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What's Ahead Across the State



Join churches from across Michigan for a powerful time of prayer and renewal at GracePoint Church, March 12–14, 2026. Featuring ministry sessions with Pastor Jacob Skelton, Bishop David Kemp, and breakout leaders, plus tools sessions on Saturday morning.



Thrive: Flourishing in Difficult Places," on May 1–2 at Stewart Road Church. This weekend is designed to encourage, strengthen, and equip women to grow even in challenging seasons. Make plans to be part of a powerful time of worship, teaching, and community.



Winterfest 2026 is coming March 6–8 to the LeConte Center in Pigeon Forge, and students from across the region will gather for a powerful weekend of worship, community, and life-changing encounters with God. Get ready for an atmosphere filled with energy, expectation, and moments your students will remember long after the trip is over.

PRAYER. RENEWAL. EQUIPPING.

Join us March 12–13, 2026, at Gracepoint Church in Riverview, Michigan, for a powerful time in God's presence. On Saturday, March 14, a one-day TOOLS Training will be offered by the Church of God Office. \$25 per person with lunch included. Registration is required via the link or QR code. We look forward to seeing you there.



2026 MICHIGAN YOUTH CAMP



Camp registration for Battle Tested Youth Camp reopens on Sunday, February 1, for both staff and campers. Early bird registration is limited and expected to fill quickly. Once 200 participants have registered, the cost will increase to \$300, so be sure to submit your registration and deposit as soon as possible.



YWEA 26: Africa is focused on bringing health, hope, and education to communities in need across the continent. This year's initiative invites students and churches to be part of a mission that brings real change and reflects the heart of Christ. As we stand on the promise of Jeremiah 29:11, we believe God is using this generation to make a lasting impact—offering hope, building a future, and sharing the love of Jesus in tangible ways.

Junior & Teen Talent 2026 is happening Saturday, April 18, and we can't wait to celebrate the gifts and creativity of students from across Michigan.

Registration opens February 8 and closes April 1, so encourage your students to get involved and showcase what God has placed inside them. It's going to be an incredible day filled with passion, excellence, and unforgettable moments.



UPCOMING RALLIES
WINTER-SPRING, 2026

- 1/18 • CENTRAL MICHIGAN RALLY--NORTHPOINT**
5920 Jefferson Ave, Midland, MI
- 2/15 • EASTERN MICHIGAN--LAPEER COG**
459 E. Oregon St, Lapeer, MI
- 3/1 • SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN--STEWART RD.**
1199 Stewart Rd, Monroe, MI
- 4/12 • WESTERN MICHIGAN--ABUNDANT LIFE**
4041 Byron Center Ave SW, Wyoming, MI
- 4/26 • NORTHERN MICHIGAN--HOUGHTON LAKE**
9949 W Lake City Rd, Houghton Lake, MI
- 5/17 • UPPER PENINSULA--HARBOR LIGHTS**
612 2nd Ave S, Escanaba, MI

For More Information: director@michigancog.org
All rallies begin at 6 pm.



MICHIGAN YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP
YD

JUNIOR & TEEN TALENT

SAT. APRIL 18, 2026

**REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 8TH
AND CLOSSES APRIL 1STTH**

Join us to celebrate our talented Michigan students

A Job Too Big for Michigan Church of God

“Start small. Conquer your closet before you take on the world.” -Byron Tully

A few days ago, Sonja and I drove over to Muskegon, Michigan, to meet with the pastors/spouses on the district in that part of the state. We had a wonderful time with them.

As we were on our way, I noticed a big billboard that showed Smokey Bear with a sad beseeching look on his face. The caption read: “Only You Can Stop Forrest Fires.”

Only me! Really?

Could not others chip in and help? (You know...professionally trained firefighters.)

Do I have to keep an eye on every campfire out there? Is it up to me to stamp out every tossed cigarette and monitor every fireworks show?

And what about lightning-induced fires? Am I responsible for them, too? Honestly, lightning is a bit above my paygrade. (And I'm not even going to discuss volcanic eruptions.)

Was the devastating fire in Los Angeles my fault? All those fires in Canada? What about those huge continually burning forest fires in the Amazon?

