



MISSIONHILL CHURCH

*Information for membership at Mission Hill Church
Traverse City, Michigan*



WELCOME!

We are honored that you have chosen to come to Mission Hill Church, and we hope you enjoy meeting our church family and sharing our faith journey. We are providing this general packet of information for those who would like to know more about our church and for those who are interested in becoming members. We also recommend visiting our website at missionhilltc.org for more information.

Our History

From 1863 to Current

First Congregational Church to Mission Hill Church

First Congregational Church was founded in 1863 when ten families organized our church in a log cabin where the Park Place Hotel now stands. As the congregation grew, we built a small frame church near the original site. With the congregation still growing, a beautiful stone church was built on Washington St. With even more growth we built our current church in September of 1960 on Old Mission Peninsula.

In 2008 the Congregation voted to end the affiliation with the United Church of Christ and became a non-denominational church. After much discussion in 2024 the Congregation voted to change the name of the church to Mission Hill Church. The name officially changed in April 2025. Our new name helps to eliminate confusion about who we are: a Non-Denominational church that is led by the congregation. We remain a Christ centered church with a vibrant history that we cherish.

Mission Vision and Core Values

Our Mission

We are the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus wherever we live, work, play, and are led.

Our Vision

We lovingly help people find their way to Christ.

Our Core Values

Changing lives-Christ changes us, no matter who, what or when

Helping you-We walk alongside each other.

Relevant living-We live with God-given purpose.

Intentional hospitality-Welcome to our family

Significant relationships-We love and support each other.

We are a Missional Church vs a Maintenance Church

Serving vs Being Served

- Maintenance Church: In measuring its effectiveness, they ask, “How many visitors have we attracted.”
- Missional church: Will ask, “How many members are serving God’s purposes?”

Others First vs Members First

- Maintenance Church: When contemplating some form of change they say, “If this proves upsetting to any of our members, we won’t do it.”
- Missional church: Says, “If this will help us bless and touch someone outside of our church, we will take the risk and do it.”

Reaching Out vs Staying Put

- Maintenance Church: When thinking about change, the majority will ask, “How will this affect me?”
- Missional Church: The majority of members ask, “Will this help align our ministries and missions with The Great Commission?”

Future First vs Past First

- Maintenance Church: When thinking about its vision for ministry they say, “We have to be faithful to our past.”
- Missional Church: Sees the vision as “We have to be faithful to our future.”

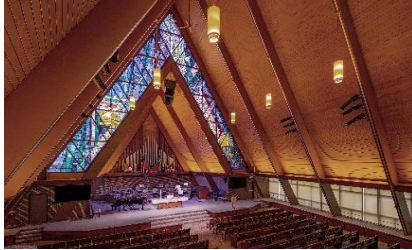
Vision Oriented vs Status Quo

- Maintenance Church: The leadership style prefers to keep things as they are with a high value for the present.
- Missional Church: The leaders focus on working towards a vision of what can be.

Sunday Worship

Our Traditional service is at 10:00am. Currently, our Modern service is Under Construction. We are looking forward to a new, vibrant modern service soon!

Traditional in the Sanctuary



Modern



Live Stream/Online

If you are not able to worship in person, we invite you to join us via live stream. You can find the live stream link on our website (missionhilltc.org) under the Watch tab.



Mission Hill Youth Ministry: At Mission Hill Church, it is our belief that students should have a full and rich understanding of who God is so that they become the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus wherever they live work, play, and are led.

Sunday School: We have Sunday School at 10am for all Preschool through 5th grade children. Recently we added Sunday School for students in grades 6th-8th lead by Pastor Sam. Each Sunday students can expect engaging videos, fun games, intentional time in scripture and thoughtful discussions on faith.

Rooted Youth: Rooted Youth is for 6th-12th grade students and takes place every Wednesday from 6:00PM-8:00PM. Students are dropped off at the main entrance of the church and will be greeted by youth leaders. At Rooted, students have fun while they discover God, learn sound doctrine, embrace community, and live on mission. Plus, dinner is provided!

