

January 2024

Orchard Harvester

Newsletter of Orchard United Methodist Church

Transforming the world by growing in faith, serving others, and sharing Jesus.



Rev. Paul Hahm
Pastor

Hello friends!

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas time with your friends, family, and church family. As we begin the new year, I want to keep you updated on what's been happening and what's ahead.

Vision Update

We've spent the majority of 2023 collecting data, stories, and aspirations from the congregation. With that the Leadership Team commissioned a Vision Team comprised of a cross-section of our congregation to shape that information into a more

clarified direction. The team includes: Susan Marshall, RJ Bussone, Rick Bloomfield, Shannon Maguire, Jantz Black, Kelly Sheckell, and myself. The Vision Team hopes to present its work for the congregation early this year.

Orchard at the Movies

Starting this month, we'll be watching a series of movies at The Riviera Cinema (not the Farmington Civic Theater) on Tuesday evenings. Details and times can be found on page 3. However, we're doing something different this year. Instead of doing a sermon series based on the movie, we'll have a lunch time conversation about the movie the next day (Wednesdays here at church) from noon to 1 pm. Bring your own lunch and I'll have some questions for us to discuss. This discussion will be live streamed for people to engage in real time and to watch later as well.

The Lord's Prayer

Starting Sunday January 14 to February 11, we're starting a new worship series based on Adam Hamilton's book, "The Lord's Prayer." Each week we'll dive deep into a section of the prayer and what it means in our lives today. In addition, we'll explore the differences of various versions of the prayer, the language of the prayer, and how this prayer can keep us connected to our roots while being personal to us today.

I look forward to all that God has planned and prepared for us in the upcoming year and I'm excited to journey with you all!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Paul

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN JANUARY

Opportunity #1 - Collecting Cleaning Products and Laundry Detergent

Because EBT (also known as SNAP) covers only food purchases for those in need, cleaning products and laundry detergent are not covered, and are always in short supply in food pantries. Be sure to grab one of the green canvas bags hanging next to the Missions Box to remind yourself to pick up extra items and to transport your donations to the church.

Opportunity #2 - Rian Aben's Eagle Scout Project for Oakland County Animal Shelter

This month we also have a wonderful opportunity to help one of our own youths collect items for his Eagle Scout project. Rian Aben will be working in conjunction with the Oakland County Animal Shelter to collect necessary items. This is a chance for all of you animal lovers to make a difference in the life of a furry friend! These items will be gratefully accepted until Wednesday, January 31:

- Small dog & puppy canned food
- Milk bone dog treats (in any size)
- Canned kitten food
- Churros treats for cats
- Non-clumping cat litter; disposable litter boxes; litter scoops
- Cat scratchers
- Pet carriers
- Cat toys
- Cat treats and flea combs
- Disposable wipes
- New or gently used towels, blankets, and comforters.

Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to extend your love into the world to make it a better place for ALL of God's creatures.

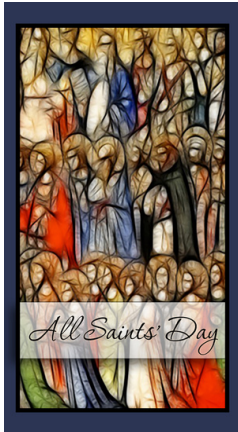


Orchard Family,

I can't begin to thank you enough for your incredible kindness and generosity! Because of your donations, our Adopt-a-Student program was able to deliver 183 gifts and 30 additional gift cards, making the holidays much brighter for 40 students in our community who are experiencing housing and food insecurity. Just think ... every gift we donated brought a smile to a child's face this holiday season. What a blessing!

Thanks again! Kari Hume

WORSHIP

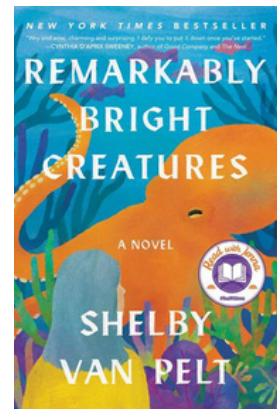


All Saints Day Worship is Sunday, January 7, 2024, at both the 9 am and 11 am services. We will remember those who have gone before us during 2023. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion at these services. We hope you will join us either in person or online.



When the last bell has been jingled and the last gift opened, it's time to put away the lovely decorations and store them carefully for next year. Many hands make light work, and we hope that you'll lend your hands on Sunday, January 8 immediately following the 11 am service to help with putting away Christmas until next December. Contact [Betsy Stanis](#) to find out where you can help!

On January 10, 2024, the group Books Over Lunch, will gather to discuss the book Remarkably Bright Creatures, by Shelby Van Pelt. Pack your lunch and a beverage and join the group at noon for lunch and conversation or come at 12:30 pm to join in the book discussion. Come find out what this group is all about. New people are always welcome. If there isn't time to finish—or even start—the book, please come anyway. They'll be in the Parlor. Contact [Nancy Howland](#) with any questions.



Children's Book Swap



Celebrate the new year with a new book by participating in a Children's Book Swap held by the church library. Come on January 21 to the parlor between services (10:15-10:45) and bring 1 or 2 gently used or new picture books or early chapter books and leave with a new favorite! Any questions, contact [Connie Mendoza](#) or [Teresa Bowers](#).



ORCHARD AT THE MOVIES & LUNCH TIME DISCUSSION

Orchard at the Movies is back this January - with a bit of a twist!

