



**Nardin Park United Methodist Church
2024 Church Conference Agenda
Saturday, October 12, 2024**

Theme: Dare to Shift “I Am Preparing Something New...” Isaiah 43:19 (VOICE)
19 Watch closely: I am preparing something new; it’s happening now, even as I speak,
and you’re about to see it. I am preparing a way through the desert;
Waters will flow where there had been none.

District Lay Leader Greeting

Devotion & Prayer

Rev. Carter M. Grimmatt

Conference Overview

Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty

Move Churches to Zoom Break Out Rooms

Business of the Church With Presiding Elders

Election of the Church Conference Secretary; Attendance

Rev. Carter M. Grimmatt

Adoption of 2023 Church Conference Minutes (see page 16)

The Church Council recommends the Pastor’s Total Compensation for 2025 be set at: **\$72,500**

The Church Council recommends the Pastor’s total professional expenses for next year be set at: **\$8,300**

For Churches with a Housing Allowance: The Church Council recommends a Housing Allowance be established for the next year in the amount of: **\$6,500**

Nomination of Lay Leadership: (As presented by Nominations committee).

Membership Report, on behalf of Carol Trost, Membership Secretary (see page 4)

Two Year Inactive Members - names read last year to be read and to be removed this year (see page 5)

The SPRC recommends the following person(s) be recommended to the dCOM as a Candidate for Certification.

New candidates require 2/3 ballot vote: Dale Milford

Ministry Shares Report for the Church Profile: On behalf of the Church Council, we report the following percent of the congregation’s Ministry Shares paid to date as: September 30, 2024

- Michigan Conference Common Budget was \$58,962.00; Paid \$15,000; 25% of budget paid
- Greater Detroit District Budget was \$2,014.00; Paid \$1,208.40; 60% of budget paid
- United Methodist Union of Greater Detroit Budget was \$4,500.00; Paid \$2,696.40.; 60% of budget paid.

New Business:

Pastor’s Report

Rev. Carter M. Grimmatt

Closing Prayer By Presiding Elder

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“...lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another. In love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Ephesians 4: 1b-3

As we celebrate all that God is doing in the life of this family of faith, I thank God and celebrate the personal faith commitments members of this congregation have made and continue to make. It is by their example that we rejoice in the hope for the future, despite the challenges we know we are facing as a church and denomination. We are moving forward with prayerful enthusiasm and hope for the future. Some long-standing activities have been re-invented, and others have become memories, or activities which have become unsustainable.

We give thanks to God through the power of the Holy Spirit, as we continue to find new ways to reach out with the love of Christ to make a difference as we connect with one of our sister churches to provide mission, support, providing additional funds to provide shoes for children, as well as providing an on-going food collection program in support of those organizations which provide food for those in need.

We have re-designed our contemporary service to appeal to many of the non-traditional seekers and worshippers. As this service continues to evolve, it is our prayer that we will continue to grow this service to reach an audience searching for a more meaningful and relatable faith connection. By the power of the Holy Spirit we pray that our efforts in this area of ministry will strengthen us and others, as we share the gospel message in new and creative ways.

Since our last church conference, we as a family of faith have intentionally made efforts to be more connectional and responsive to our greater Farmington Hills community. This has been demonstrated by the increased number of community events in the greater Farmington Hills community that have used our facility, as well as denominational activities we have hosted, supported or sponsored.

It is also important that I mention the addition of six new members, two of which completed their confirmation class, and have been welcomed into the active life of the church.

This year we have been making every effort to be even more intentional about creating a visible and supportive presence in the community by the creation of (10) small group missions or ministries, in addition to those which were previously established; all of which are focused on activities that take us outside of this physical structure into the community as active loving examples of our faith through Christ Jesus.

This Church conference report will share more details about what we have accomplished this year and will detail some of the mission and ministry activities we have been engaged in, or supported. If we have failed to mention any group mission or ministry, we apologize. If anyone has forgotten to submit a report, please submit it as soon as you can, so it can be included at a later date.

For all that we do and will do in the name of Jesus Christ, to God be the glory!

“In the Spirit”

Rev. Carter M. Grimmatt

PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE - Rev. Monica William

It has been a very full year in ministry!

I have provided pastoral care to many of our homebound and sick members and again found myself providing funerals and grief care for a large number of families. I have participated in over 25 funerals this year, mostly connected to my ministry at Nardin. My main work has been to make visits and calls to people in order to provide care and maintain connection with those who are unable to regularly be present for Sunday worship or other community events or who are walking through times of grief, crisis, or struggle. I offer Holy Communion on a regular basis to those who have not been able to attend worship.

My other responsibilities include Sunday morning support about monthly in order to support the lead pastor in whatever way needed, including preaching on Sundays to give him space for time off or other concerns. This work enables me to develop relationships with the greater congregation as well.

Among the laity, the Congregational Care Team and Stephen Ministry of NPUMC are second to none. Carolyn Bough stepped down as leader of the Congregational Care Team. Judy Blaney has graciously stepped forward to partner with me in leading that team of caring and kind people. Dorothy Moore continues the legacy of Stephen Ministry in excellent and creative care to everyone in and near the church community. I am grateful to be working with such an amazing group of laypersons who extend the love of Christ in so many personal and innovative ways. They are an inspiration and model for others to emulate.

I have also enjoyed working with and being a part of the staff of NPUMC. Each one is dedicated to their work and work well together. Together, they set a tone of positivity and support for the entire church. I look forward to seeing what the coming year brings!

In Christ's Great Love,
Rev. Monica William

THRIVENT FINANCIAL ADVISOR - *Rev. Monica William*

Starting July 1, 2024, I began my appointment to work as a Financial Advisor with Thrivent.

