



DECEMBER 5, 2019



NARDIN PARK NEWS



www.nardinpark.org



Prepare Him Room



During the season of Advent, we make preparations for Christmas. We decorate our halls and homes, we gather for concerts, and special events to celebrate the season. We listen to Christmas music, and shop for gifts for family and friends as well as giving to others in need. We bake cookies, and sweet treats, and plan for family gatherings. We remember past Christmases, and feel the loss of loved ones no longer physically with us. It is a season filled with activities and high emotions. God calls us to prepare, to make room for the coming of God into the world, into our lives, into our heart. We make plans, but God calls for us to make room, to be flexible for God's schedule, and God's timetable, not ours. One of my favorite poets is Ann Weems. She writes of this Coming of God in her poem from her well loved book *"Kneeling in Jerusalem"*. This year, let us make room and prepare for the coming of God.

Pastor Melanie

The Coming of God by Ann Weems

Our God is the One who comes to us
In a burning bush,
In an angel's song,
In a newborn child.
Our God is the One who cannot be found
Locked in the church,
Not even in the sanctuary.
Our God will be where God will be
with no constraints,
no predictability.
Our God lives where our God lives,
And destruction has no power
and even death cannot stop
the living.
Our God will be born where God will be born,
But there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.
When God is ready
God will come
Even to a godforsaken place
Like a stable in Bethlehem.
Watch., for you know not when
God comes.
Watch, that you might be found
Whenever
Wherever
God comes.



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Coming up in worship



Join us for Advent and Christmas Worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.

This year we are looking at the Advent and Christmas stories through the lens of prayer. Each week in December we will consider prayer from the perspective of one of the characters in the Christmas story.

Sunday, December 8th

Mary and Prayer.

Pastor Melanie preaching, Nardin Park Ringers, Chancel Choir, Kyle Webber and Yalan Piao providing music.

Sunday, December 15th

Children's Musical, "The Reluctant Innkeeper" led by Diane Brady and our Children's choirs

Sunday, December 22nd

Joseph and Prayer. Pastor Beth preaching, Kyle Webber, Chancel Choir and Cynthia Standefer, flute player will provide music



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

Help us meet our 2019 Fundraising Goal.

The season of Advent is upon us. This very special time of year when we celebrate that God became flesh and dwells among us. It is truly amazing to think about what it means to have a God with skin on, a God who knows and understands us and our world not from on high, but in our very midst. This is why we sing "O come Emanuel, God with us."

At Nardin Park, we have so much to celebrate! So many wonderful things are happening in the life of our congregation as we implement the new vision goals that we have set together. To finish the year in a strong financial position with our annual operating budget we need your assistance.

You may recall that back in June we wrote to you and encouraged you to contribute toward our fundraising goal of \$55,000. We are pleased to tell you that we have received \$14,000 toward that goal. We need your help to make our fundraising goal and support our annual ministries and church operations.

If 130 of our giving units will share an additional \$300 each, over and above your annual pledge, then we can meet our goal. We invite you to pray about what you can do and then to offer what you can for this effort. We understand that some will be able to give more than \$300 and other less. We ask you to give what you can. We know that together, with God, we can do miraculous things.

Please make your checks out to Nardin Park Church and return them by mail, in person, drop them in the offering plate on Sundays during worship or add an amount to your online giving. Put 2019 fundraising in the memo line of your check or choose that option in the e-giving. Our church financial statements are available if you would like more detail on our bottom line. Just contact one of our finance team members named below and we can easily share this information with you.

Thank you for your incredible generosity as together we welcome the most amazingly generous gift of all time, Jesus the Christ.

Your finance team:

Carolyn Bough, Rev. Marshall Dunlap, Paul Kochan, Walter McCoskey, Paul Merritt, Ronda Suter, George Walker (Chairperson) and Lead Pastor Rev. Melanie Carey

Online Giving



New Online Giving System coming to Nardin Park! Sign up Now!

Help Us Grow: Give Electronically

Electronic gifts are fast and secure, and they reduce administrative costs, allowing more of every dollar to fund the important work we are called to do.

Sign up today on our new online/egiving system through GivePlus. Starting January 1st, 2020 we will no longer be using our former electronic giving resource MyEOFFERING. So sign up on our website with GivePlus and/or search "GivePlus Mobile" to quickly find and download the app on your phone today!

- Give anytime, anywhere to your favorite funds
- Schedule and manage recurring donations
- Make one-time donations to special appeals
- Pay for events, programs and other activities

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website Nardinpark.org or contact the church office and speak with church account Karl Heiss

Coming in January 2020

Text to give & swipe to give (an onsite credit/debit card reader)

GivePlus Powered By Vanco Payment Solutions.

Extra!
Extra!



Extra!
Extra!

Susanna Brennan hired

as New Director of Children's Ministries!

Staff Parish Relations Committee is happy to share the news that Susanna Brennan has been hired as Nardin Park's new part time director of children's ministries! Susanna brings a strong teaching and educational background to this position, along with excellent organizational skills. Susanna will begin serving in this new role January 1st, 2020. Susanna currently serves as our congregation's assistant director of worship arts, which is a part time (15 hours a week) staff position. In January she will add the part time, 20 hours per week, children's ministry position to her schedule.

Effective December 31, 2019, our current Pastor of Children's Ministries, Rev. Karen Poole, will be retiring and moving across the state to be closer to her family. This Sunday, December 8th, Staff Parish is planning a farewell reception in Karen's honor, and will also be recognizing and thanking Gary Poole, Karen's spouse, who has done many vital volunteer ministries at Nardin Park.

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!



