

HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

March 2020

Pastor's Ponderings *By Steve Young*

Lent Has Begun

The Season of Lent continues during March, having started this year on February 26, Ash Wednesday. The observance of Lent is meant to lead to a more meaningful celebration of Easter, just as the early church designed it to be. Lent is not a biblical directive—although the 40-day period, not including Sundays, certainly is biblical—yet Lent directs us to a deeper appreciation and celebration of the Christian life, as we remember Jesus' journey to the cross and beyond through the resurrection.

To that end, I am leading a Lenten study, as promoted last month, throughout the six-weeks leading up to Easter (April 12). It appears that we will only hold sessions on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. starting March 3 in the Hart UMC library. Unfortunately, for those with daytime schedules, there has been a lack of enough recorded interest in doing the study at any other time. BUT, an independent study option can still be arranged using a copy of the DVD and the optional study book, if desired: talk to me if you're interested.

As announced, we will be studying Adam Hamilton's new book, "The Walk." Again, it's optional for the DVD study, but will add to your learning experience immensely. Copies are still available at this writing in the Church Office for \$15 each. In addition to the book, a Prayer Journal is also available for \$2 each to anyone and everyone—even if not participating in the study—to help strengthen the Lenten journey. These may be picked up in the sanctuary hallway, with money placed in the canister there. The suggested themes, daily scriptures, and guiding prompts in the journal for the 40 days of prayer DO coordinate with the book study, reflecting on the "five essential practices of the Christian life" as those five are the subject matter of the book, "The Walk" and it's accompanying study sessions. So, what are those five practices? They are: 1) Worship (and Prayer); 2) Study; 3) Serving; 4) Giving; and 5) Sharing.

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday:

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday:

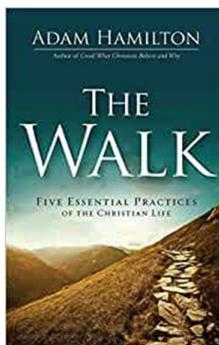
10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

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Pastor's Ponderings, cont.

I'm planning to explore each of these five practices on the five Sundays of March, even as they are alluded to in the five Gospel readings assigned for those Sundays. Actually, I will read each of these Gospel Lessons—and most of them are rather lengthy—encouraging you to follow along in the pew Bible (New Revised Standard Version), giving some notes and comments along the way. I'm calling these "Conversations with Christ" and the five conversations are: with the Tempter (March 1); with the woman at the well (March 8); with the healed blind man and the Pharisees (March 15); with the Pharisee named Nicodemus (March 22); and with Mary and Martha after their brother Lazarus' death (March 29...which is also the 5th Sunday Sing date). Then, after these readings, I'll go back to a key verse which connects to each of the corresponding five practices being studied later that week, briefly presenting some touchpoints from the related chapter in the book, "The Walk," and quickly giving some of my own thoughts to conclude. So, whatever "preaching" might be expected will be replaced with more "teaching," which is really my style anyway, and the lesson for the day will essentially be gained from the gospel reading itself and our reflections upon each one. Please come and be ready to learn from these Lenten lessons!



Additionally for our Lenten worship times, we will also observe two traditions, at least I think they are: 1) the sequential extinguishing of the Lenten candles at the end of each worship service, which is juxtaposed to the sequential lighting of candles during Advent; and 2) the placement of a cross from window to window in the six sanctuary windows, symbolizing Jesus' journey to the cross which we'll observe more fully on April 5, Palm/Passion Sunday.

Meanwhile, we'll walk with Jesus along the way through the five gospel conversations and reflections, accompanied by Adam Hamilton's book and study "The Walk," throughout Lent and beyond.

Our Special Offering for March

Our Special Mission Offering Opportunity for March is UMCOR (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing). This special collection calls United Methodists, among other denominations, to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. Our UMC offering provides administrative support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) as it responds to disaster survivors and people in need around the world. See the flyer in the pew racks for more information, and use the detachable envelope any of the Sundays to give generously to this national UMC Special Day offering. Thank you!

