



"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've only been with you all for three months. But in that time, it has become remarkably clear to me that Hazel Park does two things really well: Food and Jesus. As people showed interest in relaunching our community dinners, an idea came to mind that I think could combine our love of food and Jesus. In recent years, a movement called "Fresh Expressions" has taken off in multiple communities and even countries. Fresh Expressions are creative ways to engage with people who will likely never come through our doors on a Sunday morning. Perhaps the most popular and effective model of a Fresh Expression is the Dinner Church, which we voted to explore at our last Church Council meeting. While Dinner Churches take a variety of forms, they essentially combine food and church. Dinner church is not just a community meal, and it is not just a church service. It's both. You eat together. Then maybe during the meal or afterward, there are most of the basic elements of worship (music, message, communion). It's church, but it's less formal and more communal.

While the details of a potential Hazel Park "Dinner Church" have yet to be worked out, I do believe we have the gifts and capacity to have an effective Dinner Church. Our church clearly cares about the Hazel Park community and has open doors for those in need, and the Dinner Church model can feed people physically and spiritually. Typically, Dinner Churches are intergenerational, affordable, and meet a felt need because, well, we all have to eat. They're also not as intimidating as formal church services are for some. This model is also something we see lived out in Scripture consistently, both in the ministry of Jesus and especially in the book of Acts. As we explore this ministry, an important note: The purpose of Dinner Church is not to get people to come to Sunday morning worship. Now, of course we can invite people and if they come, great! Sunday morning worship is our biggest and most important community gathering we do. But we aren't doing this to get more people on Sunday morning because they would have already been to worship at the Dinner Church. Dinner Church is worship. It just is done in a different way. As I look at different models and ways to make a Dinner Church effective, I will share them with you. But in the meantime, if you have any ideas or thoughts about this opportunity, I'd be glad to hear them! I am enjoying being your pastor, and I am grateful for you. I look forward to what God has in store for us as we continue to rebuild our lives and our church.

In grace,
Brian

Upcoming Events



Saturday, October 1st ~ Men's Breakfast will be at the Classic Coney at 10:00am
Saturday, October 1st ~ Women's group meets at 4pm
Thursday, October 20th ~ Church Council Meeting at 7pm
Tuesday, October 25th ~ The Sunshine Ministry
Monday, October 31 ~ Trunk or Treat (More information to come)



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 October 20th 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.

Things to Keep in Mind



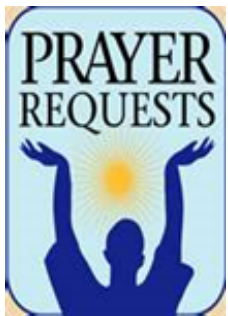
Health/Life Concerns: Steve D, Samuel, The Narducci Family, The Brown Family, Dave as he recovers from a seizure, Geri Sims, Ron A. as he recovers from COVID, Steve Daugherty, Charlie as he undergoes surgery, Diane W and her daughter's living condition, Amy G's cousin Jason and girlfriend Hannah who are recovering from an auto accident, Harriet H's grandson's wife in hospital, Family in Florida, Teresa for her health, Richard and Gloria K as they continue to recover from COVID and Gloria has a blood transfusion. Lisa Johnson's Aunts Family, Steven Gargarello (Dorothy Bastien's son)

Comfort for the friends and families of: Carol Willey and family in the passing of Jack Willey, The Johnson family on the passing of Lisa's aunt, Cody Martz, (Nephew of Victoria Foerster), Andrew Martinez (Steve Gargarello's son)

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, Prayers of thanks for Ed R's recovery

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.



Give to Readers to Leaders Campaign

Half of the money raised for the Readers to Leaders campaign will go toward funding scholarships for children in Liberia. Three hundred dollars will cover the school fees for one student at a United Methodist school in Liberia. The goal is to raise funds for 100 students for eight years of schooling.

~ photo courtesy Jon Reynolds

All United Methodist congregations in Michigan are encouraged to raise at least \$600 for the Readers to Leaders campaign, which will make a life-changing investment in the lives of children in Michigan and Liberia.

The campaign runs until May 1, 2023, and has the goal of raising \$500,000 to support scholarships for children in two conference-sponsored educational ministries. Local churches are also being invited to create their own ministry relationship with a public school in their community.

Congregations ready to give to this campaign can submit a check to the Michigan Conference at 1161 East Clark Road, Suite 212, DeWitt MI 48820. Write this phrase in the memo line: "Readers to Leaders #4415." Individuals can also donate online.

At the 2022 Michigan Annual Conference, members voted overwhelmingly to support "Readers to Leaders," which challenges each Michigan congregation to raise at least \$600 before May 1, 2023.

The money raised will benefit the Liberia Scholarship Program and the Michigan Conference's Children Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools Program, two ministries that encourage and support children's education.

The Liberia Ministry Partners (formerly the Liberia Task Force) is establishing the Liberia Scholarship Program to celebrate the renewal of the covenant between the Liberia and Michigan Conferences. Three hundred dollars will cover the school fees for one student at a United Methodist school in Liberia. The goal of the program is to raise funds for 100 students for eight years of schooling.

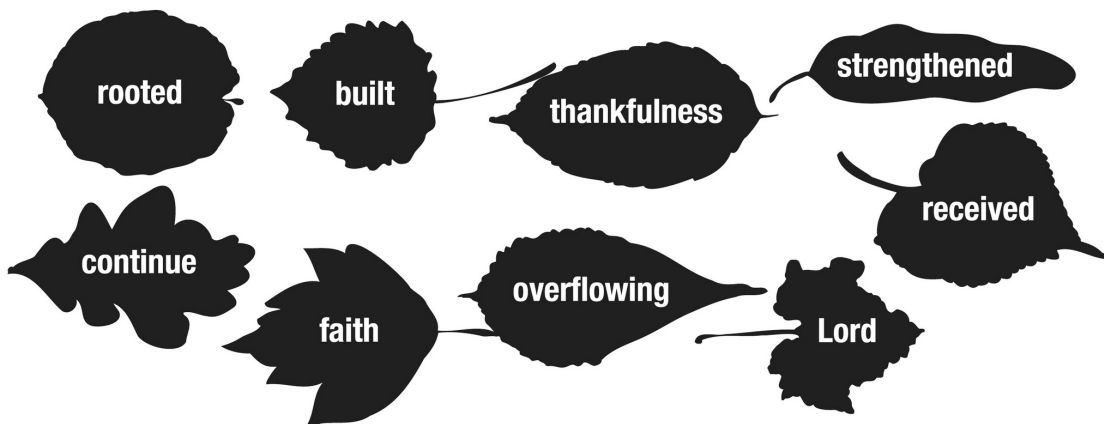
The CDF Freedom Schools Program currently operates two sites in Michigan: Second Grace-St. Timothy UMC in Detroit and Flint: Bethel-Calvary UMCs. The CDF Freedom Schools Program is a six-week summer literacy and cultural enrichment program designed to serve children and youth in grades K-12 in communities where quality academic enrichment programming is limited, too expensive, or nonexistent. The money raised will help increase the Michigan Conference's capacity to continue supporting and expanding the number of children and youth served through new sites.



Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves.
What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.



So then, just as you _____ Christ Jesus as _____ ,

_____ to live your lives in him, _____ and

_____ up in him, _____ in the _____ as you

were taught, and _____ with _____ .

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

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**

October Birthday's

Jackie Martin - 2 Luke Goss - 3
Danny Edwards - 13 Al Holland - 13
Adrien LaChapelle - 22 Beverly Lovett - 27
Teresa McMillian - 29