

SEPTEMBER 2026

Carillon



PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear GPMC Family,

One of the greatest gifts we have been given in our life of faith is the gift of prayer. At its heart, prayer is simply our conversation with God—a way of turning our hearts and minds toward the God who creates us, redeems us, and sustains us.

Prayer connects us to God's presence and power. It can be an act of praise, a cry for help, a moment of gratitude, a confession, or simply a quiet conversation with the One who knows us better than we know ourselves. Prayer is central to our worship and to our life as followers of Jesus Christ. And, like any relationship, our relationship with God grows as we spend time in conversation with God.

This fall, we are going to grow together in prayer at GPMC.

Through our recent Natural Church Development survey, we learned that prayer is an area where our congregation has an opportunity to continue growing. That raises some important questions: Why do we pray? What is prayer really about? What happens when we pray together in worship? And perhaps most importantly, what does it look like for each of us to become people of prayer in our everyday lives?

These are important questions, and this fall we will explore them together.

On **Kickoff Sunday**, we will begin a new sermon series, **"Prayer Between Friends."** Together, we will explore the nature of prayer and the many different ways we pray as Christians. Each Sunday in worship, we participate in at least five different forms of prayer—often without even realizing it. We'll take a closer look at these prayers, consider why we pray them, and discover how they can shape our relationship with God.

But this series will be about more than what happens on Sunday morning. We will also explore the practice of prayer and consider how we can make prayer a more intentional part of our everyday lives as an act of discipleship.

This fall, I also invite you to rediscover a special space here at GPMC: **our repurposed Prayer Chapel**, located just to the left of the lobby, past the restrooms. For generations, this small chapel has been a quiet place for prayer, solace, and worship. Yet many of us may not even know it is there.

Stop by sometime this fall. Spend a few quiet moments there. Try one of the prayer practices you'll find inside. Sit in silence. Offer a prayer. Listen for God. My hope is that this little space will become a meaningful resource for our congregation as we seek to grow in the gift and practice of personal prayer.

Finally, I personally invite you to join me for a **three-week Tuesday evening book study** as we begin this season of focusing on prayer. We'll be reading Anne Lamott's wonderful little book, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. We'll gather **September 15, 22, and 29, from 7 – 8 pm** as we reflect together on three simple—and deeply profound—ways we can turn toward God.

I'm excited about this season of prayer at GPMC and about the ways God might meet us, challenge us, comfort us, and transform us as we grow together.

Let's spend some time talking with God—and learning to listen, too.

Grace and peace,

Jeff

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 161-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 worshiping 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

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, SEPTEMBER 6

Worship Time(s):

10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Leading Worship:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Lincicome

Preaching Text:

Genesis 2:2–3

What's Happening?

- *Communion will be offered during worship*
- *Childcare available during worship
(Open to birth – three years old)*
- *Children's church during 10:30 am service
(Open to ages three – second grade)*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Worship Time(s):

10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Leading Worship:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Lincicome

Preaching Text:

Acts 12:1–5

What's Happening?

- *Childcare available during worship
(Open to birth – three years old)*
- *Children's church during 10:30 am service
(Open to ages three – second grade)*
- *11:30 am, Fall Kick-Off on Trinity Terrace*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Worship Time(s):

9 & 11 am in the Sanctuary

Leading Worship:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Lincicome

Preaching Text:

Psalms 51:1–4

What's Happening?

- *Childcare available during worship
(Open to birth – three years old)*
- *9:15 am, Sunday School (PreK – Grade 4)*
- *10 am, Ministry Fair*
- *10 am, Bonding Hearts Project*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Worship Time(s):

9 & 11 am in the Sanctuary

Leading Worship:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Lincicome

Preaching Text:

Psalms 119:105–112

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 for Parents*

FALL KICKOFF BRUNCH

Sunday, September 13 • 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Join us to kick off the fall at GPMC! We are inviting everyone to one worship service at 10:30 am, and then head to Trinity Terrace from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm for an afternoon of fellowship and fun including a bounce house. Wear your picnic casual clothes for brunch by the lake! No reservation required.

COUNCILS KICKOFF DESSERT NIGHT

Monday, September 14 • 6:15 – 7 pm

As we begin another season of ministry together, please join us for a kickoff with dessert hosted by the Stewardship Council on our first council night of the program year. Please make it a priority to come!

MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday, September 20

It is astonishing how many ministries this church leads and all the ways we serve as the light by the lakeshore. During Middle Hour, we will have a ministry fair that will not only showcase all we are doing, but also give you the opportunity to see where God might be calling you to join all the good we are doing together.

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.

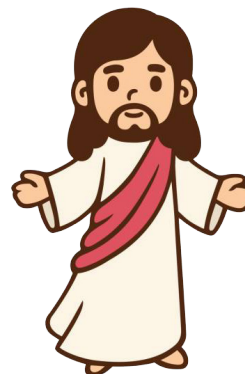
COME FIND JESUS!

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!*



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*

**There are only 5 single rooms available. Please note that if they are full you can request to be on a waitlist.*

Register by November 20 through the church website (gpmchurch.org/event/womens-retreat). A \$100 deposit due at time of registration.

For more information, contact Rev. Heather Thum-Gerber at hthumgerber@gpmchurch.org, or by calling the church office at 313.882.5330.

Children & Youth

Programming for Birth – 12th Grade

Children's Church, September 6 & 13

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 10:30 am service and head to room 301 on the third floor.

Sunday School, September 20 & 27

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.

Youth Lock-In: Stars and Promises, September 11–12

This year we are kicking off the youth ministry program year with an overnight lock-in at the church inspired by God's promises made to Abraham under the night sky. Our night will include games, camping under the stars on Trinity Terrace (weather permitting), dinner, connecting with friends, and reflecting on who God is in our lives. Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, this is a great opportunity to get connected. Open to those in 5th – 12th grade! Cost: \$60. Register by September 4 through the church website. If staying overnight is something your child is not ready for, please reach out to Rev. Heather for a late-night check out plan.

Youth Group

We're back for a new year of fun! Youth group returns on Wednesdays starting September 16. Join us weekly from 6 – 8 pm in the Youth Lounge for dinner, Bible study, and fun. Friends are always welcome!

Youth Group Meals Sign-Up

Each week our youth group share a meal together in the same way that Jesus broke bread with the disciples. Mealtimes nourish our bodies, but also our souls. Our youth program relies on volunteers providing the meal. We usually have around 30–35 people in attendance. If you would like to support the youth ministry in this way, please sign up using the provided link (mealtrain.com/rymwvd).

Save the Date: Youth Mission Trips

Calendars fill up fast so make sure you mark this year's youth mission trips on yours! The middle school will have a weekend long mini-mission trip to Columbus, Ohio in May, and the high schoolers will head to the Lone Star state for a week of disaster relief in July. More details will be released in the coming months.

- *Middle School Mini-Mission Trip: May 14 – 16, 2027 in Columbus, Ohio*
- *High School Mission Trip: July 11 – 17, 2027 in Texas*

Questions about programming or interested in volunteering?

Contact Annie Joines Prentice (Children's Director) at 313.882.5330 ext. 135, or aprentice@gpmchurch.org, or Rev. Heather Thum-Gerber (Associate Pastor) at hthumgerber@gpmchurch.org, or 313.882.5330 ext. 131.

ADULT EDUCATION

Parent Connection Group – Next Meeting: Friday, September 25

We invite you to our monthly gatherings where we will learn from each other 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. Contact Sheena Killinger or Rev. Heather Thum-Gerber with questions.

Preacher's Workshop meets Mondays from 10 – 11 am on Trinity Terrace (weather permitting).

Chair Yoga meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 am in Room 322 or on Trinity Terrace.

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

Yoga meets Tuesdays at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall or on Trinity Terrace.

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.

The Women's Bible Study led by Rev. Mozena meets on Wednesdays from 7 – 8 am in Room 215. Zoom also available. Please note the group will not meet on September 16.

Men's Bible Study meets Wednesdays from 7 – 8 am on Trinity Terrace (weather permitting).

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

Adult Bible Study will not meet this month.

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

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

Middle Hour & Guest Preacher, October 25

Dr. Brandon R. Grafius will join us on Sunday, October 25 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.



Questions about programming?

