



NOVEMBER 21, 2019



NARDIN PARK NEWS

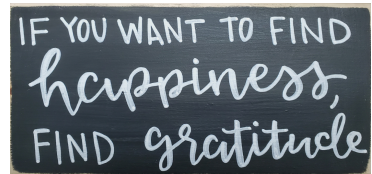


www.nardinpark.org



The Season of *Thanksgiving*

In our halloweenthankmas world—where the seasons are so easily mushed together in a whirlwind of activities, I want to take a moment to celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving can so easily get lost between the Halloween hype and the pre Christmas sales (which start earlier and earlier each year), and with the early November snow, it was almost as if mother nature herself was saying, let's just vault from Halloween and all saints day to the Christmas season.



Let's not do that. Instead let's pause and give thanks. It is very important that we stop and take time to remember all that has been given to us. It is so very important that we stop and ponder God's great generosity. None of God's gifts have been earned. All have been freely and lavishly given in an overwhelming out pouring of love and grace. As we consider all that has been given and the generosity of the giver, it begs the question to us about our own generosity? It asks us to consider our own spirits and whether or not we hold love openly enough to offer it, as Christ does, freely and willingly, or whether we hang onto it with fear that we don't have enough, or just fear of all that swirls around us. Early in September, Al Robeson gifted me with a sign which reads: If you want to Find happiness, Find gratitude. This sign has adorned the table in my office all fall. Gratitude is one of the key ingredients to finding happiness. And it starts with taking time to ponder thanksgiving.

One of my favorite poets, Joyce Rupp puts it this way in a prayer she wrote from her book Fresh Bread. May it be our prayer this Thanksgiving.

"O gracious God, who so generously lavishes our lives with goodness, create in our hearts a deep center of gratitude...Remind us often of how much you cherish us, of how abundantly you have offered gifts to us, especially in the hours of our greatest need. May we always be grateful for your reaching into our lives with surprises of joy, growth, and unearned love. Amen."

Pastor Melanie

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Coming up in worship



Sunday, November 24th

is Thanksgiving and Gratitude Sunday. Pastor Melanie will be preaching about giving thanks as we celebrate Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for. Chancel Choir, Kyle Webber and Yalan Piao will provide music. Don't miss the special duet that Kyle and Yalan will do as the postlude to the service. Laura Olson and Sue Ward will be sharing about the mission team Christmas Project with Operation Common Good.

New Worship Series begins on Prayer. Advent and Christmas worship theme will be on prayer. How does prayer play a role in the Advent and Christmas story? Each week we will look at the familiar stories of the season, through the lens of a particular character and how prayer plays a role in this character and our lives. The characters we will explore will be the prophets, Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the shepherds. As we begin this very holy season, what are your prayers this year? Come and worship with us.

Sunday, December 1st-- First Sunday of Advent!

Pastor Melanie will be preaching on the prophets and prayer.

We will light the first candle of Advent and celebrate Holy Communion. Kyle Webber and Rachel Leftwich will provide music. Come begin the Advent season with worship as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus into our lives and world.

Sunday, December 8th- Second Sunday of Advent!

Pastor Melanie will be preaching on Mary and Prayer.

We will light the second candle of Advent and Kyle Webber, Nardin Park Ringers, Chancel Choir and Yalan Piao will provide music. Kyle and Yalan will do another wonderful duet for the postlude. Don't miss this music of Christmas as we continue to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus

Coming up:

Sunday December 15th-- Children's Musical

Sunday December 22nd-- Pastor Beth preaching on Joseph

Sunday December 29th-- Pastor Beth preaching on The Shepherds



Christmas Eve Services December 24th

5:00 p.m.

Children & family oriented Service, candle lighting included

8:00 p.m.

Carols, Choirs and Candle lighting

11:00 p.m.