I have spent the previous year working through the training and licensing process to become a licensed financial advisor and am excited that both the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Bishop and Cabinet of the Michigan Annual Conference have affirmed this ministry by appointing me to work with Thrivent as an extension ministry assignment.

In this work, my aim is to educate and empower people in their financial stewardship, enable them to make the most of the financial resources given to them and to help them make values-centered decisions about how to manage and share their money. This work also enables me to help people as they consider the most effective ways they can be generous with the gifts God has given to them. From budgeting to tax efficiency to estate planning, there are so many opportunities to help people “Earn all they can, Save all the can, and Give all they can!”

Over the past year, I have been able to attain my securities licenses and insurance licenses so that I am able to provide holistic support to individuals, families, and organizations in all aspects of their financial lives including advice, investments, insurance, and banking.

My particular hope is to empower women in their financial lives and to help families understand the financial impacts of how they manage their day to day choices so that they are financially prepared for whatever life brings their way.

I have also been happy to connect my work as a United Methodist pastor with financial advising through my unique knowledge of not only the needs of clergy financial planning but my United Methodist clergy colleagues in particular. My personal experience in this area has given me the opportunity to help UMC pastors and their families. I am excited for the ways I will be able to serve the church in this capacity in the coming years.

In addition, my work with Thrivent enables me to provide support to churches through educational workshops, endowment fund support, financial resources for staff, and financial outreach opportunities to reach their communities in a place of need. I am hopeful that as I work with more and more clients, our ability to support ministries through Thrivent Action Teams and Thrivent Choice Dollars will grow as well.

I am excited to share this new ministry with my community across Michigan and to grow in my service to others through this extension ministry in the coming year!

In Christ’s service,
Rev. Monica William

NARDIN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Membership Report – Membership as of 10/4/2024

TOTAL FULL MEMBERS 10/30/2023	615
Received - Profession of Faith	6
Rena Mamidi, Lily Babcock, Layne Keller, Christine Lamb, Patty Fifield, Sali Salfiti	
Received - Reaffirmation of Faith	0
Received - Other United Methodist Churches	0
Received - Other Denominations	0
Received – Other Estimated Additions	0
Received – Sub Total	+6
Removed by Charge Conference (128) or Withdrawn (1)	129
Arnette Carter, withdrawn	
Deborah Afolabi, Christopher Afolabi, Amy Allen, Rachael Allen, Ernest Arrufo, Amanda Astbury, Nicholas Baessler, Ryan Baessler, Doug Barrick, Elizabeth Bartram, Joel Bartram, Melissa Bartram, Brian Beaufait, Susan Beaufait, Carrol Belott, Ricky Boehms, Allison Bosink, Jim Bosink, Linda Bosink, Shane Brant, Liz Carroll, Don Christie, Jamie Christie, Jessica Christie, Kathryn Clappison, Amanda Cook, Steven Cook, Diane Dailey, Emily Darnbrook, Rebecca Darnbrook, Nima De Silva, Alexandra Diebel, Victoria Diebel, Alexandra Dixon, Amanda Dixon, Scott Dixon, Alice Dobbs, Joe Dobbs, Jr., Bernadet Edwards, Chris Edwards, Melanie Ellis, Diana Emerson, Carol Ernat, Brian Evola, Tobi Fashola, Katie Foss, Brendan Frabutt, Matthew Frabutt, Sarah Gagnon, Gaila Garber, Kimberly Gillman, Robert Gillman, Jayne Gold, John Gubachy, Lisa Gubachy, Susanne Gunsorek, Carolyn Hacker, Jan Hankins, Hal Hood, Debbie Johnson, Jim Johnson, Kiersten Jones, Olivia Keils, Andrea Kendall, Camila, Kendall, Brett Lee, Christopher Livingston, Joann Low, Robert Low, Heather Maddaford, Megan Marowski, Cameron Martin, Rachael Marvin, Zachary Marvin, Chris McFarland, Lisa McFarland, Mark McFarland, Tim McFarland, Carmen McLachlan, Randall McLaurin, Dan Meister, Benjamin Miller, Kelly Miller, Brittany Modreski, Brad Moore, Tim Mumford, Chris Nosal, Shellie Nosal, Johnathon Opra, Dan Paulson, Erin Paulson, Melissa Perry Petrillo, Anna Petoskey, Frank Pettis, Jaime Pohlman, Mark Pohlman, Heidi Ray, Mark Rookus, Gayle Rosey, Bonnie Rudolph, Cheyenne Saldano, Chris Schroer, Leslie Schroer, Ryan Sharp, Lisa Shenton, Mark Shenton, Jonathon Short, Lori Sitowski, Alex Smith, Hannah Smith, Sharon Sunblad, Paul Swan, Troy Szopo, Jayme Vainer, Maria Vainer, Paul Vainer, Kevan Ventura, Leslie Ventura, Megan Ventura, Norma Willhoft, Sarah Winterbottom, Mark Wojtowicz, Robin Wojtowicz, Al Wujcik, Cindy Yates, Daniel Ziemba, Karla Ziemba, Susan Zimmer	
Removed by Transfer to other United Methodist Churches	2
Jack Mumford, Lois Mumford	
Removed by Transfer to other Denominations	0
Removed – Other Estimated Reduction	0
Removed by Death	19
Mary Behnan, Dave Wojtowicz, Barbara Kahl, Walter McCoskey, Jeannine Webber, Marjorie Colburn, Dorothy Bartlett, Beverly Fletcher, Tami Wayne, Diane Middleton, Robert Machacek, William Hacker, Natalie Witmer, Alice Burgess, Amy Langdon, Jeff Rucker, Elton Roberson, Delana Jarvis, Terry West	
Removed Sub Total	-150
TOTAL FULL MEMBERS AS OF 10/4/2024	471
Number of Persons Baptized this Year (All Ages)	3
Elizabeth Nugent, Rece Nugent, Ivey Hamilton	
Total Baptized members Who Have Not Become Professing Members	32
Number of Persons On Constituency Role	66
Total Number in Confirmation Preparation Classes This Year	2

