



Heavenly Notes

"Having Conversations about God"

Volume 11, Issue 1

January 2017

Hartland United Methodist Church

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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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His Unfailing Presence

Another year I enter Its history
unknown; Oh, how my feet would
tremble to tread its paths alone!

But I have heard a whisper, I
know I shall be blest; My presence
shall go with thee, And I will give
thee rest."

What will the New Year bring me?
I may not, must not know; Will it
be love and rapture, Or loneliness
and woe?

Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper; I
surely shall be blest; "My presence
shall go with thee, And I will give
thee rest."

❧ Musings from the Pastor ❧

As 2016 comes to a close, I look back (*as I think many do*) and think about what life has brought and how I may have handled it both well and not so well. Some of the experiences were truly blessings. One child has graduated and has a good job with possibilities. Another child has married and we love our new daughter-in-law. Our youngest has two semesters left until he too graduates. My wife starts a new job in January (after her current job told all the employees in November that the business was sold).

I think it is a healthy process to look back and see your blessings and how you have handled life, both the physical and the spiritual. For instance, last spring we did a series on prayer based off the movie, “War Room”. I had never had a dedicated place (*whether you call it a War Room or Prayer Closet*) like this to pray. During the series, I made this kind of spot in the house, as I know several other people have too, and have been blessed by this space.

The last area I’ve thought of are the people I’ve said goodbye to over the last year. What stands out to me most is the joy and peace experienced because of their faith in Jesus. Even in the midst of grief, which all people experience, the more active they were in living out their faith (*reading scripture, prayer life, generous giving and sharing of faith and the worship of God*) the more peace was experienced and comfort by all knowing they were going to be with God in heaven. The less faith one has, the more difficult the experience one has in the parting.

Introspection then leads to thinking about the coming year. For example, many people would like to become healthier. So what might they need to give up and what might they need to increase to achieve their goal (*which often deals with food and exercise*)?

As Christians we should always be striving to be **more like Jesus**. What do you plan on doing more of this coming year and what might you need to do less of or give up to accomplish this spiritual goal? (*See page 8 for Spiritual Goals for 2017*) Goals might be to **know God** better (Bible reading/study, prayer), **love God** better (prayer/quiet time, worship, giving), and for some to **serve God** better (witness, ministry, mission). Whatever combination it might be, write it down and what the small steps are to accomplish the year end goals. Also, let one or two people help to keep you accountable and you them (**share the journey**), so that come this time next year you’ll look back and celebrate your victory. Nothing sweeter than a job well done!

Sharing the journey together!

Pastor Paul

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

January Anniversaries

2, 19XX - Jim & Sally Pennington
7, 1977 - Charles & Debbie Kirkpatrick
8, 1966 - Dave & Ruth Wyckoff
10, 1976 - Gary & Rosemary White
19, 1966 - Don & Marty Hansen



January Servants

Greeters

January 1:
January 8: Don & Marty Hansen
January 15: Hartland Methodist Men
January 22:
January 29:

Liturgist

December 1: Terri Preiss
December 8: Mary Jo Bell
December 15: Jo Campbell
December 22: Terri Preiss
December 29: Mary Monroe

Ushers

January 1:
January 8: Don & Marty Hansen
January 15: Hartland Methodist Men
January 22:
January 29:

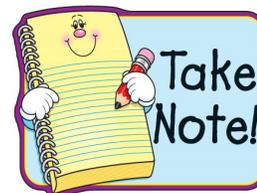
Multi Media Specialist

January 1: Charles Kirkpatrick
January 8: Jeff Jackson
January 15: Volunteer Needed
January 22: Jo Campbell
January 29: Volunteer Needed

Calendar of Events

Meetings for January, 2017

- Mon Jan. 2: Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wed. Jan 11: Worship Team Meeting, 12:30
- Thurs. Jan. 12: Administrative Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Sat. Jan. 14: Personal Needs Pantry Delivery, 9:30 a.m.
- Sun. Jan. 15: HUMM Meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- Sat. Jan. 21: UMM / Love Inc. Furniture Delivery, 8:00 a.m..
- Sat. Jan . 28: Personal Needs Pantry Delivery, 9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.



