



HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

December 2019-January 2020

Pastor's Ponderings *By Steve Young*

This combined newsletter always encourages me to keep my article down to a few important notes about special dates and events coming over the next two months. However, I will use some space to repeat the message found elsewhere here for you to have a joyful Christmas and a Blessed New Year, from both Kathy and myself.

DECEMBER - JANUARY EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Throughout December – Participate again in the grocery collection (see article elsewhere in this newsletter, and pick up materials at the display table in the sanctuary hallway).

Throughout the winter – Remember that church offices are likely to be closed whenever Hart Schools are closed due to inclement weather. Also, watch WZZM-TV and listen to the radio for any Sunday worship cancellations due to conditions. Finally, at the end of December, church offices will officially be closed for the holidays from Tuesday, December 24 – Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

Sunday, 12/1 – The First Sunday of Advent with Holy Communion at the 10:30 a.m. worship. Then, at 1:30 p.m., our church will sponsor the Chapel Service at the Oceana County Medical Care Facility (domed entrance), if you care to come.

Sunday, 12/8 – Later in the day after our Second Sunday of Advent worship, the Oceana Singers will present their annual concert for the season at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Sunday, 12/15 – Choir Christmas Presentation at the 10:30 a.m. worship on this Third Sunday of Advent, also known as “Joy Sunday.”

Sunday, 12/22 – The morning worship at 10:30 a.m. for the Fourth Sunday of Advent will take place, weather permitting, of course, but there will NOT BE a 4th Sunday potluck this day.

Tuesday, 12/24 – The Hart Congregational United Church of Christ will join with us in our sanctuary for the traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m., with their pastor, the Rev'd Dan Barnum-Steggerda, preaching. Special music and other performances are welcomed: please contact me.

Sunday, 12/29 – This Fifth Sunday of the month is scheduled as the second of our “Scripture and Songs” Sundays, with a focus this day on singing requested Christmas Carols, since it's still the Christmas Season on the church calendar. Our Lay Leader, Maureen Huizing, will lead the event, as I'll be on vacation.

Sunday, 1/5/20 – Holy Communion will be celebrated at this 10:30 a.m. Epiphany Sunday worship, even as we remember the Magi who came with gifts on their visit to the Holy Family.

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday:

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday:

10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

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Pastor's Ponderings, cont.

Sunday, 1/12 – We will remember our baptisms during a baptismal renewal time at this 10:30 a.m. worship, just as we hear about and recall Jesus' own baptism. 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 the year and beyond.

Sunday, 1/19 – Leadership Dedication will be featured during the 10:30 a.m. worship (see article elsewhere), with a list of Governance Board members as approved at Church Conference last November 18. Task Force Constituent names will be circulated and updated as well. (NOTE: This information and a summary of other business from our yearly Church Conference meeting is available right now in a packet of information located on the Church Office front counter.)

Sunday, 1/26 – We will start our annual "Souper Bowl" collection on this day (see article elsewhere), even as we look forward to the 4th Sunday potluck after worship.

Our Special Offering in December – Student Sunday

The pew racks in the sanctuary will carry a combination flyer/envelope for Student Sunday, our special offering for the month of December. 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 United Methodist 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 United Methodist Student Loan Fund is the oldest student loan fund in the United States! Please use the pew rack flyer to give generously. Thank You! (P.S. For more 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 in January: Human Relations Day

The Human Relations Day offering has been and still is a special collection taken by participating UMCs across the nation in January, celebrated around Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Our donations empower those struggling to survive and equip change agents. The United Methodist Human Relations Day 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 this month of January, as you use the detachable envelope from an informational flyer in the pew racks all through the month of January, and even read more about it on the Internet at www.umc.org/humanrelations.

Advent studies continue on Tuesdays, December 3, 10, and 17, at 11:00 a.m.

These DVD sessions are "stand alone" meaning that no previous attendance is required.

Also, the study book, *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, is optional.

Finally, the DVDs are available for an independent study and can be requested from Pastor Steve, who also has study guides he's produced.

December Birthdays

- 1— Maisey McGhan
- 4— Carole Tompkins; Kailey Hendrickson
- 5— Travis Hendrickson; Emily Gebhart
- 12— Thad Helmlinger
- 13— Michelle Jobbins
- 15— Lauren Hegedus
- 19— Timothy Bowman
- 20— Jacob Hunt; Sadie Sorensen
- 21— Clair Sloan
- 23— Margaret Binns
- 25— Zachary & Emily Schwarz
- 28— Liz Hammerle

“SOUPER BOWL” Collection Coming

For nearly thirty years, a collection has been taken up across the United States at Super Bowl time and given in full to a local charity. We will participate in this on both Sunday, January 26, 2020, and on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2. We'll be asking everyone to contribute a dollar (or more!) into a soup pot, or you can also write a check payable to Hart UMC and designated “Souper Bowl” to make your donation. OUR DONATIONS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY OF PENTWATER CENTENARY UMC, like we've done before. Read more about the Souper Bowl of Caring, and track the giving (perhaps over ten million dollars nationwide going to help those in need at each locality) including ours at souperbowl.org (There's also information on how to fund the operating expenses for the Souper Bowl of Caring organization in Columbia, South Carolina, if you are interested).