SECOND YEAR INACTIVE MEMBERS 2024

Last Attended in 2017

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Adams, Nancy | 51. Sanders, Lanie |
| 2. Baessler, Dan | 52. Sanders, David |
| 3. Guesman, Kim | 53. Taylor, Annika |
| 4. Hall, Robin | 54. Taylor, Martha |
| 5. Harmon, Luke | 55. Ventura, Marissa |
| 6. Hauter, Doreen | 56. Walters, Gwen |
| 7. Holland, Natalie | 57. Walters, John |

- Keils, Michaela
- King, Sarah
- McCoskey, Makayla
- McLaurin, Kathy
- Miller, John
- Miller, Marcia
- Riley, Shirley
- Rousseau, Michael
- Sharpe, Megan
- Sheedlo, Dorothy
- Slade, June
- Spala, Jim
- Spala, Joseph
- Spala, Natalie
- Swarthout, Fred
- Swarthout, Lori
- Taylor, Maria
- White, Aidan
- Worpell, Daniel

Last Attended in 2018

- Breese, Cathy
- Brown, David
- Carroll, Bruce
- Carroll, Chandler
- Carroll, Christian
- Carroll, Joan
- Duntely, Bret
- Duntely, Kelsey
- Duntely, Sarah
- Fitzpatrick, Courtney
- Foss, Elise
- Geiger, Kate
- Geiger, Mike
- Labelle, Christine
- Lederer, Julia
- Madar, Rowena
- Marx, Meghan
- Opra, John
- Paquette, Patrick
- Perry, Michael
- Pokryfky, Chase
- Pokryfky, Tyler
- Ryan, Sherry

Last Attended in 2019

- Ahrens, Robert
- Brown, Jacqueline
- Chernavage, Adam
- Forbes, Mike
- Gerber, Margo
- Gerber, David
- Harris, Janet
- Labadie, Danielle
- Lince, Madison
- Paulson, Kristine
- Paulson, Kristine
- Sharpe, Sarah
- Snow, Kaylie
- Snow, Stacy
- Titus, Renee
- Ventura, Laura

FIRST YEAR INACTIVE MEMBERS 2024

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Adams, Bryan | 51. McCraith, Bill |
| 2. Ahrens, Kristin | 52. McCraith, Linda |
| 3. Allbery, James III | 53. McCubbin, Cheryl |
| 4. Anderson, Ivar | 54. Mehaffey, Colin |
| 5. Avie, Robert | 55. Merriweather, Lisa |
| 6. Barnard, Mary Lou | 56. Meyer, Carl |
| 7. Berry, Barbara | 57. Milford, Melanie |
| 8. Bolerjack, Lucy | 58. Morrison, Elizabeth |
| 9. Brown, Andrea | 59. Morrison, Susan |
| 10. Brown, Eric | 60. Muniz, Alan |
| 11. Brown, Honey | 61. Muniz, Graciela |
| 12. Brown, Julie | 62. Olson, David |
| 13. Cain, Jeannine | 63. Olson, Kellee |
| 14. Chernavage, Jill | 64. Reed, Lindsay |
| 15. Clinkscale, Jason | 65. Reed, Robynn |
| 16. Clinkscale, Koren | 66. Rice, Sara |
| 17. Davis-Price,
E. Michele | 67. Rice, Tom |
| 18. Dixon, Mark | 68. Richards, Nancy |
| 19. Doerr, Chris | 69. Roemer, Donna |
| 20. Doerr, Jaclyn | 70. Rousseau, Ann-Marie |
| 21. Emerson, Tom | 71. Roy, Kelly |
| 22. Fitzpatrick, Faith | 72. Roy, John Jr. |
| 23. Fitzpatrick, Jayson | 73. Sanders, Karen |
| 24. Foss, Jerry | 74. Shell, Don |
| 25. Foss, Wendy | 75. Short, Jean |
| 26. Green, David | 76. Smith, Chad |
| 27. Heffner, Mark | 77. Smith, Kory |
| 28. Hubrecht, Betty | 78. Spala, Jacob |
| 29. Huntoon, Pat | 79. Spala, Shelley |
| 30. Jarvis, Austin | 80. Stokes, Arianna |
| 31. Jensen, Jay | 81. Stokes, Joseh |
| 32. Kahaian, Aimee | 82. Studnicki, Cathey |
| 33. Kreager, Matthew | 83. Studnicki, T.J. |
| 34. Kreager, Michelle | 84. Sundquist, Lauren |
| 35. Labadie, Kari | 85. Taylor, Jerusha |
| 36. Labadie, Mark | 86. Teal, Derrick |
| 37. Labelle, Jeri | 87. Teal, Jennifer |
| 38. Labelle, Patrick | 88. Thayer, Lynnette |
| 39. Latham, Scott | 89. Thayer, Theda |
| 40. Latimer, Jenna | 90. Titus, Dale |
| 41. Latimer, Tim | 91. Tooman, Sandy |
| 42. Latimer, Zachary | 92. Ventura, Dom |
| 43. Leonardis, Janet | 93. Ventura, Lisa |
| 44. Lindner, Jessie | 94. Ventura, Sara |
| 45. Lockledge, Jake | 95. Wayne, Matthew |
| 46. Magee, Andrea | 96. Weeks, Heidi |
| 47. Magee, Jason | 97. Work, Julie |
| 48. Manville, Jessica | 98. Work, Paul |
| 49. Manville, Kalyd J | 99. Worpell, Matthew |
| 50. Martin, Max | 100. Yergenson, Glenna |

NOMINATIONS REPORT 2024 Name to be elected is in BOLD.

