



The LaGrave News

May 2023



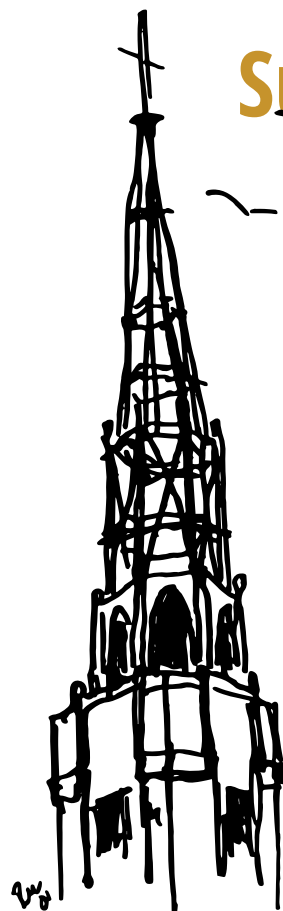
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Summer in the Psalms

This summer, we will delve into the Psalms for our morning sermon series. This book of the Bible, which is well-loved by many, will help us explore every dimension of the human heart.

The Spiritual Formation Committee is also working on other ways to help us grow in our faith during the summer months. Some things we are considering include: book resources, scripture-based prayers, memorization aids, Bible studies, mid-week sermon previews, and possibly even walks in nature as we meditate on God's Word. Be on the lookout for ways to grow in your faith as we spend the summer in the Psalms.



Welcome

New Members!



Tom & Cathy Mulder
Joined: February 13, 2023



Shirley Vanderson
Joined: February 13, 2023



Don & Sheryl VanEck
Joined: February 13, 2023



Jim & Debbi Visser
Joined: February 13, 2023



Rev. Yordanys Diaz Arteaga &
Navexi Perez Gonzales
(Amitai, Abimael and Abiud)
Joined: February 13, 2023



Thomas & Esther Christian
(Caleb and Everlyn)
Joined: March 13, 2023



Austin Hakes
Joined: March 13, 2023



Katarina Woldt
Joined: March 13, 2023



Peter and Laurie Termaat
Joined: April 10, 2023



Cheryl Waber
Joined: April 10, 2023

Staff Updates

Leadership Changes

With joy we confirm that, in a nearly unanimous vote, our congregation has voted to call Chad Boorsma to serve as a Commissioned Pastor in our congregation. We have called him to serve as our Minister of Formation and Visitation.

Also the following members have been selected for a three year term of service as Elders and Deacons within our congregation

- Ruth Vis and Chuck Damon will serve as Administrative Elders.
- Cyndi Post, Marc Hoeksema, Dean Rooks, and Paul Stephenson will serve as Visiting Elders.
- Loren Koeman and Matt Alcumbrack will serve as Administrative Deacons
- Vicki Gelderloos, Tim Clover, Deb Ondersma, and Pam Mensonides will serve as Visiting Deacons.

New Positions

Full-Time Conductor of Vocal and Handbell Choirs:

The Search Committee has been busy working to fill the vacant music conductor positions! You may recall that upon Renee Vande Wege's resignation in late December 2022, both Jess Hollenbach and Trish Brummel agreed to temporarily take on extra duties by leading our children's and youth vocal choirs through the end of May. Dr. Jim Borst is currently serving in his second year as interim Chancel Choir Director and his first year directing the adult handbell choir. However, Jim does not wish to fill either of those positions permanently. Additionally, Trish Brummel has

submitted her resignation letter as director of the children's handbell choir, effective at the end of May. The Search Committee initially explored possibilities for retaining our current model of various part-time directors leading the vocal and handbell choirs. Several potential local candidates, including numerous music educators in area high schools and colleges, were approached. The committee quickly learned that it would not be possible to retain our part-time structure due to the lack of interest on the part of these candidates in taking on a part-time position

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on weekends and major holidays in addition to their full-time workload.

The Search Committee then envisioned creating a new, full-time position by combining the directorship of our vocal and handbell choirs, both children and adults. The Worship Committee and Council approved this new, full-time position: Conductor of Vocal and Handbell Choirs (the full job description may be found on the church website). To attract skilled and experienced candidates, the committee has advertised on a national level with major music organizations, colleges, and universities. The committee is in the process of accepting applications through May 15, after which they will review all submitted applications and interview the topmost candidates. They are hoping to choose finalists and hire by mid-summer.

Please keep the Search Committee in your prayers as they complete the process of finding the person of God's choosing to fill this new role.

