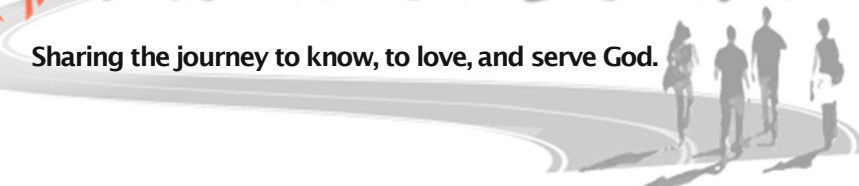


# Heavenly Notes

Volume 13, Issue 2  
March, 2019

# HARTLAND

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



## Hartland United Methodist Church

10300 Maple  
Hartland, MI 48353  
www.hartlandumc.org  
Phone: 810-632-7476  
Fax: 810-632-9860

secretary@hartlandumc.org  
pastorpaul@hartlandumc.org

**Pastor:**  
**Rev. Paul Gruenberg**

### Sunday Worship

**Service:**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School:**  
**10:20a.m.**

**Coffee Hour:**  
**11:00 a.m.**

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### The SEASON OF LENT BEGINS!

Lent is the season which leads us to, but not including, Easter Sunday! Lent is about a time of repentance, fasting from something (often food) and giving the money you would have used for that something away.

LENT lasts for 40 days (not counting Sundays, because Sundays are a day of celebration:-). The 40 days is a significant number, reminding us of Jesus 40 days fasting in the desert and the Israelites 40 years of wandering in the desert before entering the promised land.

LENT begins on ASH WEDNESDAY (March 3<sup>rd</sup>) and is a time you wear ashes on your forehead (in the shape of a cross) as a sign of repentance, humility and mortality. That is why when you receive them the pastor will say, "From dust you were created, to dust you will return."

The last week of LENT begins with PALM SUNDAY when Jesus entered Jerusalem and was celebrated as the long awaited Messiah. Palms were waved as a sign of victory and triumph.

On Thursday of the last week (MAUNDY THURSDAY), Jesus initiates the Last Supper for the disciples to always remember him and what he did for them. We call it communion too.

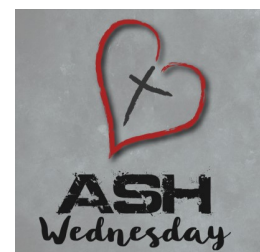
On Friday (GOOD FRIDAY) Jesus sacrifices himself on a cross to pay the penalty for our sins so that we might have a relationship with God the Father and inherit eternal life.

The Saturday after Good Friday is a day of vigil waiting for the Son To RISE on Easter Sunday!



**Spaghetti Dinner**  
**March 16, 2019**  
**6:00 p. m. - 7:30 p. m.**

<b>Families</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>One Set of Parent (s) and Children</b>
<b>Adults</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>Age 18 to 64</b>
<b>Seniors</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>65 and over</b>
<b>Youth</b>	<b>\$ 8.00</b>	<b>Ages 6 to 17</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>free</b>	<b>5 and under</b>
<b>Take Out</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>Per Container</b>



March 6, 2019  
Community Service  
All Saints  
Lutheran Church  
1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

## *~Musings from the Pastor~*

### **General Conference 2019**

This past week the Ruling Body of all United Methodist (called General Conference) met in St. Louis, Missouri, to determine how the United Methodist Church (UMC) will move forward on the issue of human sexuality. In the prior newsletter, I outlined the four options from which they would choose (One Church Plan, Modified Traditional Plan, Connectional Conference Plan, Simple Plan). It is important here to note several important reminders in regard to the UMC today.

- One, all people are of sacred worth to God and all people are invited to worship God at all UM churches around the world.
- Secondly, the UMC upholds that marriage is between one man and one woman. It also holds that it's clergy be faithful in marriage or celibate in singleness.
- Finally, same-sex marriages cannot be performed by a UM clergy or in a UM church.

This has been the stance of the UMC on human sexuality since 1972.

As you may have already heard through the news, either in print, TV, or social media, on Tuesday afternoon the General Conference decided to maintain its current stance on human sexuality as written in the UM Book of Discipline (BOD). Included in this decision were stronger penalties for those who would choose to violate the BOD.

