

GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH



“A light by the lakeshore”

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
MARCH 29, 2020 | WORSHIP 9AM
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One:* We are called to love God.
All: **And so we come, offering our prayers of thanks and praise.**
One: We are called to love others.
All: **And so we come, offering our gifts of kindness and mercy.**
One: We are called to love ourselves.
All: **And so we come, offering this time for reflection and inspiration.**
One: We come to worship God with our whole selves,
All: **heart and soul and mind and strength.**

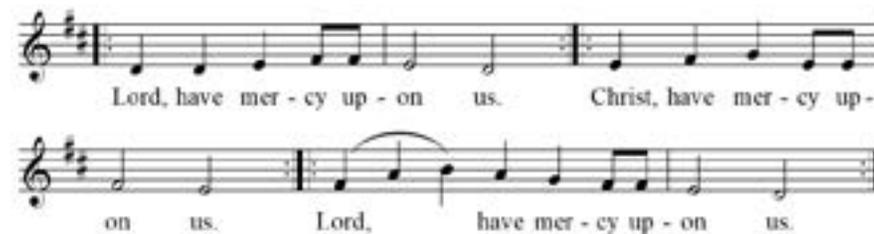
PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SILENT CONFESSION

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

- All:* Loving God, you knit us together before we were born,
and call us to lives of integrity and wholeness,
but we confess that our lives are fractured
and our minds are scattered.
Our promises at prayer
look so different from our daily lives.
Our resolutions to love with all our hearts and follow you
fall so quickly by the wayside.
Have mercy on us, Lord,
and transform us so that we may be your brave
and honest people, living whole-hearted and authentic lives.

KYRIE -Lord, have mercy

Healey Willan



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- One:* The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
All: **we are forgiven, restored, and set free. Thanks be to God!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

- One:* In this season of reflection and contemplation, we receive
God's gift of peace. May the peace of Christ be always with you.
All: **And also with you!**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

- All:* **Speaker of truth and source of all that is good,
illumine our minds and understanding that as the
scriptures are read and proclaimed, we may see what
is good and right and true, and do what is pleasing
in your sight. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN 188-Jesus Loves Me (St. 1)

Tune: Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

GOSPEL READING—John 11:1-45 (N.T. pgs. 98-99)

After each reading:

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

OLD TESTAMENT READING—Ezekiel 37: 1 -14 (O.T. pg. 759)

SERMON—Prophesy to the Breath Sarah Godbehere

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

All: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF SELF IN A TIME OF MEDITATION

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.

TAKING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

BENEDICTION

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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.

What's Happening Today, March 29, 2020

9am Worship Service Livestreamed

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

ABOUT WORSHIP AT GPMC

Leading and Assisting in Worship: Sarah Godbehere

Flowers for the sanctuary are funded by our members in memory or in honor of a loved one. If interested in dedicating flowers, please contact Ellen Creager: 313.378.6893 or e-mail: ecreager1@gmail.com.

The birth rose is for **Olivia Kaye Morinelli**, born Mar 17, 2020 to Amy and David Morinelli of South Beach, FL; granddaughter of Kathie Morinelli.

Easter Joy - Although we cannot physically gather this Easter season, we know that the resurrection is not cancelled! To celebrate God's story of salvation and hope, we will be creating a communal video offering, which will be part of our Easter Sunday morning service. All ages are encouraged to participate and use their creativity in telling this wonderful, glorious story! If you would like to participate, please email Sarah Godbehere at sgodbehere@gpmchurch.org or Lisa Turner at ltturner@gpmchurch.org to receive full instructions. Easter is fast approaching so please plan to submit your video by noon on Sunday, April 5th.

CDs of our worship services are available the week following the service. Please request copies at the reception desk. Sermons are available on GPMC's website.

If you use envelopes to deposit a monetary offering, please consider sealing the envelope with tape (or leaving unsealed) rather than "licking" the envelope. Our ushers, counters and financial staff will appreciate your attention to their health concerns.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LOGOS: Many thanks to all the families, volunteers and this generous congregation for the continued support of the LOGOS program. We have been blessed to offer this ministry to our children and families for over thirty years! It is our hope that we can continue to enrich and connect people of all ages to grow in their faith and in relationship with one another for another thirty years.

