



Heavenly Notes

"Having Conversations about God"

Volume 10, Issue 1

January, 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
pastor paul@hartlandumc.org

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.

Inside this Issue

Pastor's Message	2
Calendar of Events	3
Birthdays/Anniversaries	4
SCRIP / Giving	5

2016
*God Bless HUMC
Happy New Year!*

The meaning of the

Snowflake

*Every new snowflake comes to the earth
as a picture of our Saviour's birth,
because they are sent from up above
and remind us of God's care and love.*

*Each one is so intricate and small
because Christ sees the detail of us all,
and just as two are never the same,
the Lord knows and calls us each by name.*

*Snowflakes gently cover the world in white
and hide what's unlovely from our sight,
showing us how He covers our sin
and gives us His grace when we come to Him.*

*So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind
and in every bit of white may you find
a reason to celebrate anew
and a reminder of His love for you.*

~Holley Gerth~

➤ *Musings from the Pastor* ➤

Many people have at least one of these hanging on a wall somewhere in their home. What I'm talking about is a painting on a canvas. It could be a reproduction or an original. What is important is that it is someone's interpretation of something they have seen. It could be a picture of scenery, a landscape, or a portrait of someone. Again, it is someone's interpretation of something they see.

I wonder what we see on the canvas of our lives? I wonder how we interpret what we see as our lives have been lived out through the years and what colors we put on the canvas to represent what we have experienced. Is it filled with dark purples, browns and blacks as we see the pain and damage we've experienced or caused through the years? I think we tend to see the chaos in our lives most clearly, before we see the joy and happiness we've experienced or caused in life. In our spiritual lives we see the disobedience to God and the times we have ignored God before we see the times of harmony with God when we have obeyed, when we have been in prayer, when we have loved God and loved our neighbor.

What I want you to know and understand is that our canvas is always changing with God. We tend to look at what is already on the canvas thinking it will never change. But God sees the possibilities of what remains to be placed on the canvas. But even more than that, God can change some of what is already on the canvas. Listen, when we have lived in disobedience to God and understand our wicked nature, we see dark colors. When we ask for forgiveness from God, God doesn't just paint over the dark colors, God removes them from the canvas as if they never existed.

As we head into 2016, what are the areas of your life you need God to forgive, so that your canvas can be wiped clean? What also are the new colors or new adventures with God and for God that you can add to your canvas? The possibilities are only as limited as you believe God can move in your life.

Let 2016 paint the most vibrant of colors on your canvas this year as you seek to develop your relationship with God and others, as you seek to serve God and others, as you actually love God and others. The possibilities can seem limited when we look forward through our eyes, so ask God to reveal the possibilities by asking God to show you what He sees. You'll be amazed!

May 2016 be a blessing to you and God.

Pastor Paul



Calendar of Events

Meetings for January 2016

- Friday, January 1: Happy New Year!!!
- Monday, January 4: Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 6: Design Works
- Wednesday, January 13: Worship Team Meeting, Bring Your Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 14: : Administrative Council Meeting, 7:00 p.
- Saturday, January 16: HUMM Love Inc. Furniture Pick up and delivery, 8:00 a.m.
- Sunday, January 17 : Hartland United Methodist Men Meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, January 20: Staff/Parish/Pastor Relationship Committee, 6:00 p.m.



Weekly Events in January 2016

Every Sunday:

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



Every Monday:

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

Every Tuesday:

Prayers and Squares Quilting, 9:00 a.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, January, 2 (Saturday at 1:00 p.m.) (7, 14, 28 at 7:00 p.m.)

Every Saturday:

Alcoholics Anonymous, 10:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events in February, 2016

Saturday, February 6: Worship Workshop (See flyer on bulletin board)
Saturday, February 27: Ann Arbor District Leadership

Special Dates

January Birthdays

- 6 Jan Martin
- 8 Clifton Kirkpatrick, Mickie Voight
- 9 Dani Toth
- 11 Chris Cannaert, Pat Schleh
- 15 Scott Jackson
- 19 Don Hansen, Sarah Anderson
- 20 Andrew Cannaert, Lane Rodocker
- 26 Laurie Anderson
- 27 Christian Muzo



January Anniversaries

- 7, 1977 Charles & Debbie Kirkpatrick
- 8, 1966 Dave & Ruth Wyckoff
- 10, 1976 Gary & Rosemary White
- 19, 1966 Don & Marty Hansen



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.!

