



The LaGrave News

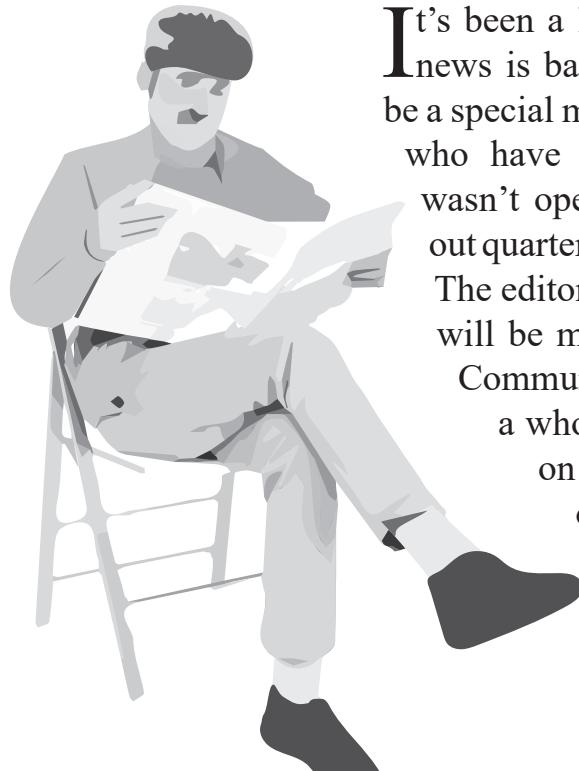
November 2022



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LaGrave News Is Back!



It's been a long time coming but LaGrave news is back and here to stay. There will be a special memorial addition to honor those who have passed away while the news wasn't operational and then it will come out quarterly again, starting with this issue! The editor and chief of the LaGrave news will be me, Jared Mulder. I am the new Communications Specialist and there's a whole article about me and my job on page 6. LaGrave news has been one of the many places where the church can communicate with the congregation. Each of these platforms we

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use to communicate has its specific purpose. Our bulletin is built to give essential information for Sunday, our news and opportunities email blast let people know what's coming up and how they can get involved and we have social media, which we haven't been using much recently. I hope to revive it as a way of letting people know what ministries and events are going on at

LaGrave. The longer format of the LaGrave news allows us to get more information out to you. With the loss of LaGrave news, we also lost the ability for members to have a better understanding of what's happening at LaGrave.

Welcome, New Members!

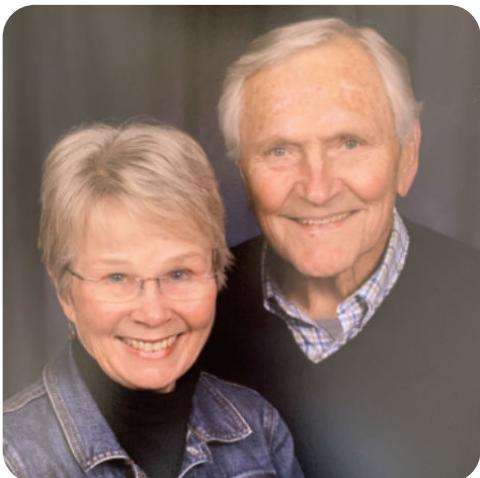
2021-2022



Dave & Jamie Slotsema
(Henry, Daniel)
Joined: March 14, 2022



Anne Poortenga
Joined: September 12, 2022



Barb Verduin
Joined: August 8, 2022



Ellen Wierenga
Joined: September 12, 2022



Matt & Julie Bos
Joined: September 12, 2022



Mark and Sara Christner
(Leo, Elin and Nora)
Joined: September 12, 2022



Brad and Amber Schaap
(Isaac and Audrey)
Joined: September 12, 2022



David & Jennifer Rietema
(Abraham, Harriet)
Joined: April 11, 2022



Anneka Bos
Joined: August 8, 2022



Mercedes Ebbers
Joined: August 8, 2022



Jan Hoeksema
Joined: August 8, 2022



Darian Seale
Joined: August 8, 2022



Laura Palsrok
Joined: November 8, 2021



Gerry & Liz Rozeboom
Joined: November 8, 2021



Nate & Annika Bosma
Annika Joined: June 13, 2022



Don & Evonne Plantinga
Joined: August 9, 2021



Dave & Marge Tornga
Joined: September 13, 2021



Jake & Lauren Verhey
(Anika-not pictured)
Joined: June 14, 2022

New Member Dinner

In March 2022, the new member committee welcomed its first new member dinner in two years. 60 guests, all new LaGrave joiners since 2019, and 20 members and church staff sat for a real live, in person, hot chicken dinner. Fellowship was wonderful under Peter Jonker's leadership. Then there were great get-to-know you questions for continued discussions round the tables!

The new member committee looks forward to a repeat evening this Spring. We welcome anyone who has recently become a members of LaGrave. We will have a grand tour of the

property from historians Don Dekker and Peter Jonker - makes the event extra special.

It's a privilege to foster new members into fellowship and community at LaGrave. Eventual thriving of new members depends on their feeling comfortable and getting to know names, faces, and testimonies at their new home church. One, lovely, spirited spring dinner won't complete that task but it's a great way to kickstart relationship-building.