The sign said only me.

But dear ole Smokey Bear was lying. It was a well-intentioned lie, and I gladly support the premise behind it and willingly pledge to Smokey Bear that I will do my part, but I will not allow him to put the full responsibility of stopping forest fires on me.

Okay, I know I'm overreacting a bit, but I'm doing so for a purpose.

We often treat other things the same way.

Take the Great Commission, for example. Surely I'm not the only one who has had someone try to make me feel like the salvation of the entire world was my responsibility. If the eternal destination of everyone around me was my responsibility, then to take a break would be to damn some poor soul to hell, to stop to eat would be evil. To finally succumb to exhaustion due to trying to be a faithful witness would mean that a steady stream of souls would be stepping over my exhausted sleeping body as they fell over into hell.

Are we responsible for being a faithful witness? You bet we are.

Do we as individuals and as caring congregations have a vital role in fulfilling the Great Commission in our communities, state, and around the world? Absolutely.

But saving everyone? That's a job that is too big for us.

But before you despair, notice how Jesus breaks down the Great Commission:

1. Jesus has all authority (Matthew 28:18)

2. As we go, we are to make disciples by baptizing them and teaching them the commandments of Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20a)

3. Jesus will be with us to the end of time (Matthew 18:20b)

Did you notice the alpha and the omega? (The beginning and the end?)

It is Jesus. Success is up to him. As we go, we go in his authority and with his presence. In other words, if there's any "saving" going on it will be due to Jesus, not us.

So whether it is stopping forest fires or stopping people from the fires of hell, we all have a role to play. But never forget, only Jesus can save souls (and manage lightning and volcanoes). Keep that clear, represent Jesus well in word & deed, and enjoy the good life God has given you.

That's my advice for all the good people of Michigan Church of God for 2026 and beyond.

May God richly bless you and reward you with many souls for your labor.

David L. Kemp

Administrative Bishop | Michigan Church of God



URGENT

To facilitate promotions to ordained bishop, ensuring ability to participate in the General Council sessions at the upcoming General Assembly, the date of April 1, 2026, has been set as the deadline to receive candidate applications in the Michigan Church of God State Office. This will allow the mandatory time to complete the process of promotion for these applicants. Please note that these promotions are not complete until the signed certificate is received in Business and Records, and needs to be received no later than April 25, 2026.

Also – any promotions to ordained bishop that require International Executive Council approval in the April session must be received no later than March 1, 2026. This would also be true of any applicants requesting early ordination. There will not be another meeting of the Executive Council before the General Assembly.



Girls (Kids Ministries) Opportunities for 2026

As we prepare for the 2026 ministry year, I am excited to share several initiatives that will help expand our reach and deepen our impact:

1. Girls Ministries Affirmed Prayer Mentors-Expanded to All Children

For 2026, I would like to open the Affirmed Prayer Mentors program to both boys and girls. While this is a Girls Ministries-focused program, every child deserves a consistent, caring prayer mentor who can help guide them in their faith, support them spiritually, and walk alongside them as they grow in their relationship with the Lord. Expanding this initiative will allow us to support more families and strengthen the spiritual foundation of our children's ministry. I have included a brochure that you may copy and share with potential prayer mentors at your church. More information can be located here: <https://www.cogyd.org/affirmed>.

2. Kids on a Mission Sunday - March 15, 2026

This year's *Kids on Mission Sunday* will be held on Sunday, March 15. Join us as we partner with the International Youth and Discipleship Department to involve as many children as possible in the service, in any capacity to which they feel called or would like to participate. This may include but is not limited to:

- * Joining the praise team
- * Receiving tithes and offering
- * Leading prayer
- * Sharing a testimony or short message
- * Participating in creative worship

Since this event is tied to the YWEA 2026 project, a portion of the offering received that Sunday should be designated for this mission project. This will give our children the opportunity to serve, give, and participate in global missions. More information at: <https://www.cogyd.org/kidsonamission>.