I, like many of you, have spent many, many years of worship and ministry in and for this church. We have walked together in ministry for people in our area and around the world. Thousands have come to this church on the corner of Washington and Maple and found the love of God in Jesus Christ and a hope for their future. As far as I am concerned, they will continue to do so. As stated last month, we will be meeting together to worship God this coming Sunday morning and will still be doing ministry here as long as we have breath.

As a result of the General Conference decision, some will say there were winners and there were losers. The reality is, regardless of the decisions made, all will feel some hurt. I remind you, all people are important and of sacred worth in God's eyes as well as my own. Have compassion for one another regardless of where you personally stand on this issue. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus!

If you have any immediate questions, please, please feel free to call. I plan on having some time after church on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, during our adult Sunday School to have an open discussion on how people are feeling about the decision the General Conference made and what this means for the UM church as a whole.

Let me remind you. As followers of Jesus we are called to love and care for all people and share with them the hope we have found in Jesus. Treat each other gently and with compassion. In the name of the One True and Living God!

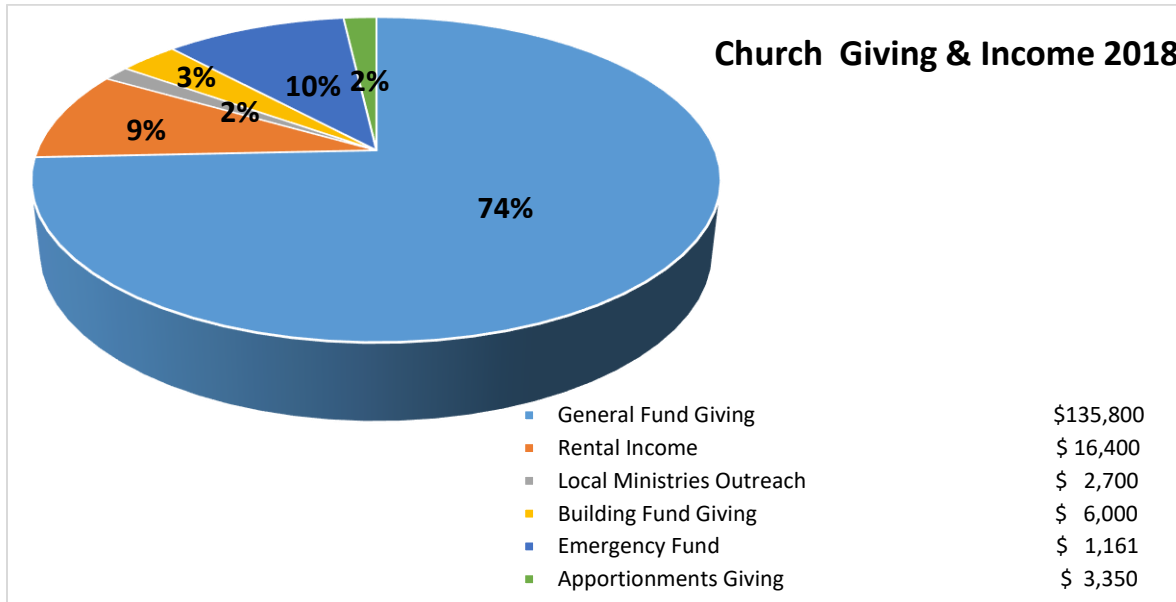
Blessings on the Journey,  
Pastor Paul

## State of the Church Finances

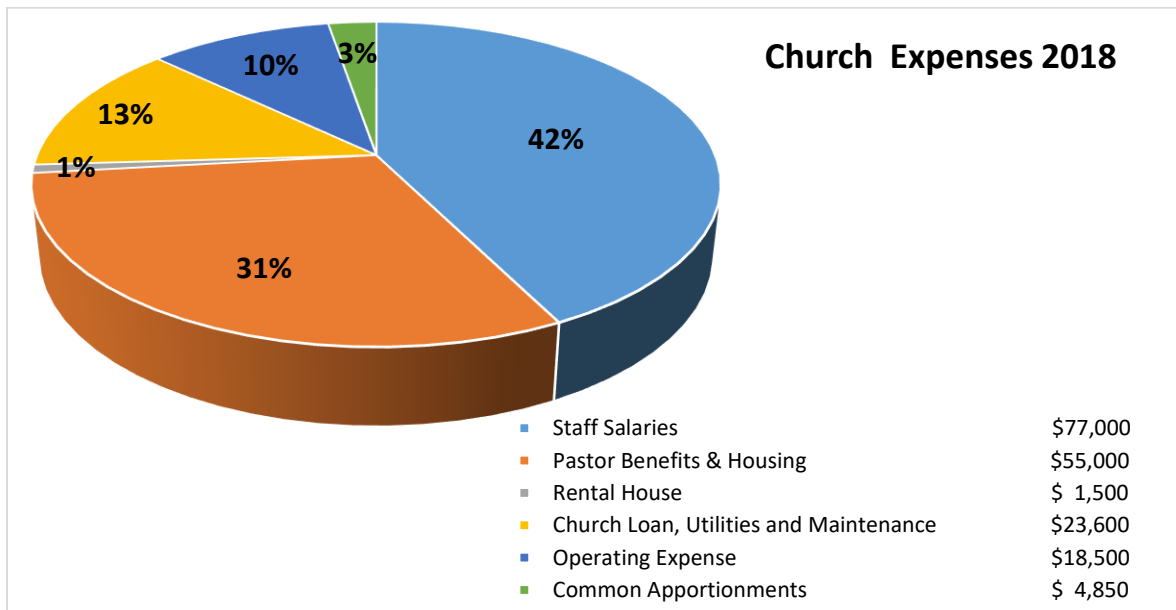
As with all of God's churches, it takes financial resources in order for it to do the work God has called it to do. This work is based on your faithful giving back to God a portion of what God has given to you as well as above and beyond tithe giving. As with the church, your giving matters to God and has an impact on what the church can accomplish for God.

We present to you three charts depicting several areas of the Hartland UMC finances, based on 2018 giving:

The first chart, **Church Giving & Income 2018**, shows the gifts you have given in faithfulness to God and other sources of income.



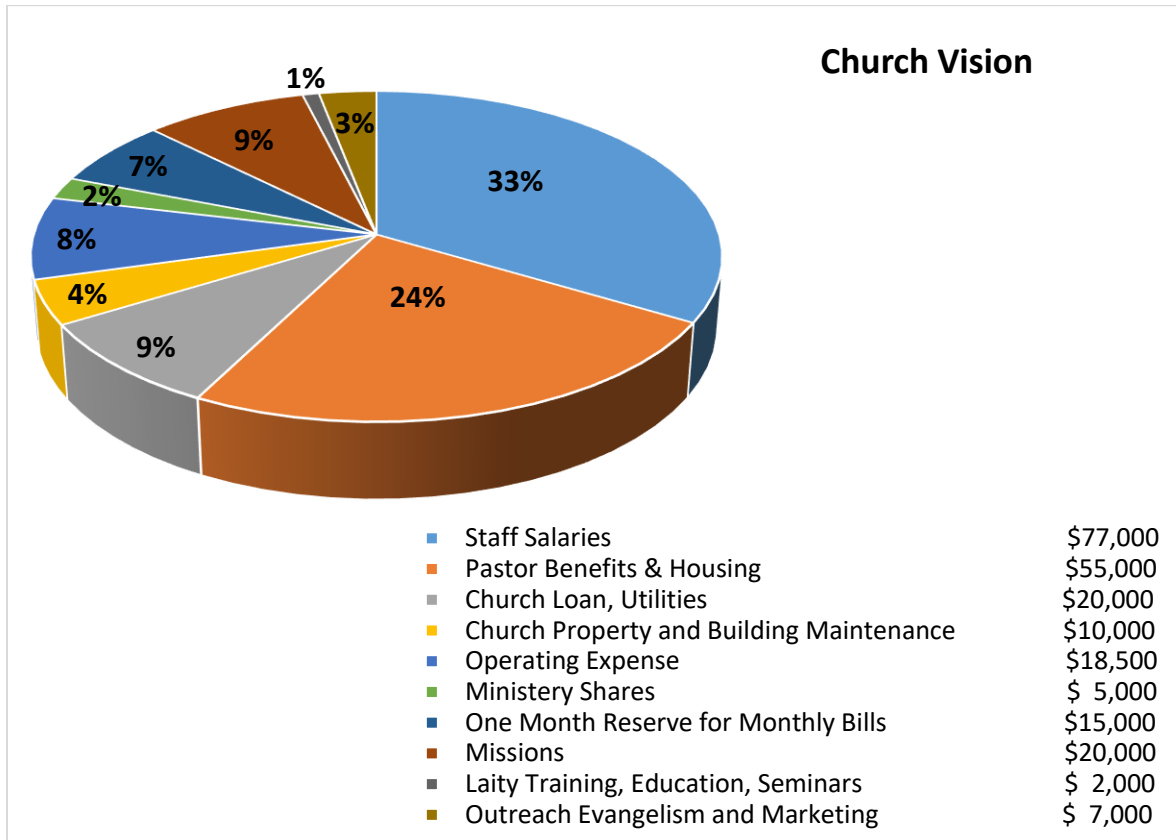
The second chart, **Church Expenses 2018**, shows the expenses of where your tithes and offerings have been used in support of the ministries and running of the church.



