



"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

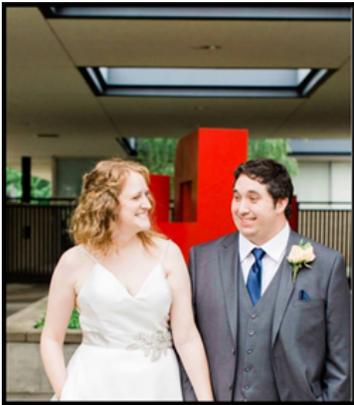


Pastor's Pen

Pastor Brian Steele

Dear Friends,

By now you have probably heard that I'm a bit of a geek when it comes to my personal interests. I don't care if it's Disney, Marvel, DC, Star Wars, or Harry Potter, I'm all about it. While, of course, I love the action and superpowers of the characters, I also appreciate how many of these stories speak to the human condition. Specifically, when the show WandaVision came out in the first quarter of 2021, us fans started to realize that the entire show was walking with the main character, Wanda, through her grief of losing her partner Vision. As Wanda starts to come to terms with her grief and accepts Vision is gone as she knew him, there is this remarkable line that Vision tells her: "What is grief if not love persevering?" Grief. We don't talk about it a lot at church. At church you're supposed to be happy! We're supposed to turn that frown upside down because we get to praise the Lord! But here's the thing: That's not what the full narrative of Scripture shows us. In fact, we can even see the five stages of grief at different points throughout the full narrative of Scripture. I don't have space in our newsletter to go through all of that, but I would be more than happy to share that information with you individually if you'd like.



But here's the gist for now: It is faithful to grieve. Church doesn't need to be the happiest place in town. It needs to be the realest place in town, and that makes grief welcome in our space. The late Rev. Junius Dotson, former CEO of United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, told the story of how one of his parishioners told him once that she was leaving the church because it was too joyful and there wasn't a place to express her sadness. One of my favorite authors Sarah Bessey writes, "George Carlin once said that if you scratch any cynic, you'll find a disappointed idealist. I think the same can be said of the truly joyful: scratch a joyful person and you will find someone well acquainted with their sorrows." I believe that's who God calls us to be. People who have joy not because we have avoided grief and sorrow, but because we have allowed our heart to grow because we have walked through our grief and sorrow. Friends, we have all experienced some sort of loss after the past two and a half years. Some have lost more than others. But we all have lost something, and all losses need to be grieved. Our churches have experienced losses recently, and I am committed toward making sure our churches are a safe place for grief. God invites our grief. Just read the Psalms as a starting point. There is an entire book written by Jeremiah (probably) called Lamentations that speaks to grief. At some point, many Biblical heroes also "grieve." Grieving in church recognizes that we can bring our full selves before our Creator and Redeemer, and that God is present with us through it. Grieving is an act of faith because we are trusting God with our full humanity. As I read once, the only way to avoid grief in life is to avoid love, and that's not a life we want to live and, thankfully, not a life Jesus calls us to live.

I'm here to be in it with you..

In grace,
Brian

Upcoming Events

Mark
YOUR
Calendar

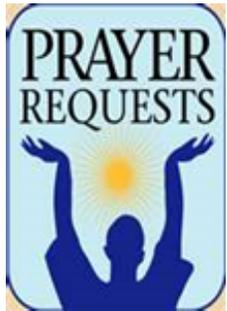
Saturday, November 5th ~ Men's Breakfast will be at the Classic Coney at 10:00am
Saturday, November 5th ~ Women's group meets at 1pm
Tuesday, November 15th ~ Charge Conference via zoom at 7pm
Thursday, November 17th ~ Church Council Meeting at 7pm
Saturday, November 26th ~ All church breakfast and "Hanging of the Greens" @10am
Tuesday, November 28th ~ The Sunshine Ministry



Join us for our annual "Hanging of the Greens" to get ready for the advent season! We will have an all-church breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM on November 26, followed by decorating the church!

