



"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

What did you learn today? by Bishop David Bard

Bishop David Bard encourages us to stay curious, for doing so can help alleviate some of the problems and divisions in our world today...

September is a month memorialized in a variety of songs. "See You in September" is a song about a young couple separated by the long summer holiday: "Will I see you in September or lose you to a summer love?" Another such love song was composed by Carole King and her then-husband Gerry Goffin, "It Might as Well Rain Until September," expressing the sadness of a couple separated by summer. The Broadway musical *The Fantastiks* opens with the lovely song, "Try To Remember": "Try to remember the kind of September when life was slow and oh, so mellow." If you prefer a song that gets you up off your chair to dance, think Earth, Wind & Fire's "September": "Do you remember the 21st night of September? Love was changin' the minds of pretenders while chasin' the clouds away."

If you think of songs about the beginning of school, it will add a whole bunch more to the September repertoire. My mind goes quickly to Chuck Berry's "School Days": "Up in the mornin' and out to school. The teacher is teachin' the Golden Rule. American history and practical math. You study 'em hard and hopin' to pass."

It is September, and for many, it is a time to get up in the morning and go to school. For teachers, school administrators, parents, and students, our prayers and good wishes for a wonderful year go with you. I have enjoyed seeing proud parents posting photos of their children heading to school again.

I have a deep appreciation for education. Counting all my years of formal education, including the years writing my doctoral dissertation, I spent twenty-six years going to school. I enjoy learning. Several years ago, the Gallup organization offered a self-assessment tool called StrengthsFinder to help you discover your strengths. Near the top of my list is a strength called "Learner." Along with StrengthsFinder, Gallup also developed an employee engagement survey to help gauge workplace satisfaction. Among the important qualities of a workplace that engages its employees is "this last year, I have had opportunities to learn and grow."

Learning. Consider Proverbs 18:15: "An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge" (NRSVUE). Eugene Peterson's rendering in *The Message* says, "Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights."

Learning. Learning should continue even when we graduate, no matter how many times that may be. Learning should not be confined to those like me who have a natural affinity for learning, where learning is a strength. There is in all of us some spark of curiosity that we can and should tend to, a desire to learn, explore, and grow. When we think of the universe's enormity, isn't there something in us that desires to know more about it? When we ponder the breadth, length, height, and depth of God's love in Jesus Christ, there is always more to discover (see Ephesians 3:18-20).

As September rolls around, as school begins for many, I invite us to exercise our curiosity. There seems to be a distinct lack of curiosity among too many people today, which is damaging. Ironically, in a world awash in information, too many listen only to things that confirm what we already know. One source of the deep divisions in our society is that we have become very incurious about how other people, whose lives are very different from ours, live. Instead of listening to one another, we play tapes in our heads that tell us we already know these "strangers." Rapid resort to labeling others extinguishes curiosity.

Being curious won't overcome all our problems, but it will help. If you live in the city, ask about life in rural areas or small towns. And if you are from a small town, ask what it is like to live in the city. From your own racial-ethnic identity, ask what life might be like for someone different from you. If you were born in the United States, ask what life is like for someone who immigrated here. If you are reading the Bible in a group and someone offers an interpretation that strikes you as off, ask why. You may not agree with them, but you may understand them better. At the heart of our ongoing anti-bias, anti-racism work is a profound encouragement to be curious about the lives of others.

Behind this encouragement to pursue curiosity are some deeply rooted theological notions. I trust that each of us is created in the image of God, and we understand the breadth of God more when we understand our diversity better. I also believe we tend to rely too much on our limited experience. That often puts us in corners that can be difficult to get out of. Rather than say, "I could be helped by seeing the world in some new ways," we defend our limited perspectives as complete. Instead, the biblical proverb encourages us to stay curious: "Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights."

When we were school children, many of us were asked at dinner time, "What did you learn today?" It remains a good question to ask ourselves often.

Community Events

HAZEL PARK DISTRICT LIBRARY



Howell Nature Center & Nature Bus

This library program is funded by a scholarship offered by the Spirit of Alexandria Foundation, started in memory of Alexandria Bennett.

Tuesday September 10 6:30pm

Visit www.spiritofalexandria.org for more information.

THE HOWELL NATURE CENTER'S SPIRIT OF ALEXANDRIA NATURE BUS WILL BE HERE TO PRESENT A LIVE WILDLIFE "CREATURES OF THE NIGHT" PROGRAM AS WELL AS A HANDS-ON MUSEUM AND EDUCATIONAL GAMES! DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS EXCITING EVENT AS THEY BRING NATURE RIGHT TO OUR OWN BACKYARD!

Hazel Park Library Friends

BOOK SALE

September 16-21!

Open Hours

Monday 10-6
 Tuesday 12-8
 Wednesday 12-8
 Thursday 12-8
 Friday 10-6
 Saturday 12-4

123 E 9 Mile Rd
 Hazel Park, MI 48030




Health/Life Concerns: The Steele Family, Cathy Wallace, The Rang Family.

