



"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



Pastor's Pen

Pastor Sharon Appling

Isaiah 43:18-19 (THE VOICE BIBLE)

GOD: Don't revel only in the past or spend all your time recounting the victories of days gone by. Watch closely: I AM preparing something new; it's happening now, even as I speak, and you're about to see it. I AM preparing a way through the desert; Waters will flow where there had been none.

Ephesians 4:1-3 AND 23-24 (THE VOICE BIBLE)

As a prisoner of the Lord, I urge you: Live a life that is worthy of the calling He has graciously extended to you. Be humble. Be gentle. Be patient. Tolerate one another in an atmosphere thick with love. Make every effort to preserve the unity the Spirit has already created, with peace binding you together... 23 Take a fresh breath and to let God renew your attitude and spirit. Then you are ready to put on your new self, modeled after the very likeness of God: truthful, righteous, and holy.

Happy New Year, First UMC of Hazel Park Family,

As we embark on The Epiphany Season of 2026, I invite you to join me with a grateful spirit, expecting to see Jesus and looking for God to then release even more blessings to us in this new year as we focus on seeking spiritual formation, justice, equity and peace for all. I extend to you my heartfelt appreciation and love for the support you have given over the past six months as I serve you as your pastor. We have a new tone of love and mutual respect at Hazel Park. We are listening first with the heart, speaking in love, responding with deep regard and extending heartfelt compassion in fellowship. Thank you for contributing to this culture of tranquility in maintain a safe space called church. There is a renewed zeal for learning in Bible Study. More volunteers lead worship. May this year bring serenity, peace, hope, joy, and prosperity into the lives of you, families, friends, and our community siblings.



Pastors Pen Continued

This year the Scriptures above will be our ministry theme as we take important steps toward strengthening the mission of our church and nurturing even more spaces where faith, fellowship, and ministry can flourish. As we prepare for this next chapter, we unite in prayer that 2026 will be a year of deep conversion and transformation for our world. The Lord is calling us in grace to grow closer to Him, to be renewed in divine love, and to live with a greater sense of missional urgency. Together, let us embrace the invitation to reflect God's love in our words, actions and service with one another. The mission of our church can only be effectively accomplished when we come together in unity, mutual respect, cooperation and love. Everyone is valued here. Join me in encouraging one another to seek new ways to use our God-given spiritual gifts to build up The Body Of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior.

Thank you for each prayer, act of support, advisement and thoughtfulness extended to my family and me. A heartfelt note of gratitude for the greeting and gifts at Christmas of popcorn, home-baked cookies, hard candies, chocolates, toiletries, gift cards and a generous donation tucked inside a lovely card!!! I appreciate each and every one of you here at First UMC if Hazel Park!!!

FUN FACTS ABOUT 2026! The United States celebrates its 250th , Semiquincentennial, Birthday. There will be a total solar eclipse on August 12th . On November 15th , The Voyager I spacecraft, which launched in 1977, will reach a distance of one light-day from Earth. The United Nations named 2026 The International Year Of The Woman Farmer. God declares 2026 as a gift, FUMCHP will forget the past and press towards our mark of high calling, making world transformative disciples!

Blessed peace and endearing love,
Pastor Sharon



Upcoming Events

- ~Monday, Jan. 12th - Bible study in the library or via zoom @6:00pm
- ~Tuesday, Jan. 13th - Chair Yoga @ 6:30
- ~Thursday, Jan. 15th - Church Council Meeting @7pm
- ~Monday, Jan. 19th - Bible study in the library or via zoom @6:00pm
- ~Tuesday, Jan. 20th - Chair Yoga @ 6:30
- ~Monday, Jan. 26th - Bible study in the library or via zoom @6:00pm
- ~Tuesday, Jan. 27th - Chair Yoga @ 6:30



Things to Keep in Mind



Church Directory for 2026

Updated Church directories are in the library! Make sure you pick your new one up for the New Year! It's the blue cover!

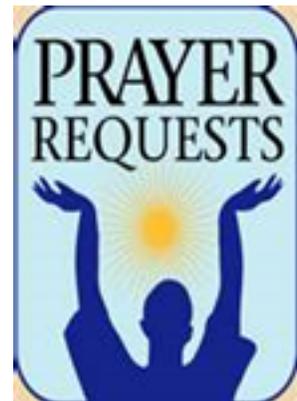
Health/Life Concerns: Sylvia Asmann, Kaye Olutha, Tywana Tippins, Adrien and Sandra LaChapelle, Lisa Johnson, Denise Usher, Joan Sarns, Victoria Foerster, Jackie Martin, Linda Sears, Colleen Kazmierczak, Rita McDonald, Kateri Rang and Irene Scott

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.



