

# ORCHARD HILL CHURCH

December, 2022

# Ministry Highlights

1465 3<sup>rd</sup> Mile Road NW • Grand Rapids • orchardhill.org • 616.784.4060

## CHRISTMAS INVITES

Take an invitation from the table by the entrances to use as conversation starters to share the good news and to invite others to celebrate with you at Orchard Hill!

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

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Mark your calendars for a very special night of worship, beginning at 5:30 PM on Christmas Eve.

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

## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Our Christmas Eve offering will be used to fuel the spread of the good news of Jesus as we support the training and development of future ministers and missionaries. All gifts received in this special offering will be used to build up our fund dedicated to providing financial assistance to those who are furthering their theological and ministry education as well as those who are following a call to church planting both locally and overseas. The fund is called *The Bast Fund* and is named in honor of Dr. Henry Bast who served Bethany Reformed Church, taught preaching at Western Theological Seminary, and was the featured speaker of the Words of Hope broadcast. Let's give generously and help those who feel called to pursue full-time ministry!

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

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

This year we will be having a special online Christmas Day service! Everyone is invited to take a special "Christmas Day Worship Box" that will be packed with items to participate in the service. Each household from OHC is encouraged to take a box and share it with someone who might enjoy this interactive worship experience. The online service will launch at 8:00 AM and can be viewed anytime during Christmas Day!

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

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS OUTREACH

Orchard Hill is working with our local community and mission partners to provide Christmas presents for children whose parents are facing financial hardship. Share God's love with families in three 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 11 (attach the tag number to the gifts).
2. Volunteer to help sort gifts as they come in or fill out tags for the children to hang on the trees.
3. Volunteer to meet with parents picking up gifts, give them their Christmas kits from OHC (designed to help families celebrate Jesus), and pray for them, on Wednesday, December 14, or Thursday, December 15, with time slots from 2:00 PM– 6:00 PM. Sign up on the connection card or the Sign Up Post.

If you are a family from OHC and you would be blessed by this extra support this Christmas, please let us know!

[bethdewaal@yahoo.com](mailto:bethdewaal@yahoo.com)

## DECEMBER WORSHIP– GLORY

The angels sang "Glory to God" at Jesus birth. Glory is a word used to describe the greatness of God. Throughout this Christmas season we are going to consider the life changing implications of God's glory coming to earth to live and dwell among us.

- December 4: 10:00 AM *Glory Enthroned*;

6:00 PM Blue Christmas

- December 11: 10:00 AM *Glory Arrived*;

Hillkids Christmas program *O Jesse Tree*

- December 18: 10:00 AM *Glory Declared*

- December 24: 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

- December 25: Online all day Worship at Home with your Christmas Box

## LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PATH

This Christmas season we will be celebrating an event on our new Lighted Christmas Path! (Behind the East Parking lot). The path will be lit up and our church family and community are invited to walk the path to *GOD WITH US* during the weekend of December 16, 17, 18, 6:00 PM– 9:00 PM. There will be lights, hot chocolate, photos by the nativity, and Christmas Carolers as we celebrate Jesus! To get involved, sign up at the Ministry Table in the lobby!

We are looking for people to serve in the following capacities:

- **ADOPT A TREE:** Families or Small Groups decorate one of the path trees. The trees will be lit, you just have to decorate. You can pick a theme or just be creative!

- **LIGHTING/DECORATING TEAM:** We will need many hands to help light up the path

- **GREETER TEAM:** Sign up for one of the evenings and greet our guests who come to the event

- **HOSPITALITY TEAM:** Help serve hot chocolate and cookies one of the nights

- **DONATE COOKIES:** We need a lot of cookies for the event. Buy or bake 2 dozen cookies (have them to church by December 15)

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

## HILLKIDS CHRISTMAS CHOIR

The choir rehearsals are beginning this month! The HillKids Choir is available for Preschool through 5th graders. There will be a snack provided during the rehearsal for the kids. The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

December 4: after church until 1:00 pm

December 11: HillKids Choir Performance

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

## 20'S & 30'S COUPLES: CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Join us for the next 20's and 30's engaged and married couples event on Saturday, December 3 at 5:30 PM! We will meet at Orchard Hill for a Christmas potluck dinner and games (including fowling and axe throwing)! Come dressed in your favorite festive wear! This will be a great time to get to know other couples at OHC as you connect with your spouse!

