



# *"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 Sharon Appling*

### **Jeremiah 29:11 (The Voice Bible)**

**"For I know the plans I have for you," says The Eternal One "plans for peace, not evil, to give you a future and hope—never forget that."**

To The Beloved Hazel Park First UMC Community;

God has plans for First United Methodist Church of Hazel Park! Together, united in love for God, confident in the faith that Jesus is Lord, and yielded to the guidance of Holy Spirit, we will prosper! To God Be The Glory!!!

Hazel Park is a **Change Force** in the lives of our community. Siblings in need know that they are able to find respect, assistance, and fellowship here within our walls. Additional liturgists have been outstanding. School supplies and clothing for three young scholars were donated and delivered to a shelter so that the first, fourth, and seventh graders would be all set, equipped to begin school. Tege's Culinary Ministry Team completed recertification as Food Safe Handlers and are ready for their mission. New members have stepped into additional leadership roles here at HPUMC! John and Sue worked to identify information concerning past members: Esther Presson (8/15/1919 to 3/3/2025) and Dorothy Canyock (02/08/1930 to 06/14/2025). These faithful Women of God will be recognized during our September 7, 2025 Church Conference. A time of remembrance for Darayl Devin Slegianes (03/25/64 to 08/29/2015) was held on Sunday, August 31, 2025, the tenth anniversary of his passing, during morning worship. We are thankful to The Lord for these lives and their legacies of service. The 2025 Ice Cream Social was a real treat for all in attendance! John, Ashley, Sue, Tege and their Team did a remarkable job with this historic event, complete with vintage cars.



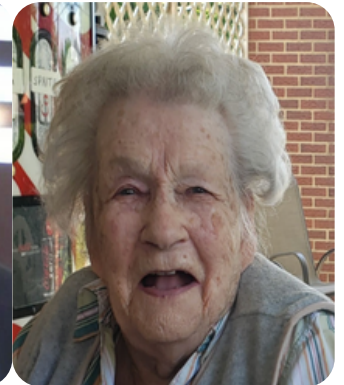
## Pastors Pen Continued

The Wednesday Bible Study was informative, and we had fun learning the Books from Genesis to Revelation with Bible Bingo. Congratulations to Andrew and Sue, our Bingo Champions!!! The Prophetic Promises of God were reviewed using Jeopardy Game Fun!!! Our last Wednesday Bible Study was held on the fourth Wednesday of August. Bible Study will be moving to **Monday** Evenings starting in September. Bible Study will then continue on Mondays each week after that day is switched. We will then explore more closely **The Voice Bible**. We will study facts about each set of books

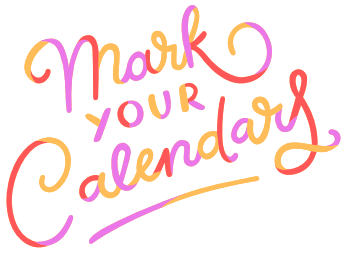
beginning with **The FIVE BOOKS OF LAW: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy on Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** You may join us here in the **Hazel Park Library** or via **Zoom at 784-000-401**. Lay Servant Ministry Training will begin in October on Sundays following Coffee Hour. Please see Lay Leader Frank Cox, if you are interested in attending. A new members class and Sunday School are in the planning. Stay tuned for more details!

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Hazel Park First is **FIRST CLASS IN CARING FOR OTHERS IN NEED!**

Blessed Peace,  
Pastor Sharon



## Upcoming Events



- ~Monday, Sept 8th - Bible study in the library or via zoom @7pm
- ~Sunday, Sept 14th - The Chosen Video Study After Coffee Hour
- ~Monday, Sept 15th - Bible study in the library or via zoom @7pm
- ~Tuesday, Sept 16th - Chair Yoga @ 6:30
- ~Thursday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> - Church Council Meeting @7pm
- ~Sunday, Sept 21st - The Chosen Video Study After Coffee Hour
- ~Monday, Sept. 22nd - Bible study in the library or via zoom @7:00pm
- ~Tuesday, Sept 23rd - Chair Yoga @ 6:30
- ~Sunday, Aug 28th - The Chosen Video Study After Coffee Hour
- ~Monday, Aug 29th - Bible study in the library or via zoom @7pm
- ~Tuesday, Aug 30th - Chair Yoga @ 6:30

## Things to Keep in Mind



### Church Directory for 2025

Updated Church directories will be coming out in September. If you want your name in it, or need to update your address/number or email, please let the church office know as soon as possible.

