

December, 2021

ORCHARD HILL CHURCH

# Ministry Highlights

1465 3 Mile Road NW • Grand Rapids • [orchardhill.org](http://orchardhill.org) • 616.784.4060

## THE MAGIC CHRISTMAS BUS

A FREE magical interactive Christmas production for the whole family! Join Ms. Carol Karel as she and the amazing crew of the Magic Christmas Bus take us on an unforgettable Christmas adventure with music, magic tricks, puppets, and a giant red Christmas Bus!!

Tickets are free, but must be reserved. Seating is limited and tickets may sell out. Please reserve your FREE tickets today at [orchardhill.org/tickets](http://orchardhill.org/tickets).

[wendyh@orchardhill.org](mailto:wendyh@orchardhill.org)

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS OUTREACH

Orchard Hill is working with our mission partners to provide local parents in need with Christmas presents for their children. Share God's love with these families in two ways:

1. Take a child's tag off the tree in the West entry, sign the tag out, and return the corresponding gifts by **Sunday, December 12** (attach the child's name and age to the gifts).
2. Volunteer to meet with parents who come to pick up gifts, give them their Christmas kits from OHC (designed to help families celebrate Jesus), and pray for them. December 15 & 16, with time slots from 2:00 PM- 6:00 PM. Sign up on the Connection Card.

[laurad@orchardhill.org](mailto:laurad@orchardhill.org)

## WORSHIP CHOIR

If you love to sing, come join our special Christmas Choir to sing on Sunday, December 19 rehearsing on Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in singing, send Wendy an email at [wendyh@orchardhill.org](mailto:wendyh@orchardhill.org) and she will send you a playlist to listen to the week prior to singing!

[wendyh@orchardhill.org](mailto:wendyh@orchardhill.org)

## THANK YOU

The Pastors and Staff want to thank our church family for all the many ways you blessed and encouraged us during "Staff Appreciation Month." We find it a joy each and every week to be able to serve the Orchard Hill Church family and love shining the light from our hill along side you.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP-10:00 AM

We are continuing our Advent Series, *Christmas Changes Everything*, as we consider that when God came in the flesh and dwelt among us, everything changed!

December 5: Redemption became Possible  
December 12: Holiness Became Visible  
December 19: Prayer Became Personal  
December 26: Carol Sing & Christmas Reflection

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 5:30 PM

Join us for a special candlelight service with drama, music and the Word as we celebrate *Emmanuel, God with us*.

## GENEROSITY

We are now almost half way through our budget year (July 21-June 22) and at this point we are trending about 8% behind in our estimated giving with our budget shortfall being right around \$20,000.00. This seems to be a residual affect of trying to bounce back from Covid-19. Prior to Covid, we had an average of 94 giving units each week, where as now we have an average of 71 contributors each week. We encourage all who call Orchard Hill home to visit our website and sign-up for e-giving through MOGIV so that whether you are at home or in-person, you can give to God's work through Orchard Hill on a faithful and regular basis.

*Blue Christmas*

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE

December 5 at 6:00pm  
Orchard Hill Church

Soup & Salad Dinner at 5:15

## OHC AND THE RCA

The long-awaited Vision 2020 report finally came to General Synod 2021 this October. Unfortunately, the report did little to address the division that has developed in the RCA over the past four decades. Over the course of these years, the RCA has spent a lot of time in discussion and discernment over the issue of sexuality and marriage. While the RCA has never voted to leave the historical and orthodox interpretation of scripture, in practice, more and more RCA Pastors, Churches and the RCA Seminaries are turning their back on that stance and are operating in a contrary way. Because the governmental structure of the RCA does not allow for there to be correction brought to these Pastors, Churches and the Seminaries, the drift away from the clear Biblical teaching of God's word is continuing. This drift towards a revisionist and progressive view of God's Word is an untenable position for those who hold to the unchanging authority of God's Word. During the last forty years, countless number of conversations and proposals have been made to bring the RCA back into alignment with God's Word, but all efforts have failed. As a result, the Vision 2020 Team was organized to provide a way forward for the denomination. The report unfortunately failed to address the core issues around Biblical authority. What was offered are regulations for mutually generous separation when churches choose to leave the RCA to pursue new connections that will honor the integrity of God's Word and allow for mutual ministry to take place. Given this situation, Orchard Hill Church leadership has formed a team to begin exploring the possibility of leaving the RCA. There are a multitude of issues involved with a decision of this magnitude and as the team processes through them, we will keep our church family up-to-date. Please be in prayer for this team and our decisions as a church.

**Pastors Bob and Laura will be hosting a brief conversation about this process in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 5 following the morning service for those interested.**

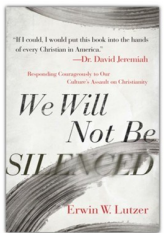
## CHURCH PROPERTY

Over the past few years we have considered a number of opportunities that have been brought our way regarding how to best use the resource of 42 acres on our corner that God has entrusted to us. Some of those opportunities have been to offer our land as a hub for ministry development within our community, while others were to simply sell a portion of the land to developers and then use the money to advance our ministry priorities at Orchard Hill. As these options have been considered, what became apparent is that OHC needs to seek God's clear leading on how we can best utilize the land for His kingdom. In that regard, our leadership has decided to spend the next six months in a season of discernment. We envision this season to be both a time of individual and communal prayer. Our hope is, at the end of this season, we would have a clear sense of God's leading to either sell a portion of the property or to retain the property for cooperative ministry development. Please pray with us!



## LIBRARY NEWS

Current culture considers biblical faith an expression of bigotry and hatred, yet resorts to shaming and pressure tactics to enforce other views. How do you witness to Christian beliefs without arguing or being intimidated into silence? In *We Will Not Be Silenced*, Erwin Lutzer offers ways to respond with truth, gentleness, and Christlike love, showing compassion and not compliance or conformity. Check it out in our church library!



## OHCPC NEWS

The learning center has been busy these past couple of months! The school hosted a STEM night where families enjoyed exploring planned activities the teachers prepared revolving around science, technology, engineering, and math. It's always wonderful when learning, love, and fun go hand in hand! The school took a field trip to the Grand Rapids Children Museum where they were able to enjoy the space all to themselves! The activities and exhibits are perfect for early childhood, and they had a wonderful time exploring and learning all through the wonder of play! We appreciate the continued prayers for health and protection! The love and support the center receives from the church family is felt and God is doing wonderful things in the ministry here at the Learning Center!