



NOVEMBER 7, 2019



NARDIN PARK NEWS

www.nardinpark.org

Lessons on the joy in lost and found!

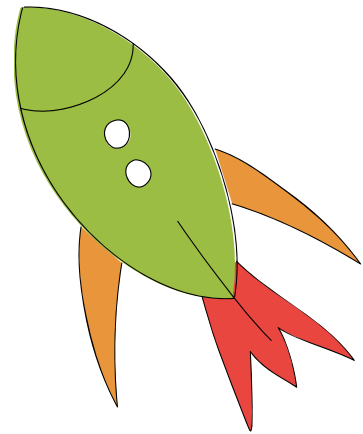
Last Monday night, my husband Jon and I were eating dinner in our kitchen, when we noticed 3 people in our backyard! It was a woman and two young boys and they were looking for something in our trees. The parsonage backs up to East Middle School's football field and track, so we usually have a lot of activity, people, dogs, geese and deer in our backyard. But this was the first time that people were walking around looking up into our trees. Pretty soon our doorbell rang, and we found out what they were looking for.

This mom and her two sons had these very clever plastic rockets, with parachutes attached and they had been shooting them off in the football field. One had gone missing, and the little boy whose rocket was gone, was very sad that it was lost. He told us about his green rocket, and his brother showed us a sample rocket, in a different color. The mom left us her number, in case we found the rocket. Then on Halloween morning, I opened the blinds in our upstairs bedroom and looked outside, and there high up in the tree, off of our back deck, I spied a green rocket with the parachute attached! It was high in the tree, but with some creativity and duck tape we rigged a hockey stick and metal grabber tool together and on a ladder, retrieved that rocket! (You would have laughed at the sight!)

Oh the joy that happened when I texted the mom and let her know that what was lost, was found and her son was reunited with his rocket! We called it a Halloween Miracle! And it was indeed, miraculous.

It reminded me of the great joy that happens when we find what we are looking for, when we connect in deep ways with what has been missing in our lives. It takes a village of people willing to spend time seeking, and finding and connecting. It takes willingness to be creative (duck tape!) And the joy with the reunion touches all of us in deep ways, transforming us so that indeed the miracle is ours too. That is what the church of Jesus Christ is all about. We are called to help seek, and find and connect people to the life giving love of Jesus and invite them to do the same. It is our mission. And what joy there is when what was lost is found, what was missing is connected and the circle grows wider with each one. Praise God!

Pastor Melanie



What's Inside

Sunday Services.....2

Reconciling Ministries.....3

Extra! Extra!.....5

Kids Corner....7

Youth Connection...8

Launch Team Events.....9

Night @ The Park Menu.....10

Around Town.....11



Coming up in worship



Our worship theme for October through Thanksgiving is Multiplication as we focus on how we partner with God to multiply the impact of God's love through our congregation. Look for the x's throughout the church, the times sign, as a reminder that God Loves Multiplication!

November 10th

Pastor Beth will be preaching on multiplying leaders, as we continue our multiply sermon series. Nardin Park Ringers and Kyle Webber will provide music.

November 17th

Pastor Melanie will preach the last sermon in the Multiply Series on Being our Call to Be Neighborhood Missionaries.

Music provided by Kyle Webber, Gracers Ignite, Youth Choir and Chancel Choir.

November 24th-- Gratitude Sunday.

Pastor Melanie will be preaching on Gratitude as we prepare for Thanksgiving.

Music provided by Kyle Webber, Yalan Piao and Chancel Choir.

Important Meeting Notice:

Annual Church Conference Meeting is this Sunday, Nov.10th at 7 p.m. in the chapel. Come out and hear from our District Superintendent, Rev.Dr. Charles Boayue as we have our church annual meeting.

Staff Parish will meet with Dr. Boayue in the conference room at 6:15 p.m.

