

Heavenly Notes

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Hartland United Methodist Church

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Pastor:

Rev. Paul Gruenberg

Sunday Worship

Service: 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:20a.m.

Coffee Hour: 11:00 a.m.

Discussion Group: 11:20 a.m.

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Easter is a beautiful season
to rejoice in the new life

God has given
through CHRIST.

April 12, 2020

**Easter Service Online
10:00 a.m.
Facebook live stream**

<https://www.facebook.com/HartlandUMC/>

Musings from the Pastor



Coronavirus or COVID-19... never heard of it three months ago. Now it's all over the news... I mean ALL OVER the news! It's incredible how a microscopic virus has impacted the whole world. You, me, everybody. As most of you know, the virus originated in China, in a city called Wuhan. Some experts claim it came from some type of animal, like a bat.

I've heard some say it was a bio-weapon the government of China had developed. When a small uprising of its people became quite a large uprising against the way the country was being run by the elites, the government unleashed the virus on the demonstrators. The effect was the demonstrators would get sick and would be forced to flee. But officials here have determined it wasn't created by humans, just a natural occurring virus.

I've also heard how it was a virus God unleashed onto the world of sinful people to punish their ever increasing disobedience to God. We've seen similar stories in the Bible where God unleashed a number of punishments on Egypt when Pharaoh would not release the Hebrew children from captivity. Of course, there are the end-time judgements (Scrolls, Trumpets, bowls), of which this could be just the beginning. But there are a number of signs/events that would need to precede this type of pandemic. So I do not believe this is a God thing.

What it is, based on my understanding from people who know more about infectious disease and how it spreads, is this. A country saw a problematic virus develop in one of its bigger cities. They didn't get a good handle on it, and kept it secret for a long time. They also claimed it wouldn't transfer from person to person for a month or two. It could have been kept local in China had they been truthful to the World Health Organization, but they didn't.

As a result, as of this writing over 3000 people have died in the U.S.A. and nearly 38,000 worldwide. Models show that here in the U.S.A., between 81,000 to 2 million people could die if this virus is not contained quickly. The good news is that most people are taking it seriously, yet some are not. I heard the Louisiana Lieutenant Governor say that some people (younger people) have not taken it seriously, and as a result, Louisiana has become a hot spot. They said in retrospect that they should have not allowed Mardi Gras as it was a perfect storm for the million people to receive the virus and take it back with them to their home.

Now at this point in time, we are being asked by the government to stay home for all of April. Another two and a half weeks from the last setting (April 13th), and maybe more if it cannot be contained. I was so hoping to celebrate Easter together... in person this year. But even if we cannot be together physically, we can with technology. We have been using Facebook Live Stream over the past several weeks. It allows people to be at church with me on Sunday mornings for worship. If you don't have a Facebook account, start one and simply go to "Hartland United Methodist Church" and click "Like", and you'll be able to join in on Sunday morning worship. If you need help, give me a call (or the church, or some relative you know who knows how to do this... and get set up.... it will be worthwhile.)

Although the virus has caused us to socially distance ourselves, it will only be for a time. We will come through this as a nation, as a church, as a community. I encourage you to call each other on the phone and ask each other how you are doing. If you need phone numbers, call the church and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Also, one last thought. Get into the Word of God a little bit more. Challenge yourself to read through a gospel in one setting. Read through Genesis, the first book... it will not take you too long to do it. When you read, ask God to speak to you. You won't be disappointed!

Blessings on the journey to know, love, and serve God.

Pastor Paul

April Birthdays

- 3 Luke Gruenberg
- 8 Tiffany Rodocker
- 11 Alec Ruby
- 13 Marge Kennedy
Earl Campbell
- 19 Brienne Daniel
Joshua Voight
- 20 Maggie Ruby
- 22 Vivian Lemon



April Anniversaries

- 5 Jeff & Linda Gordinier
- 19 Don & Pat Coleman



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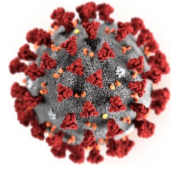
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WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN WITH SOAP AND WARM WATER FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS!



Why COVID-19 Prevention at Retail is Critical to Public Health:

- Supermarkets and convenience stores are primary operations that are critical to public health. They must be up and running for a community to survive and recover. They are exempt from Executive Order No. 2020-9 (COVID-19).
- Although food has not been identified as a likely source of COVID-19 infections, close contact with people/groups (not social distancing) leads to the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- COVID-19 can survive on cardboard for up to 24 hours and up to 3 days on hard surfaces such as plastic and stainless-steel surfaces.
- Food establishments are a likely point of community contact.

Best Practices to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in Food Establishments:

- Waiting lines: Six-foot social distancing is effective. Marking the floor with tape/erasable marker every six feet is recommended.
- Number of customers in the store: Limit the number of customers at any given time to reduce outdoor/indoor crowding and lines to meet social distancing guidance.
- Seating in stores: Seating areas must be closed to members of the public. Remove tables and seating or prevent entry by taping them off.
- Customer self-service food (such as salad bars, buffets, bulk donut and food displays): Clean and sanitize frequently throughout the day all utensils, food contact surfaces, and commonly touched surfaces or close them temporarily.
- service delis and takeout/delivery of food items: Increase frequency of cleaning and sanitizing of all hard surfaces, including tables, counter tops, condiment trays, etc. that are being utilized by employees and patrons during pickup/delivery
- Checkout lanes and non-food handling areas: Clean and sanitize frequently throughout the day all commonly touched hard surfaces. These surfaces may include the following:
 - Entrance door handles, check-out areas, and service counters
 - Credit card keypads (checkout and gas pump pads) and gas pump handles
 - Public and employee bathrooms: sinks, toilets, light switches, door handles
 - Shopping carts and handheld shopping baskets
 - Writing instruments •
- Grocery pick-up/delivery: Stores that have online ordering with outside pick-up or delivery options should encourage use of these when possible in lieu of indoor shopping.
- Food sampling and customer self-service areas: Suspend activities.

For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus) or [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus).



News from the Frontier

April, 2020

With the announcement of Pastor Paul’s upcoming move, I thought this would be a good time to thank him for all he has done for me. Several years ago he asked the question “If you had no restrictions, not money or health or other obligations, what would you do?”

When he asked that question I had many things keeping me from doing what I wanted to do so I prayed about it and thought about it. I really wanted to travel and to help people, which at the time seemed to be somewhat at odds with each other. But beyond that, I had so many restrictions it didn’t really matter.

As those restrictions started going away I began looking for some way to do what God put on my heart and what Paul put in my head. Many of his sermons have the theme, “Go do what God has called you to do. Big things or little things doesn’t really matter.”

A little over five years ago when I asked Laura and my family what they thought about us going on the road, they were supportive. When I asked Pastor Paul, he thought it was a great idea, at least until he realized that I wouldn’t be there to run the sound system or crack wise in small group. But he wasn’t content with me just going out and helping a few people, he wanted me to inspire others to be better people and to follow Gods plan for their lives so he asked me to write about what we were doing. These articles are the result of that request.

Paul inspired me to follow God’s plan, to learn more about who He is, to pray more, to memorize scripture, to write my thoughts and dreams and to live life to its fullest. I can’t thank him enough for pushing me into this journey and for being there when I needed him to focus me on what is important in this life and the next.

Paul, I wish you all the best on your new assignment and am looking forward to sitting in whatever church you are preaching at as I pass through that area.

Yours in Christ,
Jeff and Laura Walker





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