



## Hartland United Methodist Church

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Pastor:  
Rev. Paul Gruenberg

## Sunday Worship

Service:  
10:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School:

10:15 a.m.

Coffee Hour:  
11:15 a.m.

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# Heavenly Notes

*"Having Conversations about God"*

Volume 10, Issue 4

April, 2016

**WAR ROOM**  
PRAYER IS A POWERFUL WEAPON

**Do you believe prayer is a powerful weapon?  
Are you still learning to use prayer as a weapon?**

**If you are not an expert on using your weapon,  
then be intentional to join in some basic training  
(Sunday mornings and small groups) to ensure your  
readiness and increase your efficiency  
in fighting the raging battle in the  
spiritual world around us.**

**Sermon Series**

April 3rd  
**The Duty of Prayer**

April 10th  
**When You Pray**

April 17th  
**Where You Pray**

April 24th  
**Who You Pray**

May 1st

**Small Groups**

**Sundays after 10 a.m. Service**  
Fran Warthman

**Tuesday Nights 7:00 p.m.**  
Pastor Paul

**Wednesday Nights 7:00 p.m.**  
Terri Clark

**Friday Mornings (10:00 a.m.)**  
Pastor Paul  
(participant guides are available)

## ~ Musings from the Pastor ~

You know what? I don't even remember her name! I suppose it happens, but the truth is I don't know her name because she really wasn't important to me. You see I was about seven years old and my parents had me taking piano lessons! Not necessarily what a seven-year-old boy wants to do for fun.

So I played scales and some simple songs that were in my music book. My mom would ask me to practice every day for 20 minutes (it seemed like a lifetime) and truth be told, I didn't put much into it. If I had really practiced, I might have actually advanced as a Pianist, but needless to say, I did not get any better.



Now I look back on those days and wish, like we all do, that I'd have taken it more seriously. I think about how I could be playing now if I stayed with it. The songs I could lift up to God. Yet no real practice leads to no real ability.

I think the same is true of prayer. We are told in the Bible that we should be people of prayer. We should be praying in the Spirit. We should pray without ceasing. We should go off to pray in a quiet place daily. It's enough to make your head spin. The reality is for many Christians is we never really learned how to pray. Sure we learned the Lord's Prayer at some point, but it seems rather rote and mundane. We sometimes hear other people pray and wish we could pray like that, but for the most part Christians remain content to be where they are at in prayer.

Now like learning to play the piano, it is helpful to learn from people who have already developed a vibrant prayer life. To learn their secrets on prayer. To experience the joy of answered prayer and to learn to deal with unanswered prayer when God seems silent. Learning is still only a part of the solution, you must try it out for a while. Like sitting on the piano bench, looking at the notes on the musical scale and plunking the keys, we must sit down with our Bible's or books on prayer, read the instructions and then take it for a spin. Practice! Practice! Practice!

The cool thing about the piano or prayer is this... it is never too late to learn. With a little instruction and a little practice, you can become more knowledgeable about how to pray and more comfortable with the act of prayer. When you have someone whose further down the road with prayer, talk to them, pray with them, learn from them. In no time prayer will be like an old friend that you cannot wait to get back to.



Blessings to You and Yours,

*Pastor Paul*

# Calendar of Events

## Meetings for April 2016

- Monday, April 4: Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 6: Design Works
- Saturday, April 9: Personal Needs Pantry Delivery in Armstrong Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 13: Worship Team Meeting, Bring Your Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 14: Administrative Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 16: HUMM Love Inc. Furniture Pick Up and Delivery, 8:00 a.m.
- Saturday, April 23: Personal Needs Pantry Delivery in Armstrong Hall. 9:30 a.m.



## Weekly Events in April 2016

### Every Sunday:

- Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.  
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 a.m.  
War Room Study, 11:15 a.m.



### Every Monday:

- Christianity, Islam, and Other World Religions, 10:30 a.m.

### Every Tuesday:

- Prayers and Squares Quilting, 9:00 a.m.  
Daniel Plan Get Healthy Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
War Room Prayer Small Group 7:00 p.m.

### Every Wednesday:

- "Book of Psalms Bible Study" Small Group 9:30 a.m.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m.

### Every Thursday:

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 10:00 a.m.  
Choir Practice, April, 7, 14, 28



### Every Saturday:

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 10:00 a.m.

# Special Dates

## April Birthdays



- 3 Luke Gruenberg
- 8 Tiffany Rodocker
- 11 Lilly McPherson
- 13 Marge Kennedy  
Earl Campbell
- 19 Brienne Daniel  
Joshua Voight
- 20 Maggie Ruby  
Michelle Pollock
- 22 Vivian Lemon
- 25 Tessa Pollock
- 28 Maxwell McPherson

## April Anniversaries



- 3 Larry & Pat Schleh 1961
- 19 Don & Pat Coleman

Note: We would like to include everyone, so if we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let the church office know A.S.A.P.!

