



Orchard United Methodist Church  
30450 Farmington Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
248.626.3620  
www.orchardumc.org

# Orchard Harvester

May 2020

## GRADUATE PRAYER

Holy God,

As we celebrate the completion of one challenge, we turn and face the new challenges set before us, sure in the knowledge that just as you have been with us helping us grow, you will be with us as we move forward to discover the plans you have for us.

Give us your strength and your wisdom.  
Take away our fear and doubt.

Remind us of your presence and guide us when we've lost our way.

Open our hearts to your plan, and open our lives to the potential you have put in us.  
Open our eyes so that we may see the world and recognize opportunities to make it a better place.

Help us to stand strong in times of challenge, and to lean on you in times of adversity.  
May our lives reflect your glory and your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Lord.

Amen.

In these weird and difficult times, my heart breaks for our graduates. How I wish that they had gotten to do the normal senior things—prom, the parties, the ceremony. While I know the school is working hard to find ways to recreate those events, I hope they all know how proud we at Orchard are of them.

I got to know this class of high school seniors when they were in eighth grade. I was brand new and they were in confirmation. I remember how impressed I was with them. This was a group of natural leaders, who built strong friendships and took confirmation seriously. Since then, I have loved seeing them in worship, hearing their stories from mission trip, and being blessed by their contributions to Orchard and their schools.

I admire these students and their resiliency. We can learn something from them. All of us have felt loss over these past few months—the grace with which our seniors have handled it is a great model for us. The next few months and even years as a congregation will look different; but we know that God is with us. God will guide us. I have assembled a COVID Advisory Team made up of health care professionals, staff members, our lay leader, and a trustee representative to develop a plan for how best to return to our building safely. We know worship will look different. As decisions are made we will keep you informed about protocols and procedures. We rest in the assurance of God's presence and place our trust in Christ.

Finally to our Graduates: You are amazing! Congratulations on graduating and on all you have achieved. I know that your next steps may look different from what you've always envisioned. I pray that you will remember that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. I hope that you know that God has great plans for you—and we can't wait to see all you will do. Know your church loves you, is proud of you, and is here for you.

Faithfully,

*Pastor Amy*



# GRADUATION

# GRADUATION

The class of 2020 is an incredible group of students. Read their bios and you will see — they have done wonderful things and will go on to do wonderful things. We have been impressed by their faith, their commitment to service, and their zeal for life. Please pray for them as they embark on their next paths.

## TO THE GRADUATES

Be blessed. Remember who you are. Remember where you've come from. Remember you will always have a home at Orchard United Methodist Church. We are proud of you. We are thankful for you. Thank you for your generous hearts, your leadership, and your friendship. This church is blessed to have nurtured you and helped you grow. We love you and will miss you. Go in faith, go with God — know that we all wish you all the best.

---

## BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES

Each one of you is a special part of this church family. No one else, in the whole world, is quite like you. We are proud of you, and we love you.

As a congregation, we want to support you,  
and encourage you to continue to grow in your relationship and commitment to Christ.

We bless you to grow in body and mind and spirit.

We bless you to make mistakes,  
and to learn from them, even if the consequences are difficult and painful.

We bless you to explore life, to be adventurous in discovering who God has created you to be.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.*

*Seek God's will in all you do, and God will direct your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5

We promise to support you with our love, counsel, and prayers, and to continue to walk with you on your journey of faith.

*Class of 2020*



# Lizzie Coleman

North Farmington High School

**If God is for us, who can ever be against us?**

*Romans 8:31*

Orchard will forever have a place in my heart. Through the years I've been involved in BLAST, multiple church plays, Club 56, youth choir, Camp Mahn-Go, JAM, F.R.O.G. Week, Fusion, VBS (as a kid and volunteer), and three mission trips. There's no other place where I would have wanted to experience these activities. They're the reason I've stayed at Orchard for all these years.

When I was young, just like many kids, my parents brought me to Orchard and put me in all the programs they offered. Now I'm at an age where I am making decisions for myself and I still always choose Orchard. Orchard is where I've made my closest relationships with people and I will cherish that forever.

