

# youth MINISTRY

High School  
Sundays 6:00-8:00 PM

Dec. 4– You Asked For It Night!

Dec. 11– Christmas Party!

Middle School  
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 PM

Dec. 7– MEGA WEDNESDAY

Dec. 14– Christmas Party!

**House Church** – Every other Monday night our high school youth group will be gathering at the Buck's home for a time of worship and Bible Study. We aren't going to be satisfied just knowing who Jesus is; we are going to push one another to live like Jesus did! For the Buck's address and dates of our meetings, please email Greg at [gregs@orchardhill.org](mailto:gregs@orchardhill.org).

## WINTER RETREAT

### High School Winter Retreat

Join us Feb. 3-5 as our group heads up to Cran Hill Ranch for our 2017 Winter Retreat! Cost is \$100. We will be enjoying outdoor activities such as tubing, skiing, ice wall climbing, broomball, snowshoeing, as well as worshipping and eating some great food! Sign up ASAP. \$100 is due by December 18.

### Middle School Winter Retreat

Join us Jan. 27-29 out at Camp Geneva for our middle school retreat! Cost is \$100. There will be plenty of fun activities such as sledding, broomball, rock climbing as well as worshipping and growing closer as a group! Sign up ASAP. \$100 is due by December 18.



To receive more info about anything happening with the 6th-12th graders please contact Greg Salmon at [gregs@orchardhill.org](mailto:gregs@orchardhill.org) ~ 616.784.4060 ext227.



## WHO WILL YOU INVITE TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS?

Let's be honest, inviting your friends to church isn't the easiest conversation to have. Nothing like bringing up Church while watching football...

Your friends: "That call was \$%&\$ing terrible!"

You: "Hey, do you want to come to Church with me next week?"

It can bring almost any conversation to a screeching halt...and make it awkward from that moment on...until you leave...and that person never talks to you again...ever! Just kidding, they might talk to you again... eventually. But seriously, inviting someone to Church can be hard to do. But, rest assured, it can be done. In fact, the Christmas season offers one of the more easier times to invite a friend to a service or event. Why is that?

It is because even if a person isn't a regular attendee to a church, they are more likely to go during Christmas or Easter to celebrate the 2 big events for Christians. In a recent poll of 1,000 Americans, LifeWay Research found six out of ten Americans typically attend church at Christmas time. **But among those who don't attend church at Christmas time, a majority (57 percent), say they would likely attend if someone they knew invited them.** "Regular churchgoers may assume the rest of America has already made up their mind not to attend church," said Scott McConnell, vice president of LifeWay Research. "In reality, many would welcome going to a Christmas service with someone they know."

So, how can you effectively invite a friend to Orchard Hill this Christmas season?

1. **Share an invite on your social media accounts.** You know, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Sharing an image or even writing something on your social media accounts could be a great and non-threatening way to invite someone to church. Then, when you share, you can mention that you are going and you'd love for others to join you. There are always people looking (whether they mention it on a post or not) for a church to attend during Christmas. You are simply sharing what Orchard Hill has to offer.

2. **Invite them to church and then out to dinner somewhere.** All of our Christmas season services will offer carols and a message of Christmas. So any Sunday in December is a great opportunity to invite someone and then go out to dinner after the service is over. (Then ask them what they thought...and simply listen.)

3. **Grab some of our invites and pass them out.** Whether you are out the grocery store, coffee shop, or in an office area, as you talk with others about your plans for the holidays, hand them an invite to join you.

4. **Just ask.** Could it be awkward? Yes. Could someone say no? Sure. But who knows, maybe they'll say yes. Pray before and ask God for the words to say and how to approach it.

The reality is people tend to be open to going to church, especially during Christmas Eve. But, they don't want to go to alone where they know no one (who does, really?) So this year, ask God to show you who you should be inviting to Orchard Hill this Christmas season. From our Sunday services, to the outreach musical, to the Blue Christmas service, there are many opportunities to give away some Good News this year!

-Bob Karel





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MISSION TRIP

#### Adult Mission Trip

**WHAT:** Disaster relief/building trip with World Renew

#### **CHECK OUT:**

<http://worldrenew.net/>

**WHEN:** March 5-11, 2017  
(Many College Spring Breaks)

**WHO:** Anyone 18 years old and older.

Spend a week serving the Lord and getting to know new friends! Come to the information meeting in the Man Cave (room 210) on December 11, following the Sunday service. Email Pastor Laura at [laurac@orchardhill.org](mailto:laurac@orchardhill.org) for more info or to sign up! Don't have any building skills? No problem— come with an open heart, a willingness to learn, and ready to work hard!

### GUARDIANS OF CHRISTMAS

**WHO ARE YOUR 4 IN THE DOOR?** As we gear up for our Christmas musical, don't forget the reason we do this— to bring the good news to those in need of God's love! Who are the four people in your life you can bring to the musical this year, sharing with them the good news and grace of Jesus Christ?

