Anniversaries

## SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services are also on-line.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87525508195?pwd=MmtjVENGaUg3ODFuaXhhUHR1TVR3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 875 2550 8195

Passcode: 022399

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via Zoom  
Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm, September - May  
Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 11:00 am on site. No Quilting in December.  
Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 am, September - May  
Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm. September - May

## PASTOR JESS' SCHEDULE



Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Thursday  
via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: [pj.gslc@gmail.com](mailto:pj.gslc@gmail.com)

To view Pastor's weekly in-office hours, look on the Breeze  
calendar on our website at [goodshepherdhollandmi.com](http://goodshepherdhollandmi.com)

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### Church Council Members:

Branden Bacon, (Sec)	(920) 889-8707, <a href="mailto:branden.bacon@gmail.com">branden.bacon@gmail.com</a>
Dylana Eisaman	(616) 953-0603, <a href="mailto:dylana.pinter@gmail.com">dylana.pinter@gmail.com</a>
Steve Johnson	(616) 212-6833, <a href="mailto:sgjcfp@gamil.com">sgjcfp@gamil.com</a>
Brian Underhill (Pres)	(616) 292-7194, <a href="mailto:underhillbrian@yahoo.com">underhillbrian@yahoo.com</a>
Julie Wolff (VP)	(616) 566-6251, <a href="mailto:wolffwife@gmail.com">wolffwife@gmail.com</a>
Pastor Jess	(616) 403-4660, <a href="mailto:pj.gslc@gmail.com">pj.gslc@gmail.com</a>

## IN OUR JULY PRAYERS

### *In Our July Prayers...*

- **Congratulations:** to Kelsey Hanson (Jan Mahalak's daughter) on the birth of her new child, July 8, 2024. Mom and baby are doing well.
- **Our Sympathies:** on the passing of Lori Ponstein on June 22, 2024, Please keep her family and friends in your prayers. And to the family and friends of Nancy Hazekamp who passed away June 19, 2024. Nancy is Sandy Foster's mother, wife of Jim Foster our 1st pastor. And to the family and friends of Roy Goethe (Justin Walker's stepdad) who passed away on June 11, 2024. Please pray for his wife Karen, children and step children.
- **Praise & Thanksgiving:** Casey Rostos (friend of Norvells) is in remission now. Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) has received a new heart and kidney transplant. Please continue praying for her recovery.
- **Ministry of the Month, June:** Wings of Mercy and our Stewardship Team and their ministries.
- **Healing/Peace:** Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Greg Bolton, (friend of Julie Wolff), Gary Bowman, Patricia Bradfield, Tom & Elizabeth Brookover, (friends of the Wentz') Tom has a rare form of ocular cancer, Dylan Brophy, age 26, (nephew of Kris Norvell's friend), stage 4 melanoma, Bret D'Agostino, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) inoperable cancer, Steven Dwyer (Lynda Parrott's cousin), Jim Dyke had surgery 6/5, please pray for a speedy recovery, John & Amber Fanthorpe (friends of Russells) John is recovering from brain surgery, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Nancy Hazekamp, former member, in Hospice care with injuries from a fall, Rose Heckel is in Hospice care, Rick House, Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Jan Mahalak had back surgery June 27, will take several weeks for recovery, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Diane Oberlin (former attendee) has cancer, Lori Ponstein diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer, Roland Rivera, Casey Rosel, (Norvell in-law relation) has tumor in her skull, surgery scheduled for 6/21/24, prayers for herself and her newborn of 6 wks., Richard Russell's cancer has returned, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) transferred to Mott's Children's Hosp. in Ann Arbor, she does need a heart transplant, Stella, 6 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friends granddaughter) needs a kidney transplant, Suzanne (Ellie's daughter) prayers for resolution of gastrointestinal problems, Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Justin Walker (Pastor's husband).
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Kelsey Hanson, (Jan Mahalak's daughter), Shelby Ahlstrom (Norvell's granddaughter).
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Bonita Zielke,
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Ryan Felgenhauer, William Felgenhauer, and Evan Felgenhauer (great-nephews of Kerry Johnson), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Rev. Martha Porter-Reid, Portage; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Rev. Rachel Laughlin, Portage; Leer Lutheran Church, Supply Pastors, Posen; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Rev. David Sprang, Rose City; Ascension Lutheran Church, Rev. Julie Bailey, Saginaw.