Things to Keep in Mind

Health/Life Concerns: Gloria Kachadorian, Amy G's friend Angela F, Amy G's friend Natalie and son Javier who are both in the hospital with asthma, Amy G's Great Aunt Margaret R. Steve D, Samuel, The Narducci Family, The Brown Family, Dave as he recovers from a seizure, Geri Sims, Ron A. as he recovers from COVID, Steve Daugherty, Charlie as he undergoes surgery, Diane W and her daughter's living condition, Amy G's cousin Jason and girlfriend Hannah who are recovering from an auto accident, Harriet H's grandson's wife in hospital,



Comfort for the friends and families of: Sue Sweeder's family (member of St. Paul), Ruth Isca in the passing of her son Frank Isca, Steven Gargarello family in the passing of his aunt, Carol Willey and family in the passing of Jack Willey, The Johnson family on the passing of Lisa's aunt, Cody Martz, (Nephew of Victoria Foerster)

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, Prayers of thanks for Ed R's recovery, Xavier has had a good start at Hazel Park Schools

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.

United Methodists Head to the Polls

When was the last time you read the *Book of Resolutions*? Most United Methodists hardly know it exists; in fact, the *Book of Resolutions* acknowledges that “it is not a book that you will sit down to read from cover to cover.” But an election season might be a good time to consult the book. The *Book of Resolutions* (BOR) includes the official statements of The United Methodist Church on over 200 topics. It is the voice of General Conference, the only body which can truly speak for the denomination. It is not church law, but it provides “guides and models for helping United Methodist members and groups relate a lively biblical faith to action in daily life . . . [and resource] materials .. about United Methodist concerns on current social issues”. So what does this have to do with the polls? Since United Methodist membership includes a broad diversity of thought and experience, General Conference and the *Book of Resolutions* do not tell United Methodists how to vote. However, the church does believe that “the church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust”. The *Book of Resolutions* goes on to say, “We recognize that churches exist within the body politic . . . [Their] existence affects, and is affected by, governments. We believe that churches have the right and the duty to speak and act corporately on those matters of public policy that involve basic moral or ethical issues and questions”. In that light, United Methodists may want to consider what General Conference has said as they reflect on the issues before the nation and the candidates who run for office. Here are a few of the resolutions addressing critical issues facing our nation as United Methodists go to the polls here in Michigan.

Abortion

“Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion. But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child. We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers. . . . We oppose the use of late-term abortion . . . except when the physical life of the mother is in danger and no other medical procedure is available, or in the case of severe fetal anomalies incompatible with life. . . . The Church shall offer ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies. . . . We mourn and are committed to promoting the diminishment of high abortion rates. . . . Therefore, a decision concerning abortion should be made only after thoughtful and prayerful consideration by the parties involved”.

Global Climate Stewardship

“We acknowledge the global impact of humanity’s disregard for God’s creation. Rampant industrialization and the corresponding increase in the use of fossil fuels have led to a buildup of pollutants in the earth’s atmosphere. These ‘greenhouse gas’ emissions threaten to alter dramatically the earth’s climate for generations to come We therefore support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries, and communities to reduce their emissions”.

Health Care for All

“The United Methodist Church is committed to health care for all in the United States, and therefore advocates for a comprehensive health-care delivery system that includes access for all, quality care, and effective management of costs”.

Welcoming the Migrant to the U.S.

“The United Methodist Church understands that at the center of Christian faithfulness to Scripture is the call we have been given to love and welcome the sojourner. We call upon all United Methodist churches to welcome newly arriving migrants in their communities, to love them as we do ourselves . . . and to show hospitality to migrants in our midst, believing that through their presence we are receiving the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. . . . The United Methodist Church is urged to advocate for the comprehensive reform of the US immigration system” .

Call to End Gun Violence

“As followers of Jesus . . . we must address the epidemic of gun violence Therefore, we call upon United Methodists to prayerfully address gun violence in their local context. . . . United Methodist congregations [should] advocate at the local and national level for laws that prevent or reduce gun violence. Some of those measures include: Universal background checks on all gun purchases . . . Prohibiting individuals convicted of violent crimes from purchasing a gun for a fixed time period . . . Prohibiting individuals under restraining order due to threat of violence from purchasing a gun . . . Prohibiting individuals with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to themselves and their communities, from purchasing a gun . . . Banning large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire multiple rounds each time the trigger is pulled . . . Promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime guns and promote public safety”.