Leadership Board - (Note that Leadership Board elects own chair annually)

Chairperson: Kathryn Bough; Co-Chair: John Gingrich

Kathryn Bough, **Doug Doggett**, Jeff Gardner, John Gingrich, Paul Kochan, Pat Lange, Rachel Leftwich, Christine Scobel

Bruce Ireby, Finance Team— added to the Leadership Board as of October 2023

Lay Leaders: Mike Marks

Lead Pastor: Rev. Carter Grimmett, Ex Oficio

(Note that lay leaders have vote; lead pastor has voice, but no vote)

Committee on Nominations

Chairperson: Lead Pastor: Rev. Carter Grimmett

Bob Davis, Dorcas Knox, Laura Olson, Ann-Marie Sharpe, Marcia Ventura

Lay Leaders: Mike Marks

Lay Leaders and Lay Members to Michigan Annual Conference for 2024

Mike Marks, Lay Leader

Lay Member to Michigan Annual Conference TBD

Lay Member to Michigan Annual Conference - TBD

Endowment Team

Chairperson: Al Diebel

Al Diebel, John Olson, Judy West

Finance Team

Chairperson: Bruce Ireby - new Chairperson TBD

Mike Glenn, Bruce Ireby, Mike Marks, Jack Mumford

SPRC

Marcia Ventura, Chairperson

Kris Chernavage, Irwin Knox, Pat Lange, Laura Olson, Marcia Ventura

Trustees

John Gingrich, Chairperson

Jeff Gardner, Paul Kochan, Paul Merritt

Consultants: Mike Glenn, Bruce Ireby, Tom Tobe

Scholarship Team

Rev. Carter Grimmett, Mike Marks, Karen Roth, Christine Scobel, Director of Children's and Youth Ministry (TBD)

LEADERSHIP BOARD - Kathryn Bough, Chairperson

The first thing that comes to mind is an immense debt of gratitude to the Nardin Park United Methodist Church congregation. Thank you to the Michigan Conference and The Greater Detroit District for supporting our church and recognizing our hard work. I am comfortable taking the personal privilege to say a thank you on our collective behalf. Thank you for supporting our call to serve in this capacity and entrusting us to do the work. Being a part of the Leadership Board has been one of the greatest joys, toughest challenges, but also one of the most spiritually fulfilling responsibilities I have ever had the opportunity to participate in.

In the past year, the Leadership Board welcomed Trustee members and our Chairperson of Finance to join the Leadership Board. We were able to cultivate a knowledgeable legislative body that allowed us to get the critical work done. With these additional members, we were able to hit the ground running to tackle the hard work and celebrate the successes and learned how we could do something better the “next” time. By no means has it been easy, but as a Board we were able to meet each month to set timelines, discuss finances, the growth of our church and community outreach.

I am proud to say the Leadership Board and Trustee members also participate in other aspects of the church just to name a few; SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee), Missions, Lay Leadership, Fundraising, Scholarships, Chancel Choir, Hundredfold Contemporary Band, Handbell Choir, Church Bus Pick-up for worship and events, Women’s Retreat, Samaritan Counseling Board, Bible Study Leadership, P.A.C.K. (Pastor’s Army of Christian Kindness) and the Michigan Conference. Their gifts, time and talents are needed for the successful growth of Nardin Park.

Lastly, I am confident we will continue to work in kindness, love, grace, and compassion for each other and for those in our church as we finish off this year planning for the new year to come. Thank you, Nardin Park and the Leadership Board, and all the people who work so diligently on our committees. Love and light to you.

~ Kathryn Bough, Nardin Park Leadership Board Chairperson

Reflection on the Year: It has been a wonderful year full of watching God's amazing creations grow. We have tread the waters of change many times here at Nardin Park, and will continue to do so as I, Kristen Trachet, have stepped down from my role as Director of Children's and Youth Ministries as of October 1, 2024, to follow the calling God has set out for me as I have completed my schooling program. My steadfast Faith assures me that God is working in the hearts of the candidates to fill this position and bring a new breath of life to Nardin Park Kids and Youth.

This brings about a time of steadfast prayer for the staff, lay servants, and congregation that God's will be our will. That our Faith be stronger than our fear. And, that we nurture the seeds that have been planted in the joyous Faith that harvest will come... not in our time, but God's. There are great seeds that are planted each week through our interactions with young people and families within these walls. It is my prayer that God will step into the hearts of those here at Nardin Park and make ripples of change that will go beyond the walls of this building that will nourish the seedlings that have been planted by the folks here.

Volunteers: Volunteers are vital to any ministry, especially children and youth. This year the young folks of NP were blessed to have gotten to be led by two incredibly giving and Faithful volunteers in Sunday School, Sherrie Chrysler and Corinne Dowell. Together we found that it worked well for us to rotate who led Sunday School at the 9:00 AM Sunday School class. This gave the children a good variety of teaching styles and building relationships with members of the church. For the 11:00 AM service we struggled to find a leader willing to rotate alongside me. In the summer months, we resurrected the Sunday Summer Kids Program, which allowed a much-needed break for our wonderful volunteers. The Youth Group at Nardin Park was also blessed to have Jeff Gardner serve during the Mission Trip. There is so much thanks I have to God for these leaders, and for these leaders to have answered the call.

