

# Heavenly Notes

March 2018

Volume 12, Issue 3



## Hartland United Methodist Church

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**Pastor:**  
Rev. Paul Gruenberg

### Sunday Worship

**Service:**  
10:00 a.m.  
**Sunday School:**  
11:15 a.m.  
**Coffee Hour:**  
11:00 a.m.  
**Adult Sunday School**  
11:20 a.m.

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**Come celebrate  
ST. Patrick's Day  
with us here at the  
Hartland United  
Methodist Church  
Spaghetti Dinner.**

<b>Families</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Adults</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Seniors</b>	<b>\$ 8.00</b>
<b>Kids (3-12)</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>

**Saturday, March 17 2017  
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

All Proceeds go to  
Hartland United Methodist Church Emergency Fund.

## God And The U.S. Supreme Court

In the news this week there is a court case which has made it to The United States Supreme Court. This particular case will determine if public-unions have the right to force non-members to pay for the bargaining that is done on the behalf of those who do pay union dues. On the other side, many union members are frustrated that their union uses their money to promote specific political positions that they do not themselves support.



However, in a 1977 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled (*Abod v. Detroit Board of Education*) that forcing nonmembers to pay for a union's political activities violated the First Amendment. But it was constitutional to require non-members to help pay for the union's collective bargaining efforts to prevent freeloading and ensure "labor peace." (*New York Times*, Feb 26, 2018)

Now what fascinates me about this, and really any other decision The Supreme Court makes, is it **becomes the law of the land. It is binding to all.** Yet, as noticed in this particular case, there are times when the court may "update" its decisions too. There is a sense of going back and forth, depending upon who is sitting on the bench and the shifts in the American culture.

In the Christian worldview, there has been a similar case brewing throughout the years about the Bible. **For nearly 2000 years, the Bible**, given to us by God, as the Holy Spirit moved in the hearts of the authors of each book, **has been understood as God's Word to all people.** These words are understood as God teaching and training us on how to live, correcting us when we stray, sometimes rebuking us when we are stubborn, but always telling us three important facts:

1. **God created and loves you** and desires to be in an ongoing relationship with you.
2. **God's unconditional love in Jesus provided a way for us to live lives** free from sin and death.
3. **You can experience peace/joy in this life and the life to come** by believing/following/serving Jesus.

On the other hand, some Christians are now seeing the Bible as irrelevant, not having any authority on how God may or may not want us to live our lives as followers of Jesus. Some claim it was written for people 2000 years ago, but holds no meaning in their lives today. **We must all decide how we will view the Bible and what kind of authority it should have in our lives today.** It is in our own hands to decide.

Here is my concern. **Unlike The U.S. Supreme Court, God's Word is final.** God will not change how eternal decisions are made. Unlike the current tax laws, **there are no loop holes which we can use to get us into heaven without a commitment to believe/follow/serve Jesus.**

As we continue to march toward Easter, may God guide you into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Jesus and the Bible. **Come Easter morning and let us all celebrate together!**

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

*Pastor Paul*



# March Birthdays

- 1 Elsie LaRue
- 3 Michael Warthman
- 5 Jeff Jackson
- 7 Crystal Anderson
- 14 Ann Altman
- 16 Sara Kenel
- 17 Beckie Wren
- 21 Lynét Gruenberg  
Frances Warthman
- 28 Bill Wyckoff



# March Anniversaries

- 7 1970 - Bruce & Janice Wright
- 17 Bob Ruby & Shyrl Cone



# March Servants



## Ushers

## Greeters

- March 4: Volunteers Needed
- March 11: Volunteers Needed
- March 18: Methodist Men
- March 25: Don & Marty Hansen

- March 4: Sharon & Joey Infantino
- March 11: P. Harton & M. Monroe
- March 8: Methodist Men
- March 25: Frank Paletta

## Liturgist

## Multi Media Specialist

- March 4: Mary Monroe
- March 11: Pat Harton
- March 18: Michelle Nelson
- March 25: Shelia Daniel

- March 4: Mary Jo Bell
- March 11: Jeff Jackson
- March 18: Mary Jo Bell
- March 25: Jo Campbell





## Meetings in March, 2018



- Wed. March 7: Design Works, 9:00 a.m.
- Thurs.. March 8: Administrative Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sat . March 10: Personal Needs Pantry Delivery, 10:00 a.m.
- Wed March 14: Worship Team Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
- Sat. March 17: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, 6:00 p.m.
- Sun. March 18: United Methodist Men Meeting, 8:00 a.m.  
Women's Breakfast at Hartland Big Boy, 8:30 a.m.
- Thurs. March 29: Maundy Thursday, Seder Meal, Hartland UMC 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 30: Good Friday, Hardy UMC ,Service 1:00 p.m.  
All Saints Lutheran, Service 7:00 p.m.