Some of my fondest memories are: My confirmation retreat at the church when we sat in the sanctuary and prayed on each other for hours; the mission trip sophomore year when the worksite I was on was with some of my best friends and my sister; my last mission trip that I didn't know was my last at the time.

I want to give a HUGE thank you to all of the adult leaders that have been involved in the youth

group over the years. Most importantly, I want to give special thanks to Nick. Nick has been my youth group leader since my JAM days and has followed my class and me until today. These last 6 years with Nick were unforgettable! Even though we didn't always get along, he changed my life forever. Nick, through my awkward middle school years to my high school years, you have been my mentor and one of the most important people in my life! Thank you for this, Nick, from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you to my parents for introducing me to Orchard and getting me so involved. You have no idea the impact this church has had on me and helped mold me into the person I am today. Lastly, thank you to all of my peers who I've met at Orchard. The experience wouldn't have been the same without each and every one of you.

In the fall I will be attending Michigan State University where I'll be studying Kinesiology with a minor in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

*Go Green!*

*Isabel Dewitt*

North Farmington High School



**Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.**

*Deuteronomy 31:8*

The first day I walked into youth group with Fiona I had no idea that it would become a second home to me. I was so used to not being accepted by churches, but that first day I walked in everyone treated me like I belonged. People wanted me to keep coming and be a part of their little family.

Joining youth group has provided me with a safe place for the past 3 years of my life. I have met amazing people, connected with God, experienced true joy, and learned things about myself that I never would have learned without this wonderful group of people.

I am so thankful that I could experience everything that came along with youth group from the weekly meetings to mission trip. This church has changed my life for the better, and I cannot thank you all enough for making it possible.

I plan to go to Lawrence Technological University in the fall and get my masters in architecture. When I graduate after 5 years I plan to design my own home and build a family for myself.



*Jordan Hammaren*

**North Farmington High School**

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.**

*Proverbs 3:5*

*I*'ve been involved with Orchard since I was a baby. I was baptized there and started to go to Sunday School as soon as I could walk. Over the years I've participated in BLAST, Vacation Bible School, Breakfast with Santa, Club 56, youth group and mission trips.

My favorite by far has been mission trips. I fell in love with these trips starting freshmen year. We went to Hazard, Kentucky, and the week I spent with my work group, my prayer group, and the whole youth group in general really changed my life. I've gone on every mission trip since, and every year they get better and better. I'm so sad that we won't be able to experience our senior mission trip this summer. I'll forever miss the people and the memories that come along with the adventure.

I will be attending the University of Florida this fall to study biology on a pre-med track. I hope to graduate and attend medical school to become a dermatologist. Thank you to the Orchard family for being there throughout everything. I wanna personally thank Sheri Hicks, Colleen Aben, and most of all Nick Bonsky. You guys have made my experiences at church ten times better. Thank you for everything you guys do!

*Go Gators!*

# Jacob Hume

Farmington High School



**The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

*Psalm 18:2*

*M*y name is Jacob Hume and I will be graduating from Farmington High School this spring.

Memories of Orchard flood my mind when I reflect upon the experiences in my life which have been the most influential. From VBS in elementary school to mission trips throughout high school, the community to which I have belonged here has ignited my passion for service, innovation, and challenging conversation—providing a foundation of support which encourages me to hold faith in both God and myself.

I'd especially like to thank Pastor Nick and Pastor Amy for their recognition of faith as an entity which is strengthened when we ask questions and for their close relationships with the youth, as well as Joe Lawrence, Reverend Suzanne, and Jim Ragland for their mentoring guidance. I also want to thank all of the youth leaders who make the transformative experiences found on each Sunday night and mission trip possible.

After much deliberation between it, Columbia University, and the University of Southern California, I have decided to attend the University of Michigan this fall to study electrical engineering and music theory. Whether in academia or industry, I hope to use the passion and perspective which Orchard has cultivated in me to serve others and seek God throughout my future in the realms where science and music intertwine, from pro-audio technology to music related brain-computer interfaces.



# Cameron Jones

North Farmington High School

**“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.”**

*Isaiah 12:2*

First off let me say this about my church, they are caring, kind, and amazing. There is always someone there if you need to talk or even our pastor who loves and cares for everyone that walks through the church door. Our church loves everyone no matter who you are, you are welcome at our church. Our church is open to anyone.

