



## Encountering Christ in Community

*<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

*<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many...*

*<sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

*<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

*Romans 12: 12-14, 26-27*

Grace to you and peace in the name of Christ.

I have been thinking about these verses from 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, a lot lately, because things feel heavy, Beloved. When the news is disheartening, when we worry about how we are going to pay the bills, or feed our families, when we are worried about our neighbors, when things feel so heavy, it is tempting to become cynical. It is tempting to pull the covers over our heads and hunker down. It is tempting to disengage and check out.

While there is wisdom in disengaging from media and social media to protect our mental health and tend to our souls, withdrawing from the world only isolates us further. The antidote to this feeling of overwhelm and despair is community. When we come together in community, when we laugh and cry together, when we sing and pray together, when we work together with our neighbors, we strengthen the body of Christ.

As a country, we have not been this divided since the time of the Civil War. The people in power use media and our own experiences of hardship to keep us divided. We are told that the reason the cost of groceries is going up is because of “those people.” The reason we can’t find a job: “those people” are taking them. The reason we feel displaced and disempowered is that “those people” are trying to replace us. So we argue, we accept that harsh measures must be taken, we surround ourselves with people who agree with us and we shut down. Meanwhile, the powerful keep getting more powerful.

Now is the time to say “no more” to the powers that try to keep us divided. Now is the time to listen to our neighbor. Now is the time to lean into compassion. Now is the time to pray together, to eat together, to cry together, to celebrate together and to sing together. In Christ Jesus God entered into our divided world and showed up in community. Jesus gathered people around him, he formed relationships, he healed and preached in community with others. Through him we are invited into the Beloved Community.

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## PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

The early church practiced community and mutual aid: living together, lifting one another up, sharing the burden. St. Paul writes of the Beloved Community as the "Body of Christ"; and if we are truly the body of Christ then what happens to any of our neighbors happens to us, and, more importantly, happens to Christ himself.

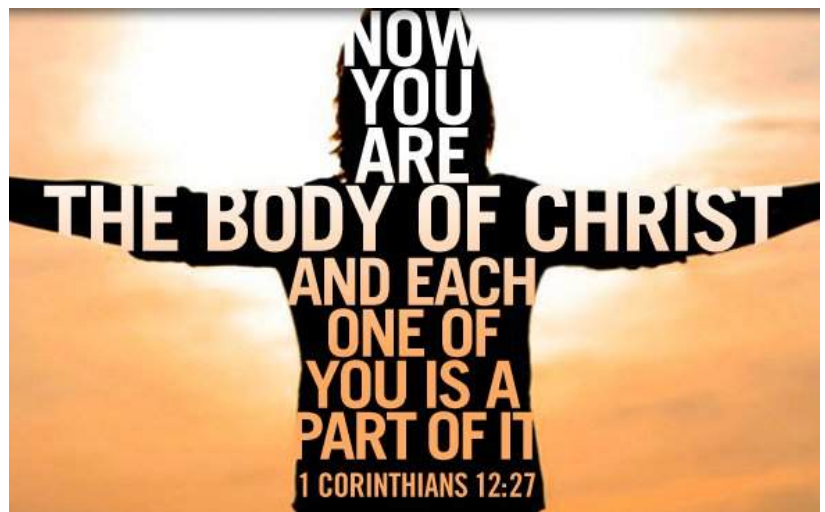
Beloved, these are hard times. These are heavy times. In these hard and heavy times it is necessary for us to rely on each other to care for ourselves and our neighbor. If you are having a difficult time envisioning what that may look like, here are some ways that we can come together for one another.

1. **Pray.** Pray for each other, pray for the country, pray for the world. During the season of Lent we will highlight prayer and prayer practices, offering opportunities for prayer at home and at Church.
2. **Rest,** but don't isolate. Some of us need time alone to recharge our batteries and to rest. Take that time. I encourage you to be aware of when that rest becomes isolation. Do you keep declining invitations to see your friends? Are you detaching from your partner or your family? Maybe it is time to gently re-emerge, have a short coffee date with a friend; or read a book at a coffee shop. Don't completely cut yourself off.
3. **Invest** in real-life relationships. Limit your social media exposure.
4. **Get involved in our community of faith;** there are a lot of ways to "plug in" to our faith community, and working together toward a common goal reminds us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves.
5. **Get involved in activism,** if you feel so moved. There are many ways to show up for our siblings in Christ who are vulnerable right now. Prayer, writing and calling elected officials, donating and yes, showing up in person to let your voice be heard.

We are the body of Christ, let us come together as the body of Christ to care for one another. Take care of yourselves and each other and peace be with you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jess



## LENTEN EVENTS



Ash Wednesday  
February 18, 2026

Drive through ashes will be available from  
11:00am - 1:00pm at the church.

