



"In Touch" at Hazel Park First UMC

Newsletter for all those who worship at First United
Methodist Church of Hazel Park



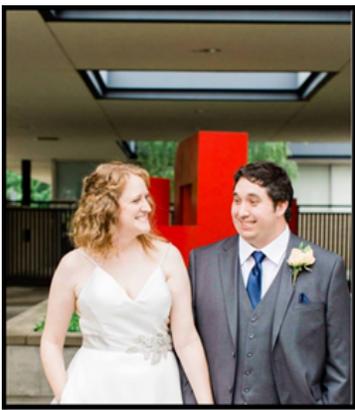
Organized in 1924 • Incorporated in 1925 • Sanctuary Completed 1953

315 E. Nine Mile Rd. • Hazel Park, Michigan 48030 • 248-546-5955 • www.hpfirst.org



Pastor's Pen

Pastor Brian Steele



Inside the Pastor's Head

Devotional: 'So I commend enjoyment because there's nothing better for people to do under the sun but to eat, drink, and be glad. This is what will accompany them in their hard work, during the lifetime that God gives under the sun.' --Ecclesiastes 8:15

Dear Friends,

Our journey together started a little more than eight months ago. In that time, I think there has been some beneficial learning from you all as a congregation and myself as a pastor. You have shared that I've helped you grow, and I have learned from you all. As I reflect on the past eight months, I want to share one of the core truths you have taught me: It's okay to have fun at church. Wait. Scratch that. It is faithful to have fun at church. When I think of our church at Hazel Park, I think of Jesus telling his disciples to let the children come to Him and that "the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children." We are a church of deep faith. We are not child-ish, but we are child-like, just like Jesus calls us to be. Your witness of this empowers me to be a more effective and faithful pastor.

I look forward to how you will continue to help me become more child-like. Even with the intentional growth we need, that child-like status needs to be nurtured and part of our core identity moving forward. So, let's make church meaningful. Let's also make it fun. Let's not take ourselves too seriously (which I sometimes do). Let's keep being child-like and grow into maturity. You have taught me that in order to grow into that maturity, we need to stay child-like. Thank you for that, friends! Let's keep it going.

In grace,
Brian

A Look Back:

2/5: A Story Beyond Consumption: The Lorax warns the Once-ler that his greed and cravings will lead to destruction, but he doesn't listen. Our fear of never having enough is a result of the Fall and is not something we need to give into. We have a better story to tell than our "human competition extravaganza" as Nadia Bolz-Weber says.

2/12: I Do Not Like New Wineskins: Sam I am is persistent in getting his friend to try Green Eggs and Ham. His friend refuses over and over, but eventually gives in. It turns out his friend loves them! Can we have the same joyful persistence in living out our faith with new wineskins?

2/19: Transformation for a Purpose: Sometimes we just need time to bask in the glory of Christ, but we can't stay there for the long term. We need to allow Christ to transform us, but then we go out into the world.

Top 3 Things I'm Working On:

- 1) Discerning future creative ministries
- 2) Planning worship series for the rest of the year
- 3) Developing our hospitality ministries

What I'm reading and listening to:

- 1) For Spiritual Development: *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change* by Tod Bolsinger
- 2) Podcasts I try to listen to regularly: *The Bible for Normal People*, *Evolving Faith*, *Everything Happens* with Kate Bowler
- 3) For Fun: (your pastor likes to have fun, too): *Star Wars: Light of the Jedi* by Charles Soule and various comic books.

If you're interested in seeing what else I read or for recommendations at Goodreads: [goodreads.com/bestelee2386](https://www.goodreads.com/bestelee2386)

Upcoming Events



Saturday, March 4th ~ Women's group meets in the fellowship hall at 1pm
Saturday, March 4th ~ Men's group meets at Coney island at 10pm
Thursday, March 16th ~ Church Council Meeting at 7pm

Things to Keep in Mind

Let's Make Our Church a Fragrance Free Zone



Please refrain from wearing fragrances or lighting scented candles in the church.. Certain scents can be a problem for many folks, especially those with asthma and migraines. Please help make our church home a safe place for all people.