## Weekly Events in March, 2018

- Every Sunday: Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School, 10:20 a.m.  
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 a.m.  
Adult Sunday School, 11:20 a.m.
- Every Monday: Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
- Every Tuesday: Prayers and Squares Quilting, 9:00 a.m.
- Every Wednesday: Revelation 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. (March 1, 8, 22, 29)
- Every Saturday: Alcoholics Anonymous, 10:00 a.m.



# Lent



## Preparing Our Hearts for Easter

As we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter, it is important that we take time in our schedules to recognize all God has done for us. By participating in these Lenten Special Services, you will be able to more deeply reflect on God's love, grace, and sacrifice on your behalf. Plan now to do something new to celebrate God this Lenten season, and invite a friend to share this journey with you!

# Lenten Line Up

### Palm Sunday

March 25, 2018

Hartland UMC Service 10:00 a.m.

### Maundy Thursday

March 29, 2018

#### **Seder Meal** *(See pg. 6)*

*Hartland UMC Service 7:00 p.m.*

Please sign up on the bulletin board flyer or call 810-632-7476 to reserve your seat

### Good Friday Service

March 30, 2018

*Hardy UMC 1:00 p.m.*

*All Saints Church 7:00 p.m.*

### Easter Sunday

April 1, 2018

Hartland UMC Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m.

All Church Easter Breakfast 7:45 a.m

Resurrection Service 10:00 a.m.



# Maundy Thursday



On the night before he was arrested, Jesus shared his final meal with the disciples.

Also called the Lord's Supper, the Last Supper was significant because Jesus showed his followers that he would become the Passover Lamb of God.

On the first day of the **Festival of Unleavened Bread (Passover)**, Jesus sent two of his disciples ahead with specific instructions regarding the preparation of the Passover meal or the Seder supper. That evening Jesus sat down at the table with the **apostles** to eat his final meal before going to the cross.

The Seder is a feast that includes reading, drinking wine, telling stories, eating special foods and singing. It is held after nightfall on the first night of Passover, commemorating Israel's hurried escape from bondage in Egypt. Its name derives from the fact that no yeast was used for cooking the meal. The people had to escape so quickly that they did not have time to let their bread rise. So, the first Passover meal included unleavened bread.

In the **book of Exodus**, the blood of the Passover lamb was painted on the Israelite's door frames, causing the plague of the firstborn to pass over their houses, sparing the firstborn sons from death. At the Last Supper Jesus revealed that he was about to become the Passover Lamb of God.

The meal consists of a variety of dishes and each item has its place in a 15-step choreographed combination of tastes, sounds, sensations and smells that have been with the Jewish people for millennia.

## What is on the Menu of a Seder Supper?



### Seder Meal

March 29, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Hartland United Methodist Church

Please sign up on the bulletin board flyer, or call 810-632-7476 to reserve your seat for this Holy Seder Meal.

#### EGG

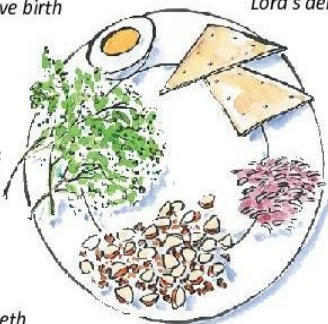
The egg symbolizes the desire for freedom to which hard labor gave birth

#### UNLEAVENED BREAD

The unleavened bread is the bread of haste, made with eagerness to experience the Lord's deliverance

#### PARSLEY

A symbol of springtime, parsley is placed in salt water, a sign of the tears that need to shed before joy can be experienced



#### GRAPE JUICE

Grape juice is drunk to honor the Lord, recognizing His benefits, and the goodness that makes everything possible



#### BITTER HERBS

Bitter herbs usually red shredded horseradish, represent the bitterness the Israelites endured before their escape from Egypt

#### MIXED FRUIT

Mixed fruit called Charoseth (which is made of apples and walnuts), help us to remember the mortar which the Israelites were force to make when they were slaves in Egypt

#### SHANK BONE

The shank bone of the Passover Lamb brings to mind the deliverance which the Lord God wrought for us by the blood of this sacrifice. It is served on the plate reserved for Elijah.