Weekly Events in January 2017

Every Sunday:

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

Every Monday:

Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.

Every Tuesday:

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

Every Wednesday:

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

Every Thursday:

Alcoholics Anonymous, 10:00 a.m.
Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. Jan. 5, 12, 16

Every Saturday:

Alcoholics Anonymous, 10:00 a.m.



The logo features the word "CORNHOLE" in large, yellow, 3D block letters with black outlines, set against a brown wooden board background. A red flag is tucked under the 'O', and a blue flag is tucked under the 'H'. Above the board is a patch of green grass. Below the board, the word "TOURNAMENT" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

**Saturday, January 28, 2017
9:30 a.m.**

Cornhole is a game where players take turns throwing bags of corn at a raised platform with a hole in the far end. A bag in the hole scores 3 points, while one on the platform scores 1 point. Play continues until a team reaches the score of 21.



If you can throw a small bag underhand across the room, or if you have ever seen or played horse shoes, then you have all the skills needed to play Cornhole.

Lunch and Refreshments **provided** at Noon!
No Entrance Fee!!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Visitation Ministry

The purpose of a Visitation Ministry is to be available for spiritual and emotional support; and to provide spiritual care to church members in times of illness, homebound, hospitalization and other crises.

Every single member of the church can be a part of the Ministry of Visitation. If you have been wondering what you can do to make a difference in someone's life, or how you can get involved within the church family, this is the ministry for you.

There are many people who are sick or in a home bound situation, as well as others in need of our services. We want to have enough people in this ministry so that all reported persons can be cared for. This is especially important as we approach the holiday times in the year.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please join Jo Campbell for an organizational meeting at our church on **Monday evening, January 2, 2017, at 7:00 PM** in Armstrong Hall. If you have spiritual qualities and a vibrant faith that are easily seen and you are willing and able to take on a visit ministry, we need you. We love our church family and we will do the things that are asked of us to serve the Lord in order that we may continue our spiritual growth and support others in their faith journey.

For more information, call Jo Campbell at:
810-632-5599
e-mail: jocampbell6468@gmail.com



Never stop doing
little things for others.
Sometimes those
little things occupy
the biggest part
of their hearts.

SR
SimpleReminders.com

Crafters for Christ

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the craft table and to all who purchased our wares. Because of your generosity, through the year we were able to earn more than five hundred dollars for missions and church projects. I just wanted you all to know that, due to your unselfishness, many others will be blessed as we donated \$100 to Cass, \$100 to the pastor's discretionary emergency fund, \$100 to Gleaners, \$50 to UMW, \$100 to rent equipment to clean the church carpets, and the balance of \$96 to the Trustee emergency fund. Well done, good and faithful friends.

I had hoped we would be able to meet regularly during 2016 to craft but that just didn't work out. So I would like to invite everyone who is interested to meet at the church on the third Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 2:30 in Armstrong Hall. So, on January 19th, pack up your favorite portable craft and join us for laughter, love and crafting.

See you soon.

Pat Harton

810.588.6303 (h)

248.935.0021 (c)



Small Group Studies

Have you always wondered who the early Christians were and what their lives were like? How they came to faith and the trials and challenges they faced because of that faith? Have you wondered how the Apostles' Creed came to be? Or even how what we call the New Testament was assembled from early writings? Perhaps you have wondered how Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant churches came to be. Or how Christianity spread around the world.

If you answered yes to any of these questions, join us for a small group study either on Monday mornings from 10:30 to noon or on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00. We will be studying the people and events every Christian should know. This is a 12-week, DVD based study based on Dr. Timothy Paul Jones's award winning book Christian History Made Easy. Dr. Jones teaches with lots of stories and humor. Please reserve your spot by signing up on the sheet found on the bulletin board so I will know how many participant books I should order.

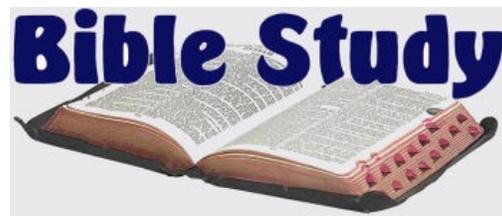
The Monday class will begin January 9th and the Wednesday class will begin January 11th. Call me if you have any questions about the class.