## UPDATES & THANK YOUS

Thank you to everyone who was able to help host, pray for, or donate food to our Thanksgiving meal for America's Best Value Inn and Suites. We had a wonderful time getting to know our new friends, sharing God's love around the table, and eating delicious food! God has truly blessed our relationship with that place and people! Keep praying the Lord moves through OHC to be a light at the motel through the doors God opens there!

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our blood drives through Michigan Blood this year! Through the efforts of the Orchard Hill blood drives, 237 people in West Michigan will be impacted by the gift of blood— a gift of life!

Our cup (or wooden bin) literally overflowed this Thanksgiving season with donations from our congregation for the Northwest Food Pantry! THANK YOU for sharing God's love in this community by providing food to keep the pantry stocked for our neighbors in need throughout the cold winter season! We were blown away by the generosity of this community- praise the Lord!

For more information contact Laura Claus at [laurac@orchardhill.org](mailto:laurac@orchardhill.org)

## WHO STOLE THE HEART OF THE HOLIDAY?

ORCHARD HILL CHURCH PRESENTS

# GUARDIANS OF CHRISTMAS

Captain Christmas  
Tinsel Man

Winter Woman  
The Cane

## A SUPER HEROIC CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Friday, December 9 @ 7:00 pm  
Saturday, December 10 @ 3:00 pm  
Sunday, December 11 @ 3:00 pm



**Free Tickets!**  
616-784-4060  
[tickets@orchardhill.org](mailto:tickets@orchardhill.org)

1465 Three Mile Rd NW, Grand Rapids

[www.orchardhill.org](http://www.orchardhill.org)

## THANK YOU!

We want send out a heartfelt thank you all for your generosity when thinking of us for the staff appreciation month. We all have plans for the extra income and are so thankful to have it during the holiday season. We love having you as part of our church family.

Orchard Hill Staff



## HILLKIDS CHOIR!

THE HILLKIDS WILL BE SINGING ON **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**. REHEARSALS ARE TAKING PLACE DURING KIDS WORSHIP AND THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL PRACTICE ON **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11** FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.

## LIL' WORSHIPPERS!

LIL' WORSHIPPERS DANCERS WILL BE DANCING ON **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11** AT THE 10:00 AM SERVICE

KIDS AGES 5-10 YRS. OLD ARE WELCOME! **TWO REHEARSALS ON TUESDAYS**  
**NOVEMBER 29 & DECEMBER 6**  
**5:00 PM - 6:00 PM**  
KIDS MUST ATTEND **BOTH** REHEARSALS TO DANCE.

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED PULL OUT DECORATIONS FROM THE GARAGE AND CAME IN DURING THE WEEK TO MAKE THE CHURCH BEAUTIFUL! SPECIAL THANKS TO KAREN BENCHICH & TERRI BLANCH FOR YOUR WORK IN THE ENTRANCES AND LOBBY!

# Worship Ministries

## Mark Your Calendars!

**NOVEMBER 27- 1st ADVENT 10:00 AM**

Candlelight at the Lord's Table

**DECEMBER 9, 10, 11**

GUARDIANS OF CHRISTMAS! - see details on next page!

**DECEMBER 18 10:00 AM**

Celebratory Worship  
Hillkids Christmas Choir

**DECEMBER 18 at 6:00 PM**

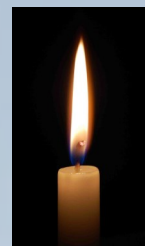
Blue Christmas Service

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**December 24 5:30 PM**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Beautiful music and the Spoken Word.



## ARE YOU A GENEROUS GIVER?

During the God First series in November Pastor Bob preached a message, "Life God First by Being Generous". During this sermon we learned how being generous with our time and with our talents helps live a God first life, and we, also, heard how being generous with our resources is important to living this God first life. Pastor Bob showed us how the 10% tithe was the standard set in the Old Testament, when the Israelites were living under the law, and how we, who Jesus died for so we would no longer be under the law but could gain salvation by believing in him, should be even more generous. So how generous are we?



We have 189 giving units that give on consistent, regular basis. We have 234 giving units that have contributed tithes and offerings this year.

Since the first of the year \$587,899 has been contributed to the General Fund through tithes and offerings.

Using only the consistent, regular, tithers, this means on average each giving unit has contributed \$3,111 in tithes and offerings through the end of October. We have studies that show the average income in the Walker area in \$51,148. If we adjust this for a ten-month period, January through October, the average income would be \$42,623. Using an "average" is dangerous in some ways because we just take the amount given, divide by the number of giving units, and come up with a number. We know many people give more than the average of \$3,111, but we know, conversely, that many give less. We also know that many family's incomes are higher than \$51,000 a year while some are less. While it may not be perfect, by looking at averages we can get an idea of how generous a congregation we really are. Using the numbers above, the average giving unit is giving a tithe of 7.30%, which is well below even the Old Testament prescribed tithe.

