

HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

October 2020

Pastor's Ponderings *By Steve Young*

As we've entered the fall season, maybe you're like me: feeling somewhat more "grounded" as schedules begin to be a bit more regular, although things have changed dramatically, even for the near future at least. In that regard, our church schedule for October, typically a busy month, has been modified in abbreviated and creative ways. Here's one such way:

We will again observe Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month, October 4, and, like last month, we'll again use the "combo" bread and cup for distribution (see the September newsletter for particulars). These sealed and individually-packaged sets will once again be available separately on a long table in the sanctuary hallway for in-person attendees to pick up before entering the sanctuary. Otherwise, a drive-up location will again be available in our parking lot near the canopy pillars that Sunday morning for radio listeners and others. The communion sets there will be in individual plastic baggies and handed out sanitarily, one by one, with gloved hands.

Then, this month and into the future, a new third method of distribution will also be used. During the week before October 4 (right now as you read this) and for the week after, the combo sets, which need no refrigeration, will be available for independent pick-up in a black mailbox attached to the front door of the Church Office. A half-dozen will be placed there in individual baggies, being restocked as needed for the two weeks. This new distribution procedure is designed especially for our online communing worshippers to stop by and take home, but anyone can participate in this added feature, even picking up the elements for the next first-Sunday communion if desired.

And one more thing: This first Sunday of October has been and is designated as World Communion Sunday, so Christians around the globe will be celebrating Holy Communion all day and night long, for 24 hours. We'll be a part of that here in the Eastern time zone, and perhaps at other times as well on—or around—that day with our flexible communion distribution.

Other activities are happening this month, too, with some changes, so please read on for details. Blessings!

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Closed Friday

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Spiritual Gifts Exploration Project Continues

In September the sermons focused on our work and service for the Lord, culminating in an invitation to explore our spiritual gifts. You can review those sermons on our website, but know that the spiritual gifts project still continues, even as an online assessment tool is available at www.umc.org/en/content/spiritual-gifts (ctrl-click electronically, or copy and paste into your browser). A shorter paper tool is also available in the sanctuary hallway, if that is your preference. In either case, please take an inventory of YOUR special spiritual gifts as soon as you can and look for ways to share them in your work and service for the Lord!



Our Special Offering Opportunity for October: the UMC's World Communion Collection

This month's special offering opportunity is a national UMC promotion, namely "World Communion Sunday" which we will feature all month long. As you may have read in the "Pastor's Ponderings" article, World Communion Sunday is on October 4 and, in addition to promoting a shared Holy Communion experience around the world all day long, we will also be called as the church to reach out to all people and model diversity among God's children. We will begin to collect our nationally-received United Methodist special offering that day, a special offering which benefits World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program. The United Methodist Church relates to World Communion Sunday by informing qualified people, especially youth and young adults, to apply for scholarships and by inviting congregations like ours to give generously to the special offering, which often enables first-generation students to attend college. See the leaflet in the pews and use the detachable envelope, or your own, to give generously all this month of October, placing the envelope in the plate in the sanctuary hallway, dropping it into the drop box next to the Church Office door, or mailing it in, designating it as "World Communion." Thank you!

PLEASE NOTE

**TRUNK AND TREAT
at our church facility
has been canceled
by the Governance
Board for this year,
2020. Watch for it
next year, though!**

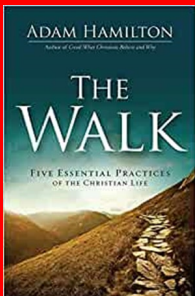


Daylight Saving Time (D.S.T.) ends early in the morning on November 1, so "fall back" one hour on the Saturday night before, October 31, Halloween, to be on time for church and other events—although, if you forget and you're an hour early for things, that will probably be OK!

BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

This past Lent we started a six-week Bible Study which had to be postponed due to stay-at-home orders. So, the study 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’ll meet in Fellowship Hall, observing physical distancing and wearing masks. An online broadcast will be made available also, but only to those who contact Pastor Steve with their email address for the meeting invite.

We’ll once again be following Adam Hamilton’s book, “The Walk,” with an optional study book still available, if you did not get one previously. Four copies are set out for purchase at the Church Office for \$14 each. Also, a \$2 themed Prayer Journal is obtainable in the sanctuary hallway for anyone and everyone, even if not participating in the study.



Bibles to Third Graders Still Being Arranged

As communicated in the September newsletter, Hart UMC is pleased, as always, to give new Bibles to our third graders and any others, as needed. We are making those Bibles available upon request, with arrangements made for the most convenient way of pick-up or drop-off. So, if you know of a third grader or other elementary-age student(s) associated with Hart UMC who would like to receive a new Bible, please contact the Church Office to make these arrangements. Thank you.