I have grown a lot as a person in this church, I have seen people grow and become more than they ever thought they could be. The last four years of my life as a high school youth has helped me become ME and who I want to be. It helped me in so many ways that I would have never thought.

I will be playing baseball at Alma College and majoring in Computer Science.

I love this church and all its people and you guys have helped me in so many ways that you never knew, I cannot thank you enough nor can I come close to that but I one last time want to say, “Thank you.” Cam

# Gregory Kosiba

North Farmington High School



**“For surely I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD, “plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”**

*Jeremiah 29:11*

*M*y name is Greg Kosiba. I am a product of my environment. I would like to thank my mom and dad for creating opportunities for me and showing me how to make the most of every situation. Thank you for bringing me into the Orchard family. Orchard, thank you for helping me grow from a toddler into young man. I cannot express the joy you have all brought me from Sunday mornings to mission trips. The lessons I have learned and the faith that I have built at Orchard has given me a strong foundation to live a faith filled life. You, as a part of the Orchard family, have greatly impacted my life and I thank you for your guidance along the way.

Orchard has supported me throughout my childhood. I have met some of my best friends at Orchard and created some of my most cherished memories with them at F.R.O.G. weeks, VBS, youth group, mission trips, and Breakfast with Santa, among many other events.

Outside of Orchard, I have been very involved in my community. Some of my highlights during high school include earning the rank of Eagle Scout, serving as North Farmington Class President for junior and senior year, playing 7 different sports and lettering in 6 of them, and being named captain by the lacrosse and soccer teams. In my free time, I have enjoyed playing pickup basketball, going on camping trips, serving the community, and learning as much as my brain could soak up.

I will be graduating from North Farmington High School, and will attend the University of Michigan in the Fall of 2020. GO BLUE! Currently, I plan to study biology and eventually go to dental school to specialize in orthodontics. As I move onto the next stage in my life I will bring the memories, wisdom, and faith that I have acquired, to continue to learn and to grow. Thank you, Orchard, for your encouragement and open hearts.



*Dillon Sharp*

*North Farmington High School*

**“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”**

*Luke 6:31*

*A*s my time as a youth at OUMC draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the impact Orchard has made on my life. My first experiences here were in seventh grade at JAM, and everyone was already very close. However, I fit right in and have built friendships which have lasted all through high school.

I am grateful for all the opportunities which were presented to me during my time at Orchard, including my Kingdom project, F.R.O.G. week, working at the local gleaners food bank, and of course, mission trips. All of these opportunities to serve others undeniably played a major role in who I am today.

I will forever remember the moments spent with my fellow seniors, like our confirmation retreat to Lake Louise, or the van rides to/from mission trip, and bonding with each other and our leaders.

So, as I head to Michigan State University to study biomedical engineering, I would like to thank OUMC for leaving such a positive impact on my life.

# Sam Sheckell

Ernest W. Seaholm High School



Ask and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

I would like to thank everyone that has been involved with my development in the church and being instrumental in memories that will last a lifetime. I have thoroughly enjoyed all my experiences with Orchard. Between Sunday school, BLAST, VBS, Club 56, confirmation, youth group, and mission trip I have made so many great memories and friends at Orchard. I am so grateful to be a part of the remarkably positive community that is Orchard. It has been one of the biggest influences in shaping who I am.

None of this would be possible without all of the amazing members of the congregation that have worked so hard to help me grow. Specifically, I'd like to thank Nick for being the best youth leader I could imagine. I would also like to thank Sheri Hicks, Pastor Amy, and Dan Harmon, along with Nick, for helping me through the confirmation process. I would like to thank all of the mission trip leaders for making mission trip possible, too. Finally, I'd like to thank my parents for everything they have done for me and for allowing me to grow up in such a tight-knit community.

Next year I am attending the University of Michigan and plan on studying engineering.



