



# "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](http://www.hpfirst.org)

## Inside the Pastor's Head

Devotional: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary." -Isaiah 40:31



### Pastor's Pen

Pastor Brian Steele



Dear Friends,

It's official! I will be serving Hazel Park First UMC full time starting January 1st, 2024. Our partner church, St. Paul in Bloomfield Hills, has voted to merge with Troy First UMC. Since this is a mid-year appointment change (very rare in our United Methodist circles), Troy has agreed to give Hazel Park the total of what my compensation and benefits would be until June '24. Those monies will be coming out of St. Paul's remaining assets. In other words, this is not going to cost Hazel Park very little of our own funds. Then, in July '24, it is likely we will be paired with another church. Ultimately, those decisions come at the discernment of the appointive cabinet.

I am excited to come and give Hazel Park my full-time efforts starting in January. While we will still be living in the St. Paul parsonage, I will be spending more time in the Hazel Park community. Truthfully, it has not been easy to balance our two churches in the past 18 months as these two communities of faith have gone in different directions. So being able to really focus on Hazel Park for a season will be of benefit to all of us. I am so grateful for how you have received me for the past 18 months. Your words of kindness and support have not gone unnoticed. We are a unique community, and it is a privilege to serve as your pastor. Starting in January, I look forward to more opportunities for coffee, visioning, learning and undoubtedly more great food. Let's get ready to party with the Holy Spirit in 2024.

### A Look Back:

**10/1: Guest Speaker Ric White:** Ric shared his powerful story of recovery with our church family.

**10/8: Church Pick Sunday:** It was Good. It is Good. It will be Good: Before there was original sin, there was original blessing. That is the message we can take from Genesis. That we have value beyond measure because God created us good.

**10/15: Disability Awareness Sunday:** The Dignity of Disability: Jesus came to remove barriers. Unfortunately, we have created numerous barriers for the disabled community. Jesus calls us to make an accessible church and to reframe how we view disability and healing.

**10/22: Church Pick Sunday:** You are not What You Do: Whenever we meet somebody, it is sure to come up. What do you do? We define ourselves consistently by what we do and/or produce for others. But Jesus doesn't. We can care for ourselves by seeing that we have value beyond anything we do or don't do

**10/29: Reformation Sunday:** Being a 21st Century Rabble Rouser: Our call as United Methodists is to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. That means we are people of protest. Protest is part of who we are as a people of God and how the church continues to reform.

### Top 3 Things I'm Working On:

- 1) Advent, Christmas Eve and all that comes with this beautiful season.
- 2) Planning for the future with you all!
- 3) Continuing education conferences online.

### What I'm reading and listening to:

- For Spiritual Development: Inspired by Rachel Held Evans, The Bible Tells Me So by Pete Enns, Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships by James Brownson.
- Podcasts I try to listen to regularly: The Bible for Normal People, Evolving Faith, Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership

If you're interested in seeing what else I read or for recommendations at Goodreads:  
[goodreads.com/besteel2386](https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/besteel2386)

# Upcoming Events



Saturday, Nov. 4th ~ Men's group meets @ 10am at the John R Grill  
Thursday, Nov. 16th ~ Church Council Meeting at 7pm  
Saturday, Nov. 18th ~ Workshop on Building Covenant 1 -3 pm  
Saturday, Nov. 25th ~ Hanging of the Greens Saturday @ 11:00 a.m.

## Things to Keep in Mind



Join us for our annual "Hanging of the Greens" to get ready for the advent season! Join us on November 25, at 11:00am to decorate the church! Afterwards, there will be a light lunch.



Join us for or four-week Advent study that focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. During this Advent season, Rachel Billups guides readers through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.



**Health/Life Concerns:** Hank Daugherty, Daniel Westleigh, Thomas Rang, Scott Perrault, Jasmine Walton, Heather Wallace, Harriet Hardy

**Comfort for the friends and families of:** Rick Kachadorian and his family in the passing of Gloria Kachadorian, Pierre Cross and his family in the passing of Teresa McMillian-Gerrish

**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.

# DID YOU *Know?*

Did you know that you can make a difference by collecting aluminum pop tabs?!