Sundays:

9:00 Sunday School - 4 years old - 5th Grade, every Sunday
11:00 Sunday School - 4 years old - 5th Grade, every Sunday
10:00 - 11:00 + 12:00 - 12:30 - Bake Sale once a month
12:30 - 3:00 Youth Group - once a month
1:00 - 3:30 Confirmation - once a month

Community/In-Church Events 2023/2024

Trunk-or-Treat - 80-100 community members participated, 12 "booths"; Bring Your Grandkids to Church Sunday; Christmas Eve Family Service - Children/youth participate in service by acting out the Christmas story; Bring Your Grandkids to Church Sunday; Sweethearts Dance; Easter Egg Hunt + Pancake Breakfast - 230 (180 children) people served 36 volunteers; Muffins with Moms (+all significant women in your life); Donuts with Dads (+all significant men in your life); Graduation/Scholarship Sunday; Summer Splash; Mission Trip @ Motown Mission; Community + Family Night - July Movie Night, August Craft Night, September Movie + Craft Night

Confirmation: We partnered with First UMC of Farmington to host Confirmation for the 2023/2024 school year. We brought together three local United Methodist churches in leading the confirmands. Our Nardin Park youth, Lily Babcock and Rena Mamidi, were confirmed on Sunday, May 19th, 2024. Confirmation Numbers: 6 youth total, 2 youth from Nardin Park, 9 class sessions, 1 all-day retreat at Nardin Park, and 4 outings/field trips (Home UMC, Tawheed Center, Temple Beth El, Royal Oak UMC for Martin Luther King Jr. service). In the present school year, Pastor Carter and Sherrie Chrysler will be working together to involve the youth at the 11 AM Sunday Service as liturgist, acolytes, ushers, etc.

NARDIN PARK KIDS + YOUTH MINISTRY- (continued)

Fundraising: Bake Sales each month during the school year. Raised over \$2,000 over the school year. Most of this money went to funding Confirmation, as well as replenishing the Youth Mission Fund.

Scholarships: This was a big year for the Scholarship Committee as new policy language was passed so that we may reach out to the community. We awarded just over \$40,000 in scholarships this year of 2024. It was wonderful to award 17 past Nardin Park students, and 9 students from the community. Christine Scobel stepped down from the board, and we, in turn, invited Don Babcock on to this Committee.

Members - Karen Roth, Mike Marks, Don Babcock, Rev. Grimmer (Lead Pastor role), Kristen Trachet (youth director role)

Motown Mission: Three youths (Danielle William, Airen Borget, and Faith Holmes), and two leaders (Kristen Trachet, Jeff Gardner) went on the annual mission trip down in Detroit with Motown Mission. It was a wonderful week of serving the community and sending love through service and grace. Alongside our many hours of serving, we found time to play hard! Soccer game in Hamtramck, The Charles Wright African American Museum, Motown Museum, etc.

Call to action to each of us: I encourage the members of Nardin Park to connect with our Creator and find within themselves where they are called to serve. I have heard folks at Nardin Park say that they have done their “time” in serving in ministry(ies). This is something that uproots the seeds we’ve planted together and puts them in sour soil. We must tend to the garden of life. Things will continue to bloom, prosper, and return to the Earth. It is my prayer and Faith that there will be a blooming of great wonder and Jesus’ Light at Nardin Park through the work, dedication, and love lived out loud by the members.

It is my prayer, too, that the congregation at Nardin Park may truly see the value each one of them does and can bring to the church within these walls, but outside in the community, as well. It is up to each of us to bring the good news and Jesus’ Light out into the world. Our time to serve is not expired when we say it is, rather when God leads us to respite - rest, recuperate, connect - and ask where we can serve once again.

In parting, I am truly grateful for the opportunity God has given me to lead Nardin Park’s Children and Youth Ministries. There is still work to be done. I have Faith that God will open the doors, lay the foundation, and work in the hearts of those willing to carry on the mission of Do Good. Show Love. Seeds will be planted and Harvest will come in not our time, but God’s.

Galatians 6:9

We must not become tired of doing good. We will receive our harvest of eternal life at the right time. We must not give up!

MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRIES - *Jack Chefan, Director of Worship & Music*

Music Department Highlights:

Since our last update, the music department of Nardin Park has gone through changes. Many of these changes have been viewed as obstacles, however, these challenges force us to grow and restructure in this post-covid environment. I am grateful for the resourceful nature of my choir (bell and chancel) as well as the Hundredfold band. The Chancel choir collaborated with the Orchard Lake Philharmonic and the Mother's Day concert with Fort Street Chorale. We continued to explore the world of Joseph Martin for Christmas and Palm Sunday Concerts; however, we were challenged in learning Mozart's Requiem for Mother's Day. This challenged us to grow as a group learning to sing in Latin under the wing of Fort Street Chorale.

One month later, we performed excerpts of the Faure Requiem with a few reinforcements from Wayne State University's Concert Chorale. I was proud of our growth and the ability to stand on our own while performing these great works. These reinforcements will join us in the new season, and I look forward to continued growth. The choir is eager to sing in local retirement facilities in efforts to build awareness in the community that we are "open for business" when it comes to making music, building relationships with others as well as our personal relationships with Christ.

The handbell choir has remained small but mighty. Many of us ring for two to three ringers. I am grateful to those who keep this institution going and hopeful that others will join us. I am especially grateful to Judy Hood for her participation in practices and coaching. Many of our congregants have shared with me that their voices are "not as they once were" when participating in the chancel choir. I would encourage them to join our bell ensemble to make music through this alternative medium as well as building relationships and personal ministry.

