

# GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH

*“A light by the lakeshore”*

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

AUGUST 2 2020 | WORSHIP 9AM

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever,  
Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is created by God to  
worship the Lord and serve God's people.

Sharing God's love and caring for God's people,  
we call disciples of all ages to put faith into action by  
worshiping God joyfully,  
welcoming others graciously,  
supporting one another lovingly, and  
serving all faithfully.

# Order of Service for the Worship of God

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE—Laeva eius

Marcel Dupré

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

*One:* Why do you purchase what does not nourish you?

*Many:* **Why do you work for what does not fulfill your life?**

*One:* Come, eat what is healthy and will bring you delight.

*Many:* **Come and partake in the Spirit that gives life.**

*One:* Become a witness to God's extravagant gifts  
that sustain all people.

*Many:* **Let us worship the God who raises us up  
and makes us shine!**

OPENING HYMN 69—I, the Lord of Sea and Sky  
(see bulletin pg.14)

*Tune: Here I Am*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SILENT CONFESSION

*Our prayer of confession is followed by a time for silent confession.*

*All:* **God of justice and mercy, we admit that we are not free of deceit nor have we shunned half-truths. We uncritically accept false promises, yet we doubt those most committed to our wellbeing and demand proof of their good intent. Have mercy on us, and change our inclination toward misguided aspirations and hollow hopes. Direct us into the truth that brings good to all and calls us to seek justice and embrace mercy and walk humbly with you and with our neighbor.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

*One:* Amen. Hear the good news for all: God is gracious, merciful, abounding in steadfast love and forgiving grace.  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*All:* **Thanks be to God!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*One:* May the peace of Christ guard your hearts and minds,  
and attend every relationship, so that you may be surrounded  
by its all-encompassing light!

*All:* **And the peace of Christ be with you!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*One:* By your Holy Spirit, feed us with your Word, that we might  
be filled with the bread of life and be strengthened for life  
and service and love.

*All:* **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

NEW TESTAMENT READING—Romans 4:13-25

*After each reading:*

*One:* The Word of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM—The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Christian Lutkin

GOSPEL READING—Mark 7:1-15

SERMON—Updating Your GPS

Mark Diehl

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO OFFERINGS OF SELF AND GIFTS

*For those who are able, we are grateful for your continued offerings to our ministries. You can donate online using the "Secure Donation Form" link on our website's front page. Your contributions are so important at this time.*

DUET—Like as We Do Put Our Trust in Thee

Charles Wesley

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*The liturgist will bless the elements and then invite you to partake, knowing that the Spirit unites you with our Lord, our church community, and with Christians around the world as we share this sacred moment in new ways.*

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**One:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

**One:** Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them to the Lord.

**One:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## BLESSING OF THE BREAD

## BLESSING OF THE CUP

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## TAKING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**CLOSING HYMN 846**–Fight the Good Fight  
(see bulletin pg.15)

*Tune: Duke Street*

## BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE**– Speciosa facta es

Marcel Dupré

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## WELCOME TO GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH

We are a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and one of its growing congregations. As a multi-generational community of faith, we are pleased to offer a host of ministries that respond to the varied interests of our members and friends. **We give thanks to God that you joined us today and we pray you will receive a sense of God’s loving Spirit from your time with us.** No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

### A Sermon Series for This Moment in Time

We live in a moment of significant societal unrest and turmoil precipitated by the present pandemic and centuries of social injustice perpetuated against people of color that remains unaddressed and unresolved. Does our faith provide any guidance in a time when wisdom and clear direction is crucial to move us through this moment to justice and hope and peace and renewed community life?

The Ten Commandments may seem like an unlikely guide for such a time as this. Often the commandments have been misunderstood and misappropriated during our lifetimes by religionists who brandish the commandments to control people rather than liberate them. Yet the Ten Commandments were originally given to a community that had been enslaved for 400 years (an echo of which we hear the 400 years of black oppression in America) in order to provide new patterns of justice and peace and dignity and responsibility. The Ten Commandments equipped this newly freed community with a divine pattern they could live into to establish equity for all.