At our February Women's meeting we started a project turning plastic shopping bags into sleeping mats for homeless people. It takes many bags to make each mat, and I'm continuing the project as long as I have bags. It's a great way to recycle at the same time as making life a little better for someone else. Please continue to save your unneeded clean bags for me.

-A note from Sue Anderson



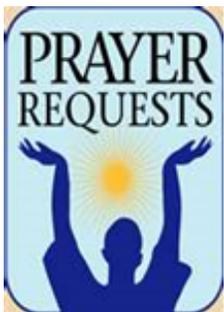
Health/Life Concerns: Vicki's Cousin, Rochelle, Judy, Jaclyn and Jan who has alzheimers, Marissa, Diane W who is in the hospital, Spiritual growth on our community, Amy G's father AJ who is in the hospital with keystones, Mike B's brother Al. MSU Shooting, Gloria Kachadorian

Comfort for the friends and families of: Family of Richard Davis' (his mother passed)

Serving in the Armed Forces: Emma Hardy, Sean Redd, Casey Allen, Brendan Schemers, Ronald Turner & Chris Collis

Gratitude's and Joys: The hospitality of our church, grandkids in church and grandparents.

Church Leaders: Pastor-Rev. Brian Steele, Al Holland-SPRC Chair, John Sarns-Ad Council Chair, Frank Cox-Lay Leader, Ashley Detoledo-Secretary, Lisa Johnson-Treasurer, Matt Sarns-Music Director, and Harriet Hardy-Organist.



8 Ways to Nurture Faith in Young Children

Nurturing faith in babies, toddlers and preschoolers is not only meaningful, it can also be a lot of fun. It is possible for your busy family to incorporate this important work into day-to-day life, you just have to find the spiritual practices that work best for your unique family.

1. Evaluate your daily rhythms

Identify transitions and pauses where you can add prayer, discussion and Scripture to your routines. For example:

- Write or print prayers and hang them above the changing table as a reminder to pray in those moments together.
- Keep a stack of conversation starters in the car. Ask questions that have no “correct” answers, such as, “I wonder what it would have been like to see Jesus walk on the water?”
- Use meals, naptime and bedtime as opportunities for reading Bible stories and sharing prayers.

2. Pray in different ways

Explore a variety of prayer practices to find options that your child most enjoys. As they grow, try new ones to meet their changing needs.

- The Lord's Prayer and the Doxology: Repetition is helpful for children. Saying the same prayer over and over is fine; in fact, it can bring familiarity and comfort.
- Body prayer: Use movement to express a prayer.
- Take a walk: Head outside to marvel at God's creativity and give thanks for it.
- Artistic prayer: Ask your child to draw what they'd like to say to God.

3. Read, play and learn

Reading a story Bible, such as the Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, brings Scripture to life through illustrations and approachable vocabulary. Also, consider board books, snuggle time books, and books focusing on prayers for families. Since children learn through play, finger puppets or interactive tools can help make story time fun and memorable. Check out free Digital Faith Formation Playlists, created by Pittenger and her team, which include readings, questions, prayers, music, activities, and more.

4. Model your faith

Our kids learn from us by watching us. As you lead the way in prayer, Bible study, engaging in worship, talking about God, serving others, being part of a faith community, and exploring spiritual practices, children will want to join you. They'll come to expect these components of your routine and they will begin to incorporate them into theirs as well. Kids might even remind you to complete a forgotten activity or suggest a new one.

5. Welcome hard questions

It's okay to not have answers to big questions, to say, “I don't know – let's try to find the answer together,” and then turn to a pastor, resources or friends to help you unpack challenging topics. After all, parents are on a spiritual journey of growth, too, and it's great for kids to see you learning alongside them. For preschoolers, answer questions with one in return: “What do you think?” This will encourage them to lean on their spirituality and prior learning to draw conclusions, discover other topics they wonder about and generate further conversation.

