



# HEARTS UNITED

The Newsletter of Hart United Methodist Church — Hart, Michigan

May 2022

## Pastor's Ponderings *by Steve Young*

### Saying Farewell

This is the official announcement of the end of my appointment with the Hart UMC, effective on June 30, 2022.

I was appointed to this church in July, 2015, and much has happened in the seven years since. The initial hope was for me to bring the gift of a non-anxious presence to a tense situation, even as I also brought an interest in expanding our worship virtually and technologically into the digital world. Two-and-a-half years ago, that interest suddenly became a necessity as COVID-19 set in. I and others learned fast such that now I'm happy about how we've met the challenge with live online worship broadcasts as well as radio broadcasts, in addition to in-person worship and Bible studies. Thankfully, attendance has shown growth because of it.

Something else I'm happy about is the fact that I'm leaving even as this church is enjoying some of the best financial conditions ever. That's not to my credit, of course, even though I've led seven separate fall Generosity Emphasis times. Instead, the praise goes to the faithful contributors to God's ministry and mission in whatever way, as well as to the managers of those funds. Thank you all!

A mix of sadness comes to me, though, due to the fact that several former participants in the life of this church have moved on, and we all miss seeing them. I know some of them are virtual participants now. Perhaps others of them will return with the coming of new pastoral leadership. A few will only remain in our memories, particularly the 35 friends and members whose funerals I've had the privilege of officiating at since 2015. God be with us 'til we meet again.

In that regard, I know, from five previous appointment-ending experiences like this, that these endings can bring a measure of grief for some. But I like the analogy that our stories will continue as now we all begin a new chapter in our life story, even as we're absent from one another.

(con't.➔)

### Office Hours:

*Monday-Thursday*

*10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.*

*Closed Friday*

*(Closed Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day)*

### In This Issue

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

## Pastor's Ponderings, continued

That new chapter for my wife Kathy and me will be with the Riverdale Lincoln Road UMC, a few miles west of Alma, Michigan. Please keep us all in prayer during this transition time ahead. (Note: The new pastor for Hart UMC is not known at this writing, but will be announced as soon as possible.)

## May's Special Offering: Annual Conference Collection

The 2022 Michigan Annual Conference will take place Wednesday, June 1 through Saturday, June 4, and this year will be back to an in-person event (evidence of vaccination required). It will be held again at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, MI. Lay Member Maureen Huizing and Pastor Steve will attend from Hart UMC. (Note that John Huizing will also attend as a Midwest District representative.)

Accordingly, for the month of May, we'll join in the collection going on throughout Michigan U. M. churches for the Annual Conference's selected ministries. Ten percent of this year's offering will benefit the Ukrainian people through UMCOR, with the remaining 90% being shared between two ministries in Haiti and in Liberia. The Haiti portion will be used by Haitian Artisans for Peace International (HAPI) for their work in Mizak, while the Liberian portion will be sent to The Bishop Judith A. Craig Children's Village for basic needs, healthcare, education, counseling. (Click [here](#) digitally or paste this address into your browser for more info: [2022 Annual Conference Offerings \(mailchi.mp\)](https://mailchi.mp/2022-annual-conference-offerings) )

Please use your own envelope to designate your special giving with the letters "A.C." (for "Annual Conference"), and thank you for your generosity! (P.S. Plan now to watch the livestream of Annual Conference at [2022.michiganumc.org](https://2022.michiganumc.org), or watch recorded sessions on-demand later on the conference website.)

## Memorial Dedications Planned for May 29

On Memorial Weekend Sunday, May 29, during worship, we will dedicate to God's glory and our service the memorial gifts, both monetary and tangible, which Hart UMC has received over the past year. Names of persons in whose memory gifts were given will be read aloud, and hopefully all will be able to attend this special service, in-person or online, especially if the memorial naming is personal. Also, thank you for remembering that our church's Memorial Fund stands ready to receive donations, large or small, at any time, for specified or unspecified remembrances of persons recently or even long ago deceased by contacting the church office anytime throughout the year.

## Foster Care Info

Please see the church building's main hallway bulletin board (near the kitchen) for information about becoming a foster parent, including how to join an informative Zoom meeting. Thank you!

We will recognize our graduates on Sunday, May 15 (or on a later date, if more convenient for the graduate and family, all to be arranged). IF YOU ARE A GRADUATE ASSOCIATED WITH THE HART UMC CONGREGATION OR KNOW OF ONE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AS SOON AS YOU CAN WITH PERTINENT INFORMATION. Thank you.