[cmkunst6@yahoo.com](mailto:cmkunst6@yahoo.com)

## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Orchard Hill Church warmly invites you to join us for a Blue Christmas Service. The evening will be a time of reflection, celebration, comfort, hope and healing for those who have experienced loss. Loss could include the death of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of a friendship, or a loss of a marriage. Be sure to join us!

**December 4, 2022**

**6:00 PM: Program- *Light in the Darkness***

**5:15 PM: Soup & Sandwich Dinner (optional)**

[terri.l.blanch@gmail.com](mailto:terri.l.blanch@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS SENIOR GATHERING

**Tuesday, December 13**

**10:30 AM Worship- Lunch following**

Seniors, young and old, are invited to join us for a special worship service and catered lunch! RSVP to the church office if you will be attending.

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

## NEW YEARS DAY SERVICE

Sunday, January 1, our service will be held in the Gathering Space at 11:00 AM. This will be an informal and community focused time together where we will enjoy brunch, worship God, and celebrate Communion.

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

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CHOIR

Join us for two special singing opportunities!

1. Christmas Day Video Taping Night- Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. Be part of our online service as we sing Christmas carols for the Christmas Day sing video! Wear something festive and be ready for fun and fellowship!
2. Christmas Worship Choir practice- Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 PM to sing in worship on Sunday, December 18!

## GRATITUDE

OH Family: We can not thank you enough for the love, prayers, meals, and endless support while Bennet has been battling epilepsy and his brain surgery. We appreciate the continued prayers that the surgery and device will be life changing for Bennet and be a complete success. We are blessed to be part of an amazing church family. Thank you all again.

- Bennet Veltema and family

Thank you to all the wonderful Orchard Hill volunteers for making trunk or treat a success! We had around 575 people come through our doors and be blessed by your smiles, kindness and amazing costumes. It was neat to hear stories about kids talking about Arts camp, or seeing the magic Christmas bus lady. Glory be to God for a flawless night!

- Beth DeWaal, Mark Bauer, and Tony Andrus

Dear friends at Orchard Hill Church: We would like to thank Orchard Hill Church leaders and congregation for your hospitality in allowing our counselors to serve clients in your church offices during the week. We are so thankful for this partnership with your church and surrounding community! Cindy Steenstra, Doug Wilson, and Katie Farnquist are all Licensed Professional Counselors who offer Christ-centered counseling, encouragement, and support. If you are looking for a counselor to walk with you through a particular challenge or want to improve your own mental and emotional health, we encourage you to reach out to us! You can learn more about our counseling services and our counselors at [www.cccounseling.net](http://www.cccounseling.net) or call our main office at 616.296.2130.

- Compassionate Christian Counseling

Thank you to everyone who helped out filling the Christmas Worship boxes. It was awesome to see everyone working together to get them done and so quickly! We couldn't have done it without you. Our prayer is that many will be blessed through your hard work.

- Terri Thompson and Wendy Huizinga

## ORCHARD HILL CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL & CHILD CARE NEWS

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! Counting our blessings and naming them one by one! This past month the center had a field trip to the Children's Museum, teachers completed their first assessments for the year, we captured many adorable smiles for picture day, and hosted our annual Stem/Science night. Despite the wintry weather, we had a wonderful turn out for Science Night! Families and staff shared a meal together and then dispersed throughout the center to participate in the fun activities planned by the teachers.

We appreciate your continued prayers for our families and staff as many are walking through challenging circumstances. We continue to trust in our all-knowing and loving God each day! Thank you again for being a part of our Childcare ministry!