The Ash Wednesday Evening Service,  
with the imposition of ashes, begins at 7:00pm.

### Wednesdays During Lent

Soup Supper - 6:00pm  
Holden Evening Prayer - 7:00pm

We are hosting a soup supper at 6:00pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00pm. Council will provide the soup for February 25 & March 25, 2026. There will be a Sign-up Sheet on the table in the Commons for the Wednesdays in between.



## LARGE PRINT MATERIALS AVAILABLE



### Large Print Materials Now Available.

In the Red Notebooks, near the worship basket, are copies of the current worship folder, the readings, and all hymns for the particular worship service.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Sunday School Programing

After the Children's Message during the worship service, children will be directed to meet their teachers in the Commons for Sunday School.

Each class will include a lesson, singing songs, and doing a craft.

Come join us this Sunday!



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEMBERS



On Wednesday, January 28, 2026 the Women's Bible Study members created prayer beads as part of their Bible lesson. L-r, Melinda Mueller, Terry Grossman, Kris Norvell, Pastor Jess, Vicki Russell and Carolyn Willaman



Each set of beads is unique with beads chosen that contain special meaning to their creator.

## New Member Sunday

We will be welcoming new members on Sunday, February 15, 2026. If you are interested in joining, please contact Pastor Jess.



## PLANT ADOPTION

### Are you looking for a new plant in your life?

Eric Mueller has some botanical babies that need to be adopted to loving homes. He will be here with them on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026

You might just find your soul-plant!



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### Congregational Meeting



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 22, 2026  
following the worship service.

Mark your calendar to attend.

## FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

### ***Needed***

#### ***2 Volunteers to Join the Church Council.***

Church Council needs to replace two members in 2026. Ideally we would have two volunteers in place by the Congregational Meeting on the last Sunday of February the 22nd.

Church Council meets once per month on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Meetings average about 2 hours. If you are interested, or you have questions please talk to a current Church Council member. Please consider this important service.

Current Council Members:

Brian Underhill, President  
Branden Bacon, Vice President  
Mike Russell, Treasurer  
Dylana Eisaman  
Pastor Jess

## END-OF-2025 GIVING STATEMENTS

### End of 2025 Giving Statements

Everyone should have received a 2025 giving statement. If you do not receive a statement by February 14, 2026, please alert Vicki Russell. If you still need a printed copy, please email Vicki as soon as possible at [Vicki0528@gmail.com](mailto:Vicki0528@gmail.com)

If you have questions contact Vicki Russell or Elliott Eisaman.



## AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



February 26, 2026 Blood Drive

Sign-Up Sheets in the Commons

**BLOOD DRIVE**

Here are the next blood drives we have scheduled:

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 11:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday, April 23, 2026 11:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday, June 25, 2026 11:00am - 5:00pm

Church Council has also approved new A-frame signs to help us alert the community to events like blood drives. These signs can be weighted with ballast to withstand winds and are easy to change out with new posters to advertise other events. We have had several walk-in blood donors stop because they saw our message board sign. These A-frames are additional outreach tools.

This partnership with the Red Cross helps us connect with community members and save lives. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and delicious snacks to make these drives a success!

The MET (Membership and Events Team)

## WEEKEND BIBLE STUDY

### Calling All Members

#### **Who *Meant* to Read the Bible More This Past Year.**

The Weekend Bible Study—where faith gets real, questions are welcome, coffee is strong, and no one will make you read out loud unless you *really* want to.

Whether you're a lifelong Bible scholar or still trying to find Habakkuk, you're invited. Come for the Scripture, stay for the discussion, and leave with encouragement (and possibly snacks). Join us as we grow in faith, strengthen one another, and discuss important topics in today's world and how they relate to scripture.

Saturdays at 10:00am at church. Bring a bible if you wish, but we'll have some on hand too. Let's get together and strengthen our faith as we delve into scripture.

Saturdays, 10:00 am at Church



## CRAFTS AND CONVERSATION



### Crafts and Conversation:

Spend some time with your creative side and join us for some great conversation. You can bring a craft that you are working on or exercise your artistic talent with crafts available at Church. Wednesday,

Next meeting:

Wed., February 11, 2026, 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

## BOOK GROUP NEWS



Join us in February for *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans

*The Correspondent* is an epistolary novel, written as a series of letters. The protagonist, Sybil, is a retired lawyer in her 70s, who describes her life as a balance of "miraculous and mundane." She writes (and receives) letters every day--involving her friends, neighbors, family, and even famous authors.

Through these letters, we learn about themes of forgiveness, grief, aging, and the value of reading. You will need to obtain a copy of this book through the local library or a bookstore.