*Madison Smith*

West Bloomfield High School

**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

Philippians 4:13

*I*'ve been attending Orchard since I was around 8 years old. One of my best friends brought my family and me to a service once and we've loved it ever since. It's hard to believe we're graduating now. Participating in activities with my peers like BLAST, South Oakland Shelter, Club 56, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, youth group and mission trip will be greatly missed. Each of these have made wonderful memories but I will most of all miss our annual mission trips. Sad to say that we aren't able to go on our senior mission trip as it would have been the best yet!

My connection to Orchard and my faith has grown tremendously since I became a member. I will forever be grateful to the way Orchard and the memories have changed my life.

I will be attending Michigan State University in the fall to further my education. My plans are to study Human Biology on a Pre-med track, to later attend medical school and become a Pediatric Oncologist.

I want to thank my Orchard Family including Nick Bonsky, Colleen Aben, Sheri Hicks, and Pastor Amy. Thank You all for everything you've done!

# Isabela Tatem

West Bloomfield High School



**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

Philippians 4:13

Orchard United Methodist Church means the absolute world to me and has been a second home ever since I was a child. When it comes to building life-long relationships with either friends or God, I am so lucky I have such an accepting and welcoming place as Orchard to help me grow into the young woman I am today. My faith has guided me in order to make crucial, but beneficial decisions. What is most important to me as a person is how much I have grown in character. Occasionally I like to look back and reflect on how I have been able to face challenges head on and learning from unexpected bumps in the road. I am very blessed and fortunate to be part of Orchard Family because of their love and support.

In the fall, I plan to attend Roosevelt University and major in BioChemistry while playing on the softball team. I hope to balance

my love for softball and education to involve it in my everyday life. Everytime I am on the field, it reminds me of all of the cherishable memories I had as a child and how much this sport has had such a positive impact on my life.

I would like to thank everyone who has been there for me to guide me through these stepping stones of my faith. I would like to thank and acknowledge Rev. Carol, Rev. Suzanne, the late Rev. Margo, and Mrs. Parker who were all integral parts of my journey of faith. I would really like to thank Pastor Amy and Pastor Nick who have helped me through my high school years and for always showing love and encouragement. Finally, thank you to Alma for being the best sister in the world and to my parents for raising me in a Christian household full of love.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES

*Nick Adamowski*

SCHOOL: Bowling Green State University  
DEGREE: Environmental Science with a  
Specialization in Sustainable  
Management (December 2019)

NEXT YEAR:

I am working as an environmental professional in consulting.

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Waking up early before a day of mission work and running through the Arkansas countryside during the sunrise.



*Katie Bahling*

SCHOOL: Michigan State University  
DEGREE: Special Education

NEXT YEAR:

I will be student teaching in Lansing Public Schools.

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Coming back on mission trips as a leader is my favorite memory from Orchard. Mission trips shaped my youth in such a profound way. It was really special to be able to come back and get to know the current youth at the church and experience mission trip in a new way with them.



# GRADUATION

## *Samantha Fincannon*



SCHOOL: Michigan Technological University  
DEGREE: Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (December 2020)

### NEXT YEAR:

I will go on to Michigan Tech's Accelerated Master's program to get a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering focusing on microelectronics.

### FAVORITE MEMORY:

Some of my favorite memories at Orchard come from Rebuilding Together and mission trips. I loved getting to know people better while working together on the common goal of repairing someone's house. It has taught me how much I love volunteering and will stay with me for the rest of my life as I continue to seek out new opportunities.

---

## *Tyler Hammaren*



SCHOOL: University of Georgia  
DEGREE: Entertainment and Media Studies

### POST-GRAD:

Moving to LA and working as a PA/writers assistant and continuing into screenwriting/content production.

### FAVORITE MEMORY:

I think one of the coolest things I found about Orchard was getting to learn from different people's perspectives and using that to see the world differently than I do so myself! That's really invaluable when writing!

---

## *Rachel Hume*



SCHOOL: Clemson University  
DEGREE: Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Management (December 2019)

### NEXT YEAR:

I hope to pursue a career in outdoor and experiential education or to teach psychology in a high school classroom.

