

Orchard HARVESTER

August/September 2020

Newsletter of Orchard United Methodist Church

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



Uncertainty. It's not a word I like. I like to know the plan. I like to have it all figured out. I don't like to feel uncertain. I want all loose ends tied up. But since mid-March, I've had to live in the uncertain, as have we all. Back then I thought, "We'll be back together by Easter," and then, "We'll be in person by Mother's Day," and then "We'll be back in the Sanctuary by June," and then, and then. And now, when I'm asked, "When will we be worshipping indoors?" My answer has to be, "I don't know." Which of

course, I hate, because I don't like being uncertain. But that's where we are right now. We know it's not safe to gather more than 10 people indoors. We know that the Bishop has asked us to refrain from inside in-person worship until it's safe. We know that following the science is important and listening to the experts gives us guidance. But I still hate not knowing.

I look at it as an exercise in patience and waiting, which I suppose is good for me. But I don't like the way it makes me feel—somewhat helpless, somewhat insecure. I've told myself that the plan for now is to just not know, and plan for all eventualities. And so, that's what I'm doing—and I find peace in that.

I have found myself reading a lot this summer. During my reading and writing week, I read two books on the theology of Mister Rogers. I think I was attracted to them because Mister Rogers always had a way of providing hope and security. His faith is what guided him throughout his

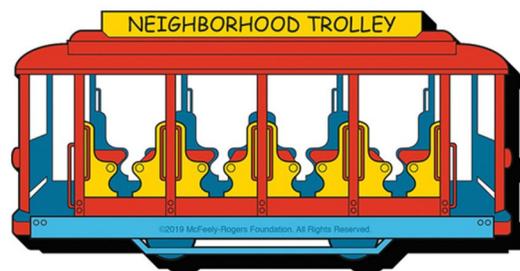
life and his ministry on television. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church, Mister Rogers had a way of always saying what we needed to hear. Words that were rooted in a faith in the Christ he knew as companion and champion over the cross. Words like: "It's really easy to fall into the trap of believing that what we do is more important than what we are. Of course, it's the opposite that's true: What we are ultimately determines what we do!" or "Knowing that we can be loved exactly as we are gives us all the best opportunity for growing into the healthiest of people." and "In times of stress, the best thing we can do for each other is to listen with our ears and our hearts and to be assured that our questions are just as important as our answers."

This fall, we'll listen to the words of Mister Rogers, and find inspiration from him. We'll enjoy the fun and whimsy, as well as find comfort, challenge, hope and strength, all the while drawing on scripture and life lessons. Each sermon title is the title of one of Mister Rogers' songs. See the schedule below.

I look forward to the fall and our time together in worship, class and service. Together and apart, we will find ways to connect to each other and our faith in God.

Faithfully,

Pastor Amy



IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SERMON SERIES

September 13	Matthew 19:13-15	"Won't You Be My Neighbor?"
September 20	Genesis 1:27-31	"It's You I Like"
September 27	Mark 3:1-5	"What Do You Do with the Mad You Feel?"
October 4	Luke 5:15-16	"Goodnight God"
October 11	Matthew 23:11-12	"There are Many Ways to Say 'I Love You'"
October 18	Matthew 18:18-20	"This is My Home"

Opportunities

inclusivity · hospitality · worship · discipleship · mission · generosity

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Greetings friends! August is skipping by and soon we will be into the September swing! I have been enjoying the chance to gather for worship outdoors this summer, and I hope you have too. Let's pray for good weather for as long as possible.

There is some encouraging research coming out about the use of masks and singing, and although we won't be able to gather as a choir or congregation and sing regularly just yet, it does open the possibilities for some more music to be made in person with appropriate precautions. Of course, everything will be dependent on Michigan and Oakland County COVID cases, but I look forward to the addition of some vocal solos and the inclusion of other instrumentalists (like the praise band or handbell ringers) as we move into the fall together. It will be a learning process for us all as we continue to offer full worship online and a supplemental in-person opportunity week-to-week.