Basic Freedoms and Human Rights

“We hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections and to the freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, communications media, and petition for redress of grievances without fear of reprisal”.

All United Methodists will not agree on every issue. Still, all United Methodists can agree that candidates should exhibit personal integrity and model the values that reflect our nation’s best. Truth-telling, character, and personal morality are essential attributes of a healthy society, including those who seek public office. United Methodists may differ on political parties, but all can agree that hate speech and mean-spirited rhetoric undermine the call of Jesus to love our neighbor. In 1750, John Wesley recognized the diversity of thought among Christians and offered the call to “unite in love.” In his sermon “Catholic Spirit,” he said, “And it is certain, so long as we know but *in part*, that all men will not see all things alike. . . . Every wise man, therefore, will allow others the same liberty of thinking which he desires they should allow him; and will no more insist on their embracing his opinions, than he would have them to insist on his embracing theirs. He bears with those who differ from him, and only asks him with whom he desires to unite in love that single question, ‘Is thy heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?’”

Or, in the words of the great Methodist missionary-evangelist of the previous century, E. Stanley Jones, “Here we enter a fellowship. Sometimes we will agree to differ; always we will resolve to love and unite to serve.” May it be true among United Methodists as we go to the polls this fall.



MASTER MULTIPLICATION

Jesus tells a parable about faithful servants who multiply their master's money. How does the master respond?

Directions: Solve the math problems. Find the letters that match the answers and write them in order to complete Matthew 25:21, NIV.

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------|---|--|----|----|-----|---|--|
| 1 | 5 | x 3 | = | | 6 | 6 | x 6 | = | |
| 2 | 7 | x 4 | = | | 7 | 9 | x 3 | = | |
| 3 | 4 | x 6 | = | | 8 | 3 | x 8 | = | |
| 4 | 2 | x 10 | = | | 9 | 10 | x 4 | = | |
| 5 | 9 | x 5 | = | | 10 | 11 | x 8 | = | |

| KEY | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| A = 28 | J = 50 | S = 88 |
| B = 35 | K = 21 | T = 45 |
| C = 14 | L = 63 | U = 64 |
| D = 25 | M = 15 | V = 32 |
| E = 33 | N = 24 | W = 80 |
| F = 72 | O = 77 | X = 56 |
| G = 40 | P = 54 | Y = 20 |
| H = 36 | Q = 9 | Z = 48 |
| I = 27 | R = 16 | |

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things;

I will put you in charge of _____ .

Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

MATTHEW 25:21, NIV

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



November Birthday's

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Katie Banninger - 4 | Xadrion Thompson - 6 |
| Charlene White - 8 | John Sarns- 9 |
| Ron Anderson - 10 | Aaron Hardy - 11 |
| Jessica Winship - 24 | Angela Deickhoff - 26 |
| Remi Anderson -30 | |



November Anniversaries

Danny & Lisa Edwards - 24



November 2022



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|
| <p><i>BE THANKFUL</i> BE GRATEFUL <i>BE BLESSED</i></p> | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 <p>Woman's group @1pm Men's breakfast @Classic Coney, 10am</p> |
| 6 Worship Service w/ communion @ 11:15 | 7 | 8 Praise Team 5:00 | 9 | 10 Praise Team 5:00 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Worship Service @ 11:15 | 14 | 15 Charge Conference via zoom in the library @7 Praise Team 5:00 | 16 | 17 Church Council Meeting @ 7:00 Praise Team 5:00 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Worship Service @ 11:15 | 21 | 22 Praise Team 5:00 | 23 | 24  | 25 | 26 All-church breakfast/"Hanging of the Greens" @10am |
| 27 Worship Service @ 11:15 | 28 | 29 Praise Team 5:00 | 30 |  <p>November Birthday's Katie Banninger - 4 Xadrion Thompson - 6 Charlene White - 8 John Sarns- 9 Ron Anderson - 10 Aaron Hardy - 11 Jessica Winship - 24 Angela Deickhoff - 26 Remi Anderson -30</p> | | |