Mark Diehl will offer a twelve-week sermon series on the Ten Commandments beginning Sunday, August 9. While the series is based on Mark’s book *God of Deliverance and Transformation: The Ten Commandments for the Twenty-First Century*, purchasing or reading the book is not necessary in order to benefit from the series. Mark is providing a guide for the congregation to use during the series which can be found and downloaded from GPMC’s website. All sermons will be recorded and broadcast at 9am on Sundays, and can be found on the website or our YouTube channel.

## ABOUT WORSHIP AT GPMC

**Leading and Assisting in Worship:** Mark Diehl, Sarah Godbehere, Carol Marks; The Grosse Pointe Memorial Church Virtual Choir; James Biery, organist; Dale O. Foote and Daniel Aggas, baritones; Joe Masinick, worship service production.

## What's Happening Today, August 2, 2020

9am Worship Service Pre-Recorded (Livestreamed)  
10:15am Middle Hour via Zoom  
12:15pm Summer Writer's Table via Zoom or Phone  
5pm Worship Service Trinity Terrace by Reservation

*Weekly Livestreamed Services will be available on GPMC's Website.*

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Children's Sermons:** This summer during Sunday morning worship, the children's sermons have been based on different themes from the Bible. This month the stories will center around animals. Each week in the "Families First" email, activities and faith questions will be available for families to download and to do prior to the service. This weekly email is available to all members of the congregation. If you would like to receive it, please contact Lisa Turner at [ltturner@gpmchurch.org](mailto:ltturner@gpmchurch.org) to sign up.

**LIFE & TUXIS youth groups for middle school and high school students are returning for the summer!** We're meeting weekly on Tuesdays at 7pm to pray together, play games, and share the highs and lows of our week. Please contact Sarah Godbehre, check your inbox for the GPMC youth email, or look at your Remind texts for up-to-date details.

**Please check emails, the bulletin, and the website for Adult Education updates.** **A Note About Zoom Links In The Bulletin:** Zoom links which you find in the bulletin are not "live" links. You must either copy and past them into your browser, or you can also type them into your browser. The links in the weekly congregational email are live links, and a convenient means of connecting to various Adult Education offerings. Questions, or help "signing up?" Contact Susan Mozena, [susanhmozena@gmail.com](mailto:susanhmozena@gmail.com), or 313.204.4875.

**Summer Writer's Table is today, August 2:** The final two offerings will be August 2 and 9. Please mark your calendars. **Here is the Zoom link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88148469664>. If you would like to join by phone, the number is 1.646.558.8656, and the meeting ID is 88148469664.

**Preacher's Workshop** meets August 3rd at 10am via Zoom with Mark Diehl. The preaching text is Mark 7: 1-15.

**Reel Theology in August:** Calling all movie lovers! Join us as we watch a classic film from 1947, "Gentleman's Agreement." Based on a novel by Laura Z. Hobson, it is a beautifully acted and directed film about a journalist, played by Gregory Peck, who poses as a Jew to research an expose on anti-Semitism. Dorothy McGuire and John Garfield have major supporting roles; Moss Hart and Elia Kazan wrote the screenplay, and Kazan directed the film. "Gentleman's Agreement" won Academy Awards in 1948 for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Supporting Actress. See you via Zoom at 7:30pm, Monday evening August 3rd. Here's the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88583098585>.

**Women's Bible Study**, Tuesdays, 7-8am. Meeting remotely via Zoom. If you are not now a participant, but wish to join, contact Susan Mozena.

**Men's Bible Study**, Wednesdays, 7-8am. We're now meeting on Trinity Terrace. Please contact Steven Voorhees at [captain gadget@comcast.net](mailto:captain gadget@comcast.net) with any questions.

**Adult Bible Study** will meet August 5th at 7:30pm via Zoom and by phone. Men and women of the church gather the first and third Wednesday nights of each month via Zoom, and by phone at 7:30pm to read and discuss scripture. New members are always welcome. Here's the Zoom information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/625042511> If you wish to join by phone, the number is 646.558.8656, and the meeting ID is 625042511.

