

HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

December 2021 – January 2022

Pastor’s Ponderings *By Steve Young*

This combined newsletter always suggests to me to only include a few important notes about the planned special dates and events coming over the next two months. I’m trying to do that here, even as a few details about some of the events and activities are still uncertain. So, be watching for further e-bulletin updates and special Sunday worship announcements. Nevertheless, here are the plans at this writing (with a briefer calendar listing on the back page):

DECEMBER - JANUARY EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Thursday, 12/2 – The Advent Bible Study, “All the Good,” begins at 11:00 a.m. with a live online broadcast on our Facebook and website pages as well as on local radio at 87.7 FM. Also available at the same time is a simultaneous live “studio audience” opportunity in the sanctuary as desired. Optional study books and a December devotional book may still be obtainable from the church office as supplies last at \$10 each. (See related article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Sunday, 12/5 – As you know, our 10:30 a.m. live worship service is still in-person in the sanctuary with health protocols, online through Facebook and our website, and on local radio at 87.7 FM. This day is the first Sunday of the month, and we’ll celebrate Holy Communion on this Second Sunday of Advent. We’ll continue to use “combo cups” containing both the juice and bread wafer, and once again these will be available in the now-current custom: for the week before, during, and the week after this day, 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. Otherwise, you’ll need to provide your own form of bread and cup but, whatever the case, please plan to participate! [Note: No Sunday school session on this Communion Sunday.]

Monday, 12/6 – Vacation Day for me (46th anniversary!).

(continued →)

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Closed Friday

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Pastor's Ponderings, cont.

Thursdays, 12/9, 12/16, and 12/23 – The corresponding sessions, 2, 3, and 4, of the 11 a.m. Advent Bible Study, “All the Good,” will be presented as detailed previously in the 12/2 note.

Sundays, 12/12 & 12/19 – These are the Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent, respectively.** Sunday school sessions are also planned, with dismissal part-way into the worship service after Young People's Time.

Thursday, 12/24 – The Christmas Eve Candle-lighting Service is now planned to be held in our sanctuary at 7 p.m., with our neighbors and friends from the Hart Congregational United Church of Christ as our guests, along with the rest of the community. Their pastor, the Reverend Dan Barnum-Steggerda will be preaching and special music for the season will be featured. The service will be in-person and also broadcast live on our Facebook and website pages, as well as on local radio at 87.7 FM, with online and radio participants encouraged to have their own candle ready for lighting during that part of the service.

Sunday, 12/26 – On this First Sunday after Christmas I plan to take my first actual Sunday vacation in two years (although I did take some time off a year-and-a-half ago with my paralyzed vocal chord). Plans are still being made for this 10:30 a.m. worship,** so watch for details to come. [Note: No Sunday school.]

Sunday, 1/2/22 – On this first Sunday of the month, we'll observe Holy Communion at this 10:30 a.m. Epiphany Sunday worship,** even as we remember the Magi and their visit to the Holy Family. See the “combo cup” distribution details in 12/5's entry on page 1, and note no Sunday school on this day.

Sunday, 1/9 – Just as we'll hear about and recall Jesus' own baptism this day, we'll remember our baptisms, too, during a baptismal renewal time in worship,** with Sunday school resuming. A Wesleyan Covenant Renewal prayer time will be featured as well to continue into the New Year, helping us to remember our covenant connection with God in Christ every day throughout 2022 and beyond.

Sunday, 1/16 (or later)– During the 10:30 a.m. worship,** Leader Recognition and Dedication will be featured. Our Governance Board members will be presented as well as current officers of the U.M. Women's and U.M. Men's groups. Also, Task Force volunteers will be reviewed and updated. This slate of leaders was approved at our 8/21/21 Charge Conference.

**the usual service options: see the 12/5 note if you don't know.



*May the FAITH of the joyful
Christmas season in Christ, and
the HOPE of a blessed new
year through the Holy Spirit,
with the gracious LOVE of God
always, peacefully be to you and
yours, all year long.*

Pastor Steve and Kathy Young

The Governance Board has decided to NOT list the names of those returning the 2022 Estimate of Giving form, as was requested during the Generosity/Stewardship Emphasis. Nevertheless, appreciation goes out to the 14 households who, at this writing, did faithfully return their forms stating their commitment for giving to the Lord next year. You know who are... Thank you all, and God bless!

