

GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH

“A light by the lakeshore”

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

AUGUST 9, 2020 | WORSHIP 9AM

TENTH 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- These Are the Holy Ten Commandments Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Make me to know your ways, O Lord.

Many: **Teach me your paths and lead me in your truth.**

One: For you are the God of our salvation
and in you we find mercy.

Many: **Let us worship God!**

OPENING HYMN 305-Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! *Tune: Darwall's 148th*
(see bulletin pg.14)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SILENT CONFESSION

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

All: Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ; but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your peace upholds the oppressed and defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

One: Amen. This is the good news: Christ is the light of the world, granting forgiveness and healing, and putting us on the path to peace.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: May the peace of God that passes understanding prepare you for new paths of grace!

All: **And may God's peace attend you, also!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO FAITHFULNESS-Love the Lord Your God *Tune: Great Commandment*
We affirm our faithfulness to God by singing Hymn 62, the "Great Commandment."

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Love the Lord your God with all your soul.

Love the Lord your God with all your mind.

Love the Lord your God with all that you are.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Living God, your word is near to us, addressing your people today. By your Spirit, make this word so long ago spoken become for us a word of transformation and direction, leading us and our world to new life and joy. Through Jesus the Word made flesh we pray.

All: **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

PSALM READING-Psalm 133:1

After each reading:

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM-It Is Well With My Soul

P.P. Bliss, arr. J. Biery

OLD TESTAMENT READING-Exodus 1:8-14, 3:7-8, 20: 1-2

SERMON-The God of Deliverance and Transformation

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-Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying Ken Medema, arr. Lloyd Larson

TAKING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

CLOSING HYMN 307- God of Grace and God of Glory *Tune: Cwm Rhondda*
(see bulletin pg. 15)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE-These Are the Holy Ten Commandments, BWV 679 J. S. Bach

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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 August 9. While the series is based on Mark Diehl'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 study guide for the congregation to use during the series which can be found and downloaded from GPMC's website. You are encouraged to read the scripture and engage the questions from each week's study prior to the sermon. This week will be Study #1. All sermons will be recorded and broadcast at 9 am 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; Carol Ambrogio Wood, soprano, and Diane Schoff, mezzo-soprano; Joe Masinick and Nathan Turner, worship service production.

What's Happening Today, August 9, 2020

9am Worship Service Pre-Recorded (Livestreamed)
10:10am 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 lturner@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 Godbehere, 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 paste 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, or 313.204.4875.

Middle Hour, August 9th at 10:10am: “Created in God’s Image...” Join us as we continue our exploration of faithful living in our multi-racial community. We are sharing our experiences with the challenging reading we had been doing (and continue to do) as part of the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge. In addition to self-examination, we are seeking to find ways to effect change in situations of systemic racism. Please consider being part of this important on-going conversation. **The Zoom link is:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87214137205>.

Summer Writer’s Table final offering is today, August 9 at 12:15pm. 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 10th at 10am via Zoom with Mark Diehl. The preaching text is Exodus 20: 1-3.

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 with any questions.

Adult Bible Study will meet again August 19th 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.

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

STEWARDSHIP

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.

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!

If you are not aware of our Drive-Thru Food Drive – where we are collecting a variety of pantry and essential household items – please plan to participate! Drop off your items in the church’s parking lot on August 15 from 9-11am and August 16 from 4-5pm and help support Second Mile Center & Community Tree House. See Facebook for donation ideas based on the most needed categories. This week we have ideas to involve kids in shopping for snacks. A full shopping list is available on [gpmchurch.org/313 Calling](http://gpmchurch.org/313Calling).

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.

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.

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.

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.

Nancy Louise Hunt, Laura VerBeek's mother, died on Sunday, July 26, 2020 in Adrian Michigan. Please hold Laura, Jeff and Nancy's six other children in your prayers during these sad days.

Lee Gates, Audrey Leverenz's husband, died on July 31, 2020. Please pray for Audrey and her family in your prayers.