New Moms: We have a private room for nursing moms, complete with TV, so you may also enjoy the Sunday Service.

After Services Hospitality and Friendship Time: Please join us after Sunday services in the Crossway for coffee and treats. This is an excellent way to meet members of our church family.

Our Spiritual Leadership at Mission Hill Church

Dr. Gary Hogue - Pastoral Care

Dr. Hogue arrived at Mission Hill Church in 1984 with his wife Karen and two sons. After many years of full-time service here, Dr. Hogue still preaches occasionally, consults with church leadership, and provides Pastoral Care to the congregation. He also leads the SALT class for those 64+. His wife, Karen, has now joined God's Heavenly Choir and she is greatly missed by Gary, his family and all in the church. Gary is still busy with family, including 11 grandchildren and many friends in the church and community.



Sam Javed– Youth Pastor

In April 2024 we welcomed Sam Javed as our youth minister. Previously Sam was the Youth Pastor at Faith Reformed Church and the leader of Young Life. Sam and his wife Sara have three children.



Governance of Mission Hill Church

Our church council has the leading role in the governance of the church. The council consists of 12 members:

1. Joni Licht, President
2. Henry Holland, VP
3. Bob Strong, Treasurer
4. Marilyn Vlach, Secretary
5. Elaine Wood, Immediate Past President
6. Bill Myers
7. Ramona Pleva
8. Julie Moore
9. Rene Jacobson
10. Wayne Spencer
11. Chris Lambert
12. Julie Garrity

Also, we have several committees, chaired by a council member or appointed by the Council:

Executive Committee – Joni Licht
Finance & Stewardship Committee - Bob Strong
Facilities, Grounds & Equipment - Jeff Palisin
Community Children's Center Board - Bill Myers
Garden & Landscape Board - Tobey Lewallen
Engagement Committee - Wayne Spencer
Hospitality Committee – Pending

Positions appointed by the Council.
Human Resources Advisor - Rene Jacobson
New Member Coordinator- Ramona Pleva
Communion Coordinator-Debbie Berg

Community and International Involvement

As a missional church we are active in many areas of community and international service. A few are listed below:

Community Children's Center:

Here at Mission Hill church, we have a Faith-based preschool ages 6 weeks to 6 years, providing an environment that fosters the wholesome development of each child and a loving environment to foster growth and learning. We are licensed by the State of Michigan and have approximately 110 children in the program.

Scouts:

For 60 years we have sponsored a Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop at Mission Hill Church. This program includes both boys and girls age 5 to 17 years old. Scouting at MHC creates invaluable experiences that instill character, community service, confidence building and service to God.

World Vision:

Currently, we are sponsoring over 150 children in Kenya through World Vision's Global Chosen Mission. This has been an exciting experience for us.

Church and Community Events

There are many events at Mission Hill Church that range from a Community Easter Egg Hunt, Angel Dinner during the Christmas season for the women of the church, Scout Sunday, the Mel Larimer Concert Series, and a community Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot for Halloween.

Missions, Committees and more at Mission Hill Church

We encourage all members to be an active part of our church family. Participating helps us grow in our faith and form lasting, meaningful, healthy relationships. Below are some areas you might be interested in learning more about and participating in:

Music

We have three spectacular music groups, the **Sanctuary Choir**, **Sanctuary Handbell Choir**, and the **Modern Praise Team (currently under construction)**. These music groups welcome musicians and singers to join them as they share their musical talents with all of us on Sundays.

Hospitality

We have a beautiful and impressive kitchen. The Hospitality team helps with meals for various church functions, funerals, events, and meetings. They also oversee the delicious treats after Sunday Services in the Crossway.

Vacation Bible School

Each year Mission Hill Church has Vacation Bible School for those in K through 5th grades.

The Welcome Committee

We want all who come to our church to feel at home and welcome. Our Welcome Committee staffs the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings for both the Traditional and Modern services.

Salt and Pepper

On the first Friday of each month our 60+ age members meet for food, fun and fellowship.