Carols, Candle lighting & Communion

Please update your address book: Nardin Park Staff have new emails

Over the past 18 months, many people have worked diligently to fix multiple problems with the Nardin Park email system. However, it has been determined that the domain Nardinpark.org has some fatal flaws. Therefore, a decision has been made to change to new emails for the staff. Please update your address books to our new email addresses. Note that Nardinpark.org will remain active, but because of the problems we have sending and receiving emails in this domain, we ask you to change to our new addresses. Emails will use the gmail.com domain and will follow the same pattern for each staff person.

First name, dot, npchurch @gmail.com

Melanie Carey: Melanie.npchurch@gmail.com

Beth Titus: Beth.npchurch@gmail.com

George Covintree: George.npchurch@gmail.com

Lynn Hasley: Lynn.npchurch@gmail.com

Karen Poole: Karen.npchurch@gmail.com

Kyle Webber: Kyle.npchurch@gmail.com

Linda McDoniel: Linda.npchurch@gmail.com

Carol Trost: Carol.npchurch@gmail.com

Susanna Brennan: Susanna.npchurch@gmail.com

Elizabeth King: Elizabeth.npchurch@gmail.com

Karl Heiss: Karl.npchurch@gmail.com

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the church office will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th.

Straw Poll Vote



Straw Poll Vote on New Welcoming Statement and joining Reconciling Ministries passes by 83%

On Sunday, Nov. 17th, a non binding straw poll vote was taken on Nardin Park's new welcome statement and whether or not Nardin Park should become a reconciling congregation. The non binding poll results were the following: 149 votes were cast. 120 of those votes were yes, 25 of those votes were no and 4 were to abstain. Votes to abstain do not count in the percentage totals therefore the percentage totals are calculated from 145 votes and the percentage results are that (rounded up to nearest whole number) 83% said yes, 17% said no.

Since this was a non binding straw poll vote, to help the reconciling ministries team understand where the church stands at this particular moment on this particular matter. The next step will be for the reconciling ministries team to meet and determine when the official vote will be held. It will be sometime after the first of the year. Here is the welcome statement that was voted on.

Nardin Park UMC celebrates that everyone is created in God's image and is of sacred worth. We welcome all into full participation in our church without regard to age, race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, family configuration, religious background, socio-economic situation, citizenship, language and/or ability.

Extra!
Extra!



Extra!
Extra!



The Prayer Focus for this week is:
Spend a moment in prayer and let
the act of it remind you who God
is and what he does in our lives.



Poole Love Gift



Rev. Karen and Gary Poole are retiring from Nardin Park and moving to Big Rapids to be closer to their daughter Beth and family. There will be a reception on December 8th to honor them both. We would like to present them a Love Gift from their Nardin Park family. If you would like to contribute, leave a check in the offering plate noted Poole Love Gift or leave in the church office no later than December 1st.

NEEDED

Audio/Visual Volunteers

No experience required.

Training is provided.

Contact Kyle.npchurch@gmail.com
for details!

2020 Pledge Card Reminder

Don't forget to turn in your 2020 gratitude card. Your financial gifts help us to do all the ministries Jesus calls us to do through the church. Pledge cards are available in the church office, or at the welcome center. You can drop your pledge card into the offering plate on Sunday or mail it into the church office. Thank you for your generosity and service through all we do together in ministry.

CHRISTMAS CARD BOXES

Christmas Card Boxes will no longer be available at the church. Please mail or hand deliver Christmas cards directly. This change is to help our church be more inclusive and welcoming of everyone. If you have questions please email Pastor Melanie.
Melanie.npchurch@gmail.com

FilmGoers

Our next meeting is on Nov. 24th at 7:00 pm.

We will be discussing "Harriet", "Last Christmas", & "Parasite". Please see the movies on your own and then join us for a lively and interesting discussion. Everyone is welcome. Any questions, please contact
Wes Brun.

wesbrun@gmail.com



Extra!
Extra!



Extra!
Extra!

The Holidays Can Be Painful

The joy of Thanksgiving and Christmas can turn into a time of loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders Dorothy Moore (dorothy.moore@yahoo.com) or Melanie Allbery (melanieallbery@yahoo.com) or by contacting Pastor Melanie Carey (Melanie.npchurch@gmail.com).

Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!



