

HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

September 2020

Pastor's Ponderings *By Steve Young*

HOLY COMMUNION ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th

It's been a long time since we've celebrated Holy Communion! Hart UMC has the tradition of observing this sacrament on the first Sunday of the month, but that hasn't happened in a regular way since March 1 during this pandemic, outside of the Holy Maundy Thursday online event. However, communion WILL be distributed on the first Sunday of September, the 6th, yet in a different and very sanitary way.

We will receive the elements in individual combined sets containing juice in a small "communion-sized" sealed cup topped with an unleavened wafer also sealed in (see picture).



To partake, just push the tab up and carefully peel back each seal, eating the wafer first, followed by the juice.

Each disposable pre-packaged and clean set will be made available for pick-up on that Sunday in two ways: 1) individually from a table top in the sanctuary hallway for in-person worshippers and 2) in our parking lot at a drive-through drop-off location by the canopy pillars for radio listeners and others. Of course, each of these ways is different from our regular format of "intinction" distribution at the front of the sanctuary, but adjustments need to be made these days. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding, knowing that this kind of communion distribution will need to continue for some time to come. Also know that you may take the combined set(s) home to receive there, if that would be more convenient and safer for you, as each set will be blessed and consecrated in a physically-distanced manner that day for all purposes.

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Closed Friday

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Pastor's Ponderings, cont.

That line leads me to say a couple of theological things about communion from our United Methodist perspective. First of all, and in relation to that blessing and consecrating concept, we U. M.'s do not believe that the bread and juice physically nor chemically change into Christ's flesh and blood in this sacrament. Rather, we believe that the change is spiritual, with those two elements signifying the body and blood of Christ's sacrifice for us. Symbolically receiving that body-and-blood sacrifice into our bodies through communion helps us to always remember that we are the Body of Christ in the world today, redeemed by Christ's blood. To that end, we pray over the bread and cup that they may make us, by God's Spirit, "one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world." Basically, we are consecrating, not so much the elements, but *ourselves* in Christ, by Christ, and to Christ's blessed service today, as signified in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

So, what is a sacrament in the United Methodist perspective? The word "sacrament" derives from the Latin word "sacramentum," which was a Roman soldier's pledge of allegiance. So essentially a sacrament is God's "pledge of allegiance" in eternal love and faithfulness to us and our own answering "pledge of allegiance" to God as seen in Jesus the Christ. We believe that Jesus ordained two sacraments, namely baptism and communion, which have become "symbols and pledges of the Christian's profession and of God's love toward us," as stated in our Confession of Faith. These two "pledges of allegiance" are means of grace by which God works within us to confirm and strengthen our faith, bringing that faith to life concretely in the symbols of commitment represented and represented in the sacraments of baptism and communion.

Finally, let me say a word about children being involved in the sacraments. We as United Methodists definitely believe that, at whatever age, children should be and need to be participating fully in the sacraments. So, we practice baptism for infants and all ages, and we welcome and encourage children to partake of communion alongside all the rest of us. Do children fully understand the meaning of the holy sacraments? No, and neither do any of us. The sacraments are a wonderful mystery and, quite frankly, in that regard, children may be particularly suited and the best at sensing that wonder and mystery.

BIBLES TO THIRD GRADERS BEING ARRANGED

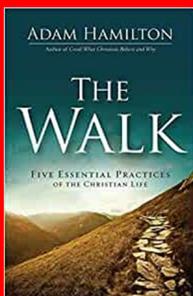
As you may know, and in keeping with an old Methodist tradition, Hart UMC will be presenting Bibles to our new third graders and any others, as needed. However, in this topsy-turvy time, we will be making those Bibles available upon request, with arrangements being made for the most convenient way of pick-up or drop-off. So, if you know of a third grader, or other elementary-age students, associated with Hart UMC, who would like to receive a new Bible, please contact the Church Office to make these arrangements. (NOTE: Sunday school is still on hold at least for this fall.)



BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

This past Lent, we started a six-week Bible Study which had to be postponed. So, it is being “revived” again starting on Tuesday, October 6 at 11:00 a.m., and at other times if there is enough interest (please contact Pastor Steve, the facilitator of the study). We will meet in Fellowship Hall, observing physical distancing and wearing masks. Hopefully, it will also be online as well with more information to come in next month’s newsletter.

We will once again be following Adam Hamilton’s book, “The Walk,” with an optional study book is also available, if you did not get one previously, and the first four people may purchase one for \$14 each at the Church Office. Also, eight copies of a Prayer Journal are also available for \$2 each to anyone and everyone, even if not participating in the study.



Pastor’s Ponderings, cont.