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**Health/Life Concerns:** Janet Hall, Curtis Gardner, Sandy Salbert, Lisa Johnson, Kateri Rang, Joan Sarns.

**Comfort for the friends and families of:** The family of Esther Presson.  
The family of Gary Wilson.

**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, Matt Sarns-Music Director, and Harriet Hardy-Organist.



## **8 Ways to Nurture Faith in Young Children**

### **Weave faith formation into the everyday**

Nurturing faith in babies, toddlers and preschoolers is not only meaningful, it can also be a lot of fun. It is possible for your busy family to incorporate this important work into day-to-day life, you just have to find the spiritual practices that work best for your unique family.

*Cummings and Pittenger share these practical ideas:*

#### **1. Evaluate your daily rhythms**

Identify transitions and pauses where you can add prayer, discussion and Scripture to your routines. For example:

- Write or print prayers and hang them above the changing table as a reminder to pray in those moments together.
- Keep a stack of conversation starters in the car. Ask questions that have no “correct” answers, such as, “I wonder what it would have been like to see Jesus walk on the water?”
- Use meals, naptime and bedtime as opportunities for reading Bible stories and sharing prayers.

#### **2. Pray in different ways**

Explore a variety of prayer practices to find options that your child most enjoys. As they grow, try new ones to meet their changing needs.

- The Lord’s Prayer and the Doxology: Repetition is helpful for children. Saying the same prayer over and over is fine; in fact, it can bring familiarity and comfort.
- Body prayer: Use movement to express a prayer.
- Take a walk: Head outside to marvel at God’s creativity and give thanks for it.
- Artistic prayer: Ask your child to draw what they’d like to say to God.

#### **3. Read, play and learn**

Reading a story Bible, such as the Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, brings Scripture to life through illustrations and approachable vocabulary. Also consider board books, snuggle time books and books focusing on prayers for families. Since children learn through play, finger puppets or interactive tools can help make story time fun and memorable. Check out free Digital Faith Formation Playlists, created by Pittenger and her team, which include readings, questions, prayers, music, activities and more.

#### **4. Model your faith**

Our kids learn from us by watching us. As you lead the way in prayer, Bible study, engaging in worship, talking about God, serving others, being part of a faith community and exploring spiritual practices, children will want to join you. They’ll come to expect these components of your routine and they will begin to incorporate them into theirs as well. Kids might even remind you to complete a forgotten activity or suggest a new one.



## **The Vision of The United Methodist Church**

### **5. Welcome hard questions**

It's okay to not have answers to big questions, to say, "I don't know – let's try to find the answer together," and then turn to a pastor, resources or friends to help you unpack challenging topics. After all, parents are on a spiritual journey of growth, too, and it's great for kids to see you learning alongside them. For preschoolers, answer questions with one in return: "What do you think?" This will encourage them to lean on their spirituality and prior learning to draw conclusions, discover other topics they wonder about and generate further conversation.

### **6. Offer a blessing**

Saying a blessing over your child at a key point in the day, such as before preschool or at bedtime, can help them connect deeply with you and with God. Hold or make eye contact with your child to create a special moment. Cummings shares this with her baby: "I bless you as you grow, I bless you as you go, I bless you as you play, I bless you today." Pittenger shares this with her school-age children: "God bless my children and help them to grow bigger and stronger and wiser and more in love with God and all people every day."

### **7. Help others**

Engaging in community service can be an excellent way to bond as a family, and it provides an opportunity to talk about loving our neighbors, being a Jesus follower and living out our faith. Projects such as sorting items at a food bank are often appropriate for volunteers of all ages. Participating in an advocacy effort related to a social justice issue that your family is passionate about is a powerful way for kids to see that their voice matters and that they can make a difference on behalf of others.

### **8. Find connection**

Being active in a faith community helps children see their role in the body of Christ. Including young children in worship services broadens their understanding of church and what it means to praise God. It's also important that kids know they can trust and learn from adults other than their parents, whether they be Sunday School teachers, grandparents or family friends. As an added bonus, the community provides parents with a support system as you seek ideas and resources from pastors, church staff and other families who are in a similar life situation.