January Servants

Greeters

- January 3: F. Paletta & D. Webber
- January 10: Volunteers Needed
- January 17: Jim & Erin Hankins
- January 24: Volunteers Needed
- January 31: Volunteers Needed

Ushers

- January 3: Jim & Mary Jo Malott
- January 10: Gary & Sue LaRoy
- January 17: Joey & Sharon Infantino
- January 24: Earl & Jo Campbell
- January 31: Volunteers Needed

Liturgist

- January 3: Mary Monroe
- January 10: Shelia Daniel
- January 17: Volunteer Needed
- January 24: Volunteer Needed
- January 31: Volunteer Needed

Multi Media Specialist

- January 3: Charles Kirkpatrick
- January 10: Michael Clark
- January 17: Gary LaRoy
- January 24: Volunteer Needed
- January 31: Volunteer Beeded

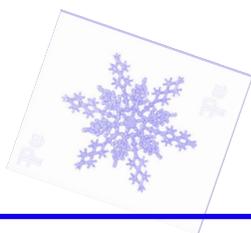
Heart of a Servant

Give me the heart of a servant,
Tender and faithful and true.
Fill me with love, then use me, O Lord,
So that the world can see You.

SCRIP Program

We would like to thank all the people that have purchased SCRIP cards during the year. By your participation in the program the Church has received \$717.87 in profit for 2015. For those who are unaware how the Scrip program works, don't feel bad, we didn't either and now we run it.

As an example, if you were to buy a Meijer card, you would spend \$25.00 and would get \$25.00 when you used it at the store. The church receives .75 from Meijer. (Percentages vary among different retailers.) It doesn't sound like much but look at how it adds up at the end of the year. If you buy a few cards a year that .75 adds up and you are making a donation to the church that costs you nothing. Order forms are available if you want a card that we don't have on hand. If the forms aren't on the bulletin board check with Karen.



Jeff and Linda Gordinier



Automate The Important!

As we have been enjoying a great winter season, three more people have automated their giving by going electronic. Giving electronically ensures our bills get paid even during our snow and ice storms when traveling conditions are less than ideal.

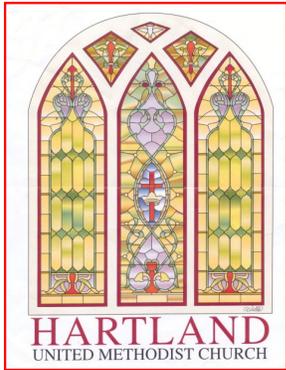
To support God's work, Hartland United Methodist Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for God's work through our church. There are two avenues to automate your giving:

1. **Online Giving** using the smart code above or if you go to our web site at www.hartlandumc.org (click on "Online Giving" at the bottom of the page). It allows you at anytime to make a one time donation, set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, or view your online donation history.
2. **Bill Pay through Online Banking** lets you make your offering automatic on a pre-determined schedule. You can set this up through your online bank through your bank's customer service people.

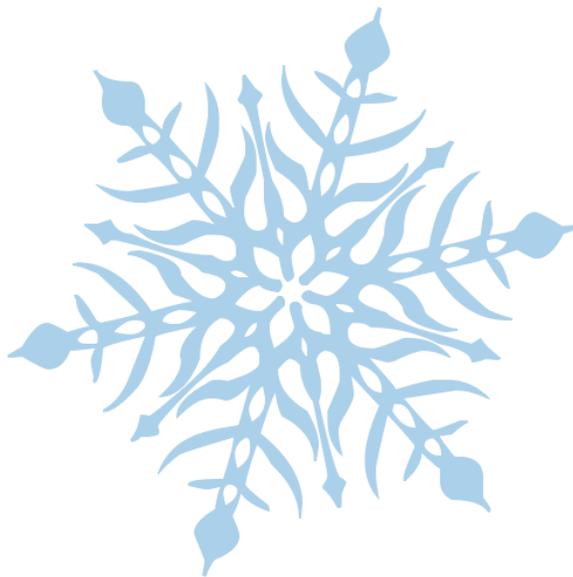
As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Additional information is available from the church office.



Hartland United Methodist Church
10300 Maple Street
Hartland, MI 48353



2
0
1
6



H
A
P
P
Y
N
E
W
Y
E
A
R

“Mission News”

The Personal Needs Pantry is starting to get busy. As the word gets out more people are calling and asking about it and how they can get more information. The pantry is fully stocked but still needs some small items to complete its inventory.

Thank you for your support of this mission.



Current Needs List

- ◆ Dishwasher soap
- ◆ Dryer sheets
- ◆ Baby shampoo
- ◆ Shaving cream, Men's
- ◆ Shaving cream Women's
- ◆ Razors, Men's
- ◆ Razors, Women's
- ◆ Dental floss
- ◆ Mouthwash
- ◆ Tampons



Message from Your Financial Chairperson

I cannot believe the year will be coming to a close in 30 more days! As we come to this time of year I want to update you on where we stand financially.