**Novel as Theology** is taking a break during July and August. The next gathering of that group will be September 23rd, at 7:30pm. Stay tuned for the novel choice for September, and remember to do your very own "summer reading." (There will not be a book report due in early September...Happy reading!)

**Scripture and Conversation for Women**, now meeting each Wednesday morning, 11:15am-12:15pm, via free conference call (1.978.990.5000, access code 658374). If you are not a participant, but wish to join, contact Susan Mozena, so you can be updated as needed regarding details.

**Men's Bible Study**, Saturdays, 8-9am. Meeting remotely via Zoom. If you are not now a member and wish to join, contact David Asker at [davidasker@outlook.com](mailto:davidasker@outlook.com).

**Short Story as Theology** is taking some vacation in August and will reconvene on September 9th.

## STEWARDSHIP

GPMC FINANCIAL UPDATE		
6/30/20		
	Budget	Actual
Pledge & Plate		
Receipts	\$641,950	\$606,318
Total Expenses	\$949,205	\$878,263

**Thank you for your on-going support of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church!** In these challenging and uncertain times, your unwavering commitment to GPMC continues to power our “Light by the Lakeshore”. Giving by members makes up most of our budgeted income every year and we are grateful for the generosity of our members so far in 2020. This comes

despite us not being in the Sanctuary together each week, let alone the immense concerns facing our community of faith.

Although giving levels in general are down, much of the current shortfall is being offset by reduced expenses, as we work aggressively to tighten controls and balance our budget. However, as the needs of our ministries look to accelerate in these difficult times, it is more important than ever that giving keeps pace the rest of the year. Unfortunately, stay-at-home orders and virus concerns do not minimize the challenges that so many in and around our community face. While we worship from home and strive to keep ourselves and our families healthy and safe, far too many are still at risk; far too many still have no place to shelter; far too many still go to bed hungry each night. The burdens on local food banks are more overwhelming than ever, GPMC partner organizations have far fewer volunteers, and none of these important groups can fundraise via their usual events.

But with your giving, now and throughout the rest of 2020, GPMC will continue to support these stressed, faith-based organizations financially so they can maintain their vital work, despite the virus. Within the walls of GPMC, we will continue to provide meaningful programs and outreach ~ be it virtually or otherwise ~ that enable us to witness as fully as possible God’s love. Ongoing Christian Education efforts will make sure our children know there is always love and hope, even in a world that often demonstrates to them otherwise. “Livestream” Worship will continue to bring us together at a time when we seem far too apart, separated by space, lacking human touch, and seemingly divided as ever in America. Our Music programs continue to provide us a beautifully poignant and emotional release from the concerns that fill our days. Now more than ever, GPMC needs and appreciates your gifts, no matter how large or small.

Grace and Peace, The Stewardship Council and The GPMC Staff

## OUTREACH



Our neighbors in the 313 area code have been among the most affected in Michigan, documenting half of the state’s deaths from COVID-19 and facing 50% unemployment as of June 2020. To help, GPMC is joining with other Presbyterians to become a Matthew 25 church (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>) and make a difference in peoples’ lives. We aim to work with the community to perform 313,000 acts of kindness over the next year. Look for a special communication to share more of this vision soon!

**The August Hunger Offering will go to the Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS).** They are one of the largest providers of housing to homeless families in the City of Detroit – sheltering more than 100 homeless children nightly. Please give generously. The Outreach Council continues to match your donations up to \$2,000 each month. You can make an online donation through the church website or drop off a check to the church with COTS or Hunger Offering on the memo line. Thank you again for your generosity.

**Habitat for Humanity Grosse Pointe Partners’ Second Saturday Events are back!** Saturday, August 8th is the final cleanup of the interior and exterior of the home at 4254 Maryland. The workday is from 8:30am-1:30pm. Habitat GPP has teamed up with Habitat Detroit. All talent levels are welcome. Masks and gloves will be provided to work safely. You’ll find the sign up link (you have to sign up in advance) and all the details about how Habitat is working to keep volunteers safe during Covid-19 on the [gpmchurch.org](http://gpmchurch.org) home page or the Outreach page.