This past year has brought several updates to our music department. Curved risers were purchased along with guard rails to accommodate joint efforts with other churches and ensembles, as well as forward thinking for our wonderful growth. These risers are "seated risers" which create a comfortable space for our choir. The need arose when presented with an opportunity to join with neighboring churches for Ash Wednesday. The event was a success; however, many choristers were on the sidelines. This will no longer be the case for future events.

We accommodated over sixty singers for Mozart's Requiem on Mother's Day and for our revival event on October 11th with Hope UMC and Farmington First UMC. Other updates include our new 23oz curtains on the balcony face to reduce the bouncing effect of the sound and an agreement with EQS to reconfigure our soundboard, improve our livestream and in-house sound. EQS helped with our music series events and were successful in pleasing the artists and getting the proper mixes for a superior experience.

Much to my disappointment, a movement was started to eliminate the 9am service. I believe the 9am service is a way to reach out to those looking for an alternative worship experience. A task force was put in place to find ways to bolster this service. I am grateful for this multi-generational group that recognizes the need to keep pursuing this alternative service. We are currently working with clergy to develop their own plan in restructuring their views of how messages should be delivered for this type of service. This is a work in progress, and I am excited for a positive outcome.

Jack Chefan

Director of Music and Worship Nardin Park United Methodist Church

MARKETING & COMUNICATIONS - *Lauren Canary*

This past year has been a time of experimenting with new ideas and striving to reach a younger population. As a result, Nardin Park UMC has started Livestreaming Sunday services to Facebook which has increased engagement with the online community. In addition, each service is saved to YouTube which has increased by 17 new subscribers. By utilizing outside sources such as "Outreach", Nardin Park has been able to diversify their online content and provide a variety of engaging social media posts. By utilizing paid ads on social media, our Facebook reach is over 18,000 (+510.1%) with 100% post engagement. The website created under WordPress "Beaver Builder" remains active and user friendly with updates to the home screen for easy access. Other weekly tasks including connection cards, planning center scripts and communications are going well with collaboration from the office staff.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Team Members: Rev. Monica William, Pastor of Congregational Care, Judy Blaney, Sherrie Chrysler, Bob & Marilyn Elliott, Greg Hicok, Martha Langdon and Tim & Sherry Wright.

Our congregation is blessed to have this caring committee who give of their time to provide the following services:

- Blessing Basket Delivery is a ministry started 5 years ago to be given to new members, members that are ill, hospitalized need special blessings during a difficult time, or for a special celebration. Approximately 400 plants have been delivered since this program started. People delivering Blessing Baskets: Corinne Dowell, John & Nancy Gingrich, Martha Langdon, Tim & Sherry Wright, Sherrie Chrysler, Carolyn Bough and Judy Blaney.
- 16 baskets of flowers were delivered at Easter to members who were in the Congregational Care list.
- Prayer List Board in Fellowship Hall: Dorothy Moore updates the board every Sunday morning.
- The Care Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month. Discussions are done regarding church members who are ill, in the hospital, rehab, assisted living or home bound. This does not exclude extended family members of the congregation.
- An average of 35 people are contacted by phone or notecards on a weekly basis.
- Personal visits are made to members who are homebound, in rehab & hospitalized.
- Deliver Holy Communion when requested.
- Weekly mailings of the Sunday bulletin are done by the church office to about 15 shut-ins at this time.
- The team keeps Pastor Carter and Pastor Monica updated on any requests for visits or any updates on members.
- A complimentary pamphlet, A Celebration of My Life, is given to the members requesting assistance with pre-planning their funeral or celebration of life. Assistance is provided in completing this pamphlet, if needed. This is currently being reviewed and updated.
- This past year Carolyn Bough, on behalf of the Congregational Care Committee, has sent out wooden crosses. Bob Elliott has painted "God loves you" on one side and "Nardin Park" on the other. These are sent or delivered for the birthday of those members who are 90 and above. 17 have been delivered this year thus far. The crosses have been well received and serve as a reminder of God's love, Nardin Park and a visual spiritual reminder.

~Judy Blaney

MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM

The Missions Ministry Team continued to support many projects/initiatives with the support of the Nardin Park congregation.

Crossroads Soup Kitchen – This outreach program fed 400 people this year in the City of Detroit. This is the only soup kitchen that serves meals on Sunday to neighbors with food insecurities. Money was raised through donations to pay a vendor to prepare and Nardin Park volunteers served the meal. Thank you Dean Moening for organizing this even.

Focus Hope – Food deliveries are made to the people in the Pontiac area six times per year. Thank you Bob Davis for organizing the volunteers of Nardin Park for over 30 years.

C.A.R.E.S – Non-perishable food and miscellaneous hygiene items are collected monthly in the boxes near the church entrances. The donations are given to C.A.R.E.S. , which then acts as a food and clothing pantry serving Farmington area families. Thank you Mary Holland for taking all the donations to C.A.R.E.S.

Change for Change – The loose coin collected in the noisy buckets on Sunday morning supports a different mission project every month. This year we have supported various mission projects: Crossroads Soup Kitchen, Operation Common Good, Soles for Souls, Crop Walk, Neighborhood House, Harvest Altar, Food Fund, Pastors Discretionary Fund and THAW. Thank you Judy West for keeping us organized with all the coins.

Harvest Altar - This food drive is sponsored around Thanksgiving. The bounty of food collected is delivered to Redford Aldersgate/Brightmoor and C.A.R.E.S. Thank you Sue Ward for coordination of the packing and delivering of food.

Crop Walk – Thank you to Sali Salfiti for coordinating Nardin Park people to walk in this annual event and organize fund-raising.