Sunday School/Small Group - Closed until we resume in-house worship services.

LIFE & TUXIS youth groups will be meeting online via Zoom from 7-8pm on Tuesdays as long as the school system remains closed. All middle school students and high school students are welcome to attend. This online meeting will include prayer, Bible study, small group discussion time with folks your age, and games.

2020 High School Mission Trip: We are closely monitoring the situation to see if it will be safe for us to travel to Costa Rica from June 13-20 as planned. More details will be released as soon as they are available. Thanks for your patience and understanding!

The Seekers retreat, scheduled for April 24-25 has been cancelled. We will not be meeting on Sunday mornings until we resume in-person worship services. We're hoping to put together an online learning system so students can watch videos at their own pace and complete the confirmation process this year. Stay tuned for more details!

Calling all College Students and Young Adults: With the stay home order, we know that things can be lonely for young adults right now. So we've set up a time for you all to hang out together, have some conversation, and pray for each other. We have Zoom meetings set up and ready to go! College students will meet on Wednesdays at 7pm, and young adults will meet on Thursdays at 7pm. Please contact Sarah Godbehere to receive the Zoom invitation. Hope you'll join us this week!

Adult Education During this Moment in Time:

Technology and the Holy Spirit Are a Mighty Team! (Adult Ed at GPMC isn't "remotely" shut down...see the details below.)

Preacher's Workshop, Mondays, 10am. Meeting remotely. If you are not now a participant, but wish to join, contact Susan Mozena.

Friends: We are in the process of organizing adult education offerings to meet electronically/remotely, moving through the calendar sequentially to set up all of the connections between the groups and the technology. The system was tested Tuesday morning, March 17, with the Women's Bible Study, and it worked perfectly (even for those who are "tech challenged"). It was a study of more than the Bible that morning, really a very powerful statement of how important our fellowship in Jesus Christ is to us. (This is where the Holy Spirit comes in...) The women, many of whom have been together around the table every Tuesday from 7-8 AM for a number of years, were delighted to be able to see each other and hear each other via Zoom, a remote meeting platform. There was joy in the gathering, a real tonic for everyone involved. So, we are moving forward to encourage other groups to do the same. See below a brief status update, by days of the week/month:

Reel Theology, first Monday: TBD Stay tuned.

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

Men's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 7-8am. TBD. Stay tuned.

Scripture and Conversation for Women, fourth Wednesday, 10:30-noon. TBD. Stay tuned.

Adult Bible Study, first and third Wednesdays, 7:30-9pm. Meeting remotely. If you are not now a participant, but wish to join, contact Susan Mozena.

Short Story as Theology, second Wednesday of the month, 7:15-8:30pm. TBD. Stay tuned.

Novel as Theology, fourth Wednesday of the month, 7:30-9pm. Meeting remotely. If you are not now a participant, but wish to join, contact Susan Mozena.

Downtown Disciples Bible Study, first Thursday, 12:15-1:15pm. TBD. Stay tuned.

Men's Bible Study, Saturdays, 8-9am. TBD. Stay tuned.

Middle Hour, selected Sundays, 10:10am. TBD. Stay tuned.

Technology and the Holy Spirit Are a Mighty Team! Stay connected to your church and to your faith through adult education.

(This is obviously a fluid situation. Please check emails, the bulletin, and the website for updates. Questions, or help “signing up?” Contact Rev. Susan Mozena, susanhmozena@gmail.com, or 313.204.4875.)

STEWARDSHIP

Are you part of the 331 families, members and friends of GPMC who have made a 2020 Pledge to GPMC? If not, we still need your support! Please do so as soon as possible so that we can properly plan for our current year budget. Stewardship ‘Did You Know’: Why does pledging matter? In order to support our ministries, we need robust and faithful giving by our members. Budgets for all programs, departments & staffing are established through pledge activity. Your pledge gifts or weekly giving support our budget for all programs, departments and staffing. This includes Christian Education, Music, Outreach and other budgeted expenses. Your giving – no matter how big or small – makes a BIG difference for GPMC and is appreciated!