SALT (Senior Adults Learning Together)

Designed for our 64+ age members, the SALT classes meet on Thursday's from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. Dr. Gary Hogue leads the discussion of various books that help us learn more about our faith and spark conversations. Please feel free to join us at any time.

Bible Study Opportunities

Women's Study: Tuesday evenings 6:30-8:00pm in the Garden Room

Men's Study: Friday mornings from 7:00am to 8:00am in the Garden Room.

Young Professional and Families Small Group

Join other young professionals and families at 6:30pm on Thursdays in Studio A. Childcare provided!

Youth Ministry - Rooted

Creating environments where students can grow in biblical knowledge, heart attitude and spirit-led action as they are Believing in Jesus. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6:30pm for those in middle school and high school.

Operation Christmas Child

Join in packing shoebox-filled gifts that are delivered around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. Many of these children have never received a gift before. These gifts are delivered through local churches internationally.

Christmas Decorating

Love to decorate for Christmas. Please join this group of volunteers as we turn the church into a festive atmosphere to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Traverse City MomCo

Traverse City MomCo is a non-profit organization that encourages and equips moms of young children to realize their potential as mothers, women and leaders, in relationship with Jesus and in partnership with Mission Hill Church. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, September through May, in the Garden Room from 6:30-8:30pm and are open to moms of kids of any age.

Red Bags for Local Food Pantry

The first Sunday of each month is food pantry collection day. Please bring non-perishable food items to help feed those in need in our community. The Food Pantry is located at Grace Episcopal Church. Red bags are available by the carts.

Ushers

We have ushers for both our Traditional and Modern services with 3-4 people who help collect the offering, set up tables for name tags and clean up after services. The usher team welcomes new members who would like to help or substitute.

The Garden and Landscape Board:

The Garden and Landscape Board is responsible for the care and maintenance of all gardens and all green/growing vegetation on Mission Hill Church property.

Work Bees

Tuesday mornings from April through October you will find a busy group of members working diligently on our garden, appropriately known as the "Work Bees." No special talent is needed, just a willingness to dig in, weed, and help maintain our lovely garden. The Work Bees meet on Tuesdays between 9am and Noon. Come and stay as long as you are able.

Caring Garden

Local gardeners can use the tilled garden beds at the church and plant annual vegetables or flower plants as they wish. The only requirement is to donate 10% of the weekly harvest to Salvation Army Inn. All planting, weeding, harvesting, and clean-up is handled by the individual gardener.

Garden Of Remembrance

Established in 1985, the Garden of Remembrance is a Botanical Garden and includes a small section with Michigan Native Plants. This garden is also home to over 400 souls whose ash remains are interned here. It is a beautiful and peaceful garden. The garden is also home to a beautiful Labyrinth that was dedicated in July 2025.

Technology

If technology is your forte...we have a place for you! We live stream both our Traditional and Contemporary Services every Sunday and can always use a helping hand.

If you are interested in more information on these ministries, please see the contact information below.

Ministry Contact List

Council President:	Joni Licht	joanmglicht@hotmail.com
Sanctuary Choir:	Russ Larimer	russlarimer@gmail.com
Bell Choir:	Jim Seidel	edgarjes@aol.com
Praise Team:	Currently Under Construction	
Hospitality:	Coming soon	
Welcome Team:	Julie Moore	jules.moore4@gmail.com
SALT:	Dr. Gary Hogue	231-392-9334
Women's Bible Study:	Karen Rudolph	karensrudolph@gmail.com
Men's Bible Study:	Gary Klotzbach	gwklotzbach@gmail.com
Young Professionals:	Henry Holland	htholland2@gmail.com
Rooted Youth Group	Sam Javed	sam.javed@missionhilltc.org
Anchor Kids:	Kellie Parks	kellie.parks@missionhilltc.org
Vacation Bible School:	Kellie Parks	kellie.parks@missionhilltc.org
Moms Co:	Kellie Parks	kellie.parks@missionhilltc.org
Work Bees:	Barbara Kausler	barbygirl1220@aol.com
Caring Garden:	Rick or Tricia Smith	rrsdvm@icloud.com
Garden of Remembrance:	Barbara Springsteen	bannspringsteen@gmail.com
Operation Christmas Child:	Liz Lutheran	elj Lutheran@gmail.com
Garden & Landscape Board Chair:	Toby Lewallen	nflewallen@gmail.com
Ushers	Bob Portenga	drports@gmail.com
Community Children's Center	Joann Miracle	cccoffice@missionhilltc.org
Scouting	Bill Myers	myersintc@gmail.com
New Member Coordinator	Ramona Pleva	drpleva@proton.me

