



HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

July-August, 2021

Pastor's Ponderings *By Steve Young*

I announced in the June newsletter my decision to make this issue a combined July-August summer edition, partly because we do not yet have an Office Manager, so I'm doing it all since April, and partly because, at the time, I didn't think there would be much activity during these two months. But, several special events will be occurring in July and August, and are being publicized here.

First of all, on the first Sundays of each month we'll get back to our customary celebration of Holy Communion, both on the Fourth of July and on August 1. "Combo cups" will continue to be used and will be available before, during, and after these communion Sundays in the formerly-announced ways: at the table in the sanctuary hallway, in the box on the church office front door, or by calling to arrange for delivery.

Then, on the 8th of July and for the following three Thursdays, too, I'll be leading a four-session Summer Bible Study. Like the Spring Study, it will be broadcast live at 11:00 a.m. on our Facebook page, our website, and local radio. It'll be about Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, and his role during Jesus' birth and beyond. Read the article about it on page 3.

That study will lead us to Sunday, July 25, when we'll celebrate a "Christmas in July" worship experience. We were not in-person last December, so this will be somewhat of a "make-up," if I may call it that, even as many of our winter snowbirds are back for this special summer Sunday service.

August will bring us to an early Charge Conference date set by our District Superintendent's Office for Saturday, August 21. With so many new pastoral appointments this year, all needing late fall Conference dates, ours needs to be early. Only the Governance Board will be participating in the Zoom call with D.S. Margie, and the Board is already preparing (remember: forms due July 25), with a special "finalizing" meeting scheduled for Monday, August 2, at 6:30 p.m.

Blessings!

P.S. Please note that I will be off for "The Fourth" on Wednesday, June 30 and Thursday, July 1, with a regular Friday off on July 2.

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Closed Friday

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Lay Leader's Annual Conference Report

Once again, we are having annual conference virtually. I was assigned to a virtual Zoom legislative meeting on June 2nd at 6 p.m. We had one article that was assigned to our committee: "Let's overcome Christian Nationalism." By working in small groups, a lot of time can be saved on the conference floor if they can be corrected or modified beforehand. We had many pros and cons and amendments and even amendments to the amendments. A lot of the original wording was thrown out to shorten it and still say the same thing that the maker proposed. We came up short of the 90% needed to put it on the consent calendar, so it had to go before the whole conference for discussion and voting. This did finally pass with the shorter version.

On June 3 the actual conference started with Clergy and Laity meetings on Zoom. My laity meeting was on Zoom with Derrick Scott III from Jacksonville, Florida, who is a lay leader there. He gave us a lot of ideas that we all could use as laity in our church. We should ask our pastor where help is needed and be willing to help. All of us have gifts that can be used for God's work. Some of the things are: writing letters, sending cards, visiting homebound, and leading Bible studies. We should be showing that we are Christians all the time and not hide the fact during the week. We are all united in the spirit and body. He kept asking us what our story is as we all have a story to tell (Read Matthew Chapter 9).

During the memorial service later that day Dorothy Snow, Pastor Ken's wife, was mentioned along with some other pastors that I knew.

On June 4 we were on the Zoom from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with reports and legislation. One of the reports was on child hunger. The child food insecurity in Michigan is at 26%, and this was the Bib Number of the 5k that I ran to support child hunger. I ran it virtually here in Hart at 7 a.m., since we could not get together for the run.

June 5 was another day sitting at the computer with Zoom finishing up the legislation. We finished up around 6 p.m. with a closing by Bishop Bard.

I miss our not being in person with everybody at the conference and singing together as the spirit surrounds us. I also miss seeing our former pastors and others. I always look forward to seeing everyone each year at the Annual Conference. I also miss singing in the Conference Choir. It is so beautiful with all voices blending. You just have to be there in person to understand what I am saying. Love & Blessings,

Maureen Huizing, Lay Leader

(NOTE: More 2021 Annual Conference information has been placed in the Hart UMC Library, along with a summary DVD.)

Please note that the next issue of the "Hearts United" newsletter will be for September, with articles due August 20. Thank you.

NOTICE (AGAIN)

A "donate" button is being featured on our website which directs givers to the Michigan Conference's donation page for Hart UMC. There is a 5% fee charged for the use of this service, which is subtracted from each donation, whether by credit or debit card. Also, Hart UMC does not receive the remaining funds from the Conference until the end of the month. So, we prefer that you mail in your donation to the church address (see back), if you don't otherwise place it in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary or bring it to the church office. Thank you for your continued generosity!

