



"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 Brian Steele



Dear Friends,

I'm sure you all joined our church for various reasons. You may have connected on a personal level with people. You may have found an opportunity for meaningful service. You may have come during a season of need and wanted to stay as part of the community. Perhaps you came because you were United Methodist previously or were looking for a United Methodist Church. If so, you were definitely in the minority. In today's world, denominations matter less and less to people. Still, we are a United Methodist Congregation, and I am a United Methodist clergy person and part of my job is to make sure you are aware of our denominational practices and large-scale news.

There are beautiful aspects of our United Methodist tradition and way of life, and there are aspects that bring frustration and struggle. No organization or denomination is perfect as all organizations are filled with imperfect people. So, some of you may be aware and some may not be aware, but our denomination is in a place of deep conflict, and the pandemic has not helped us in finding resolution. After the 2019 special called General Conference, which is where elected United Methodist delegates gather from across the globe, the called "Traditionalist Plan" was narrowly adopted which would continue to prohibit United Methodist clergy from performing marriage ceremonies for sexual minorities (LGBTQIA+) and would not allow sexual minorities to serve as clergy. This caused significant disruption and unfortunately further divided us.

Since that time, there have been different groups formed with people of various convictions who have faithfully worked together and tried to find solutions moving forward. Sadly, the pandemic has delayed and complicated these proposals. While a regular session of General Conference was scheduled for 2020, it was delayed because of the pandemic. Due to a lack of vaccine availability, the next General Conference is not scheduled until 2024. Currently, there are still different groups looking for a way to move forward, and I admire the faithfulness of the people doing that work.

Since General Conference does not meet until 2024, there is still much that is unknown. We do not know what legislation will be adopted or not adopted. However, there are a few certainties that I want you to know for now.

-> There are new expressions of Methodism forming. To state more clearly, even though General Conference has not met yet, there have been new denominations and coalitions formed of churches and clergy who no longer wish to be part of the United Methodist Church. The Bishop works through a disaffiliation process with these churches.

-> A straw poll was taken at our 2019 Michigan Annual Conference, and approximately 70% of Michigan United Methodist delegates (lay and clergy) desire a more inclusive denomination or are at least willing to give space for those who desire that inclusion. To put it succinctly, the majority of the Michigan Conference will be staying United Methodist and will allow LGBTQIA+ individuals to serve as clergy and allow all clergy to provide any services to this community they desire. This does not mean that the 70% are any more valued or loved by God. It just means this is the desire of the majority of the Michigan Annual Conference.

-> Even with this straw poll in mind, no church will be forced to have a LGBTQIA+ clergy person or to host same-gender weddings if they do not want to. The cabinet and bishop have always tried to match the values of congregation and clergy, and this has become an even more important task for them in recent years.

Personally, I am here to minister and serve any and all regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. I state this because of my convictions around Scripture, and not in spite of it. However, I recognize that for many who grew up in the church, they were taught the opposite of what they are now hearing. These are discussions that I am glad to have, and we will likely be having in more formal ways in the future.

For now, know that I am here to answer any questions. No decisions need to be made anytime soon. We will continue to open our doors to any and all who come and offer the grace-filled hospitality that Christ has offered to all of us. I wanted to share this information so you would be aware and can hear news "from the horse's mouth."

No matter where you stand, I am grateful to be your pastor and am here for you.

In grace,
Brian

Upcoming Events



Saturday, September 3rd ~ Men's Breakfast will be at the Classic Coney at 10:00am
Saturday, September 3rd ~ Women's group meets at 4pm
Thursday, September 15th ~ Church Council Meeting at 7pm
Tuesday September 27th ~ The Sunshine Ministry



The church council meets once a month and is open for all to attend either in person or via Zoom. The meeting for this month is September 15th at 7:00pm. An email with the Zoom link, the minutes from the previous meeting and the agenda for the current meeting is sent out the week of the meeting. If you haven't attended in the past, consider joining this month.

Community News: Greater Detroit District

The 2022 District Conference is on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Gather starts at 8:30 and the program is from 9:00am to 11:30am. It's hosted and will be at Troy: Big Beaver Methodist Church (3753 John R Road, Troy Michigan 48030). If you wish to attend you may go in person or view it online

Community News: Hands with Detroit

Join us on Saturday, October 1, 2022 to be God's hands and feet! With on-site options at Cass Community Social Services (CCSS) and off-site options to benefit CCSS and the NOAH Project, we have projects for anyone ages 10 and up to help with! Let's come together to help Detroiters who are dealing with homelessness.

Visit <https://handswithdetroit.org> for detailed explanations of available volunteer opportunities and to sign up!

Questions? Contact Susanna Webber, Director of Justice and Missions Engagement for the Greater Detroit District at swebber@greaterdetroitumc.org



Church Directory for 2022

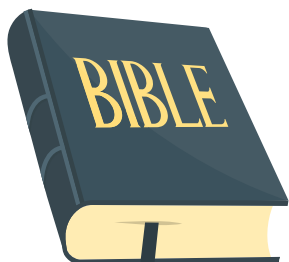


The corrections, additions and updates are being compiled for the 2022 Church Directory. Please take a minute to look and make sure that your name, address, phone number and e-mail address are listed correctly in the 2021 directory. If there are any changes, please let the church office know as soon as possible.

You can put a note in the box on the office door, send an e-mail to the church at hazelparkfirst@wowway.com or leave a voicemail by calling the church at 248-546-5955.

You can also take this opportunity to let the church know your birthday or anniversary so that your special days may be listed in future newsletters.

New Class Has Started on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m



Our whole world is rebuilding from the pain and chaos of the pandemic. Our churches are no exception. Fortunately, Scripture talks about rebuilding projects. For the next six weeks, we're going to do a deep dive into the books of Nehemiah and Ezra to discern together spiritual practices that can help us love our neighbors and community more. We'll be reading "Walking with Nehemiah" to help guide our conversations. All are welcome on Wednesdays at 7:00 in-person at Hazel Park and also on Zoom. The Zoom link will be e-mailed out each day of the class with the Mid-Week Manna. Please sign up if you would like us to order you a book.

Health/Life Concerns: Mike D., Teresa's hip, Jason A for traveling mercies, Coleen's knee, Rick and Gloria on their trip, The Leece family on the loss of LeeAnn's uncle, A coworker's aunt who has cancer, A friend's father-in-law. Jeanie Pate (Aunt of Christina Anderson) Victoria Foerster, Rob Narducci, Ed Roden, Richard Davis, Jack Willey, Lisa's friend Gloria, Jackie, Survivors of the floods, Brittany Griner and her family, Kathryn, our first responders, the Cox and Nance family, Julia, Clarence Callaway (Lillie Smith's Uncle), James Cagley.



Comfort for the friends and families of: Nancy Knott (mother of Jackie Martin) Louis Senechal, Betty Cross (Grandmother of Pierre Cross)

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, New Great grandbabies, Amber for her new job.

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.

Punjabi

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

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

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

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

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

September Birthday's

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

September 2022

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

September Birthday's

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



1

2

3

Woman's group
@4pm
Men's breakfast
@Classic Coney, 10am

Praise Team 5:00

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Worship Service
w/ communion
@ 11:15

Praise Team 5:00

Praise Team 5:00

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

Worship Service
@ 11:15

Praise Team 5:00

Church Council
Meeting @ 7:00
Praise Team 5:00

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Worship Service
@ 11:15

Praise Team 5:00

Praise Team 5:00

25

26

27

28

29

30

Worship Service
@ 11:15

Praise Team 5:00

Praise Team 5:00