**Drive-Thru & Drop Food Drive!** Please spread the word that GPMC is hosting a food drive in August as part of our newly formed 313 Calling ministry. Our community partners have put together a priority list for pantry and essential items, found here: <http://gpmchurch.org/web/our-313-calling/>. To get you started, here’s a list of dinner items in most demand: spaghetti sauce & noodles, macaroni & cheese, rice, chicken broth, beef stew, tuna. Tell your friends and neighbors and stop by with your donations August 15 from 9-11 a.m. or August 16 from 4-5 p.m. in GPMC’s parking lot.

## Staff Updates

**Julie McCrea**, a 6 year staff member of GPMC, recently resigned. We wish her all the best as she starts a new chapter in her life. Jim Schultz will cover Julie’s job duties while that job position is re-visited to make sure it accurately reflects the work needed. A job search and any related posting will be made in the near future.

**Pastor Mark Diehl** returned from his two-week vacation and two weeks of continuing education. We hope Mark had a restful time away and are happy to have him back in Michigan and at GPMC.

**Sabbatical Leave Announcement:** Sarah Godbehere, our Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families, will be on an extended professional leave from September 16 - December 16. GPMC's extended professional leave policy allows for 12 weeks of leave for renewal and professional development after six years of full-time ministry, much like the sabbaticals offered by other institutions. Carol Marks, Lisa Turner, Jim Biery, and Peter Henry have all received extended professional leave since the establishment of this policy. Sarah Godbehere was granted this leave by the Session at its June meeting. Sarah will spend this time as a "sabbath-ical," engaged in study and experience of the Biblical practice of sabbath rest. She will be out of the office, away from her email, and unavailable for pastoral services and duties during her sabbatical. We wish Sarah rest and renewal and we are thankful for the wonderful staff and youth program advisors team who will keep everything moving in her absence.

## AND MORE

**Congregational Conversations:** The Mission Study Team continues leading our congregation's self-study and is learning about our community. We are now moving toward the culminating Mission Study Report that will be submitted first to our Session, and then to Presbytery's Commission on Ministry for approval. The Mission Study Report will be informed by the six key activities of our mission study: Congregational Gatherings, Congregational Survey, Financial Review, Demographic Study, and Community Study.

**The Mission Study Team** invites you to participate in our mission study in what will be the most critical part of this process: conversation with our congregation. Due to the unique circumstances surrounding our ability to gather in person, we will be hosting "Congregational Conversations" via Zoom meetings during existing bible studies and book studies and also through specifically designed Congregational Conversation Zoom meetings. Over the next few weeks, your participation and input will form the shape of our Mission Study Report. Please make note of the following Zoom meeting dates, and plan to sign up through the signup genius below for ONE of the small-group conversations occurring at the following times/dates: August 2 -10:15am (Middle Hour); August 4-7:00pm; August 11- 7:00pm; August 16- 10:15am (Middle Hour).

**The Sign up Genius link is:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044FADAD22A31-congregational>

**In preparation for thoughtful participation in the small-group conversations, please consider the following questions:**

1. Why do you participate in the life of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church?
2. What do you think God is calling GPMC to do and be?
3. How can we strengthen our congregation to respond to God's call?

**Our Mission Study Team** has designed this process to engage you in helping to discern God's voice and mission for our church. Our process will involve careful and prayerful consideration of who we are and who God is calling us to be, as well as the identification of our collective experiences, gifts, passions, perspectives, and the strengths and needs of our community. Please join us as we set off down this path together!

**Congregational Update from the History-to-Our-Story Team (HOST).** As one of the committees called to the Interim Process, your HOST team has been hard at work carrying out our charge to plan, enact and engage the congregation in the history of GPMC up to the present time. Telling our congregation's story, a timeline of the church's history and events and watershed moments will help us to put a spotlight on the values of our faith community over the years. We have had fun planning a vehicle to tell our story. We have been gathering photographs and historical data from many sources within the church. We will soon be asking for input from you- the church. We want to hear your stories and would love to have you share photographs/newspaper clips, etc. to build our digital archive. Stay tuned for future announcements. HOST members: Michelle Deland, Tamara Gilbert, Sarah Godbehere, Jay Lady, Lois Palazzolo, Martha Speer and Chick VanDusen.

