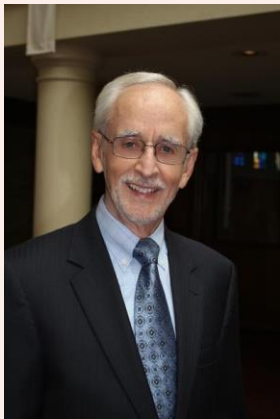


CONNECTED

May 18, 2025

Welcome to North Hills Christian Reformed Church, a church that glorifies... gathers... and grows! If this is your first time here, an especially warm welcome to you, and we hope you'll return again! This weekly newsletter, *Connected*, is published each Sunday. During the week, be sure to surf to our website for the latest information and pictures: www.northhillscrc.org. We thank all our volunteers today, including **Ed Cattini** for serving at the Welcome Desk this morning.

Everyone is invited to the **Fellowship Hall** for fellowship and refreshments—thanks to **Lea & Mike VanAmberg**, today's hosts.



We welcome to our pulpit today the Rev. **John Steigenga**, Pastor emeritus of the LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids. **Pastor & Kathy Engle** are in Mexico to officiate the wedding of **Hector Montañez & Jenna Woodrow**. Pastor Engle returns to the office on Tuesday.

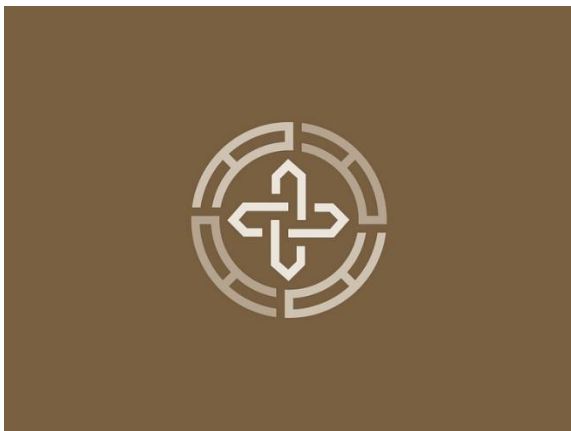
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES today:

During the service:

Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers meet in Room D with **Kip Drewry & Rachel Thompson**. Parents can sign in their child(ren) starting at 9:20am.

Sunday School Hour (following worship):

K–3rd grade students meet **Elizabeth Jolliffe, Michelle Konik & Zak Konik** by the “Big Clock” in the atrium following the service. Today we'll enjoy the last Sunday School class of the year with a popsicle surprise!



Adults: Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary at 10:45am. Led by our Vice-President Patrick Rode, we will select new officers to succeed Elders **Brenda Bierenga & Michael Krogh**, and Deacons **Cheryl Yuhas & Lorianne Zondag**. The nominees are:

For Elder:

Jeff Feikens
Gina Grembowski
Michael Lopez
Michael Rupke

Our STEWARDSHIP:

May 11 tithe:

\$14,469

Tithes received through May 11:

\$209,631

Ministry plan need through May 11:

\$202,788

There are four ways to give your offering:

- In person: An offering plate is at the east Sanctuary entrance
- Our website: Click “giving” tab
- Mail: Send a check to North Hills Church / 3150 N Adams Road / Troy / 48084
- On your phone: Download and use Vanco mobile app (Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement)



For Deacon:

Kim Fallopa
Daniel Gu
Cody Heuker
Anton van Breemen

This week's birthdays:

May 19: Janice Krum
May 23: Johanna (Ruit) Goddard
May 24: Abigail McKay Cherry
May 24: Becca Woodrow
May 25: Mark Elliott



Interested in playing on the **men's softball team** this summer? Whether you play regularly or haven't played in years, we would like you to join us in this fellowship activity. You can play once or the whole season.

Our games are in Birmingham starting at 6:15pm. The regular season schedule is:

Th May 22
Th June 5
W June 11
M June 16
M June 23
M June 30
M July 7

Please see Jeff Feikens with any questions.



Hearty thanks to all who helped with this year's yard clean up and work bee on Saturday, May 3: **Dan Asma, Polly Ayers, Jack Boughton, Matt Brouwer, Kyle Dexter, Randy Drewry, Mark Elliott, Kathy Engle, Jeff Feikens, Jon Feikens, Marty & Terry Hart, Cody & Kassidy & Karly Heuker, Elizabeth Jolliffe, Michael Lopez, Marta & Richard Murray, Leo Ortel, Ray Rowell, Michael Rupke, Bob & Bonnie Schieferstein, Anton van Breemen, Jerry Van Wyke, Connie Woods**, and anyone else inadvertently missed from this list.



