

# HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

October 2015

## Pastor's Ponderings

By *Steve Young*

### Yearly Church Conference Set for Saturday, October 10

It's time for our Church (Charge) Conference, my first one with you, and my first here on the Grand Traverse District with district superintendent, Rev'd Anita Hahn. We will be meeting as the "Southern Hub" at Ludington St. Paul United Methodist's facility (3212 W. Kinney Rd., Ludington MI 49431), joining with our UMC friends from Mears, Pentwater, Manistee, Freesoil-Fountain, and Bretheren. In addition, Ludington, Ludington St. Paul, Scottville, Bear Lake/Arcadia, and Crystal Valley/Walkerville will also join us for the day's agenda.

The agenda looks like this: 11:00 a.m.— our Church Conference; 12:00 p.m.— Lunch with everyone; 12:45 p.m.— Outreach Ministry Showcase (we will feature our Personal Care Pantry: see below); 1:45 p.m.— Workshops; 2:45 p.m.— Worship; 3:30 p.m.— Heading Home.

Let's gather for carpooling from the Hart UMC parking lot at 10:10 a.m. on that Saturday morning, October 10. We'll probably arrive at St. Paul a bit early, but with plenty of time for set up and other activity before our meeting starts at 11:00 a.m. (plus, 10:0 a.m. on 10/10 is also easy to remember!)— we should be able to find some decent parking, too, before others get there.

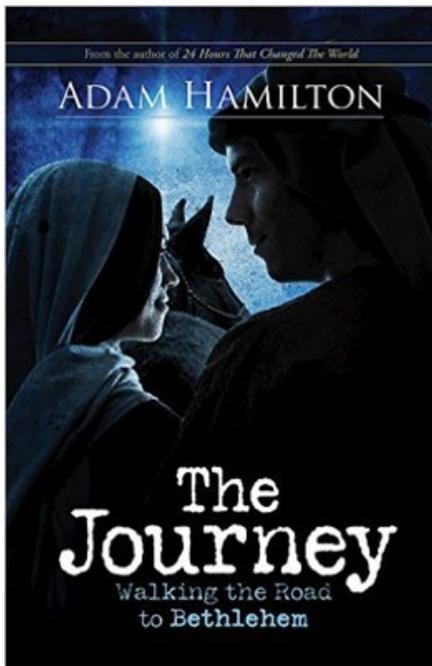
Lunch will be provided, but a donation (\$\$) is requested from each person. Also, an offering (\$\$) will be received during the closing worship time. That offering will be given to the church which has the top Outreach Ministry from all those exhibited, as determined by a vote of the attendees. So, be ready to vote, but more importantly be ready to glean some ideas on ways to do outreach into the community. Finally, at this writing, workshops are still being planned, but my guess is that we'll have some choices and we'll want to split up so that we can have representation at each one.

So, a big day on Saturday, October 10 (and a big weekend, considering the Rod Snow Chalk for Christ and spaghetti dinner the next day, Sunday, October 11), yet, I hope you can arrange to come to celebrate ministry and to get better organized for more.

*If you would like to see this newsletter in full color, check out the website at [hartunitedmethodist.org](http://hartunitedmethodist.org)!*

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## Pastor's Ponderings: "Advanced Advent" Study, *The Journey*, to Start in November

Our Tuesday two-time study, "Revival," is going along nicely, and I now want to offer another class for the Advent season, namely, "The Journey." It's another DVD course by our current author, Adam Hamilton, and focuses on Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. Once again, there will be a book available, but, again, it is optional to participation in the class, although it's a good read.

I think we'll stick with the same two times on Tuesdays, at 11 a.m. and 7

p.m., and again meet in the McRae Fellowship Hall. Now, I said this is for Advent, but because it's five sessions, we need to start earlier, a la "Advanced Advent," so that we can finish before Christmas. So, the course will start on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, and be held every Tuesday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. through December 15, 2015, skipping November 24 because that's Thanksgiving week.

Please sign up at the table in the hallway behind the sanctuary, indicating your preferred time (11 a.m. or 7 p.m.) and ordering a book on the sheet, if desired (\$13).

## Pastor's Ponderings: Laity Sunday with U.M. Women and U.M. Men on October 11

Plans are being made to have a special worship service on Sunday, October 11, which will highlight the ministry of the laity, particularly through the activities of the United Methodist Women (UMW) and the United Methodist Men (UMM). Both groups are very active among the Hart UMC, and we need to take the time to recognize their work for the Lord. On the United Methodist calendar a Sunday in October traditionally has been designated as "Laity Sunday," and we will use the opportunity on the 11th to celebrate the ministries among us carried out throughout the year by the laity. Additionally, the UMW will present their annual "Shining Light" award to a special recipient that day, and we'll hear a special message from a layperson. Don't miss it!