**During these challenging times,** please know that Stephen Ministers are trained to listen, to encourage, and to pray for you - it's what we do, and we would be happy to talk with you. If you would like a confidential phone conversation with a Stephen Minister, just let us know and we will set one up for you. Call Carol Marks (313.882.5330 ext.127) or one of our Stephen Leaders: Debby Owen (313.549.9644) or Lois Ann Hernquist (586.945.0094).

**Memorial's Daily Prayer:** Would you like to start your day with a prayer spoken on your behalf by one of the "familiar voices" from GPMC's staff? If so, call the church number and press 5 (882.5330, 5) for a prayer which is changed daily.

## PRAYING FOR OTHERS

*The congregation and staff of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church believe that prayer is very important. If you would like to add a person to our prayers, please call Carol Marks 313.882.5330 ex. 127 or e-mail her at cmarks@gpmchurch.org. May God continue to surround you with love and care.*

**Please continue to pray for all who mourn, especially the family and friends of those who have recently died in our congregation:** Timothy Wynn Butler, Jr., John Cobau, Jane Johnson, Gladys Hunter, Joseph Pehrson, Donna Johnston, Marnie Oakman, Cristy Hyde and Audrey Ruth Eckert.

**RECENT PRAYER REQUESTS:** Holly Burns, Joan Coyle, Shawn Cunningham (Cheryl Littleton's friend), Carrie Devlin (Peg Carpenter's niece), Paul Diehl (Mark Diehl's brother), Lynne Doyal (Guy and Marilyn Doyal's daughter-in-law), Dale Foote (Dan Aggas' partner), Dick Heglin (friend of the Van Dusens), Perry Kent (Phyllis May's son), Tina Kilates (Kathie Morinelli's friend), Alex Scapini (Fran McCabe's nephew).

**ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS:** Adam Bolton, All who are on the frontlines of the war against Covid-19, Jean Carmichael, Arlene Cobau, Thomas M. Coyle, Jr. (Tom and Joan Coyle's son), The Dettlinger and Eckert Families, Dzvinka Dobrianska Burchak (friend of Carol Wood), Barbara Flood, Andrew Godbehere (Sarah Godbehere's brother), Janet Hooper (Jim Hooper's sister), Leonard Hooper (Jimmy Hooper's brother), Jack Liang, Jane McFeeley, JC Robinson (Christina Robinson's husband), Barbara Wratchford and Margaret Kumar (Kenneth Shepherd's aunt and mother-in-law).

**FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL:** Maria Marable (friend of Elizabeth Tengler), Phoebe Piku (advanced training in U.S. army), Salvador Zúñiga (Janice Zúñiga's son), Bart and Amanda Ward.

**FOR OUR HEALTHCARE WORKERS:** Keith Bellovich, Anna Brucker, Heather Frahm, Matt Koral, Lauren McCabe, Rebecca McCoy, Chris and Rosa Moore, Blake Sanford, Karlyn McCoy Schoen, Karol Swenson, George Williams, Erin Hepler Worrell.

## THIS WEEK AT MEMORIAL

Monday, Aug. 3: Preacher's Workshop 10 - 11am via Zoom  
Reel Theology 7:30 - 9pm via Zoom

Tuesday, Aug. 4: Women's Bible Study 7 - 8am via Zoom  
Mission Study Team Conv. 7 - 8pm via Zoom  
High School Ggroup 7 - 8pm Trinity Terrace

Wednesday, Aug. 5: Men's Bible Study 7-8am Trinity Terrace  
Script. & Conv. for Women 11:15am via phone  
College Students Fellowship 7 - 8pm via Zoom  
Adult Bible Study 7:30 - 9pm via Zoom

Thursday, Aug. 6: Yoga 6 -7pm Trinity Terrace  
Young Adult Fellowship 8- 9pm via Zoom

Friday, Aug. 7: No scheduled activities

Saturday, Aug. 8: Men's Bible Study 8 - 9am via Zoom

Sunday, Aug. 9: Worship Service 9am via Livestream  
Writer's Table 12:15pm via Zoom or Phone  
Worship Service 5pm Trinity Terrace by Reserv.



