



# HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

July 2019

## Pastor's Ponderings *By Steve Young*

### 2019 Michigan Annual Conference Summary

For the first official time, the MICHIGAN Conference of the United Methodist Church, a new state-wide body since January 1, met May 30 through June 2 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa near Traverse City. I have posted some summary pages in the hallway on the wall by the nursery at the church building, and plan to leave them up for a few more weeks for your perusal. Otherwise, you can visit several digital and social media sites for more: [2019.MICHIGANUMC.ORG](http://2019.MICHIGANUMC.ORG); #MIUMC19 (Twitter); MICHIGANUMC (Facebook); MIUMC (Instagram); or [VIMEO.COM/MIUMC](http://VIMEO.COM/MIUMC). That Vimeo site has lots of video segments about particular parts of the conference, and, a couple pages down, has a good 4:25 summary video about the conference. That summary video, which we showed at worship on June 16, can also be found at "2019 Michigan Annual Conference Summary on Vimeo" in your browser.

One of our tasks was to elect delegates to General Conference next May in Minneapolis, as well as delegates to our current North Central Jurisdictional Conference next summer. That 2020 General Conference is likely to be pivotal for the future of the United Methodist Church, particularly in regards to LGBTQ+ concerns, as I mentioned in the May "Hearts United" newsletter. So, as all eyes turn to that time and its ramifications, let me conclude by quoting what our bishop, David Bard, has said in his post-annual conference remarks:

"The actions taken at our Annual Conference do not require any action on your part. The votes taken indicate that on the whole, Michigan United Methodists would prefer a Methodism that is more open to the full participation of LGBTQ+ persons in the life of the church. Those votes also let us know that many support traditional understandings of marriage and human sexuality. This divide may mean some kind of separation in the future, but no choice needs to be made by any congregation right now. We remain together, and we will continue to work together as best we can to be about the mission of the church.

#### 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.

"While no actions are required by our congregations, I would encourage you to continue to develop a deeper capacity in your churches for having challenging conversations about difficult topics and to develop a capacity for doing ministry even in the midst of uncertainty. We do not know what the future holds for The United Methodist Church. Some decision by congregations may need to be made in the future and developing a capacity for engaging in significant dialogue is important, as is the capacity to function even when the future is uncertain and unknown. Our website, MichiganUMC.org, has resources to help congregations convene conversations about challenging topics.

[There is a wealth of information at that website, MichiganUMC.org, as well, about Annual Conference and other ministries, including links to other topics.] Blessings!

### "Christmas in July" Coming Sunday, July 21

Our theme for worship on Sunday, July 21, will be "Christmas in July," a special time which we also celebrated last year. Often in December people are absent for our church's Christmas celebrations, whether south for the winter, on vacation for the holidays or with family, or simply housebound due to inclement weather. Being so, this July event will enable us to be together on this summer date to celebrate Jesus' birth a half-year removed, with scriptures and songs all connected to Christmas. In addition, the choir plans to sing a Christmas selection, so YOU need to plan to be in worship that morning, too. Finally, and related by design and purpose, plan to participate in the associated effort of producing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and putting together School and Hygiene Kits for UMCOR. The connected outcome will be a collection of commodities that we can give away as gifts to others in the spirit of Christmas (see related article elsewhere in this newsletter). Hope to see you at Christmas...in July!



### Our Special Offering This Month: Michigan Area United Methodist Camping

For the month of July, our special offering will be collected for the camping program of our Michigan Area UMC. This collection will help to provide ongoing support for camp scholarships and capital improvements at our state-wide United Methodist camp sites, including Lake Michigan south of Pentwater on Ridge Road, just minutes away from us.

Speaking of Lake Michigan Camp and Retreat, there is an urgent project going on now to build an immediately-needed pole barn this summer.

