



HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

December 2018—January 2019

Pastor's Ponderings *By Steve Young*

This combined newsletter always encourages me to keep my article down to a few important notes about special dates and events coming over the next two months. However, I will use some space to repeat the message found elsewhere here for you to have a joyful Christmas and a Blessed New Year, from both Kathy and myself.

DECEMBER - JANUARY EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Throughout December – Participate in the grocery collection (see article elsewhere in this newsletter, and pick up materials at the display table in the sanctuary hallway).

Sunday, 12/2 – The First Sunday of Advent with Holy Communion at the 10:30 a.m. worship (see the note for 12/9 below about the sermon theme) and a Kristal Bells performance by the kids. Then, at 1:30 p.m., our church will sponsor the Chapel Service at the Oceana County Medical Care Facility (domed entrance), if you care to come. Later in the day, the Oceana Singers will present their annual concert for the season at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Thursday, 12/6 – A vacation day for me and nearly our Office Manager, Molly's due date, so it prompts me to tell you to watch for church offices to be closed from time to time throughout December and January, particularly as Molly works from home. Also, remember that church offices are likely to be closed whenever Hart Schools are closed due to inclement weather, and watch WZZM-TV and listen to the radio for any Sunday worship cancellations due to conditions. Finally, at the end of December, church offices will be officially closed for the holidays from Friday, December 21 – Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

Sunday, 12/9 – For scheduling and other reasons, I've decided to cancel the series on the Nutcracker, which was promoted in last month's newsletter (but still go to the Disney movie and/or a ballet performance, if you can!). Instead, I plan to look at the journeys taken by Mary and Joseph before, at, and after Jesus' birth, along with the journeys of some other people in the combined Christmas story, and highlight some parallels with immigrants and refugees today. That focus will begin briefly on Sunday, 12/2, and continue to a greater degree for sermons in December and on January 6th.

Sunday, 12/16 – Choir Christmas Presentation at the 10:30 a.m. worship on this Third Sunday of Advent, also known as "Joy Sunday."

Sunday, 12/23 – The morning worship at 10:30 a.m. for the Fourth Sunday of Advent will take place, weather permitting, of course, but there will NOT BE a Fourth Sunday potluck this day.

The offices will be closed December 21st through New Years' Day!

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Pastor's Ponderings, cont.

Monday, 12/24 – The traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Special music and other performances are welcomed: please contact me.

Sunday, 12/30 – Northern Edge will be performing in our sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. as I will be on vacation.

Sunday, 1/6/19 – Holy Communion will be celebrated on this actual Epiphany Day, with a kids' Kristal Bells performance at the 10:30 a.m. worship! The sermon will focus on the journey of the foreigners known as the Magi who came to visit the Holy Family, with gifts.

Sunday, 1/13 – We will remember our baptisms during a baptismal renewal time at this 10:30 a.m. worship, even after we hear about and recall Jesus' own baptism. A Wesleyan Covenant Renewal prayer time will be featured as well to continue into the New Year, helping us to remember our covenant connection with God in Christ every day throughout the new year and beyond.

Sunday, 1/20 – Leadership Dedication will be featured during the 10:30 a.m. worship (see article elsewhere), with a list of Governance Board and Task Force Constituent names circulated, as approved at Church Conference last November 18. (NOTE: That list and a summary of other business from our yearly Church Conference meeting in Pentwater is available right now in a packet of information located on the Church Office front counter.)

Sunday, 1/27 – We will start our annual "Souper Bowl" collection on this day (see article elsewhere), even as we look forward to the Fourth Sunday potluck after worship.