RECENT PRAYER REQUESTS: Holly Burns, Carrie Devlin (Peg Carpenter's niece), Paul Diehl (Mark Diehl's brother), Linda Jaafar (Ken Shepherd's wife's niece), Perry Kent (Phyllis May's son), Alex Scapini (Fran McCabe's nephew), Susan Stapleton (friend of Joan and Tom Coyle), Louise Winters (Ken Shepherd's sister).

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS: Adam Bolton, All who are on the frontlines of the war against Covid-19, Jean Carmichael, Arlene Cobau, Joan Coyle, Thomas M. Coyle, Jr. (Tom and Joan Coyle's son), Shawn Cunningham (Cheryl Littleton's friend), Lynne Doyal (Guy and Marilyn Doyal's daughter-in-law), Barbara Flood, Dale Foote (Dan Aggas' partner), Andrew Godbehere (Sarah Godbehere's brother), Dick Heglin (friend of the Van Dusens), Janet Hooper (Jim Hooper's sister), Leonard Hooper (Jimmy Hooper's brother), Tina Kilates (Kathie Morinelli's friend), 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. 10: Preacher's Workshop 10 - 11am via Zoom
Council Meetings 6 and 7pm via Zoom
- Tuesday, Aug. 11: Women's Bible Study 7 - 8am via Zoom
Mission Study Team Conv. 7 - 8pm via Zoom
LIFE/TUXIS 7 - 8pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, Aug. 12: Men's Bible Study 7-8am Trinity Terrace
Script. & Conv. for Women 11:15am via phone
- Thursday, Aug. 13: Yoga 6 -7pm Trinity Terrace
- Friday, Aug. 14: Ecumenical Men's Breakfast Board Mtg. 9 - 10am
Trinity Terrace
- Saturday, Aug. 15: Men's Bible Study 8 - 9am via Zoom
Virtual Food Drive 9 - 11am
- Sunday, Aug. 16: Worship Service 9am via Livestream
Mission Study Team Conversation 10:15am
via Zoom
Virtual Food Drive 4 - 5pm
Worship Service 5pm Trinity Terrace by Reserv.

2020 Summer Writers Table

We are thrilled to invite you to our Summer Writers Table with exceptional guest writers who will share their life, faith and writing with us for the next three months on Zoom! Bring your lunch on Sundays at 12:15 and eat, learn and grow with us this summer—right at the table of our amazing writers!

Dates and times: Sundays at 12:15 p.m. on June 14, 28; July 12, 19; August 2, 9

Guest Writers: Bob Goff, Scott Ellsworth and Marilyn McEntyre



June 14 and 28

Guest Writer: Bob Goff

Bob Goff is the New York Times best-selling author of *Love Does* and *Everybody, Always*, as well as an attorney who founded Restore International, a nonprofit human rights organization operating in Uganda, India and Somalia.

Bob has pioneered the vision of Restore International to fight for freedom and human rights, working to improve educational opportunities and to be helpful to those in need of a voice and a friend. Because of Bob's vision and the work of Restore International, he serves as the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Uganda to the United States.

Bob's new book, *Dream Big*, is coming out in June. The book promises to uncover the wild and exciting dream for your life you've hidden from yourself--and help you take the steps necessary to achieve it!



July 12 and 19

Guest Writer: Scott Ellsworth

Scott Ellsworth is the New York Times best-selling author of *The Secret Game*, which was the winner of the 2016 PEN/ESPN Award for Literary Sports Writing. He has written about American history for the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times. Formerly a historian at the Smithsonian Institution, he is the author of *Death in a Promised Land*, his groundbreaking account of the 1921 Tulsa race riot. His most recent book is *The World Beneath*

Their Feet: Mountaineering, Madness, and the Deadly Race to Summit the Himalayas. He lives with his wife and twin sons in Ann Arbor, where he teaches at the University of Michigan.



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.

305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

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 the pre-recorded worship service next Sunday, August 16, so that we can safely share in this sacrament from our homes. You can access pre-recorded services from our website. Whenever you watch the worship services, 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 has begun 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 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
Facebook - Grosse Pointe Memorial Church
Twitter - GPMCNews
Wireless Network in Sanctuary is "gpmchurch,"
password bibles@gpmchurch

Office Hours

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



GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH

"A light by the lakeshore"

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313.882.5330 | gpmchurch.org