OUTREACH

Our March Hunger Offering will go to The Second Mile Center of Detroit. It was founded in 2006 by Ruth Azar following God’s call. They provide services and develop partnerships to empower and strengthen people. Some of those include: free after school programs, summer day camp, clothing, goods and baby needs pantry, Monday night community dinners, a mobile health fair, and more. GPMC will match congregation donations made this month up to \$2,000. Tell us you want to direct your donation to Second Mile or use the blue pew envelopes.

AND MORE

Interim Teams for Nominating Committee: History Team: Tamara Gilbert, Sarah Godbehere, Michelle DeLand, Jay Lady, Martha Speer, Lois Palazzolo, Chick VanDusen; **Mission Team:** Don Ditmars, Didi DeBoer, Chelsea Gilbert, Jo LeVan, Julie Huellmantel, Dan Grano, Beverly Butler, Mary Edwards.

Ruth Azar, founder and director of Second Mile Center of Detroit, and a member of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, has been named a recipient of the PCUSA 2020 Women of Faith Awards. Ruth is one of three Presbyterian women in our nation being recognized for their work to disrupt systemic poverty. Second Mile Center, founded in 2006 and supported by GPMC, crosses cultural and racial boundaries, serving children from various backgrounds and circumstances in a violent part of the city. Ruth will receive the award at the June 21 Women of Faith

Breakfast during the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Baltimore. This award recognizes the remarkable vision and enduring faithfulness of Ruth as she leads the ministry of Second Mile Center. Well done, good and faithful servant!

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.

RECENT PRAYER REQUESTS: Jack and Arlene Cobau, Raleigh and Robert Eckert and their baby girl due to be born in June (grandbaby of Peggy and Pete Dettlinger and Nancy and Rick Eckert), Janet Hooper (Jim Hooper’s sister), Jim Kelly (friend of the Morlans), Phyllis Kerslake (Holly Burns’ mother), Jack Liang, Richard Marks, Max Morinelli (Kathie Morinelli’s grandson); Cynthia Singelyn (daughter of Tom and Denyse Singelyn).

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS: James Biery, Adam Bolton, Holly Burns, Guy Doyal, Geraldine Hoch (Jim Schultz’s mother), Leonard Hooper (Jimmy Hooper’s brother), Jane McFeeley.

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.

In Memoriam

Carolyn “Candi” Royer

(October 27, 1953 - March 12, 2020)

Please pray for Candi’s brothers, nephew and friends in the days ahead. The memorial service will be in our sanctuary at a later date.

THIS WEEK AT MEMORIAL

- Monday, March 30: Preacher's Workshop 10am via Zoom
- Tuesday, March 31: Women's Bible Study 7 - 8am via Zoom
LIFE/TUXIS 7- 8pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, April 1: Men's Bible Study TBD
College Students Meet-up 7-8pm via Zoom
Adult Bible Study 7:30 - 9pm via Zoom
- Thursday, April 2: Young Adult Fellowship 7-8pm via Zoom
- Friday, April 3: All Groups/Meetings Cancelled
- Saturday, April 4: Men's Bible Study Offsite TBD
- Sunday, April 5: Worship Service 9am via Livestream

March 25, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In this season of Lent and this time of pandemic, every day brings deepened challenges that require new decisions and strategies to address developing realities. What we hoped for and planned a week ago have changed at least 5 times since.

Here is the situation at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church as of this date:

The church facility and all our offices are closed through April 13. Prior to the state order restricting all gatherings, our staff had self-quarantined because of possible exposure to Covid-19 (one of our staff families is quite ill). After the state order, we extended our in-place staff quarantine to close all offices and the facility to comply with state orders and to do all we can to mitigate virus spread. The closing of the facility and offices will be reevaluated as the situation warrants.

Worship: The past two Sundays, worship was provided through live streaming on our website (Sundays at 9 am); it also is available recorded (you can find it on our website homepage). Our intent was to extend the online worship experience to include more music and singing and liturgy. Unfortunately, the escalating impact of the pandemic has undermined our plans. Our plan is to continue streaming online live worship service (and offer it recorded) even if it is more basic than we had hoped.