**August 2 and 9**

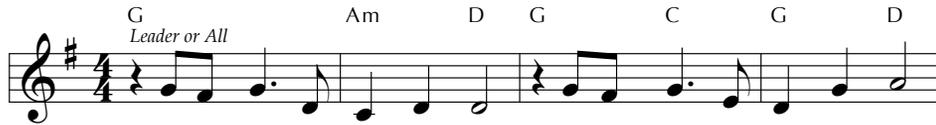
**Guest Writer: Marilyn McEntyre**

Marilyn McEntyre is a writer and professor of medical humanities at the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program. She cares about connecting spirituality, politics, food, healthcare, care for the earth and its creatures, care for language and public discourse, and finding new ways to live together on a planet that needs healing.

Her writing has appeared in *The Christian Century*, *Weavings*, *Sojourners*, *Prism*, *Conversations*, *Christianity Today*, *Academic Medicine*, *Medical Humanities*, *Literature and Medicine*, and a variety of other academic and trade publications. She has won several outstanding teaching awards including the *Christianity Today* 2015 book award. She earned her B.A. at Pomona College, M.A. at U.C. Davis, Ph.D. at Princeton University in Comparative Literature. She has taught at Princeton University, the College of New Jersey, Mills College, Dominican University and Westmont College and now teaches at the UCSF/UC Berkeley Joint Medical Program.

## I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



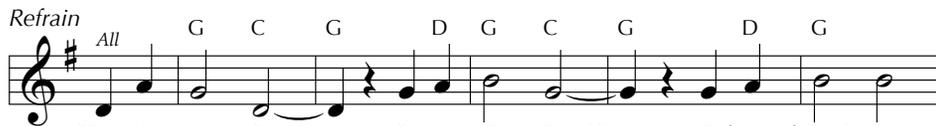
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



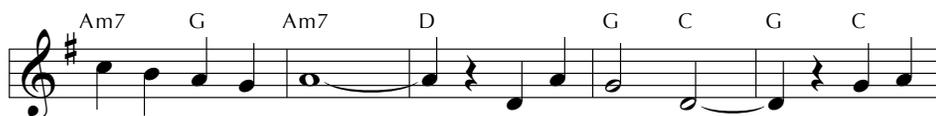
made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

## Fight the Good Fight



1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.  
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.  
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.



Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.  
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.  
 God's bound - less mer - cy will pro - vide.  
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.



Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;  
 Trust, and thy trust - ing and soul shall prove  
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see



thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.  
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.  
 that Christ is all in all to thee.



## In Celebration of Jim Biery's 10 Year GPMC Anniversary

By Judy Masserang

August 1st will mark Jim Biery's tenth year as GPMC's Organist and Minister of Music. In celebration, several choir members have contributed thoughts and memories. Jim was asked for some thoughts as well, but decided to go with what the choir shares. Seems a bit risky to me. Hard to control musicians once they get started, especially when they've been pent up for so long and have, in essence, each become soloists in order to contribute to remote Sunday morning hymns and anthems. Soloists are known for their independent thoughts and actions, but OK.

I share the first memory, well, because I can. I wandered into GPMC shortly after Jim started. I heard the choir and knew I had to join, very excited to sing with such a great choir. I never post on Facebook, but did this time, announcing to my friends that I had joined a great choir and was now singing for James Biery. Liz Spry, a local organist and choir director for decades, replied asking if he was "the composer." What? I googled him. He was and is! "Tell him I love his music," was her quick reply. Oh, don't we all!