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

OUTREACH

SEPTEMBER HUNGER OFFERING

Available every day in September

This month's recipient is Forgotten Harvest. They fight hunger and food insecurity by delivering more than 144,000 pounds of surplus food per day to local charities five days a week, providing families in need with fresh and nutritious food free of charge. GPMC joins their effort when we volunteer monthly with Unpack the Truck at St John's Presbyterian Church.

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 "Forgotten Harvest" 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)

DRIVE BY FOOD COLLECTION FOR SECOND MILE CENTER

Saturday, September 12 • 10 – 11 am

GPMC gives thanks for the work of church member Ruth Azar at The Second Mile Center (SMC). Help her help others by shopping with the suggested items list found in the lobby or on the church website. On Saturday, come to the church parking lot where friendly volunteers will load up their cars with your groceries and bring them directly to SMC.

UNPACK THE TRUCK

Friday, September 18 • 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!

ADULT MISSION TRIP TO CHICO, CALIFORNIA

September 19 – 26

Please keep the Habitat for Humanity adult mission trip team in your prayers as they travel to Chico/Paradise, California to help rebuild homes destroyed by the 2018 Camp Fire.

LIFE REMODELED

Wednesday, September 30 • 11 am – 4:30 pm

The Christian faith teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves. For the 10th year in a row, we have a chance to put that commandment into action.

During the week of September 28 – October 3, Life Remodeled's 6-Day Project will return to their newest opportunity hub, Anchor Detroit (located at the Old Dominican High School at 9740 McKinney St – less than 4 miles from church).

GPMC has reserved 25 volunteer spots for Wednesday, September 30 from 11 am – 4:30 pm. Register through the church website.

During our work day, we will be removing blight from the front yards of vacant properties (clearing debris and cutting down overgrown grass, weeds and brush) as well as renovating and beautifying the newly opened Anchor Detroit Community Center.

All tools are provided, and volunteers will receive a t-shirt to wear on their volunteer day. Volunteers should bring their own work gloves and protective eyewear/sunglasses as well as wear pants and closed-toed shoes. All volunteers must be at least 14, and volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by adults.

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

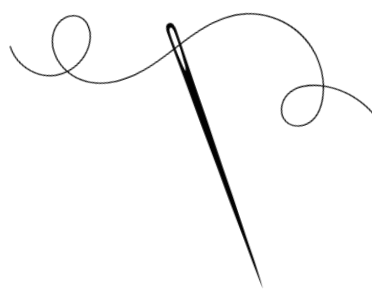
Available every day

Seven days a week, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches find their way from helping hands to the hungry in Detroit. Since the ministry began, they've made and distributed 225,000+ sandwiches. To learn more on how you can help, visit 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.



NEEDLE NEWS

FROM MAKERS AT MEMORIAL

Bonding Scents Heart Project, September 20

Lend a hand and open your heart to the congregation-wide service project Makers and the Outreach Council are co-sponsoring on Sunday, September 20 during Middle Hour. NICU babies are very special and have very specialized needs. Some of these prevent new parents from holding, snuggling, bonding with their baby for weeks following their birth. Help us help them bridge the distance between an incubator and a parent. We'll be making pairs of flat flannel hearts. They will be packaged in pairs. The parent will "wear" one under their clothes for a period of time and then leave it to be placed in the child's incubator. That baby will find comfort in their parents unique scent and this promotes the bonding process. And while one heart is with the baby, the other one is being worn and, in time, the two will be swapped.

Makers will be manning one end of Fellowship Hall during the Middle Hour. Check out the ministry fair that's going on at the same time and stop by to trace a heart or two. Each table will have the instructions, the materials and a Maker or two to explain the process. Let's see how many we can send off to Project Sweet Peas (projectsweetpeas.com).

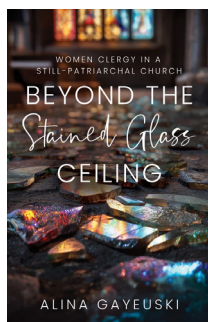
Makers Fair, October 18

Check out the Makers Fair on Sunday, October 18. We'll have a great selection of items and they'll be priced to sell. Magic wands. Microwave bowl cozies. Coasters. Baby quilts and lap throws. Tooth fairy pillows and other sewn sundries that you don't really know you need until you see how cute they are. Bring your Christmas lists and get started early while, at the same time, supporting the Maker's ministry here at GPMC.