Now Through December—Christmas Tree Grocery Gathering

Like we've done before, our church once again will be collecting groceries during December, to be delivered in January, 2020, to the approximately 20 clients of the Oceana County “Meals on Wheels” program through the Senior Center. The groceries will serve as an extra food supply for the winter for the recipients. Here's how to participate:

1. Take two (2) paper bags from the display located in the sanctuary hallway. **MAKE SURE THE BAGS HAVE MATCHING NUMBERS!**
2. Also take a copy of the list of specific groceries to be purchased in order to fill the bags. This list of groceries has been developed with the help of a county nutritionist for dietary specifics, so please purchase only items on the list, being particularly observant of low sugar and no salt selections (also, check expiration dates to be sure items are good through at least May of 2020). Of course, you may purchase the items at your favorite grocery store, but the list has the retail prices and aisle locations for easy selection from Hansen Foods, the business which is furnishing the paper bags for us. The approximate value of the groceries to be purchased is \$40, and this can be done as an individual or family unit, or as some friends together...but please take only one list and two bags per unit project.
3. These filled bags are then to be returned back to the church and placed under the hallway Christmas trees any time between now and January 5, 2020, to be delivered shortly thereafter. (Note that church offices are closed December 25 through January 1.)
4. Upon return, you may also sign a “thinking of you” card provided at the display (or your own). If desired, write a general message of care and thoughtfulness (but, remember, NOT a Christmas message since the bags of groceries will be delivered during the month of January). Above the Hart UMC closing line, sign the card with your FIRST NAME(S) only—NO last names, please. Then, place the card in the envelope provided, leaving it unsealed, without any added material nor faith-based sayings (this is a government program), and insert it with your groceries, perhaps with a little prayer over it. Thank you for your participation and service to our community! NOTE: These instructions are also available at the grocery project display .

Leadership Dedication—Sunday, January 19, 2020

At worship on Sunday, January 19, we will recognize and consecrate our current leaders and officers, both those who are continuing in their position on the Governance Board as well as those who have been newly elected. Also, we will recognize those who have volunteered to become Task Force Constituents. The names and categories of all these leaders and helpers will be listed on a handout that day. In addition, the Task Force listing will be circulated on a clipboard for new sign ups and updating. Please be considering how you can help, as able and available, with a liaison from the Governance Board directing each Task Force along with Pastor Steve. Finally, the officers and leaders of the U.M. Women and U.M. Men will also be included in the consecration recognition this day. All of these persons should make every effort to be in attendance, with all leaders being presented as a group for dedication during the service.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT!

Our thanks goes out to those who faithfully returned their household's Estimate of Giving Card in November, noting their planned contributions to the ministries of Hart UMC for 2020. At this writing, we have over \$148,000 pledged to come from these persons (alphabetically by last name):

Roger & Meg Ahlgrim
Bill & Penny Brubaker
Gayle & Lois Forner
Elizabeth Hammerle
John & Maureen Huizing
Joe & Peggy Leonardo
Clem & Linda McLouth
Gary & Cheri Michael
Helen Pische
Frank & Pat Schramm
Larry & Linda Stevens
Carole Tompkins
Walt & Karen Urick
Beverly Wood
Pastor Steve & Kathy Young

Youth Group & Kids Club

A heartfelt thank you to Dave and Chris Jensen for donating pumpkins to the youth group to sell as a fundraiser. This is the first year we have sold out and we made \$446!

Please make a note that there will be no youth group on December 8th, 22nd and 29th.

The youth group will be helping with Toys for Tots on December 14th and 15th.

We will be attending Winter Blast again this year on January 3rd-5th. The theme this year is Outbreak.

There will be no Kids Club December 25th and January 1st.

If you have any questions about any of the events or dates, please contact Teena Sorensen.

January Birthdays

- 1— David Isley
- 2— Onika Bouwkamp
- 4— David Woodman
- 6— Kimberly Woodman
- 7— Bronwyn Stevens
- 10— Jeanne Lanenga
- 15— Emmaus Banwell;
Star Jewell
- 16— Sandra Buono
- 19— Molly McGhan
- 22— Phil Kenyon; Jude
Salazar
- 23— Landry Tate
- 30— Nicole Schwarz

United Methodist Women

Thank you to everyone who helped make our annual Fall Bazaar such a huge success. The bank deposit for Bazaar Items on 11/19/2019 totaled \$1,806.42 (\$832.00 for Lunch and \$974.42 for Other sales). That is absolutely amazing. It is the highest amount earned at our Bazaar in many years. So again, thank you! We are blessed to have such a wonderful Church Family and supportive community.

Please watch the weekly e-mails for any events that may be scheduled before the February "Hearts United" Newsletter comes out. We will include our 2020 Calendar of Scheduled Events in the February issue.

2019 Calendar

December 13: Oceana County Medical Care Facility Birthday Party, 2:00pm

Hart UMC Governance Board

The Governance Board took action on the following items:

- ◆ Sidewalks—in contact with City Hall
- ◆ Pastor's Salary—sent for approval at our Church Conference
- ◆ Memorial Fund—new plant stands purchased
- ◆ New Members—Chris Jensen will be finishing out Dave Jensen's term
- ◆ Membership Letters Sent—those not replying by November 16th will be listed as first year inactives at Church Conference
- ◆ New Printer Leased for Church Office
- ◆ Sunday School Noisy Can Funds—designated to Heifer International

Future Action Items:

- ◆ Participation in Operation Christmas Child
- ◆ Wedding Policy Review
- ◆ Memorial Fund—3 piece table and chair set

Tabled Action Items:

- ◆ Electronic Signage

Anyone with interest or comment on the items mentioned above, contact the members of your Governance Board.



*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, from both of us. Pastor Steve and Kathy Young*

Upcoming Events at HUMC

Mark your calendar!

Sunday, Dec. 1: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF at 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 8: Oceana Singers Concert at 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 10: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20—Jan. 1: *Office Closed for the holidays!*
Tuesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service with Hart UCC
Sunday, Dec. 29: 5th Sunday Sing at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, Jan. 5: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF at 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 14: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 20: Governance Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 27: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 2: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF at 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 11: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 17: Governance Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 25: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 1: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF at 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 8: *DST begins—push the clocks ahead 1 hour!*

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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