Our Special Offerings in December— World Aids Sunday and Student Sunday

Technically, as announced in the November newsletter, we started collecting for the UMC's World Aids emphasis on November 25, but it continues as our special offering for December 2 and 9. The United Methodist Committee on Relief's top priorities in addressing HIV and AIDS around the world are to challenge stigma and eradicate mother-to-child transmission in partnership with the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF). By joining with other organizations in their related efforts, we and other United Methodists have the opportunity to "Just Save One" person living with HIV and AIDS. "Just Save One" is an initiative of UMGAF to eradicate HIV by 2020, and even a small gift can make a big difference. It costs less than \$10 to prevent transmission of HIV from a mother to a child, and just \$1 provides needed nutrients for an AIDS orphan. To support the cause, mark your donation as UMGAF, using your own envelope or one of the "Special" envelopes from the pew racks in the sanctuary. Note that there are no pew rack flyers for this collection, but read on.

Those pew racks in the sanctuary WILL carry a combination flyer/envelope for Student Sunday, our other special offering in December, specifically on the 16th, 23th, and 30th. Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The offering provides funding for scholarships and student loans for qualified United Methodist applicants, with other support coming from wills, annuities, and other designated gifts. The United Methodist Scholarship and Loan Programs are a church-wide educational service providing monetary assistance to help supplement the financial needs of today's students. Through the Loan Program, students may borrow up to \$5,000 per calendar year for a maximum total loaned of \$20,000.

Personal Care Pantry

We will be **CLOSED** on **Tuesday, December 25th!**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Donations are always accepted and appreciated.



"Souper Bowl" Collection Coming!

For nearly thirty years, a collection has been taken up across the United States at Super Bowl time and given in full to a local charity. We will participate in this on both Sunday, January 27, as well as on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3. We'll be asking everyone to contribute a dollar (or more!) into a soup pot, or you can also write a check payable to Hart UMC and designated "Souper Bowl" to make your donation. OUR DONATIONS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY OF PENTWATER CENTENARY UMC, like we've done before. Read more about the Souper Bowl of Caring, and track the giving (perhaps over ten million dollars nationwide going to help those in need at each locality) including ours at superbowl.org (There's also information on how to fund the operating expenses for the Souper Bowl of Caring organization in Columbia, South Carolina, if you are interested).

December Birthdays

4– Carole Tompkins;
Kailey Hendrickson

5– Travis Hendrickson;
Emily Gebhart

11– Rick Burrell

12– Thad Helmlinger

13– Michelle Jobbins

15– Lauren Hegedus

16– RyAnn Heinisch

19– Timothy Bowman;
Hiedi Michael

20– Jacob Hunt;
Sadie Sorensen

21– Clair Sloan

23– Margaret Binns

25– Emily Schwarz;
Zachary Schwarz

28– Wesley Carlson;
Liz Hammerle

31– Larry Young

December Special Offerings, cont.

We can be proud of the fact that the 150-year-old-plus United Methodist Student Loan Fund is the oldest student loan fund in the United States! Please use the pew rack flyer to give generously on any of the United Methodist Student Day collection Sundays listed above. Thank You! (P.S. For more information about obtaining a student loan or scholarship, contact Pastor Steve, or go to the website of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry: www.gbhem.org/scholarshipapplication.)

Additionally, please use the Christmas envelope from your numbered boxed set, or a separate envelope from the pew racks marked with your name, to give generously for the completion of our Ministry Shares (or other special ministry, if designated as such). Finally, please participate in the Christmas Tree Grocery Gathering (see article elsewhere).

Our Special Offering in January: *Human Relations Day*

With the start of 2019, our new Michigan Conference, UMC, will begin a new program for missions called “Engage.” Our church’s involvement is still being developed, but the special offerings for the new program will only be promoted on a monthly basis, rather than our past three-week rotation. So, for the month of January, we will start with the national UMC’s collection for Human Relations Day. This Human Relations Day offering has been and still is a special collection taken by participating UMCs across the nation in January, celebrated around Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Our donations empower those struggling to survive and equip change agents. The United Methodist Human Relations Day offering provides countless numbers of people with the resources to help transform the world, through the ministries of: Community Developers, a program related to the UMC’s General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM); United Methodist Voluntary Services, another program of the GBGM; and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program, related to the UMC’s General Board of Church and Society. Thank you for your generous gift this month of January, as you use the detachable envelope from an informational flyer in the pew racks, and even read more about it on the Internet at www.umc.org/humanrelations.

GOING ON NOW THROUGH DECEMBER!

Christmas Tree Grocery Gathering

Like we’ve done before, our church will be collecting groceries during December, to be delivered in January, 2019, to the approximately 20 clients of the Oceana County “Meals on Wheels” program through the Senior Center. The groceries will serve as an extra food supply for the winter for the recipients. Here’s how to participate:

1. Take two (2) paper bags from the display located in the sanctuary hallway. **MAKE SURE THE BAGS HAVE MATCHING NUMBERS!**
2. Also take a copy of the list of specific groceries to be purchased in order to fill the bags. This list of groceries has been developed with the help of a county nutritionist for dietary specifics, so please purchase only items on the list, being particularly observant of low sugar and no salt selections (also, check expiration dates to be sure items are good through at least May of next year). Of course, you may purchase the items at your favorite grocery store, but the list has the retail prices and aisle locations for easy selection from Hansen Foods, the business which is furnishing the paper bags for us. The approximate value of the groceries to be purchased is \$40, and this can be done as an individual or family unit, or as some friends together...but please take only one list and two bags per unit project.

Grocery Gathering, cont.

3. These filled bags are then to be returned back to the church and placed under the hallway Christmas trees any time between now and January 6, 2019, to be delivered shortly thereafter. (Note that church offices are closed December 25 through January 1.)

4. Upon return, you may also sign a “thinking of you” card provided at the display (or your own). If desired, write a general message of care and thoughtfulness (but, remember, NOT a Christmas message since the bags of groceries will be delivered during the month of January). Above the Hart UMC closing line, sign the card with your FIRST NAME(S) only—NO last names, please. Then, place the card in the envelope provided, leaving it unsealed, without any added material nor faith-based sayings (this is a government program), and insert it with your groceries, perhaps with a little prayer over it. Thank you for your participation and service to our community!

P.S. The groceries will be dropped off by the regular drivers of the program, but if you would like to deliver these groceries in your vehicle personally, please contact Pastor Steve.

NOTE: These instructions are also available at the grocery project display.

Leadership Dedication, Sunday, January 21st

At worship on Sunday, January 20, we will recognize and consecrate our current leaders and officers, both those who are continuing in their position on the Governance Board as well as those who have been newly elected. Also, we will recognize those who have volunteered to become Task Force Constituents. The names and categories of all these leaders and helpers will be listed on a handout that day. In addition, the Task Force list will be circulated on a clipboard so others may sign up. Please be considering how you can help, as able and available, with a liaison from the Governance Board directing each Task Force along with Pastor Steve. Finally, the officers and leaders of the U.M. Women and U.M. Men will also be included in the consecration recognition this day. All of these persons should make every effort to be in attendance, with all leaders being presented as a group for dedication during the service.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT!

Our thanks goes out to those who faithfully returned their household’s Estimate of Giving Card in November, noting their planned contributions to the ministries of Hart UMC for 2019. At this writing, we have over \$157,000 pledged to come from these persons (alphabetically by last name):

Roger and Margaret Ahlgrim
Bill and Penny Brubaker
Gayle and Lois Forner
Elizabeth Hammerle
Bob and Marilyn Henry
John and Maureen Huizing
Dave Isley
Jim and Margaret Johnson
Henry and Judy Kuipers
Joe and Peggy Leonardo
Mary Sue Mahan

Clem and Linda McLouth
Gary and Cheri Michael
Norm Meyers
Helen Pische
Frank and Pat Schramm
Nancy Sterk
Bill and Louise Stevens
Carole Tompkins
Walt and Karen Urick
Bev Wood
Steve and Kathy Young



May the FAITH of the joyful Christmas season in Christ, and the HOPE of a blessed new year through the Holy Spirit, with the gracious LOVE of God always, peacefully be to you and yours, from both of us.