NOTICE:

The carpets in the Fellowship Hall and Hallway will be cleaned on Friday, April 3, 2020. The main entrance doors from the parking lot will be blocked off for the day. If you have business to do at church that day, you will be asked to use a different door to enter the church. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Tuesday's Friends

We gathered in the Fellowship Hall on February 18th. Seven of us enjoyed Valentine Bingo and some fill-in sheets. We ate dessert and visited for well over an hour. Our next meeting will be lunch at the Harbor House on March 12th at 1:00 p.m. RSVP is mandatory. Please contact Bev Wood if you plan to attend, no later than March 10th. Bev: 873-4649

PLAN NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP



The 2020 United Methodist Summer Camping program has been scheduled with

camps for all ages from kindergarteners (completed) through older adults. Brochures are now available in the sanctuary hallway to help you make a selection, but right now you can also go online at umcamping.org to decide and register. After you have registered and made the initial deposit, please bring your paperwork to the church office to receive a camp scholarship (values vary according to camps selected, but a typical full-week scholarship for a regular camp priced around \$400 would approximate \$350 for a United Methodist sponsored camp, and \$300 for a non-United Methodist camp—**AND THIS JUST IN: ALL UNITED METHODIST CAMPS WILL BE PAID IN FULL BY THE U. M. MEN!** Please complete your registration by April 15, to avoid price increases. Even now, some camps are filling up, so make your reservation soon and happy camping!

Daylight Savings Time Starts March 8

Don't forget to "Spring Ahead before Bed," moving your manual clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 7, for Daylight Saving Time which starts at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8. If you forget, you could be an hour late for church! (Note that cell phones, Internet-based/Wifi connections, and other tech devices probably will reset automatically...but check.)



Task Force Sign-ups for Governance Board Help Update

In January we circulated a clipboard for Task Force sign-ups to help with the overall ministry of Hart UMC through the Governance Board. Here is an up-to-date listing of the seven Task Forces and their general responsibilities (with more specifics "bulleted" on the full form), along with each's Governance Board liaison and the persons (up to six for each) who have signed up so far and/or remained on (with our thanks):

Abuse Prevention Task Force, Teena S., liaison – maintaining compliance with United Methodist Church policies for the safety and protection of children, youth, and vulnerable adults: John S.

Church Growth Task Force, Steve Y., liaison – investigating and exploring approaches to growing the church, in worship and in service, inwardly and outwardly, with MissionInsite resource: Gayle F., Chris J., and Walt U.

Finance Task Force, Walt U., liaison - helping with financial record-keeping and processes: Carole T., Louise S.

Hospitality and Congregational Care, Bev W., liaison - coordinating and monitoring the ministry of reaching out to newcomers, church members, and constituents, through communications, media, and events: Cheri M., Margo J., Kay D., Judy K., Linda S.

Membership Records, Pastor Steve and Molly M., liaisons – officially tracking and updating membership lists according to United Methodist Church guidelines: Chris J., Maureen H., Nicole S., and Nancy P.

Pastor-Staff Supervision, Mary Sue M., liaison – with guidance from the district superintendent and with input from the church and community, overseeing the ministry of the bishop's appointed pastor and the Hart UMC's hired staff, reviewing the reality and setting goals for the yearly church conference: Bev W., Lois F., Penny B., Maureen H., John H.

Trustees/Building and Grounds, Penny B., liaison – helping to maintain and improve church properties and respective records according to United Methodist Church policies: Henry K., Judy K., Lois F., Gayle F., Bill B.