Advice from a GARDEN

Cultivate lasting friendships
Sow seeds of kindness
Listen to sage advice
Don't let the little things bug you
Be outstanding in your field
Take thyme for yourself



Calling all **2025 graduates** of North Hills! Send us your graduation picture, and news of your next chapter after graduation! We'll publish all our graduate information in an upcoming issue of *Connected*. Email to: admin@northhillscrc.org.

News from Michael & Taylor Williams!



April 2025

North Hills Church
3150 Adams Rd
Troy, MI 48064-1269

Dear Friends,

Every step of faith requires courage. Finding this courage is especially important for students and faculty on college campuses, where saying "yes" to Jesus often means stepping into the unknown. Your generosity propels every courageous step students and faculty take on their faith journey.

Thank you! Because of your partnership, the gospel is boldly shared and heard on campus. Thank you, too, for your recent gift of \$1575.00 for:

Michael Williams \$1575.00

The InterVarsity chapter at The College of New Jersey is experiencing remarkable growth thanks to faithful leaders stepping out of their comfort zones. During their New Student Outreach last fall, the chapter collected contact information from 1,500 students and invited them to participate in ministry activities—that is over 21% of their campus population! Nate serves as the chapter's outreach coordinator because, in his words, "There are 7,000 students on campus, and I want every one of them to know about Jesus. I feel an urgency, so I said yes." Nate's urgency and passion for the gospel gives me hope.

Thank you for making InterVarsity's ministry on campus possible. Your support equips faithful leaders like Nate to trust that God will move in mighty ways. Students who step out in faith remind me of when Jesus said, "Come," in Matthew 14:29, and Peter got out of the boat. Students across the country are doing the same, stepping into God's calling with courage. Praise God!

For God's glory,

Tom Lin
President

Queretaro 4 Christ

TRANSFORMING STUDENTS IN MEXICO



Kids Corner

What other language
do you like to learn?

Jaelah: One day I
would like to learn
Russian.

Jaedyn: I would like
to speak Japanese.

Joshua: I would like
to speak French.



Thinking is Believing

This year, the COMPA campus ministry held its national spiritual retreat at Citlali campsite in Valle de Bravo, Estado de Mexico. The location, surrounded by tall green pine trees, offered a serene atmosphere where the only sounds were the songs of birds and the quiet rustle of nature. The retreat took place from April 12th to 17th and was attended by 120 college students, 30 high school students (see the picture above), and 35 volunteers representing 28 different states across Mexico. This was the first time I had the pleasure of attending the retreat with my 18-year-old son, Joshua. We slept in a camping tent, and my prayer was that he would come to know God on a deeper level. My role at the retreat was to provide pastoral care and serve as a camp counselor for the high school students. One evening, I led a question-and-answer session around the bonfire. I encouraged the students to write down any questions they had or doubts they wished to address. Four other COMPA staff and I were there to answer their inquiries from a Christian biblical perspective. We received 30 different questions, which fell into three main categories: doctrine, relationships, and the purpose of life. The goal of this event was to listen attentively to the students and encourage them to contemplate these questions and engage in meaningful discussions. In today's world, characterized by smartphones and social media, the attention span of teens has dwindled. Many are reluctant to invest time in thinking critically about their beliefs amidst a prevailing culture of relativism. As British Anglican pastor and theologian John Stott once remarked, "Thinking is believing." We endeavored to create a safe space for dialogue. The students posed thought-provoking questions such as: "Why does God forgive us consistently?" "Is it wrong to romantically like someone who is not a Christian?" and "Does God want me to study or get a job?" We dedicated an hour

Donate: www.resonateglobalmission.org/jlee

PRAYERS

- **Praise** God that James celebrated his 50th birthday on April 19th.
- **Pray** for us as we are moving to a new house the month of May.
- **Pray** for our ReConnect service from July 1st through August 28th in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- **Pray** that God will continue to sustain us through financial contributions. Currently, we are at **89%** of the annual goal (\$178,000). The end of the fiscal year is June 30, 2025.



Our Contact Information

Email: missionarylee@gmail.com

US phone: 616.383.5227

surprised to see the engagement of the high school students. Their eyes were fixed on the conversation, and many contributed their biblical insights in response to the questions presented. This experience challenged me to recognize the importance of preparing both college and high school students to think critically about diverse topics and engage in humble conversations. Therefore, I ask for your prayers for these students, that they may become thinkers, talkers, and doers in a culture that often stands in opposition to their beliefs.



