



# *"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)



## **Pastor's Pen**

*Pastor Brian Steele*



## **Inside the Pastor's Head**

Dear Friends,

The countdown to Easter is on. Easter is one of those days where we can expect more guests than usual. ...Or at least we used to. When I was serving in Battle Creek, I was saddened when I walked by one of the most popular restaurants in town that was advertising an Easter Brunch. What time did it start? 11:00 a.m. The church hour. Here's what that told me. Culture does not expect people to even show up to church on Easter anymore. We can lick our wounds about that or we can do something about it. Church, if you want people to come and join our quirky church and if you want people to come on easter, you **MUST** invite them. You are the tool which God will use to draw people in. We might get a few people without that. But make no mistake about it, you are the greatest advertisement for our church.



We can no longer wait for people to come to us. We have to go TO the people. We have to go to the places in our community where people gather. We have to get to know people on their ground, not ours. So, get to know that neighbor you see a few days out of the week. Listen to them about their life. Then, maybe, by the grace of God, they will be willing to come with you to church on Easter or some other day. Invitation starts with relationship, and we can all for relationships in our own way.

Friends, be in prayer about who to invite on Easter. Then get to know them a little bit more. Listen to them. Then, when God provides a moment, let them know about how your faith has given you hope and how you have found that hope at our church. All of us need that hope, and people won't know they can find that hope here unless we invite them to it.

In grace,  
Brian

### A Look Back:

**3/2** Our faithful Lay Leader Frank Cox filled in for me while I was on vacation. Thanks, Frank!

**3/9 Goodbye and Hello: Repentance:** Repentance has been used as a tool for shame. We need to say goodbye to that. But we need to say hello to a repentance that helps us develop a gameplan for transformation. There is no shame in repentance, but there is humility and a willingness to go a new direction. Repentance isn't just apologizing, but changing our behavior to reflect a transformed mind and heart.

**3/16 Goodbye and Hello: Forgiveness.** We need to say goodbye to forgiveness as a transaction we do and hello to the process of forgiveness. We don't just forgive because we're supposed to, but because we want to be released from our grudges. Forgiveness offers us freedom to love people and move on with our life.

**3/23: Goodbye and Hello: Judgement:** How do we say goodbye to judging others? We embrace a spirit of curiosity. Curiosity and judgment cannot coexist. We all have judgments and biases, but learning to ask ourselves and others questions before making any conclusions will free us from judgment. Then we can take the plank out of our own eye first before focusing on the splinter in our neighbors.

**3/30: Goodbye and Hello: Grace:** Grace does not mean we can just keep on sinning. United Methodists believe in the freedom from the power of sin. That does not mean we won't make mistakes or won't sin, but that God's grace can free us from the power sin has over us. That is why Grace is free but not cheap.

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

- 1) Preparing our "Making Peace" class
- 2) Preparing for Holy Week!
- 3) Deepening my own spiritual life...and raising a kid!

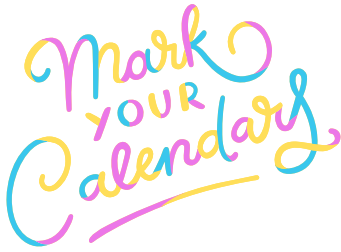
### What I'm reading and listening to:

- For Spiritual Development: Boundaries by Henry Cloud, Non-Violent Communication by Marshall Rosenberg, People Pleasing Pastors by Charles Stone, Metanoia by Alan Hirsch
- Podcasts I try to listen to regularly: The Bible for Normal People, Evolving Faith, Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership, The Emotionally Healthy Leader

# Upcoming Events



- ~Wednesday, April 9th: Lent Class: Making Peace.
- ~Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 PM – Church Council Meeting
- ~Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday: 7:00 P.M. at Ferndale UMC (22331 Woodward)
- ~Friday, April 18 – Good Friday : 7:00 P.M. Zion Lutheran Church in Ferndale (143 Albany St)
- ~Saturday, May 3 at 10:00 AM – Men's Breakfast at John R. Grill
- ~Saturday, May 17 – Annual Church Clean-Up Day 10:00 AM
- ~Monday, May 26 – Hazel Park Memorial Day Parade at 10:00 AM. (Church Open House)



## Things to Keep in Mind



YOUR birthday and anniversary is important to us! If you are unsure if your birthday or anniversary is on our list, please let us know! We want to celebrate YOU! Send an email to the office, or leave a note in the mailbox, so we can get you added!