Look for the next new member dinner in March or April 2023.

Registers are Reclaimed!

Welcome registers have made their way back into services at LaGrave. Members, guests and visitors are welcome to sign their name as the tan booklet goes down the aisle. Neighbors can get to know seat neighbors a little bit better, Greetings with names makes everyone feel smarter and more welcomed so . . . pass the booklet if you are seated on the inside aisle seat.



Staff Updates

Meet The New Communications Specialist

Hello! My name is Jared Mulder. Some of you might already know a little about me from the email that was sent out, but I wanted to share more about who I am and what I will be doing here. I was born and raised right here in Grand Rapids. I grew up going to Millbrook CRC which has now unfortunately disbanded. I was fortunate to get a great Christian



education through Grand Rapids Christian schools, then went on to study at Calvin University. I enjoyed my time there and found a love for communication design. I recently graduated last spring with a degree in Digital Communications which led me to the job here. I was also fortunate to marry my high school sweetheart in June. So there have been lots of big changes in my life recently, for which I am so grateful and blessed.

As for being the new communications specialist, I am in charge of sending out the weekly emails (News and Opportunities, Weekly Prayer List, and Preparing for Worship), the church's social media accounts, putting together LaGrave News, and Updating the LaGrave website. I hope to use my academic and professional experience to help the church communicate clearly and effectively. If you have any questions or want to say hi, my email is jmulder@lagrave.org.

Who is Chad Boorsma?

Chad Boorsma has been serving as our Pastoral Care Associate since July 2021 and recently added duties as liaison to several committees, including missions, spiritual formation, and fellowship. Prior to joining the

staff at LaGrave, he served as one of our Pastoral Care Assistants (formerly Deaconesses). Chad began attending LaGrave regularly in 2018, and prior to that was the Worship Director at several area churches (West Leonard CRC,

Beaverdam Reformed Church, and Second CRC in Byron Center), where he planned and led worship and played the piano and organ. He also taught for Zeeland Public Schools for 26 years (17 years full-time, the last 9 years part-time).

Chad graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary in 2021 with a Certificate in Ministry Leadership and is now continuing to take classes in the Master of Divinity program. He is also a graduate of Hope College and Western Michigan University, and has taken classes at both Aquinas and Kuyper Colleges.



Director of Community Engagement, Erin Alley

If we were sharing a cup of coffee, I would ask you what's been fun about your life lately and I would enjoy telling you what's been fun about mine. Saying goodbye to Pastor Mike was so hard. He believed in me back in 2017 when he offered me the position of Doorstep Ministry Coordinator. But something fun lately was making his old office into my office for the time being. Serving the LaGrave family and the Heartside neighbors as the Director of Community Engagement is another fun thing in my life right now. I spend time walking through the city, talking with neighbors and other people doing similar work as me. I spend time gathering with neighbors at Spa Day and talking with my church family after morning worship. Probably the most fun thing about my life right now is counting down the days until I finish seminary - less than 50 days from now, if you're wondering. It is one of my deepest joys to represent LaGrave Church in our city through my work in community engagement

and to call each of you a sibling in Christ. My door is open - come anytime, you're always welcome!



Music at LaGrave

Instrumental Carol Sing Returns

The Annual Instrumental Carol Sing—including an all-church orchestra—one of the most beloved, intergenerational worship services of the year—will be returning this December following an absence of four years due to inclement weather and the pandemic.

On Sunday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m., the congregation will gather for worship to join in singing several beloved Christmas carols accompanied by an all-church orchestra made up of musicians of all ages and skill levels, from beginning band and orchestra students to professional symphony members, to senior citizens who may not have played their instrument in years.

Hearing the Bells Ring Again!

“Welcome back” to the LaGrave Bells Jubilate bell choir! Like so many other musical ensembles, the pandemic silenced the joyful ringing, and we have not seen or heard the full bell choir for almost three years. Weekly rehearsals began in September, and the group is scheduled to participate in worship each month.

Our Bells Jubilate enjoys a long history of excellence. LaGrave is blessed to have 5 octaves of English handbells and 5 octaves of handchimes. That equals over 70 instruments in all! This allows the choir to play sophisticated music with many bells and chimes ringing

If you play a traditional band or orchestra instrument and fit in one of the above categories, you are invited to participate in this special service. Karel de Waal Malefyt will serve as this year’s director. A pre-service rehearsal will be held at 4:15 p.m. on the stage in the sanctuary.

If you are interested in participating in this service, watch for the electronic sign-up in an email blast sent out in mid-November. Any questions you may have can be answered by contacting Dr. Larry Visser (lvisser@lagrave.org).



at the same time. This enhances the beautiful harmony and rhythm that one can observe as members play. Handbells are considered a

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percussion instrument (just like the piano), and dates to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The body of a bell includes the lip,

mouth, sound bow, waist, head, shoulder, and of course, the clapper, the actual hinged part that hits the bell to make its beautiful sound.

There is a Seat Waiting for You in the LaGrave Chancel Choir

You are cordially invited to sing with the LaGrave Chancel Choir for the Christmas season! If your schedule does not allow you to sing in weekly rehearsal and worship participation on a regular

basis, please consider joining the choir for Christmas. Rehearsals for the Advent and Christmas Eve worship services begin Wednesday, November 23, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The schedule for participating in worship is 11/27 (8:40), 12/4 (11:00), 12/11 (8:40), 12/18 (11:00), and Christmas Eve at 11:00 p.m. Please contact interim choir director Dr. James Borst (jborst@lagrave.org) if you would like to join. No audition required.