You know your situation. You know your income; you know what you give; take a moment, look your numbers over and see if you truly are a generous giver. If not, begin to refocus and ask God to help you make the changes you need to make so you can become a cheerful, generous giver. After all, God gave his one and only Son for you!

Frank Harper, Church Administrator

*Coming to Orchard Hill*

**January 16**



**re|engage**

16 week marriage enrichment class  
Mondays from 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
hosted by Pastor Kathy and Bill Bartels  
Bill and Robyn Noordyk

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### Preschool and Child Care Center News

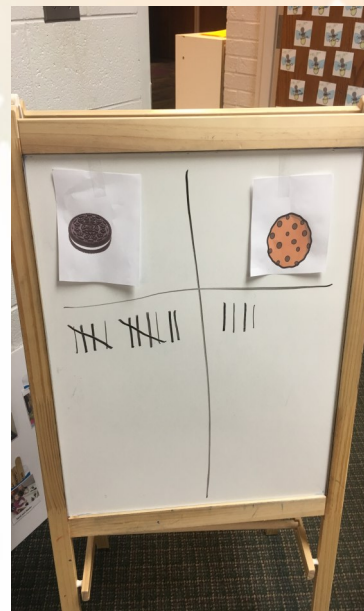
The month of December is a bustling one at the Preschool and Child Care Center with holiday celebrations, giving to those in need, and experiencing the wondrous story of our savior's birth. Our children and their families were privileged to participate in The Other Way Christmas Store Program once again this year. We were so proud of the outpouring of donations for this amazing program and are blessed to be a part of serving our community in this way.



Our preschool and pre-k children are delighted to be performing for their families in our annual Children's Christmas Program on December 15. The evening will include many of our favorite Christmas songs as well as the reciting of the Bible verses centered around Christ's birth that the children have been working so hard on. We will wrap up the evening with refreshments and connection time in the beautiful newly decorated narthex area upstairs. The school-age children and staff recently finished their School-Age Quality Rating System Assessment. We are very proud of the amount of time and effort the school-age staff put into this assessment and we are hopeful for a favorable rating of at least 4 or 5 stars. After we receive our rating, the school-age program will be one of the only programs in our area to be rated for quality. My staff and I appreciate your prayers as we work our way through this assessment.

As my staff and I look forward to the new year we want to also take the time to thank the Orchard Hill Church and its congregation for its unwavering support and prayers. We continue to feel so blessed to be a part of this vital ministry and are excited about our positive growth recently. The center will soon be expanding from 100 to 125 children and anticipate further growth in the years to come. Thank you again for allowing this ministry to make a difference in so many little lives in our community.

Check out the school-age group "On the Hill" in the Mannequin Challenge on our Facebook page! - Jennifer Gray, Center Director



The firefly class voting on what they felt the best cookie was.

Join us for

# entrusted

A Study of 2 Timothy by BETH MOORE

Wednesdays starting January 11

6:30 PM

For more information contact Pastor Kathy at [kathyb@orchardhill.org](mailto:kathyb@orchardhill.org)

### POWERHOUR 2016

Third Thursday of each month

**December 15** Edward Boer, Christmas Storyteller, and Christmas Luncheon at 10:30 AM. Bring a friend!

Power Hour is for all those in our congregation who would like to join together for fellowship and a traditional style of worship.



### Shut-in Christmas Cards

Christmas is just around the corner! Make a commitment this year to share the love of Christ starting with our own shut-in community here at Orchard Hill. We have 30 households in our family that are shut-in and never get out to experience the joy of Christmas. Bring a little Christmas joy to them by sending them your Christmas greetings. This is a wonderful ministry to get your children involved in. It's simple, just pick up a sheet of shut-in labels found at the Connection Corner, fill out Christmas cards, place in envelopes, place label on envelopes, and bring back to Orchard Hill by December 11. Your cards will be sorted and delivered with a small gift to each of our shut-ins. This year we would like to beat last years record of 50 cards per shut-in. Let those who can't be with us each Sunday know that they are thought of and loved during this special time of year.

## VOLUME 3

### A MAN AND HIS TRAPS

Men's Bible Study takes place on Wednesday nights at 6:45 PM and Thursday mornings at 6:45 AM in the Man Cave. We will resume January 18 & 19. We'll begin the new year by engaging another volume in the **Authentic Manhood 33 Series: A Man and His Traps**. We've looked at God's clear design for manhood, a biblical perspective of our own stories, and now we'll look at the things that may be trapping us and keeping us from living as effective Christ Followers. Join us! Looking forward to seeing you there. Questions? Ask Mark Huizinga at [mrhuizinga@live.com](mailto:mrhuizinga@live.com).