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

Construction Update:

Our new restrooms are open and beautiful! Our staff is back in updated and beautiful offices. Construction continues in our sanctuary, and our contractors tell us that we are still on schedule. Baring any unforeseen delays, we are planning to be back in the sanctuary in early December!

In the meantime we continue to worship on Sundays in the fellowship Hall. We have plenty of seats for you, including seats with arm rests for those with mobility needs. Join us for worship on Sundays at 10 a.m.

We are grateful to the MANY volunteers who have helped to make these projects possible, working alongside our contractors and subcontractors, helping to set up, clean up and ensure that all projects go smoothly, stay on track and stay in budget. We are so blessed with so many wonderful people doing so much to make a difference for Christ! **Thank you!**

Reconciling Ministries

Q&A



Sunday, Nov. 17, Mercer Hall, immediately after worship: Straw poll vote to help the reconciling ministry team understand the congregation's response to becoming a reconciling church.

Nardin Park's Reconciling Ministry team hosted three all-congregation "Holy Conferencing" informational opportunities this summer in preparation for our consideration to become a reconciling church. With feedback from the congregation who attended, the team has written a welcome statement for Nardin Park Church.

Recognizing that all church members were not able to attend one of these events, we are sharing the Welcome Statement and answers to questions you might have. Also recognizing that we do not know all of your questions, below are some of the questions we have received.

The Welcome Statement proposed for congregational vote is:

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.

Q and A regarding the new welcome statement and Reconciling Ministries

Why do we need an official Welcoming Statement, I thought we already believed God loves everyone?

Because of the decisions made by the General Conference this past February, as well as the non-binding straw poll vote taken by the Michigan Annual Conference in May, leaders in our congregation felt that we at Nardin Park needed to be explicitly clear, especially with our neighbors, about who we believe God loves and who we are as a congregation.

If adopted, how will this welcome statement affect Nardin Park Church?

Day to day activities and ministries would not change. What would change is that this statement would become the official welcome statement of our church and Nardin Park would become an official reconciling congregation and would join the world-wide Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). The statement would be printed on the front of our Sunday bulletin, we could use the RMN logo on our electronic sign and we would continue to honor the full participation in our church of every one of God's children.

What does "full participation" mean?

Full participation means:

- Sacraments: Baptism, Communion, Marriage
- Pathway to membership
- Pathway to ministry

Continued on the next page



Reconciling ministries continued

Have we had any people leave Nardin Park because we are considering becoming a reconciling congregation?

Faithful United Methodists do not all agree on matters of human sexuality and we at Nardin Park also do not all agree on these matters. We don't have to agree to be in the same congregation. Over the summer, our Reconciling Ministries Team hosted three holy conversations where people were invited to talk with one another about what they believe about human sexuality.

We currently know of some persons who have officially indicated that they are no longer attending Nardin Park Church because they are not in agreement with the welcome statement and its theological implications. We also know that some people have decided to start attending Nardin Park Church because of our welcome statement and its theological implications. In addition, we know of some people who have indicated they do not agree with the welcome statement but they are not going to leave the church over it.

Will there be a congregational vote on this welcome statement?

Yes. There will be two opportunities to vote on the welcome statement. The first will be Sunday, Nov. 17, right after the worship service during a special congregational meeting. The vote will be by ballot. This will be a NON-BINDING straw poll vote.

What is a non-binding straw poll vote? Why are we doing a straw poll vote?

It is a vote that simply helps us to understand where the church stands at this particular moment on this particular matter. Because it is a straw poll vote, the results are not binding on the congregation. A straw poll vote is advised from many other churches who have also done this same voting process on these same matters.

Will there be an official vote that is binding? If so, when?

Yes. The second and official vote will be at a future date determined by the reconciling ministries team in consultation with our church council. It will be announced and explained and will also be a ballot vote taken during a congregational meeting after worship.

Who can vote in the straw poll and in the official vote?

Full members, affiliate members and retired clergy who have made Nardin Park their church home are eligible to vote.

Can I vote if I am not present for the congregational meeting?