New Chairs for the LaGrave Choirs



Thanks to the LaGrave BTF Committee and an anonymous matching gift donor, 100 new chairs were purchased for the choir program at LaGrave. These chairs are specifically designed for musicians to sit with proper posture in a comfortable way. Many conductors call them “two-hour” chairs because musicians can sit on them for long periods of time without getting physically exhausted. All our choir members from kindergarten to adult will benefit from using these beautiful chairs for generations to come. Next time you’re near the music wing of LaGrave, come have a seat.

Bells Gloria

Sunday afternoons, the Handbell Room comes alive with the energy and musical passion exuded by our Bells Gloria handbell ringers. Even with many other activities available, these young musicians gather faithfully to work as a team, full of focus, to

learn the pieces for an upcoming worship service. It is a blessed, consecrated time. The choir shares the satisfaction of bringing a piece from the first unsteady reading to the unified presentation. They trust each other,

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depend on each other to be there to complete the sound. Each ringer is bringing all their musical skills to the mix, reading and counting, and listening for the whole as well as being responsible for their individual bells. It is beautiful also to see how they encourage each other, celebrate progress on a difficult passage, and worship through their music. They have been exploring various styles of hymnody and the stories behind the hymns. Now they are working on Christmas selections for our special Dec. 11 worship service. The choir members helped select a book of bell music last season, and completed half of the selections. They have their sights set on completing the remaining pieces from that book. These committed young musicians plan to continue building



their skills and reach that goal. The choir has an opening and if your young musician wishes to join the choir in January, please contact Trish Brummel at tbrummel@lagrave.org. BELLs GLORIA Members: Jonathah Bouwman, Olivia Ackerman, Isabella Redder, Mia Ackerman, Joellah Bouwman, Penelope Redder, Asher Konyndyk, Eleanor Borgman, Thomas Borgman.

Children's and Youth Choirs

Our upper and lower elementary choirs are growing in number and musicality! Kindergarten, first and second graders sing together from 10-10:45 on Sunday mornings while older siblings and parents engage in church school classes. We will be leading worship in mid-November. Our upper elementary singers meet on Wednesday nights before dining together and

heading off to other LaGrave activities. Both choirs will participate in our children's Christmas program the second weekend of December.

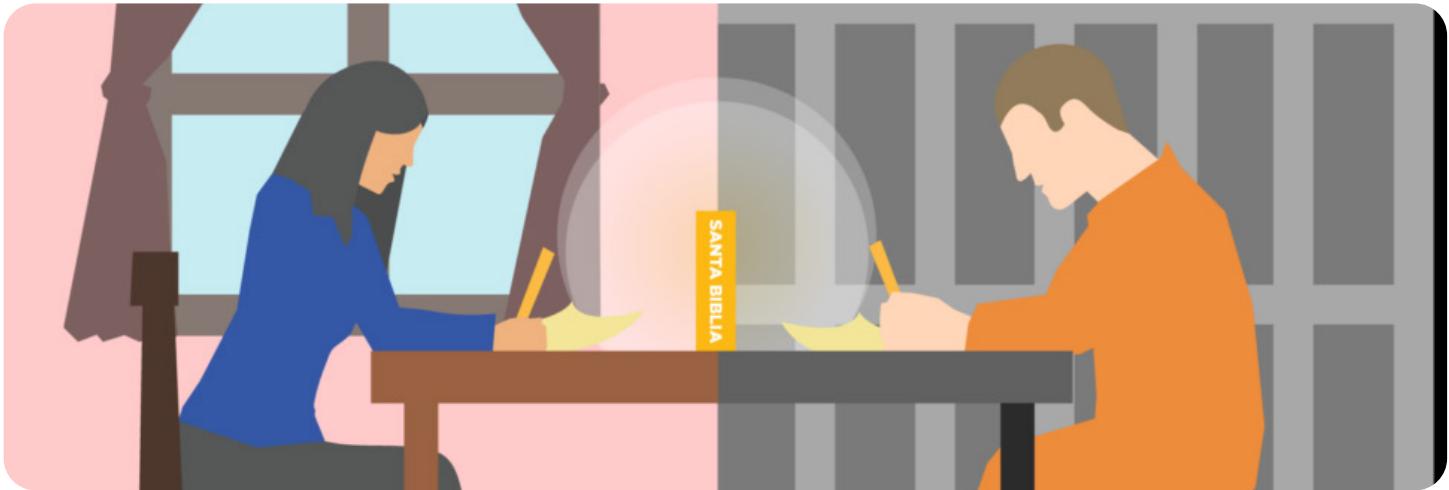
Our middle school and high school singers had the opportunity to lead worship in mid-October and are currently

prepping for the November Koinonia service by learning a few songs in Spanish to sing with Calvin graduate, Carlos Lemagne. This choir is also looking forward to singing for our afternoon Christmas Eve service.

If your child is interested in joining one of our choirs here at LaGrave, please contact Renee Vande Wege (rvandewege@lagrave.org).