Get Them Talking: Love

Get Them Talking is a series of resources to help families start conversations about issues of faith.

Scripture:

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Colossians 3:14 NRSV

Reflection

Many of us have a favorite article of clothing. Maybe we like the way it looks or how comfortable it is. It could be our favorite because it makes us feel special, or shows others something about who we are and what we like.

The Bible tells us we can put on love like clothes, by remembering how much God loves each person in our lives every day. Love brings people together, helps us cooperate with others, and teaches us that other people are important. When we put on love like clothes, we let others see God’s love living in us.

Get them talking

- What is your favorite thing to wear? Why?
- What does it mean to wear love? How is that different from how we normally think about love?
- Our verse says that love “binds everything together in perfect harmony.” What do you think that means?

Prayer

Dear God, teach me how to put on love so that I can help show others just how much you love us. Amen.

Activity

Ask each family member to find at least two items of clothing they no longer wear. Donate those clothes to an organization that helps those who do not have clothes to wear. What else might you donate?



Children's Sermon: New Year's Plan

(Show kids the calendar from last year) It looks like a lot of stuff was planned last year. Some plans are good but only for a short time, like losing weight. Every time I lose weight, I find it again! But some things are really important, like things we do to be closer with God. Who can tell me some things you would like to do better this year to be closer to God? Read your Bible? Pray? How about memorizing one verse every month? You can do that! That's only 12 verses in a year. If the verse is too long, get mom and dad to help you make it shorter. The Bible tells us to hide God's words in our hearts so that we don't sin against Him. Who thinks that is important?

Let's take a look at the new year's calendar. It's empty! If I plan now before I get too busy, it can help me keep my resolution or promise to God.

God has plans for us too! Let's read our verse today. (Read Jeremiah 29:11). God wants to prosper us or make our relationship with Him better, and he give us hope in life and a when we trust in Jesus a future in Heaven with Him. I am so glad God has plans for my future. And he has plans for each one of you. Let's make a plan to be closer to God so you can be ready when He shows us the plan he has for you!

Now, let's talk more about New Year's resolutions. A New Year's resolution is like a promise you make to yourself to do something good or to stop doing something not so good. It's a way to make your life better. For example, you might decide to clean your room more often, be nicer to your brother or sister, or even eat more fruits and veggies. But, since we're talking about being closer to God, let's think of some New Year's resolutions for kids that can help us do just that. Besides reading the Bible and praying, what else can we do? How about being kind to everyone, even if they are not kind to you? That's something Jesus taught us. Or, maybe you can help out more at home or at church without being asked. God loves it when we help others.

And don't forget about being thankful! A great New Year's resolution is to say thank you to God every day for something different. It could be for your family, your friends, your pet, or even for the sunny weather. Being thankful makes us happier and brings us closer to God. Remember, making New Year's resolutions for kids is not just about making promises to do better, but it's also about asking God to help us keep those promises. We can't do it all on our own, but with God's help, we can do amazing things. So, let's all think of one New Year's resolution that will help us grow closer to God this year. It doesn't have to be big; even small steps can make a big difference. And, let's write it down or draw a picture of it and put it somewhere we can see every day to remind us of our promise to God and to ourselves.

In closing, let's pray together and ask God to help us with our New Year's resolutions. Let's ask Him to guide us, to give us strength, and to show us how to live in a way that pleases Him. And let's thank Him for always loving us and for having great plans for each and every one of us.

Scripture:

(Jeremiah 29:11)

I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for this new year and for all the plans you have for us. Help us to make good New Year's resolutions that will bring us closer to you. Give us the strength to keep our promises and to grow in love and kindness. Thank you for loving us and for being with us every step of the way. Amen.



God's Promise Pathway Word Search

Solve the puzzle with the word bank below. Puzzle based on Jeremiah 29:11

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

FUTURE PRAYERS PLANS HOPE
HARM PROSPER LISTEN CALLS

Hazel Park First United Methodist Church
315 E. Nine Mile Rd.
Hazel Park, MI 48030

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday Morning Service: 11:30 am
Church Office: 248-546-5955
E-mail: hpfirstumc@gmail.com
Website: www.hpfirst.org

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

January Birthday's

Amy Finnigan - 4
Carliea Donaldson - 5
Matt Sarns - 9
Sue Anderson - 13