No. In the United Methodist Church, in order to vote you must be present at the meeting.



Extra!
Extra!



Extra!
Extra!



Upcoming Cares & Prayers Events

Prayer class

Tuesday nights:

Nov. 19 & 26, Dec. 3 & 10

6-7pm

Led by Wes Brun and
Melanie Allbery

The Prayer Focus for
this week is:

What are you thankful
for? Thank God for
those things.



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.

Evening Star

Evening Star invites all ladies in the church to our November meeting on Monday, Nov. 18.

We are meeting on the Third Monday due on Thanksgiving.

Our program: Bring something for the church food pantry boxes (to be donated to a local food bank) - it can be a food or personal care items, and a holiday recipe you would like to share. Sue Genschoreck will also lead a discussion on thankfulness.

We are not meeting in December.

January will be our Winter Night Out.

Watch the newsletter for details.

2020 Pledge Card Reminder

We have received over 100 Pledge Cards!

Don't forget to bring your 2020 Pledge
Cards to service on Sunday!

You can also mail them to Nardin Park or
drop them by the church office at your
convenience.

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.

MCarey@nardinpark.org

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 (MCarey@nardinpark.org).

Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!

November 17th Harvest Altar Sunday

This is an annual Sunday for collecting food to help stock local food banks with extra food for the holidays. On Nov 10th, purple bags will be handed out after worship that morning. These are to help you remember to collect and return the bag with non-perishable food items. If you don't have a purple bag you can still bring food to be donated. This year food will be delivered to Redford Aldersgate Church in Redford and C.A.R.E.S. in Farmington Hills.



Nardin Park Church is once again adopting families through Operation Common Good for Christmas. We will be buying for 6 or 7 families. Ornaments on a tree will be available for you to choose either a clothing item, a fun gift, or a gift certificate. More information will be given out on November 24th when the project starts.

PLEDGE REMINDER

As we approach 2019 year-end, your Finance Committee asks you to please review payments on your pledge, and do all you can to bring it current. To help you with this, Karl Heiss, NPUMC's Accountant, recently emailed Third Quarter Record of Contributions. We are aware that some problems have occurred with e-offerings or other automatic payments during previous months, so please verify that all payments that you intended have been made.

Thank you for your help.

—George Walker, Finance Chair.

JOY

JOY (Just Older Youth) will meet on Wednesday, November 13th at 11am in Fellowship Hall. Dorothy Moore will lead our devotions. Since this year celebrates the 100th anniversary of Veterans Day, we will be honoring veterans. Several veterans in our group will share with us some of their experiences while serving in the military. We welcome any newcomers to join us for a time of reflection, fellowship, and food. A catered lunch will be served at noon. Call the church office or Mary Glenn for reservations. The group meets once a month on the second Wednesday. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Glenn (248) 380-9837.



Children's Spiritual Guidance Sunday 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 go directly to their "Godly Play" room at 10 a. m.
All Rooms are on the second floor.



Nativity Picture Time !

Sunday Mornings: November 10 and 17
during "Godly Play".

Tuesday Night during Bible 345
November 12

The children can choose who and what they would like to portray. Consider finding the stories of Jesus birth in their Bibles and reading them together.
Then ask: I wonder where you were in the story? I wonder what part you liked best?

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 10

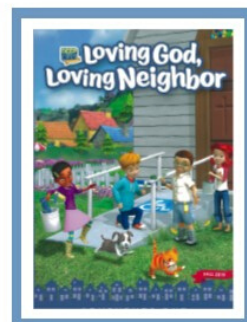
"Noah and the Flood" - Genesis 6: 13-9:17

The Story of Noah and his faithfulness to God.

November 17

"Daniel and the Lions" - Daniel 6:1-28

What do you do when rules are unfair? What is worth standing up for?



SPECIAL NOTE : At the end of each hour on Sunday mornings the children are practicing the Children's Christmas musical **"The Reluctant Innkeeper"** .

