



HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

September, 2021

Pastor's Ponderings *By Steve Young*

Revitalization

In every part of our lives we need to be revitalized from time to time, that is, to be revived and experience revival—no, not the quaint, old tent-meetin' kind, but the kind which brings authentic renewed vitality to our daily lives. Based on the old Latin word, *re-vivere*, revival and even revitalization mean to reinvigorate, to restore to life, to renew, to become strong and healthy after a period of decline. Needless to say, we as individuals, as a church, and as a world need revitalization perhaps more than ever after what we've been through over the past year-and-a-half, and what we continue to deal with. We need to be revived in our faith spiritually, and I'm thinking that we can do that—the Lord being our helper—and make a fresh start by looking at the how we began as a church in the first place, particularly through the Methodist faith, organized and developed by John Wesley.

So, I plan to host a six-week study beginning Thursday, September 30, 2021 to look into the beginnings of our faith as Christians and as United Methodists today. My ultimate goal is to not just to teach history, but to help us find a faith revival in our hearts and lives, and become revitalized in our own spiritual journey.

The plan is that the six sessions will be offered not only through an online broadcast as we've been doing, but also live and in-person at the same time in our sanctuary as well: a "live studio audience." (Note that masks may be requested, along with physical distancing, even as windows will be opened for circulation.) Each session will be held live at 11 a.m., with participation later, as always, on demand through our Facebook and website pages, even as previous studies and past worship services are available on demand as well.

What I'm especially excited about—while going out on a limb, too—is the opportunity to offer full church membership with the United Methodist Church and Hart UMC locally through demonstrated participation in the sessions and extra accountability** to me. I'm still working out the details of this "avant-garde" approach for membership, (continued →)

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Closed Friday

In This Issue

- Pastor's Ponderings (page 1-2)
- News (pages 2-3)
- Upcoming Events (page 4)

“Pastor’s Ponderings” continued, from page 1)

but please let me know if you’re interested in membership, and I’ll work with you to fulfill that goal, with official membership recognition and reception planned for Sunday, November 21, 2021 during our 10:30 a.m. worship service that day.

Meanwhile, all of us—official members or not—can look forward to being renewed in our faith and revived in our Christian practice through this study of our Methodist roots, particularly as we study the life and faith of Christ-follower John Wesley.

****NOTE:** Prospective new members will be required to watch additional short segments (DVD or online), either at home or at the Hart UMC church building, and will also receive brochures to read about United Methodist beliefs and practices. (Of course, any others may get these resources, too, by request, from Pastor Steve.) Some paperwork is required as well, to be filed with Pastor Steve, including proof of baptism. Unbaptized persons will be baptized during the November 21 worship service, or as arranged, prior to being received as full members, according to long-standing church polity and tradition.

September’s Special Offering

Our special offering this month is for Church World Service (CWS)—the CROP Walk agency. At this writing, there are no plans for a CROP Walk this year, but we will still take up a collection for CWS’s “Blankets-Plus” and “Tools” ministries. Additionally, food donations are always welcomed for Hart’s Bread of Life Food Pantry, which would have been the agency designated to receive our CROP Walk funds. To donate, please place unexpired, non-perishable, commercially-made food items in the marked tub located at our Welcome Center.

CWS has worked for over 60 years in partnership with local communities worldwide to identify needs and enable access to resources needed to build a foundation for a more viable future. These resources include blankets, tents, food, and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster, as well as tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant fields. Also, water wells are placed for those living in drought-prone areas, and literacy training and micro-credit is offered to women struggling to realize their potential. Please give using the envelope in the pew racks, next to the brochures about blankets and tools, or designate your generous gift separately as “CWS.” Thank you!

Meijer “Simply Give” Scan Cards Available

Meijer grocery stores have a program called “Simply Give” which supports local food pantries, and the Ludington store supports Bread of Life in Hart. With Governance Board approval, \$10 scan cards are now available at our Welcome Center desk to take for scanning along with your purchases at check-out to make a \$10 donation. You can find out more about how the program works at meijercommunity.com/simply-give.

BIBLES TO 3rd GRADERS AGAIN 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, at this time, we will again 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-aged students associated with Hart UMC who would like to receive a new Bible, please contact the Church Office to make the arrangements. (NOTE: Sunday school is still on hold, at least for this fall.)



Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, September 5. “Combo cups” will again be used and are available the week before, during, and the week after this day in the formerly-publicized ways: at the table in the sanctuary hallway, in the box on the church office front door, or by calling the Church Office to arrange for delivery. Plan now to participate on that Labor Day Weekend Sunday!

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

Charge Conference Minutes and Info Packets Available

A copy of the minutes of this year's very early Charge Conference on August 21 is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. Also, extra packets of distributed information at Charge Conference are available for perusal or pick-up in the Church Office.

Looking Ahead: Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

OCC collection week is not until November 15-22, but now is a great time to purchase school items for your shoebox(es). Look for OCC shoeboxes for packing to be available in the church building later next month, along with newly designed labels which will make each shoebox easier to track. Thank you!

Hart UMC Second Quarter Financial Report—2021

During the second quarter of this year we receipted in \$42,398 and paid out \$38,394 for a positive cash-flow of \$4,004. In addition, our \$21,700 PPP loan was forgiven and turned into a grant thereby adding to our fund equity. We are now debt free! We were able to pay 25% of our Ministry share obligations during this quarter and anticipate doing the same the next quarter. We also collected \$665 in special conference designated giving donations thereby contributing to the connectional humanitarian programs promoted by United Methodist churches throughout the World.

In tracking our budget, we have expended 45% of our total year's Operational budget, so are 5% under budget for the year from an expenditure standpoint. Our expenses are down due to not having to pay for an office manager the last 2 months as well as saving on other costs due to decreased activity attributed to the pandemic. The Church's Bank accounts on June 30th totaled \$132,190.98, with the following sub-fund balances:

General fund	\$50,812.96
Youth	5,541.30
Van Fund	14.99
Ministry shares	5,904.00
Emergency repairs	1,000.00
Care fund	919.11
Building Fund	10,281.09
College Care Fund	130.94
Memorial Fund	54,029.66
Music Program	1,462.86
Noisy Can (S.School)	459.81
PC Pantry Fund	969.26
Conf. Specials	<u>665.00</u>
	\$132,190.98

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter Urick, Governance Board Member & Finance Liaison July 13, 2021

United Methodist Women News

Registration and \$12 cost is due by September 10 for the Midwest District UMW meeting at Holland First UMC on Saturday, September 18, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lively speaker Ellen Harbin will present the four-fold purposes of the UMW. See Kay D., Maureen H., or Penny B. to register. Also, an ingathering of personal hygiene items, especially men's deodorant, shaving cream, toothpaste, and shampoo, are needed for Holland UMC's Refresh Ministry. Lastly, the Hart UMW plan to meet Monday night, September 27, at 6 p.m. in McRae Fellowship Hall at the church building, to discuss the prospect of a Fall Bazaar and lunch, and to review funeral policy. 3

Upcoming Events Calendar for Hart UMC:

SEPTEMBER

- 5 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship & Communion at 10:30 a.m.
(*Labor Day Weekend Sunday*)
- 6 (Monday): Offices Closed for Labor Day
- 10 (Friday): UMW District Meeting Registration Due
- 12 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- 14 (Tuesday): Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- 18 (Saturday): UMWomen District Meeting, Holland UMC, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 19 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.
(UMWwomen focus)
- 20 (Monday): Governance Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 26 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- 28 (Tuesday): Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- 30 (Thursday): Fall Bible Study #1 Live and In-Person Broadcast, 11 a.m.

OCTOBER (partial)

- 3 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship & Communion at 10:30 a.m.
(*World Communion Sunday*)
- 7 (Thursday): Fall Bible Study #2 Live and In-Person Broadcast, 11 a.m.
- 10 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- 11 (Monday): Pastor Steve at a Webinar, 12:30-5 p.m.
- 12 (Tuesday): Pastor Steve at a Webinar, 8 a.m.-Noon
- 12 (Tuesday): Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- 14 (Thursday): Fall Bible Study #3 Live and In-Person Broadcast, 11 a.m.
- 17 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- 18 (Monday): Governance Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 21 (Thursday): Fall Bible Study #4 Live and In-Person Broadcast, 11 a.m.

Digging Deep ~ Reaching Out ~ Looking Up

Contact Us

Call the office or check out our website for more information about us!

Hart United Methodist
308 S. State St.
Hart, MI 49420

(231) 873-3516

hartumc@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
hartunitedmethodist.org
or like us on Facebook!

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Hart United Methodist Church
308 S. State St.
Hart, MI 49420