**Kid's Club  
Kick-Off  
is  
Wednesday,  
September 11th!**

### Youth Group

**Yard Sale– August 2-3  
(Collection Days: July 31  
& August 1)**

**Kick-Off– Sept. 8**

**Do you have service  
project ideas?**

**We would love to help  
our community more!**

**Contact Teena to  
share your ideas!**

## Special Offering, cont.

The project is named “Raise the Roof,” and donations can be made—separate from our July special offering, though—by marking your gift with that name, “Raise the Roof,” and dropping it off at the church office or in the offering plate (and by July 14 would great, to help meet the initial materials cost goal). For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board by the kitchen, and/or go to [umcamping.org/news/pole-barn-fundraiser](http://umcamping.org/news/pole-barn-fundraiser) (and progress is being tracked on Facebook). Thank you!



## Kits Put-Together and Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collecting July 24

As you read in last month's newsletter, we'll again be putting together Hygiene and School Kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) on Wednesday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m., and everyone is invited to participate. The specific supplies for each kit cost around \$5, so persons are being asked to donate that amount for one or more kits, now through the middle of July, even if they cannot attend the put-together. Then, persons are needed to assemble the kits according to specified instructions which will be explained at the put-together event on July 24. Please SIGN UP FOR HOW MANY KITS YOU'LL SUBSIDIZE on the clipboard at the church's Welcome Center or at the Church Office so we'll know how many kits to plan for...and paying in advance will be helpful, too.

In addition, as was mentioned last month, we want to get a head start on collecting Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, so THAT EFFORT will be part of this event as well, particularly enabling summer-time residents to participate, instead of missing out when we do it officially in November. The shoeboxes need to be filled independently according to instructions available and on the box, then brought in by that night (or later), to be added to our "official" November gathering. Shoeboxes are now available at the display in the sanctuary hallway.

This event is being tied into our "Christmas in July" theme on Sunday, July 21, which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter, but plan now for this special kit-and-shoebox event, knowing that it is also open to other church and community groups, too, if they want to participate.



## “Welcome” New Members

On Pentecost Sunday, June 9, Hart UMC recognized two membership transfers and received three new members by profession of faith. In addition, one child was baptized on this special day. They are all pictured here, from left to right: Charles “Chuck” Corwin and Leta Mae Corwin (transferring from Cadillac UMC), Melvin Olson, Lynda Robbins, Jose Barco, and their child, Joshua Johnson (the smaller kid with a tie; the bigger kid with a tie is our pastor). We welcome them “officially” (even though we’ve already gotten to know them previously)!



## New Electronic Sign Being Considered, and Support Sought

The Governance Board at the prompting of the Memorial Gifts Team is considering the addition of a new LED display cabinet (“sign”) on top of our existing “marquee” sign on the front lawn of the church building. This combined signage location would remain the same, perpendicular to South State Street, but would have new electrical cable run and installed to power the new lighting and display.

The new display would enable us to communicate messages to onlookers numerous times and in various ways with the update technology of LED lighting through a wireless remote keyboard from the church office. Certainly, this is NOT an attempt to become “trendy,” but it is a recognition of the added flexibility and functionality of a sign which can quickly change messages, compared to static signage that often gets ignored by passerbys. Actually, the two formats of signage, both static (our current sign) and changing (the new LED display) would work very, very well together for communication of both longer-term events and short-term activities—even those happening that day. As one person on the Board has commented, “The community would know we are a welcoming church, and communication is so important.” Indeed, communication of God’s love in Christ is of utmost importance, and, in a concrete and visible way, our church signage can help that along, even when we’re not available and on site.

Some memorial monies are available for this project, with its cost at \$6285, but YOU can support the cause and the added communication ministry it will bring by designating your gift to “Sign.” Your generous support will enable us to be a brighter and more lively “sign” of God’s welcoming love in Christ to those outside of our walls in a tangible and even up-to-the-minute way!

## United Methodist Women

### UMW 2019 Calendar

July 10-13: Mission U Albion College Albion, MI

July 24: Christmas in July—Pack Health, School Kits and Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

August 26: Picnic in the Park (location to be determined)

September 21: Midwest District Annual Meeting (location to be determined)

September 23: General Meeting for Fall Bazaar discussion and Officer nominations at 6:00 p.m.