Dan Aggas, on the other hand, recognized Jim immediately. "I was working in Fellowship Hall and noticed two people walking down the hallway. I looked, waved to them, and thought to myself, THAT guy looks familiar. About 10 minutes later I realized who it was because I'd seen his picture on the backs of music we'd been singing at Jefferson Avenue Church, the organist there being a fan of both the Bierys. Jim was there for an interview. How lucky we would be, I thought to myself, to get them at GPMC."

Suzanne Grogan, soprano soloist and section leader until winter when they moved to Grand Rapids, tells about moving back to Michigan from Louisiana and looking for a section leader position. She emailed 10 music directors in the Detroit area; nearly everyone ignored her. Jim was the only person who invited her to audition even though he had no openings. She left somewhat disappointed, but he followed her to her car and created an opportunity for her that summer and then, of course, many during her tenure with the choir. She's grateful for the opportunities he gave her, for his direction and his leadership.

Chris Bauder, former tenor soloist and section leader, recalls Jim's audition rehearsal from 10 years ago, being "really impressed with Jim's approach to choral warmups, with an emphasis on listening to each other for blend." Well, that and how exciting it would be to have a resident composer. And, Chris wanted me to mention the total awe he and the choir have every Sunday as we watch Jim play the organ. "Jim is clearly the best these ears have ever heard."

"How we have grown as a choir and an ensemble under Jim's direction" is what strikes Pete Larson. "The things he's challenged us with (Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" comes to mind) and others that have made me love choral singing even more. He makes me want to do more, sing better, do my best even though he doesn't verbally demand that. I always look forward to rehearsals and services."

Karin and Jeff Colvin told of their visit to a church in Fort Collins, CO. They were barely seated when the choir assembled near the altar and began performing a piece they recognized: a James and Marilyn Biery composition. After the service, they loudly announced to their daughter and all within hearing that they knew the composers. "So, thank you, Jim and Marilyn, for sharing your gifts and for all that you do."

Sheena Law-Killinger began singing with us in 2014. "It has been a pleasure to have found a place where I can use my musical skills at a high level for the glory of God," she says. "I think what I have appreciated most about Jim is the pairing of high quality and talent, with his heart being sincerely behind his work." It's rare that you find the total package. "Jim is so gifted but also sincere and it shows every Sunday. You can see how the music is chosen carefully to match the sermon and the texts and how carefully he puts concerts together."

I reached out to Kypros Markou, Professor and Director of Orchestral Studies at Wayne State University, and a frequent violin soloist and organizer of instrumental players for our special events. Maestro Markou says he has been "blessed for the last 6 or 7 years with the opportunity to be part of many performances at GPMC under Jim's direction. He is a wonderful musician. I greatly appreciate his skills and knowledge, and his tasteful concepts of the music. He really inspires and enables musicians to come together and play their best. I appreciate and enjoy his compositions and was thrilled when he performed the Bach keyboard concerto with us! But not only is he a terrific musician; he is a very kind person. It's always a joy to work with him."

Sheena actually closed her contribution with the thoughts that we all have. "Jim is a deeply personal person and doesn't toot his own horn." His medical journey in 2019 allowed each of us to see how much his work really means to him and his belief in the healing power of music as part of his faith. "It was a blessing to see him lean into this over the past year and to pour his concern into worship. I think the whole congregation could feel that."

Our sincere thanks to the search committee for picking him! Jim told me a few years ago that he will stay at GPMC until we don't want him anymore. I hope that's still true. Dan Aggas and I are each compiling a very long list of all the pieces we want him to play at our funerals.

Below is an update on communion and in-person worship services at the direction of the Session of GPMC. As we return to these important patterns in our life of faith, there are many things that will feel comforting and familiar, and there are things that will be different. We trust that the Holy Spirit is at work in our midst as we move forward together in ways that will protect the most vulnerable.

**Communion** will be offered during pre-recorded worship services this Sunday, August 2 and on August 16, so that we can safely share in this sacrament from our homes. You can access these pre-recorded services from our website. Whenever you watch the worship services for July 12 and 26 or August 2 and 16, please come prepared with some kind of bread and with “fruit of the vine” – juice or wine, your choice! The liturgist will bless the elements and then invite you to partake, knowing that the Spirit unites you with our Lord, our church community, and with Christians around the world as we share this sacred moment in new ways.