Thank you, Nardin Park, once again for your support of Operation Common Good. We distributed 145 gift tags for 30 children attending Farmington Public Schools in our community. Your generosity will surely warm the hearts of these families. Reminder that the gifts should be returned on Sunday, December 8th or 15th. Gifts should be returned unwrapped with the gift tag attached and can be left in Park Place. We will be delivering all your gifts to Operation Common Good on Wednesday, December 18th. Questions may be directed to Laura Olson at 248-310-3292 or Sue Ward at 248-302-0244.

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

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).



Extra!
Extra!



Extra!
Extra!



The Prayer Focus for this week is:
Babies bring joy and wonder and hope for the future. Spend a moment thanking God for the beauty of the Christmas story and for what it teaches us about who God is.

The Mission Team will not be officially collecting Food Funds this season. However, if you would like to make a donation to the Food Fund in honor or memory of a loved one, you can! Write your check to Nardin Park, in the memo and on the envelope write Food Fund and the name of the person you would like to honor. Food Fund money is always appreciated! Through out the year, we use this fund to support Operation Common Good, our Crossroads lunch day, the Peanut Butter and Jelly Project, SOS, and to respond to needs for food from agencies in our community and personal needs. Donations are always needed. At this time of year, we often think of giving to others, but we are so pleased that many people in this congregation give all year round! Thank you!!

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

Night @ The Park Menu



Dinner served 5:30-6:45

December 10th
Traditional Lasagna
Veggie Lasagna
Caesar Salad
Dinner Rolls
Dessert

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.

FilmGoers

Our next meeting is on Jan. 12th at 7:00pm. We will be discussing "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood", "Ford v Ferrari", and "Dark Waters". Please see the movies on your own and then join us for a lively and interesting discussion. Any questions, please contact Wes Brun.
wesbrun@gmail.com





“The Reluctant Innkeeper”

Coming...

Sunday, December 15th!

A Christmas Musical presented
by the children of Nardin Park
as the message for the morning.



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.*



December:

Church Communities Celebrate Jesus

December 8 “Mary’s Story” Luke 1:26 - 38

SPECIAL NOTE : At the end of the hour on Sunday December 8th
the children will have their last practice for the
Children’s Christmas musical “The Reluctant Innkeeper”.



December 15 “Jesus is Coming” Luke 2: 1 - 5

It will be a shortened time in Godly Play this morning.

*The children will go to their Godly Play rooms,
after the morning message “The Reluctant Innkeeper”
- a Christmas musical presented by the Children of Nardin Park.*

***Pray Together: Dear God, thank you for the birth of Jesus!
Help us this month as we celebrate this joyous news. Amen***



At HOME with GOD

ALL HANDS ON DECK
DECEMBER 2019

This Month: Church communities celebrate Jesus.

This month we will hear the beloved Christmas story. We begin with the annunciation to Mary. An angel tells her that she is going to have a very special baby—God's son, Jesus. Then, we hear Joseph's story. Joseph is engaged to Mary, but she's pregnant and this usually means public ridicule. Joseph doesn't want that to happen to her, and as he's thinking about what to do, he has a dream.

In the dream, an angel tells Joseph that Jesus is God's son and that it is okay to marry Mary. Then, Mary and Joseph make the long trek to Bethlehem to be counted for taxes. While they are there, Jesus is born and laid in a manger—an animal feeding trough. The shepherds in a nearby field are visited by angels who announce Jesus' birth. The shepherds run all the way to meet the new king.

Week

1

Bible Story:
The Prophets
(Isaiah 2:1-5; 11:6-9)

Bible Story Focus:
Stop. Watch. Something
is going to happen.

Wonder Together:
How does Nardin get
ready for Christmas?

Week

2

Bible Story:
Mary's Story
(Luke 1:26-38)

Bible Story Focus:
God has blessed us. Rejoice!

Wonder Together:
How do you help your
community at Christmas
time?

Week

3

Bible Story:
Jesus is Coming
(Luke 2: 1—5)

Bible Story Focus:
We can prepare for Jesus' birth
during the
Christmas season

Wonder Together:
What's your favorite Christmas
Carol?

Week

4

Bible Story:
Joseph's Story
(Matthew 1:18-24)

Bible Story Focus:
Can we trust God just like
Joseph?

Wonder Together:
Who would you want to play
in a Christmas Pageant?

Week

5

Bible Story:
Shepherd's Story
(Luke 2:8-20)

Bible Story Focus:
We can share the good
news of Jesus' birth just
like the shepherds.

Wonder Together:
What's the best news
you've been given?

Memory Verse

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." (Luke 2:10)

Pray Together

Dear God, thank you for the birth of Jesus! Help us this month as we celebrate this joyous news. Amen.

Youth Connection



Important Dates!

Super Bowl Party

February 2

Winter Retreat

February 7-9

Bottle Drive Fundraiser

February 9

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!



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



Youth: Mark your calendars now! February 7-9

Winter Youth Retreat

Practices of Joy with Marianne McMunn

Opportunities for skiing, tubing, game playing, relaxing...Don't Miss This!!!!

Christmas Concert

12.15.19 | NARDIN PARK CHURCH

4PM

It's time for Nardin Park's annual Christmas Concert that's sure to ring in the sounds of the season! This year the musical ensembles will join forces with the Orchard Lake Philharmonic to present works for choir and full orchestra. Make sure to join us for this community collaboration!

*Spread love
this
Christmas!*

DECEMBER 15, 2019

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

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 4PM

Enjoy spreading love this Christmas season by decorating cookies before AND after the spectacular Christmas concert, to either enjoy or to share with others.

Cookies & decorations provided.

We hope to see you there!



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



A Frozen Holiday Celebration

December 7, 2019 4:00 PM

Location:
Zion Lutheran Church
1501 W Liberty St
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
United States

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.



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.