Walk Alongside Who are Suffering

The ELNEC (End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium) Mexico team prayerfully organized the 11th ELNEC conference on April 25th and 26th. Our community partner, Airapi Funeral Service Home, graciously offered to host the event at no cost. A total of 55 participants attended, with a notable increase in family members of individuals facing end-of-life challenges. Maria shared, "I attended this conference because I want to provide better care for my mother, who is dying of cancer." Elizabeth expressed, "I was exhausted and emotionally drained from taking care of my dying father with cancer. I didn't know how to support him. This conference was an eye-opener for me, and I am leaving with many valuable resources." Attendees could relate deeply to the topics discussed, often nodding in agreement as they connected the content to their own experiences with dying loved ones. One of the modules, taught by James, focused on Culture and Spirituality, addressing perspectives on life after death. Participants engaged actively throughout the conference. On the final day, James created a video using photos submitted by attendees in honor of their departed loved ones. As the video played, the room was enveloped in a profound silence filled with tears, fostering a shared sense of humanity and connection among those mourning their losses. Johnny commented, "This ELNEC conference has deeply impacted me. I realize I need to be vulnerable and patient with my loved ones, and I am not alone. I arrived at this conference by myself, but I am leaving with a community of palliative care professionals and family members who truly understand what I am going through." All attendees recognized the importance of walking alongside those experiencing pain and sorrow as a fundamental aspect of care. Thus, the ELNEC conference serves as a source of accountability and support, demonstrating that we are making a meaningful difference for those who are dying. Let us continue to pray for the ELNEC Mexico team as they assist individuals in finding hope and healing during their end-of-life journeys.



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April 23, 2025

Dear North Hills Christian Reformed Church,

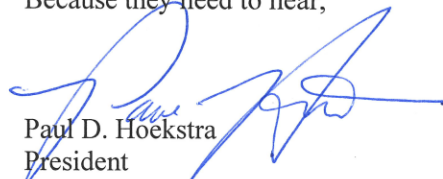
Thank you so much for your generous donation to Talking Bibles!

Your support is making a tangible difference, helping to place Talking Bibles in the hands of those who desperately need to hear God's Word.

Because of partners like you, lives are being transformed. Across Africa, India, and beyond, families, students, and entire communities are hearing Scripture in their heart language—many for the very first time. The impact of your generosity will continue to spread as more non-readers, the blind, and those in oral cultures come to know Christ through the power of the spoken Word.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership in this mission. May you be blessed as you help bring the hope of the Gospel to those who have never had access to it before.

Because they need to hear,


Paul D. Hoekstra
President
Talking Bibles International



Your Generosity in Action:
Annual Report 2024!

Thank you.

Please detach and keep this portion for your records. *All gifts donated to Talking Bibles International are tax-deductible as allowed by law. No goods or services were provided to the donor in return for this gift.*

DONOR RECEIPT

Date: 4/23/2025

Gift to: Talking Bibles International

Gift Amount: \$1,085.00

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Phone: 760.745.8105 Email: info@talkingbibles.org

North Hills Christian Reformed Church
3150 N Adams Rd
Troy, MI 48084-1269

Dear Missions Coordinator,

Thank you for your generous support and your passion to share the gospel. Did you know about an exciting tool that can help simplify your giving to Cru, your church and other charitable organizations?

The Great Commission Donor Advised Fund (GCDAF) is one of the easiest, most effective and popular stewardship tools available right now. It's a wonderful way to use your resources to advance kingdom work. Because it is managed by Cru Foundation, the GCDAF has no administrative fee and is available to Cru donors, like you!

Learn more about the GCDAF -- call 800-449-5454 or email info@crufoundation.org.

Questions regarding your gift receipt or donations to Cru -- call 888-278-7233.

RECEIPT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT THAT HELPS REACH
PEOPLE FOR CHRIST!

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all
my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy
because of your partnership in the gospel from the
first day until now...*

— PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5



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No goods or services were provided by the ministry for this contribution.





ICE CREAM

SOCIAL



**SUMMER
KICK
OFF**

**Sunday
June 8th**



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE

Let's Kick off Summer North Hills!
Join us outside (weather permitting)
for a sweet treat. Ice cream with all
the toppings and popsicles will be
provided.

**ICE CREAM SCOOPERS NEEDED!
PLEASE CONTACT THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM**