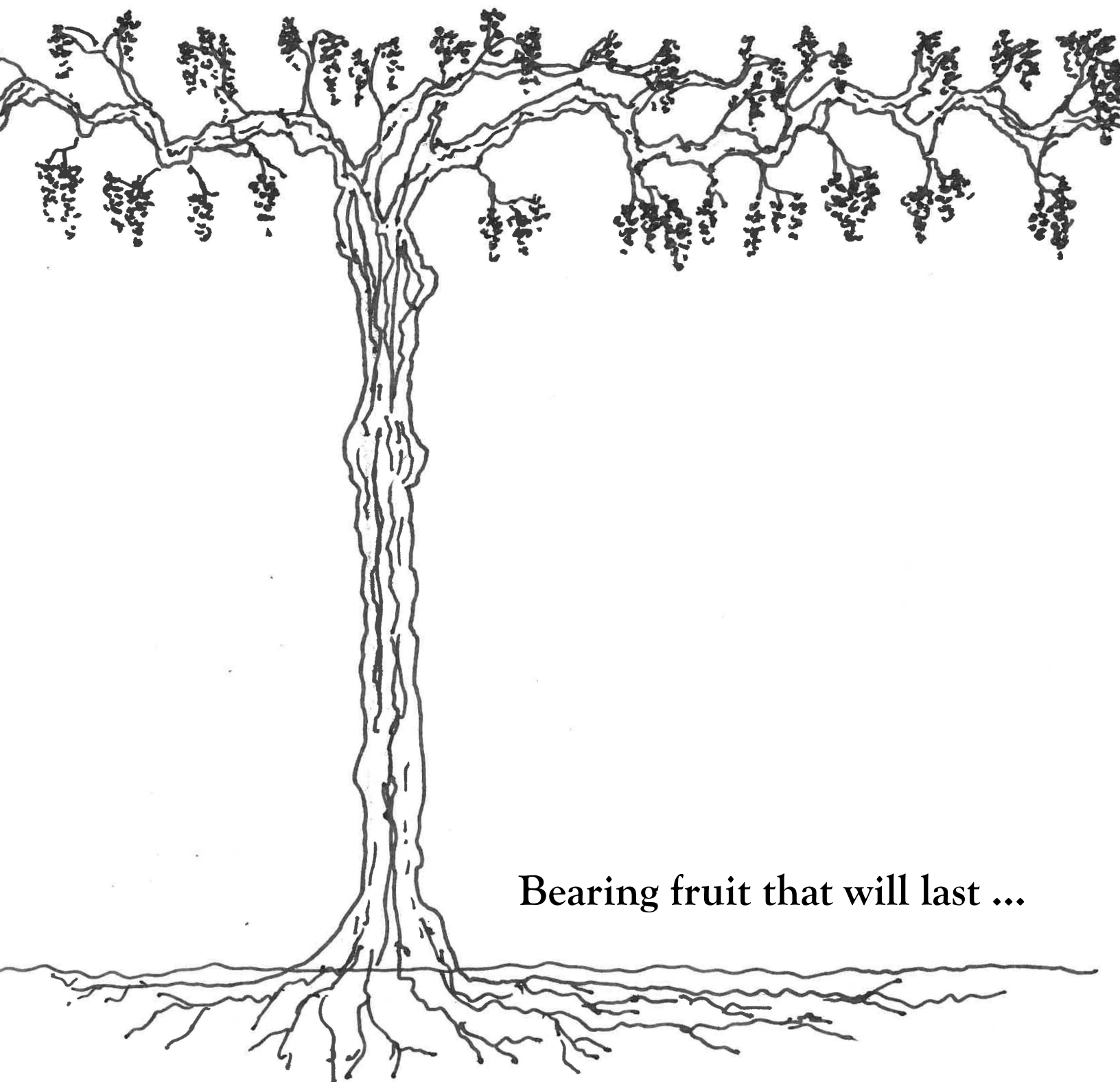


OCTOBER 2026

Carillon



Bearing fruit that will last ...

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear GPMC Family,

There is something wonderfully fitting about the theme of this year's stewardship campaign: **"Bearing Fruit That Will Last."**

In 1927, the members of GPMC had a vision for a beautiful sanctuary—a place where generations of people could come together to worship God, grow in faith, and bear fruit for Jesus Christ. This year, as we prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our sanctuary, we have a wonderful opportunity to look back with gratitude and look ahead with hope.



The guiding image for the sanctuary came from Jesus' words in John 15:5: *"I am the vine; you are the branches; if we stay joined to each other, you will produce plenty of fruit."* That image of the vine and branches is woven throughout our church building. But it is more than an architectural theme. It is a beautiful description of who we are called to be as a church.

We are branches, rooted in Christ, called to bear fruit.

And what a year of fruit we have seen at GPMC.

We have watched our Children's Ministries grow, with children helping to lead us in worship and discovering more deeply the love of Jesus through Sunday School and Children's Worship. We welcomed eight new confirmands and 25 new members into our church family, including our first lake baptisms in many years. Thousands of hours have been given by members of our congregation in service to our community, nation, and world. And through flowers delivered to those who are homebound, monthly Communion, Stephen Ministers, and countless other acts of care, we continue to see the heart of GPMC expressed through our Caring Ministries.

None of this happens by accident.

It happens because people like you give **their time, talents, and treasures** to God's work through GPMC. The gifts we receive are multiplied in ways we may never fully see. You and your gifts help us bear fruit for God's Kingdom while also growing us in faith.

As we look toward 2027, our leadership are prayerfully preparing a fiscally responsible budget that will allow GPMC to continue this ministry of bearing fruit. Our goal is \$1.25 million in total gifts and offerings, including \$1.07 million in pledged offerings.

So, as we enter this stewardship season, I invite you to consider what God has given you and how you might give in return. Perhaps this is a year to increase your pledge. Perhaps it is a year to make a first pledge. Whatever your circumstances, I hope you will prayerfully consider how your generosity can help GPMC continue to be a light by the lakeshore for generations to come.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Dr. Jeff Lincicome
Pastor and Head of Staff

WHO WE ARE



Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (GPMC) is a 1,100 member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Started in 1865 as the Grosse Pointe Evangelical Protestant Association, the oldest Protestant congregation in the Grosse Pointes, our 162-year history is a rich one. The greatest treasure we have is our members. As a Presbyterian church, we are a congregation where every member is a minister. GPMC is a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Our Mission and Vision Statement:

Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever, we are called and committed to living out our love for God. Through worship, study, and service, we strive to continue God's transforming work by worshipping God joyfully, welcoming others graciously, supporting one another lovingly, and faithfully responding to our community and world with compassion.

Inclusion Statement:

As a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), GPMC is an inclusive community of faith, welcoming people of all races, gender identities, and sexual orientation, believing that God gifts and calls everyone into beloved service and community with God and others.

WHO'S WHO AT GPMC

The Reverend Dr. Jeff Lincicome
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Heather Thum-Gerber
Associate Pastor

George Abdullah
Evening Desk Attendant

Dave Buckler
GPMC Treasurer

Marie Calcaterra
Director of Mornings at Memorial

Lindsay Cameron
Director of Communications

McKenna Dollete
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Peyton Fleming
Handbell Choir Director

Susan C. Griffin
Director of Accounting

Dr. Logan J. Hamilton
Minister of Music and Organist

Donna Hartzell
Executive Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator

Tena Harwick
Assistant Accounting Manager

Julie Huellmantel
Director of Outreach Ministries

Carol Beltz Marks
Director of Pastoral Ministries

The Reverend Susan d'Olive Mozena
Parish Associate

Annie Joines Prentice
Director of Children's Ministries

Teresa Rodriguez
Head Sexton

Dan Ryan
Building Engineer

Eric Whitmer
Resident Carillonist

WORSHIP AT GPMC

The Prayers We Pray
September 6 – November 22

Have you ever wondered why Christians pray the way they do? The Prayers We Pray is a series that explores the prayers we share in worship—from the Prayer of Confession, to the Prayer for Illumination, to the Great Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (to name a few), along with other means of private and corporate prayer—and discovering what these acts reveal about our relationship with the God of our salvation. Whether you've been praying for years or are simply new to the task, you'll discover that prayer isn't about finding the right words—it's about growing in a relationship with a God who is always ready to listen and speak. Join us!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Worship Time(s):

9 & 11 am in the Sanctuary

Leading Worship:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Lincicome

Preaching Text:

James 5:13–18

What's Happening?

- Communion will be offered during worship
- Childcare available during worship
(Open to birth – three years old)
- Children's church during 9 am service
(Open to ages three – second grade)
- 10:10 am, Middle Hour
- 10:15 am, Worship Circle
(Open to birth – age 2)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Worship Time(s):

9 & 11 am in the Sanctuary

Leading Worship:

Rev. Heather Thum–Gerber

Preaching Text:

1 Thessalonians 5:12–22

What's Happening?

- Childcare available during worship
(Open to birth – three years old)
- 9:15 am, Sunday School (PreK – Grade 4)

- 10:10 am, Middle Hour

- 10:10 am, New Member Reception

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Worship Time(s):

9 & 11 am in the Sanctuary

Leading Worship:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Lincicome

Preaching Text:

1 Chronicles 29:14–22a

What's Happening?

- Childcare available during worship
(Open to birth – three years old)
- 9:15 am, Sunday School (PreK – Grade 4)
- 10 am, Makers Market

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Worship Time(s):

9 & 11 am in the Sanctuary

Leading Worship:

Dr. Brandon Grafius

Preaching Text:

Deuteronomy 34:1–12

What's Happening?

- Childcare available during worship
(Open to birth – three years old)
- 9:15 am, Sunday School (PreK – Grade 4)
- 10:10 am, Middle Hour with Dr. Grafius
- 3 pm, Halloween concert with reception

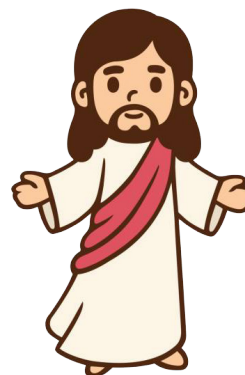
COME FIND JESUS!

Running September 13 – October 4

Have you been looking for Jesus? The good news is that he is everywhere at the church!

As we kick off the program year, we have 10 Jesus' hidden around the church as part of a scavenger hunt for all ages.

Once you complete the scavenger hunt form (*available in the church lobby*), reach out to Rev. Heather or Annie for a small prize. All completed forms will be entered into a drawing for a grand prize that will be drawn on October 5. The scavenger hunt to find Jesus is open from September 13 – October 4.



*Be on the lookout for Jesus,
he looks like this!*

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Saturday, October 10 • 9 am – 12 pm

Interested in learning more about our church, our mission, and how you can get involved in our community? Join us for a time of fellowship, learning, and connection. To sign up or for additional information, contact Donna Hartzell at 313.882.5330, or dhartzell@gpmchurch.org.

We look forward to welcoming you into our church family! The “Welcoming Sunday” will be on Sunday, October 11 at the 9 am service.

COFFEE HOUSE 2.0

Friday, November 6 • 6 – 8 pm

The Coffee House is returning, but now all youth will be participating!

This fun-filled evening of entertainment and food will not only be a fundraiser for the high school mission trip, but a fundraiser for all our youth. With the addition of an annual middle school mini-mission trip, we want our entire youth program to have the opportunity to take part and share with you what they love about the youth program at GPMC. We encourage you to sign up as an act or to simply come with friends and family to enjoy a night of community, talent, and food as we celebrate the youth of our church.

Please register on the church website by October 30.

A HERITAGE MEAL: POTLUCK FROM OUR PAST CHURCH COOKBOOKS

Sunday, November 15 • 5 – 7 pm

Please join the church family for a potluck supper in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 15 from 5 – 7 pm. We will be enjoying meals from our past cookbooks (“The Gourmet Pointes” 1969, “The Fruits of Harvest” 1975, and “The 125th Anniversary Cookbook” 1991). Recipes will be available after the 9 am service on November 8. The cookbooks are also available in the church library. All are welcome to participate even if not cooking. Register through the church website!

Children & Youth

Programming for Birth – 12th Grade

Children's Church, October 4

Children ages 3 through 2nd grade are welcome to attend Children's Church. We leave the main service directly after the children's sermon during the 9 am service and head to room 301 on the third floor.

Worship Circle, October 4

We're introducing a new opportunity on the 1st Sunday of the month for those with little ones (Birth – Age 2) to meet in the church library between the services (10:15 – 10:30 am) for worship, fun and fellowship.

Sunday School, October 11, 18 & 25

Children ages 3 through 4th grade are invited to head out of the Sanctuary to the third floor classrooms for their Sunday School lesson which will end at 10:15 am giving parents time for fellowship at the end of the service.

Limited Power of Attorney Forms for Children & Youth Ministry

All children and youth who participate in programming at the church need to have a current LPA on file in the Christian Education office. Programming includes Children's Church, Sunday School, and Youth Group. This document can be completed electronically using this link: bit.ly/GPMCRReleaseForm2627. If you have any questions or concerns about LPA forms, please reach out to Rev. Heather.

Communication Texts

The Youth Ministry utilizes a mass texting system called Gloop to give updates, reminders, and information about special events. Gloop is an opt-in program. If you have a youth in our program and would like to receive text messages about the Youth Ministry, please reach out to Rev. Heather. Once you are added to the text group you will receive messages from the number 833-672-5489. If you would like to be removed from the group, please contact Rev. Heather.

Carillon Ice Cream Sales

Sweet sounds rang from the Carillon and sweet treats were in the hands of those attending the carillon concerts through the month of August. Each Tuesday night a cooler was filled with frozen treats being sold by our young people for their mission bucks accounts. Funds raised can be used toward any youth program fees. We raised a total of \$360! Thank you to those who supported our youth.



Youth Group

Join us weekly from 6 – 8 pm in the Youth Lounge for dinner, Bible study, and fun. Friends are always welcome!

Coffee House 2.0

All youth are invited to participating in our upcoming Coffee House 2.0 on Friday, November 6! The fun-filled evening is a chance for our youth to share what you love about the program and raise funds for upcoming mission trips or other youth programs! Interested in performing? Interested in volunteering? Register on the church website!

Mark your calendars!

Here are some important upcoming dates for our GPMC youth:

- *Youth Halloween Party, Wednesday, October 28*
- *Coffee House 2.0, Friday, November 6*
- *Hanging of the Greens, Wednesday, December 2*
- *Youth Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 16*
- *Middle School Retreat (Camp Wakanda in MI), February 12 – 14*
- *Youth Sunday, Sunday, March 7*
- *MS Mini–Mission Trip (Columbus, OH), May 14 – 16*
- *HS Mission Trip (Disaster Relief in TX), July 11 – 17*

Updates to the Youth Lounge

Our youth space is getting a refresh! We have been making some changes to create an environment that encourages our young people to grow in faith, connect with one another, and simply feel at home in the church. A new prayer station offers opportunities to explore different spiritual practices, while a coloring station provides a creative way to slow down and reflect. Scripture is now displayed throughout the rooms, and prayers are posted on the walls as reminders that God is present with us in all that we do.

Games and fidget items have also been added to encourage connection, play, and a comfortable space for everyone.

One important change is our new “no cell phones out” rule during youth group. We hope this will give everyone the opportunity to be more present—with one another, with themselves, and with God.

Our goal is for the youth spaces on the third floor to be more than simply a place for youth to gather, but where spirituality is woven into every conversation, moment of play, expressed creativity, and in the community created.



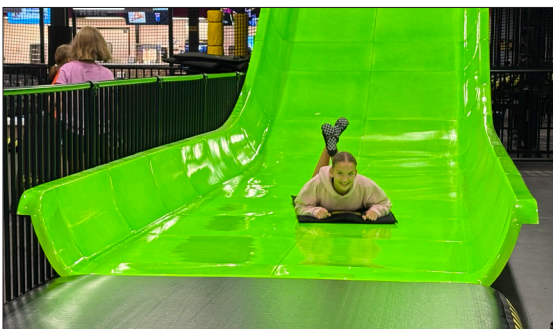
High School Mission Trip, July 11 – 17, 2027

The high school mission trip this year is heading to the Lone Star State! We will be assisting in areas hit hard by regional flooding and severe weather. Volunteers will be doing the work of bridging the gap between the time of the disaster and long-term solutions for displaced residents. It will be an amazing week of learning what it means to serve Christ! Join us in Garland, Texas from July 11 – 17. Cost: \$655 (can be reduced by using Mission Bucks). \$100 deposit due at time of registration. Register by December 1 through the church website.

There will be a High School Mission Trip Meeting on Wednesday, October 14 from 7:30 – 8:30 pm.

Questions about programming or interested in volunteering?

Contact Annie Joines Prentice (Children's Director) at 313.882.5330 ext. 135, or aprentice@gpmchurch.org,
McKenna Dollete (Youth Ministries Coordinator) at 313.882.5330, or kdollete@gpmchurch.org, or
Rev. Heather Thum–Gerber (Associate Pastor) at 313.882.5330 ext. 131, or hthumgerber@gpmchurch.org.





TELL ME A STORY: VBS 2026

BY: REV. HEATHER THUM-GERBER

August was filled with laughter, music, and stories at Vacation Bible School! This year, 55 children joined us for *Tell Me a Story: The Parables of Jesus*, spending the week discovering some of Jesus' most meaningful stories and the lessons they have to teach us. Our Children's Ministry Director, Annie Prentice, wrote the entire curriculum, and it was fantastic!

Each day brought something new as the children rotated through games, snacks, music, Bible study, and crafts. Every activity gave them another way to explore the stories of The Good Samaritan, The House on a Rock, The Lost Sheep, The Sower, and The Talents. Each day questions were asked, creativity was used, and we had fun together.

One of the highlights of the week was our closing celebration which included a live band with some of the children playing their instruments. Our week concluded with a cookout on Trinity Terrace made complete with a bounce house.

VBS was a wonderful reminder that faith is caught not taught, and we all caught it! We are grateful for all the children who joined us, as well as the many volunteers who shared their time, energy, and love throughout the week. What a blessing to spend a week learning, laughing, singing, and hearing the stories of God!

Middle School VBS

Every year our middle schoolers are amazing with the ways they support the children's VBS program. Middle school VBS helpers shepherd the groups of children from place to place during the morning, assist them with craft projects, and lead by example on how to pay attention to the activities of the morning. At noon, middle schoolers load up for adventures! This year we went to Slick City to ride down massive slides, jumped on trampolines at AirBorne, cleaned-up Belle Isle, and ziplined at Tree Runner. It was a fun filled week centered on learning what it means to joyfully follow Jesus!



STARS AND PROMISES: 2026 YOUTH LOCK-IN

BY: REV. HEATHER THUM-GERBER

It was a perfect night as the sounds of the lake lapped against the sea wall and the periodic giggle rose from a nearby tent. On September 11, 22 youth attended our lock-in, and it was an incredible night! Inspired by the story of Abraham and God's promise that his family would be as numerous as the stars in the sky, we slept on Trinity Terrace under the starlit dome of creation. Our bible study was focused on God's promises and how each of us is part of God's beloved family.

The night was filled with plenty of adventure! We kicked things off by heading to Mum's Arcade to play a myriad of pinball machines and old-school video games. Afterwards, we returned to the church for Bible study, 9-square, full-size Hungry Hungry Hippos, cookie decorating, and sumo bubbles. There was plenty of laughter, friendly competition, and time to enjoy being together after the first week of school.

As I looked at the stars and was reminded of God's promises to Abraham, I was also reminded that God's family is still growing—each of us has a place in it. I'm looking forward to seeing all our youth this coming year as we dive into what it means to be beloved by God as we faithfully follow the promises of Jesus.





WOMEN'S RETREAT: BEAUTIFULLY BROKEN, WONDERFULLY MADE

February 26 –28, 2027

Join us for a transformative women's retreat as we discover how God takes the fragmented, imperfect, and unexpected pieces of our lives and cements them into something beautiful. Through the theme "Beautifully Broken, Wonderfully Made," we will explore the truth that our scars, stories, joys, and struggles are all part of a greater masterpiece—the unfolding story of God's redeeming love.

Together, we will reflect on scripture, lift our hearts in worship, and experience the joy of God's creative Spirit. Just as individual pieces come together to form a beautiful work of art, we will celebrate how God uses each of us to create a wonderful family of faith.

The retreat will have time for you to:

- Deepen your faith through meaningful Bible study
- Connect with other women in small group discussion
- Encounter God through worship and prayer
- Rest and be renewed in God's presence

No matter where you are in your journey, come and be reminded that what feels broken is not beyond God's ability to restore. You are beautifully broken and wonderfully made. Join us as we gather, grow, create, and celebrate the beauty of God's story in and through our lives.

Location: Lake Huron Retreat Center 8794 Lakeshore Road, Burtchville, MI

Cost:

- \$215 for Shared Room (3 people)
- \$245 for Shared Room (2 people)
- \$300 for Private Room*

**We are currently on a waitlist for private rooms.*

There are only a few spots remaining!

To register, contact Rev. Heather Thum-Gerber directly at hthumgerber@gpmchurch.org, or by calling the church office at 313.882.5330. A \$100 deposit due at time of registration.

ADULT EDUCATION

Book Group: Scared by the Bible, Tuesdays in October

In preparation for our guest preacher Dr. Brandon Grafius, we will have a book group on his book *Scared by the Bible: The Roots of Horror in Scripture*. We will meet on Tuesdays (October 6, 13, 20) from 7 –8 pm in the 2nd Floor Lounge. Dr. Grafius is a Hebrew Bible scholar who specializes in the uncomfortable stories found in scripture. His book offers interpretive tools to help us understand how these stories reflect humanity and our relationship with God. Each week we will read two chapters and discuss the fascinating paradigm being offered. Reading Schedule: Oct. 6 (Introduction, Section 1), Oct.13 (Section 2), Oct. 20 (Sections 3 & 4).

Middle Hour, October 11

Rev. Susan Mozena will lead a discussion on “The Jefferson Bible: A Window Into the Religious Faith of Thomas Jefferson” in honor of the 250th year of the Declaration of Independence. Come learn about Jefferson’s religious faith, which informed how he approached writing. He created a very interesting Bible!

Parent Connection Group – Next Meeting: Friday, October 23

You’re invited to our monthly gatherings where we will learn about various topics of faith, enjoy each other’s company over a meal, and connect with other parents who understand the challenges of parenting. Dinner starts at 6 pm, and Annie Prentice (Director of Children’s Ministries) will have an activity for the kids while parents talk. No matter what stage of parenting you find yourself, you are welcome to join the conversation.

Middle Hour & Guest Preacher, October 25

Dr. Brandon R. Grafius will join us as our guest preacher and to lead a Middle Hour discussion, “Learning from Horror – How the Bible uses horror to teach.” Dr. Grafius draws from his recent books to talk about the presence of horror in the Bible, and to suggest that it’s used as an intentional strategy. While sometimes the Bible uses horror as straightforward warning against unwanted behaviors, at other times it becomes a way to help us imagine new possibilities. His books are available in the GPMC library for people to enjoy.

Preacher’s Workshop meets Mondays from 10 – 11 am in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

Chair Yoga meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 am in Room 322.

Each class is \$10. Chairs are provided. Bring your own water bottle.

Yoga meets Tuesdays at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Each class is \$15. Bring your own mat and water bottle.

Al-Anon meets Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the Church Library.

AA meets Tuesdays at 7 pm, Wednesdays at 8:30 am, and Fridays at 7 pm.

Women’s Bible Study led by Rev. Mozena meets Wednesdays from 7 – 8 am in Room 215 and on Zoom.

Men’s Bible Study meets Wednesdays from 7 – 8 am in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

Questions? Contact Steve Voorhees at captaingadget@comcast.net.

Adult Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, October 28 at 7:30 pm in the library with Rev. Mozena.

Saturday Men’s Bible Study meets at 8 am at Panera in the Village.

For more information, contact David Asker at davidasker@hotmail.com.

Questions about programming?

Contact Rev. Heather Thum–Gerber (Associate Pastor) at hthumgerber@gpmchurch.org, or 313.882.5330 ext. 131.



NOVEL AS THEOLOGY

You're invited to read with us at GPMC's monthly book club!

OCTOBER SELECTION: WHISTLER

Wednesday, October 14 • 7:30 – 9 pm

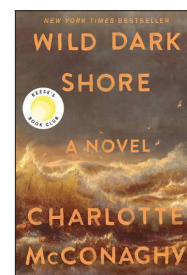
Join us at the home of Dave & Sue Buckler (562 N. Rosedale Ct, GPW) where Dave will lead the discussion on the novel by Ann Patchett. This is a story about two adults looking back over the choices they made, and the choices that were made for them. It's a story about bravery, memory, the often small yet consequential moments that define our lives.



NOVEMBER SELECTION: WILD DARK SHORE

Wednesday, November 11 • 7:30 – 9 pm

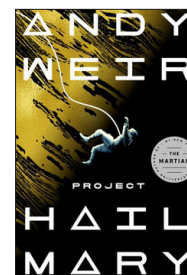
Join us at the home of Susan and John Mozena (770 Trombley, Grosse Pointe Park) where Pam Hartmann will lead the discussion on the novel by Charlotte McConaghy. A family on a remote island. A mysterious woman washed ashore. A rising storm on the horizon. A novel about the impossible choices we make to protect the people we love.



DECEMBER SELECTION: PROJECT HAIL MARY

Wednesday, December 9 • 7:30 – 9 pm

Join us at the home of Debbie Liang (650 Washington, GP) where Renee Catrambone will lead the discussion on the novel by Andy Weir. A lone astronaut must save the earth from disaster in this incredible science-based thriller from the number-one New York Times best-selling author of *The Martian*.



GPMC Financial Update - Year to Date

8/31/2026

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Fav (Unfav)</u>
Pledge Offerings	\$ 725,457	\$ 699,292	\$ 26,165
Non-pledge Offerings	124,320	90,987	33,333
Other Income	191,757	196,500	(4,743)
Endowments	488,000	488,000	-
Transfer from Sp. Purp.	-	-	-
Total Receipts	\$ 1,529,534	\$ 1,474,779	\$ 54,755
Total Expenses	\$ 1,446,866	\$ 1,455,001	\$ 8,135
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ 82,668	\$ 19,778	\$ 62,890

Please see the Financial Update box for a snapshot of our receipts and expenses through August 2026.

Questions? Contact the finance team at 313.882.5330, or email Dave Buckler, Susan Griffin or Tena Harwick (First initial followed by last name@gpmchurch.org).

OUTREACH

OCTOBER HUNGER OFFERING

Available every day in October

This month's recipient is Gleaners Community Food Bank. Gleaners provides food to more than 400 partner soup kitchens, pantries, shelters and more. They are working toward a hunger free community in southeast Michigan.

Every dollar donated toward this month's offering when you use the blue pew envelopes, the give now tab on the church website, or by sending a check with "Gleaners" or "Hunger Offering" on the memo line will be matched up to \$2,000 by the Outreach Council.

The Outreach Council chooses the recipients, but our level of support is determined by your contributions. Here's a look at the donation recipients to date:

- January: The Second Mile Center = \$8,153 (Congregation: \$6,153, Outreach: \$2,000)
 - February: Kids Coalition Against Hunger = \$4,610 (Congregation: \$2,610, Outreach: \$2,000)
 - March: The Helm's Meals on Wheels = \$5,886 (Congregation: \$3,886, Outreach: \$2,000)
 - April: Make Food Not Waste = \$4,561 (Congregation: \$2,561, Outreach: \$2,000)
 - May: COTS = \$4,594 (Congregation: \$2,594, Outreach: \$2,000)
 - June: Crossroads = \$3,552.68 (Congregation: \$1,776.34, Outreach: \$1,776.34)
 - July: Capuchin Soup Kitchen = \$2,822 (Congregation: \$1,411, Outreach: \$1,411)
 - August: Calvin East Dinner Program = \$4,766 (Congregation: \$2,766, Outreach: \$2,000)
-

UNPACK THE TRUCK

Friday, October 16 • 8:30 – 10:30 am

St. John Presbyterian Church continues to help the hungry in their neighborhood by serving the waiting line of hungry families, on foot or in cars. Visit bit.ly/UnpackTheTruck2026 for details on how you can help!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Saturday, October 24 • 10 am – 1 pm (come for all or part of the day)

National Make A Difference Day brings community service to a whole new level each year. Organizations join forces on the 4th Saturday in October to make a difference, big or small. Join us as we work to make a difference in the lives of others in our community. The expression of love for each other through support and a bit of elbow grease is sometimes all that is needed to make a difference. What do we have planned for Saturday, October 24?

Yard Clean Up for Local Seniors • 10 am – 1 pm

We're heading out into the community to help local seniors with some fall yard clean up – come for some or all of the time!

We are looking to make a big impact so sign up and bring your friends! Register at gpmchurch.org/event/make-a-difference-day. If you can't make it, consider doing something for one of your neighbors!

SOCKTOBER: SHARE A PAIR TO SHOW YOU CARE!

All month long!

Socks are the most requested, yet least donated item in homeless shelters because people experiencing homelessness walk multiple miles a day and rarely have access to laundry facilities. Fresh socks prevent severe foot pain, blisters, infections, and skin breakdown. This October, GPMC wants you to join in with people across the nation to show that even a small act of love, such as donating a pair of socks, can make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors who are unhoused. We will be collecting new socks throughout the month that we will give to local shelters. Please leave socks on the Outreach shelves in the coat closet.

HAPPY CHEEKS

Available every day

This is a youth-driven program that has already collected and distributed 30,000+ pairs of socks and underwear for the needy and non-profits! Donations can be left in the GPMC coatroom off the lobby or purchased directly through happycheeks.org.

FREE FOOD FRIDAYS

Fridays from 9 – 11 am

Every Friday we help sort and pass out food to those in need at Free Food Fridays with our friends at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, serving Eastside neighbors of JAPC.

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SANDWICHES

Available every day

Seven days a week, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches find their way from helping hands to the hungry in Detroit. Up to 1,000 sandwiches a week are delivered. Make 20 sandwiches to help the hungry...or make more! This is a great project for families or students who will get service hours. (40 sandwiches = 1 Service Hour). Plan a sandwich making day, share your food and love! Register at bit.ly/PBJSandwiches23

More information on upcoming Outreach events can be found on the gpmchurch.org homepage.

Questions about programming or interested in volunteering with Outreach?

Contact Julie Huellmantel (Director of Outreach Ministries) at jhuellmantel@gpmchurch.org, or 313.882.5330.



MUSIC AT MEMORIAL

As we begin the journey into the Autumn weather and chills begin to crisp the air, so too does the clang of bells tolling in the distance, drawing near the next concert in the Music at Memorial concert series, Hell's Bells: A Halloween Organ Recital! The title of this year's concert is inspired by one of my personal childhood favorite films growing up, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. In commemoration of such an event, I've decided to gather pieces that ring in terror and delight that pay homage to the gothic architecture that this film takes place in.

Aside from the opening of the program which of course is Johann Sebastian Bach's infamous, *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565*, the next pieces in the lineup are from the late French organist who once was the titular organist of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, Louis Vierne. Two pieces from the Fourth Volume of his *24 Pièces de Fantaisie* will be featured in the program, the first entitled "Gargouilles et Chimères" translated to *Gargoyles and Chimera*, portraying the stoney monsters that lurk in the shadows of the cathedral's walls and towers. The second piece is *Les cloches de Hinckley* translated to *The bells of Hinckley*, which interprets the bells that would chime in the market town of Leicestershire where Vierne had played a recital as part of his concert tour in hopes to restore the organ of Notre Dame.

Sandwiched between these two pieces by Vierne, comes an improvisation based on the theme song from the 1973 horror film classic, *The Exorcist*. The movie's chilling, yet hypnotically groovy theme song comes from the hand of English songwriter and composer, Michael Oldfield (b. 1953).

The crown jewel of the afternoon's program is contemporary, English organist Anna Lapwood's (b. 1995) arrangement of "The Bells of Notre Dame" which is the opening number to Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Lapwood is best known for her wonderful work of bringing the pipe organ to the main stage of pop musical culture, for her arrangements of film music and collaborations with orchestras as well as pop musicians that bolster her reputation as being as virtuosic as she is versatile in many, different musical spheres. Her transcription of this epic number is no exception of showcasing the organs wide range of emotion which will surely ring in the majesty and thrill the film is celebrated for.

The program will close with late German-romantic composer Josef Rheinberger's 8th Organ Sonata in E minor. This colossal work begins and ends with large, clanging chords that resemble the strike of a clock turning towards the witching hour. The sonata contains four movements, that ends with a passacaglia whose theme resembles the tune of a bell tolling in the distance while sinister variations weave above it.

I sincerely hope you join me Sunday, October 25 at 3 pm for this clanging program as a part of celebrating the Halloween spirit, as well as being part of the festivities to the Music at Memorial Series!

In Christ's love,

Dr. Logan J. Hamilton

Minister of Music and Organist

A STAFF UPDATE FROM PASTOR JEFF

The following message was emailed to the congregation email list on Monday, September 14.

Dear GPMC Family,

As many of you know, Carol Marks, our own Director of Pastoral Care, is not only a child of this church, but has faithfully served this congregation in this role for nearly 40 years. It is hard to put into words what Carol has meant to GPMC over all those years. She has been an extraordinary embodiment of God's love and care for us—showing up in moments of joy and sorrow, walking with people through some of the most important and difficult moments of their lives, and reminding us again and again what it means to care for one another as the body of Christ. In so many ways, Carol is part of the reason GPMC is known throughout our community as a church that cares deeply for people and seeks to love like Jesus. And that is not changing. In fact, this is not a retirement announcement—so you can all breathe a sigh of relief!

However, beginning this September, Carol's role will be changing as she steps back from some of her responsibilities. She will continue to serve part-time as our Bereavement Minister, directing the church's Memorial Services and Funeral Ministries—something she does so beautifully—as well as continuing to lead our Stephen Ministry program.

At the same time, we will begin the process of finding a new Director of Pastoral Ministries. This person will oversee our Deacons, visitation, and the many caregiving ministries that are such an important part of who we are as a church.

I know Carol is ready to have a little more time with her family and to enter this next season of life. And while she is not retiring, this change will give her some well-deserved rest after nearly four decades of faithful ministry among us. For all of us who have been touched by Carol's ministry, there is a lot to feel grateful for—and perhaps a little emotional about, too. Forty years is an extraordinary gift to a church. We have been blessed not simply by the work Carol has done, but by the person she has been among us: her compassion, her wisdom, her faithfulness, and her deep love for this congregation.

And now, with gratitude for all that has been and hope for all that lies ahead, we look forward to this next chapter in the life of GPMC. We trust that the same God who has cared for us through these many years will continue to lead and provide for us in the years ahead.

We'll keep you posted as we move forward. In the meantime, I hope you will join me in praying—for Carol and her family, for our church leaders as we discern the next steps, and for our whole congregation as we walk through this transition together. And, most of all, let's give thanks for Carol and for the remarkable gift she has been—and continues to be—to GPMC.

With gratitude and blessings,
Jeff

COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENT: FESTIVAL OF TABLES

Tuesday, December 1 • 6:15 pm

Save the date for Second Mile Center's 3rd Advent Christmas Tea Festival of Tables on Tuesday, December 1 at 6:15 pm. It'll be an evening filled with community, celebration, and spirit of giving to raise vital funds. Every donation helps support youth development by providing strong programs to nurture faith, instill hope, and spread love in one of the most challenged areas of Detroit. We are inviting members of the community to volunteer as host and decorate a table for the evening. Contact Patty McCracken at 313.515.9798 to learn more about hosting a table!



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

An unusually short Blessing of the Animals service ended the month of August! Trinity Terrace was filled with dogs, a few special cats, and the people who love them. Although a sudden downpour shortened our service, we still had 15 minutes to celebrate God's beautiful creation and give thanks for the faithful friends who bring so much joy into our lives. Rain may have cut our time short, but it couldn't dampen our spirits. We are grateful for everyone—and every animal—who came to share this special blessing!

BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, October 14 • 12:45 – 5:45 pm

GPMC is inviting you to give something that means something with a blood drive. Register through the church website.

THEOLOGY AT THE MOVIES & ZECKELMAN HOLOCAUST CENTER

As people of faith, what does the Holocaust ask of us? How do we understand the human capacity for both goodness and terrible evil? Join us for two separate events as we ponder this horrible part of human history:

Theology at the Movies: *The Zone of Interest*

Thursday October 29 • 6:30 – 9 pm

Join us to view and discuss *The Zone of Interest*, Jonathan Glazer's haunting 2023 film about the family of Rudolf Hess, the commandant of Auschwitz, who lived with their children in a comfortable home directly beside the concentration camp. The film wrestles with deeply uncomfortable questions about evil, complicity, indifference, and what it means to see—or refuse to see—the suffering of our neighbors.

Zeckelman Holocaust Center Visit

Sunday, November 1 • 3 – 5 pm

You are invited to join GPMC for a field trip to the Zeckelman Holocaust Center (www.holocaustcenter.org) in Farmington Hills, where we will get to hear the stories and share the journey through the eyes of survivors. Signs ups required on the church website. Space is limited. Admission is free for our group, although donations to the center are welcomed.

Makers Fair Shopping List

*Come shop and support Makers at Memorial at their fair
on Sunday, October 18 during Middle Hour.*

For the Home:

- ☐ Coasters
- ☐ Placemats
- ☐ Pillowcases
- ☐ Table Runners
- ☐ Cord Catchers
- ☐ Key Fobs
- ☐ Greeting Cards
- ☐ Tote Bags
- ☐ Dog Bandanas
- ☐ Magic Wands
- ☐ Quilts

For the Holidays:

- ☐ Door Decor
- ☐ Ornaments
- ☐ Trick or Treat Bags
- ☐ Table Runners

For Kids:

- ☐ Memory Game
- ☐ Bear Kits
- ☐ Teddy Bears
- ☐ Tooth Fairy Pillows
- ☐ Playing Card Holders
- ☐ Magic Wands

For the Kitchen:

- ☐ Jar Grippers
- ☐ Casserole Carriers
- ☐ Pie Carriers
- ☐ Hot Pads
- ☐ Microwave Bowl Cozies
- ☐ Microwave Plate Cozies
- ☐ Turtle Slop Mops

*Plus, more to come! You won't want
to miss these homemade items.*



GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH
16 Lake Shore Drive
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

PASTORAL NEWS

Praying for one another is an important and loving gift. The staff of GPMC meets every Tuesday morning and offers prayers for members of the congregation. Using our directory, the staff prays for the parishioners on one page each Tuesday as well as other prayer requests from the congregation.

If you have a prayer request, please contact Donna Hartzell at dhartzell@gpmchurch.org or 313.882.5330 ext. 133. May God continue to surround you with love and care.

DEATHS

Jane Ann Ottaway Dow
April 24, 1933 – August 29, 2026

Mark Jahnke
October 18, 1952 – August 30, 2026

Mary C. Huebner
March 8, 1951 – September 1, 2026

Gail Griffith Hart
September 25, 1940 – September 2, 2026

Peter A. Dow
October 7, 2023 – September 3, 2026

Lynda (Lyn) Jo Gordon
May 25, 1945 – September 12, 2026

Barbara Zaccagni
April 29, 1942 – September 23, 2026