Fun and Fellowship: Saturday, November 23, 5 - 9 p.m.
Movie Night and Pot Luck

Youth Connection



Welcome to the month of gratitude and thanksgiving!

Common Ground Thanksgiving Pot Luck!

*IF you could
have anything
you wanted on
your
Thanksgiving
Table to eat,
what would it
be? It DOES
NOT need to be
traditional
Thanksgiving
items. Think
outside the box
and bring your
favorite to share
for dinner on
Sunday, Nov. 24.*

Sunday, Nov. 10 – Dance 5:00pm
Common Ground 6:00pm

Tuesday, Nov. 12 – Night @ The Park 5:00pm

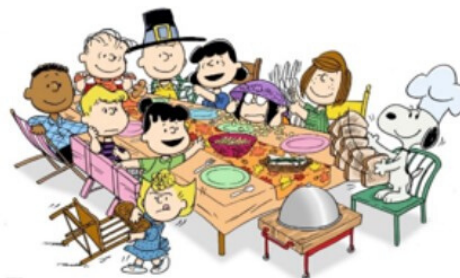
Sunday, Nov. 17 – Dance 5:00pm
Common Ground 6:00pm

Tuesday, Nov. 19 – Night @ The Park 5:00pm

Sunday, Nov. 24 – **Compassion Bake Sale following worship**
Dance 5:00pm
Common Ground Thanksgiving Dinner 6:00pm

Tuesday, Nov. 26 – Night @ The Park 5:00pm

Thursday, Nov. 28 – Happy Thanksgiving!



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 5-9pm:

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:

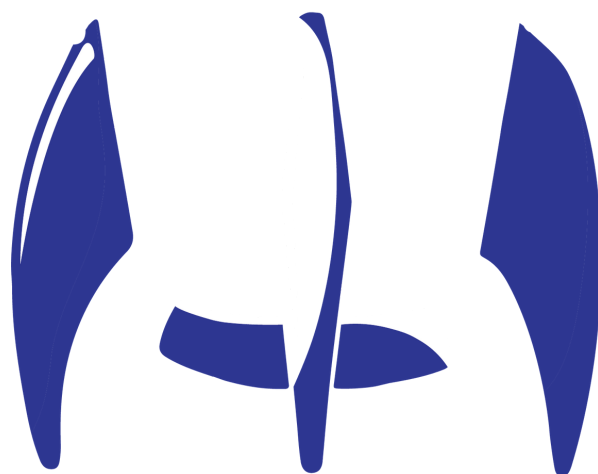
Cookie Decorating

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: sbrennan@nardinpark.org



Night @ The Park Menu

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

November 12

**Salad
Dinner Rolls
Baked Chicken
Rice Pilaf
Mixed Veggies
Dessert**

November 19

**Salad
Dinner Rolls
Ham
Turkey
Green Bean Casserole
Mashed Potatoes
Dessert**

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



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE CONCERTS

A once-a-month concert series. Enjoy an evening of live music in the intimate setting of the Farmington Civic Theater's upstairs theater.

The focus is on talented singer-songwriters. Performers and audience members appreciate the up-close feeling and ideal acoustics. If you haven't been to Friday Night Live, we encourage you to give it a try. Fall season, September-November. Winter season, January-April.

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.



First Presbyterian Church (Church of the Open Hands) will host their 4th annual craft/bake show Sat. Nov. 16th from 10:00 - 4:00. Our show has over 40 unique craft ranging from woven items, felt animals, hymnal wreaths, wooded toys, beaded accessories and much much more.

There will also be a bake sale with lots of goodies, one of which is our famous nut roll which sells out quickly. To order a nut roll please send a check for \$10.00 to First Presbyterian Church with nut roll in the memo.

Now is a great time to begin holiday shopping for family, friends, and yourself. The church is located at 26165 Farmington Rd. (Corner of 11 Mile and Farmington Rd.) at the traffic light. For more information please call Deborah 248-579-6053