6. Offer a blessing

Saying a blessing over your child at a key point in the day, such as before preschool or at bedtime, can help them connect deeply with you and with God. Hold or make eye contact with your child to create a special moment. Cummings shares this with her baby: “I bless you as you grow, I bless you as you go, I bless you as you play, I bless you today.” Pittenger shares this with her school-age children: “God bless my children and help them to grow bigger and stronger and wiser and more in love with God and all people every day.”

7. Help others

Engaging in community service can be an excellent way to bond as a family, and it provides an opportunity to talk about loving our neighbors, being a Jesus follower, and living out our faith. Projects such as sorting items at a food bank are often appropriate for volunteers of all ages. Participating in an advocacy effort related to a social justice issue that your family is passionate about is a powerful way for kids to see that their voice matters and that they can make a difference on behalf of others.

8. Find a connection

Being active in a faith community helps children see their role in the body of Christ. Including young children in worship services broadens their understanding of church and what it means to praise God. It's also important that kids know they can trust and learn from adults other than their parents, whether they be Sunday School teachers, grandparents or family friends. As an added bonus, the community provides parents with a support system as you seek ideas and resources from pastors, church staff and other families who are in a similar life situation.



PUZZLE

Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. HEAVY
2. ABLE
3. AY OF PENTECOS
4. ONGUE
5. PIRI
6. OGETHE
7. ES
8. ONGUE
9. A
10. IIND



"When the came, they were all

in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a

violent came from and filled the whole

house where they were sitting. They what seemed to be

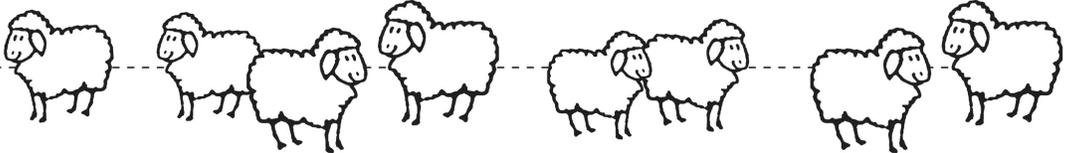
of fire that separated and came to on each

of them. All of them were filled with the Holy and began

to speak in other as the Spirit them."

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!



Allwelikesbelievraywecommandsodtherighteousnessof
 gospeltohsrevealstartetestimonysnsalordrtheiniquity
 rightasisepraisedwsilfooaputownwayaposahumcornersfo
 heavenouerisagoneadogivsicaruoogercorlaidoireasonsus
 returncaphavent rustedeallturnedresposseshtruths.Ila

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Hazel Park First United Methodist Church
315 E. Nine Mile Rd.
Hazel Park, MI 48030

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday Morning Service: 11:15 am
Church Office: 248-546-5955
E-mail: Hazelparkfirst@wowway.com
Website: www.hpfirst.org



March Birthdays

Ashley Detoledo - 3 Christina Anderson - 6
Michael McGhee - 9 Tege French - 15
John Sarns - 16 Lisa Edwards - 22
Shannon Hardy - 23 Lisa Johnson - 25
Logan White - 26 Diane Watson - 27
Flora Jones - 29 Brenda Frickey - 31

Happy Anniversary

March Anniversaries

Carol & Jack Willey 



March 2023



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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 Michael McGhee - 9 Tege French - 15 John Sarns - 16
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1	2	3	4 Men's group meets at the Coney island at 10pm Women's group meets in the fellowship hall at 1pm
5 Worship Service w/communion @ 11:15	6	7	8
9 Praise Team 5:00	10 Praise Team 5:00	11 National Dream Day!  DREAM BIG	12 Daylight Savings Day Worship Service @ 11:15
13	14 National Write Your Story Day  Praise Team 5:00	15	16 Church Council Meeting @ 7:00 Praise Team 5:00
17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Worship Service @ 11:15	20
21 Praise Team 5:00	22	23 Praise Team 5:00	24
25	26 Worship Service @ 11:15	27	28
29 Pay it Forward 	30	31	