Crossroads Prison Ministries Needs Bible Study Mentors



There is an epidemic of loneliness behind bars, and we believe the church is the answer! Hebrews 13:3 States, “Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place.”

As a Crossroads mentor, you will review Bible study lessons from people in prison and write them letters of hope and encouragement. You will hear their stories and have an opportunity to let them know that they are not forgotten and that they are deeply loved by God. Crossroads Ministries will provide detailed instructions and handbooks to help you in this important work, work that is changing lives every day in every state of our country.

Currently, LaGrave has about 25 mentors who are impacting perhaps 30 prisoners monthly.

Crossroads Prison Ministry, located in Grand Rapids will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year. In the past year, nearly 30,000 prisoners in all 50 states participated in this ministry. About 2,500 mentors reviewed and responded

“Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place.”

Hebrews 13:3

to nearly 111,000 lessons. CPM also mailed out 11,330 Bibles to prisoners in 1,986 facilities.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry, visit Crossroads at <https://cpministries.org/get-involved/>. You can also contact Bob Otte at Robert.otte@att.net or 616-534-9396 for more information.

Jesus said we would see him when we visited someone in prison. (Matthew 25:36) As a mentor, you will be able to do just that.

LaGrave's Covenant with Cuba

LaGrave Church has had a long 60-year relationship in support of the ministry of outreach in Cuba. In 1995 when the Cuba Committee of the Henry Beets Misson Society was formed, the LaGrave Council and the Cuban CRC Synod made a covenant agreement. In the Covenant the parties agreed to pray for one another and to give such assistance to one another as benefits our growth together in Christ... The spiritual inspiration you have given us through your faithfulness to our Lord and His teachings equals, indeed surpasses, the material benefit you have received from us...we pray that you may receive this communication as a pledge of our commitment to you...to the renewal of this special relationship between us for our mutual spiritual growth, for the building of the Kingdom, and for the glory of God.

Over the intervening years the Cuban government has not been supportive or even kind to Cuban Christians. Currently Cuba is a country in despair. Poverty, food shortage, unemployment and political pressure have tried to suppress the population and the church. But the church has survived. In spite of difficulties, a new spirit of evangelism is evident. Persecution has strengthened commitment. The leader of the Cuban CRC was an important and vocal voice for that perseverance, for change and for strengthening of 13 churches in Cuba. But in spite of his efforts, political retribution forced he and his family to leave Cuba for safety to Florida. But, that is not the end of God's plan. With continued help from LaGrave, God will open

new doors of opportunity for Yordanys Diaz. The LaGrave Covenant with Cuba survives. Share the Cuba story with us at the November 20 evening service at LaGrave.

**"We pray that you
may receive this
communication
as a pledge of our
commitment to you."**



Social Concerns Highlights

The Social Concerns Committee (SCC) works to ensure that our congregation is intentional about being a downtown church, striving to use our various gifts to serve and bless the surrounding community. We partner with local organizations to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors through monthly special offerings and service opportunities. SCC oversees the Doorstep Ministry as well as the Heartside Foot Care Clinic (pictured) that serves 80-100 neighbors every month. We also address specific one-time needs through our discretionary funds, such as sponsoring a Black Book Exchange Box and providing prizes for the YMCA's summer youth softball league All-Star game.

This holiday season, as in years past, SCC will be collecting toys to donate to The Other Way for their Christmas store. This annual program allows parents

to shop for gifts for their children at a discounted price, making Christmas joy more affordable for those in need. More details regarding this opportunity (and others!) can be found in the weekly News and Opportunities email blasts. If you would like more information on how to contribute to the work of this committee or have any questions, please reach out to Susan Pastoor or Jana Eding.



Blessed to be a Blessing

The function of the Planned Giving Committee is to administer LaGrave Avenve Christian Reformed Church's Planned Giving program. The goal is to

encourage and assist members and friends of LaGrave to consider giving - via Memorial Gifts, Testamentary Gifts through Wills & Trusts, Life Insurance or other means - that

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further the mission and purpose of LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church and the advancement of God's Kingdom. The Planned Giving Committee does not promote any specific project or mission of LaGrave. Its only function is to create an awareness of opportunities via Planned Giving.

To that end, the Committee plans to provide a series of articles outlining various opportunities such as the Benefactors Trust Fund, Henry Beets Mission Society, Christian Education, the Building Improvement Fund, and several others.

This LaGrave News article features the Benefactors Trust Fund. The LaGrave Benefactors Trust Fund (BTF) was founded to attract gifts to bring about the expansion and enlargement of LaGrave Avenue CRC for activities and services to its members, the community, and all persons. This is a very broad and daunting commission for the church as well as the BTF Trustees.

Gifts given to BTF may be varied in nature but are typically cash. The Trustees may respectfully decline to accept certain types of gifts or gifts made for specific purposes if they are not in keeping with the Trust's Indenture and By-laws (the rules under which the Trust is governed). Undesignated gifts given to the Church are typically split into four areas: Christian Education Foundation, Henry Beets Mission Society, Building Improvement Fund and BTF. The Trustees manage gifts designated for BTF and other gifts that are accepted by the Trustees. The Trustees retain the Barnabas Foundation as a professional manager of BTF investments. If funds received are designated in writing by the donor to be expended for a specific purpose, the Trustees will manage the funds to the accomplishments of the donor's request. Funds coming to BTF without designation are split 50-50, with one half being maintained as

restricted (to be permanently preserved), and the other half earmarked as unrestricted.

