



"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

Inside the Pastor's Head

Devotional: So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for the Glory of God—
Romans 15:7

Several months ago, I told you about a district initiative we are participating in called R3 (reflect, reimagine, reengage). Essentially, a group of us have been meeting with a facilitator to reflect on who Hazel Park UMC is as a church, reimagine who we can become, and how we can reengage in our community to make us more effective in ministry. This has led us to develop a draft of core values. Core values are those truths that we hold most important and what guide us in vision, mission and purpose in our shared life together. Below you will find our draft. Feel free to give us your feedback if we are missing anything or if any of the values seem "off." These are important statements because they are what help guide us in all our decision making on what we do and what we do not do as a church.

- **Hospitality:** We believe in welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us. All people regardless of any human difference are welcome to participate in the full life of the church and find a place of belonging here.



- **Inclusion and Acceptance:** We are a non-judgmental community. We welcome folks across the spectrum of life. We have those who sometimes do not have a place to lay their head, the LGBTQ+ community and everyone in between.
- **Spiritually (and Physically) Hungry:** We do Jesus and food well. Our congregation has a hunger to grow spiritually, and we're really good at feeding each other. We minister to the holistic person.
- **Allow everyone to serve and serve everyone:** We respond to the needs individual's have and also believe everybody has gifts to offer to the community. In churchy terms, this is the priesthood of all believers. Everyone needs to be ministered to and everyone is a minister.

A Look Back:

3/3: The Power to Forgive Ourselves: The difference between shame and guilt is a powerful one. Guilt knows we did something bad or sinful. Shame tells us we ourselves are bad. Peter knew he was guilty. He denied Jesus. But he was also able to eventually forgive himself and move forward. Judas shamed himself and was tragically never able to recover.

3/10: Forgiving Others...Again...And Again...And Again: Forgiveness is a process. It's not a one-time transaction but something we have to go back to again and again. That's why Jesus tells us we are to forgive 70X7. He's not giving a literal amount but that we are always going to have to practice forgiveness and that we have to learn how to forgive because it does not usually come naturally.

3/17: Forgiveness, Injustice and Reconciliation: Sometimes we force forgiveness too quickly when there is deep injustice. There is tension between injustice and forgiveness, but when we look at Jesus on the cross saying, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" we see a mind-boggling example of forgiveness amidst deep injustice. We are called to be repairers of the breach with injustice and also offer forgiveness.

3/24: A Parade of Protest: Palm Sunday doesn't have just one parade. It has two. Pilate with the glitz and glamor of the Roman Empire. Then there's Jesus on the donkey. One gives the illusion of hope. The other gives us the hope we really need. Which one will we show up for?

3/31: Resurrection is for Jesus: The resurrection isn't just a past event but also a current reality. We get to join Jesus in His resurrection. He can resurrect our lives no matter what our circumstance is. We can live a resurrected life with love, joy, hope and peace.

Top 3 Things I'm Working On

- 1) Doing a deep dive into the Book of Revelation for our study and series.
- 2) Preparing worship series for the rest of the year.
- 3) Looking for opportunities to get more involved with the Hazel Park Community

What I'm reading and listening to:

- For Spiritual Development: A lot of books on Revelation. Like, a lot.
- Podcasts I try to listen to regularly: The Bible for Normal People, Evolving Faith, Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership

Upcoming Events



Saturday, April 6th ~ Women's group meets in the fellowship hall at 1pm
Saturday, April 6th ~ Men's group meets at Coney island at 10pm
Wednesday, April 10th ~ First week of bible study on Revelation Starts @7pm
Thursday, April 11th ~ District Forum for General Conference @ 7pm
Thursday, April 18th ~ Church Council Meeting @7pm

Things to Keep in Mind

HANDS WITH DETROIT

GREATER DETROIT DISTRICT UMC

SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024

@ Cass Community Social Services

Kitchen Help :: Grounds Clean Up :: Maintenance Projects

Document Destruction :: Doormat Construction

Offsite Collections (Ages 10+ are welcome!)



"SERVE ONE ANOTHER HUMBLLY IN LOVE."
-GALATIANS 5:13

Mark your calendars for an impactful event – Hands with Detroit! On Saturday, April 27, 2024, we will once again come together to serve our community, recognizing that our mission is deeply woven into the fabric of personal stories and compassionate hearts.

Our aim is to embody the spirit of service as the hands and feet of Christ.



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!



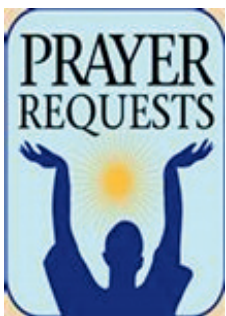
Health/Life Concerns: Brianne's grandma, Leota, Cathy Rogers mom, Rebecca Rang, Amber Flint, Robert Narducci, Joyce Renforth, Rebecca Rang, Frank Cox, Pierre, Nicole (Sue and Ron's daughter), Rob N's friend Rochelle has been diagnosed with cancer and will be starting chemotherapy soon, Joan Sarns,

Comfort for the friends and families of: The Steele family of the passing of JoAnne Jones. The passing of Daniel Westleigh.

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. 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.



'You did it for me': Serving others

United Methodists long to participate in God's work in the world. We pray, worship, and offer well wishes. We also serve, lend a hand, and meet a need. Through our service, we often find healing for ourselves as the Holy Spirit moves in and through us. A great guide for finding ways to minister to our neighbors is Jesus' story of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31-46. Jesus tells the helpers that they served him by serving those in the greatest need.