As you can see, each Task Force has room for at least one more. Sign up by contacting the Church Office or Pastor Steve, who also co-directs the activities of each task force with the Governance Board. Current members of the Governance Board, elected at each yearly church conference, are (alphabetically): Jose and Lynda B. (Education Liaison Co-Chairs) Penny B. (Trustee/Buildings and Grounds Liaison); Maureen H. (Lay Leader); Chris J. (At Large); Mary Sue M. (Staff-Parish Relations Liaison); Walt U. (Finance Liaison); Bev W. (Hospitality and Congregational Care Liaison); U.M. Men's Representative (selected by UMM, non-officer volunteer, church member): Dave I.; U.M. Women's Representative (selected by UMW, non-officer volunteer, church member): Margo J.; Recording Secretary (voice only, no vote): Molly M. (Membership Records Co-liaison); Pastor (ex-officio): Steve Y. (Membership Records Co-liaison). **WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO SERVE IN A 3-YEAR TERM CAPACITY! CONTACT PASTOR STEVE, PLEASE AND THANK YOU.**

Personal Care Pantry

Donations from local churches have come in through Love INC. Also, a private donor made a wonderful donation of a laundry basket full of needed items. We are having continued clients and the shelves can be pretty bare after just one morning.

Kids Club

Kids Club has excitedly completed our Route 66 program that was started in the fall of 2018. Route 66 was made up of 3 units and took us through all 66 books of the Bible. We watched videos of the books, read Bible verses and did tons of worksheets to help us learn more about the Bible. After every unit, we did a celebration activity including our last activity of going swimming. I am so incredibly proud of these kids! They have really worked hard to try and understand the Bible.

Youth Group

Youth Group has made a decision on their summer 2020 mission trip. They have decided to head to Elkview, West Virginia to aid in home repairs still needed from the flood of 2016. Elkview is in the beautiful Kanawha Valley of West Virginia's coal country, taking its name from the wonderful Elk River that flows through the area. Although it is near the busy capital of Charleston, little growth in manufacturing, professional, or construction jobs has left this area with a struggling economy. The dwindling coal industry has hurt folks in this area and a devastating flood in the summer of 2016 caused more damage than anyone expected. With much work still left in the process of rebuilding, Elkview is a great location for the hands and feet of Jesus to make a difference—even in just one week in this community, with a chance to help individuals who lost almost everything and are longing for a new connection and helping hands. Stay tuned for upcoming fundraising activities for this mission trip.

We had a great time at Winter Blast at Grace Adventures at the beginning of February. We were able to learn more about the Outbreak of sin, the symptoms of the outbreak and ways to cure the outbreak. We had 8 youth attend this year!



College Students

Our spring college care packages will be packed on April 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please be thinking of these students as they finish their school year. We have 8 women and 5 men, giving us a total of 13 college students we are blessing this year. A list of our current college students can be obtained from the Church Office in print or electronically.

Governance Board Summary

- ◆ Annual Policy review is beginning with our Guideline for Child Protection.
- ◆ A very conservative budget has been adopted for 2020; it does not include our Ministry Shares of approximately \$23,000.
- ◆ Communication lists are being coordinated with our reviewed congregants list.
- ◆ Ferris State University Wesley House has been approved to use our Church Van for a spring trip to New Orleans; they will be responsible for oil & gas usage, as well as “on the road” repairs.
- ◆ Our Governance Board welcomes comments and/or suggestions; a contact list is available at the Visitor Center.

As the coronavirus situation evolves, we may need to cancel and postpone some group gatherings—including worship—in the days ahead. Be alert to further announcements, as we heed suggestions from the bishop's office and follow the lead of local and state officials, particularly being guided by the determinations of Hart Public Schools. Meanwhile, let's all step up our hygiene and sanitizing routines, even as we put into practice limited bodily contact, including hand-shaking, here in church and everywhere, for the time being. Finally, we will also change our communion format to individual cups (disposable) of juice at the front and pieces of bread distributed with food service gloves, which will also be worn during preparation. Thank you for your healthy cooperation and continued patience. —Pastor Steve

March Birthdays

1— Rylee Carskadon;
Hannah Myers

2— Beverly Richards;
Kaden Bond

3— Hanna (Mead) Barrs

12— Linda Stevens

20— Catherine
Waslusky; April Russell

21— Pat Schramm

29— Nikolas Michael

31— Sara Brondige

United Methodist Women

Judy K. (2) won the February Chili Cook-Off. Thanks to Judy K. (2), Mary Sue M. (1), John S. (4), and Penny B. (3) for bringing chili, to everyone who stayed to eat, and to everyone who gave donations totaling \$137.00.