The unrestricted funds, and income from the restricted funds, "may be temporarily accumulated" and invested. All these latter funds are to be expended in conformity to the rules governing them. These rules are quite broad and may be used for LaGrave programs centered on youth, missions, education, music, benevolence and community activities. The only restriction is one that prevents use of funds for "normal and regular costs, contributions, expenditures or obligations" of the church.

BTF expends funds "only in response to written proposals from committees or other organizations under the supervision of the governing body of the Church". Applications for funding can be found on the church website.

It is the hope of the Planned Giving Committee that these articles will provide members of LaGrave the opportunity to become more familiar with the various ways in which they can contribute to the church's planned giving. Should you have any questions or comments related to planned giving at LaGrave, you are welcomed and encouraged to contact a member of the Planned Giving Committee:

Tom Waalkes (Chair)

Jean Garehan

Mark Stuit

Larry Bos, Jr.

Jan Heerspink

Carolyn DeNeut

Mitchell Schroder

**"I will bless those who
bless you, and whoever
curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through
you."**

Genesis 12:3

The LaGrave LiveStream

Have you ever wondered who is responsible for the livestreaming of LaGrave's worship services? Seventeen members faithfully serve operating the cameras, audio boards and computer slide program to bring the services into the homes of those who are worshiping online.



1st row: Micah Manion, Brad VanHaitsma, Paul Mitchell, Julie Molenbeek, Deb Bakker, Julie Rietberg. 2nd row: Seth Rogers, Tim Haverkamp, James Horton, Rich Bouma, Aaron Elzinga, Ethan Koeman. Not pictured: Jonathah Bouwman, Georgie Scholtens, Thomas Wodarek, Lane DenBoer and Amy Kimber.

News From The LiveSafe Team

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic abuse/violence is the violation of the human rights of a person and can take on various forms: physical harm, sexual harm, psychological, economic harm or suffering to women. It is a significant issue not only in the United States, but globally. Often though, it is hard to know on an individual level what you can do to stop something as significant and widespread as domestic abuse. However, there are basic steps everyone can

take to work towards a future where such violence is reduced or eliminated. Individuals like you can be an ally to domestic violence victims and survivors by:

- Listening: victims and survivors need to be listened to – perhaps over and over again;
- Believing: victims and survivors need to be believed;
- Acknowledging: acknowledgment of the

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harm that has been done;

- Non-judging: do not judge victims and survivors for their behavior, ways of coping, attitudes, or questions;
- Reassuring: reassurance that responsibility for the abuse lies with the one who abused;
- Validating: validation of reactions, feelings, and responses;
- Supporting: to be supported by someone willing to walk the journey, whatever path is chosen;
- Speaking out: add your voice to call out violence;
- Intervening: find a safe way to help when

you see acts of gender-based violence; and

- Acting: give your time to organizations working to end violence; think about joining LaGrave's LiveSafe team.

If you or someone you know or love is experiencing abuse, LaGrave's LiveSafe Team is here to help. Contact Tricia Bosma (triciabosma@att.net), Deanna DeVries (devries-deanna@att.net), Jane Elzinga (jane.elzinga@gmail.com), Kristy Manion (kmanion@lagrave.org), or Joy Winkle (joywinkle@yahoo.com) for confidential, honest, non-judgmental listening and resources.

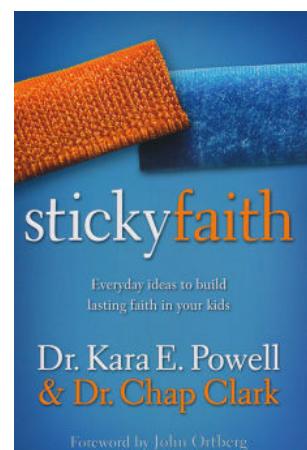
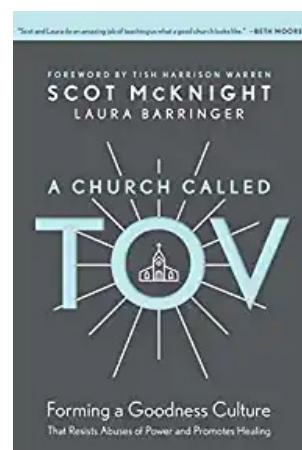
Growing U

Join us this winter as we journey together in learning through book studies. We are setting aside the weeks Feb 26 - March 26 to gather in smaller groups doing book studies and encouraging one another on the journey of living our faith and raising our children.

The LaGrave LiveSafe Team is eager to host a book study on A Church Called Tov: Forming a Goodness Culture That Resists Abuses of Power and Promotes Healing, by Dr. Scot McKnight and Laura Barringer. In response to recent revelations of abuses in many churches, Scot McKnight and Laura Barringer seek a path to move Christians toward where we ought to be as the body of Christ. Naming their movement after the beautiful Hebrew word "tov"—often translated as "good"—they explore ways to make the church "grace dispensers," leading to healing and transformation for all.

Parents - we invite you to join Bob Grussing

as we study the book Sticky Faith by Dr. Kara E. Powell and Dr. Chap Clark. Parents are one of the primary influencers of their child's faith, and this study will equip you with insights and practical ideas for nurturing your children and empowering them to develop a living, lasting faith. We will also encourage one another on the journey of raising children and share ideas around technology, curfews, driving, and the like.



Building “Storge” at LaGrave

As we have been studying Romans 12 this summer, Rev. Jonker recently encouraged us to develop “storge” with members of our church family. According to C. S. Lewis (as relayed in this sermon), this type of love is an everyday affection (often light-hearted) that we have for the people with whom we do ordinary life. To develop this type of love with our Christian brothers and sisters, it is essential we spend quality time with each other.

As we have learned, the relationships that develop “storge” love have a divine purpose. We are able to know the quirks of the other, laugh together and thereby have a closeness that becomes the ground for other more important virtues like trust and honesty. In this soil, we can grow a relationship where healthy conflict and disagreements can occur. We will also be filled from this relationship by the Holy Spirit to spread out and do God’s work in the kingdom.

However, in a church of our size, there are too many people to have this type of connection with everyone. We need to find our people, whom we know on this type of level. Where at LaGrave does this occur for you?

For me, this type of love has been evident at the committee level. As a member of the Spiritual

Formation committee for the last several years, I have seen relationships grow. We enter into devotions and prayer time together. We laugh over our shared experiences and problem-solving. We have studied books on faith formation together which has helped us to enter into vulnerable discussions and grow the trust and honesty among the team. We are working on shared projects that we all care for deeply that will help us to serve the members of this congregation and the kingdom of God as well.

I would encourage you to consider what group at LaGrave is helping you to develop “storge” and be devoted to others in love. Beware—this may not fit the typical mold for a “small group” that you are accustomed to! And, if you find yourself coming up short, challenge yourself to consider how you may be able to use your gifts of service in the church for the mutual benefit of your own spiritual growth (in “storge” love) as well.

**“Be devoted to one another in love.”
Romans 12:10**

“Storge”

(US) IPA(key): /'stɔr.dʒi/, /'stɔr.gi/, /'stɔr.geɪ/

Noun

archaic

1. Natural affection or love

GEMS

Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior

Our LaGrave GEMS Club is having a great start to our year. The theme this year is Act. Love. Walk. from the Micah 6:8 verse: Act Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with our God. We welcome girls and their friends in grades 1-8th and meet the first three Wednesdays of the month during the school year. Our activities are both indoors and outdoors. We do fun and silly things, as well as serious activities.

We started with a great time at the all-church fun event on Sunday, September 14. We went to ArtPrize and done some of our own art in our classes. Our most fun Fall event so far has been our first annual GEMS Fall Festival in the church courtyard. We stayed warm under the church heaters, played some outdoor games, carved pumpkins into vases, decorated pots of Mums, made stained glass pumpkin art, made apple suet bird feeders, and dipped caramel apples (with lots of toppings.) We had warm apple cider, gourmet flavored marshmallows, and pumpkin-shaped rice crispy treats.

Soon we will be making Christmas Card bags for our LaGrave home-bound members. They will be filled with cards from the congregation and then delivered by our GEMS Club. In November we will meet some Birds of Prey in our multi-purpose room and learn about them. Theme lessons and Christmas activities will be coming very soon. In everything we do we look for ways that we can better learn to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Watch the LaGrave bulletin for weekly activity information, or call Tina Rooks, Club Coordinator, if questions (616-723-3041)

Pictures: ArtPrize and Fall Festival in the Courtyard



Youth Outdoors

LaGrave Youth Outdoors is off and running in its 3rd year of programming! In the first several weeks we've welcomed 25 to 35 K-5th grade boys to The Farm to explore



God's creation. Big thanks go to Nate Versluis and Ted Malefyt for being generous hosts and teachers!



Whispers of God

The Collection plates go by very quickly during the offering. You may only catch a word or two that's written on the plate. If you have seen the entire phrase you may remember the whole saying when the plate comes to you.

- The Earth is the Lord's
- Rejoice in the Lord Always
- Hallowed be Your Name
- Cast All Your Cares on Him
- God Heals Your Diseases
- Be Still and Know I am God
- The Lord is My Shepherd
- He Forgives All Your Sins

- Remember and Believe
- The Lord Bless You and Keep You
- Although Your Sins Be as Scarlet
- He is Lord
- Grace and Peace Be with You
- For God So Loved the World



Let The Stable Still Astonish

An Exhibit of LaGrave Members' Crèches

“**L**et the Stable Still Astonish” is a poem used in a choral setting by composer Dan Forrest. The words of this poem inspired a group of La Grave members to organize a display of crèches. Many of you enjoyed seeing the crèches that Pastor Jonker used last Advent season during the children’s sermon. We know that many of you have collected crèches from many places. No matter the size or design these crèches all call us to think about the birth of our Savior in such a humble setting.

The poem will be displayed along with the creches. It calls us to think about how the Savior of the world could be born in such a humble dark stable and at God’s own choosing! And

then, he also chose to be born in the darkness of our hearts.