## April Servants

### Greeters

- April 3: P. Harton & P. Schleh
- April 10: F. Paletta & D. Webber
- April 17: Hartland United Methodist Men
- April 24: Jeff & Linda Gordinier

### Ushers

- April 3: M. Sharlow & K. Novak
- April 10: J. Hankins & S. Infantino
- April 17: Hartland United Methodist Men
- April 24: Joey & Sharon Infantino

### Liturgist

- April 3: Jo Campbell
- April 10: Terri Clark
- April 17: Pat Harton
- April 24: Mary Monroe

### Multi Media Specialist

- April 3: Charles Kirkpatrick
- April 10: Michael Clark
- April 27: Gary LaRoy
- April 24: Jo Campbell

News from the Frontier!

April 2016

By the time you read this we will be in Omaha, Nebraska for a weekend disaster training mobilization exercise (mobex) with Team Rubicon. (Genesis video on the history of TR: <https://vimeo.com/19115049>) We don't know what we will be doing yet but the exercise is to see how Team Rubicon and Habitat For Humanity can leverage each other's strengths to help more people after a disaster strikes

A quick update of the past two months. We finished our time in Dade City, FL in February, and moved on to Mobile, AL. We spent almost two weeks there putting a roof on a six bedroom house. One day four of us put half of the 35 foot trusses up. Thankfully the Coast Guard showed up the next day and put up the rest of them. Saturday of that week we figured out why we "needed" to be there. The affiliate has lots of volunteers, which is good unless you get too many, and that was the problem Saturday. We were supposed to get eight medical students that day and had plenty of work for them. Instead, 28 showed up and the on-site construction person, Marcia, who normally did finish work, was in over her head. Luckily Laura and I have been doing a lot of rough construction work. so we each took some people and started working on different jobs that needed to be done. We survived the day and Marcia thanked us and confided that if we had not been there she very well might have quit that day. We wound up being the answer to her prayers.

After Mobile we headed to Americus, GA where Habitat For Humanity started. They have an education area there called the Global Village which has 14 houses modeled in the styles that Habitat builds around the world. The village had fallen into disrepair and the head of the Care-A-Vanner program arranged for us to go and do some cleaning and painting. At the end of our two weeks the village was a place to be proud of again and will hopefully be an inspiration to visitors to get involved with Habitat.

Our trip from Americus to Omaha took us to old Hartland UMC friends Kelly and Dave Breniser's house for a couple of days including Easter service at the church where Kelly works. We have also stopped at several state capitals along the way so it's not all work.

We continue to spread the story of what Habitat For Humanity is doing for people every day and what God is doing in our lives and through us. We will be swinging through Michigan in April and hope to see you then.



# KEYS TO PRAYING MORE EFFECTIVELY

We can only know God and pray to God through Christ's righteousness ... not our own. Though "the prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much," many people do not ready themselves or know how to pray effectively (Jas. 5:16, NASB). When your prayers go unanswered, God may be upgrading your requests to something better or delaying an answer until His perfect timing. Sometimes, however, He may be waiting for you to get your heart right before He responds. The Word of God says, "the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do what is evil." (1 Pet. 3:12) No one can control or demand anything from God, but the Scriptures indicate that we can prepare ourselves in at least three different ways to help us intercede more effectively.

## 1. YOU SHOULD BE IN A RIGHTLY ALIGNED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

- ◆ Knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (John 14:6)
- ◆ Praying by faith in Jesus' name. (John 14:13-14)
- ◆ Praying while abiding in Christ and His Word. (John 15:7)
- ◆ Praying from an obedient life. (1 John 3:21-22)
- ◆ Praying according to God's will. (1 John 5:14)

## 2. YOU SHOULD BE RIGHTLY ALIGNED WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

- ◆ Forgiving those who've wronged you. (Mark 11:25-26)
- ◆ Treating your spouse honorably. (1 Pet. 3:7)

## 3. YOUR HEART SHOULD BE RIGHT AND TURNED TOWARDS HIM.

- ◆ Loyal: With no sin you refuse to confess. (Ps. 66:18-19)
- ◆ Humble: Not praying for show. (Matt. 6:5)
- ◆ Trusting: Believing in God's ability. (Jas. 1:6-8, Mark 11:24)
- ◆ Pure: Without lust motivating your requests. (Jas. 4:3)

When we get our hearts right with God and others, then we can get busy praying and see God move in mighty ways.

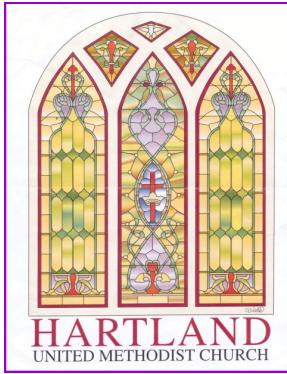


# He Is Risen Indeed!!





Hartland United Methodist Church  
10300 Maple Street  
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May God's  
*blessings*  
spring forth  
in your *life*