Spring Fling is set to be held on Saturday, March 21st at Church of the Dunes in Grand Haven from 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Registration forms are available through Kay D. She has room for 3 or 4 to shuttle with her to this event. If a large group plans to attend, we can reserve the Church Van!

Prayer and Self-Denial will take place on Monday, March 23rd at 6:00 p.m. with guest speaker, our district vice president, Jean Sherman. A donation will be collected at this event. The theme this year is, “We Rise: Meeting God’s Call to Transform Communities.”

We will be ordering Easter Flower for the alter in the month of March. Flowers can be purchased in Memory or Honor of a loved one, or just individual flower purchases. The Last day to order will be Palm Sunday, which is April 5th. More details will be coming soon.

UMW 2020 Calendar:

March 21 (Saturday): Spring Fling, Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven

March 23 (Monday): Prayer and Self-Denial in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. with Guest Speaker, District Vice President Jean Sherman

April 12 (Sunday): Easter Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

April 16 (Thursday): College Boxes at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

April 27 (Monday): General Meeting at 6:00 p.m. to be held at the Harbor House

May 1-2: Spiritual Growth Retreat, St. Francis, Dewitt

May 16 (Saturday): UMC Community House at 9:00 a.m., Grand Rapids (bring a lunch)

June 22 (Monday): Tour of Abbi May’s Fabric Shop, meet at HUMC at 10:00 a.m. (followed by lunch on own)

July 8-11: Mission U of the West, Albion, MI

August 9 (Sunday): Family Picnic during Fellowship Hour (location TBD)

September 19 (Saturday): Midwest District Annual Meeting (location TBA)

September 28 (Monday): General Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with Nominations and Elections of Officers, as well as Fall Bazaar Discussion

October 24 (Saturday): Michigan Conference Annual Meeting, Kalamazoo 1st UMC

October 25 (Sunday): Trunk-N-Treat at Noon

October 26 (Monday): General Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to finalize plans for the Fall Bazaar

November 13 (Friday): Fall Bazaar with Luncheon from 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

December 11 (Friday): Oceana Medical Care Facility Birthday at 2:00 p.m.

United Methodist Men

We are offering our youngsters a full scholarship to attend one of the United Methodist Camps in Michigan; thus there will be no cost to the student to attend. Those students who choose to attend a Non-Methodist Christian Camp will be eligible to receive \$150 scholarship from the UMM to offset some of the cost of camping. Please contact the Church Office or Pastor Steve, if you would like to enroll your child in a summer camping program. We are planning to sponsor a Singspiration/Talent Show for Sunday, May 17th, with a pancake supper preceding the evening event. Please, mark your calendars and plan to participate!

Upcoming Events at HUMC

Mark your calendar!

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

Tuesday, March 3: Lenten Study “The Walk” at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 8: *DST begins—“spring ahead” 1 hour!*

Tuesday, March 10: Lenten Study “The Walk” at 11:00 a.m.;
Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Monday, March 16: UMW Executive Board at 11:00 a.m.;
Governance Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17: Lenten Study “The Walk” at 11:00 a.m.;
Church Growth Task Force at 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 19: Fellowship Hall IN USE from 4:00 p.m. on

Sunday, March 22: *Fourth Sunday Potluck*

Monday, March 23: UMW “Prayer & Self-Denial” at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 24: Lenten Study “The Walk” at 11:00 a.m.;
Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29: 5th Sunday “Scripture & Songs”

Tuesday, March 31: Lenten Study “The Walk” at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 5: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF at 1:30 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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Visit us on the web at
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