We hope that you will consider bringing a creche for your fellow church members to view on Sunday, December 11 in the multipurpose room. The crèches will be displayed for viewing only on that Sunday, before and after the morning services and after the children’s program at 4:00 p.m. that same day. Entry forms with complete instructions for bringing and picking up your crèches will be available at the Welcome Center.

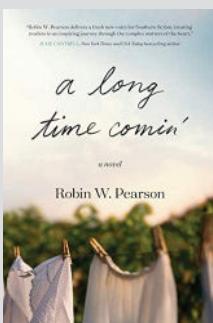
So come and invite your friends to attend as well. Be prepared to be astonished.



Media Center News

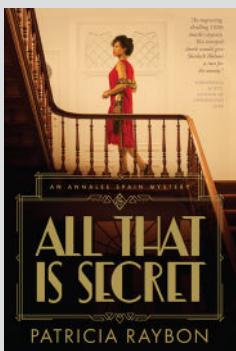
The July-August issue of *The Banner* had reviews of five books. (p.48-50) The reviewer, Lorilee Craker, is also the author of *Anne of Green Gables, My Daughter and Me*. Craker's book along with the five she reviewed are all available in our Media Center. The quotes are from the *Banner* reviews.

A Long Time Comin', Robin Pearson



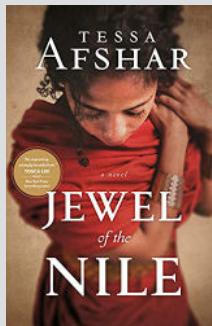
"Pearson offers a savory story of one young woman and the secrets that threaten to upend her carefully balanced life."

All That is Secret, Patricia Raybon



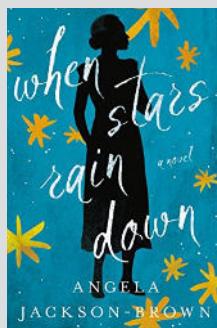
This book "tells the story of Annalee Spain, a black theologian who is struggling to make ends meet teaching at a Bible college in Chicago when she is called back to her hometown of Denver to try to solve her father's cold case murder." This book caught the eye of NBA icon Steph Curry who included it in his online book club.

Jewel of the Nile, Tessa Afshar



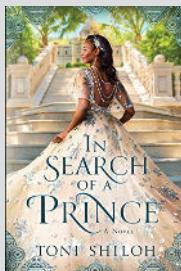
"I came to adore the Ethiopian eunuch, a major character in this rich and engrossing book about the ancient kingdom of Cush (Ethiopia) and its queen."

When Stars Rain Down, Angela Brown



This book "is told through the lens of Opal, a black teenager who works as a domestic along with her grandmother... A haunting, empathetic and page-turning read."

In Search of a Prince, Toni Shiloh



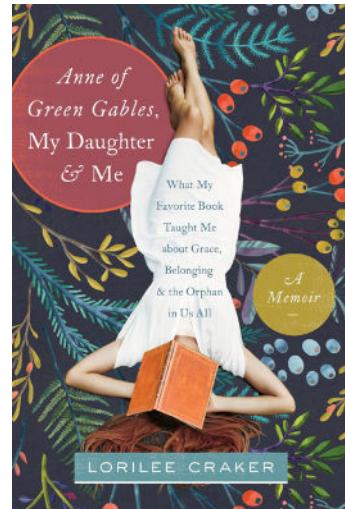
"Brielle, a teacher in New York, is shocked to find her late father was heir to the throne of an island kingdom in Africa, which in turn makes her heir to the throne. Complicating matters is the fact that she must marry before her coronation or the crown will pass to another."

Media Center News

Anne of Green Gables, My Daughter, and Me: What My Favorite Book Taught Me about Grace, Belonging and the Orphan in Us All

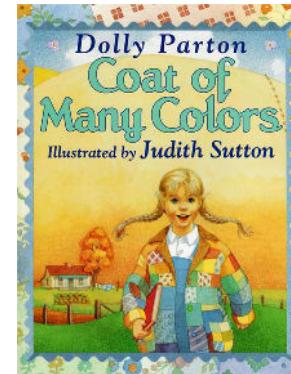
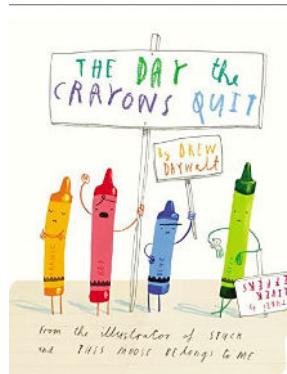
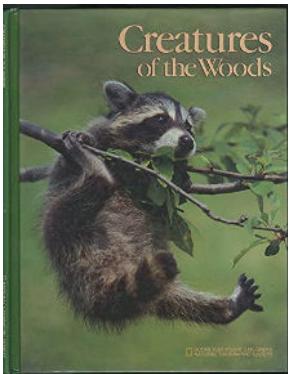
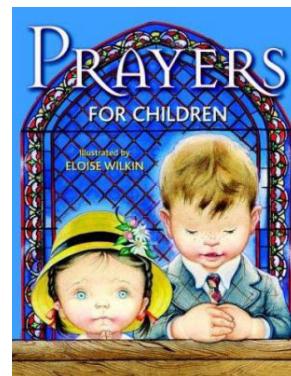
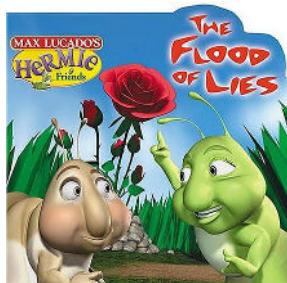
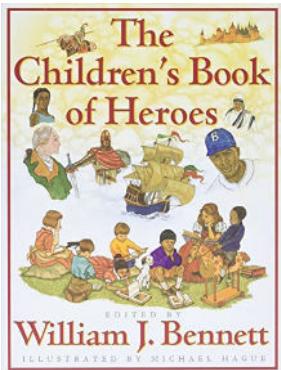
Lorilee Craker