3. 2026 Michigan Girls' Day Event at Camp - *Remnant Rising*

Our 2026 Michigan Girls' Day Event at Camp will carry the theme "Remnant Rising," which will connect with our camp verses for this year. This theme will focus on empowering girls to take their place as bold, faithful followers of God in a challenging world. More details will be provided at a later date. Please join me in prayer for this event and our girls. This event will be offered as a one day elective event at camp.

I am looking forward to all that God will do in 2026 as we continue to invest in the next generations. Please feel free to reach out with any thoughts or questions regarding these initiatives.



In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Lacks".

Emily Lacks, Ed.D.
Girls Ministries Coordinator

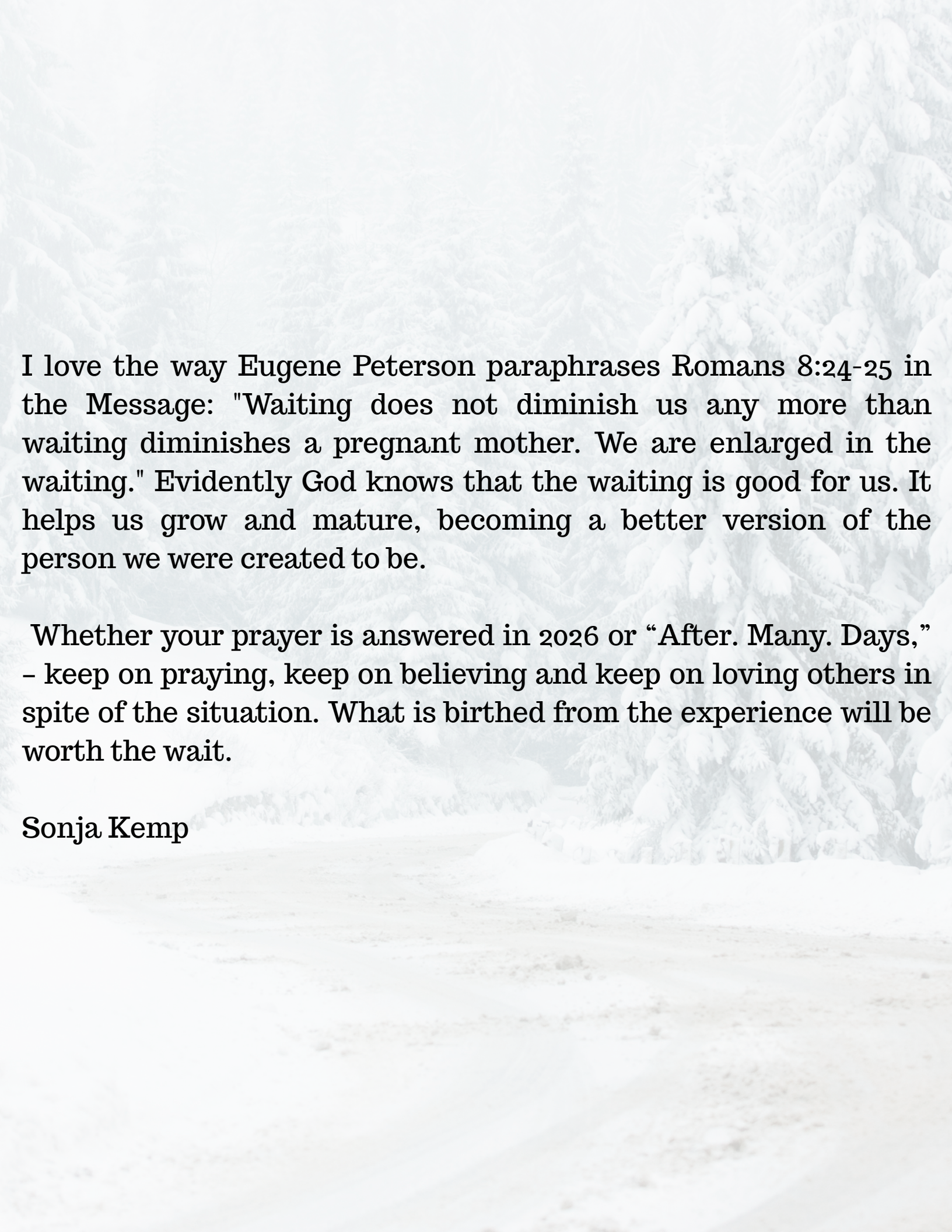
If you're like me, waiting is not something you find particularly enjoyable. Waiting in line; sitting in a waiting room; being stuck in traffic...These things try our patience and make us want to say words that we shouldn't say! Waiting can be very difficult.