December Birthdays

- 1– Maisey McGhan
- 4 – Carole Tompkins;
Kailey Hendrickson
- 5 – Travis Hendrickson;
Emily Gebhart
- 19 – Hiedi Michael
- 20 – Jacob Hunt;
Sadie Sorensen
- 21– Clair Sloan
- 25 – Emily Schwarz;
Zachary Schwarz
- 28– Liz Hammerle

January Birthdays

- 1– David Isley
- 4– David Woodman
- 6– Kymberly Woodman
- 10– Jeanne Lanenga
- 15– Emmaus Banwell
- 16– Sandra Buono
- 19– Molly McGhan
- 22– Phil Kenyon
- 23– Landry Tate
- 30– Nicole Schwarz

UMW News

Once again the Hart United Methodist Women will be supplying birthday cake and ice cream on December 10 to residents at the Oceana County Medical Care Facility in Hart for their birthday celebration. Thanks, UMW!

Pastor's Ponderings, cont.

Sundays, 1/23 and 1/30 – Hopefully our annual “Souper Bowl” collection will happen on these days, along with worship through the typical service options already listed in the 12/5 note, and Sunday school sessions after each Young People’s Time. Watch for more info.

Throughout the winter – Remember that church offices are likely to be closed whenever Hart Schools are closed due to inclement weather. Also, for any potential Sunday worship cancellations due to conditions, see our Facebook and website pages, watch WZZM-TV, or listen to 94.1 FM (WWKR) radio for announcements. (Note that I and other helpers will still try to produce the online and local radio broadcasts.) Finally, at the end of December, church offices will be closed from Christmas Eve to Monday, January 3, 2022.

A Final Note – We will NOT be collecting groceries for Meals-on-Wheels this year, but donations to the Bread of Life Food Pantry will continue. Please place food items in the barrel at the Welcome Center, with monetary donations always welcomed, too. Thank you!

All Saints Worship Service Recap

During worship on All Saints Sunday, November 7, 2021, we read the names of those who have died since last All Saints:

Members: Ted Bailey, Gerald Miller, and Clem McLouth;

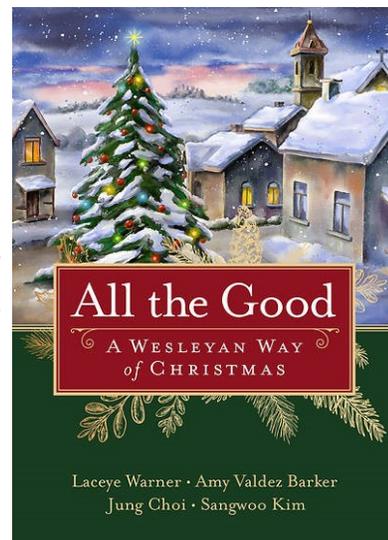
Faithful Friends through Participation: Jim Huizing, Barb Hansen, and Carolyn Yeager Burnham.

A video of this worship service is available on our website.

Advent Study Beginning December 2

As outlined in the November newsletter, a four-session Advent Bible Study, “All the Good,” will be offered online and in-person on the first four Thursdays of December, 12/2 through 12/23. See the 12/2 note on page 1 of this newsletter for more particulars, including info about the optional book availability.

The study will look at some practices from John Wesley’s “means of grace,” as he and others called them. Each session will reflect on biblical passages in light of an aspect of these means of grace. We’ll look at preparing the way for God, the impact and significance of prayer, the substance of good works and caring for others, and sharing God’s mission in the world. The season of Advent offers time and space for Christians to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas with reflection on the story of salvation, and this study will help in that undertaking.



Operation Christmas Child

Seventy-six shoeboxes were delivered to the Whitehall area collection site on Sunday, November 21, thanks to Kay D., who writes: "Thank you to all who packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!" And thank you, Kay!



Our Special Offerings for December and January are national UMC collections

Our special offering for December is Student Day, and the combination flyer/envelopes for the collection are in the sanctuary pew racks and at the Welcome Center in the church building, or you can use your own envelope and designate your gift as "Student Day." Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The offering provides funding for scholarships and student loans for qualified United Methodist applicants, with other support coming from wills, annuities, and other designated gifts. The U.M. Scholarship and Loan Programs are a church-wide educational service providing monetary assistance to help supplement the financial needs of today's students. Through the Loan Program, students may borrow up to \$5,000 per calendar year for a maximum total loaned of \$20,000. We can be proud of the fact that the 150-year-old-plus U.M. Student Loan Fund is the oldest student loan fund in the United States! Please give generously. Thank you! (P.S. For information about obtaining a student loan or scholarship, contact Pastor Steve, or go to the website of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry: www.gbhem.org/scholarshipapplication.)

Our special offering for January is the Human Relations Day collection. It's a special collection taken by participating UMCs across the nation in January, celebrated around Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The offering provides countless numbers of people with the resources to help transform the world through the ministries of: Community Developers, a program related to the UMC's General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM); United Methodist Voluntary Services, another program of the GBGM; and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program, related to the UMC's General Board of Church and Society. Thank you for your generous gift during the month of January, as you use the detachable envelope from an informational flyer in the pew racks and at the Welcome Center in the church building throughout the month of January, and even read more about it on the Internet at www.umc.org/humanrelations.

Summary of the November 22nd Governance Board Meeting

- Red Cross will be contacted to survey the building for updating as an emergency shelter;
- Even as COVID-19 numbers are high, we'll continue with current signage to recommend masking and step up verbal encouragement to physically distance as much as possible;
- A Church Conference has been called by the denomination and bishops for this Sunday, November 28, at 2:00 p.m. via a single Zoom link in Fellowship Hall to vote on a soon-to-be produced ballot concerning the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy litigation;
- The UMMen and UMWomen will fund our logo for the Hart High School T-shirt project;
- Christmas caroling will not be held at this time;
- Pastor Steve will be on vacation Sunday, December 26, and questions about his possible future retirement were also raised and discussed;
- It was decided not to list in the newsletter the names of those returning 2022 Estimate of Giving forms, but rather publish the number of households doing so.

Hart UMC Balance Sheet—October 31, 2021

ASSETS Checking/Savings

Checking & Money Market

• General Fund	\$68,323.63
• Memorial Fund	55,734.66
• Building	12,001.09
• Care Fund	839.10
• College Care Fund	130.94
• Emergency Repairs	1,000.00
• Ministry Shares	4,837.00
• Music Fund	1,462.86
• Noisy Can	459.81
• PC Pantry	969.26
• Van Fund	19.99
• Youth Fund	5,371.35
• Conference Specials	140.00

Total \$151,289.69

Total Checking/Savings \$151,289.69

TOTAL ASSETS \$151,289.69

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities 185.72

Equity \$151.103.97

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$151,289.69

Oceana Singers Concert

The Oceana Singers will present a Christmas concert on Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. It will be held at the Shelby Congregational United Church of Christ facility, 51 East 3rd Street in Shelby. A freewill offering will be made available to help with expenses.

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

Upcoming Events Calendar for Hart UMC:

DECEMBER, 2021

2 (Thursday): Advent Bible Study #1 Live Broadcast and In-Person Option, 11 a.m.

5 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship & Communion: 10:30 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Advent

6 (Monday): Pastor Steve Vacation Day

9 (Thursday): Advent Bible Study #2 Live Broadcast and In-Person Option, 11 a.m.

12 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship; Kids Sun. School: 10:30 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Advent

Oceana Singers Concert at Shelby Congregational UCC, 4 p.m.

14 (Tuesday): Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

16 (Thursday): Advent Bible Study #3 Live Broadcast and In-Person Option, 11 a.m.

19 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship; Kids Sun. School: 10:30 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

23 (Thursday): Advent Bible Study #4 Live Broadcast and In-Person Option, 11 a.m.

24 (Friday): Christmas Eve In-Person/Online/Radio Worship; 7:00 p.m., HERE, with Hart Congregational UCC and Pastor Dan Barnum-Steggerda preaching

25 (Saturday): Christmas Day: Offices Closed to January 3, 2022

26 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship: 10:30 a.m.

JANUARY, 2022

2 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship & Communion at 10:30 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday

9 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship; Kids Sun. School: 10:30 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord and Baptismal Renewal

11 (Tuesday): Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

16 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship; Kids Sun. School: 10:30 a.m.

Leadership Dedication

23 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship; Kids Sun. School: 10:30 a.m.

25 (Tuesday): Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

30 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship; Kids Sun. School: 10:30 a.m.

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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