## Pastor's Ponderings: Two Special Offering Opportunities for October

The Governance Board has decided to have special offerings featured over three-week periods for extra giving by cheerful givers. These offerings are stipulated by the West Michigan Conference and the national UMC General Conference. For this month, there is a national UMC opportunity— World Communion Sunday—

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## Coming Soon:

The Grand Traverse District "Main Event" on Saturday, November 7, 2015, at Traverse City Central UMC: *15 Ways on Grow Your Church Where You Are*, featuring keynote speaker Brad Kalajainen, lead pastor of Cornerstone UMC in Grand Rapids. Watch for more details!

## Forklifters

Do you like to eat out? Do you enjoy fellowship with our church members? Well— that's what Forklifters is all about. It's been a part of church for years, being called Met-N-Nets before Forklifters.

We usually go to a restaurant before dessert and fellowship at someone's house. In the past, we've gone once a month, either on Saturday night or after church on a Sunday.

Do we want to continue having Forklifters events? Please let Bev W. know your opinion, whether you're for or against.

## Youth News

Youth Group will be having a kick-off family luncheon on October 4th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. We will have the luncheon down in the youth center and we will be having a taco bar. Youth group is open to youth in 6th-12th grades. Anyone is welcome! CROP Walk will follow.

Kids Club will be kicking off on October 7th. Kids Club meets on Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This group is for 2nd-5th grades.

If you or someone you know is interested in either of these programs, please contact Teena Sorensen for more information.

## HUMC History

HUMC History is being gathered to add to our three books already started. Take time and check out some old and newer pictures—the books are located on the counter in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have articles or pictures to add, please give them to Bev W. Thank you!

## UMW Meeting

The next UMW general meeting will take place on September 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## Thanksgiving Potluck

November's potluck, taking place on November 22, will be a Thanksgiving Dinner! Several turkeys will be provided, so please plan to bring a Thanksgiving side dish as well as the usual table service for your family. If you could, let the office know what you're bringing, so we don't have 12 versions of green bean casserole and nothing else.

After the meal, we will be decorating the church for Christmas. If everyone plans to spend a few minutes pitching in, we'll be able to make the church festive in no time!



Event artwork by our very own Kaylin Swihart!

## Trunk and Treat

Trunk and Treat is coming up quickly! The event will take place on Sunday, October 25, beginning at noon, and will replace the usual Fourth Sunday Potluck. As one of our biggest outreach events of the year, Trunk and Treat is a time of fellowship both within the church as we prepare and with the greater community here in Oceana County. We need everyone's help to make this event a success!

The United Methodist Men are once again planning to provide lunch for attendees. See Walt U. or Frank S. if you would like to participate in this aspect of the event.

We would like to have as many trunks as possible. If you are available to host a trunk, please see let Holli know so she can have an approximate count. We are also looking for volunteers to help with games, prizes, and information tables—see Holli or Teena to sign up for that.

There will not be a costume contest this year— instead, we will be having a “Parade of Costumes” for all the kids to show off their great costumes. More information on that will be available soon.

If you are unable to attend the event but would like to show your support, please consider making a donation to the effort. We are accepting donations of candy or Halloween-themed prizes, as well as cash donations (mark “Trunk and Treat” on your giving envelope). Thank you for your help!

## Offering Opportunities, cont.

—as well as a West Michigan Conference opportunity— Rural Life Sunday— to which you may contribute. Read the information below and also in the pew racks, then use a special envelope available or designate your offering properly to give generously to these ministries.

- 1) **World Communion Sunday, October 4**, calls the church to reach out to all people and model diversity among God’s children. The offering benefits World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program. United Methodists relate to World Communion Sunday by informing qualified people, especially youth and young adults, to apply for scholarships and by giving generously to the special offering, which often enables first-generation students to attend college. See the leaflet in the pews and use the detachable envelope, or your own, to give generously on the 4th, and/or on the Sundays before and after (September 27 and October 11).
- 2) Your **Rural Life Sunday Offering** is the source for initiatives in rural and small town ministries, administered in our West Michigan Conference through the Town and Country Committee. Some of these ministries are: 1. Scholarships for seminary studies and Course of Study, through which pastors in training for rural ministries can get financial support for their seminary education; 2. Scholarships for rural pastors’ continuing education; 3. Seed funding for Rural Summer Interns in local town and country churches; 4. Rural Life Sunday worship materials for each church in the conference; 5. Town and Country church ministry orientation materials for each new pastor entering the conference; and 6. Promotion of cooperative ministries throughout the conference. Your Rural Life Sunday gift will enable these programs and future initiatives for the advancement of ministry in rural and small town churches and communities. Thank you for your love-gift on October 18, 25, and/or November 1, using the “generic” envelope in the pew.