It seems to me that God doesn't mind us waiting one little bit. He seems to prefer it that way. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31) and "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord" (Psalm 27:14) are just two examples where we are exhorted to be patient and wait on God's timing.

You may have heard Ecclesiastes 11:1 quoted or referred to concerning giving. It says, "Cast your bread upon the water, and after many days, you will find it again." Notice three little words: "After. Many. Days." Uh-oh! God's idea of "after many days" and my idea is probably quite different. I want it to mean "next week sometime". God may be thinking, "years from now".

Whether we like it or not, our part is to be obedient and wait on God's timing.

We may feel like we've given and given in a situation, but nothing has changed; God says, "Wait". We may feel like we have cried and prayed until there are no tears or words left; God says, "Wait". Perhaps you have written a particular request on a prayer card year after year, and still, the answer is "Not yet." Argh!!



I love the way Eugene Peterson paraphrases Romans 8:24-25 in the Message: "Waiting does not diminish us any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting." Evidently God knows that the waiting is good for us. It helps us grow and mature, becoming a better version of the person we were created to be.

Whether your prayer is answered in 2026 or "After. Many. Days," – keep on praying, keep on believing and keep on loving others in spite of the situation. What is birthed from the experience will be worth the wait.

Sonja Kemp

NOVEMBER TITHE STATS



Church of God in Michigan

2025 November Morning Worship Attendance Stats

Church and Pastor	Tithes	Worship
Stewart Road Church of God, Mark Ingram	\$88,609.17	547
Dexter Lake Church of God, Paul Tindall	\$37,620.00	218
Oak-Crest Church of God, Richard D. Rogers	\$29,377.95	191
Victorious Life, Scott Weaver	\$22,886.00	111
The River, William E. Wahl Walton	\$22,627.00	174
Bldv Church of God, M. Tony Barbour	\$18,959.45	100
Grace Point Church, Jeff McNally,	\$18,597.00	220
Jr. Big Jackson, John McGhee	\$17,024.00	85
New Hope Community, Victor Williams	\$16,433.00	86
Hill Creek, Wesley Hunter	\$12,596.34	85
LifePoint, Ronald Schubert	\$12,052.80	147
White Cloud Church, James Fader	\$11,741.00	75
Victory Temple, Dennis Wick	\$11,086.25	43
Power & Praise, Christopher Blankenship	\$10,816.78	178
Highest Praise, Wesley Starr	\$8,837.60	40
Grand Haven, Nathan Strom Heritage	\$8,211.99	53
Community Church, Adam Schultz	\$8,153.79	55
International Church of God, Joy John	\$8,000.00	160
Durand Church of God, Mark Fernandez	\$7,302.00	113
Heritage Park, Robert Rennie	\$7,159.76	54
Riverhills Church Detroit, Ryan Sharpe	\$7,010.00	75
Kingdom Life Church of God, Steven Bishop	\$6,938.07	152
Houghton Lake Church of God, Jacob Nicoletti	\$6,465.00	61
Central Church of God, Chris Johnson	\$6,344.00	73
Hope Community Church, Glenn Gilman	\$5,983.12	48
Kalkaska, Church Alive, David Morrison Jr.	\$5,624.67	37
Redemption Outreach, Scott Tysick	\$5,569.65	0
Holly Church of God, Eugene Blankenship	\$5,488.00	42
The Summit, Jim Morrison	\$5,283.00	57
Connection Point, Thomas E. Rea	\$5,213.67	37
Trinity Church of God, Mark Wellhousen	\$4,957.00	28
Upper Room Church of God, Alex Fernandez	\$4,813.00	88
New Harvest, John Criswell	\$4,751.00	30
Sandusky Church of God, Jeffrey Noble	\$3,952.13	24
The Point, Ellis Fortune	\$3,863.26	96
Christian Church for all Nations, Danielle Andre	\$3,608.80	22
Harrison Church of God, Willis Pilman	\$3,521.00	16

