

# Heavenly Notes

Volume 13, Issue 7  
July, 2019



Sharing the journey to know, to love, and serve God.



## 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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# Happy 4th of July

GOD ★ ★  
★ ★ BLESS  
*America*  
LAND THAT I LOVE



**Pastor Paul and Becky Toth  
At the Michigan Annual Conference**

**More on the 2019 Michigan  
Annual Conference**



**Pastor Paul participating  
in the Ordination Service**

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Throughout one's life there are certain functions that come and go each year like clock-work. One of those functions for me is going to our yearly Annual Conference. The First Annual Conference of the American Methodist church took place in 1780 in Philadelphia. Now 239 years later I attended the 2019 First Michigan Area Annual Conference and experienced something new.

Over the last three years, Suzanne (an ordained deacon ) and I (an ordained elder) have been gathering nearly every month with a group of probationary deacons and probationary elders who have been preparing to become an ordained deacons/elders in the Michigan Area Conference of the United Methodist Church. I remember going through a similar process when I first began my time as a vocational pastor. It was fun. It was exciting. It was hair-raising.

Now, I have been on the "other side" of this process. And I have to admit, helping these 8 probationary members through their first three years of ministry has not only been a good experience, but a rewarding one as well. When they went up before the bishop at our Annual Conference's Ordination service, I felt a little bit like a proud parent, watching the bishop ordain them one by one.

But what was really cool was one of the probationary elders (Cloud Poy) asked me to stand up with him as the bishop laid hands on him and ordained him (I'm to his right in this picture). Then his wife and I put on his red stole (see picture on page 1) for the first time, signifying that he was now an ordained elder. (As probationary deacons & elders, you can wear a robe, but not a stole until you are ordained.)

Annual Conferences will come and go, yet this year's conference will remain a special one for me; having been both a mentor and asked to stand with Cloud as he was ordained.

It reminds me that we can all play a special role in someone's life. It may be as a spouse, as a parent, sibling, child, neighbor, friend, co-worker, etc. Whatever the relationship, God wants to use us to help others in their spiritual journey. Not just in big moments, but in the everyday moments of life.

How has God used you in the past? How is God using you now? How is God preparing you



Sharing the journey with you to know, love, and serve God,

*Pastor Paul*

## July Anniversaries



16, 1983 - Rob & Michele  
Cannaert

23, 1983 - Chris & Sherrie  
Rice

25, 1981 - Bruce & Darcie  
Westbrook

## July Birthdays

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Dan Bierer       | 7 Mary Monroe    |
| Ann Martin         | 13 Bob Ruby      |
| 2 Angel Tan        | 15 Lindsay Kenel |
| 3 James Walker     | 18 Norma Faulds  |
| 4 Paul Gruenberg   | 23 Ron Warthman  |
| Christopher Walker | 28 Gar Lemon     |
| 6 Brenna Gruenberg | 30 Janice Wright |
| Pat Harton         | 31 Nancy Sneath  |

If you would like your birthday or your anniversary added to our church list please leave a note in the office with Karen.



## July Servants

### Greeters

July 7: Jerry Weaver  
 July 14: Volunteers Needed  
 July 21: Volunteers Needed  
 July 28: Volunteers Needed

### Ushers

July 7: Ron & Fran Warthman  
 July 14: Don & Marty Hansen  
 July 21: Don & Marty Hansen  
 July 28: Carl & Patti Didomizio

### Liturgist

July 7: Terri Preiss  
 July 14: Jo Campbell  
 July 21: Mary Monroe  
 July 28: Jerry Weaver

### Multi Media Specialist

July 7: Charles Kirkpatrick  
 July 14: Jeff Jackson  
 July 21: Mary Jo Bell  
 July 28: Jo Campbell



## Meetings in July, 2019

Mon. July 1: Trustee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wed. July 10: Worship Team Meeting, 12:30 p.m.  
Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Thurs. July 11: Financial / Ad. Board Meeting 4:00p.m.  
4-H Meeting 7:00 p.m.

## Weekly Events in July, 2019

Every Sunday: Service, 10:00 a.m.  
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 a.m.  
Adult Sunday School, 11:20 a.m.

Every Monday: Knit, Crochet, Pray, 12:00 p.m.

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

Every Wed.: Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m.

Every Thursday: Alcoholics Anonymous, 10:00 a.m.

Every Saturday: Alcoholics Anonymous, 10:00 a.m.