Minister/Director of Fellowship:

This position will serve LaGrave church by providing strategic leadership in welcoming visitors and enfolded new members into the life of the church. They will oversee opportunities for church members to connect with each other; and maintaining church connections with missionaries supported by LaGrave.

Minister of Youth:

We have begun the search for a new Minister of Youth. This person will lead and oversee all areas of youth ministry and youth education at LaGrave.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

A Reflection by Erin Alley

I was ready for Friday by Tuesday afternoon, so I wished it was Friday when Wednesday arrived. The challenges faced by our neighbors, the problems in our neighborhood, the instability of our world; everything seemed too big on Thursday. I decided that a quick walk around my church neighborhood was an excellent way to refocus on the little things I could accomplish that day.

Right away, I noticed a neighbor sleeping in an alcove against the church building among the bushes. As I kept walking, the parable of the mustard seed came to mind. In Matthew 13, Jesus tells the following short parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in a field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown, it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air can come and make nests in its branches.” I imagined our church, a tiny mustard seed planted in the Heartside neighborhood many years ago, now grown into a refuge for a person without a place to sleep. I wondered if this was a picture of the kingdom of heaven Jesus had in mind when he told this parable, and I kept walking. A few minutes later, I heard someone call out to me: “Excuse me, you wouldn’t happen to have an extra pair of shoes, would you?” I was surprised by the request from a barefooted stranger who knew this was a long shot but hoped nonetheless. I did, in fact, have a pair of shoes, plus clean undergarments, pants, a shirt,

and socks. I invited this neighbor back to church with me, who also spent the night sleeping outside, and I began getting to know her. Once more, I imagined our church; that tiny mustard seed that grew into a refuge for a person without shoes. It became evident that Jesus had a message for me that Wednesday morning. The sleeping neighbor and the barefoot neighbor left our church refuge to return to the world for the day, and I got back

to work. Then at lunchtime, a Spanish-speaking neighbor came to our church door.

This neighbor was looking for access to affordable healthcare, preferably Christian healthcare.

I exhausted my Spanish vocabulary exchanging questions and answers, finally suggesting Exalta Health - a bilingual, faith-based healthcare clinic. For the third

time, I imagined our church; that tiny mustard seed that grew into a refuge for a person with health concerns.

As Wednesday ended, I noticed how my body felt different from when Wednesday started. The struggles, problems, and instability still felt too big, but my body wasn’t tense about it anymore. Perhaps my job, our job here on earth, isn’t to fix the big stuff. Perhaps our job is to faithfully do our small deeds with great love. By the power of the Spirit, our small deeds grow over time. Our Christian life began in a garden but will end in a city - I like to imagine our church looks like a mustard tree in that heavenly city.



Music at LaGrave

Special Upcoming Worship Services



- Sunday, May 7, at 5:00 p.m., is our next Koinonia service. This service will celebrate the accomplishments of all of our graduates. Watch the email blasts for further information.
- Sunday, May 7, at the 8:40 a.m. service, the Bells Gloria children's handbell choir will participate in worship for the final time of their season. Sunday, May 21, will be the final Sunday of the choir season for our K-2, 3-6, and 7-12 choirs. They will be participating in both morning services along with the Chancel Choir.
- The Bells Jubilate adult handbell choir will ring for the final time of their season at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, May 14. The Chancel Choir will end their season by singing at both morning communion services on Sunday, June 4, the final Sunday of two morning services.

Blessed to be a Blessing

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 function of the Planned Giving Committee is to administer LaGrave Christian Reformed Church's Planned Giving program. The goal is to encourage and assist members and friends of LaGrave in considering giving via Memorial Gifts, Testamentary Gifts through Wills and Trusts, Life Insurance, or other means - that further the mission and purpose of LaGrave 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 continue providing articles outlining various opportunities, such as the Benefactors Trust Fund, Henry Beets Mission Society, Christian Education, the Building Improvement Fund, and others. This LaGrave News article features the Henry Beets Mission Society.

Henry Beets Mission Society (HB) was formed in 1948 to support missionaries and mission projects not funded through the annual budget. Its funding comes through three collections and the support of planned giving.

Contributions received through planned gifts are spent by using 20% of the gift each year for five years to support the missionaries whom LaGrave has

relationships with and any special mission projects they may have. LaGrave, through HB, supports 29 missionaries in 20 countries that are spreading the gospel. Each member of the HB Committee is assigned to two or three missionaries to keep in contact with and pray for.

The missionaries may be involved in medical work, teaching, Bible translation, planting churches, working with young people, or other fields. All recipients have some connection to LaGrave, either through family or close personal relationships. HB also significantly supports the Cuban CRC through a sub-committee. LaGrave has a long history of encouraging this denomination to be a light in this challenging country.

