

Dec. 21st 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:15 a.m.

Prelude: "Amazing Grace"

Arranged by Ralf Hirschbühl
Dedicated to Janet Hall

(The acolyte lights the candle signaling that
the light of Christ has come to meet us.)

Welcome

Matthew Muller

(Rise in body or spirit)

Invitation

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" #220 UMH (VS. 1, 2 & 4)

Call to Worship (Congregational response in bold)

L: Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

P: We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

L: Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore.

P: We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

L: For generations, God has sent signs of God's coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

P: We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

L: Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

P: Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

Praise and Worship

"Angels We Have Heard on High" #238 UMH (VS. 1, 2 & 4)

Advent Candle Lighting

Tege & Colleen

Message In Song

"The First Noel"

French Carol, edited by William Sandys
#245 UMH (VS. 1, 3 & 4)

Children's Moment

Rev. Sharon Appling

Scripture: **Luke 2:1-20**

(The Voice Bible)
Read by Matthew Muller

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Praise be to God for his word.

Sermon: Love Is Born, The Night Watchman's Praise!!!

Rev. Sharon Appling

The Church Gives Thanks

As we receive the gift of music, let us offer unto God our gifts of tithes and offerings.

Offertory Hymn

"Holy and Anointed One"

with

"Christ, We Do All Adore Thee"

John Barnett
Arranged by Carol Tornquist

(Rise in body or spirit)

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

UMH #95

Offertory Prayer

Matthew Muller

Community Prayer

Rev. Sharon Appling

(Congregation can call out the name of someone in prayer.)

Ways to Connect

Rev. Sharon Appling

(Rise in body or spirit)

Closing Song

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

#229 UMH

(The acolyte extinguishes the candle)

The Sending

Rev. Sharon Appling

Altar Flower Memorials:

Flowers are usually given in memory of or/and in thanksgiving for loved ones, or to commemorate special occasions in our lives. As of right now, we are asking that you provide your own flowers, until we can find a business that will give us a reasonable price.

Please sign up by contacting Ashley Detoledo at least 2 weeks in advance for your name to appear in the appropriate Sunday bulletin. For more information, contact Ashley Detoledo at 248-546-5955 or hpfirstumc@gmail.com

Worship

If you are unable to attend church in person, remember that a video of our Sunday service is posted on our church website, hpfirst.org, every week by Monday morning.

We also have a dedicated phone line where you can listen to our Sunday Worship service without the need for computer or internet. All you need to do is call 248-216-1651 to hear our Sunday worship service. Please let others who need to hear God's word proclaimed know about this service.

Please submit any bulletin announcements to the church office by Sunday evening. Leave a voice message at 248-546-5955, put a note in the mailbox on the office door, or send an email to hpfirstumc@gmail.com. **Thank You!**

Hearing Assistance Equipment is Available.

If you would like to use the equipment, please ask an usher and they will be glad to assist you.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
315 E. NINE MILE RD. HAZEL PARK, MI 48030**

(248) 546-5955 office

Email: hpfirstumc@gmail.com

Pastor's Email: sea0704@comcast.net

Website: www.hpfirrst.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/HazelParkUMC

Instagram Page: instagram.com/HazelParkUMC



Our Shared Purpose

To Embrace All People With Love So that the Individual & Community Can Grow Together & Thrive into the Fullness of Christ

Rev. Sharon Appling

Matt Sarns, Praise Team Director

Ashley Detoledo Secretary

The flowers on the altar are in memory of Pastor's Brother Rev. Kevin M. Totty (Birthday: December 23) and for Pastor's Sister-in-law: Cecelia Ann Gordon-Totty (Birthday: December 26)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Health/Life Concerns: Irene Scott, Kaye Olutham, Sandra Lachapelle, Lisa Johnson, Joan Sarns.

