

## THE PATH TO BUILDING A LABYRINTH FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Approximately 18 years ago Paula Durren presented a seminar to Marilyn Wagner, Laverne Hughes and Marianne Williams of the Church of the Mediator. She talked about Labyrinths being a gift to the community- a place of sanctuary and peace and gathering for a community. A church yard is the perfect place for a labyrinth. After becoming the Rector of Church of the Mediator, Paula continued to pursue using our large lawn for a labyrinth and meditation garden.

Barbara and Paul Cromheecke made a major donation to the labyrinth in honor of the passing of their daughter, Kristie Cromheecke Palo. Kent Newberry also made a major donation to the labyrinth in honor of the passing of his wife Gail and to the Meditation Garden in honor of Ronald Newhaiser. We continue to seek and accept donations to finish the plan for the memorial gardens and columbarium.

A committee was formed in 2017 to work with Mark Moreno of Andrews University Architecture Department. Mark and his wife volunteered their time to help the committee design a landscape plan incorporating the labyrinth, a columbarium and gardens. The committee of Paul Cromheecke, Linda Anderson, Bob Tibbles, Rev. Richard and Mary Emrich, David Dietrich and Mary Jo Thies-Dietrich, presented the finished design to the vestry. The vestry approved the design. But with the retirement of Rector Paula Durren and the following Rector search, the building of the labyrinth and gardens was not a top priority.

In January, 2019, the committee met at the Church yard and mapped out the size and location for the labyrinth. In 2020 Darlene Kuhn answered our call to be Rector of the Mediator and was enthusiastic to start our labyrinth and garden plans. She has experience in writing guidelines for memorial gardens in her previous parishes and will be the lead on establishing the contracts and rules for the interment of ashes for our garden.

I interviewed three landscape companies in 2019 and Green Thumb of Three Oaks, Michigan, was willing to work with us. In the fall of 2020, Doug Rudecki and his son Jason, with crew chief Juan, installed our labyrinth base and main structure.

The next step is the installation of the columbarium and more landscaping throughout the yard. Future plans include adding evergreen trees, holly bushes and more plantings that are native to our climate. All current plantings around the church grounds are designed to be used in altar flower arrangements. Joanne Sims, our Resident Master Gardener member, has agreed to continue to help us with our plans.

We have used our existing donations to build the base and main structure for the Labyrinth, \$20,800. The design is a replica of the Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth in France. The final phase is to set the 700 paver stones on the base to form the path design for the meditative walk. Each paver is \$5.00. We are asking for donations to finish this project this fall. To view our progress please go to [www.mediatorharbert.com](http://www.mediatorharbert.com) for pictures of the construction process.

If you would like to join us in completing this beautiful and meaningful addition to our Church and community, please send checks to: the Church of the Mediator with labyrinth in the memo line.

10 pavers	\$50	50 pavers	\$250	90 pavers	\$450
20 pavers	\$100	60 pavers	\$300	100 pavers	\$500
30 pavers	\$150	70 pavers	\$350		
40 pavers	\$200	80 pavers	\$400		

Church of the Mediator, PO Box 223, Harbert, MI 49115

We thank you for considering donating to this great project that brings peace and serenity to our world.

Sincerely,

Linda Anderson  
Church of the Mediator