- We'll be heading to the [Riviera Theater](#) on Grand River in Farmington Hills to view the movies.
- Then, we'll meet together on Wednesdays from Noon to 1 pm (NOTE: meeting on January 10 is at 11:30 am) at church for a discussion on how we saw faith and life intersect in the movies we just watched. Bring a lunch if you want and join us in Room 200. This discussion time - with questions from Pastor Paul - will also be done via Zoom. You can access the Zoom chat [here](#). The chats will be recorded and will be published later in the day, either by email, on Facebook, or both.

Tuesday, January 9—The Color Purple at 7 pm

Wednesday, January 10 - Lunch Time Discussion at 11:30 am

Tuesday, January 16—The Book of Clarence at 6:30 pm

Wednesday, January 17 - Lunch Time Discussion at Noon

Week of January 20 - Movie/Date/Time TBD

Wednesday, January 24 - Lunch Time Discussion at Noon

All movies are rated PG and PG-13. However, parents are asked to determine the suitability of each movie for their own children/family.

Ticket prices at the Riviera on Tuesdays: [Imagine Reward](#) members (free to join - [click here](#)) are \$5 all day. If you are not a reward member, prices are \$9 for seniors; \$11 for all others.

Super Sub Sale on Super Bowl Sunday February 11, 2024

Enjoy a delicious sandwich on Super Bowl Sunday and help others in need this summer! Our Senior High youth are making subs as a fundraiser for their summer mission trip. Pre-orders are encouraged, and order forms will be available soon at the Welcome Desk and online. Pick up subs immediately after the worship service you attend on February 11.





Let's have some winter fun! Join us for a private Orchard UMC snow tubing event on February 20 from 11:15–1:15. Only our group will be on the tubing hill! The cost is \$5/car entrance fee to the park and \$17 per person tubing, due no later than February 12. We need 30 people who will be tubing to reserve their spot by February 12 or the event will be canceled. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/hawkisland24>.



The 2024 Women's Retreat - "Girls just wanna have fun" - is scheduled for March 1-3, 2024. We'll meet together to connect and recharge at the Weber Center in Adrian, MI, just an hour away! It's far enough away to stay the weekend, yet near enough to commute, if that's your desire. There are options for both! Download a flyer here for all the fun details and join us at the retreat. Partial and full scholarships are available. Deposit to reserve your spot is \$75 on a first come, first served basis. We have room for 50 participants (with possible options to open up registration to more).

“It's always better when we are together.
Jack Johnson”

“The Word of God is key to a strong faith.”

Anonymous

Calling all 3rd graders! One of my favorite Orchard traditions each year is to present Bibles to all of our 3rd graders as well as older students who have never received one. On February 11, we will have a special breakfast between services followed by the Bible presentation at 11 am. There will also be a mini-series of Sunday School classes led by Karen Porter and Joyce Frazee to learn how to use their new Bibles. Please contact Ms. Colleen @ 248.840.1930 by January 8 if you are interested in having your child receive a Bible.



Colleen Aben
Director of Children's
Ministry

PRAYERS

In the life of Orchard, we know that prayer is one of the most important things we can do.

We pray for...

Sandy Aasgaard
Mary Ammerman
Ruth Buckwalter's friend Ken Bomberger
Sandra Cagle's Aunt Martha Williams
Dave Catherman
Tillman Dozier's daughter, Daria Dozier
Debbie Eason and family in the death of Gordon Eason
Jeanie Graham's friend Bob
Linda Hall's sister Nancy Kukielka
Sheri Hicks
Vicki Kubus
Jessica Kusku
Lynne Lehmann
Maryalyce Lupher's son Bret
Ed Mahon's sister Tricia Mahon
Hilary Mahon's friend Janet Szapo
Shaylin Matthews
Janice Mitchell's friend Lois Letwin
The Moneys' friend Roxann
Todd Morell's sister Laura and her husband Eric
The Prentice family
Pam Proctor's son

AJ Reed, his mom Jamie, and
grandma Jan Brachel
The Shrosbrees' friends, the family of
Nancy Harmon
The Semegen family
Don Stacy
Cyndy Stannard and her friend Janet
Susan Stone's sister Jennifer Hotka and
her husband Steve
Emma Tesauero's friend Jacob
Chris Todd
Maria Todd
Barb Ulman's cousin's son Frank
Smardo, Jr.
Ellen Voss' dear friend and mentor
Suzie Robinson
Karen Wagner's brother Pete



You can find the private online list
of January birthdays [here](#).

*December at Orchard was filled with joy, laughter, music, and worship.
Below are just a few of the snapshots from events that took place.*



Christmas Extras:
Angels



Santa Shop Helper



Lighting the
Advent Candle



Longest Night



Baptism of Isaac



Baptism of Sasha



Christmas Eve 4 pm



Christmas Eve 4 pm



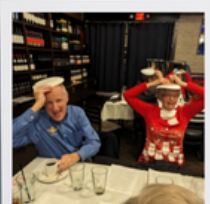
Advent by Candlelight



Christmas Extra:
Herod



LAfing at Dinner



LAfing at Dinner



Advent by Candlelight



O Holy Night



Lighting the
Advent Candles



O What a
Wonderful Child!



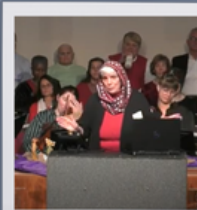
Christmas Eve 9 pm



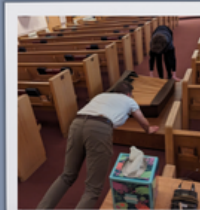
Santa Shop Helpers



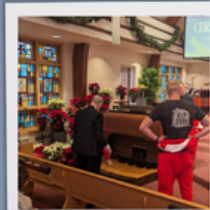
Gift & Ornament Exchangers



Christmas Extra:
Innkeeper



Christmas
Problem Solving



Christmas
Problem Solving

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