



"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

The Almighty One has told us what is good; what does The Lord require of us
but to do justice, to love merciful kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.
-Micah 6:8

Dear Church

With joy and great expectation, I look forward to serving the Hazel Park First United Methodist Church and Community. My vision is to serve in love with a collaborative, inclusive style leadership. I embrace all spiritual gifts of the Body of Christ as given by Holy Spirit. Joining in the mission to make world transformative disciples of Jesus, I value Fervent Intercessory Prayer, Explorative Bible Study, Passionate Worship, Interactive Preaching, Empowering Laity Training and Impactful Outreach to our congregation, immediate neighbors and worldwide Community.

I became a Certified Lay Minister in 2018 and was assigned to Detroit Conant Avenue United Methodist Church as director of Spiritual Formation. Since 2019, I have had the privilege of serving as pastor for Omo Zion UMC, Embury UMC, and St. James UMC. Providing interim leadership and long-term pulpit supply for Beverly Hills UMC and Romulus Community UMC has also brought me spiritual fulfillment. My kingdom assignments also include work with The Greater Detroit District Lay Servant Ministries Training and The Michigan Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Teaching Trainers and laboring alongside of United Women Of Faith seeking justice, equality, and educational reformation in averting the School to Prison Pipeline is a personal passion.



Since 1964, my professional experience of working with children of all ages and learning styles, inclusive of their families as a teacher and an administrator has been rewarding. I retired from Detroit Public School as Assistance Superintendent of Schools in 2010; now devoting time to my love of teaching the Bible, grant writing, youth ministry, senior ministry, laity training, pastoring small congregations and inspiring others to engage their spiritual gifts in world transformative ministry.

I have one daughter, six grandchildren, and counts myself blessed to be the sister of seven siblings.

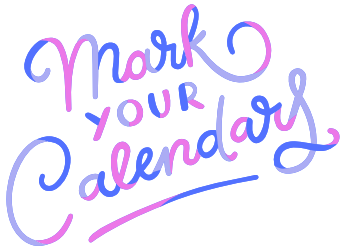
I would love to visit with each of you and get to know more about your hopes and dreams for Hazel Park! I will be at church for a personal one-to-one meet and greets during the week of July 6 – 12 at pre-arranged days and times. Please call me at (313) 671-8974, contact me at my personal email address: [**sea0704@comcast.net**](mailto:sea0704@comcast.net) or call the church office to select an appointed day and time for us to talk!

Beloved, let us celebrate the past ministry traditions of Hazel Park First United Methodist Church and charge forward towards the mark of the High Calling, telling all of Christ by our love along pathways charted by God, The Almighty One!

In grace and gratitude,
Pastor Sharon

Upcoming Events

- ~Sunday, July 13th - The Chosen Video Study After Coffee Hour
- ~Tuesday, July 15th - Chair Yoga @ 6:30
- ~Wednesday, July 16th - Bible Study @6:30
- ~Thursday, July 17th - Church Council Meeting @ 7pm
- ~Sunday, July 20th - The Chosen Video Study After Coffee Hour
- ~Tuesday, July 22nd - Chair Yoga @ 6:30
- ~Wednesday, July 23rd - Bible Study @6:30
- ~Sunday, July 27th - The Chosen Video Study After Coffee Hour
- ~Tuesday, July 29th - Chair Yoga @ 6:30
- ~Wednesday, July 30th - Bible Study @6:30



A letter from your SPRC

Dear Church Family:

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is pleased to inform you that Michigan Area Bishop David Alan Bard has appointed the Pastor Sharon Elaine Appling as the pastor of First United Methodist Church of Hazel Park effective July 1st, 2025.

Rev. Appling became a Certified Lay Minister in 2018 and was assigned to Conant Avenue United Methodist Church as director of Spiritual Formation. In 2019, Rev. Appling was assigned to serve as Pastor of Omo Zion UMC, Embury UMC, and St. James UMC.

She currently serves as the Lay Servant Ministries Training Chair for the Greater Detroit District. As a member of the Michigan Conference Board of Ordained Ministry since 2017, Rev. Appling is the Psychological Assessment Mentor of clergy and aspiring congregational leaders. Working alongside of United Methodist Women seeking justice, equality, and educational reformation in averting the School to Prison Pipeline is a personal passion.