October 14: Election of Officers and complete plans for the Fall Bazaar

October 26: MI Conference Annual Meeting Howell UMC

November 8: Fall Bazaar and Luncheon from 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

November 9: Evening Apart Middleville UMC

## July Birthdays

- 1– Barb Vanderhoof
- 5– Randy Bouwkamp
- 6– Kelsey Mead
- 7– Lois Forner
- 8– Gary Michael; Larry Stevens; Marla Hodges
- 9– Nataliya Richardson
- 11– Ruth Myers; Jeff Rinker; Kathleen Richardson
- 13– Chuck Anderson; Nancy Sterk; Jennifer Freed
- 16– Jan Trommater; Azaliah MacDonald
- 17– Haleigh Krombeen
- 18– Ginny Huntington; Michelle DuMonte
- 19– Craig Stace; Braedon Carskadon
- 20– Rick Hodges;
- 23– Lauren Klotz; Sydney Swihart
- 24– Bill Syrek
- 25– Jim Johnson
- 26– Elisha MacDonald
- 27– Maureen Huizing; Karen Urick
- 29– Velda Coulier

## 2019 Lay Member to Annual Conference Report

Thursday was Opening Worship then Laity Session. In the afternoon, there were welcomings to Grand Traverse and different mission talks. In the evening, we split into Legislative sessions where we discussed the legislation coming before us this weekend and then voted to approve it, change it, or deny it. Then, if it was approved or denied it was put on the consent calendar to be voted up or down in the general session. That way a lot of the legislative work could be done without a lot of time used up. When something is brought to the floor of the conference it usually takes over an hour before all 2,000 of us can agree to vote on it.

Friday we had an outstanding speaker, Becca Farnum who spoke on courage. She has taught in over 20 countries and is currently stationed in London. Laura Witkowski associate director of lay leadership from the Michigan Conference (formally from West Michigan Conference also talked). I enjoyed both speakers very much. These 2 made my conference. Friday lunch was with the UM Women where Erick Williams, President and Chief Officer of the United Methodist Community House in G.R., told us about all the changes coming up and the several programs that are available. There are both youth and adult programs to help the community where they are located, such as Meals, Transportation, Health and for the youth summer day camps, basketball and youth lock-ins. Volunteers and Internships are welcome. We have a Covenant Relationship with the Grand Rapids UMW. They are independently incorporated as a non-Profit agency. Our UMW here in Hart have supported them every year. Erick said to call anytime and come for a visit. We had the Plenary session in the afternoon where we voted to approve the legislation that we worked on the night before, plus others that had to do with finances. Friday night was ours to enjoy.

Saturday Rev. Jennie Brown, Conference Director of Clergy Excellence, began the worship session with a spirited retelling of the story of Esther. It was an awesome sermon. She was followed by our day's teaching moment given by Kristen Grauer. She grew up in Michigan as a Preacher's Kid and referred to that several times during her talk. She is a foreign service officer of the U.S. Department of State. She talked about all the skills that she learned growing up as a Preachers Kid. I loved that talk, too. There were plenary sessions in the afternoon and evening until way late.

Sunday there were two Deacons and six Elders ordained. We voted on the budget and passed it. My highlights were seeing Curtis Jensen, Bruce Kintigh, and Brian Bunch. I also won a \$50 gift card from Church Mutual.

Once again, thank you Church Family for sending me to Annual Conference.

Love and Blessings,  
Maureen Huizing

\*\*There is a copy of everything in the library along with the pastor assignment sheet for the Michigan Conference.

# Upcoming Events at HUMC

## Mark your calendar!

July 3-5: *Fourth July—OFFICE CLOSED*

Sunday, July 7: Holy Communion; OCMCF Worship at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 9: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 21: “Christmas in July” Worship Service

Tuesday, July 23: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 24: Pack Kits & OCC Shoeboxes at 7:00 p.m.

August 2-3: Youth Yard Sale

Sunday, August 4: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF at 1:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, August 22: Fellowship Hall in Use

Monday, August 26: Picnic in the Park (location to be determined)

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

Friday, August 30: *OFFICE CLOSED*

Saturday, August 31: Fellowship Hall in Use

Sunday, Sept. 1: Holy Communion; OCMCF Worship at 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 2: *Labor Day—OFFICE CLOSED*

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

Digging Deep ~ Reaching Out ~ Looking Up

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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