After all, it was Jesus who said in Mark 10:15, “I assure you that whoever doesn’t welcome God’s kingdom like a child will never enter it.” (CEB) Just before that Jesus said, “Allow the children to come to me. Don’t forbid them, because God’s kingdom belongs to people like these children.” (Mark 10:14, CEB) Maybe we should take more of our cues from our kids when it comes to the sacraments, even as we welcome them and encourage them to participate.

So, be sure to get a communion set for each of your children, as well as for yourself, on Sunday, September 6th, and let’s all carefully, wonderfully, and faithfully participate as God’s children together, whether in-person or otherwise, in the sacraments.

Our Special Offering Opportunities for September

Our special offering for September is for Church World Service—the CROP Walk people. The annual CROP Walk this year will be a virtual walk (see article elsewhere). Please become and/or support a walker OR send in your contribution to be applied to participants in the event. The monies will be used to support local food banks as well as the hunger relief ministries of Church World Service (CWS).



In addition, we will also be collecting for CWS’s Blankets-Plus program. Please mark your contribution accordingly as “Blankets.” For well over 60 years now, CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster; tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields; wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens; and literacy training and micro-credit for women struggling to realize their potential. Please plan to give generously, and thank you!

ADVANCED NOTICE

Midwest VIRTUAL District Conference coming

Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 10:00—11:30 a.m.

Save the date and watch for more details in next month’s newsletter.

Conference Report from Maureen Huizing

This was a first for annual conference done all on Zoom. I thoroughly enjoyed it, but I missed seeing all of my many friends and former pastors. They picked my birthday to have it on, so I spent my birthday this year in front of the computer.

The Bishop's sermon on Sunday night was outstanding and Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford our DS helped Bishop Bard. I loved the theme, "Sowing Seeds", they picked for the conference this year. It was so appropriate, and the Bishop's sermon expanded on it.

Because of it being Virtual we did not have a UMW luncheon and did not have the featured speakers that we have every year that are always very good. This year it was all business.

Hopefully next year we can meet in person.

Love and Blessings,
Maureen Huizing, Lay leader

United Methodist Women

What will our Fall Bazaar look like in November? Will there be one? We hope you will join us on Monday, September 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with your ideas.

Personal Care Pantry

We opened the PC Pantry back up on the second Tuesday in August, and had the pleasure of caring for our first client since we've been closed. Thank you to all who have continued to donate and support this mission!

CROP Walk

This year the CROP Walk will be a virtual walk on Sunday, September 27th. For more details, please contact Kay Dion. The walkers involved still can use your pledges, even as we go forward in a new way this year.

CROP WALK



Summary of August Governance Board Meeting

- ◆ Our finances are stable and, should it be required, we can pay back our PPP loan.
- ◆ Wedding Policy revisions were reviewed and will be proposed for adoption at the next Governance Board meeting.
- ◆ Our office hours will be from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday
- ◆ Fellowship time will continue outside after the Sunday Service, weather permitting.
- ◆ The electronic sign project has been funded and bidders will be contacted.

September Birthdays

- 1– Lee Ann Kenyon
- 7– Linda McLouth
- 14– Louise Stevens
- 17– Cynthia Orent
- 19– Abigail Field
- 20– Barb Rockwell
- 22– Gayle Forner;
Timothy Goughler
- 24– Timothy Carskadon
- 30– Cheri Michael

Hart UMC Balance Sheet

Cash Assets:

Money Market	\$122,621.23
Checking	<u>7,267.74</u>
Total Cash Assets	\$129,888.97

Fund Balances:

General Fund*	\$50,792.60
Memorial Fund	53,400.03
Building Fund	7,094.97
Care Fund	779.12
College Care Fund	130.94
Electronic Sign Fund	6,125.00
Emergency Repairs	1,000.00
Ministry Shares	1,372.00
Misc. Giving Fund	200.90
Music Fund	1,462.86
Noisy Can	1,957.81
PC Pantry	149.26
Tech Fund	2.47
Van Fund	9.99
Youth Fund	5,282.88
Conf. Specials	20.00
Payroll Liabilities Fund	<u>108.14</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	\$129,888.97

***The General Fund is subject to a PPP loan of \$21,758.86 which reduces the Church’s equity in its General Fund balance to \$29,033.74. That equity will increase to the extent that the loan is forgiven and converted from a loan to a grant.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Walter Urick, Finance Liaison to Gov. Board

Upcoming Events at HUMC

Mark your calendar!

Sunday, Sept. 6: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
with Holy Communion (inside and out)

Monday, Sept. 7: LABOR DAY—*Office Closed*

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

Sunday, Sept. 13: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16: Kids Club begins (outdoors), 3:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 20: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Youth Group begins (outdoors), 12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

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

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

Sunday, Sept. 27: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 28: UMW Meeting in Fellowship Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Limited office hours will begin in October.

Please check your email for details, as that time approaches.

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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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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