

HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

February 2020

Pastor's Ponderings *By Steve Young*

Year-End State of the Church Report

As I've said before, each year United Methodist pastors are required by the UMC's Book of Discipline to "report the state of the church and give an account of her/his pastoral ministry." I've been doing this now for a long time shortly after the first of the year, similar to what the president, the governor, and other State and local officials in government do annually in their "State of" and year-end addresses reflecting on the previous year. However, I did not present this report last year, for 2018, as I intentionally opted to discuss the Special UMC General Conference happening in February last year. Still, here is my report for this past year, 2019, in what I'm calling a "state of the church" report.

Due to the death of my sister-in-law—my wife Kathy's older sister—on Saturday night, January 5, 2019, I took a vacation Sunday the next day, as Walt U. graciously stepped in to lead the revised service. It was supposed to be an Epiphany Holy Communion Sunday, but we postponed communion to the next Sunday when we also remembered our baptisms in a time of renewal, all associated with parts of the Wesley Covenant Renewal Service, something I like to do early in the year every January. Thanks, again, to everyone for your understanding.

Later, after 11 office closings due to Hart Schools' closings for inclement weather, as well as another vacation day to attend my cousin-in-law's funeral, new life came with the premature birth of our second grandchild, Jackson, on February 21. Ten more vacation days were taken by me during his hospitalization at Lansing Sparrow so that we could help watch his brother (and our first grandson), Gabe, in Alma and carry out the previously planned celebration of his own birthday on Sunday, February 24, in Mt. Pleasant. Thanks again for understanding.

This is starting to sound like a "the state of the pastor" report, so let me shift gears to say that things finally started to settle down, sort of, on Ash Wednesday, March 6, with our Pancake Supper and Ashes Service that night (and see announcement elsewhere about this year's event on Wednesday, February 26). Actually, things started picking up at that time with our Lenten Bible Study on Simon Peter, leading to a Holy Maundy Thursday all-day self-serve communion experience and the latest date for Easter over the next eighteen years on April 21.

I started a 5-week Membership Class after that, and five people joined Hart UMC on Pentecost, June 9, with a child baptism as well. Meanwhile, the U. M. Men's group held a well-attended Spaghetti Supper and "Singspiration" event on May 5, and the U. M. Women celebrated Mother's Day on May 12 with "Sundae Sunday" and Father's Day with strawberry shortcake for the entire congregation.

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.

Over the summer we held another UMCOR kit put-together event on July 24, assembling 50 Hygiene Kits and this time coordinated with a collection of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, all in conjunction with and following a Christmas in July Sunday worship on July 21. Later in September, on the last Sunday, September 29, we began a new special worship feature for the 5th Sunday of a month, inaugurating a Sunday Sing-along of requested favorite hymns from our United Methodist Hymnal. It could be called a hymn sing, I suppose, but I'm calling it "Scripture and Songs Sunday," with another one held on the fifth Sunday of December, the 29th, and more to come.

On the last Sunday of the month of October we held another popular Trunk 'N Treat event, reaching out to hundreds of community folks with that ministry. Shortly after, on November 8, the U. M. Women sponsored another successful bazaar and lunch, with good participation from the church and community. Then, following a four-session Advent Study, we teamed up with the Hart Congregational United Church of Christ for a community Christmas Eve candle-lighting service.

Throughout the year we continued other annual and on-going ministry activities and events, including hosting Rotary lunches, supporting Wednesday Kids Club during the school year, distributing 25-cent items from the Personal Care Pantry, supporting Women Who Care college mailing projects, promoting Tuesday's Friends activities, promoting summer camps, coordinating Sunday School lessons with worship themes, participating in CROP Walk, shopping for the Christmas Tree Grocery Gathering, and contributing to special giving, while paying our Ministry Shares in full, all enabling us to become an "Engage MI" mission church with all of our programming and generosity! What a joy to be a part of such an active church! Thank you for another year of ministry together!

"Souper Bowl" Collection Underway

For thirty years now, 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 Super Bowl Sunday, February 2 (as well as the Sunday before, January 26). 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 as "Souper Bowl" to make your donation. OUR DONATIONS WILL BE GIVEN AGAIN TO THE COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY OF PENTWATER CENTENARY UMC, and we hope to come close to, and maybe surpass, last year's collection of \$127. 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're interested). Thank you!



Personal Care Pantry

The pantry finished off the year with lots of product going to many grateful clients. January 14th was the first open Tuesday and we started off quite busy. Thank you to all who donate to the Care Pantry, and a special thanks to Maureen and Penny for helping out!

Note: Camping is our special offering for February. Use the envelope in the pew racks or one of your own, and thank you!



PLAN NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP

The 2020 United Methodist Summer Camping program has been scheduled with camps for all ages from kindergarteners (completed) through older adults. A display of brochures will be available in the sanctuary hallway to help you make a selection, but right now you can also go online at umcamping.org to decide and register. After you have registered and made the initial deposit, please bring your paperwork to the church office to receive a camp scholarship (values vary according to camps selected, but a typical full-week scholarship for a regular camp priced around \$400 would approximate \$350 for a United Methodist sponsored camp, and \$300 for a non-United Methodist camp). Please complete your registration ASAP and by April 15, as prices increase after that and registrations may be closed. Thank you and happy camping!