See you soon,

Pat Harton,

810.588.6303 (h)

248.935.0021 (c)



Spiritual Goals for 2017

(Here are some goal ideas you may want to put on your 2017 bucket list to help you become more like Jesus)

* For those who want to know God better:

Participate in worship services more intentionally.

Take notes during service about what God says to you (bring a small notebook)

Sing more robustly

Prepare for service the night before through prayer

Be intentional in the study of God:

Attempt to read the one-year bible in a year or two

Join a small group study (bible or topical) when they are offered so that through dialogue and discussion you might grow in grace and knowledge of God.

Read a book about God at least once every 3 months

(Congregational reading: The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis beginning in March)

* Ideas/goals to love God better:

Love has the idea of spending time with God through an intentional quiet time on a regular basis (reading, listening, journaling)

To love God would include loving others (both Churched and de-churched) by spending time with them in worship, fellowship, study and ministry

To love God includes the worship of God on a daily (not just Sunday) basis

* Ideas to serve God better:

Each week there are opportunities to serve God by participating on a ministry team for that week (liturgist, ushers, greeters, musical, techs and after service fellowship, opening/closing)

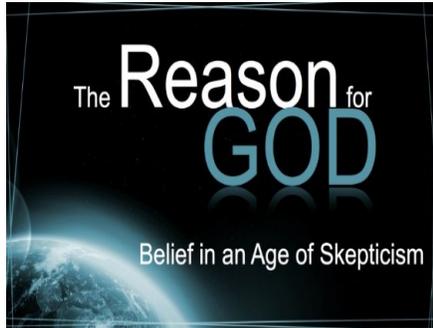
Be a part of a ministry team that works on bigger projects

(Easy Invite Events, Worship Team, United Methodist Men/Women, VBS, Turkey Dinner, Cookie Walk, Christmas Tea, etc...)

Be a part of a missions' project (Cass Lunch, PNP Saturday Coordinator, etc.)

Upcoming Sermon Series (Jan – April)

The Reason for God



This sermon series, based on the book of the same name by Timothy Keller, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics and non-believers bring to religion. Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one.

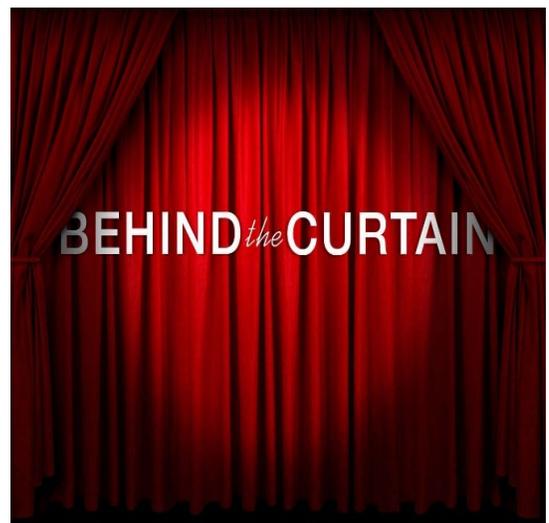
This sermon series will look at such topics:

- * Isn't the Bible a Myth?
- * How Can You Say There Is Only One Way to God?
- * What Gives You the Right to Tell Me How to Live My Life?
- * Why Does God Allow Suffering?
- * Why Is the Church Responsible for So Much Injustice?
- * How Can God Be Full of Love and Wrath at the Same Time?

Behind the Curtain (Lenten Series)

In this series we will take a look at what happens behind the life we can see with our own two eyes. We'll look behind the curtain into the biblical understanding of Spiritual Warfare. (How the Devil wants to throw Christians off their relationship with God).

During this series you are encouraged to join a small group in reading and discussing the book, "The Screwtape Letters", by C.S. Lewis which details the letters from a senior devil to his apprentice who is in charge of keeping a particular man from becoming a committed Christian.





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Happy New Year!