Thank you for your generosity to God this year, yet we are currently behind in our support of God's work here at Hartland United Methodist Church in the following areas: \$6808.00 in unpaid bills and \$17307.00 in apportionments and to be paid by year end. This gives us a grand total of **\$24,115.00** to catch up on all of our church bills.

The Finance Team, on behalf of the church, comes to you at this time to ask for a **special catch up offering** to be caught up on these bills. We have calculated that it would take **\$350.00** per giving unit to finish our year well. A special offering envelope will be available each Sunday in December.

The three ways you can give are:

1. **Special Catch Up Offering Envelopes** provided each Sunday in December.
2. **Give Electronically** by using the electronic pew card (using a smartphone/tablet) or by going to our church website and by selecting "Give" at the top or "Online Giving" at the bottom.
3. **Use "Online Bill Pay"** through your bank or simply mail it to the church.

However you are led by God to give, will be a blessing. Thank You again!

Shalom,

Marty Hansen and Finance Team

*Christmas Tea Celebration
December 8, at 12:30 p.m.*

Take a break from your Christmas shopping and come and relax with us at Secluded Celebrations. The prepaid luncheon is \$25.00. Please reserve your seat on the sign up sheet located on the hall bulletin board.



*Advent Tea
Friday, Dec. 11 at 7:00p.m.*

All women and girls of our church family are invited to attend our Advent Tea held in Armstrong Hall. We are in need of volunteers to be table hostesses for this event. The table hostess will decorate a table and provide place settings for your guests. We will have a dessert buffet and ask each hostess to bring a dessert enough to serve sixteen people. Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board for table hostesses and their guests. If You have any questions please contact, Pat Coleman at 248-887-1342.



*All Church Christmas Breakfast
And
Children's Pageant*

Sunday, December 29th at 8:00 a.m.

*Join us for the **All Church Breakfast** hosted by the men. Please sign up today on the hallway bulletin board if you would like to attend. Following Breakfast, join us at the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service for the **2015 Christmas Pageant!***





SECRET ANGEL CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

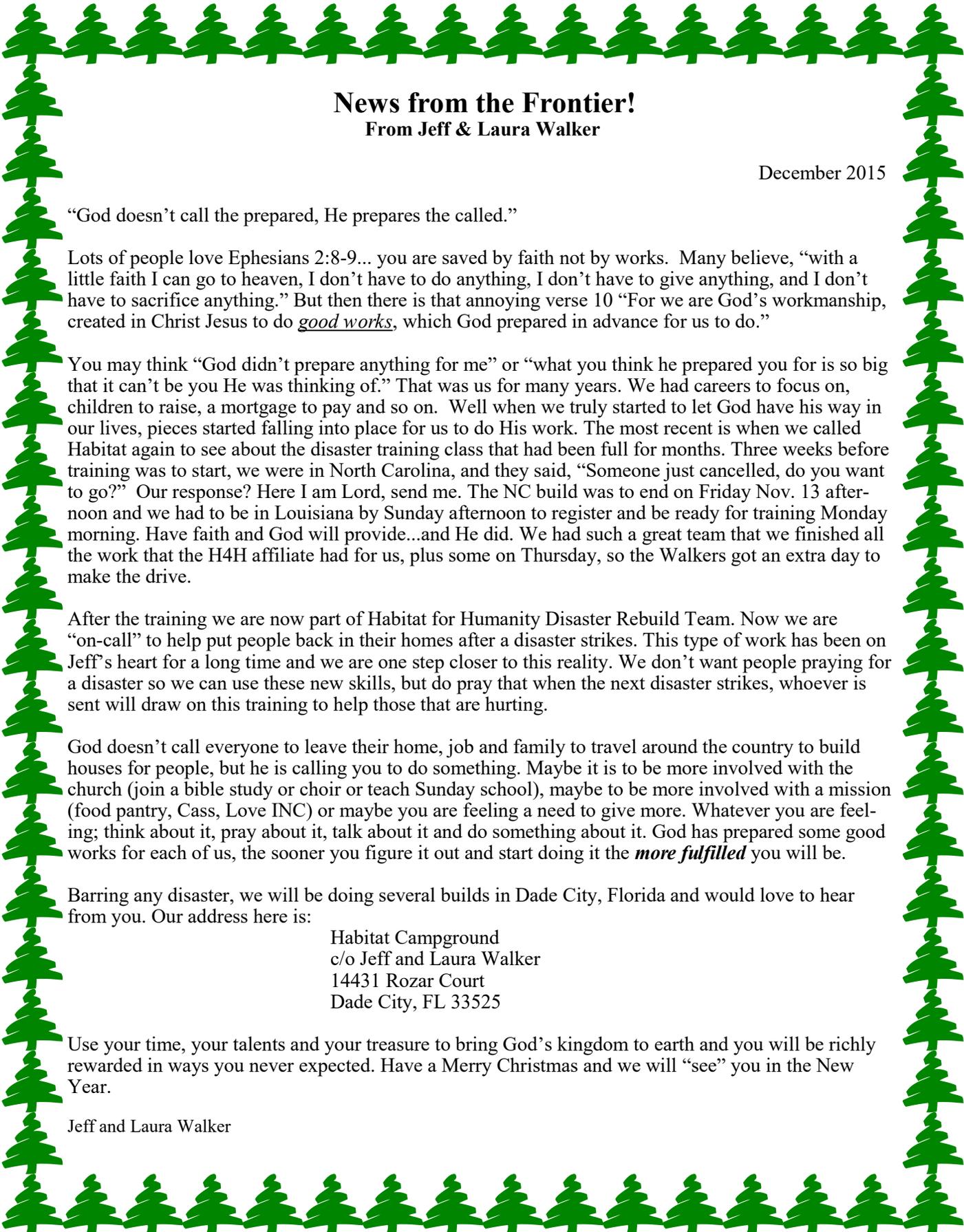
WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015
WHERE: HOME OF MARTY HANSEN
ADDRESS: 11025 CLYDE ROAD
FENTON, MI 48430 (just East of Spicers Orchards)
TIME: 4:30 PM - ?
RSVP: Marty -----810-632-7276 by December 6