Operation Common Good – There are two projects supporting the homeless and low income families in Farmington Public Schools. Nardin Park supports High School Seniors with funds to help with graduation, yearbooks and prom expenses. We also adopt several children at Christmas to make their holidays brighter. Thank you to Sue Ward and Laura Olson.

Soles for Souls – Missions donated \$1000 towards the purchase of shoes for the children at Centro Familiar Cristiano UMC.

Crockpot Initiative – Pat Lange has initiated several crockpot drives and donations. The crockpots have been donated to homeless families living in hotels in Farmington Hills as well as clients of Samaritan Counseling Center. Missions team added Kroger gift cards from the food fund. Good Work Pat!

~ Respectfully submitted by Laura Olson

STITCHES OF LOVE

Stitches of Love group meets twice a month to make prayer shawls and lap blankets for our congregation and extended family and friends. We distributed these to 15 people this year. We receive names through our ministers, congregation, requests from families and friends. We hope that our love and prayers surround the receivers and they are reminded of God's love and comfort.

~ Dorothy Moore

FILM GOERS

Film Goers meet monthly Sept. – June. We choose 2-3 movies for the group to see on their own. We meet the 4th Sunday most months (depending on holidays) and we discuss the movie's plot, characters and other aspects of the movie. We end each discussion by asking "where did you see God in this movie." We welcome anyone who loves movies to join us.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

Nardin Park has had a Stephen Ministry Team for over 30 years. In the past year we have worked with several church members, providing support in a ring relationship. All Stephen Ministry work is confidential.

In 2024 Judy Blaney has sent out 22 *Journeying through Grief* sets, These are four short, easy-to-read books that offer words of comfort and hope to those grieving the loss of a loved one. *Journeying through Grief* is a simple yet powerful way to extend care again and again during that difficult first year.

~Dorothy Moore

MEMORIALS AND BEREAVEMENT - *Judy Blaney*

One soul was interred in Nardin Park's Memorial Garden this year. An engraved brass plate is mounted on the Memorial Garden board, located in the hallway by the Memorial Garden entrance, in memory of those interred in this holy space. A new plaque was purchased as we had run out of space.

The care of the Memorial Garden is overseen by the committee chair and a few volunteers. Also, through our lawn service.

The All Saints' Day celebration on November 5, 2023 was facilitated by the Memorials Committees and celebrated the lives of 11 souls. The lives of Nardin Park souls were celebrated by reading the name, a picture being displayed, a bell tolling, and by giving a "memory stone" and a rose to each of the families.

Living Memorials are given through endowments to continue serving the missions and programs of the church. Gifts this year have been given in loving memory as follows: Water station by Lois Crall Margaret Champion, Paul Kochan, Sr., Recarda Moore, Bea Peters and Denny Rippet.

The Bereavement Team was able to serve ten meals after funeral/memorial services. With the help of our audio visual team, we have been able to have the services livestreamed and have, when possible, videos of family pictures running during the luncheons to celebrate the lives.

TRUSTEES 2024 ANNUAL REPORT—*John Gingrich, Trustees Chair*

The following items have been completed during 2024:

1. New AED units were installed throughout the building, made possible by various donations. A training session was held for members, staff, and some of our rental tenants.
2. New kitchen lighting was installed, including ceiling fixtures and under cabinet lights.
3. New hallway lighting fixtures were installed.
4. Additional ADA door lock sets required for the Joyful Tots daycare rooms have all been installed.
5. Parking lot LED lighting installed under RFF-125, greatly improving illumination and reducing power consumption.
6. Acoustic balcony curtains were installed by a crew of our trustee members. RFF-124. These are located on the wall in front of the balcony and reduce the sound bounce that existed previously.
7. Sanctuary A/C repairs completed under RFF-127.
8. Plumbing repairs were completed to the elevated hot water heater which was leaking.
9. Upgrades were made to drinking fountains, including the replacement of one newer one that failed.
10. Our floor polisher was overhauled with a plan to be utilized by our outsourced cleaning service. We have seen that wet or damp mopping alone is not adequate.
11. We have an agreement with Matt Lange, who is creating a community garden in our back lot where the baseball field used to be. There are several raised beds in place, and sign-up sheets available for those who wish to participate.
12. Memorial Garden signs were installed on the windows to the garden.
13. A new plaque was obtained and installed for the Memorial Garden, since the existing three were filled up. Each of the plaques contains space for 40 names.
14. Our elevator was out of service for several months because of deterioration of structural parts in the pit. Repairs have been completed under RFF-128. We attribute the problem to poor inspection performance by our prior vendor and have contracted with a new company for these repairs and future services.

The following items are still in progress:

1. Replacement of bell tower windows and secondary water damage. This has progressed slowly because of issues with the Church Mutual insurance company, and with the contractor. We are striving to get this underway before another winter.
2. Drainage issues in the “Back 40” area and parking lot. We are currently seeking quotes from Centro Construction.
3. Replacement of the second set of steps outside the chapel, also by Centro Construction who already did the other set of steps. This will be done at the same time as the above drainage repairs since both jobs can utilize the same backhoe and other equipment.
4. Replacement of exterior doors, including power assist doors for improved access. It has been challenging to find vendors for this relatively small job, compared to larger commercial projects.
5. Enhancements to our audio system to improve sound quality in the sanctuary and livestreams.
6. Updating the driveway bollard lights. New ones were quoted at a very high price, and Cliff has been working with Bob Davis on LED conversion of the existing ones.

C.O.R.E. (COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS ENTERPRISE) - Rachel Leftwich

Our start: The C.O.R.E. (Committee on religious enterprise) team was started to bring additional fundraising efforts to Nardin Park. Our first meeting was September 23, 2023 and we have had 11 meetings since our initial start date.