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

The latest addition to the library is Alina Gayeuski's "Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling: Clergy Women in a Still-Patriarchal Church."

Ordained but not empowered, women clergy still face pervasive patriarchy that forces them to merely survive instead of thriving. *Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling* exposes this hidden reality, sharing powerful stories of women clergy navigating systemic sexism. It offers a bold, hopeful vision for dismantling harmful structures and creating a church where all can finally flourish.



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!



MUSIC AT MEMORIAL

As we come together to celebrate a new year of programming at GPMC, I wish to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the musicians and volunteers who give their time and talents to make the music ministries here a nurturing environment to grow one's faith. It takes many individuals to create the beautiful music that is presented each Sunday, and so no project big or small can happen without their work and commitment. But along with the work, comes the camaraderie that is developed within the musical communities that helps strengthen faith and builds friendships. If you are looking for new ways to be involved this year, please consider joining the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs, or reaching out if you play an instrument and wish to participate in other music making opportunities! Sanctuary Choir rehearsals start on Thursday, September 10 from 7:15 – 9:15 pm. Handbell Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 17 from 6 – 7 pm. Any inquiries about the ensembles may be addressed to lhamilton@gpmchurch.org.

Along with new opportunities, new changes also arise. While our former Handbell Choir Director, Rory Powell, has resigned from the position as he becomes more involved with orchestral projects in the surrounding area, we are happy to introduce our new director, Peyton Fleming, who also sings as a section leader in the Sanctuary Choir! Peyton is thrilled with this opportunity and invites all who are interested in the Handbell Choir to contact him at pfleming.music10@hotmail.com.

The last bit of news is that the first concert of the Music at Memorial series is quickly approaching! Under the direction of Peyton Fleming, The Detroit Bachtet is Southeast Michigan's premier ensemble focused on performing music from a variety of time periods, from the Middle Ages into the Baroque, to the works of modern composers of today. Their premiere concert will be on Saturday, September 19 at 7 pm, featuring the works of prominent choral composers such as Rosephayne Powell, Heinrich Schutz, Stacey V. Gibbs, Jans Sweelinck, and Jake Runestad. Admission is free, and all are invited.

We look forward to another wonderful year of music making and hope you'll join us either up in the choir loft, behind the handbell table, or in the audience at our events!

In Christ's love,

Dr. Logan J. Hamilton

Minister of Music and Organist



UPDATE FROM THE WORSHIP COUNCIL: SUMMER ACTIVITIES

One of the true joys of the Trinity Terrace is the lower playground and the view of Lake St. Clair. Normally, the lake is a blue shimmering backdrop to the playground, but on this Sunday evening, the area beyond the fence was opened to allow access to the lake. This area includes a wide concrete patio terminated by a break wall with a set of stairs that allow easy access to the shallow lake waters. Normally this shoreline break wall is behind a locked gate to prevent the kiddos from getting in potential trouble, but on this Sunday in late July, the gate was opened and our worshipers took advantage of the warm weather to participate in a renewal of baptismal vows by several, who took a full immersion plunge into the inviting waters of our serene lake. Our staff leaders welcomed several bathing-attired congregants into the warm waters. All were encouraged and cheered on by fellow 5 pm service attendees. It was a joyous celebration after a prayer service that included appropriate words of scripture, prayers, and music led by Heather, Jeff, and Logan. As a summer-time opportunity, it is one that we all hope is repeated, and it truly brings home the merit of our outdoor worship space! This outdoor space has many facets and is truly a welcoming place!

The outdoor summer worship schedule has ended, but we have special events to take advantage of the fall weather planned, so check our calendar at gpmchurch.org! Our fall kick-off will include a cookout and games for the entire family in this wonderful space. So please join us! We look forward to seeing you there!



SUNSET ON CANVAS: SUMMER VIBES

BY: REV. HEATHER THUM-GERBER

For the first time since starting Sunset on Canvas last summer the weather was perfect for us to gather on Trinity Terrace! Twenty-four participants from kids to some of our mature-in-years members laughed, painted, and enjoyed the beauty of God's creation. Whether participants were experienced painters or trying their hand at art for the first time, everyone left with a finished canvas and wonderful memories of a truly enjoyable evening.

Sunset on Canvas is more than just a painting class—it is a celebration of summer, the movement of the Holy Spirit, and our intergenerational community. A special thank you to Meredith Gilbert for leading the painting instruction, our sextons who set-up the space, and everyone who attended to make this such a successful event. We look forward to hosting Sunset on Canvas in the future.

TUESDAY EVENING BOOK STUDY ON PRAYER

Tuesdays in September (15, 22, 29) • 7 – 8 pm

During this season when our church is focusing on the discipline of prayer, join Pastor Jeff for a three-week study of Anne Lamott's book *Help Thanks Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. In these three whimsical and powerful one-word prayers (Help! Thanks! Wow!), Lamott captures the essence of what prayer is and gives insight into how we might practice them in our daily lives. All are welcome!

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING DINNER AND CONVERSATION

Sunday, October 4 • 5 – 7 pm

In Your 20s or 30s? Looking for community and a place to explore faith alongside others?

Join us at the home of Doug and Tracy Blatt (10 Carrington Pl, GPF) for dinner, games, and good conversation as we connect, ask honest questions, and grow together on the journey of faith. Whether you're deeply connected to a church, just beginning to explore faith, or somewhere in between, you're welcome here. Bring a friend and come be part of something new at GPMC! RSVP by October 1 through the church website.

BIRDS OF PRAY 2026 WRAP

BY: FRANK "SKIP" PALAZZOLO

Was there something in the water? Or was it the wildfires? We may never know. Unfortunately just like the Lions & Tigers (no Bears this ain't Chicago) ...oh my... the Birds suffered numerous injuries including to our starting pitcher Spooky Deuce (alias Jay Lady). So many injuries in fact that the coaches Ace (Mark Corey), Screwball (Doug Horst-who stepped in for Spooky) and myself were forced out of retirement during 40% of our regular season games and the entire playoffs in order to avoid forfeiture. Despite playing down one fielder most games (I could not convince the umpire to make hitting to right field an automatic out) your Birds gave a good accounting of themselves only being mercied once the entire season (2026 tally was 1-12...not even our worst record historically). Attendance was a bit down (no one brought their dogs) but the crowd remained enthusiastically positive (it was apparently too hot for the ripe tomato vendors) and the boys delivered enough defensive highlights to make attending well worth the price of admission (Stoney -aka Jim Moore even got an ovation from the other team following an amazing play at third base. Afterwards I told him 'Stoney I see you've still got it... but please don't give it to anyone else'.)



The Birds play in a very competitive league where the average age of the players is around 30-35. While most clubs are sponsored by area bars and through turnover their average players age has remained the same our roster has matured. With an average age now well past retirement the roster might be in need of a rebuild (likely knee, hip and shoulder replacements). Therefore I invite members of the congregation with past experience to contact me (between now and spring training (February) and come out for the team. It's a hoot! Thanks for your continued support!

Please note: I give out all the nicknames but they are earned on the field and beware, their meaning may not be intuitive.

GPMC Financial Update - Year to Date				
7/31/2026				
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Fav (Unfav)</u>	
Pledge Offerings	\$ 686,230	\$ 646,638	\$ 39,592	
Non-pledge Offerings	117,803	86,035	31,768	
Other Income	179,121	183,725	(4,604)	
Endowments	427,000	427,000	-	
Transfer from Sp. Purp.	-	-	-	
Total Receipts	\$ 1,410,154	\$ 1,343,398	\$ 66,756	
Total Expenses	\$ 1,269,201	\$ 1,286,442	\$ 17,241	
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ 140,953	\$ 56,956	\$ 83,997	

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



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 Carol Marks at cmarks@gpmchurch.org or 313.882.5330. May God continue to surround you with love and care.

BAPTISMS

Chloe Jane Kinnear
August 16, 2026

George Andrew Kinnear
August 16, 2026

Isabella (Bella) Augustine
August 30, 2026

BIRTHS

Thomas Lee Bill
May 20, 2026

DEATHS

Howard B. Hill
October 8, 1946 – August 10, 2026

John Dana Standish
August 30, 1934 – August 10, 2026