**NOTICE:** We are finding that the automatic doors' switch is being left on when the parking lot double doors are locked. The switch **must be turned off** when these doors are locked. If you are locking these doors, or if you notice that the automatic doors switch is still on when the doors are locked, please be sure that the toggle switch (top left—north—side of door frame) is in the OFF/NEUTRAL middle position. Failure to turn the automatic doors off could cause damage to the automatic door equipment. Thank you for helping us solve this problem. Penny Brubaker, SGB Trustee Representative.

## May

### Birthdays

3– Roger Ahlgrim  
Urijah Pangburn

5– Norm Myers

7– Hannah Gebhart;  
Jessica Riggs

8– Elijah Pangburn

10– Kyle Klotz

12– Sheri Mead

15– Henry Kuipers

24– Scott Mead

27– Cindy Syrek

28– Charmin Goughler

---

### TUESDAY'S FRIENDS...

...enjoyed Patti's dessert and Helen's "In the Garden." We played bingo (of course) and LRC (a new favorite). It was discussed working on flowers in the Memorial Area, and we decided to bring something for the Pantry each meeting. The next gathering is May 10, 11:30 a.m. Please meet at the church building to go to Up North for lunch and to check out the flowers. Thank you.

## First Quarter Financial Report—2022

During the first quarter of this year we receipted in \$43,364.93 and paid out \$34,802.41 for a positive cash flow of \$8,562.52. Our Ministry Shares this year total \$18,859 (\$16,751 for our Conference and \$2,108 for our Midwest District). The good news is that we have \$5,794.50 in our Ministry Shares sub-fund and plan to make a quarterly payment in April toward both of these obligations. We also collected \$168 for the Souper Bowl Community Dinner program and \$691.20 toward our conference special offerings.

In tracking our budget, we have expended 23.4% of our total year's Operational budget, so are 1.6% under budget for the year from an expenditure standpoint.

The Church's Bank accounts on March 31st totaled \$149,451.57 and consisted of the following sub-fund balances:

General Fund	\$62,849.95
Memorial Fund	56,009.66
Building Fund	13,086.09
Care Fund	978.81
College Care Fund	130.94
Emergency Repairs	1,000.00
Ministry Shares	5,794.50
Souper Bowl Fund	168.00
Music Fund	1,462.86
Noisy Can (S.School)	459.81
PC Pantry Fund	369.26
Van Fund	19.99
Youth Fund	6,430.50
Conf. Specials Fund	691.20
	<u>\$149,451.57</u>

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter Urick, Governance Board Member & Finance Liaison  
April 15, 2022

## Summary of April Governance Board Meeting

- Conference pastoral appointments are progressing slowly;
- "New faces" at Easter worship service reviewed;
- The new directory list update project is developing;
- Guest speakers are coming 5/22, 5/29, and 6/26;
- Church grounds-keeping and parsonage updates addressed;
- Mission Statement to be reviewed and edited via email;
- Facility use requests from outside agencies discussed;
- Church hallway fixtures LED replacement estimate being sought;
- Tuesday's Friends' outdoor flower project discussed, as well as possibilities for a food truck distribution date.

## Upcoming Events Calendar

### MAY 2022

- 1 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship & Communion at 10:30 a.m.  
8 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship; Kids Sun. School at 10:30 a.m.  
*Mother's Day*  
10 (Tuesday): Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday's Friends: meeting to go to Up North at 11:30 a.m.  
15 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship; Kids Sun. School at 10:30 a.m.  
*Graduate Sunday*  
16 (Monday): Governance Board at 6:30 p.m.  
22 – 29: Pastor Steve on Vacation  
22 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m. with guest speaker, the Reverend Curt Jensen  
29 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m. with Conference video (Memorial Weekend Sunday)

### JUNE 2022

- 1-4: Michigan Annual Conference, Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI (please pray)  
5 (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship & Communion at 10:30 a.m.  
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.  
Tuesday's Friends: 1:30 p.m.  
19 (Sunday): FATHER'S DAY In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m.  
20 (Monday): Governance Board at 6:30 p.m.  
26: (Sunday): In-Person/Online/Radio Worship at 10:30 a.m. with guest speaker, the Reverend Tom Schmidt

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](http://hartunitedmethodist.org)  
or like us on Facebook!

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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