A charming and heartwarming true story for anyone who has ever longed for a place to belong. "Anne of Green Gables," My Daughter, and Me is a witty romp through the classic novel; a visit to the magical shores of Prince Edward Island; and a poignant personal tale of love, faith, and loss.



Children's Books

Parents, please stop by to check out our hundreds of children's books.



Audio-Visual News

There have been issues with the audiovisual system in the multipurpose room for a while now. Our amazing audiovisual specialists Ben Chase and Thomas Wodarek have been able to keep the system on life support for now. They have researched and employed an install company to do a complete overhaul making the equipment reliable and easy to use but due

to manufacturing delays we could be waiting as long as 6 months before the overhaul is complete. Before then the mics are working and the projector works but we will not be able to present anything if it also has sound, as the sound will not come through the speakers.

Memorials

August VanderWall

August “Augie” VanderWall was born in Chicago, Illinois. When he was still young, his family moved to Martin, Michigan, where his family started a muck farm. Augie worked on the farm while he went to school and graduated from East Martin High School at age 16. His family then moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Shortly after, he got drafted into World War II. While in the army, he had the opportunity to study at Yale University, Lafayette University, and The United States Military Academy. After the war, Augie worked as a dairy inspector, an accountant for Standard Oil, and BISSELL in the credit department. He retired from BISSELL as VP of Administration in 1986. In his free time, he enjoyed bowling, golfing, and spending time with family and friends.

Augie served as a deacon at Sherman Street CRC and then South Grandville CRC as an elder for many years. He and his wife, Ann, joined LaGrave in 2000. Chad Boorsma led the funeral at LaGrave; His message was on Augie’s favorite text, Psalm 138. Chad focused on God’s unfailing love and faithfulness through both the good and challenging parts of Augie’s life. Knowing that God is highly exalted and looks down kindly on us all was a tremendous comfort to Augie.

Continued →

Mary Bartman

Mary Bartman was born in 1946 on August, 28. She went to Grand Rapids Christian High School where she was known for being athletic and sociable. She met her husband, Gene Bartman, in high school through a friend. They married three years later in the Calvin College Chapel on December 27, 1967. Mary graduated from Michigan University with a degree in physical therapy and found work locally. After their son was born they moved to Battle Creek where Mary worked as a physical therapist at Butterworth Hospital. She later was called to work at the Ottawa Area Intermediate School

District where she worked with disabled children.

Mary loved traveling and found joy in many things such as piano, sewing, gardening, and reading. However, her greatest joy was her family. She started family traditions, hosted family events, and often went to the beach with her family. She lived every moment to the fullest.

John Ubels

John Ubels was Born in Ripon, California. He served in the army during World War II, after which he graduated from Calvin College in 1948. John taught mathematics for 39 years as a Christian high school educator. He participated in many volunteering opportunities such as a mail courier at Metro Hospital, a distributor at the mobile food pantry, and a tutor at Hudsonville Christian Middle School. He enjoyed visiting his army company and traveling to visit cousins in the Netherlands.

John was a lifelong member of the Christian Reformed denomination. He joined LaGrave Avenue in 2018 after his church, 12th Avenue

CRC, closed down. His funeral message was based on Psalm 91. This Psalm had a lot of history within his family as it was read by his grandfather before his father left the Netherlands for America and was also read by his father to him before he left for service in World War II. The Psalm speaks of how God acts and delivers in ways that render him completely trustworthy. John took comfort in this, as well as the fact that no evil or harm will ever overtake followers of Jesus Christ in the life to come.

Continued →

Al Rietberg

Al Rietberg was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was mainly known for his career in real estate, being elected by his peers to the President of the Grand Rapids Association of Realtors. However, Al found his true passion after he exchanged a real estate commission for a pair of cattle. He continued

to grow this hobby, specialty breeding Angus beef cattle. Nothing made him happier than walking the fences checking on his cows or baling hay on his John Deere tractor. Al had his funeral at LaGrave. The passage of Psalm 23 was read, which compared God's care for us to a farmer's care for his animals.

Ronald Jacobs

Ronald Jacobs grew up in Windsor, Ontario, and was very proud of his Canadian roots. He was preceded in death by his wife with whom he spent 60 wonderful years of marriage with. Ronald was a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather when he passed away. He worked in sales including a number of years at Eerdmans Publishing in Grand Rapids. Bill Eerdmans,

who was the president of the company, introduced Ronald to LaGrave CRC, which Ronald and his family later joined in 1963. Ronald loved Psalm 46 and enjoyed it being read to him. He enjoyed spending time with his family and playing games like Scrabble, table tennis, horseshoes, and Pente.