### **Encouragements for parents**

"[Parents] may not be the expert on all things theological, but they are the expert on their kids. We don't have to have all the right words or all the right answers," says Pittenger.

Cummings shares, "Parents, give yourself grace. You are loving and nurturing the faith of your child in the middle of a season that's really difficult and challenging, especially for young families. Anything that is intentional about sharing the love of God, about sharing the story of God, or even just sharing your faith with your child in conversation is really impactful."



## **Children's Sermon: All Puffed Up (Luke 14:1-11)**

A balloon is a simple toy, but it brings a lot of happiness to people of all ages. There are so many things you can do with a balloon. You can use balloons for decorations at a party or you can bat them around in the air like a ball. If you have a long, skinny balloon, you can even make it into the shape of different animals. Yes, a balloon can bring a lot of happiness, but it can bring sadness and disappointment too. Haven't you ever seen a small child cry when his balloon bursts?

You and I are sometimes like a balloon. We sometimes get all puffed up with our own importance. We think we are great and we expect everyone else to think so too. Maybe it is because we are so good looking, or maybe it is because we are so smart. Maybe we are really good in sports, or perhaps we are the best singer in the choir. Sooner or later, if we keep getting puffed up with our own importance, something will happen to burst our balloon.

Jesus warned us that this would happen. The Bible teaches us that if we are too proud and think too highly of ourselves, we are headed for a fall. On the other hand, if we are humble, and realize that it is through God's strength that we are able to do great things, we will be given a place of honor in the kingdom of God. (Luke 14:1-11)

From now on, when you see a balloon, I hope it will remind you that we should not become too puffed up with our own importance -- or something may come along and burst our balloon!

### **Scripture: (Luke 14: 1-11)**

#### **Is It Right to Heal on the Sabbath?**

On a Sabbath day, Jesus went to the home of a leading Pharisee to eat with him. The people there were all watching Jesus very closely. <sup>2</sup> A man with dropsy<sup>[a]</sup> was brought before Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus said to the Pharisees and teachers of the law, "Is it right or wrong to heal on the Sabbath day?" <sup>4</sup> But they would not answer his question. So Jesus took the man, healed him, and sent him away. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to the Pharisees and teachers of the law, "If your son<sup>[b]</sup> or ox falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not pull him out quickly?" <sup>6</sup> And they could not answer him.