In the coming weeks I will be reaching out to members of the Chancel Choir, Praise Band, Chancel Ringers, Kids Bells, and others to gauge the interest levels of what we might do virtually and in real life, safely. I'm sure everyone will have slightly different comfort levels, and that is completely okay. If you want to be added to one of those lists, please be sure to email me by clicking [here](#).

Thanks, and God bless!

[Jantz Black](#)

Director of Music Ministries



BOATING DAY FOR FAMILIES OF 4TH-12TH GRADERS

Sunday, September 13 @ 1 pm

Is your family looking for a fun, outdoor, social distant activity to do? Mark your social calendar "busy" for Sunday, September 13.

Orchard families, with children in 4th-12th grade, will meet at Kensington Metropark at the boat rental dock, near Maple Beach, at 1 pm. Each family can rent their own water vehicle (paddleboats, canoes, kayaks, standup paddle boards, and rowboats are available on a first-come, first-served basis). All children will remain under the direct supervision of their parent/guardian. Masks are required on the boat dock/rental area. Please remember to practice social distancing at all times.

If interested, please sign up using the following signup genius link, [Family Boat Day](#). Information about pricing and boat types are on the link.

Let the paddling begin!



VIRTUAL FLOWERS

You can now request flowers for the online worship service for a donation to Missions. A screen will be prepared and will scroll at the beginning of the service. Just like regular altar flowers, we will put a dedication (from whom, for whom, why). You can sign up through [this form](#). Watch for them to start on August 30! (Thanks, Cheryl Morell, for the great idea!)

Blessed to Be a Blessing

Canned Goods for Cass
(Hands4Detroit)

September Missions Box Collection

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES!

Friday, September 11 & Friday, September 18 at 7:30 pm

Wait we can't. But no, we can! We can go to the drive-in — The Orchard UMC Drive-In! On two Fridays in September, the 11th and the 18th, the Orchard parking lot will turn into a drive-in. To go with our "In Our Neighborhood" Mister Rogers' series this fall, we'll be showing two movies.

On September 11, we will show *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. This is a wonderful movie based on the friendship forged between journalist Lloyd Vogel and Fred Rogers.

On September 18 we will show *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* This documentary about Fred Rogers came out in 2018.



Arrive at 7:30 to get situated and set up—the movie will start shortly thereafter.

Discipleship

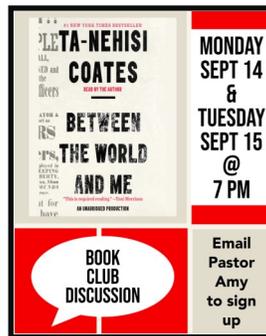
inclusivity · hospitality · worship · discipleship · mission · generosity

ANTIRACIST BOOK CLUB: *Between the World and Me*

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates is next up for our antiracist book club. Toni Morrison declared, "This is required reading." A national correspondent for *The Atlantic*, Coates' book is, in fact, a letter to his adolescent son. In *Between the World and Me*, Coates creates a new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. This book is Coates' attempt to answer questions like:

"What is it like to inhabit a Black body and find a way to live within it?" and
"How can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?"

Between the World and Me is available through Amazon. Book Club discussion will occur via Zoom on Monday, September 14, 2020 and in person outside at the parsonage on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. Both meetings will begin at 7 pm. Contact [Pastor Amy](#) to RSVP for Zoom or outside.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Feisty Women of the Bible There are many stories of women in the Bible—some we know, and some that are not so well known. The class will use a book to read the (short) stories of each woman to more fully understand what happened to them in their time and culture. Then we will discuss what we can learn from them to apply to our lives today. This Sunday morning class will meet via Zoom at 11 am and begins September 13. Open to anyone in the Orchard congregation. If interested, contact [Mary Clark](#).

Wherever you are on your faith journey, there's always room to grow and depth to cultivate. Our fall offerings are meant to give you an opportunity to go one step further than you are today. We challenge you to learn more, grow more, share more, and live into the discipleship to which God has called you!

TUESDAY

Tuesday Mornings with Amy 9:30 am via Zoom beginning on September 22

The Book of Psalms contains some of the most moving words in the Bible. It is a book of songs, poetry, and prayer that demonstrates our human longing, lament, praise, and thanksgiving. And in a time such as this in our history, it seems that the Book of Psalms may have something to offer us more than ever. Join the Tuesday morning Bible Study this Fall—"Tuesdays with Amy." We will study the Psalms by using *The Immersion Bible Study: Psalms*. To purchase the book, search Amazon or Cokesbury for *Immersion Bible Studies: Psalms*. This is an eight-week study and all are welcome. Contact [Pastor Amy](#) to let her know you'll be attending.

Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess 6:30 pm via Zoom beginning September 22

Now more than ever, it feels like things are a mess. The pandemic, the protests, the politics—it's all a mess. And that doesn't even include our own personal messes of guilt and shame and desperation. Tuesdays at 6:30 this fall, beginning on September 20, Pastor Amy will lead this six week study using Toom Berlin's book *Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess*. Together we will learn about navigating the mess and finding redemption in the midst of it. This book is available through Amazon or Cokesbury.com. To sign up, contact [Pastor Amy](#).

Heart Sisters 8 pm via Zoom* beginning September 15

Heart sisters began several years ago as a group of moms who just wanted to connect and support each other. We discuss faith, we discuss life, and we pick different books to chat about throughout the year. We only open up the group once a year because information shared during meetings is confidential and keeping the group closed helps build trust and understanding among us. This year we're opening up the group to those from Nardin Park and Farmington First UMCs. *Group size will determine possible in-person or Zoom meetings. Contact [Colleen Aben](#) with your interest.

WEDNESDAY

The Bible 101 6:30 pm via Zoom beginning September 23

The Bible is an intimidating book to open. Filled with thousands of years of stories spanning from Adam and Eve in Genesis to the Revelation of John. Where does one even begin? Join Pastor Nick for a Bible study focusing on this very question during this eight week class. Each week we will break down a series of biblical books, and discuss what is in them, and why they should still be read today. If you are someone who doesn't know where to begin, or desire to deepen your understanding of the biblical books you have steered clear of in the past, then this is a class you will want to join. Contact [Pastor Nick](#) for the Zoom link.

THURSDAY

A Thousand Tongues to Sing

6:30 pm via Zoom
beginning September 24

During this eight week class, we will explore the lives and works of some of the most important hymn writers in history: Charles Wesley, Isaac Watts, Fannie Crosby, and others. We will also explore some lesser-known authors and 20th/21st century texts. Materials will be provided electronically. To sign up, email [Jantz Black](#).

News for Children and Youth

STAYING CONNECTED WHILE APART



"Though miles may keep our hands from touching, our hearts can never be separated."

I love to collect quotes. They help me express my thoughts clearly even when my mind feels jumbled. The above quote really hits home right now. For most of you, I have not seen you in person in 5 months or more. Yet even though I have not seen your faces in the pews or narthex, you are thought of in my

heart when I see Caring Connections and when I pray for our congregation. As much as I would love to get together back inside the church, I have reconciled with the fact that it's beyond my control and may be a while. In the meantime, we are working hard behind the scenes to connect and provide programming to help you feel connected while apart. Here's just a few ways you can get involved or connect with others. For questions on any of these items below, please contact me.

[Colleen Aben](#) Children's Ministry Director

ELEMENTARY BLESSINGS OF THE BACKPACKS—COVID STYLE

Staring out a new school year is a BIG deal. I can tell you after 8 years teaching in a classroom I still got nervous jitters every single year. Usually at this time of year, we have everyone bring their backpack to a worship service

and we provide a blessing with a backpack trinket for each child. We do this because we want the kids to know that they are loved and we are praying for them throughout the school year. This year things are a little different.

For children from nursery to 6th grade, we are putting together goody bags with a few supplies to help with school at home. I am preparing bags for any K-6 student who has attended WOW at least once last year. If your child has not been to WOW in over a year and you are interested in a goody "blessing" bag, please contact me. **After the 9 am outdoor worship service on August 23**, bags will be available for pickup by the children's wing entrance (near the Memorial Garden). I'll get to see you and say "HI!" and there will be some more friendly faces here, too, while you get a special treat and your goody bag. Can't wait to see you!

FALL FAITH FORMATION

In addition to WOW (Worship Our Way), I would like to provide an alternative to Sunday school for those families who are interested. There are several options such as being put into small groups with other families as well as being provided materials for your own family study. I need your input so that I can better plan to meet your needs. PLEASE click [here](#) to fill out this short survey to help!



"Everyone longs to be loved. And the greatest thing we can do is to let people know that they are loved and capable of loving." – Mister Rogers



Senior High Youth Group will be kicking off this September! In a time of distancing, we encourage 9th through 12th graders to join a group where the love of Jesus is shared through small groups both in person, or through Zoom — whichever way is more comfortable for those who participate. Groups will be 6-8 people, and will be led by two adult leaders. The best part—each group will set their own times and spaces to meet! It could be at church or outside or at a leader's house. The only thing that limits you will be your creativity for meeting spaces! Each week will have new games, discussion questions, and voices to help the youth experience where God is at work in this world, and how Jesus can transform their lives. We encourage all 9th through 12th graders to participate. How do they sign up? Join us for our

first outdoor youth group meeting at the church on Sunday, September 13 @ 6:30 pm where we will work on creating our groups and set meeting times. You can also email [Pastor Nick](#).

Jr. High Youth Group is fast approaching! Designed for 7th and 8th graders, the Jr. High Youth Group is tailored to create laughter, joy, and friendship as faith is formed and developed. As the kids learn of Jesus, they will play games, have challenging discussions, and grow closer as a group. Meetings for this group will be hybrid—offering both in-person meetings as well as Zoom meeting dates. This will allow everyone the ability to participate. We will begin with an outdoor in-person meeting at the church on Sunday, September 20 from 5:30-6:30 pm. You can email [Pastor Nick](#) for more information.



In the Life of Orchard



Sunny Staff Meeting



Two of our confirmands—Tobias Huber and Ben Mayo-Moyle—deliver the August Mission Box collection to Cass.

Sanctuary upgrade to install equipment for live-streaming worship services is complete! Stay tuned while staff and volunteers learn new skills!



Our in-person outdoor worship services at 9 am on Sunday mornings have been great!



In the life of Orchard, we believe in the power of prayer.

Many prayers have been requested since June, when the last prayer list was included in the Harvester. In this edition are the most current prayer requests from June through mid-August.

Let us pray...

WE PRAY FOR...

Colleen Aben
Jo Ann Andrees and her family
Ross Arseneau
Sue Bartram
Sandy Cagle and her ICU nurse practitioner team
 Sandy Cagle's cousin, **Debbie Newberry**, and Debbie's mother, **Martha Williams**
Tom and Mary Clark's friend
Jim Cogsdill
 Jeanie Graham's friend, **Mollie**
Josh Gronlund
Piper Heffelbower
Sheri Hicks
 Sheri Hicks' friends, **the Macias/Cranford families**
 Diane Holden's brother, **Tom**
 Hursts' granddaughter, **Hannah Malerman**
Rev. Carol Johns
 Julie Larson's sister-in-law's sister, **Becky Waterson**

Ken Lipka
Norma Lipka
 Jodi Lloyd's friend, **Lori Hansen**
Bill Lupher
Bill Lupher's classmate
Hilary Mahon and her family
Rebecca Mann and her family
 Susan Marshall's friend's niece, **Dawn Royal**
Reagan Matthews
 Carol Money's sister, **Laura**, and her friend, **Sarah and her family**
Michael Morell
 Morells' friend, **CJ Percle**
 Todd Morell's boss, **Amy Kelley**
Joyce Nauman
Loved ones of Bernie Rish
Michelle Salley
Rev. Bea Soots
John and Mary Ann Trenkle
 Mary Ann Trenkle's cousin, **Ingrid and her family**, her friend, **Mary Kay Horsely**, and her friend, **Rena Murphy and her family**

Trenkles' friend, **John Kern**
 Ellen Voss' friend, **Erika Kelley, her husband, Joey, and their 3 year old daughter**
John Young
WE REMEMBER...
 Gwen Bostwick's mother, **Joan Bostwick** (July 2)
Bernie (Bernina) Rish (July 10)
 Rebecca Mann's sister-in-law, **Margaret** (July 21)
 Jo Ann Andrees' nephew, **Michael** (July 23)
Dick Lipka (July 24)
 Hilary Mahon's mother, **Mary Brooks** (August 9)
Janice Christy (August 15)
Marilyn Mansfield (August 18)

pray

"All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."

-Fred Rogers

First, I want you to pray for all people. Ask God to help and bless them. Give thanks for them.

-1 Timothy 2:1 (NIRV)

GET EXCITED FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

We're highlighting some of the events we've planned for October, November, and December. More details will be available in electronic communications through online Church News/Caring Connection emails and in future Harvesters.

OCTOBER Pumpkin Patch—The perfect place where we can greet our neighbors safely *and* help others in need by selling pumpkins for Missions Outreach. Dates to be determined. Watch for more information on how to sign up to help soon!



NOVEMBER Thankful Thursdays—Special evening worship services to be live-streamed.

DECEMBER Drive Thru Living Nativity on Saturday, December 19, and Sunday, December 20. Lots of opportunities to welcome our community and spread Christmas cheer!

Drive Thru Living Nativity
SATURDAY, December 19
and
SUNDAY, December 20
 both days from 5:30-8:30 pm



Find more information at our [Orchard website](#). To see the online church events calendar, [click here](#).

~ September 2020 Birthdays ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Beau Bloomfield Woody Joy Janice Mitchell Mirei Yamamoto	2 Michelle Bloomfield Julian Edwards Ben Frick Jacob Piper	3 Eli Bonsky Bianca Hasani	4 Ryan Buckwalter Juanita Goodwillie Ruth Lynn Joyce Nauman Brenda Schultz Eric Stanis	5
6 Jim Cogsdill Cindy Rescoe	7 Alex Hamilton Diana Robbins	8 Steve Catherman Sydney Niles	9 Todd Salley Charley Stone	10 Joe Johnson Hudson Moore	11 Brian Burns John Carbott Carol Rice	12 Diana Kuenzli Dick Troyanek
13 Bill Hiner Helen Moore Lois Quinn	14 Darcie Cohn	15 Camden Stanis	16 Edie Kochanek Reese Schiffrman	17 David Cripps Jacob Kuenzli Bill Lupher Benn Symanow	18	19 Spencer Bradway Peggy Knuttila Ted Tabek
20 Curt Niles	21 Ana Fernandez Eunice Hitchcock Tessa McGlashan	22 Jo Ann Andrees Fiona Head Mary Manier Caye Matthews	23	24 Matt Larson Jim Rocktoff	25 Sandy Catherman Michael Derian Rachel Fox Connor Kuenzli	26 Nate Kirby
27 Michael Parry Mike Snyder Scott Whetter	28 Corbin Harnden Ken Lipka Peggy Schmidt	29 Sarah Hume Sam Sheckell	30 Soorim Yoo			