More information regarding the Henry Beets Mission Society can be found on the church website.

The Planned Giving Committee hopes that these articles will allow members of LaGrave to become more familiar with the various ways 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)

Mitchell Schroder

Mark Stuit

Janice Heerspink

Larry Bos, Jr.

Jean Garehan

Carolyn DeNeut

Henry Beets Mission Society

Juska & Jona Lazarre: God's Vision For Haiti

Henry Beets Missions Society has supported God's Vision For Haiti for the past four years, which celebrated six years of full-time ministry in southern Haiti. During a recent virtual coffee, the Juska & Jona Lazarre gave an update on their ministry, highlighting many exciting events.



- The Ministry Center, completed in 2021, is now used for worship, training, weddings, and children and foster care activities, including after-school tutoring.
- Fifty-six children have now been placed in foster families, and two more caseworkers have been added.
- The Kids Good News Club attracts 200 or more community children each week, and at a recent meeting, nine children gave their lives to Christ.
- The GVFH Christian School is now under construction and should be completed by September 2023. The school will open with kindergarten, and plans are to add a new grade level each year. Through the generosity of

sponsors, scholarships will be available to help families cover the cost of tuition. An added blessing is that construction workers have been coming to the staff's morning devotions.

- On Easter weekend, community children and adults were invited to come and learn about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection by watching the *Jesus* Film. One hundred ninety children attended the afternoon show and over ninety children and adults attended in the evening.
- This spring, parents from the community will be invited to share some of the same training GVFH does with foster parents to teach the fundamentals of good parenting.

Despite poverty, the effects of the 2021 earthquake, fuel shortages, gang violence in northern Haiti, and an unstable government, the people of Haiti are resilient. The Lazarres praise God for His faithfulness and for the ways He works in the hearts and lives of the community they serve. They also deeply appreciate the financial and prayer support they receive from LaGrave.



A Sudden Change of Plans

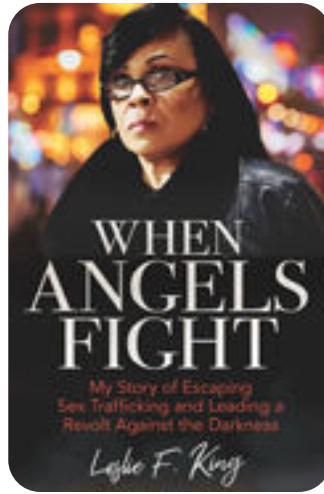
The LaGrave congregation has supported our Christian brothers and sisters in Cuba for many years. In April, we welcomed the Diaz family from Cuba into our fellowship. Yordanys, Navexi, Abuid, Abimael, and Amatai Diaz experienced a sudden unplanned departure from Cuba. They found themselves beginning a new life in Grand Rapids with LaGrave. Yordanys was the president of the Christian Reformed Churches in Cuba before the Cuban government created a very unsafe environment for the family. They were forced by circumstances to suddenly leave Cuba and relocate to the U.S. Because of the strong relationship between LaGrave and Cuban churches, they chose Grand Rapids as their new home. Despite the winter weather and lack of English fluency, they have been welcomed and supported by many at LaGrave to resettle, complete legal status, learn English, and become an active part of our church. The family possesses many talents and offers new opportunities for us all. God will direct their path. Thanks to all who have been involved.



Social Concerns Committee

Each month the SCC meets to discuss and learn about organizations working within our community. Over the past few months, we have had the privilege to hear from several amazing grassroots organizations.

In March, we heard from Leslie Friday King, the founder of Sacred Beginnings on Division in Grand Rapids. Leslie gave her powerful testimony, which can be read in her book *When Angels Fight*. She is a survivor of 20 years of human trafficking right here in Grand Rapids and has pledged to help victims through her work. You can learn more on her website at www.sbtp.org



In February, our special guests were JD & Antoinette Chapman, the founders, and directors of Realism is Loyalty (RIL). Their story of helping inner-city, at-risk youth was both inspiring and amazing. JD and Antoinette met many years ago when he himself was in and out of the Juvenile Detention System. After years of watching other kids repeat their previous behaviors, JD was determined to make a difference. Their mission is “To Empower, Encourage, and Strengthen Youth in Spite of Story, System or Choice.” Realism is Loyalty incorporates intensive mentoring, family integration counseling, and community support. In 2022 RIL realized its expanding needs and created a program called the 601 Coalition to ask ten local churches to support their ministry. We are proud to say that LaGrave has joined this mission along with seven other

churches to date. We look forward to partnering in the transformational work that Realism is Loyalty is doing in our community. You can learn more at www.realismisloyalty.org

In addition, the recent Special Offerings collected \$10,479 for ICCF and \$6,495 for Wedgewood Christian Services. The “Love Your Neighbor Backpack Drive” collected over 90 backpacks that will be distributed to our neighbors at the LaGrave Spa Day.