The Daily Examen:

A Three-Part Guided Prayer:

Key Note: This is a God-guided practice. Not a human attempt to make ourselves better.

- 1) The first part of the examen is asking God, "Where were you present today that I missed it?" We missed God's presence so we ask God, "Can you show me how you were there?" We are examining our day in light of where God was. That fosters a solid sense of God's presence.
- 2) We then ask where we are doing well. Where we have seen that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. First, God sees us as part of God's good creation. We are to affirm something about ourselves that is holy. We celebrate who God has created us to be. We are allowed to celebrate who God created us to be.
- 3) Then we are honest about the darker places. We have established safety with God and then we enter into the darker places. See Psalm 139. We have released all things out and now we are left to wonder with what is left if it is good or bad. Now we do need God to search us and show us. Where are we falling short?



## An Easter Prayer for United Methodists

Easter is a time of joy and renewal. Followers of Jesus saw their darkest days replaced with the miracle of hope and eternal life. Christians today take time for self-examination and reflection during Lent. "Going dark" for a few weeks prepares us to fully experience those first rays of resurrection light on Easter.

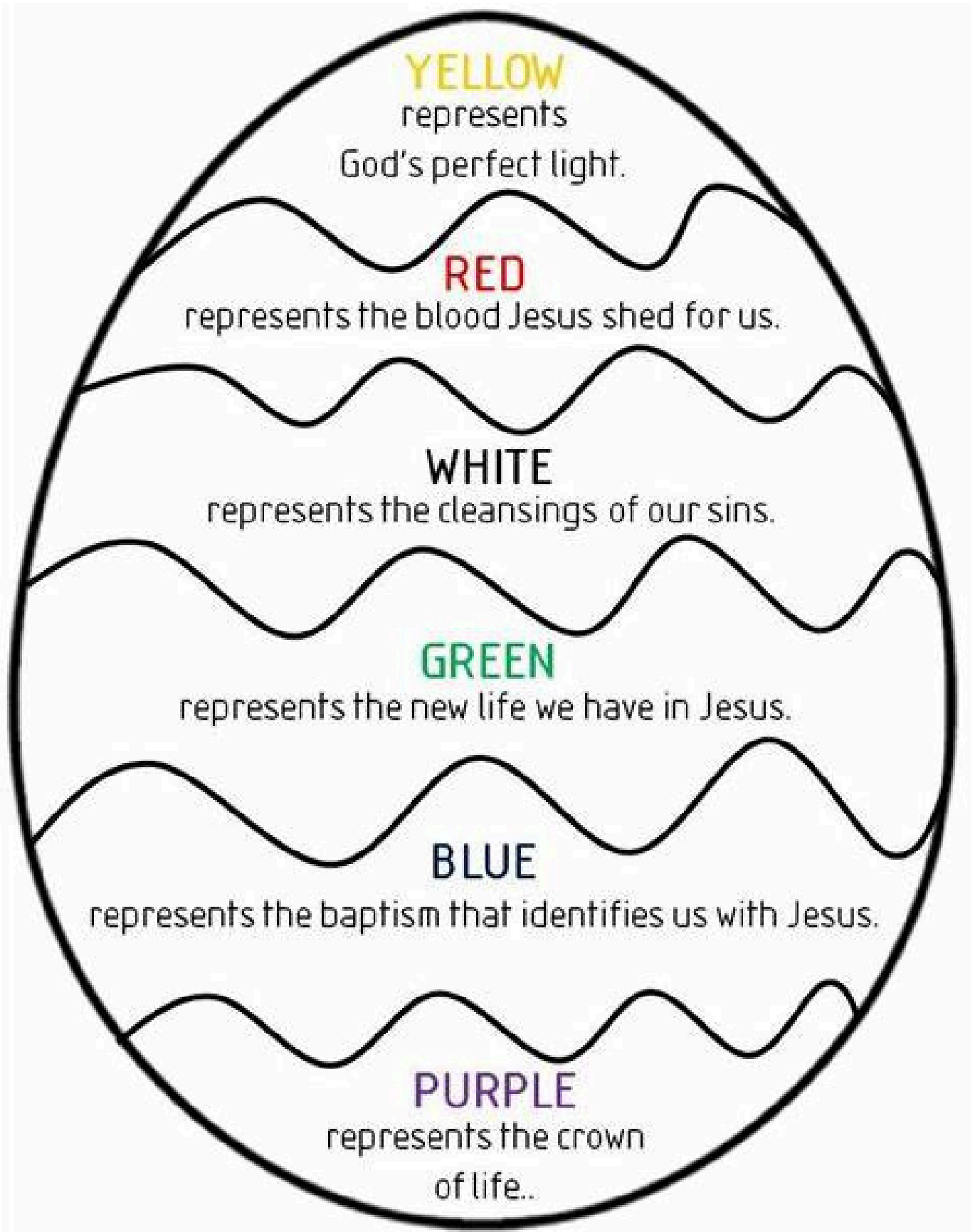
This prayer was composed by the Rev. Michaela Youngson, the Methodist Church of Britain.