-Pastor Steve and Kathy Young-

January Birthdays

- 1– David Isley
- 2– Onika Bouwkamp
- 3– Richard Richardson
- 4– David Woodman
- 5– Gage Mannor
- 6–Kymberly Woodman
- 7– Bronwyn Stevens
- 8– Jaclyn DeLaney
- 9– Joseph Pierce
- 10– Jeanne Lanenga
- 15– Emmaus Banwell; Star Jewell
- 16– Sandra Buono
- 19– Molly McGhan
- 22– Phil Kenyon; Jude Salazar
- 23– Landry Tate
- 30– Nicole Schwarz

Operation Christmas Child

On Monday, November 19th, 23 cartons filled with 335 shoeboxes left to go make some kids very happy and bring the love of Jesus into their homes! Thanks to those who packed the 63 boxes from our church!



Youth Group

Important Dates:

December 23rd & 30th: **NO** Youth Group

January 4th-6th: Winter Blast at Grace Adventures

March 2nd & 3rd: Spring Splash at Great Wolf Lodge (a Council Youth Retreat)

If your children want to participate in either of these events you need to register them online or contact Teena on how to complete registration. If we wait until the last minute to register for these events then the Youth normally end up losing money. So please get your children registered for these events as soon as possible. More activities will be scheduled! Keep an eye on our Youth Group/Kids Club Facebook page for more information on activities.

United Methodist Women

Our Annual Fall Bazaar was a big success! We are thankful for each of you for all the ways you supported this event. We couldn't do it without all of you! We served 95 for lunch, taking in \$701.00. Our Trinkets & Treasure, Bake Sale and Gift items brought in \$747.05 for a total of \$1,448.55! This is the highest deposit we've had for several years. These funds will help support our 2019 Pledge to Mission of \$2,500.00. God bless you!

The United Methodist Women are invited to a Christmas Tea at the UMC of Ludington (5810 Bryant Road, Ludington) on Saturday, December 15th at 1:30 p.m. Come enjoy delicious treats, great fellowship and entertainment by The Joy Singers! This event is a joyful way to begin the holiday season with friends. Please call to RSVP at 231-843-8340 by December 11th.

United Methodist Men

Rain put a damper on our TRUNK N TREAT outreach event on October 28th. We were pleased that we had 18 "Trunks" available for the children and parents that braved the weather! We gave away about 380 hotdogs and estimate that our crowd was down about 50% from last year, when the weather was nicer.

Thanks to all of our congregants that helped with the various details from preparing and packaging the hotdogs and other food items, to cleaning up the area after the event. A special thanks to Peterson Farms for donating 500 packages of sliced apples that were distributed to the attendees. The event reminded the community that we exist and have an open and friendly worship and fellowship center.

All men associated with our Church are invited to Breakfast on Saturday, December 15th at 8:00 a.m. at La Fiesta Restaurant. (Dutch Treat). We will do some preliminary planning for next year's events and should finish by 9:00 a.m., so you can still make any other Saturday morning commitments you may have. Place the date and time on your personal calendar and plan to attend—remember that the Gospels emphasize that "Church is a Man's Business." So, show up and help keep our Church's men's ministry vibrant!

Upcoming Events at HUMC

Mark your calendar!

Sunday, Dec. 2: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF at 1:30 p.m.;
Oceana Singers Concert at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 11: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 16: Choir Christmas Presentation during Worship

Friday, Dec. 21—Jan. 1: Church Offices closed

Monday, Dec. 24: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 25: *Christmas Day*

Sunday, Dec. 30: Northern Edge Performance for Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 1: *New Years' Day*

Sunday, Jan. 6: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 8: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 20: Leadership Dedication during Worship

Monday, Jan. 21: Governance Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 22: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 27: "Souper Bowl" Collection Begins

Sunday, Feb. 3: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 12: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 18: Governance Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Digging Deep ~ Reaching Out ~ Looking Up

Contact Us

Call the office or check out our website for more information about us!

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