



HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

August 2020

Pastor's Ponderings *By Steve Young*

IN-PERSON SANCTUARY WORSHIP TO BEGIN ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

Welcome to Hart United Methodist Church Services!

While making our services as welcoming as possible, we are keeping your safety in mind. We are all aware of social distancing and sanitizing rules, please follow them when in the church building. Although wearing a mask is required, those who are unable to will be accommodated after informing a greeter at the entrance. At a future time, congregational singing may be added to the service.

Again, welcome to our service!

I trust that you've heard about and read the notice for the start of in-person sanctuary worship on the first Sunday of August, the 2nd (see the front page). The Governance Board approved this by unanimous vote after several weeks of study, discussion, and debate concerning rules and regulations with a welcoming tone (and, by the way, the understanding is that UMC pastors officially do not vote on such matters from boards, councils, leadership teams, etc., and so I officially abstained). Of course, things will be much different, so be prepared per the announcement, when deciding to attend in-person. Still some items have been left out of the statement and need to be shared, including that nursery services and Sunday school will be suspended at this time. Also the offering collection process will be determined, but you can still mail in your tithes and contributions to the church address (308 S. State St., Hart, 49420).

NEW Office Hours!

Monday-Thursday

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Closed Friday

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Pastor's Ponderings, cont.

Additionally, please know that worship services will continue to be provided online, being posted to our website later on Sundays after I produce them to You Tube. DVDs will also be available by request for pickup any time after the service or by mailing. Plus, I hope to arrange for live worship broadcasts on Facebook as well as arrange to air the live service on our new private FM radio station, 87.7 FM, which should reach around the City of Hart and, of course, into our parking lot for those who decide to listen live with their car or other radio. (You could even greet in-person attendees coming and going from the lot!) August 2 is a first Sunday of the month, but we will not yet have Holy Communion. Instead, on that first Sunday, Lay Minister Wayne Brunt will give his last message for the 6-week period he has served us during my vocal cord rehab time. Our thanks and appreciation continue to go out to him!

My rehab is scheduled to continue through August, with another scope of my throat on September 9, but my voice is coming back, and I plan to be back leading worship and preaching on August 9, although in a limited way, speaking-wise—no wise cracks, now. So, consider your risk category and take proper precautions, but hope to see you—and be talking with you—August 2 and beyond! God Bless You!

OUR SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING OPPORTUNITY FOR AUGUST: Wesley Foundation of Ferris State University (Ferris Wesley House)

Ferris Wesley House is a campus ministry that ministers to the Ferris State University campus and community. The ministry builds strong leaders by involving students in leadership both on campus and in local churches. Hart UMC has provided its van for the organization's mission trips over the years, and now has the opportunity to support the ministry monetarily this month, even as students and staff are making decisions about classes. Please mark your donation as "Ferris" to make your generous offering any time in August. Thank you.

A NOTE ABOUT NOT SINGING

Due to the fact that Hart UMC is mostly a high risk congregation or, at best, moderate risk, we will not be singing during indoor worship services, according to the bishop's office directive for such UMC congregations. We will continue to err on the side of caution until we receive clear guidance from the bishop's office, or the CDC, that singing is again safe indoors.

Studies show that singing and loud speech might spread COVID-19 through breath droplets, particularly as these droplets become aerosols and project farther in singing and loud speech, even through face coverings. The CDC continues to advise that places of worship could be particularly high risk for spreading COVID-19 if proper precautions are ignored.

For some this restriction on singing may seem overbearing and exaggerated. However, we want to provide as safe of a place to gather as we can, even as some of our congregation fall into a more vulnerable category. We want them and everyone else to both feel and be as safe and secure as possible when attending worship. Please help us maintain a safe worship setting by following and supporting the restrictions in place, both for yourself and for others.

Remember that it was Jesus who both commanded us to love one another and reminded us to love our neighbor as ourselves. We can do this concretely and unselfishly as we not sing indoors (and as we wear face coverings, too).

See this link for more:
<https://michiganumc.org/what-why-no-singing/>

Summary of Governance Board Zoom/Outdoor July Meeting

- After prayer by Pastor Steve, with rehabbed voice, the June 15, 2020 minutes, as corrected, were approved.
- The Second Quarter report was presented highlighting the Federal Stimulus Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds and faithful giving as contributing to a positive report so far. We continue to trust that the PPP loan will become “forgivable” when the process is finalized. This and the First Quarter report will be included in the August newsletter.
- The wedding policy update is in rough draft form, ready to be finished.
- A statement about reopening for in-person sanctuary worship was discussed, promoting a welcoming posture while also presenting safety precautions involved. The final version of the statement will be printed in the August newsletter and communicated in the e-bulletin and in other ways. Additionally, August 2, 2020, was the date decided for this in-person sanctuary worship to begin. Wayne Brunt will be preaching that day and concluding his six-week pulpit supply, paid by the Conference, during Pastor Steve’s voice rehab time. Holy Communion is still on hold, and nursery and Sunday school are suspended at this time.
- Reopening the Church Office was discussed and suggestions given. It was decided to let the pastor and office manager work out the days and times, to be announced as soon as possible. Health precautions will be followed, with face coverings and physical distancing.
- Rotary luncheon meetings may resume in Fellowship Hall according to the Club’s decision, observing health safety protocols.
- Forms for our Charge Conference will be due in October, ahead of the Sunday, November 8 date. Remember, as a “charge” conference, it will be limited to church officers only and will be held by Zoom.
- We will be making changes in our church insurance policies to save money, and will consider the church van policy and its usage this fall.
- Our grounds maintenance is OK for the remainder of the season, thanks to Dave Jensen, the Forners, and the Brubakers.
- Pastor Steve’s voice continues to improve. The ENT specialist will do another scope of his throat on September 9, but he’s been okayed to speak freely for up to 10 minutes at a time before a break.
- Hart UMC received a special “Engage MI” certificate for our mission work in 2019. It will be put on display in the rear sanctuary window.