Comfort for the friends and families of:

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. Sharon Appling, Al Holland-SPRC Chair, John Sarns-Ad Council Chair, Frank Cox-Lay Leader, Ashley Detoledo-Secretary, Lisa Johnson-Treasurer, and Matt Sarns-Music Director.

After a 30 day period we remove names from the prayer list unless the church secretary is notified of the need to remain.

Congregation – please let the pastor know, if you have any specific prayer requests or needs; or would like a phone call from the pastor.

This Week At First United Methodist Church	
Wednesday, Dec. 24th	Christmas Eve Service @4pm
Thursday, Dec. 25th	Christmas Dinner from 3-6 pm
Sunday, Dec. 28st	Worship @ 11:15 am Coffee hour in the fellowship hall after service

How can you give back to the church?

There are 4 ways you can financially contribute to the church:

- ⇒ Give by placing an offering in the collection plate as the users walk by.
- ⇒ Give by clicking on the “Offering” button at hpfirst.org.
- ⇒ Give by sending a check to the church.
- ⇒ Scan the QR below with your camera to donate.



Did you know that you can also raise money by things you do everyday?

–Do you shop at Kroger? We are signed up with Kroger to earn a percentage for each shopper that is signed up for the rewards program. The best part? It's FREE! It costs nothing but a few minutes of your time to register your card. Our organization number is #XH158

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Upcoming Events this Month:

- ~Saturday, November 29, 2025 – Hanging of the Greens
11:00 AM.
- ~Saturday, Nov. 1st Women's Group @1pm
- ~Monday, Nov. 3rd – Bible study in the library or via zoom
@7:00pm
- ~Tuesday, Nov. 4th – Chair Yoga @ 6:30

October Birthdays

Jackie Martin 2
Danny Edwards 13
Jade Haller 13
Al Holland 14
Adrien LaChapelle 22



Things to Keep in Mind

~During our worship service on Sunday, November 2, we will recognize All Saints Day. This is an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith. It is a time to celebrate our history, what United Methodists call the tradition of the church.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, especially enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it “a festival I truly love.” On the same day in 1788, he writes, “I always find this a comfortable day.” The following year he calls it “a day that I peculiarly love.”

If you have lost a loved one during the past year, please check with Ashley Detoledo or John Sarns to be sure your loved one is on the list of names to be read on November 2.

If you provide a picture, we can include it on the screen during the service.

~Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 AM on November 2, 2025!

So don't forget to move your clocks BACKWARD one hour Saturday night, November 1, before you go to bed

Enjoy an extra hour of sleep and come to church wide awake and ready to worship our God!

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." -Proverbs 3:5-6

Winter Blessings
Matthew 25: 35-45

For the past few years our church has collected socks to donate to the Hazel Park Community Holiday Baskets. The Basket committee receives socks now from the Bombas sock company. Since this community need seems to be taken care of, we are turning our focus elsewhere.

We have unhoused people stopping by our church frequently seeking assistance. At the council meeting this month we decided to make their needs our community outreach this year. We would like to collect items such as socks, hats, warm gloves, and hand warmers. Other things that would help are tooth-brushes and paste, ChapSticks, moist towelettes, and ready to eat food items. Along with these new items, we would also like to have a supply of gently used clean coats, boots, warm clothes and blankets. Colleen is preparing a collection box for donations.

I know in the past we have collected socks only until Christmas, but this would be an ongoing collection just as the need is always there.

May you and your family be blessed during this holiday season and always,
Sue

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- ~Thursday, Dec.25 – Christmas Day Church Dinner 3-6 PM
- ~Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026 – Men's Breakfast at John R Grill 10:00 AM
- ~Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026 Women's Meeting 1:00 PM
- ~Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026 – Take Down Christmas Decorations 11:00 AM

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December Birthdays

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Kelsey DeToledo – 8
Renetta Renforth – 9
Carol Willey – 12
Rebecca Hardy – 15
Jeff Edwards – 22
Sandy Salbert – 22
Denise Usher – 24



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