We will meet to discuss the book on February 18, 2026 at 4:00 pm at church.

## NOISY OFFERING



### January/February Noisy Offering: Community Action House

Our Noisy Offering for January/February is Community Action House. We will continue to provide CAH with Meal Kits.

### Collecting Supplies for Community Action House

In addition to the meal kits, we are also collecting supplies to stock the CAH shelves. See the list below of the most needed supplies





THANK YOU FOR BUILDING A  
**STRONGER,  
HEALTHIER  
COMMUNITY**

## Help us #StockTheShelves!

Your donations keep our shelves stocked to provide healthy food, choice, and flexibility for our neighbors. Items can be dropped off at 739 Paw Paw Drive during normal business hours.

### Most Needed Items:

- dried beans (pinto or black)
- healthy cooking oil (olive oil, coconut oil, canola oil, grapeseed oil)
- red lentils
- broth
- whole wheat pasta
- gluten free pasta
- flour
- spices (salt, cinnamon, cumin, ginger, chili powder)
- corn masa
- basmati rice
- canned fruit in 100% juice
- tea or coffee
- canned coconut milk
- canned beans
- juice (low-sugar/no sugar added)
- ensure or protein drinks
- alternative nut butters
- unsalted nuts
- tampons & pads
- laundry detergent and dish soap
- baby wipes
- toothpaste

*\*Low Sodium or Low Sugar items Preferred\**

Spread the word! Tag us on social media @communityactionhouse  
*Learn more at [CommunityActionHouse.org](http://CommunityActionHouse.org)*

## COMMUNITY ACTION HOUSE MEAL KITS

### Community Action House Meal Kits.



Supplies at food pantries are stretched thin including at the Community Action House so we are collecting meal kits.

- Take a food list in the Commons,
- Pick a meal and purchase the items.
- Pack the items in a paper bag with the food list attached and
- Drop the bag off at church.

The bags are then donated to CAH. Thank you for your generosity.

## COMMUNITY ACTION HOUSE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### Volunteering with Community Action House

A group from Good Shepherd helped with the Community Action House Resale Store back in November and we are volunteering again!

CAH has reserved **Saturday, February 21st from 10am to 12:30pm** for this volunteer event. We will again be helping at their Southside Resale Store. The Southside Resale Store is located at 694 Michigan Ave, Holland, MI 49423. Please park in the parking lot and enter through the side door near the loading dock. We can have up to 10 volunteers. Please sign up in the commons if interested.

CAH has also shared news about expanding their program:

***“Big news: construction has begun on our second Resale Store on the north side of Holland, on track to open this spring!”***

*Our first Resale Store has proven what’s possible—transforming donated goods and volunteer energy into steady income that directly fuels food, housing connections, and stability for thousands of local families each year. Now, as we prepare to open our northside Resale Store, we’re building on that success. In recent years, the need for our services has grown dramatically—and we’ve scaled to meet it. This expansion is about building the solid financial foundation that makes this level of service resilient. Every donation dropped off, every item sold, and every hour volunteered helps ensure that we can continue to nourish, equip, and empower our neighbors, for the long run.”*

CAH appreciates the meal kits and in kind donations we have already collected! They continue to welcome meal kits. They also noted that bladder leakage products and feminine hygiene products are needed and welcome. Additional needs are listed on the fliers posted in the commons. Thank you for your donations and your continued support of our community!

MOC (Mission and Outreach Committee)

## BREEZE

### See Your Giving Anytime



You can see your giving **anytime** in Breeze. Go to your MY PROFILE page which is listed in the top menu bar. Click on GIVING on the left side of your screen. You can select individuals in your family or the entire family. Be sure to set the date range you want to see. Other choices you have are: add other columns, download, as Excel, or print your statement.

If you have questions, contact Vicki Russell or Elliott Eisaman.

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

To my Good Shepherd family,

Thank you for the prayers, cards, texts, phone calls, emails and conversations. Your care and support has meant a lot. We, my knee and I, are continuing to heal and doing well. I appreciate you all.

