

youth MINISTRY

High School

Join us for high school youth group every Sunday night downstairs in the youth area from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. This is a time where students can relax, be themselves, and be encouraged by one another to follow Jesus with all their hearts!

Middle School

Join us for middle school youth group every Wednesday night downstairs in the youth area from 6:30 PM -8:00 PM. Middle school youth group is a great time for students to connect with their peers and more importantly, God!

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 equipping. 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.

CAMP GENEVA MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT: Make sure you sign up to go to Camp Geneva on January 19-21! Cost is \$100. There will be rock climbing, broom ball, worship, sledding, and much more! See Greg for more details or to sign up!



Unite Nite!

Back in November we had a great time inviting the youth group at Remembrance Church over for an evening of worship and relay race fun! To the left are some students working to break out of their escape room, and to the right we have a group racing through the "A-Frame Walk". It was a great evening of being united as Christ followers!



To receive more info about anything happening with the 6th-12th graders please contact Greg Salmon at gregs@orchardhill.org ~ 616.784.4060 ext. 227.



The Christmas season, as always, is a great month of celebration here at Orchard Hill Church. Please take a moment to look at the worship page in this newsletter to view our schedule of Sunday morning Advent services designed to help us all "See the Wonder" of Christmas in a fresh way this year. Our prayer, in this year where we are focusing on going deeper in our walk, is that we all will carve out some extra space and time to pause and consider the wonder of "God with us!" and let that event

transform our lives so we will never be the same.

I believe that when you stop and see the wonder of Christmas it will cause you to look in three places. First, as you come to the manger you should look back. You should consider the past focused on what God has already done for you. Once you were separated from God because of your sins—but now all your sins have been taken away, and you are God's child forever. This happened because Jesus Christ, the baby in the manger, came to give His life for you. The Bible says, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

The second place the wonder of Christmas will cause you to look is at the present—on what God wants to do in your life right now. He wants you to go deeper! He wants you to grow stronger in your faith, and to share His love with others. Make prayer and the Bible part of your life every day. Get connected into a small group. Find a place to serve.

Finally, the third place to look is toward the future—on what God has prepared for you in Heaven. Life isn't always easy—but God is with us, and someday we'll go to be with Him forever. The Psalmist said, "You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand" (Psalm 16:11).

May God bless you this Christmas season as you stop and see the wonder!

- Pastor Bob

WHO ARE YOU INVITING?

Did you know that 82% of people would come to church if a trusted friend invited them? Yet in a typical year, only 2% of Christians invite a friend to church.

See our special Christmas outreach challenge on page two.



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CHRISTMAS COOKIE INVITES

This December, reach out to your neighbors with a delicious container of Christmas cookies or other baked goods. Use this gesture of holiday cheer as a way of developing a relationship with your neighbors, co-workers, peers, etc. Grab a cookie container and an invitation to our Christmas services off of the ministry highlights table, bake something delicious to share, then boldly go and invite someone you know to share in the good news of Jesus with Orchard Hill Church this Christmas season!

Remember, it's not just some cookies and an invitation, it's an open door to invest in others by sharing God's love with those around you!

Challenge

We would love to see Orchard Hill Church reach 300 individuals and families with a special hello and an invitation to one of our Christmas services!



Sunday, Dec. 17 @ 6:00 PM



Sunday, Dec. 3, 10, 17, & 24 @ 10:00 AM



Sunday, Dec. 24 @ 5:30 PM

GUARDIANS OF CHRISTMAS WALK-THROUGH EXPERIENCE UPDATE

After much prayer and conversation, Orchard Hill will not be hosting the Christmas walk-through experience as discussed this year. While we truly believe in this event, this fall saw a lot of new energy and events, and when we

began working on this new Christmas experience, we started feeling a bit behind. As brainstorming soon revealed, we had big plans for this walk-through that we felt needed to be put on hold until next year, in order to make it the best it could be, without burning out the staff and volunteers. While we are sad we will not get to interact with the neighborhood in the same way this year, we feel it will be a needed opportunity of rest and we look forward to this larger than life event coming alive and being done well next Christmas! We look forward to interacting with our neighbors with our Christmas cookie outreach this season!

To sign up or get more information contact Pastor Laura Claus at laurac@orchardhill.org



Join the women's Bible study group on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Beginning January 10, we will discover how to take the band-aids off our wounds and look at the long-term solutions God has in store for us and finding Wholeness in a Broken World by studying the book of Ephesians.

Remember our Shut-ins this Christmas Season With Cards!

Pick up a name label sheet at the Connection Corner and return your cards by December 10 to church and we will deliver them for you. No postage necessary. It's a great way for children and adults to bring a smile to someone's holiday!

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY!

Andrew and Selma Wagner
Covenant Village
2520 Lake Michigan Drive Room 228
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Tony and Beth Andrus and family
3355 Fayette Ave
Grandville, MI 49418

What Child is This?

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 24
5:30 PM

Take a dramatic musical journey with Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and a Wiseman as they recall what it was like to witness the miraculous coming of the Messiah into the world and answer the question for yourself,

What Child Is This?