July Birthdays

- 6– Kelsey Mead
- 7– Lois Forner
- 8– Gary Michael
- 9– Nataliya Richardson
- 11– Kathleen Richardson;
Ruth Myers
- 13– Chuck Anderson;
Nancy Sterk
- 16– Jan Trommater;
Azaliah MacDonald
- 19– Braedon Carskadon
- 23– Lauren Klotz;
Sydney Swihart
- 24– Bill Syrek
- 25– Jim Johnson
- 26– Elisha MacDonald
- 27– Maureen Huizing;
Karen Urick

August Birthdays

- 1– Margaret Johnson;
Jill Seyfred
- 6– Mary Sue Mahan
- 11– Nathanael Richardson
- 14– Patrick Goughler
- 17– Jennifer Hunt
- 21– Holli Wittman
- 24– Chris Gebhart
- 25– Derek Orent
- 26– John Sorensen
- 28– Helen Pische;
Cypress Banwell

July's Special Offering: Michigan Area U.M. Camping

Michigan Area United Methodist Camping engages today's children, youth and adults with the powerful message of love and redemption through Jesus Christ. Scholarship funds are needed to give campers a break from the plugged-in, fast-paced life at home and immerse them in God's creation. They learn life skills living outdoors and a different sort of ABCs—like Archery, Bible Study, and Canoeing. They grow as disciples alongside spiritual mentors and build lasting relationships with peers. Capital investments are also needed to maintain site facilities for this generation and the next. Sites include Lake Huron Retreat Center (Burtchville), Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat (Pentwater), Lakeview Family Campground (Lakeview), and Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center (Dowling). Please mark your generous gift "Camping" using your own envelope. Thank you!

August's Special Offering: Ferris State University 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 and getting ready for classes. Please mark your donation as "Ferris" to make your generous offering any time in August, using your own envelope. Thank you.

Summary of June Governance Board Meeting

Please see the posting on the bulletin board across from the kitchen, or get a half-slip copy at the Hospitality Center.

Summer Bible Study, "Faithful Joseph," Starting July 8

A four-week Summer Bible Study focusing on the faithfulness of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, will begin on Thursday, July 8th, at 11:00 a.m. It will be broadcast live on our Facebook page, at our website's "Worship and Studies" tab, and on local radio: 87.7 FM. Much of the content will be concentrated on Joseph's role before, during, and after the birth of Jesus. Then, as noted in last month's newsletter, the four sessions will coordinate with a "Christmas in July" worship experience scheduled for July 25—similar to an Advent study before Christmas (even as 2020's Advent study was not held). If that 11:00 a.m. time does not work for you, sessions, as always, can be viewed later on-demand from the recorded postings on our Facebook page and on our website. Past studies can be seen as well, both the Gospel of John and the Lenten Study. Hope you can participate, with no book needed...just your device to join in.

Possible Fifth Sunday Sing-spiration Worship for August 29

Scheduling is still being considered, but watch for an announcement about the return of a "Fifth Sunday Sing-spiration" for worship, possibly August 29th and/or October 31st.

Upcoming events calendar for Hart UMC:

Sunday, July 4: In-Person/Online/Radio Worship & Communion at 10:30 a.m.
(*Fourth of July*)

Thursday, July 8: Summer Bible Study #1 Live Broadcast, 11 a.m.

Sunday, July 11: In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 13: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 15: Summer Bible Study #2 Live Broadcast, 11 a.m.

Sunday, July 18: In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 22: Summer Bible Study #3 Live Broadcast, 11 a.m.

Sunday, July 25: In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.
(*Christmas in July*)

Tuesday, July 27: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 29: Summer Bible Study #4 (end) Live Broadcast, 11 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 1: In-Person/Online/Radio Worship & Communion at 10:30 a.m.

Monday, August 2: Governance Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 8: In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 10: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 15: In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 21: Zoom Charge Conference, 1:45 p.m., preceded by SPR
Group at 1 p.m. (Governance Board only; please pray)

Sunday, August 22: In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 24: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 29: In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.
(Possible Fifth Sunday Sing-spiration)

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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Digging Deep ~ Reaching Out ~ Looking Up

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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