



Heavenly Notes

"Having Conversations about God"

Volume 10, Issue 12

December, 2016

Hartland United Methodist Church

10300 Maple
Hartland, MI 48353
www.hartlandumc.org

Phone: 810-632-7476

Fax: 810-632-9860

Email:

secretary@hartlandumc.org
pastorpaul@hartlandumc.org

Pastor:
Rev. Paul Gruenberg

Sunday Worship

Service:
10:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School:
10:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour:
11:15 a.m.

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OH COME ★
LET US ★
★ Adore ★
★ HIM ★



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. Family Service

Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. Meditative Service

Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. Joyful Service

❧ Musings from the Pastor ❧

Well it's done! Finished! And yet it is just beginning... Oh, you thought I was talking about the elections last month? No, not at all! I'm talking about the birth of a little baby born in a stable a long time ago.

Yes, the elections have come and gone and we have a new president-elect. Sure, Black Friday and Cyber Monday have lasted for days (*so much for thinking it is just a daylong event*). Advent is once again upon us and the church is decorated for the next month in greens, bows, crèches and other reminders of Jesus' birth.

Now even though Christmas Day is celebrated on a single day of the year, should we keep it to just a daylong celebration? Do we think God wants us to celebrate the birth of Jesus on just one specific day of the year? No! Like the "One Day Sales" events that happen ALL THE TIME, I think the birth of our Savior should be celebrated every day. Remembering Jesus' birth is like a cross between breathing and exercise. (*Really? How is that?*)

To live one must breath in oxygen and we do it all the time, mostly without a second thought... in comes the oxygen, out goes carbon dioxide. We must always bear in the back of our minds how our lives are a gift from God and God gives us the gift of eternal life through Jesus. This gift should help us to keep an underlying sense of celebration, joy, peace and kindness in our spirits all day every day. Even in difficult moments we should remember God's love for us in Jesus' birth... it was God providing a way!

Now exercise is something people must intentionally do to keep their bodies from becoming... what's a good technical term... like a couch potato. To really keep our bodies from falling apart, more than that, to keep our bodies functioning well, we must exercise. To do this we must intentionally make time to stress our muscles, circulatory and skeletal systems, etc... like the slogan states, "If you don't use it, you lose it!" When we intentionally keep the Christ Child in mind, we remember how God sent a Savior who experiences our life, the difficulties and demands as well as celebrations and love like we do. We have a God who is not way up in heaven somewhere... we have a God who has entered into life as WE know it in human bodies.

So invite friends and family, and gather together at the 7:00 p.m. or 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We do this in obedience to God, so we can intentionally remember every day that Jesus came to earth to set us free, and to forgive us, so that we might always be with God ... forever!

Now that is something to celebrate all year long!!

Blessings on the journey!

Pastor Paul



Calendar of Events

Meetings for December, 2016

- Sat. Dec. 3: Cookie Walk / Crafts, 9:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m.
- Mon Dec.. 5: Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs. Dec. 8: Administrative Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Fri. Dec. 9: Advent Tea, 7:00 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 10: Personal Needs Pantry Delivery, 9:30 a.m.
- Wed. Dec. 14 : Worship Team Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 17: UMM / Love Inc. Furniture Delivery, 8:00 a.m.
- Sun. Dec. 18: All Church Breakfast and Christmas Pageant, 8:00 a.m.
- Sat. Dec. 24: Christmas Services, 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.



Weekly Events in December, 2016

Every Sunday:

Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 a.m.

Every Monday:

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

Every Tuesday:

Prayers and Squares Quilting, 9:00 a.m.

Every Wednesday:

Narnia Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m.

Every Thursday:

Alcoholics Anonymous, 10:00 a.m.
Choir Practice, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 29

Every Saturday:

Alcoholics Anonymous, 10:00 a.m.