Welcome Baby Girl Brenna Rose McGhan!

Our office manager, Molly McGhan, and her husband, Ike, welcomed a new daughter, Brenna Rose, at her birth at Muskegon Hackley Hospital on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 5:38 p.m. She weighed 7 pounds and 10 ounces, and measured 18 inches long. Brenna should be coming home soon to meet her nearly two-year-old sister, Maisey, and other family, including her grandma, Tracy McGhan, our church custodian.

Molly will be taking a maternity leave for six weeks and doing some church office work from home.

Congratulations to all and blessings on this little blessing!

Midwest VIRTUAL District Conference coming

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

To get the link beforehand, please register here [HERE](#) electronically, or at this same link on the Midwest District website in your browser at Midwest.michiganumc.org.

Operation Christmas Child

We will not be a collection church for Operation Christmas child this year. The new collection church will be First Baptist Church of Hart, located on the corner of 72nd and Tyler Road. We do have boxes available to pack, however. You will be welcome to leave them on the altar during collection week, November 16-23, 2020, and they will then be transported to First Baptist Church. We hope that many of you will still participate by packing boxes, so that we can bless many children through this operation!

Summary of September Governance Board Meeting

- Pre-service music for meditation will begin 10 minutes before the service
- Congregants may choose to sing one song during the service
- Wedding Policy approved
- Approved Molly's maternity leave for six weeks
- Electronic Signage will be in place by the end of the year
- Kids Club and our Youth Group have started
- Trunk & Treat has been rescheduled to 2021

Don't Forget These Worship Options...

As the pandemic continues into the colder months, remember that Hart UMC has a few options for worship, in addition to the in-person sanctuary service at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays:

- ⇒ You can listen to the worship service live on the radio at 87.7 FM starting a couple of minutes before 10:30 a.m. Our broadcast signal goes out to about a one mile radius from the church building, so you may be able to listen anywhere in town. Otherwise, some listeners have been parking in the church parking lot to listen to their car radio on Sunday mornings. Then they stay a few minutes afterward and safely greet/wave to/honk at in-person worshippers coming and going at a proper social distance from their car.
- ⇒ Sunday worship services are still recorded on DVD, so a hard disk copy could be mailed to you or left for pick up, if you desire. Contact the church office to make arrangements.
- ⇒ Our pre-recorded worship services are posted to our Facebook page and our church website by Pastor Steve, typically sometime between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons (if all the video copying and processing goes right!). Afterward, you can view the videos and participate in worship anytime and anywhere online, even being prepared to join in Holy Communion on (or around) the first Sunday of each month as outlined in this newsletter's front page article. (Note: We still are working on making our Sunday worship service live online, so stay tuned!)

Hart UMC Balance Sheet—September 1, 2020

October Birthdays

1– Frank Schramm;
Penny Brubaker

3– Judy Kuipers;
Atreya Salazar

4– Harvey Weaver;
Jim Field

5– Kaylin Swihart;
Nikki Klotz

6– Melissa Kindinger

9– Terrie Gebhart;
Aubrey Hendrickson

11– Hailey Bond

13– Lenore Westrate

15– Nathan Drechen

16– Terry Peters

19– Dan Russell

22– Dick Huntington;
Mary Sloan

25– Hannah Riggs

29– Peggy Leonardo

Cash Assets:

Money Market	\$122,642.01
Checking	<u>7,886.75</u>
Total Cash Assets	\$130,528.76

Fund Balances:

General Fund*	\$50,021.13
Memorial Fund	53,400.03
Building Fund	5,989.97
Care Fund	779.12
College Care Fund	130.94
Electronic Sign Fund	6,775.00
Emergency Repairs	1,000.00
Ministry Shares	2,212.00
Misc. Giving Fund	200.90
Music Fund	1,462.86
Noisy Can	1,957.81
PC Pantry	1,149.26
Tech Fund	2.47
Van Fund	9.99
Youth Fund	5,282.88
Conf. Specials	20.00
Payroll Liabilities Fund	<u>252.40</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	\$130,528.76

***The General Fund is subject to a PPP loan of \$21,776.69 which reduces the Church's equity in its General Fund balance to \$28,244.44. 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, Oct. 4: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
with Holy Communion (inside and out)
Youth Group, 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 6: REVIVED Lent Study- “The Walk”, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 11: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group, 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 13: REVIVED Lent Study- “The Walk”, 11:00 a.m.
Personal Care Pantry, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 17: Midwest VIRTUAL District Conference, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 18: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group, 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 19: Governance Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 20: REVIVED Lent Study- “The Walk”, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 25: IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 27: Personal Care Pantry, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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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