As a result of your generous support, the SCC has contributed to the success of these ministries and many others in our neighborhood.

We thank you for your generosity and blessing to our community!



Spread Hope through Helping Others

Thanks to those who contacted Volunteers in Service about the opportunities in the February LaGrave newsletter! If you're interested in volunteering for any of the listed below, please email Rosemary at rtymes@visgr.org or call 616-459-7500.



Outdoor Work

Hana is 55 and lives near Leonard and Diamond, NE. She has many health challenges and needs her yard cleaned up and her gutters cleaned.

Cleaning Help

Jason is 49 and lives in Comstock Park in the vicinity of the ballpark. He has cerebral palsy and needs help with ongoing house cleaning every other week or once a month. He can vacuum by himself, but dusting, cleaning appliances, sweeping, and mopping are challenging. Jason vacuums at University of Michigan during the week and so would need help with cleaning his home after 4:00 p.m. on weekdays or Saturdays.

Friendly Visitor

Scott is 57 and has developmental delays and hearing impairment. He lives near Alpine and 4 Mile, works part-time, but is lonely. He would like a friendly visitor to play cards, get coffee, or go to a movie.



Did you know... that the Rose Window above the balcony at the rear of the sanctuary was located over the pulpit in the original LaGrave sanctuary? In richly colored stained glass, it depicts Christ our Lord praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. The window is based on a painting by Johann Heinrich Hoffmann. This image also appears at the beginning of each chapter of *A Century of Grace* as a symbol of continuity at LaGrave. Complimentary copies of the book are available at the Welcome Center.

Youth Outdoors

Started in 2019, LaGrave Youth Outdoors (formerly Cub Scouts) is a K-5th grade program for boys that meets primarily outdoors. Youth Outdoors aims to equip boys with outdoor skills and cultivate an appreciation for God's creation.

This year, the boys have learned how to safely chop wood, build outdoor shelters, build and launch rockets, and creatively float egg carton boats down the famous "Scholten Falls."

The boys had the opportunity to hold the annual Pinewood Derby race, which is always a highlight. This year, they also co-hosted the first annual All-Congregational Pinewood Derby race alongside Growing Young on a cold, snowy Saturday in March. Over 40 cars participated!



The boys have been trained in proper firearm safety, learned about their second amendment rights, and even shot different caliber firearms.

Most recently, the boys had a chance to visit the Grand Rapids Fire Department and get an inside look at the fantastic things our neighbors are doing to keep our city safe.

But most importantly, the boys have had a fun year enjoying and appreciating God's creation.

None of this would be possible without the graciousness of Farmer Nate Versluis, Adventure Ted Malefyt, and bus driver Mr. Clover. Special thanks to Mr. Matt Scholten for leading this group of more than 40 boys each and every week.



GEMS

Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior



Our LaGrave GEMS Club has reached the end of this church year. We have had a great year learning more about what it means in our daily lives to Act. Love. Walk. from the Micah 6:8 verse: “Act Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with our God.” We continue to welcome girls and their friends in grades 1-8 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, and look forward to welcoming more girls again next Fall.

Thank you to the congregation for supporting our February Taco Bar fundraiser. We are planning a special activity (yet to be decided) for the girls and counselors with the proceeds. We had to move our February “Love on the Girls” night from the Vault to the Fellowship Hall because of a power failure at the Vault. Still, we had a great and crazy time nonetheless. Our March outdoor activity was a nature walk along the river in Millennium Park with outdoorsman and health guru, Dr. Dubiel, who shared interesting information with the GEMS girls, the Boy Scouts, and parents.

April was full of special activities. On April 19, we had a Mother-Daughter fashion show and invited girls’ relatives and all interested LaGrave women. The fashion show had a twist with the girl models dressed in clothing that used items that were a fun take on common descriptive words (i.e., the 8-carat necklace was a necklace made of 8 carrots, a skirt with a train was a choo-choo train pulled behind the girl, etc.) We also had special guest models: several GEMS counselors and Pastors, Peter, Bob, and Kristy. A video was made of it and can be accessed on website at www.lagrave.org/GEMS if you want to see it. Enjoy!! We thanked Bob for his decades of service and celebrated his recent milestone birthday. Tina Rooks, who loves balloons, sent him off toward retirement with the “bang!” of numerous balloons.

