



Nate and Mark are goofy-looking Zoom buddies!

Hesed Community Church is a ministry of the Urban Apostolic Network under the guidance of the RCA and CRC led by [Nate Bull](#) and [Mark VanAndel](#) (click on a name to send an email)



Education looks vastly different this fall, and we at Hesed Church are attempting to respond to the requests of parents in Brightmoor to supplement the online or homeschooling options that are available for their children. We're collaborating with a group of parents, grandparents, churches and educators in the community to begin to provide safe study space, a library, and some teaching in art, music, science and more. We are honored to support this asset-based community effort to love our children in a time when they could be discouraged and fearful.

If you have a desire to support this effort through volunteering with your time and talent or contributing supplies or materials, please [email Mark](#).

[Click Here to Support Hesed Church Financially](#)



What a unique summer of ministry! As we settle into new habits of physical distance and virus prevention, we're striving to maintain the heart of our ministry which is authentic relationships with friends in the neighborhood. So we managed to still honor Fathers' Day in June with takeout boxes of food and outdoor conversations thanks to [Grace Canton](#). We also supported a 4th of July neighborhood party and hosted a Labor Day barbecue provided by [Cohort Detroit](#). As you can tell, we like to participate in a good party ([Luke 7:34](#)). We've managed to keep our weekly Bible Study and Discipleship Classes going as we've studied the book of Daniel.

We observed one underlying theme of the initial chapters of the book is the young

Hebrew men living faithfully and obediently to the LORD in spite of their status as captives experiencing forced assimilation in a nation that was not their home. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah all chose to serve God and face possible death by Babylonian execution rather than compromise their faith. We remain inspired by their witness of faith in the LORD while living in the midst of a pagan empire.



Through the past years of serving in disinvested urban neighborhoods, we have encountered much trauma and grief. Death, hopelessness, systemic failures, and broken relationships accumulate to bring heaviness and can be discouraging both in ourselves and in our friends in the neighborhood. As we have reflected upon the challenges of this work, we have affirmed the need for good Christian therapy/counseling and for opportunities for retreat and refreshment.

Both Mark and Nate have taken time off this year to attend to our own emotional and spiritual health. We've also supported some of our community as they have received professional counseling services. We pray that we may continue to establish healthy patterns of ministry for all who are serving within Hesus Church. We are grateful for supporters and leadership who affirm this value of emotional health.



With this year's renewed awareness of the inequalities of our society based on the color of our skin, we have been striving to connect with other Christians who are working towards education and substantive policy change that will produce a more just society. In June, we participated in a faith-based march to bring attention to some of the disparities that we see and experience. We're also supportive of [Black Leaders Detroit](#), an initiative to resource black-led organizations and businesses in Detroit.

We know that the issue of racism is complex and sensitive. If you are desiring to learn and grow in your understanding, we would invite you to [reach out to us](#) so we can dialogue with you more and possibly share our perspective with

you. Also, Mark highly recommends the book, [*Where do we go from Here: Chaos or Community*](#) by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a primer for understanding the underlying issues of racism and imagining a preferred future.

But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream! Amos 5:24.

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NEEDS:

- **Meals for hot meals that we serve on Thursdays and**

Fridays (Frozen chili, lasagna, burgers all work great!)

- **Educational Items: Children's books, Art supplies, bookshelves,**
- **Bottled water, pop/juice, chips, granola bars, etc. as snacks for the children who stop by.**