Back by popular demand! Last year, Nardin Park was very generous and donated gifts for 30 children in the Farmington Public School area. This year, Operation Common Good has shared 30 names representing 12 families attending schools within our neighborhood. We know that everyone has different abilities to buy gifts. So, instead of purchasing all the items on a specific wish list, we have divided the wish lists of each child. You can take as many or as few items as you would like. There are clothing gifts, coats and boots and fun gifts, such as toys and games. Most of the items are basic needs, things we take for granted but know the children will appreciate. We hope to fulfill all the wish lists from these children. Nardin Park people are very generous when it comes to helping others, especially in our community. The gift tags listing items the children would like for Christmas will be available following worship on November 24th. We ask that you return the item with the gift tag no later than Sunday, December 15th. The gifts should be returned unwrapped, so the parents can wrap the gifts for their children. Every action matters so please consider taking a gift tag to purchase for a child in need today. This Christmas open your hearts to Show love and do good by bringing joy to our neighbors.

Questions may be directed to Laura Olson (swimolson@yahoo.com) or Sue Ward (susanmw0901@gmail.com)

Inclement weather policy

The church office will be closed and daily meetings / events will be canceled when the Farmington Public Schools close due to snowfall.

However, if school is closed due to extreme temperatures, we will remain open with regularly scheduled meetings taking place.

On Sunday, December 8th

The Congregational Care Team will have flowers available in fellowship hall to be delivered to our shut ins. Please pick up one or more after worship (there will be an address card included).



The Kids Corner



Fun and Fellowship:

**Saturday,
November 23
5-8PM**

Movie Night and Pot Luck



Children's Spiritual Guidance

Sundays 10:00 a.m.

Kindergarten through 5th Graders BEGIN IN WORSHIP

~10:10 a.m. they are guided to their 'Godly Play' rooms:

K - 1st Grade; 2nd - 3rd Grade and 4th - 5th Grade

Pre-schoolers can go directly to their "Godly Play" room at 10 a. m.

All Rooms are on the second floor.



November Theme: Stories that Shape Our Faith Community

November Memory Verse:

"Your Word is lamp before my feet and a light for my journey." Psalm 119:105

November 24 "Jonah and the Fish" - Book of Jonah

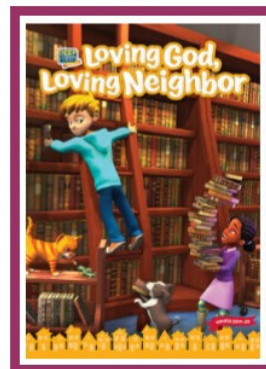
"When has one given you a second chance?"

December:

Church Communities Celebrate Jesus

December 1 "The Prophets"

Isaiah 2: 1-5; Isaiah 11:6-9



SPECIAL NOTE : At the end of each hour on Sunday mornings

the children are practicing the Children's Christmas musical

"The Reluctant Innkeeper", being shared during worship on Sunday, December 15th!

However you celebrate THANKSGIVING DAY/ Weekend I hope that there is time for play. *"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood."* Fred Rogers



Sunday, December 1 is the first Sunday of Advent.



HOPE

Read: Isaiah 2: 1- 5; Isaiah 11: 6 - 9

Read: The Story from the Prophet Isaiah

Light the First Advent Candle

Pray: Thank you, God, for the Bible story about the Prophets and their faith in God. Help us have hope in our hearts as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.

*This magnet
will be given
to the children on
Sunday, December 1
(Or the next Sunday they
are in church.)*

There is a story card that comes with it. Enjoy some time separating the 6 pieces and placing them into the shape of a

Christmas Tree

as you take the journey toward Christmas.



Youth Connection



December

Sunday, Dec. 1 – No Dance or Common Ground

Tuesday, Dec. 3 – Night @ The Park 5:00pm

Sunday, Dec. 8 – Dance 5:00pm

Common Ground Christmas Party
6:00pm

Tuesday, Dec. 10 – Night @ The Park 5:00pm

Sunday, Dec. 15 – Dancer's dance in worship
Nardin Park's Christmas Concert 4:00pm

Tuesday, Dec. 17 and Sunday, Dec. 22 –
no youth programs

Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas!