### FAVORITE MEMORY:

As I use this time to reflect on my past four years, the most important way I have seen myself grow is through my faith. While I still wrestle with questions like most people do, my faith is now stronger than it has ever been. I thank Orchard for providing me with a strong foundation and the confidence to continue my faith journey through college as I deepen my personal relationship with Christ.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

## Amanda McMurray

SCHOOL: Michigan State University  
DEGREE: Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education  
(High Honors)

### NEXT YEAR:

I will be student teaching at an elementary school in the Southeast Michigan area (I don't know my exact placement yet), and I will start to work towards my Master's degree.

### FAVORITE MEMORY:

Definitely mission trips and the close relationships that were created on the trips. They were all different but so much fun each time with each new dynamic group of people. Every trip was an awesome overall experience and something that I will remember as one of my favorite memories for my whole life.



## Matthew Rowley

SCHOOL: Loyola University, Chicago  
DEGREE: Biology with a Psychology Minor

### FUTURE PLANS:

Take a gap year for doing some research at the University of Chicago and then apply for medical school to start in the fall of 2021.

### FAVORITE MEMORY:

100% the mission trips. They taught me a lot of skills that I still use to this day and will hope to continue to use for the rest of my life and career.



## Spencer Wright

SCHOOL: Michigan State University  
DEGREE: Finance

### FUTURE PLANS:

I'm going to be a Financial services representative at NBS Wealth Strategies starting in June.

### FAVORITE MEMORY:

Favorite OUMC memory was the mission trip to Atlantic City.





## A Note from Pastor Nick

By now you have realized this isn't our typical Harvester. Of course, this hasn't been a typical year. As COVID spread throughout the country, governors had to make difficult decisions to limit the spread of the virus. One of those decisions was to end in-person schooling for our children, and have them finish the school year from their homes. For the seniors in high school, as well as those graduating from college, this was a decision that meant they would lose out on memories and experiences unique to that time in their life. As their youth pastor, my thoughts have turned to finding ways to support them, and ways we as a church can celebrate their achievements in the face of this pandemic. One of those ways we have chosen to celebrate our graduates is to dedicate the May Harvester to them.

### *To the class of 2020*

I am so very proud of each and every one of you. From your time in confirmation I knew what a special group of kids (now young adults) that you were. I saw the way you connected with one another, laughed with one another, and supported one another—and I continue to be amazed. I will remember when you were all just young teenagers and we all sat in front of the altar in the sanctuary and prayed over each other for three hours; we all left feeling the presence of God. I will remember the countless youth group nights where one moment you would frustrate me, yet in the very next moment bring me to tears with your profound insights and wisdom. I will remember the three mission trips we went on together where I watched you grow from timid 9<sup>th</sup> graders into confident young adults who took leadership on worksites and prayer groups. You are all so very special, and I thank God that I have been blessed with being your youth pastor over these last four years.

Your senior year did not end the way you planned it and I can only imagine how difficult that must be for you. I could tell you that this is the way of life, and that often things don't go the way we planned—but since I know you all so well—I know you already understand that. Instead, the only wisdom that I can give to you, and I believe the most important wisdom one can pass along to anyone, is to continue to seek out where God is in your lives. Continue to live a life where you not only recognize the beauty that is before you and give praise to God for the good times that you experience, but also for the difficult times—because God is with you throughout it all. In just three short months, for many of you, a new part of your life will begin. But that doesn't mean to forget what came before. Remember what it was like to be in a community of faith where you were uplifted and look to continue that in the years ahead.

### *To our college graduates*

As you prepare to step out in the world and begin your careers, may you recognize the gifts that God has created in you. You are an intelligent, compassionate, and driven group of young adults who are preparing to enter the workforce at a challenging time in our world. Have faith that God is with you and works through you in these times and, in recognizing that, be a light in our world that so desperately needs it. May you be the joy to others in this world as you were to me when you were young teenagers. Don't be afraid to share that joy because it can help transform the world. I know that to be true because I know your joy helped transform me into the person I am today.

Now, graduates, go forth and start a new adventure. Open to the next chapter of your book. God is with you always, and will continue to be your foundation as you continue your journey.

God Bless,

*Pastor Nick*

He who began a good work in you  
will be faithful to complete it.

*Philippians 1:6*