Fountain of Praise, Debra Schilling	\$3,480.00	14
New Hope Ministries, J. Ron Dunn	\$3,221.00	20
Harvest International, Frederick Nichols	\$3,213.15	24
Living Word, Jephtha Bryant	\$2,853.00	29
Family Tabernacle, Jeffrey Howard	\$2,825.00	40
North Point Worship Cntr, Michael B. Arp	\$2,820.80	40
Living Word, Frankie Lucas	\$2,792.34	26
Garden City Church of God, John H Stamper, III	\$2,742.00	21
Redemption Place, Deborah Leshner	\$2,727.31	35
Lawton Church of God, David R. Cripps	\$2,484.00	18
Zeeland Church of God, Douglas Koglin	\$2,414.00	18
New Covenant, Ronald Jacobs II	\$2,392.58	60
Inland Lighthouse, David Goheen	\$2,142.00	7
Strong Tower, Doug Trudell	\$2,054.87	38
Flat Rock Church of God, James Williams	\$1,613.00	23
Family Life Worship, Charles Kiesgen	\$1,594.00	40
Sebewa, Thomas Jablonski	\$1,426.62	18
Lighthouse Village, Anthony M. Fields	\$1,361.00	21
Hastings Church of God, Jeremy Singleton	\$1,138.80	11
Andrus Street Church of God, Don Browning, Jr.	\$1,080.00	69
House of Hope God's House, Tom Coppens	\$431.00	10
Faith Chapel, Betty Marlow	\$100.00	27
Abundant Life, Richard South	N/R	0
City Church, Steve Totten	N/R	0
Clinton Church of God, Gary Adams	N/R	0
Cornerstone, Warren R. Davis	N/R	0
Crossroads Church of God, Daniel W Blankenship	N/R	0
Family Life Center, Ryan Snyder	N/R	0
Family Worship, Eric Rogers	N/R	0
Genesee Rd Church of God, Vaughn Eller	N/R	0
Harbor Lights, Anthony Morrison	N/R	0
Harvest Intern'l Min., Michael Czarnik	N/R	0
Lake Orion Church of God, William S. Curnell	N/R	0
Lapeer Church of God, Dakota Leming	N/R	0
Lighthouse Church of God, Matthew West	N/R	0
Lighthouse Worship, Roger Fleming	N/R	0
No Limits Ministries, Robert Renfro	N/R	0
Ray of Light, Mary Hoots	N/R	0
Redford Church of God, Shirley Stafford	N/R	0
Renew Church, Justin Candela	N/R	0
Restoration Pointe, Gregory Gitter	N/R	0

Revival Center, Greg Casto	N/R	0
Sheridan Church of God, Robert Carpenter	N/R	0
Solid Rock, Wayne Ramey	N/R	0
The Church, Nick Heine	N/R	0
The Harbor Church of God, Frederick Weaver	N/R	0
Trenton, Donald Drews	N/R	0
West Branch Church, Tom Plashek	N/R	0

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Goheen Abundant Life, Richard South	\$2,142.00	7
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of God, Gary Adams Cornerstone,	N/R	0
Warren R. Davis Crossroads Church of	N/R	0
God, Daniel W Blankenship Family Life	N/R	0
Center, Ryan Snyder Family Worship,	N/R	0
Eric Rogers Genesee Rd Church of God,	N/R	0
Vaughn Eller Harbor Lights, Anthony	N/R	0
Morrison Harvest Intern'l Min., Michael	N/R	0
Czarnik Lake Orion Church of God,	N/R	0
William S. Curnell Lapeer Church of God,	N/R	0
Dakota Leming Lighthouse Church of	N/R	0
God, Matthew West Lighthouse Worship,	N/R	0
Roger Fleming No Limits Ministries,	N/R	0
Robert Renfro Ray of Light, Mary Hoots	N/R	0
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