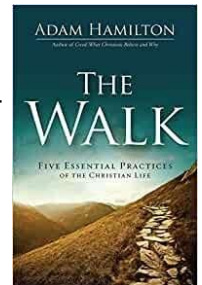
Pancakes and Ashes Service, February 26

The Season of Lent always begins forty days before Easter, not including Sundays. So, with Easter coming on April 12 this year, Lent will begin on Wednesday, February 26. This day is known as Ash Wednesday, named for the practice of placing a small amount of ashes on the forehead of worshipers at services that day. We will have that service that night at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, being preceded by a Pancake Supper (by donation) in Fellowship Hall starting at 6:00 p.m. This customary Lenten meal will once again feature our "POTLUCK TOPPINGS" addition. This means that each household is asked to bring in a favorite pancake topping to share. Everything else will be provided, thanks to the United Methodist Men's group, so plan to come to both events (although each may be attended separately, of course)!



Lenten Study to Begin—Get Your Optional Study Book Now

This year, Lent begins on February 26 (Ash Wednesday), and throughout the six-week Season of Lent leading up to Easter (April 12), we will once again hold a Lenten Study on selected days, if there is enough interest. Please register your preference on the clipboards at the display in the sanctuary hallway. We will be following Adam Hamilton's new book, "The Walk," and you, your household, family, and friends are invited to join in these studies starting Tuesday, March 3, at 11:00 a.m., to be held in the Hart UMC library through April 8. An optional study book is also available, and the first 10 people may pick one up at the Church Office for \$15 each, and a Prayer Journal will also be available for \$2 each to anyone—even if not participating in the study—to help strengthen the Lenten journey.



THANK YOU SO MUCH, Hart UMC, for the generous cash gift given to us on Christmas Eve night. It helped to "make the season bright" with our family and holiday traveling. Also, thanks to all who sent cards in the mail or dropped them off. God Bless You All, in every season of the year! ~Steve & Kathy Young~

United Methodist Men

The UMM elected the following officers at its December annual meeting: President Bill Brubaker; Vice President Jose Barco; Treasurer John Huizing, Secretary Walt Urick. These men along with Pastor Steve and past President Dave Jensen constitute the Executive Board of UMM for this calendar year.

The men will provide a Pancake Supper on February 26th (Ash Wednesday) starting at 6 p.m. with Pastor Steve leading a special Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm. Tentative plans for this year are: Organize Singspiration/talent show along with a Pancake Supper (May 17th); Continue sponsoring youngsters to Christian summer camps; Complete various tasks during the Church Spring Work Bee (clean windows, rake yard, sweep parking area etc.) and perform any needed repairs to the Parsonage deck. The men will next meet on Saturday, February 22nd, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All Men associated with Hart UMC are invited and encouraged to attend.

College Student Ministry

Please remember our college kids with your prayers and your valentines this month!

Mrs. Hanna BARRS
4923 Allenpark Drive
Enclave Building XX1
Allendale, MI 49401

Ben JOHNSON
623 Oxford Road
202 Cheever House Oxford Housing
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

April RUSSELL
450 W. Main Street
Hart, MI 49420

Onika BOUWKAMP
141 E. 12th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Laurn Johnson
934 Mary Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Nic VANCE
5170 E. Broomfield Road – Apt.
YY49
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Quinn BOUWKAMP
Triad Realty/ Attn: Quinn
BOUWKAMP
504 South Street – Second Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Max McLOUTH
8 C Laker Village – Apartment 1
GVSU
Allendale, MI 49401

Austin VANDERLAAN
1800 Crossroad Court SW
Wyoming, MI 49519

Jennie GOTTARDO
16789 Chandler Road - Apartment
#1914
East Lansing, MI 48823

Hanna LAWRENCE
5050 Pierce Building L
Allendale, MI 49401

Holli WITTMAN
407 S. State Street – Unit #11
Champaign, IL 61820

Hannah RIGGS
10897 48th Ave.
Allendale, MI 49401

Jack WITTMAN
2392 Ring Road – S Unit 2060
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

United Methodist Women

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Oceana County Medical Care Facility December Birthday Party hosted by Hart UMW on December 13, 2019. An added blessing was that we also served cake and ice cream to the Oceana Christian School students who came that day to sing for the residents and play games with them during the birthday party.

Bazaar Work Bees are scheduled for every Tuesday in February, 10:00 AM to Noon. We have a Christmas tree banner to work on. Penny will bring a sewing machine and some sewing supplies. Please talk to Penny if you have a portable sewing machine we could use. If you have any of the following supplies to donate bring them with you: gold metallic tread, Christmas fabrics, iron-on interfacing. Bring your sewing kit (especially scissors). If you have a project you'd like to work on bring it with you and join us.

UMW 2020 Calendar:

January 18 (Saturday): Breakfast and Fellowship at 9:00 a.m.