Blessings,  
Vicki R.

rec'd Jan. 30, 2026



### ***The Measure of Our Love***

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 183

Families: 12

Average Sunday Attendance: 46

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

### Sunday Servants Needed for February

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
<b>February 1</b> 4th Sunday of Epiphany	WL- CA-	Branden Bacon		Mary Sue Dawsey
<b>February 8</b> 5th Sunday of Epiphany	WL - CA-	Joan Maring		Terry Grossman
<b>February 15</b> Transfiguration of Our Lord	WL - CA - Eric Mueller	Eric Mueller		Terry Grossman
<b>February 22</b> 1st Sunday of Lent	WL - CA - Carolyn Willaman	Carolyn Willaman		Deb Ludwig

## FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP — FEBRUARY

*Fellowship Sign-up.*



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
<b>February 1, 2026</b>	Bacons
<b>February 8, 2026</b>	
<b>February 15, 2026</b>	
<b>February 22, 2026</b>	

# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays

Steve Johnson 1  
Caroline Lindsley 1  
Gigi Howard 14  
Kylie Lindsley 17  
Chuck Thor 19  
Naomi Wahl 20



## Anniversaries

No reported anniversaries  
in February

## 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.  
Pray Without Ceasing weekly prayer service, Wednesdays, 6:00 pm.  
Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:00 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 (VP)	(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>
Michael Russell	(616) 283-6723 <a href="mailto:miker163@yahoo.com">miker163@yahoo.com</a>
Brian Underhill (Pres)	(616) 292-7194, <a href="mailto:underhillbrian@yahoo.com">underhillbrian@yahoo.com</a>
Pastor Jess	(616) 403-4660, <a href="mailto:pj.gslc@gmail.com">pj.gslc@gmail.com</a>

## IN OUR JANUARY PRAYERS

### *In Our January Prayers...*

- **Our Sympathies:** To the Bacon family and friends on the passing of Branden's grandmother, Marilyn, on December 24, 2025. To Justin Walker, (Pastor's husband) brother Rodney, and their families on the passing of their father/grandfather, Roger Walker, on January 19, 2026.
- **Congratulations:** to the Norvells and their granddaughter on the birth of twins Quinn & Remi, November 26th.
- **Praise and Thanksgiving.** Nan Ehram, (Julie Bolton's sister-in-law), has conquered cancer and is adjusting well to living with one lung. Russ Taylor (Julie Bolton's father) is well enough to be removed from the prayer list.
- **Ministries of the Month, January:** Community Action House and Pastor Jess.
- **Healing/Peace:** Beth Andrus (Eve's daughter) surgery on Dec. 30, Randy Bacon (Branden's father) healing from open heart surgery, Barton Family (friends of Julie Bolton, Corinne Becker, surgery went well, promising prognosis, Corinne Becker, breast cancer, Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Jake Bird, cancer treatment (Corinne's son-in-law), Bryan Blank, former member, needs a kidney transplant, Greg Bolton, (brother-in-law of Julie Bolton), Patricia Bradfield, Mary & Wayne Cagle (friends of Sally Ponstein) Wayne diagnosed with lung cancer, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) cancer diagnosis, Dan Eckes (PJ's uncle) recovering from open heart surgery, Nan Ehram, (Julie Bolton's sister-in-law), cancer diagnosis, Shawn Felgenhaur (Kerry Johnson's sister) prayers for continued healing, Jayce Genzinger (Tammy Walter's step-niece's son) born premie in July, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Jan (Cathy Sytsma's sister), Holly Johnson, (Steve & Kerry's daughter), Connie Lentz (friend of Kathy Shoup), Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Linda (Lois Robinson's daughter) has pneumonia, Marilyn (Branden Bacon's gr.mother) is in hospice, John & Judy Madison, (Lois' neighbors) both undergoing cancer treatment, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Ron Meyer, Pat Ponstein (Sally's sister-in-law) is in the hospital, Kris Norvell, neck surgery Nov. 7, Sharon Redding (Lois R's granddaughter m-i-l) has stage 4 cancer and is on hospice care. Rick, (Brian Dixon's dad) undergoing treatment for sepsis, Elizabeth and Janice Russell (Mike & Vicki's niece and sister-in-law respectively) prayers for continued improvement, Elizabeth Russell (Mike & Vicki's niece), recovery from brain surgery, Janice Russell (Mike & Vicki's sister-in-law) healing prayers, Greg & Janice Russell (Mike's brother & sister in law) injured in a car accident, Vicki Russell, recovering from laparoscopic knee surgery, Jan. 7, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) recovery from transplant surgery, Stella, 7 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friend's granddaughter) prayers for non-rejection of transplant, Russ Taylor, (Julie Bolton's father) surgery recovery, Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Chuck Thor, Brian Underhill, Steve Unruh (Corinne's bro.) colon cancer treatments, Tim Wahl, (Naomi's brother) recovering from back surgery on 10/30, seriously injured in a fall, Julia Wentz, chemotherapy treatments, Dennis Willaman.
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Susan Straith, 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), Mitchell Johnson (Parrott's nephew), Koa Rosally (Grossman's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rev. Dana Hendershot, Mt. Pleasant; First Lutheran Church, Rev. William Uetric, Muskegon; Harbor of Grace Lutheran Church, Rev. Jake Ferra, Muskegon; Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Sarah Samuelson, New Era.