## October Birthdays

- 1– Frank Schramm, Penny Brubaker
- 3– Atreya Salazar, Judy Kuipers
- 4– Harvey Weaver
- 5– Nikki Klotz, Kaylin Swihart
- 6– David England
- 9– Terrie Gebhart, Aubrey Hendrickson
- 11– Ed Bauer, Hailey Bond
- 13– Lenore Westrate
- 15– Nathan Drechen
- 16– Terry Peters
- 19– Dan Russell
- 23– Hugh Bengtsson
- 25– Kristeen Mason
- 29– Peggy Leonardo

## October Anniversaries

- 4– Dana and Jason Bond
- 18– Becci and Jay Polderman
- 27– Jan and Joel Prather



**Chalk Drawing**

**Gee Tar**

**The Baby**

**Willie Rabbit**

**Talking Flea**

**SNOW IS COMING!**

Rod Snow will be presenting his “Chalk for Christ” puppet and art program on Sunday evening, October 11th, in the Sanctuary. The United Methodist Men will be hosting a Spaghetti Supper from 6-7 p.m. that evening and Rod’s program is scheduled to go from 7 to 7:50 p.m. Free tickets for the Spaghetti Supper are available from the office. Rod’s program is an entertaining, family-oriented Christian program for kids and adults, so plan to attend!

# EARN.SAVE.GIVE.

...our Generosity/Stewardship Emphasis theme for this fall and beyond

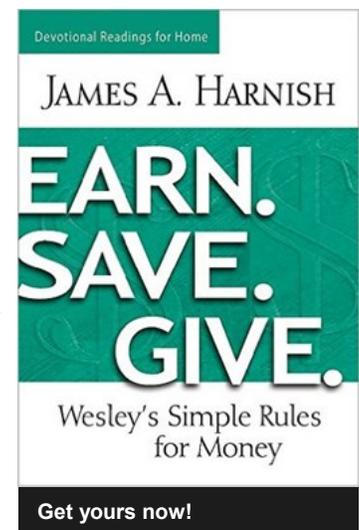
You're probably used to hearing people in church talk about giving. But when was the last time in church that you talked about earning or saving? Is it unchristian to earn money? Is it wrong to save for ourselves and our families?

John Wesley didn't think so. Wesley was the Christian evangelist from England who, in the 1700s, helped to organize the founding of the Methodist movement, just as we have been learning in our "Revival" class on Tuesdays. Wesley once gave a remarkable sermon called "The Use of Money," and in it he said that the important thing isn't money itself but how we use it. Wesley's surprising advice from that time still rings true today: earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.

This month, starting on Sunday, October 18 and continuing through November 15, 2015, our church will experience an exciting new generosity/stewardship emphasis program called *Earn. Save. Give.: Wesley's Simple Rules for Money*, developed by popular author and pastor James A. Harnish. There will be opportunities in worship and in devotional book use to explore Wesley's enduring "Earn, Save, Give" advice, both through sermons and through brief daily devotions written by faithful Christians who, like all of us, struggle with money. Additionally, interesting and creative follow-up activities are included in the devotional book for individuals and for families. These ten or so suggested activities are listed in the book after the five short devotionals each week, which include scriptures and prayers. There is also an introduction to each week's theme, making six quick readings in the devotional, such that the material can be scheduled for completion over six days each of the four weeks. Come to worship on Sunday for the seventh (or first) related segment! By the way, this "methodical" procedure would be very Methodist, and John Wesley would like it, but, of course, you can read the devotions in whatever way works for you and your family. Also, you can do the so-called "follow-up" activities in any manner as well: before, during, and/or after the week of readings.

Please PICK UP YOUR "EARN. SAVE. GIVE." DEVOTIONAL BOOK from the display in the sanctuary hallway (\$1 donation requested... but a \$6.99 value!). One per family would be nice, but we should have enough for individuals to have their own, too... and we can order more!

You'll be hearing more about all this in our worship, in the next month's newsletter, and on our website, including how to use the packet of information that will be coming out soon for you and your household's commitment (pledge) for 2016. Consider using the simple but profound "A Service of Commitment" in the back of the devotional book when you get ready to return your commitment / pledge card from the packet in time for the November 15, 2015 Commitment Sunday dedication time. Then, we plan to announce the up-to-date total at our celebration potluck after worship on the next Sunday, November 22. But for now, pick up your copy of the devotional book so you can begin reading and reflecting, with the entire congregation, the week of October 18 and beyond, about how we can earn, save, and give, now and into God's great future!



## Help us out!

If you would like to have an announcement or article in the newsletter, please submit it *in writing* to the office by the **20th of the month**. Verbal submissions will not be accepted.

If we've gotten any of your information incorrect, please accept our apologies and contact the church office to update your records.

# Upcoming Events at HUMC

Mark your calendar!

Sunday, October 4: CROP Walk– registration at 2:00 p.m., walk begins at 2:30

Saturday, October 10: Annual (CHARGE) Conference, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 11: Chalk for Christ and Spaghetti Supper, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 14: Governance Board meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 17: Conference Annual UMW meeting, Coldwater UMC

Monday-Tuesday, October 19-20: Mission U

Sunday, October 25: Trunk & Treat, 12:00 p.m.

Friday, November 13: UMW Fall Bazaar, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 22: Thanksgiving Potluck and Christmas Decorating

## 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

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