February: Work Bee at 10:00 a.m. every Tuesday

February 16 (Sunday): Fellowship Hour Chili Cook-Off (participants welcome!)

March 21 (Saturday): Spring Fling, Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven

March 23 (Monday): Prayer and Self-Denial in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. with Guest Speaker, District Vice President Jean Sherman

April 12 (Sunday): Easter Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

April 16 (Thursday): College Boxes at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

April 27 (Monday): General Meeting at 6:00 p.m. to be held at the Harbor House

May 1-2: Spiritual Growth Retreat, St. Francis, Dewitt

May 16 (Saturday): UMC Community House at 9:00 a.m., Grand Rapids (bring a lunch)

June 22 (Monday): Tour of Abbi May's Fabric Shop, meet at HUMC at 10:00 a.m. (followed by lunch on own)

July 8-11: Mission U of the West, Albion, MI

August 9 (Sunday): Family Picnic during Fellowship Hour (location TBD)

September 19 (Saturday): Midwest District Annual Meeting (location TBA)

September 28 (Monday): General Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with Nominations and Elections of Officers, as well as Fall Bazaar Discussion

October 24 (Saturday): Michigan Conference Annual Meeting, Kalamazoo 1st UMC

October 25 (Sunday): Trunk-N-Treat at Noon

October 26 (Monday): General Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to finalize plans for the Fall Bazaar

November 13 (Friday): Fall Bazaar with Luncheon from 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

December 11 (Friday): Oceana Medical Care Facility Birthday at 2:00 p.m.

February Birthdays

7—Clem McLouth
 9— Aaron Myers
 10—Nick Swihart
 12—Audry Swihart
 18—Kay Dion
 20—Onabelle Klotz
 21—David Jensen
 22—Dana Bond
 25—Donald Taylor

HART UMC 2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

The annual Audit/Fund balance report is on file with the Church Office and is available upon request. The report reveals that during 2019, we receipted in \$291,408 and disbursed \$258,986 for a positive cash flow of \$32,422. We received 3 unexpected donations in 2019: \$79,410 from the Mereta Spitler Trust and \$24,000 from two of our Congregants. This additional funding along with our Building fund equity, allowed our Church to: Payoff our \$50,000 loan (\$51,038); Reseal our Parking lot (\$4,988); Install automatic doors (\$3,965) Install LED lighting (\$900); Repair our leaking skylight (\$2,750) and replace our Commercial Refrigerator (\$3,290).

Our yearly operational budget was \$155,635 and we expended but \$152,048, (97.7%), or 2.3% under budget. Some of our major disbursements were for non-budget items like the previously stated Building/Improvements, Youth fund activities and Ministry Shares. I am pleased to report that we paid our Conference Ministry Share obligation (\$19,980) in full.

The cash assets of the Church on 12/31/19 totaled \$93,132 consisting of:

UMW—checking account	\$3,715	
UMM—checking account	\$3,037	
Church Bank Accounts	<u>\$86,380</u>	\$93,132

Bank Accounts consist of:

General Fund	\$16,360
Care (Benevolence) Fund	404
Building/Improvement Fund	5,285
Noisy Can (Church School) Fund	1,878
Youth Fund	3,668
Memorial Fund	52,880
PC Pantry Fund	296
Music Fund	1,463
Emergency Fund	1,000
Van Fund	10
College Care Fund	131
Tech Fund	2
Miscellaneous Fund	403
Electronic Sign Fund	2,600

Total **\$86,380**

Walter Urick, Finance Liaison to Governance Board
 January 20, 2020

Governance Board Summary

- ◆ Task Force updating continues
- ◆ Welcomed Jose Barco to Governance Board
- ◆ Pastor Steve's Quarterly Report of activity was highlighted
- ◆ The 2020 Budget was approved
- ◆ The Financial Summary Report was shared
- ◆ New faces were reviewed
- ◆ Old business of Wedding Policy, Memorial Garden, and Sidewalks was discussed
- ◆ Future changes in UMC with "traditionalists" separating from UMC
- ◆ A process for handing of Governance Board Vacancies was determined
- ◆ Heifer International as a Sunday School mission promoted
- ◆ The Skylight and East Window situations were considered
- ◆ Office Manager's childcare scheduling is being worked out
- ◆ Letter from the membership updating process was read
- ◆ Cancellation Procedures for inclement weather was re-checked

Upcoming Events at HUMC

Mark your calendar!

Sunday, Feb. 2: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF at 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 9: Youth return from Winter Blast
Tuesday, Feb. 11: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 16: Chili Cook-off during Fellowship Time
Monday, Feb. 17: Governance Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 22: UM Men's meeting in Fellowship Hall at 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 25: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 26: Pancake Supper and Ashes Service at 6:00 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!*
Tuesday, March 10: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Monday, March 16: Governance Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 24: Personal Care Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 29: 5th Sunday "Scripture & Songs"
Sunday, April 5: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF at 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 12: Easter Sunday

Contact Us

Call the office or check out our website for more information about us!

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hartumc@gmail.com

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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