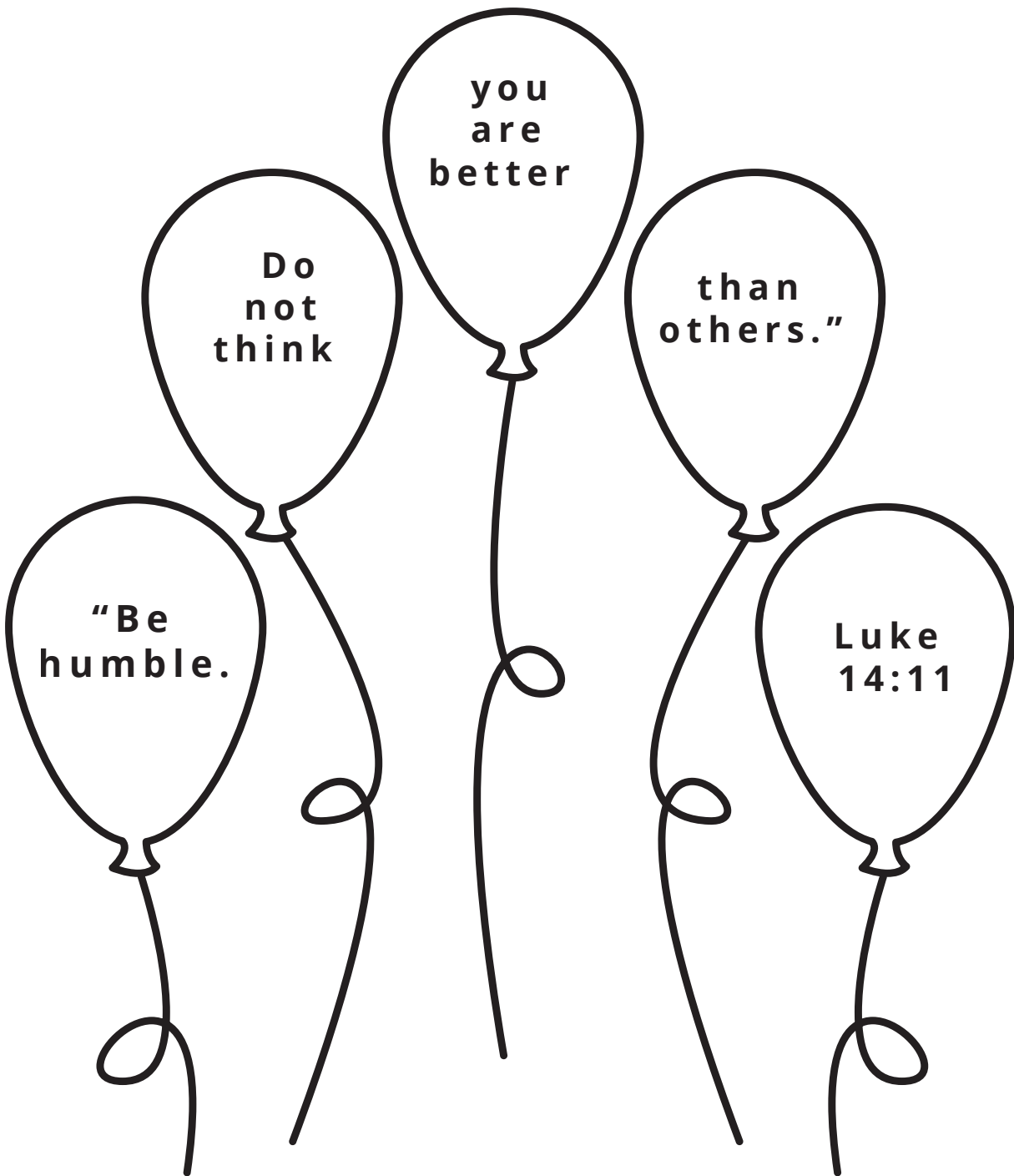
#### **Don't Make Yourself Important**

<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus noticed that some of the guests were choosing the best places to sit. So Jesus told this story: <sup>8</sup> "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, don't take the most important seat. The host may have invited someone more important than you. <sup>9</sup> And if you are sitting in the most important seat, the host will come to you and say, 'Give this man your seat.' Then you will begin to move down to the last place. And you will be very embarrassed. <sup>10</sup> So when you are invited, go sit in a seat that is not important. Then the host will come to you and say, 'Friend, move up here to a more important place!' Then all the other guests will respect you. <sup>11</sup> Everyone who makes himself great will be made humble. But the person who makes himself humble will be made great."

**Prayer:** Jesus, help us to be humble. Remind us that whatever abilities we have are a gift from you and that you are the one who deserves the praise! These things we pray in your holy name. Amen.



# BALLOONS



To be humble means we don't think that we are better than other people. Jesus teaches us that one way to honor God with humility is to "sit in the lowest seat," or give up what we may want the most, trusting that God will lift us up.



Happy are those people who are fair, who do what is right at all times.

Psalms 106:3



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!*

**September Birthdays**

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



SUN



MON

# September 2025

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT



	1 <b>HAPPY LABOR DAY</b>	2	3	4	5	6 Men's group meets at the coney island at 10am Women's group meets in the fellowship hall at 1pm
7 Worship Service w/communion @11:15  The Chosen Video Study	8  Bible Study @7pm	9  Chair Yoga @6:30pm  Praise Team 4:00	10	11	12	13
14 Worship Service @11:15  The Chosen Video Study	15  Bible Study @7pm	16  Chair Yoga @6:30pm  Praise Team 4:00	17	18  Church Council Meeting @ 7:00	19	20
21 Worship Service @11:15  The Chosen Video Study	22  Bible Study @7pm	23  Chair Yoga @6:30pm  Praise Team 4:00	24	25	26	27
28 Worship Service @11:15  The Chosen Video Study	29  Bible Study @7pm	30  Chair Yoga @6:30pm  Praise Team 4:00	<div>   </div> <div> <b>September Birthdays</b>   Rob Narducci 1  Roxann Kohler 9  Cheryl Miller - 14  Richard Kachadorian 10  Frank Cox 30 </div>			