

2026

Experience God's
Transforming Love

@ the Kirk

THIS WEEK – APRIL 3, 2026



Christ Is Risen!

Welcome & Happy Easter!

We are so glad you're worshipping with us on this holiest of days!

Join us outside at 10:00am for our Front Lawn Celebration featuring:

- ◇ An Easter Egg Hunt
- ◇ A Petting Zoo
- ◇ Face Painting
- ◇ Doughnuts
- ◇ Hot Chocolate
- ◇ Coffee!

We are an active church community & we would love to know if you're just visiting or interested in spending more time with us at the Kirk. Please fill out a Pew Pad note or call Mercy Adams at (248) 973-8013.

Easter Sunday: While It Was Still Dark

John 20:1-18



As dawn breaks on Easter morning, the Gospel of John draws us into a quiet, tender moment—“while it was still dark.” Before the “Alleluias” ring out and before the full light of resurrection is understood, there is confusion, grief, and searching. In this sacred in-between, Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb carrying sorrow, only to encounter something she does not yet recognize... the first signs that death does not have

the final word. It is here, in the shadows of uncertainty, that the risen Christ begins to reveal himself, calling her by name, and transforming despair into hope. As we gather to celebrate Easter, we do so with the joyful proclamation: “Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!” This good news is both a declaration and an invitation. We are called to encounter Christ in a personal and transformative way.

Whether you come with certainty or questions, with joy or quiet hope, this Easter offers a new beginning.

COFFEE HOUR

NOTE: Coffee Hour will be in the Fireside Room after the 9:00am service.



He is not here.
He has Risen
just as he said.

- Matthew 28:6

- 6:45am - Resurrection Service (Columbarium)
- 7:00am - Easter Worship Service
- 9:00am - Easter Worship Service
- 10:00am - Front Lawn Celebration
- 11:00am - Easter Worship Service

Happy Easter Sunday!



EASTER SUNDAY

Front Lawn Celebration!

Join us on the Front Lawn at 10:00am for refreshments & family fun!

FEATURING:
An Easter Egg Hunt
Petting Zoo
Face Painting
Doughnuts
Hot Chocolate
Coffee



Charting the Course Updates

The Kirk launched *Charting the Course* in January and began a two-year journey with AE Sloan Leadership to discern God's path for the congregation and the Kirk's future.

Here are some stand-out moments in the journey since January:

- ◇ The **Congregational Survey** kicked off the process and revealed encouraging results. Words like *Hopeful* and *Grateful* took center stage when describing feelings about the Kirk right now.
- ◇ Two teams were established to shepherd the process. The **Transformation and Leadership** teams, comprised of 30 members, led focus groups with preschool parents, long-term members, and community partners to understand where the Kirk is flourishing and where there's room to grow.

Join the Conversation - Kirk Storytelling Events

We want to hear *your* Kirk story. Whether it's a memory of a *Kirk Angel*, a life-changing mission trip, or a moment of peace in a small group, these stories exemplify who we are.

Join us for brunch and storytelling in the Refectory:

- Sunday, April 19: 10:15am – 12:15pm (after the 9:00am service)
- Sunday, May 3: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM (after the 11:00am service)

Scan the QR code to register today!

Join Us!



TREE OF LIFE:

A Celebration of Trees in Hymns and Anthems

Sunday, April 26, 2026
3:00 p.m.

Join us for an hour of hymn singing as we explore the theme of **Trees in hymnody and anthems**. With narrator Michael Silhavy, senior projects editor at G.I.A. Publications in Chicago; Merideth Hite Estevez, oboe; James Biery, organ; and Marilyn Biery, conductor. **Come prepared to lift your voice in song!**



A stone recently fell off of the sanctuary on the east side. The entire **East Garden** is closed for safety until the repairs have been made.

Children, Youth & Family

VBS - June 14–18, 2026
Calling All Volunteers!

If interested, contact:

Sarah Ford at sford@kirkinthehills.org or
Lauren Clopton at lclopton@kirkinthehills.org.



Help Send Our Youth to Costa Rica ~ June 2026 Silent Auction Donations Needed



We are seeking new items, themed baskets, gift cards, event tickets, or services. Drop-off **deadline is April 12.** Sign-up with QR Code or contact Mike Jarasz at mjarasz@kirkinthehills.org.