The Ronald McDonald House is a community of inclusive, compassionate, supportive programs and services that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. When we collect and donate them to

## **Why Collect Pop Tabs?**

Because it is so easy! The tabs on aluminum cans are small, can easily be removed and are easy to store. You may wonder why we collect just the tabs. Whole aluminum cans are both difficult to store and deliver. Tabs are smaller, easier to store and are easier to handle in large volumes. Collecting pop tabs is a great way to teach others about philanthropy and the importance of recycling while raising money to help children and their families at the same time.

## **What Do We Do with Pop Tabs?**

We take the tabs to a local recycling company and receive money for each pound of tabs collected. It takes approximately 1,200 tabs to equal one pound. Through this recycling program, we can raise funds to continue providing a “home away from home” for families.

## **How Can I Collect Tabs?**

By encouraging your class, group, church, business or organization to collect pop tabs, you can help us help families going through the toughest time of their lives. Every little bit helps! Collect your tabs in any way you would like—in coffee cans, plastic bags, boxes, buckets, or any other container with a wide opening. Set up a competition between groups to see who can collect the most!

## **Where Do I Take the Pop Tabs?**

There is a ‘Pop Tab House’ located in the library where you can put any collect tabs that you have and we will donate them!





# Faith Is the Key

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well. Luke 7:9-10 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 7:1-10



L	F	Q	S	P	T	A	M	A	Z	E	D	T	A	G
R	L	G	W	N	Y	S	W	B	C	W	A	H	U	M
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I	H	O	X	U	N	C	W	I	R	X	H	D	H	N
E	B	W	L	Y	E	K	H	G	Y	T	Y	B	O	K
Q	V	H	B	D	W	V	U	O	R	P	H	M	R	H
J	J	C	N	S	I	Q	A	O	D	I	T	B	I	I
C	R	X	E	E	W	E	W	O	U	D	K	B	T	J
R	S	H	D	N	C	G	R	E	K	A	B	E	Y	I
H	T	E	P	E	T	P	I	J	G	C	R	O	W	D
L	E	F	R	J	S	U	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	S
W	T	A	A	V	L	E	R	S	H	O	U	S	E	K
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AMAZED	CENTURION	SOLDIER	CROWD	WORTHY
DESERVE	HEALED	SERVANT	SICK	FAITH
AUTHORITY	DIE	GREAT	FRIENDS	HOUSE



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](mailto:Hazelparkfirst@wowway.com)  
Website: [www.hpfirst.org](http://www.hpfirst.org)

*Happy  
Birthday!*

November Birthdays

Katie Banninger - 4      Joan Sarns- 9  
Ron Anderson - 10      Aaron Hardy - 11  
Adam Hardy - 19      Jessica Winship - 24  
Angela Deickhoff - 26      Remi Anderson -30

*HAPPY  
Anniversary!*

November Anniversaries

Danny & Lisa Edwards - 24



# November 2023

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

<div>November Birthdays</div> <div>Katie Banninger - 4   Joan Sarns- 9 Ron Anderson - 10   Aaron Hardy - 11 Adam Hardy - 19   Jessica Winship - 24 Angela Deickhoff - 26   Remi Anderson -30</div>				1	2	3	4
					Praise Team 4:45		Men's group meets at 10 am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Worship Service w/communion @ 11:15		Praise Team 4:45		Praise Team 4:45			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Worship Service @ 11:15		Praise Team 4:45		Church Council Meeting @ 7:00 Praise Team 4:45		Workshop on Covenant 1 - 3pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Worship Service @ 11:15		Praise Team 4:45		Happy Thanksgiving		Hanging of the 'Greens' @ 11:00	
26	27	28	29	30			
Worship Service @ 11:15		Praise Team 4:45	Bible Study @ 7pm	Praise Team 4:45			