We finished April with GEMS Sunday at the 11 a.m. service on April 30, where the girls and counselors participated in the service, as we have been blessed to be able to do for many years. Thank you, LaGrave family, for all your love and support. You are LOVED! Girls, enjoy summer and watch for next Fall’s kick-

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off in August or September. Questions? Call Tina Rooks, Club Coordinator (616-723-3041)

GEMS Leadership Conference: The GEMS Sisterhood Summit is coming to LaGrave CRC on July 21-22, 2023.

As many LaGravites know, the GEMS Counselors have been attending summer leadership conferences around the country for decades to learn and prepare for the next season's theme lessons. As it did with so many things, COVID changed that temporarily.

We began to meet virtually in smaller groups around North America. That will be the case again this summer, but LaGrave's counselors will host one of the West Michigan sites for the conference. The number of those attending will be known by late June, and then we will be looking for shifts of volunteers to help us welcome our sister counselors to our church. If this interests you, please watch for more information in June and consider signing up to help us and to listen in on some incredible Christian speakers as well.

Growing Young at LaGrave

The first stated goal of youth education at LaGrave church is "LaGrave will have a vibrant relational youth ministry." This person-centered ministry aims to foster intentional relationships between youth and youth, youth and adults, and youth to Jesus Christ. In 2018, LaGrave worked with Fuller Youth Institute to determine how well our church is positioned to engage teenagers and young adults and, arguably most importantly, help our congregation take the next steps to bring life and vitality to the overall congregation.

The Growing Young Committee at LaGrave was formed in January 2022 after a series of Zoom meetings and surveys conducted by Ministry Architects, a consulting firm that the church hired to help launch this process. Since then, the Growing Young Committee has educated itself on the Growing Young Model by studying the book, reviewing feedback from Ministry Architects, and conducting interviews with various church committees.

Over the next 120 days, the committee will assemble a comprehensive report for the Youth Education Committee, develop training materials for staff and church members, and create goals and strategies for the council to implement. We look forward to working as an entire church as we Grow Young.

Growing Young Committee:

Jaclyn Alcumbrack
Vince Bonnema
Bob Grussing, Staff
Steve Heertenga
Matt Hollebeek
Rachel Scholten
Mark Stuit, Chair

The Great LaGrave Bake-Off



How do you replicate The Great British Bake-Off with adults with limited baking experience? You hold a Great LaGrave Bake-Off with our own adults! On the evening of April 5, the MPR Transformed into a replica of The Great British Bake-Off show, complete with stations, judges walking around, and recipes that only included the ingredients!

We had five teams of four adults, all vying to be the “Star Baker” of the evening. The challenge is to make Mary Berry’s Sponge Sandwich Cake within an hour. Each team got a list of ingredients without any specific directions on how to make the cake. Some teams jumped right in and started mixing, while others took a more thoughtful approach and

considered how best to make the cake. One team had to remove their cakes from the oven because they realized they had forgotten to add a vital ingredient! Thankfully, it still tasted good.

While the cakes were baked, the bakers enjoyed a meal together. Once the cakes were done baking, it was time to finish. With less than two minutes remaining, some teams were still hurrying to cool off their cakes and get the whipping cream on them without it melting or sliding off. All five teams brought

their cakes to the judging table when the time was up. Unfortunately, one team had their top cake layer slide off, so their presentation didn’t go as well as they hoped! Our



official judges, Anna and Jess, had the chance to sample all five cakes. Each had a subtle difference, but they agreed they all tasted good! The winning team went home with a “Star Baker” certificate and spatula.

The evening was a fantastic success, and those in attendance said we should definitely do this again!

Motivated by Christ's love, LiveSafe's mission is to create a safe place where abuse victims and concerned others can break their silence; to respond with confidential, honest, non-judgmental listening; to provide those affected by abuse with additional resources and connect them with our community partners available to help; and to raise awareness and empower our congregation with knowledge.

During the recent Lent season, the LiveSafe team provided an opportunity to participate in a Growing U book discussion group. Tricia Bosma facilitated a group discussion of *A Church Called TOV: Creating a Culture of Goodness*. TOV is the Hebrew word for "good," but it is richer than the English word for "good." It refers to the fullness experienced when something operates as intended. Christ's Church should consist of a TOV culture and be free from all forms of abuse.