Our team: Rachel Leftwich, Kathryn Bough, Christine Scobel, and special event contributor, Pat Lange.

Our 2024 events :

1. Pottery Painting (January 21st) - Held on a Sunday afternoon after services, we had 28 participants. Collaborated with Creative Arts Studio. This was part one of two events.

2. Spaghetti Night (February 3rd) - A Saturday evening pasta dinner connected to the Pottery Painting. Our artists were able to take home their finished, glazed pieces. Many wonderful volunteers helped us prepare food and raise funds.

3. Cars & Coffee (August 3rd) - A Saturday morning, we had 18 vehicles participate. Over half of the cars were community members with no known ties to Nardin Park. Coffee and snacks were offered. Volunteers were appreciated!

Our future: Plans are in the works for an Auction in spring of 2025. This event will be a blended fundraiser supporting both NPUMC and the Samaritan Counseling Center who rents space in our building. We are also looking to expand our team soon.

RETIRED CELRGY REPORT - Rev. Paul J. Melrose, D. Min.

I continue to be fully retired. On a personal note I was able to visit the Samaritan Counseling Center briefly this summer and visited the two new counseling rooms in memory of our friend, Wes Brun. I had been one of the signatories on the fund raising letter that was part of the fund raising event. It was good to see the expansion of this wonderful ministry where I spent the last 15 years of my final appointment.

Here in Madison I continue to be a worship attendee at First United Methodist Church. I will occasionally rotate through as a lay reader and once in a while will be asked to be a communion server. I sometimes sing in the choir. My other service activity is as food delivery driver for one of our local food pantries.

Some travel, involvement with my grandchildren, the joy of serving communion with my wife at our daughter's wedding to the woman with whom she fell in love with, held at Hollywood United Methodist Church in Hollywood, CA, presided over by Retired Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, and celebrating the 50th Anniversary of my Elder's Ordination, held at the Session of the New York Annual Conference in 1974, all of this capped off this year for me.

Greetings to all my friends at Nardin Park and prayers for its continued ministry.

NARDIN PARK UMC CHURCH CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 10, 2023

Present: Dorothy Moore, Kelly Paquette, Rachel Leftwich, John Gingrich, Nancy Gingrich, Kathryn Bough, Paul Kochan, Kris Chernavage, Bruce Irely, Dorcas Knox, Irwin Knox, Mike Marks, Terry West, Michael Kain, Marcia Ventura, Pat Lange, Christine Scobel, Carolyn Bough, Paul Merritt, Brien Merritt, Tammi Kochan, Arlene Marks, Judy West, Jack Chefan, Ken Dowell and Tom Tobe.

Present via Zoom: Rev. Carter Grimmatt, District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty, Lauren Canary, Jim McConnell, Rachel Kain, Sherrie Chrysler

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Totty at 7 PM

Pastor Grimmatt opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer. Pastor Grimmatt said we often don't realize the positive effect our small acts of kindness and recognition have on others. He thanked the congregation for all they do for the glory of God and our church.

Dr. Totty called for the election of the Church Conference secretary and Dorothy Moore was nominated and elected.

Attendance was taken through a sign-up sheet for those present and visual attendance for those on Zoom.

Greetings from the Laity - Lay Leader Mike Marks greeted everyone and those online. He thanked Ken Dowell and Bob Davis for their service with our audio-visual requirements.

Nominations committee report: the nominating committee extended the term for Dorcas Knox and Anne Marie Sharpe to 2024; the class of 2024 is Laura Olson and Marcia Ventura; the class of 2025 is Bob Davis and Sue Ward.

Membership Report submitted by Carol Trost –

- Full membership as of 10/30/2023 615
- 2023 - second year inactive members - 130 total; a motion was made by Kathryn Bough to remove these members from the church membership rolls – Motion seconded by John Gingrich; motion passed
- names of members removed by death were read aloud and memories of those on the list were shared.
- Dr. Totty gave a prayer of reflection and prayer for the members we have lost.

The current membership report was accepted by Dr. Totty

Business of the Church

- A motion was made to accept Compensation for Pastor Grimmatt at \$72,500 for 2024. Motion passed.
- A motion was made to accept Professional Expenses for Pastor Grimmatt at \$8,300 for 2024. Motion passed.
- A motion was made to accept Household Allowance for Pastor Grimmatt at \$6,500 (Not income but for the IRS code) for 2024. Motion passed.

Confirmation of certified candidates for ministry - Beatrice Alghali, Rachel Kain, and Dale Milford – motion made and passed.

Ministry share report - percentage of ministry shares paid through October 31, 2023.

- Michigan Conference common budget – 0% with plans to pay \$10,000 in 2023.
- Greater Detroit District – pd 80% to date, 100% by year end
- United Methodist Union of greater Detroit – pd 80% to date, 100% by year end

Pastors report - Stewardship Sunday is November 12, followed by an all-church potluck celebration. Pastor Grimmatt has been grateful for the warm welcome from the Nardin Park Community and the congregation's faithfulness to this church. He thanked Pastor Monica William, the Congregational Care committee, and Stephen Ministry for their care to our congregation. Nardin Park will host the District Superintendent's Holiday party for clergy and spouses. Future plans are to have a joint service with the AME church that uses our Chapel on Sunday mornings. A new Bible study just started. He is very thankful for our Mission team and the missions that they carry out for our community.

Reverend Dr. Totty encouraged the church to review their insurance policies to make sure we are covered adequately. He encouraged everyone to subscribe to the district newsletter. He also talked about the church and society advocacy day. There were no questions from the congregation.

A motion was made by Michael Kain and seconded by Paul Kochan to approve the 2022 minutes, motion passed.

After a closing benediction from Dr. Totty the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM

