

Connections

SEPTEMBER 2020

[God] said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

1 Kings 19:11-13a

Between the pandemic, the economic crisis, political divisiveness and racial tension, we have all been thrown into a chaotic mess. Finding solid ground to stand on can be difficult. Now is the time to examine the foundation upon which we build our lives, personally and as the church. What is God saying to us in the midst of all this?

By now, most of you have had at least a couple of days to contemplate your Church Council's decision to recommend that the church membership vote on selling the building. This does not come without months of prayer, soul-searching, discernment and prayer on everyone's behalf. There are several things I pray that you will take away from this announcement.

This does NOT mean we are closing Wyoming Park UMC. If you choose to sell the building,

it does not mean that we are closing the church. We may come to that conclusion down the road, but from what I have heard from previous surveys is that you desire to stay together. We will need to look at our options. I will be in conversations with the people at the district and conference levels who will assist us in looking at those options. If we sell the building, can we rent or purchase a smaller facility with less maintenance? Can we rent space from another church? Are there other options? I will do my best to keep you updated on the progress in my weekly emails.

In the meantime, we are still the Church in a particular place at a particular time, and the Good News needs to be heard and seen by us, in us and through us!

Which leads me to a thank you. **Thank you to all those who wrote cards** to the staff at Parkview Elementary. This year we have a unique opportunity to be especially good neighbors. Schools have a difficult task ahead of them. Supporting the teachers and staff with encouraging words is a small act that can go along way. Thank you for taking the time to do so.

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Connections News & Notes

SEPTEMBER 2020

Continued:

The Gathering will be hosting an outdoor **Voter Registration event** in the parking lot/yard of the church on **Wednesday, September 16, 4-7 pm. This is a non-partisan event.** We cannot and are not endorsing a political party or candidate. Offering our neighbors an easy option to register to vote is both “sharing love” and “bringing hope,” part of our mission as a church. If you have signed up to help, please be at the church at 3:30 for a short training session. We will be social distancing, wearing masks, etc. to be safe.

As you can see, we are busy being the church even as we worship online and in-person, keep paying attention to being safe, and ponder the future of our building.

Elijah didn't find the answer in the wind, earthquake or fire. He found it in the sound of sheer silence. There is sound in silence, and it appears it is the voice of God speaking. I pray that you will find time to listen for God speaking to you about the church, your personal life, about the world we live in. And may you heed the voice speaking to you.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kim

In-Person Worship

We will continue to hold in-person worship, alternating with Courtland Oakfield every other Sunday. The services will also continue to be seen on Wyoming Park's facebook page.

Online Worship

You may continue to watch live video sermons on Sundays at 10am on Facebook. Go to Wyoming Park's Facebook page to see Pastor Kim give her sermon. If you are unable to watch live, you may still watch on WP's Facebook page at any time. Videos will also be posted to our website (www.wyomingparkumc.com) at a later time.



Family Promise at Wesley Park

At the moment, Family Promise is housing those with needs in local motels. They hope to return to local churches in early fall. Wesley Park is not scheduled until late fall. Watch for details.

Feed America Mobile Food Pantry



This fall, the "food truck" will alternate between Gladiola Elementary, West Elementary and Parkview Elementary. It is scheduled to be at Parkview Elementary on Monday, 9/28/20 and Monday, 11/30/20. Watch for details. Please contact Don Williams with any questions.

Prayers

Those affected by Covid-19.

Sara Boverhof and her family, as they continue to deal with Peter's injury and with Sara's chronic illness, and as they try to sell their home.

Below is a list of persons related to Wyoming Park who are unable to be present with us. Please keep them in your prayers, and send them a note or card, or give them a call. They need to feel connected to this community and we need to be connected to them.

Liz Sloomaker, Dick and Jane Younker, Mary Mol, Jan Luurtsema, and Joan Roe.

Those in the military service:

Greg Schaefer, Jason Lavengood, Joseph Landon, Stephen Rine, Mike Lindsey, Tom Young, Jeremy Rainey, and David Harris.

Those in community service:

Patrick Agema, Jake Agema

Keep in Touch With Your Church

Family:

Mary Mol, who is now at Green Acres-Her address is: Green Acres-Standale, 11276 1st Ave NW Room 207, Grand Rapids, MI 49544.

Joanne Kamps, who is staying with her daughter for the time being. If you would like to send cards, her address is: 1124 E. Maple Ave., Orange, CA 92866.

Paul Garvin is at 1275 Walker, Apt. 2201, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Dick and Mary Jane Younker have moved to Sunset Manor: 725 Baldwin St. #123, Jenison, MI 49428.



September

Birthdays

September 4 Rob Roe

September 7 Dick Bierschbach

September 7 Molly Kramer

September 11 Sharon Green

September 16 Don Williams

September 20 Jason Squires

September 21 Ron Green