The Road to Membership

We have two steps on the journey to membership.

1. We begin with our Starting Point Class. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who are considering membership at Mission Hill Church to meet others in a laid-back format. You will learn about our church, our mission and what makes Mission Hill Church unique.
2. New Member Sunday is where we officially welcome you into the Mission Hill Church family during our 10am service.

Our Starting Point class is offered three times a year:

January/February

May/June

September/October

If you have any questions, please contact Ramona Pleva at drpleva@proton.me or 231.510.8682.

Membership Information

What is needed for membership at Mission Hill Church, Traverse City?

- Salvation: A personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Baptism: A public profession of one's faith in and desire to live for Jesus Christ
- Fully Support Mission Hill Church with Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service.
 - Prayers-I will support my church by praying for its unity, growth, and faithfulness to carrying out God's plans.
 - Presence-I will participate in my church by attending faithfully, acting in love towards others and warmly welcoming those who visit.
 - Gifts-I will share the responsibility of my church by giving regularly.
 - Service-I will serve the ministry of my church by sharing my gifts and talents and by developing a servant's heart.

Four Primary Reasons for Membership

1. **You need healthy relationships** - "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down his friend can help him up. But pity the one who falls and no one to help him up." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 NIV)
2. **You need a place where you can use your gifts** - "Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you." (1 Timothy 4:14m NIV)
3. **You need a place where you can grow** - "The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer." (Acts 2:42, NIV)
4. **You need to belong to something bigger than yourself** - "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belong to all others" (Romans 12:4-5, NIV)

If you are interested in becoming a member at Mission Hill Church, please complete the following forms and return to Pastor Chad.

MISSION HILL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORM

(Please complete a separate form for each member joining)

Mr/Mrs/ Miss/Ms _____
Last First Middle/Maiden

Address _____
Street/Apt/PO Box City/State Zip Code

Please indicate area where located (i.e., West Side, In Town) _____

Mobile Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Birth Date _____

Email Address _____

Marital Status: *Single Married Divorced Widowed*

Date of Marriage _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Children (at home or in college)

Name	Birthdate	School Grade
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

Children (Living elsewhere)

1. _____	3. _____
2. _____	4. _____

I request membership in Mission Hill Church, Traverse City, Michigan

Have you been baptized? *Yes No* Location and Age Baptized _____

If you would like to transfer your membership from another church, please list the name and address of previous church: _____

Do you wish for us to write for your letter of transfer? *Yes No*

Any previous connection to Mission Hill Church? _____

Date Completed: _____

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(Please complete a separate form for each member joining)

Mr/Mrs/ Miss/Ms _____
Last First Middle/Maiden

Address _____
Street/Apt/PO Box City/State Zip Code

Please indicate area where located (i.e., West Side, In Town) _____

Mobile Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Birth Date _____

Email Address _____

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Widowed

Date of Marriage _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Children (at home or in college)

Name	Birthdate	School Grade
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____

Children (Living elsewhere)

- 1. _____ 3. _____
- 2. _____ 4. _____

I request membership in Mission Hill Church, Traverse City, Michigan

Have you been baptized? Yes No Location and Age Baptized _____

If you would like to transfer your membership from another church, please list the name and address of previous church: _____

Do you wish for us to write for your letter of transfer? Yes No

Any previous connection to Mission Hill Church? _____

Date Completed: _____