READERS NEEDED

Pastor Steve is looking for volunteers to read the scripture lesson(s) on Sundays. Readers will be provided the version of the lesson(s) to be read the week before for practice, if you want. If interested, please send your name (and email, if possible) to Pastor Steve at the church email, Hart UMC@gmail.com, and thank you!

NOTE

Due to the pandemic, and similar to March 29 and May 31, the August 31 “Fifth Sunday Scripture & Song” (“Hymn Sing”) event will be canceled.

HART UMC FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT—2020

During the first quarter of this year we receipted in \$45,320 and paid out \$36,214 for a positive cash-flow of \$9,106. All of the positive cash flow was designated for non-budget items such as Building fund, Ministry shares, Youth Fund, and Electronic sign fund. Our Operating Budget (General Fund) receipts for the quarter were \$35,272 and our operating expenses were \$36,172 for a General-Fund quarterly deficit of \$900.

In tracking our budget, we have expended 23.4% of our total year's Operational budget, so are under budget for the year from an expenditure standpoint. However, as noted above, our general fund receipts were \$900 short of meeting our expenditures.

Our Ministry-Share obligation to our Conference this year is \$20,888 and is not part of our operational budget. We received \$3,596 for Ministry Shares this quarter and in light of the present Economic shutdown, it will be difficult for us to meet that goal.

The Church's Bank accounts on March 31st totaled \$95,486.56 and consisted of the following sub-fund balances:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| General Fund | \$15,483.66 |
| Youth | 5,811.77 |
| Van Fund | 9.99 |
| Ministry Shares | 3,596.00 |
| Emergency Repairs | 1,000.00 |
| Care Fund | 779.12 |
| Building Fund | 6,450.97 |
| College Care Fund | 130.94 |
| Memorial Fund | 53,255.03 |
| Music Program | 1,462.86 |
| Noisy Can (S.School) | 1,957.81 |
| PC Pantry Fund | 129.26 |
| Tech Fund | 2.47 |
| Misc. Giving | 200.90 |
| Electronic Sign | 3,800.00 |
| Conf. Specials | 478.00 |
| Payroll Tax | 937.78 |
| | <u>\$95,486.56</u> |

Respectfully Submitted,
Walter Urick, Governance Board Member & Finance Liaison
April 8, 2020

HART UMC SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT—2020

August Birthdays

1– Margo Johnson;
Jill Seyfred

6– Mary Sue Mahan

11– Nathaneal Richardson

14– Patrick Goughler

17– Jennifer Hunt

21– Holli Wittman

24– Christ Gebhart

25– Derek Orent

26– John Sorensen

28– Helen Pische;
Cypress Banwell

During the second quarter of this year we receipted in \$46,640 and paid out \$44,655 for a positive cash-flow of \$1985. In addition, we borrowed \$21,700 from the SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) thereby increasing our quarterly gross receipts to \$68,340. Hopefully, most of the PPP loan will be forgiven and converted into a grant after we comply with various “Forgiveness of loan Regulations.” \$8580 of the positive cash flow was designated for non-budget items such as Building fund, Ministry shares, and Electronic sign fund. We spent \$2,186 from our Building fund to repaint some brick work, repair our Stone Wall and replace the broken glass tubes in our basement windows.

In tracking our budget, we have expended 46.7% of our total year’s Operational budget, so are 3.3% under budget for the year from an expenditure standpoint. However, Our Ministry-Share obligation to our Conference this year is \$20,888 and is not part of our operational budget. We will consider supplementing our M/Share designated giving with some of our fund equity to meet this obligation.

The Church’s Bank accounts on June 30th totaled \$118,233.52 and consisted of the following sub-fund balances:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$39,200.29 |
| Youth | 5,400.88 |
| Van Fund | 9.99 |
| Ministry Shares | 3,134.00 |
| Emergency Repairs | 1,000.00 |
| Care Fund | 779.12 |
| Building Fund | 5,734.97 |
| College Care Fund | 130.94 |
| Memorial Fund | 53,400.03 |
| Music Program | 1,462.86 |
| Noisy Can (S.School) | 1,957.81 |
| PC Pantry Fund | 149.26 |
| Tech Fund | 2.47 |
| Misc. Giving | 250.90 |
| Electronic Sign | 5,600.00 |
| Conf. Specials | 20.00 |
| | <u>\$118,233.52**</u> |

Respectfully Submitted,
Walter Urick, Governance Board Member & Finance Liaison
July 14, 2020

**The Church funds are subject to a PPP loan of \$21,700 which reduces the Church’s equity in its fund balance to \$96,533.52. That equity will increase to the extent that the loan is forgiven and converted from a

Upcoming Events at HUMC

Mark your calendar!

Sunday, August 2: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 5: Office OPEN, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 9: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 12: Office OPEN, 10:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 16: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 19: Office OPEN, 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 23: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 30: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

NOTE: WATCH FOR FUTURE EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS VIA
EMAILS AND ON OUR WEBSITE CALENDAR →

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
hartunitedmethodist.org
or like us on Facebook!

Digging Deep ~ Reaching Out ~ Looking Up

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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