Trust in the Lord  
with all your heart,  
And lean not on your  
own understanding;

*In all your ways  
acknowledge Him,*

And He shall direct  
your paths.

PROVERBS 3:5-6 NKJV



## Summer Challenge

Join the growing throng of people who are gaining Godly wisdom and becoming more wise with Godly understanding by reading a chapter in Proverbs everyday this Summer.

## Summer Mission Project

We are collecting school supplies for all grade levels in the Hartland School District. This mission will last the three months of Summer. If you would like to contribute to this mission, please place your items in the bin as you enter the Sanctuary.



### Donate from your smart phone or tablet

Hartland United Methodist Church offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easier for you to give anytime from your smart phone.

Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader!



Don't have a scanner code application?

Go to either:

App Store-Search for AT&T code scanner in your device app store. You can find it on Blackberry App World, Android Market, and AT&T MediaNet

Mobile Web-Go to [hppt://scan.mobi](http://scan.mobi) on your mobile device.



## Automate the Important Electronic Giving Available

**Giving electronically is easy and allows you to set up recurring contributions**

As we get ready to enjoy a great summer season, let's also be sure our bills get paid while we're traveling. Not just our home bills, but our church bills as well. Our bills don't take a vacation just because we do! You can use the electronic "giving online" button on our website or use Bill Pay through your bank.

[www.hartlandumc.org](http://www.hartlandumc.org)  
and click on the "GIVE" button





# Praise and Worship In The Park



*August 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.*

- ♦ *Join together as we worship, play games and eat together outdoors.*
- ♦ *Bring a friend to join you in this special summer setting.*
- ♦ *Begin now to ask God to point you to those people to invite.*

*An  
Easy Invite  
Event*



## **Becky's Reflections** **2019 Michigan Annual Conference**

### Ignorance Was Bliss or the Lay Person Report of Annual Conference

I have been attending annual conferences for about 15 years now and this was the first one that left me feeling ambivalent. The conference started with the Memorial service honoring all of the pastors and conference lay servants who had gone on to glory with God in the past year. This service is inspiring to see the impact of the lives of the people that serve God and the church. As usual, there are reports of the conference committees.

Guest speakers this year both were raised in churches of the Michigan conference. Becca Farnum describes herself as an environmentalist, peacebuilder, and educator. She had spent years living and working all over the world, teaching, leading groups, and helping villages. The main message that I received from her was the message of COURAGE: Collaborate, Open, Understand privilege & bias, Respect other journeys, Give generously, and Evangelize.

The other speaker was Kristen Grauer. She is a foreign service officer for the U. S. Department of State. She has served in Russia, Liberia, Iraq, France, and Cote d'Ivoire. Her stories about working with truth and reconciliation projects in war worn countries, development of schools, wells, and orphanages, and working with terrorist financing and sanctions in Baghdad were inspiring relating to the resiliency of the human spirit and the work that can be done with the love of God, even for the government.

Entertainment for the conference included jazz music, a Native American dance exhibition, moving music, and encouraging worship. One of the objectives of conference was to elect the representatives to the General Conference in 2020. There was also a report of the conclusions of the special General Conference (churches from the entire world) that was convened in 2019 to begin the discussion of lesbian/gay marriage and ordination in the United Methodist Church. The prospect of including these policies was voted down at this session. These practices will be again discussed and voted at the General Conference in 2020.

In looking at the tone of the conference this year, there is definitely a division in the beliefs of the members of the Michigan Conference. All believe that the Bible is the divine and inspired word of God which was relevant at the time the Word was written. Now some believe that the Bible is still relevant for our time today. For me, I believe the Bible is still relevant today, and I cannot choose which parts to follow based on what I think is right. However, others believe there are many parts that are no longer relevant for today's time. This group is in support of same-sex relationships and they believe the Old and New testament teachings on marriage are no longer relevant for today.

For me, this debate has nothing to do with sexual orientation. The true debate is whether the whole Bible is the word of God, and is still relevant to my life today. The conference took a non-binding, "straw" poll to see who did and who did not support same-sex marriage and ordination of people who are in same-sex marriages. This was done to determine the "mind" of the conference and how we might aspire to do ministry into the future as a conference. Two-thirds supported, one-third did not. Before conference, I was happy to live in the ignorance that the United Methodist Church was not divided. Now I have to pray for the future and direction of our church.

*Becky Toth*



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God bless



...land that I love.