Important Dates!

Super Bowl Party

February 2

Winter Retreat

February 7-9

Bottle Drive Fundraiser

February 9



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Sunday, December 8th at 6:00pm at the home of
Mike and Arlene Marks .

**Bring a munchie or dessert to share,
and a wrapped \$5 gift good for anyone.**



Mike and Arlene Marks
23042 Watt Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48336
(248)473-1347

Launch Team Party Events

Join the New Worship Service Launch Team as we gather in a spirit of invitation. Each of these events are opportunities to encourage new faces to join in the beautiful connections we have among us as fellow disciples of Christ.

You are welcome to join—and highly encouraged to bring a friend (or two)!

November 23rd 5-8pm:

Movie and Potluck Night

Join us for grilled burgers and hotdogs and a delicious potluck spread! Then enjoy a family friendly movie, “Evan Almighty.”

Bring a friend!

December 15th:

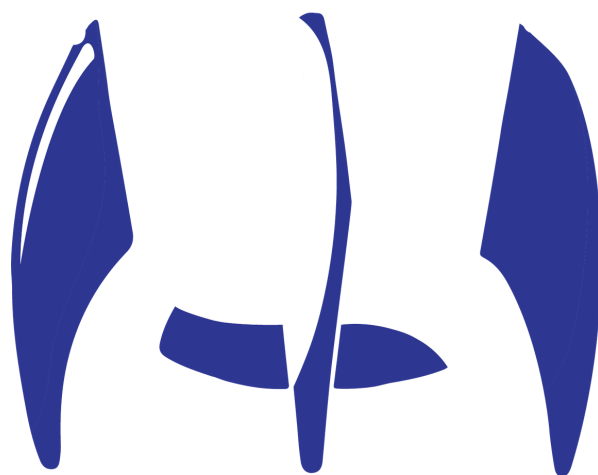
Cookie Decorating

2:30-3:30PM & 5:30-6:30PM

Enjoy spreading the love this Christmas by decorating cookies in the Nardin Park kitchen, either for yourself or for others, both before & after our spectacular Christmas concert! Cookies and decorations provided. Christmas concert begins at 4PM. We hope to see you there!



Launch Team
2020



Questions? Contact Susanna Brennan: susanna.npchurch@gmail.com

Night @ The Park Menu

**Dinner is served
Tuesday nights
5:30-6:45PM**

November 26th Breakfast For Dinner

**Sausage, Potato & Egg
Casserole
Bacon
Fruit
Pastry Assortment**

December 3rd

**Salad
Dinner Rolls
Meat Loaf
Mashed Potatoes
Peas
Dessert-Birthday Cake**

Donations are welcomed, but not required to attend this community dinner!



**27835 Shiawassee Street
Farmington Hills, MI 48336**

Dust off your ugly sweater and meet us in Downtown Farmington for the annual Holly Days celebration hosted by the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce! You'll get that warm, nostalgic feeling of old as you stroll through downtown listening to carolers, sampling freshly baked cookies, and sipping hot chocolate.



CARES and The Farmington Area Interfaith Association will be hosting an evening of celebration and thanks on Monday, November 25th.

Join us for a wonderful community gathering, beginning with a complementary strolling dinner and closing with a service on the theme of Thanksgiving, generosity and compassion.

5:30 pm - Strolling Dinner

7-8 pm - Service

There is no cost to attend. Non-perishable food, personal care, and monetary donations to CARES are welcome.

Ladies, looking for a women's slow-pitch softball league to have fun with during the summer? Over 30 Softball, a Christian League since 1983 is seeking additional women teams. We play on Wednesday evenings, May-July with players ranging from 30 to 50+ years. Look us up on www.over30softball.com or call

Patty Soter: 734-765-4777 or email: psoter@umich.edu.

If you are ready for camaraderie, fellowship and friendly competition, seek us out by Feb. 1st, 2020.