A graduate of Wayne State University, Pastor Appling holds a Bachelor's degree in Arts and Secondary Education, as well as a Masters of Instructional Supervision with an advanced specialty in Central Office Administration.

After a 46-year career with the Detroit Public Schools, Pastor Appling retired in 2010 as Assistant Superintendent of Schools. She now devotes her time to her love of teaching the Bible, grant writing, youth ministry, senior ministry, laity training, and inspiring others to engage their spiritual gifts in transformative ministry.

Pastor Appling also attended the Methodist Theological School and Ashland Seminary of Ohio, where she explored the application of John Wesley's Sermons and Charles Wesley's Hymns to local church ministry and worship design. Honors include: 2004 Principal of the Year, 2006 NAACP Gertrude Powe Award, and 2008 National Public Radio Visionary Leader Recognition, "A School That Never Closes."

Pastor Appling has one daughter, a son-in-law, six grandchildren, and counts herself blessed to be the sister of seven siblings.

The SPRC is working with our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Daryl Totty, to complete the details of this appointment and we look forward welcoming Pastor Appling in July.

In Christ,
Albert P. Holland, Chair
Staff Parish Relations Committee



Office Hours

As Pastor Sharon gets settled in at Hazel Park First, she will initially be holding office hours on Tuesdays from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

Please contact her directly to make an appointment.

Her email is: sea0704@comcast.net

She can also be reached on her cell phone, 313-671-8974



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.

Health/Life Concerns: Kateri Rang, Mary Ellen Chapman, Harriet Hardy and her daughter Renee Dusseau, Leeann's niece Alexa, Joan Sarns, Janet Hall

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



Modeling Faith for the Next Generation: The Power of Imitation

"Join together in following my example," Paul writes, "and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do" (Philippians 3:17, NIV).

Church leaders, especially those guiding older adults, know that faith is not only taught—it is caught. The apostle Paul understood this deeply. As he planted communities of believers across the Mediterranean, he couldn't be present with each congregation. Instead, he relied on trusted leaders who could serve as examples of Christian living. Paul called on believers to imitate him and those he had mentored.

Today, imitation remains one of the most effective ways we learn and grow. Just think about everyday life:

- When faced with a plumbing issue, we might watch a YouTube tutorial, carefully watching, then copying each step.
- In music lessons, we learn best when we place our hands atop our teacher's, mimicking the motion until we understand the rhythm and shape of the song.
- On the slopes, a ski instructor demonstrates first, and we follow—turning, stopping, and moving just as the instructor does.

Faith is learned in the same way.

In our churches, older adults hold a powerful position—not just as keepers of memory and tradition, but as living examples of resilient, grace-filled discipleship. Whether older adults realize it or not, younger generations are watching them. How they pray, how they serve, how they respond to life's challenges—all these actions become quiet but profound lessons. Paul reminds us that Christian maturity is not only for our benefit. It is to be lived out in community, imitated, and passed on. Our call is twofold: to keep our eyes on faithful models around us and to become faithful models for others.

As a leader, consider this:

- Are the older adults in your congregation aware of the influence they have?
- Are you helping them see the value in modeling a life of faith for others?
- How might you equip them to become confident spiritual mentors in your church?

Let us encourage our older adults not to retire from spiritual leadership, but to step into it with renewed purpose, knowing that someone, somewhere, is learning how to follow Christ by watching them.

Reflection Questions:

- Who has modeled Christian living for you?
- How are you modeling a life worth imitating?
- What habit or attitude could you cultivate this week that reflects Christ to others?



JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

BETHANY
BETHLEHEM
BETHSAIDA
CAESAREA PHILIPPI
CANA
CAPERNAUM
DECAPOLIS
EGYPT

EPHRAIM
GALILEE
JERICHO
JERUSALEM
JORDAN RIVER
JUDEA
MAGDALA

MOUNT OF OLIVES
NAZARETH
PEREA
SAMARIA
SIDON
TYRE
WILDERNESS

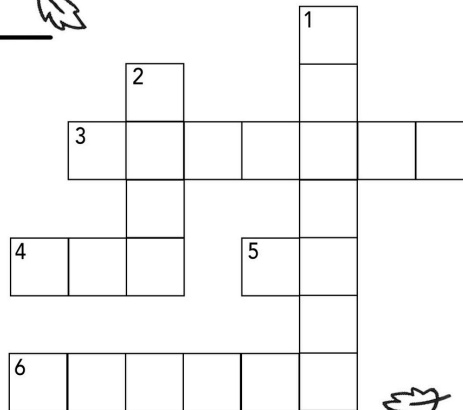
B	M	L	E	T	C	U	S	G	O	T	O	B	T	H	E
E	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	E	M	N	S
T	U	E	U	E	N	A	R	B	Y	V	I	T	A	L	S
H	D	L	R	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	H	G	A	E
S	E	G	E	I	T	S	S	S	G	Y	O	L	D	I	N
A	A	C	J	A	C	O	N	I	Y	R	P	E	A	R	R
I	D	E	E	A	C	H	F	D	P	E	H	H	L	T	E
D	E	H	R	E	R	E	O	O	T	A	L	E	A	S	D
A	C	O	U	T	H	P	A	N	L	T	I	M	S	W	L
C	A	E	S	A	R	E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

**Use the words provided to complete the puzzle.
Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks
below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.**

GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST,
YIELDS, US, LAND



3. Rhymes with farthest.
4. Rhymes with nod.
5. Rhymes with thus.
6. Rhymes with fields.



1. Rhymes with messes.
2. Rhymes with hand.

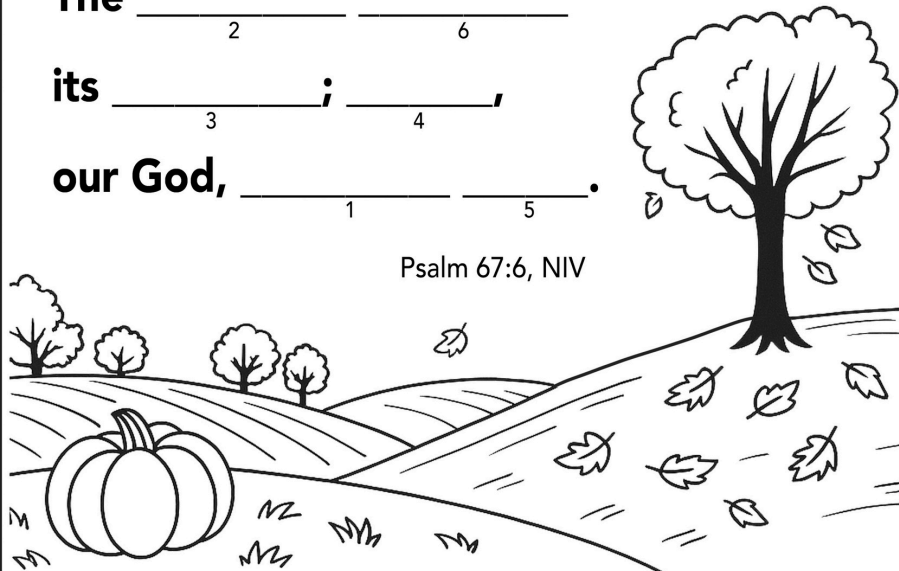


The 2 6

its 3; 4

our God, _____ **_____.**
1 5

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Page 7

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
Website: www.hpfirst.org



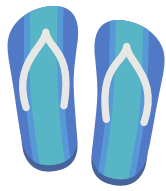
July Birthdays

Rosa Richards - 1 Pastor Sharon Appling - 4
Emma Hardy - 6 Camden Flint - 11
Janet Hall -13 Hailey Rang - 15
James Gibson - 17 Susie Brewer - 18
Bill Anderson - 22

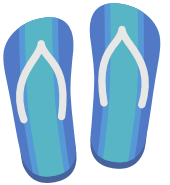


July Anniversaries

Adrien & Sandra LaChapelle - 17



July 2025



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1 Chair Yoga @6:30pm Praise Team 4:00	2	3	4 HAPPY Fourth OF July	5 Men's group meets at the coney island at 10am Women's group meets in the fellowship hall at 1pm
6 Worship Service w/communion @11:15 The Chosen Video Study	7	8 Chair Yoga @6:30pm Praise Team 4:00	9 Bible Study @6:30Ppm	10	11	12
13 Worship Service @11:15 The Chosen Video Study	14	15 Chair Yoga @6:30pm Praise Team 4:00	16 Bible Study @6:30Ppm	17 Church Council Meeting @ 7:00	18	19
20 Worship Service @11:15 The Chosen Video Study	21	22 Chair Yoga @6:30pm Praise Team 4:00	23 Bible Study @6:30Ppm	24	25	26
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