Spring Yard Cleanups – Your Yard, Their Mission



Now through early June, our mission team is available to help with leaf clean up, mulching, painting, and more. There is no set fee, we only ask for a donation and to supply any needed materials (bags mulch, etc). Schedule your date by scanning this QR code or contact Mike Jarasz at mjarasz@kirkinthehills.org



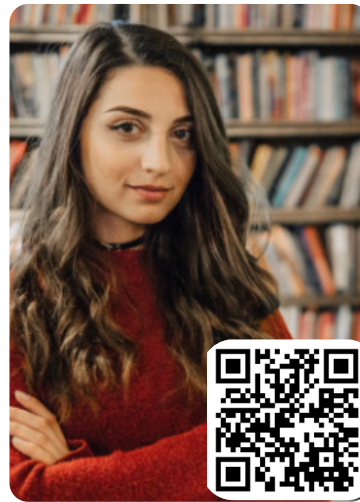
Kirk Seniors Luncheon - April 21

You are invited to an afternoon of fellowship, fine food, and fascinating history as we explore **Pewabic Tile & Its Kirk History**. Pewabic Pottery Director and Archivist Anne Dennis will share the *original etchings* during the presentation. **Lunch is \$25/person.** Please register by scanning the QR code. **Register Today!**



Adopt -A- Road

It's time for our semi-annual Long Lake Rd. cleanup through the Adopt-a-Road program. Please join us on **Saturday April 18 at 9:00am** in the west parking lot for fellowship & donuts before we break into teams for cleanup. Contact Ann.manning.21@gmail.com for more info.



College Student Care Packages

Deacons will be sending Care Packages to our youth in college. If you know a college student who would like to receive a special Kirk care package, please send us their address by scanning the QR code to the left. **Deadline is April 6.**

Sojourners! Come Build Community!

Sojourners meets on the second Friday of each month at 1:00pm.; the next gathering is Friday, April 10, 2026. This supportive group for widows and widowers of all ages offers a caring space to share and navigate life's seasons of grief together.

Tennis Shoe Drive!

The KITH is now taking collections of tennis shoes for kids at a local elementary school in Pontiac. We would really appreciate your donations!

- **Ages:** Kindergarden - Fifth Grade
- **Sizes:** 11-13, 1-8
- **Where:** Walt Whitman Elementary School
- **Condition:** Brand new/Like new
- Tennis Shoes only please!

Collecting from
April 12th - May 24th

Turn-in box is found in the
welcome center

Welcome Center hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m- 5 p.m

2025 Annual Report Available

The 2025 Annual Report is available in the info racks throughout the church.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Join Us! Get Involved!

@ the Kirk

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Christ is Risen!

Easter Sunday

- 6:45am Sunrise Service - Columbarium
- 7:00am Easter Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 9:00am Easter Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 10:00am Stephen Minister Private Prayer - Melrose Chapel
- 10:00am Celebration on the Front Lawn - Outside Front Lawn (*Easter egg hunt, a petting zoo, & facepainting plus doughnuts, hot chocolate & coffee*)
- 11:00am Easter Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 12:00pm Stephen Minister Private Prayer

MONDAY, APRIL 6

EASTER MONDAY - Church offices closed

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

- 8:00am Preschool back in session
- 9:30am Prayer Cordon - Upper Room
- 9:30am Sandwich Ministry - Welcome Center
- 2:00pm Kirk Senior Steering Committee - Abbey 29
- 3:30pm Congregational Care Meeting - Upper Room
- 5:30pm Personnel Meeting - Upper Room
- 7:00pm Strategy Committee Meeting - Upper Room

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

- 9:30am Spiritual Studies Group - Abbey 27
- 1:00pm Trinity Stitchers - Abbey 27

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

- 9:30am Woman's Thursday Morning Bible Study - Upper Room
- 11:30am Care Coordinating Team - Colonel George's Study
- 6:00pm New Members & Evangelism Committee
- 6:00pm Kirk Ringers - Abbey 33

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

- 7:00am MOK Bible Study - Zoom
- 9:30am Books & Bibles - Upper Room
- 1:00pm Sojourners - Abbey 27

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

- 7:30am Saturday Morning Bible Study (Zoom Only)
- 1:00pm Memorial Service for Bruce Yuille - Sanctuary
- 4:00pm MS Whirlyball Outing

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

- 8:00am Worship Service - Cedarholm Chapel
- 9:00am Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 9:15am Sunday School
- 10:00am Coffee Hour - Heritage Hall
- 10:00am Stephen Ministry Peer Support - Abbey 34
- 10:00am Stephen Minister Private Prayer - Melrose Chapel
- 10:10am Bill Robinson Bible Study - Upper Room
- 10:15am Confirmation Class
- 11:00am Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 12:00pm After Service Sanctuary Tour
- 12:00pm Stephen Minister Private Prayer
- 1:30pm Youth Action Board Meeting - Heritage Hall
- 5:30pm Youth Group - Heritage Hall & Youth Room

An Open Invitation

We invite you to join us next week for our Sunday Worship Services: 8:00am, 9:00am & 11:00am.

You're also invited to get involved in our ministries, mission work, events, and activities. Please visit our website, kirkinthehills.org, for more details.

If you're interested in becoming a member, please contact Mercy Adams at madams@kirkinthehills.org.

NOTE: In observance of Easter, the OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026. Please mark your calendars.



**COMING TO THE KIRK...
Sunday, June 14!**

SAVE THE DATE

FAITH & COMMUNITY LEADERS
BREAKFAST

**Preventing Child Abuse
MAY 13, 2026
8:00am-9:30am**