## Easter Plant Order

I (We) \_\_\_\_\_

Would like to purchase



- \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth
- \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils



Cost per plant is \$12.00

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_



Please return to the Church Office by  
March 23, 2018



### 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?

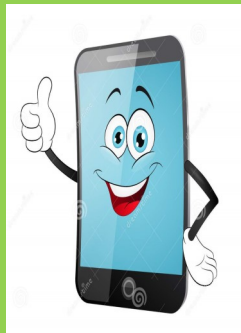
Go to either:

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 <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



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

# News from the Frontier

*...Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...*

We are currently in Sebring, Florida working through the Habitat office, performing Critical Home Repair work after Hurricane Irma. We were supposed to go to New Mexico when we left Texas two months ago, but God had other plans. At the church we are attending we are studying C. S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity." In the chapter titled "Social Morality" he talks about what we should be doing to bring about a Christian society. He starts by stating Christ didn't come to preach a new morality. The Golden Rule (*Do as you would be done by*) is a summing up of what everyone already knew was right. Jesus was just reminding us of what we already knew.

Lewis also said Christianity is not a political program. When it tells you to feed the hungry it does not give you lessons in cookery. He hears people say "The Church ought to give us a lead." Which is true as long as they don't mean the clergy are to put out a political program. We are the Church, and we all have talents to help others see how to put into practice "do as you would be done by." Don't leave it all to the clergy.

Here are some things he points out from the New Testament that a Christian society would look like:

"if man does not work, he ought not eat; everyone's work is to produce something good; there should be no swank or putting on airs or as we call it today keeping up with the Joneses; it is insisting on obedience – from all of us to properly appointed magistrates, from children to parents and from wives to husbands (Lewis' words not mine); be a cheerful society - full of singing and rejoicing and regard worry as wrong; courtesy is a virtue and no 'busybodies'; do not lend money at interest; give to the poor – how much should you give? Lewis says the only safe rule is to give more than you can spare."

How many items in this list did you nod you head and say "yea, that's right" and how many did you say "Lewis, what are you thinking?" He even states that there are things in this chapter that he wanted to leave out because he didn't like them. Much of it is not easy to do but he finishes the chapter with these words: "A Christian society is not going to arrive until most of us really want it; and we are not going to want it until we become fully Christian. I may repeat 'Do as you would be done by' till I am black in the face, but I cannot really carry it out till I love my neighbor as myself; and I cannot really learn to love my neighbor as myself till I learn to love God; and I cannot learn to love God except by learning to obey Him."

If you get a chance to read the book, I recommend it. If you get a chance to study the book with other Christians, I highly recommend that. It will make you stop and think about where society is and where you are in regards to where God wants us all to be.

Yours in Christ,  
Jeff and Laura Walker

March 2018



# 2018 "Easy Invites" Events At Hartland UMC



**March 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday  
Spaghetti Dinner**



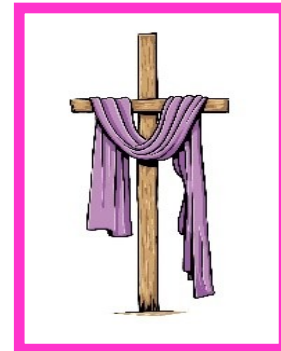
## Lenten Season

**Palm Sunday 3/25 Service 10:00 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday 3/29 Hartland UMC  
Seder Meal 7:00 p.m. (See Page 6 for details)**

**Good Friday 3/30 Hardy UMC 1:00 p.m.  
All Saints Church 7:00 p.m.**

**EASTER Sunday -April 1st  
Sunrise - 7:00a.m.  
Resurrection - 10:00 a.m.**



**Bible Journaling  
Workshop  
Coming in April**

**Prayerfully consider  
teaching, assisting, planning,  
and recruiting for this year's  
Summer's Vacation  
Bible School.**





**Hartland United Methodist Church**  
**10300 Maple Street**  
**Hartland, MI 48353**

Hence I cannot be silent,  
and indeed I ought not to be,  
about the many blessings  
and the great grace which the Lord  
has deigned to bestow upon me.

SAINT PATRICK