Comfort for the friends and families of: The family of Al Hooland in the passing of his father, George Gebo. The family of Kathy Rogers in the passing of her mother, Diana Rogers. The family of Bev Hinton in the passing of her brother.

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

'Picture God on your Shoulder'

Grandparents Day is this Sunday, and here's a story one "memaw" shared with her grands. You might want to share it with yours. Or better yet, write and tell your own "heart story" with them. For those who celebrate, Happy Grandparents Day!

I want to share my most important heart story.

It is the most important story I know. It is about how I learned about God. I thought maybe it would help you learn about God, too. You see, when I was a little girl, my mommy got sick. It scared me a lot. She was in the hospital, and no one told me why. I was confused and sad. I didn't know if anyone else ever felt that way.

Now that I am all grown up, I know that everyone feels that way sometimes, but I didn't realize that when I was a kid. Anyway, someone took me to a movie while my mom was gone. They thought it would help me.

I guess it did. That is what this story is about!

You see, the movie was Pinocchio. In Pinocchio, there was a little cricket named Jiminy. Jiminy was always on Pinocchio's shoulder. He would talk to Pinocchio and listen to Pinocchio, and he was always there so that Pinocchio would never be alone! Isn't that cool?

I remember wishing that I had a Jiminy of my own, especially right then. I was so sad and confused and scared about my mom. I felt all alone. I wanted my very own Jiminy so that I wouldn't be alone.

Did you ever feel that way?

Anyway, right after I wished for a Jiminy, my mind, my heart, or something told me that I did have someone with me all the time. It wasn't a cricket or anything, but SOMETHING was always there. Sitting right there in that movie place, I just knew it was GOD! I knew that just like Jiminy was with Pinocchio, God was with me.

That means that I am not alone.

It means you are not alone, either. Isn't that really cool?

I should say that just because God is always there, it doesn't mean I never get sad, confused, or lonely. I still do. But when I feel that way, I know I am not alone. Maybe I don't have a cricket on my shoulder, but I do have God with me. And you have God with you!

I wanted to tell you that in my most important heart story. So, if you ever feel alone, close your eyes and picture God on your shoulder. Pretty soon, you will not feel so alone. Honest!

I am a grandma now, and it has worked for me all my life. It works because God is real and is always right there with you! Isn't that cool?

Just an added thought for you grandfolk and grownups.

In later years, when studying to lead a workshop on faith, I read a quote by theologian and author Leslie Weatherhead that took me back to that frightened and confused 7-year-old.

"Faith is imagination grown up."

How about that? From Jiminy to God.

In a 7-year-old, imagination began the journey. In a 76-year-old, faith continues that journey.

That's my story, and I'm sticking to it! What's yours?



Puzzle!

Search for and circle all the bold words from Psalm 18:2, which reminds us where we find our strength.

The **LORD** is **MY ROCK**, my **FORTRESS** and my **DELIVERER**; my **GOD** is my rock, in whom I **TAKE REFUGE**. **HE** is my **SHIELD** and the **HORN** of my **SALVATION**, my **STRONGHOLD**.

S T R O N G H O L D T S
 O L O B K I E Y E J S A
 R E F U G E I Y N T V L
 R O G H A R L Q R A Y V
 S X C T T I M T K K M A
 H O R N C E Y R A E D T
 I G F V L O L K E N S I
 E N F O R T R E S S G O
 L T U R G Q A C K J Q N
 D C D E L I V E R E R E
 K Y U X O C N O O Y Q S
 X H X A R K L R C N H Y
 G O D T D K A D K U D X

GOD ROCKS!

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

22			
13			
16			
24			
18			

26	1	20	18
1	2		
1	15	20	
6	1	18	
26	11	5	5

2	5	1	26	7	20
2	16	18	7	22	
25	15	13			
13	12	7			

13	12	7				
6	20	16	22	22		
26	11	13	12	7	20	22
13	12	7				

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
														1					22						

ISAIAH 40:8

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

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

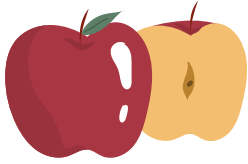


September Birthdays

Rob Narducci- 1 Roxann Kohler - 9
Richard Kachadorian - 10 Cheryl Miller - 14
Frank Cox - 30

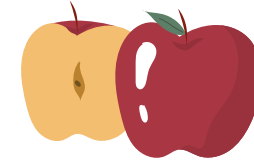


SUN

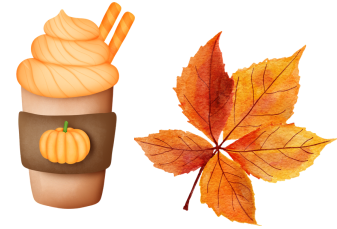


MON

September 2024



FRI



SAT

1

Worship Service
@ 11:15

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Worship Service
w/communion
@ 11:15

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Worship Service
@ 11:15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Church Council
Meeting @7pm

22

Worship Service
@ 11:15

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

Worship Service
@ 11:15

30

31



September Birthdays

Rob Narducci- 1 Roxann Kohler - 9
Richard Kachadorian - 10 Cheryl Miller - 14
Frank Cox - 30