### Prayer:

When everything was dark  
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,  
your love broke through.  
Your love was too strong,  
too wide,  
too deep  
for death to hold.  
The sparks cast by your love  
dance and spread  
and burst forth  
with resurrection light.  
Gracious God,  
We praise you for the light of new life  
made possible through Jesus.  
We praise you for the light of new life  
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.  
We praise you for the light of new life  
that continues to shine in our hearts today.  
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,  
will live in us each day;  
and that we will be bearers of that light  
into the lives of others.  
Amen.

This video was produced by [United Methodist Communications](http://www.umocm.org) in Nashville, Tennessee.  
Media contact is Joe Iovino, [jiovino@umocm.org](mailto:jiovino@umocm.org).







## Easter Morning Mystery Word Search

Solve the puzzle with the word bank below. Puzzle based on John 20:11-18

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

**SAW STONE TOMB WEPT**  
**TURNED JESUS TEACHER**  
**ANGELS**

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: [hpfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:hpfirstumc@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.hpfirst.org](http://www.hpfirst.org)

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

**April Birthday's**

Bev Hinton - 2  
Ed Roden - 2  
Rich Davis - 2  
Ukari Yoshida - 6  
Victoria Foerster - 19  
Darrick Giguere - 30



# April 2025



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1	2	3	4	5 Men's group meets at the Coney island at 10pm Women's group meets in the fellowship hall at 1pm
6 Worship Service w/communion @ 11:15	7	8 Praise Team 4:00	9 Bible Study @ 7	10	11	12
13 Worship Service @ 11:15	14	15 Praise Team 4:00	16 Bible Study @ 7	17	18	19
20 HAPPY EASTER Worship Service @ 11:15	21	22 Praise Team 4:00	23 Church Council Meeting @ 7:00	24 Maundy Service @7pm	25 Good Friday Service @7pm	26
27 Worship Service @ 11:15	28	29 Praise Team 4:00	30	<u>April Birthdays</u>  Bev Hinton - 2 Ed Roden - 2 Rich Davis - 2 Ukari Yoshida - 6 Victoria Foerster - 19 Darrick Giguere - 30		