Bible Studies, Youth and Children's Programs: The Logos program was cancelled for the remainder of this Spring term. Lisa Turner is communicating with families and their children, and is providing resources for Christian Education at home. Seekers, LIFE and TUXIS have shifted their meetings to online (tech-driven) opportunities. Sarah Godbehere coordinates those events, gatherings, and studies. Susan Mozena is facilitating adult study groups with Zoom gatherings and phone-ins. If you want to join any of those adult groups through technology, contact Susan by email or leave her a message.

Pastoral Care: Our deacons (and other volunteers) are contacting every member of the church in the Detroit vicinity (by phone preferably, or by email if necessary) to determine their wellness, to make sure they are connected to family and friends and to the church, to assess any need they may have and how we can address it, and to let them know of our love and God's love. Special attention is being paid to any member socially isolated by infirmity or disability. This is a tremendous and necessary endeavor and I am so grateful to the deacons and their leadership for implementing this strategy (which will remain ongoing during this crisis). Anyone needing pastoral care can contact one of the pastors or use the pastoral care

line on the church's telephone system. A daily or weekly phone-in and online devotion and/or prayer will be implemented soon.

Outreach and Mission: Due to the unprecedented nature of, and dislocation caused by, the pandemic, all mission activities must be reassessed for viability in the present context. That reassessment includes reexamining priorities in light of new challenges related to the pandemic, how to assemble teams to work on projects and fresh ways to do mission in an era of social distancing.

The Interim Committees: Both the History-to-Our-Story Team (HOST) and the Mission Study Team (MST) were just beginning their work when the pandemic swept through our area. Both teams' work has been suspended until we get our bearings personally and institutionally. They will be restarted as soon as possible.

Staff: The directive to staff is that if they are sick, their priority is taking care of themselves and getting well. If they are well, they are asked to work from home to the extent they are able to do so. We are exploring new avenues to accomplish and discharge our responsibilities in ways faithful to our calling and the needs of the church. In the midst of all that is going on, some staff are sick, some are caring for family members who are ill, and all are shouldering the extra burden of anxiety and our concerns for the church, our families, and one another. Please keep the staff in your prayers.

Leadership: The Session has approved the necessary steps the staff has suggested for GPMC to follow, and continues to be apprised of the situation in our congregation.

Finance: The staff have been asked to anticipate the financial consequences of wide-spread unemployment and economic dislocation for our membership and our society, and the budget of GPMC. Staff will suspend any non-essential major purchases that were planned for this programming year, and reassess the need for other spending throughout the remainder of the budget year. Financial decisions for the year will be reevaluated as warranted.

Stewardship: With worship only available online and the offering plate not being passed, a typical avenue by which we receive contributions has disappeared. For those who are able, please keep current with your pledges and gifts and offerings. Your contributions are so important at this time.

Lenten Practices: Who knew that our Lenten theme would be so relevant to our situation today? "A Whole and Holy Lent: Loving God, Loving Others, Loving Self" As I mentioned in the March Carillon article on Lent, "The shallowest spiritual practice we will ever engage is that which attempts to insure our own personal well-being/salvation without concern or thought for the well-being of others." Addressing the compelling needs of the pandemic have required us to think beyond our own convenience or preferences or safety since what we do impacts everyone around us.

Someone remarked, "I had no idea I would have to give up so much this Lent!" To that I would say, "I had no idea how much I could contribute to my community and nation and world by my simple acts of care and thoughtfulness. So much is in our (clean) hands!"

I am grateful to share with you the burdens and opportunities of ministry in this time. Please pray for all those on the frontline in the fight against this pandemic.

Grace and peace,

Mark E. Diehl, Interim Minister



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
Julie McCrea, Accounting Manager
Janet Ruthven, Administrative Assistant for Christian Education
Dan Ryan, Engineer
Joe Warnez, Sexton

Office Hours

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

Social Media and Online Communications

gpmchurch.org
Facebook - Grosse Pointe Memorial Church
Twitter - GPMCNews
Wireless Network in Sanctuary is "gpmchurch,"
password bibles@gpmchurch



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