December Anniversaries

17,1988 - Kip & Tammy Maggert
29,1962 - Ron & Fran Warthman
29,1967 - Bill & Jan Martin



December Birthdays



6 - Rob Cannart
8 - Megan Kirkpatrick
10 - Marcie Kanitz
11 - Chris Rice
12 - Terri Preiss
16 - Alexis Clark



December Servants



Greeters

December 4: F. Paletta & D. Webber
December 11: Jeff & Laura Walker
December 18: Hartland Methodist Men
December 24: Volunteers Needed
December 25: Volunteers Needed

Liturgist

December 4: Jo Campbell
December 11: Michelle Nelson
December 18: Mary Monroe
December 24: Terri Preiss
December 25: Shelia Daniel

Ushers

December 4: J. Gordinier & J. Malott
December 11: Don & Marty Hansen
December 18: Hartland Methodist Men
December 24: C. & C. Kirkpatrick
December 25: Don & Marty Hansen

Multi Media Specialist

December 4: Charles Kirkpatrick
December 11: Jeff Jackson
December 18: Gary LaRoy
December 24: Volunteer needed
December 25: Jo Campbell

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus Calms the Storm

³⁵ *That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."* ³⁶ *Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.* ³⁷ *A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.* ³⁸ *Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"*

³⁹ *He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.*

⁴⁰ *He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"*

⁴¹ *They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"*

What are you afraid of? Last month's Readers Digest had an article about how close the movie Frozen was to disaster until they figured out that it was really a story about fear and love. We all have fears, some are real while others are only in our heads. Faith will overcome the worst of our fears.

We told you in our last article about the small group we started in Ohio at the camp we were working in, but didn't say too much about why it took so long to get it started. That is where this month's article is heading.

How hard can it be to start a small group? Well if you have never done it then you don't know where to start. We were more confident with our decision to get rid of most of what we owned and travel around the country than we were to start this group. What if we don't know enough? What if nobody comes? What if they don't like Jeff's sense of humor? (OK, not really worried about that one;) Fear was what caused us to procrastinate as long as we did, but faith in God that He would send the Holy Spirit to put the right words in our mouths is what got us to finally commit (submit may be more accurate) to starting the group.

We had several weeks at the park leading the group and now have had over a month of not being there. The group is still together and meeting each week. We check in most weeks to see how things are going and encourage them to keep going. We are glad we followed God's lead and have received many blessing from this experience and are looking for our next opportunity to start another group.

Again I'll ask, what are you afraid of? What is stopping you from doing what God is calling you to do? Have a little faith and God will do great things with it.

Feed your faith and your fears will starve to death. - Anonymous

Fear can keep us up all night long, but faith makes one fine pillow. - Anonymous

It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed. T. Roosevelt

Yours in Christ,
Jeff and Laura Walker



Date: December 3rd

Time: 9:00 – 12:00

**Place: Hartland United
Methodist Church**

Cookie Walk

*** Let Us Do Your
Holiday Baking**

*** Look Like You
Spent Hours in
The Kitchen**

*** We Promise
We Won't Tell!**



Cass Christmas Store

This advent we will be collecting gifts for the children of the Cass Community. Parents (or guardians) are able to "shop" for clothing and a toy for each child.

There is a box in the Parlor and a sign listing what is needed and what isn't. All donations must be in by December 11th.

Thanks for your generosity. God's blessings to you all this Christmas season!

Sue LaRoy



ADVENT SERMON SERIES

What does a lion, a witch and a wardrobe have to do with Advent?

Come and see as we explore C.S. Lewis' classic tale of the land of Narnia.

Come draw near to God as we prepare for Christmas.



*Christmas Advent Tea
Dessert Buffett
December, 9 2016 at 7:00 p.m.*

Hear, ye! Hear, ye! Save the time and date for our Annual Christmas Tea. All women associated with our church family, as well as friends and neighbors are invited to this inspirational gathering.

Brian and Judy Holmes will be providing the program for the evening. Brian is a musician composer and author who has recently published a mystery book about the efforts of a young man in the Keweenaw Peninsula to establish a mission for teens. Judy is also a musician, photographer and artist. Their talents will be evident in the program they will present.

As in years past, ladies who wish to personally host and decorate a table for their guests are encouraged to do so. However, our event committee will be decorating the additional tables which may be used by others. The committee is asking as many ladies as possible to provide a dessert for the buffet table. Please sign up on the bulletin board and indicate whether you are bringing a dessert.

Thank you in advance and hope to see you there to share this special Christmas Holiday evening together.





Hartland United Methodist Church
10300 Maple Street
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*Hartland United
Methodist Church
wishes you and
your family a very
Blessed Christmas!!*