I was hungry

"I was hungry, and you gave me food to eat," Jesus tells us.

Provide a meal. Many churches have ministries that provide meals for those who are recovering from surgery, mourning the loss of a loved one, or otherwise in need of a hot meal. You can also do something similar on your own. Take a meal to one who is hurting. Provide food to those living on the street. Buy the meal for the person behind you in the drive-thru line.

Give to the local foodbank. Foodbanks do wonderful work providing meals for men, women, and children who cannot afford to feed themselves. **Donate food.** Volunteer. Support ministries that feed people around the world. Help feed those who are hungry.

I was thirsty

"I was thirsty," Jesus tells the servants, "and you gave me a drink."

Donate water. Water is a critical supply in times of disaster. We need clean, safe water to survive. Natural disasters like floods and mudslides often contaminate aquifers, limiting people's supply of water. Donations of water to a local disaster relief center, to first responders, or to your church mission team heading off to do cleanup, are important.

Give to well ministries. Tragedy reminds us that some live without clean, safe water every day. Donate to ministries that help provide wells like the UMCOR WASH program.

Conserve. The water you save helps someone else have enough.

I was a stranger

Jesus continues, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Embrace love. In our daily living, we can see others as a bother. The difficult people at work. The teacher that doesn't understand. The other drivers clogging the roads on the way to work. We can make a huge difference in the lives of many, and ourselves, by deciding to lead with love.

Spend time with kids and youth. Volunteer to read at a nursery school. Get involved in the tutoring program at an elementary school. Intentionally listen to your children and their friends. Play with your grandchildren and their friends. Go to the high school football or basketball game in town. Support the young people in your community.

Care for the elderly. Find out how you can help at a nursing home. Ask your pastor about becoming a visitor to those in your church who no longer get out very often. Drive a neighbor to a doctor's appointment or help them grocery shop.

Do no harm on social media. One of John Wesley's General Rules for the Methodist societies was to do no harm. Today, we need to take care that our social media posts are loving, do not spread rumors, and do nothing to hurt others.

I was naked

"I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear," Jesus praises.

Give money during tragedy. One of the tricky things during a tragedy is that the agencies don't have the resources to sort through clothing donations. They much prefer monetary donations that help them buy the needed clothing. [Support UMCOR](#) and other agencies that meet these needs with cash donations.

Donate clothing to proper agencies. There are those who are always in need of clothes. Give to your local coat drive, shoe drive, clothing drive. The agencies asking for those donations are prepared to process them and use them to clothe those with nothing to wear.

Join a building project. To protect them from the elements, people need clothes and shelter. Join a local Habitat for Humanity build, a mission team, or another organization providing housing to the many who live out in the elements. Make a trip with United Methodist Volunteers in Mission to use your skills to help someone in need.

I was sick

"I was sick," Jesus tells the surprised servants, "and you took care of me."

Give blood. The American Red Cross is always in need of blood donations to care for the sick and wounded. Make a donation.

Appreciate first responders. Show your love and appreciation for those who run into harm's way to care for another. A visit, a meal, baked goods, cards, letters, and donations are welcome support.

Share your thoughts. Not only can your thoughts, fears, doubts, and insights be a value to you, they can help others as you work through a tragedy together.

Care for your neighbors. There are many kinds of illness, and as many ways to care for those who are suffering. It starts by knowing the people around you. Share your life with your neighbors. Get to know their joy and sorrow. Find out ways you can pray for and serve them.

I was in prison

Finally Jesus says, "I was in prison and you visited me."

Learn about prison ministry. Most communities have a prison ministry. Learn more about yours and find ways that you can support those in prison, and those recently re-entering society.

Support addiction and abuse ministries. Alcoholism, drug addiction, and domestic violence imprison many in our communities. Support recovery ministries. If you are a recovering addict or survivor, your struggle can be an encouragement to others.

Work for justice. For example, learn what you can do about gun violence.



LORD GOD

Help me to be
a disiple
this
week.

This week
I will follow
Jesus by
doing this.

Sat

Fri

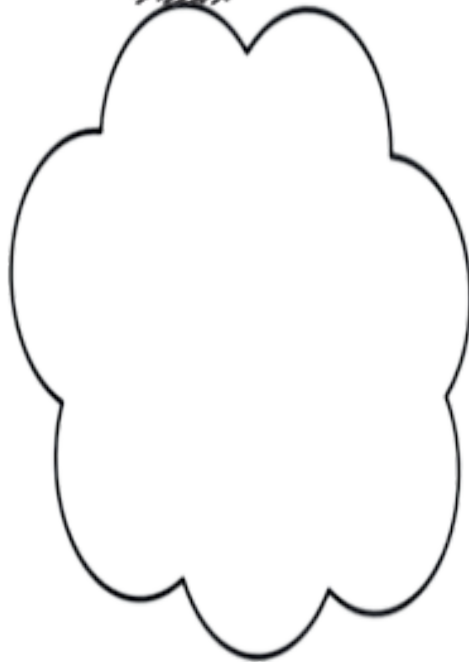
Thurs

Wed

Tues

Mon

AMEN



Color in the
foot day by
day as you
follow
Jesus!

Follow Jesus

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



April Birthdays

Michael Dusseau - 1 Bev Hinton - 2
Ed Roden - 2 Rich Davis - 2
Ukari Yoshida - 6
Victoria Foerster - 19 Darrick Giguere - 30



April Anniversaries

Michael & Renee Dusseau - 4



April 2024



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

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