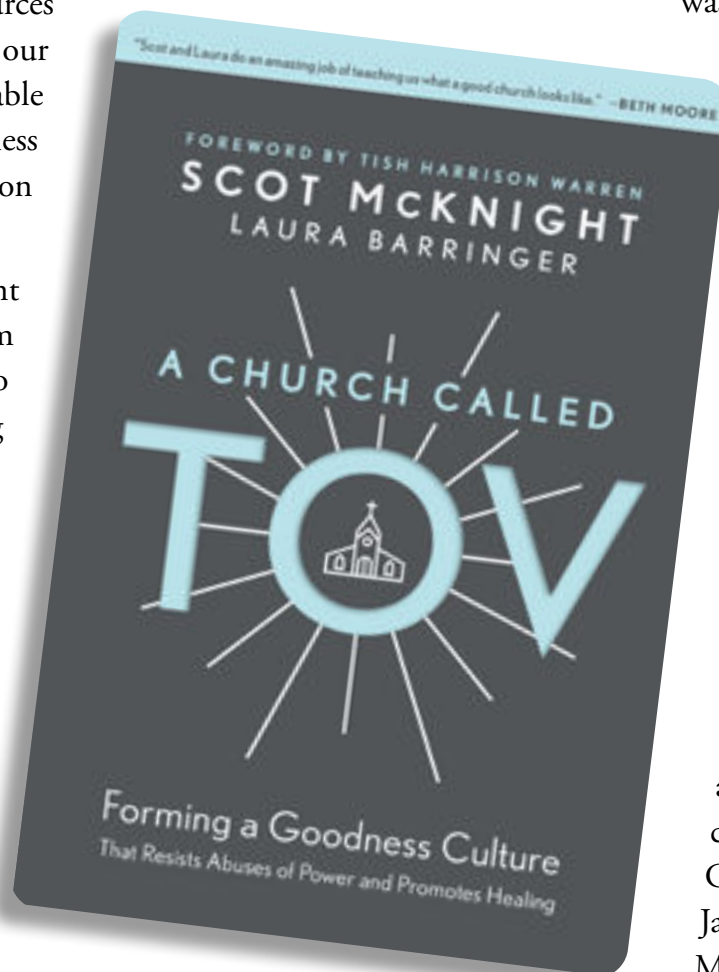
The participants of this group spent five weeks discussing the book content, grieving experiences of abuse shared by individuals, lamenting the harm of abuse, and evaluating how LaGrave's current church

culture resists abuse and could potentially contribute to instances of abuse. Additionally, members of this discussion group were educated on LaGrave's current policy for responding to allegations of abuse by church leaders, should they arise. The Holy Spirit

was present with this group as

it became a poignant time, and members were blessed by their investment in this group. We invite all to participate in future awareness opportunities.

The LiveSafe team is poised to provide any abuse victims the support and resources needed to experience God's love as they seek healing. If you or a loved one are experiencing abuse, don't hesitate to contact Tricia Bosma, John Curphey, Deanna DeVries, Jane Elzinga, Kristy Manion, or Joy Winkle.



ReFrame Ministries

ReFrame Ministries, the global media ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, partners with individuals and Christian Reformed congregations to share God's gospel message with people worldwide.

Last year, LaGrave partnered with ReFrame Ministries to share "Prayers of Comfort and Care in Times of Grief." This book, initially written by Jolene DeHeer and Chad Boorsma, was revised and made available for download or as a daily subscription for 31 days. Countless people have downloaded the guide, and over 3,500 people have signed up for daily prayers.

Readers have shared the following comments about the prayer books:

"My mother passed away 14 days ago... I needed to read this. Thank you."

"Thanks to all of you for these devotions every day that has helped me in my time of grief. I share them with all my other widows."

"I just love these daily readings. I witnessed my husband's tragic death when he was hit by a vehicle during our bicycle ride just over three months ago. I'm getting away from asking God as to the whys into asking God HOW to live this life he's given me. I pray and wait for the answer that will come from God's timing. Thanks so very much."

"My sister just lost her husband unexpectedly. I would like to share this with her. I continue to practice silent personal prayers, but praying out

loud is hard. Thanks again for your words... it's like God knew (because He does)."

"Thank you, Heavenly Father, for guiding me through this prayer guide for the grief I'm going through after losing my mom two months ago. Pray for ease of my pain."



Scribes and Scriptures

True or false?