Preschool and Child Care Center News



As we enter into the holiday season and our Michigan Winter wonderland, we have much to be thankful for this year. The center has celebrated our 36th year of serving God's children and are blessed to have full classrooms every day. Many of our teaching staff have served our families for well over 20 years and we are so grateful for their gifts and talents shared daily with their classes. As a staff we continue to support, encourage, and cheer each other on through every situation and challenge. The passion and excitement for teaching that is alive in the atmosphere of each classroom is such an amazing thing to witness!

All of our classrooms are beginning to experience a platform for learning called "Loose Parts". Part of this form of teaching involves allowing the children to experiment, create and explore with many everyday objects that children might see at home or at school. These objects than are used to learn from as the children problem solve ways to build and design with the pieces. The key piece to this type of teaching and learning is that no glue or tape may be used to hold items together. The trick is that this allows the children to experiment approaches to keep the objects together in unique ways. This is an excellent STEM activity and a process that is being offered to all of our age groups.

- Jennifer Gray, Center Director



The annual Mom2Mom sale will be held on Saturday, February 24 from 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Proceeds of this event go towards the education of the children that attend the Orchard Hill Child Care and Preschool Center. Please contact Shawna Veletema at 616-443-2961 or mom2momgr@gmail.com for information regarding renting a space to sell your goods.

These gently used items are usually sold at 80% or more BELOW retail value. Make sure you come early so you can shop and \$AVE!

Children's Corner

We will be hosting our next Arts Camp remix on January 13 at 4:00 PM. PLEASE NOTE WE ARE NOT HAVING REMIX IN DECEMBER.

If your child would like to be in the performance on Sunday, December 10, please have them join us for a rehearsal in the Resource Room after church on December 3. The service will consist of songs with narration and will be a great service to invite family and friends. Hope your child will join us!





Compassionate Christian Counseling has come to Orchard Hill

Orchard Hill Reformed Church would like to welcome Compassionate Christian Counseling to our church location for the provision of counseling services to the congregation and neighboring community. Compassionate Christian Counseling's licensed therapists provide clinical counseling with a Christ centered approach. They bring experience in a wide range of emotional and behavioral issues such as depression, anxiety, grief, parenting, marital issues, and beyond. Within a comfortable and supportive atmosphere, they strive to provide services that extend the healing ministry of Jesus to the person who is hurting and wounded; to bring hope, healing, and wholeness. Compassionate Christian Counseling does accept most insurances and a sliding fee scale will be available. (Please contact Pastor Kathy for help from the church for counseling concerns.) Appointments will be available beginning Tuesday, December 5 from 1:00 to 8:00 PM and Friday, December 8 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. You can reach CCC to schedule an appointment at 616 296-2130.

"The Making of Tear Soup"
Blue
Christmas
A service of remembrance and hope

December 17
Service at 6:00 PM
Soup Dinner at 7:00 PM



Ever Thought about Becoming a Stephen Minister?

Orchard Hill will be training a class of Stephen Ministers on Thursday evenings starting on January 18 from 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry. This is a two-year commitment filled with joy and fellowship. Sandy Otstott who became a Stephen Minister said, "To me, Stephen Ministry is learning how to walk alongside a person being able to offer compassion, faith, and trust. It teaches you how to do this with empathy and strength." If you think you might be interested or need more information talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Terri Blanch at terri.l.blanch@gmail.com or Pastor Kathy at kathyb@orchardhill.org. Come and join this class and learn how to care for people using the gifts God has given you.

Senior Christmas Luncheon
December 21st
10:30 AM
Tickets \$12
On sale now!
 Contact the church office or pick yours up on Connection Corner

Come share the JOY
 Unwrap the True Gift of Christmas

Christmas Worship

This season at Orchard Hill celebrate the true wonder of Christmas, and see that because of Jesus, anything is possible!



MARK YOUR SUNDAY WORSHIP CALENDARS!

December 3 10:00 AM
First Advent Celebration with Communion, Carols and Candlelight

December 10 10:00 AM
Hillkids Choir Nativity Sing
Reach Girls Dance Performance

December 17 10:00 AM
The Music of Christmas with OH Musicians & Lil' Worshipers

December 17 6:00 PM
Blue Christmas Service for those who have suffered loss or just need to be encouraged

December 24 10:00 AM
Christmas Eve Morning Celebration with Carols and Bells

December 24 5:30 PM
Christmas Eve Evening Dramatic Musical Presentation "What Child Is This?"
Discover the answer through the eyes of those who were there on that first Christmas Night

INSTRUMENTALISTS WANTED!

We are looking for musicians to play with the band in worship on December 17. Please let Wendy know if you are interested and we will get you music!

BELL RINGERS WANTED!

We are looking for a small group of ringers interested in playing on Christmas Eve morning! Please let Pastor Kathy know if you are interested!

CHRISTMAS DECORATING!

We will be decorating the church for Christmas the week of November 26. Please email the church to sign up for a time slot!

LIL' CHRISTMAS WORSHIPPERS!

We will start a new Lil' Worshipers class in December to dance in worship on December 17.

REHEARSALS

Saturdays, December 9 & 16 9:30-10:30 AM
Meeting in the Choral Room
4-10 yrs. Old

No need to sign up in advance this time! Please make sure your child can be at both practices.

Questions? Contact Wendy Huizinga wendyh@orchardhill.org