**In-person outdoor worship** began on Sunday, July 26, at 5pm on Trinity Terrace with much joy! We expect to have this worship service every Sunday that weather permits us to be outside. Prepare for heat and sun! **Please make yourself comfortable by wearing cool clothing and bringing a hat or umbrella and a water bottle.** Seating is limited to 50 people. In order to protect our staff, community, and congregation, this will be different from our typical 5 pm service in several ways:

**1. Reservations are required for attendance and special parking.** Reservations will open the Monday prior to worship at 9 am and will close at 4 pm each Friday. Reservations can be made either online through our church website (see the green button on the bottom right side of this page) or by calling the church office at 313.882.5330 Monday through Friday between the hours of 9am to 4pm. We will have a waiting list and may announce additional changes to our reservation process if more people would like to attend than we are able to accommodate. There will be 5 reserved parking spots for people who are at high risk. Each spot is for 1 vehicle to worship from within your car. **Please note, several handicap spots are also available near Trinity Terrace. No reservation is required for these spots.**

**2. Arrive 15 to 20 minutes early.** Before entering Trinity Terrace, your temperature will be taken, and you will be asked a few questions regarding your current health status. While waiting for your turn, please practice social distancing in the parking lot.

**3. Seating with social distancing will be practiced based on your reservation.** Chairs will be prearranged to accommodate your reservation with the understanding that seats will be placed far enough apart to minimize virus transmission. **Do not move chairs that are already in place.** If you need additional seating, please acquire additional chairs from the garage area.

**4. Entering and exiting Trinity Terrace.** Please enter and exit Trinity Terrace through the large gate next to the Little Club and be mindful to continue social distancing. At the end of worship, all participants will be dismissed in an orderly way by the worship leader. Please wait for your row to be called.

**5. Masks are required.** All participants over the age of two years are required to wear a mask.

**6. Worship Participation.** Worship practice will not include the use of printed bulletins or song books. We will not have congregational singing. Music during worship will only be instrumental. Communion will not be offered. Passing of the Peace will not include physical contact.

We look forward to welcoming you back to worship, gathering as a community, and seeing one another face to face. If, however, you are at high risk for COVID-19, we encourage you to take good care of yourself and worship from home. Our pre-recorded weekly worship will continue to be available online and can be accessed through our website. These worship services are released at 9am every Sunday. Whether we worship virtually or in person, we trust that God hears our prayers and unites us into the one body of Christ.



### **Pastoral and Program Staff**

The Reverend Mark E. Diehl, Interim Pastor and Head of Staff  
The Reverend Sarah Godbehere, Associate Pastor  
Susan Acton, Coordinator of Outreach Ministries  
James Biery, Minister of Music and Organist  
Marie Calcaterra, Director of Mornings at Memorial  
Carol Beltz Marks, Director of Pastoral Ministries  
The Reverend Susan Mozena, Minister of Adult Education  
Jim Schultz, CPA, Director of Finance and Operations  
Lisa Turner, Director of Children's Ministries

### **Administrative Staff**

Dan Aggas, Head Sexton  
Donna Hartzell, Administrative Assistant for Worship,  
Communications and Music  
Fran McCabe, Administrative Assistant for Membership  
Janet Ruthven, Administrative Assistant for Christian Education  
Dan Ryan, Engineer  
Joe Warnez, Sexton

### **Social Media and Online Communications**

[gpmchurch.org](http://gpmchurch.org)  
Facebook - Grosse Pointe Memorial Church  
Twitter - GPMCNews  
Wireless Network in Sanctuary is "gpmchurch,"  
password [bibles@gpmchurch](mailto:bibles@gpmchurch)

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm



## **GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH**

*"A light by the lakeshore"*

16 Lake Shore Dr. | Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
313.882.5330 | [gpmchurch.org](http://gpmchurch.org)