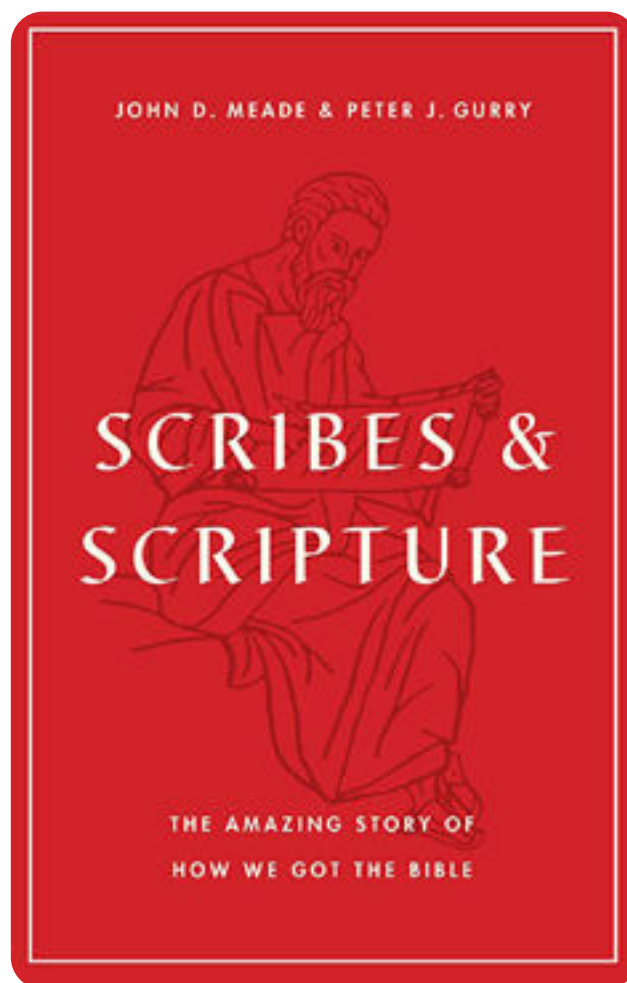
- The Bible did not come from heaven with a black leather binding, numbered chapters and verses, Jesus' words in red, and maps in the back.
- First-century Christians had over 50 "gospels" to choose from.
- An early printing of the King James Bible omitted the "not" in the seventh commandment.
- By the end of the second century, Christians pretty much agreed on what books should be included in the Bible.

John Meade, professor of Old Testament at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Peter Gurry, professor of New Testament at the University of Cambridge, have written what one reviewer called "a love letter from the academy to the church." The reviewer added, "They have a clear and genuine affection, both for Scriptures as the life-giving Word of God and for the non-specialist...This book is what scholarship done in the service of the church ought to look like."

The book has three main sections. The author's explanation begins with the text—the work of copying the manuscripts of both Testaments. It continues with the canon—the result of gathering Scriptures into a bound collection. It finishes by explaining how the Scriptures became available to ordinary believers in their mother tongues. The authors explain two generalities about the history of the Bible. Multiple possible sources have been available throughout

time. Also, the Bible's development has always been a matter of controversy.

Many charts and images aid the reader in understanding how the Bible came together. Anyone interested in how the most studied and published book in history was put together will benefit from reading *Scribes and Scriptures*.



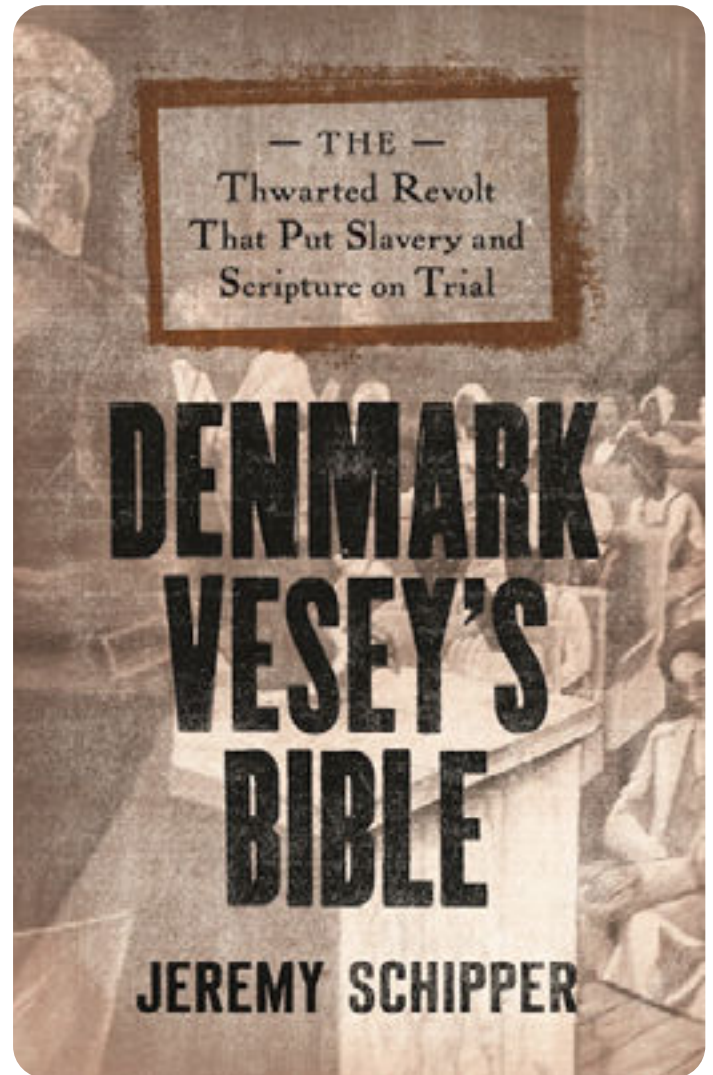
Meade, John D, and Gurry, Peter J. *Scribes and Scriptures*; the amazing story of how we got the Bible. Crossway, 2022.

Denmark Vesey's Bible

In July of 1822, Denmark Vesey, a former slave, was hanged in Charleston, SC. He was convicted of plotting what might have been the largest slave insurrection in U.S. history. What makes this little-known historical story interesting is that both sides used the Bible to support their points of view. Scripture interpretation was central to a struggle against American white supremacy and its brutal enforcement.

Using court documents, personal letters, sermons and speeches, and editorials, Schipper, author and professor at the University of Toronto, brings the trial and its background to life. Schipper documents how Vesey compared the plight of those of African descent with the Israelites of the Bible. His accusers portrayed the plantation owners as benevolent patriarchs who provided religious instruction to the enslaved.

In short, the Bible was at the center of a troubled time in racial history.



Schipper, Jeremy. Denmark Vesey's Bible: The Thwarted Revolt that Put Slavery and Scripture on Trial. Princeton University Press, 2022

Memorials

Norma Solle

Norma was born May 17, 1931, in Walker, MI. After attending a tiny country school nearby for K-8th grade, then Union High School, she graduated as class valedictorian and proceeded to attend Calvin College. Norma had a beautiful voice; a gift she used to praise the Lord and bless others in His name. She did solo and choral recordings under the Zondervan label, was a part of the Grand Rapids Symphonic

Choir, and was the guest contralto soloist for over 25 years in Handel's Messiah performances. Norma was also a Bible study leader for many years. She provided leadership in 4H and MOPs (Studies in Faith for Mothers of Preschoolers).

John Leegwater

John was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was born in the Netherlands in 1935 and immigrated to the United States at 13. He served in the U.S. Army, earned his B.A. from Calvin College and his MSW from the University of Michigan. He then worked as Kent County Supervisor of Protective Services from 1965-1967 until his retirement as Chief Operating Officer in 1999.

John was very active at LaGrave and the Church of the Servant CRC. He served on many Community boards and founded several new community programs and agencies, such as Franklin Hall Health Clinic, Jellema House, Park School, and Kent County Neglect and Abuse Committee.

Roger Heyer

Roger grew up on Howard and Dolby streets in southeast Grand Rapids. He met his wife Joyce Koning in 1948, on a blind date just before going into the Navy. They were married from 1951 until her death in 2019. Roger worked as a tool and die maker and was a strong spiritual leader. He loved Mustang cars, barbershop music, golf, wholesome old comedies, babies, his grand

dogs, and naps. Roger also loved sharing his homemade popcorn at every opportunity. He was an excellent father and grandfather, imparting true wisdom and modeling an attitude of gratitude.

Marie Werner

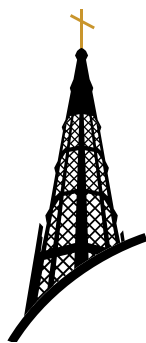
Marie Werner of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was born May 6, 1929. She married Charles R. Werner on November 24, 1950. They had four daughters. Marie was known as a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was blessed with a beautiful singing voice, and filled leisure time playing tennis, sewing, watching financial markets, puzzle-making, and enjoying the family dogs. Marie participated in various volunteerism, including missions, YMCA/YWCA, and 4H. As a lifetime member of LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Marie, and her husband loved

their Lord and spread His Word. They supported and encouraged missionaries, hands-on, in the locales where they worked. She passed on scripture in everyday life to her daughters and future generations. She spent years in prayer before helping establish a Grand Rapids area, Bible Study Fellowship International, and was active in the local leadership for many years.

Marilyn DeBruyn

Marilyn was a member of LaGrave CRC, and her love for her Lord was strong; she lived fully in His service. She loved traveling with her second husband, Otto, and spending the winters at Marco Island in Florida. Marilyn was an outstanding typist

and used that in the field of medical transcription. She regularly spent time in prayer for her children and grandchildren.



LaGrave Avenue

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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