Bring a Christmas Gift for you Secret Angel. This time you can put who it is from. Also, bring your appetite because we will share a meal together.



Christmas Giving Tree

The remaining presents for our "adopted" Christmas families were purchased last weekend to take advantage of Black Friday prices. If you missed the opportunity to take a snowflake and purchase a gift, you can still help with a cash donation. We are about \$80 short. There is a small box under the Angel Tree for cash donations, or see Karen Nowak. All purchased presents should be wrapped with the snowflake attached and deposited in the large collection box no later than Wednesday, December 9th. Thank you for making this a special Christmas for our families.



News from the Frontier!

From Jeff & Laura Walker

December 2015

“God doesn’t call the prepared, He prepares the called.”

Lots of people love Ephesians 2:8-9... you are saved by faith not by works. Many believe, “with a little faith I can go to heaven, I don’t have to do anything, I don’t have to give anything, and I don’t have to sacrifice anything.” But then there is that annoying verse 10 “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do *good works*, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

You may think “God didn’t prepare anything for me” or “what you think he prepared you for is so big that it can’t be you He was thinking of.” That was us for many years. We had careers to focus on, children to raise, a mortgage to pay and so on. Well when we truly started to let God have his way in our lives, pieces started falling into place for us to do His work. The most recent is when we called Habitat again to see about the disaster training class that had been full for months. Three weeks before training was to start, we were in North Carolina, and they said, “Someone just cancelled, do you want to go?” Our response? Here I am Lord, send me. The NC build was to end on Friday Nov. 13 afternoon and we had to be in Louisiana by Sunday afternoon to register and be ready for training Monday morning. Have faith and God will provide...and He did. We had such a great team that we finished all the work that the H4H affiliate had for us, plus some on Thursday, so the Walkers got an extra day to make the drive.

After the training we are now part of Habitat for Humanity Disaster Rebuild Team. Now we are “on-call” to help put people back in their homes after a disaster strikes. This type of work has been on Jeff’s heart for a long time and we are one step closer to this reality. We don’t want people praying for a disaster so we can use these new skills, but do pray that when the next disaster strikes, whoever is sent will draw on this training to help those that are hurting.

God doesn’t call everyone to leave their home, job and family to travel around the country to build houses for people, but he is calling you to do something. Maybe it is to be more involved with the church (join a bible study or choir or teach Sunday school), maybe to be more involved with a mission (food pantry, Cass, Love INC) or maybe you are feeling a need to give more. Whatever you are feeling; think about it, pray about it, talk about it and do something about it. God has prepared some good works for each of us, the sooner you figure it out and start doing it the *more fulfilled* you will be.

Barring any disaster, we will be doing several builds in Dade City, Florida and would love to hear from you. Our address here is:

Habitat Campground
c/o Jeff and Laura Walker
14431 Rozar Court
Dade City, FL 33525

Use your time, your talents and your treasure to bring God’s kingdom to earth and you will be richly rewarded in ways you never expected. Have a Merry Christmas and we will “see” you in the New Year.

Jeff and Laura Walker