As you can see, we are running a very tight ship in regard to everyday operations. Often there is not a penny to spare to beyond keeping the lights on, which can put a ministry in some precarious positions. We have done well with ministry to the hurting (*Pastor's helping hand, Prayers & Squares, Personal Needs Pantry, Hartland Hero Teen Center, gas card, Gleaners*). We have also participated in some other ministries such as Bereavement Luncheons and over and above

ministry opportunities during seasons like Christmas. You excel in this area and I (Pastor Paul) am very proud of you! These are some wonderful ministries!

The third chart, **Church Vision**, shows what we envision the goal of what Hartland UMC would need to fulfill financially the work of God through Hartland UMC.



In this last chart you'll see a number of categories that have either gone unfunded or are significantly underfunded. Over the last number of years, we have been unable to fund **Ministry Programs** for outreach, training/education and evangelism/marketing. Also we have two underfunded areas. The first is for the proper maintenance of the church/parsonage/rental structures; the second are our Ministry Shares obligation to the greater church (Annual Conference & World Wide United Methodist Church), these were formally known as Apportionments.

You will notice the percentage associated with all of these areas are broken down to funding for the church's Ministry programs, Maintenance and Ministry Shares. We've also added a small "Reserve Funds" category which creates an amount of money for a month of future bills, to give some wiggle room to the church for unexpected expenses. It would be good to expand this reserve funds by 2-3 months in the future.

Our goal here is to simply inform where the church has been and in this last chart, where we would like to eventually be. We are a vital part of what God is doing here in Hartland. As you continue to faithfully reach out and invite others to know Jesus and to come worship at Hartland, we not only will be doing work with the Holy Spirit, but we believe God will bless our church with the resources to continue in the vital, eternal life changing ministry!

**Pastor Paul Gruenberg**

**Charles Kirkpatrick**  
**Chair Finance Committee**

## March Birthdays



- 3 Michael Warthman
- 5 Jeff Jackson
- 7 Crystal Anderson
- 16 Sara Kenel
- 17 Beckie Wren
- 21 Lynét Gruenberg
- 22 Frances Warthman
- 28 Bill Wyckoff



## March Anniversaries

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

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

Happy Anniversary



## March Servants



### Greeters

- March 3: Jerry Weaver
- March 10: Volunteers Needed
- March 17: Methodist Men
- March 24: Volunteers Needed
- March 31: Volunteers Needed

### Ushers

- March 3: D. Hansen & K. Nowak
- March 10: Volunteers Needed
- March 17: Methodist Men
- March 24: Volunteers Needed
- March 31: Volunteers Needed

### Liturgist

- March 3: Fran Warthman
- March 10: Charles Kirkpatrick
- March 17: Jo Campbell
- March 24: Volunteer Needed
- March 31: Becky Toth

### Multi Media Specialist

- March 3: Charles Kirkpatrick
- March 10: Jeff Jackson
- March 17: Mary Jo Bell
- March 24: Jo Campbell
- March 31: Volunteer Needed





# 2019 Spring “Easy Invites”

## Spaghetti Dinner

March 16, 2019  
Saturday,  
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



## Fifth Fourth Sunday (March 24<sup>th</sup>) Hymn Sing, Potluck, and Seat Covers!

This month we will have our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Hymn Sing a week early. After the Service there will be a pot luck luncheon. The focus this time will be to bring new seat covers (a.k.a. under garments for all ages). Pastor Paul will then take these to Annual Conference to be given to the needy.

## Women’s Breakfast



The men have their breakfast meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 8:00 a.m. We decided hat it would be fun if we could gather the same morning for a breakfast meeting. We tried Big Boy but that was less than ideal, so we decided to meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. in the Library and have a breakfast potluck. So pack up your favorite dish to share, breakfast casserole, bread, fruit, or whatever, and join us for a brief devotion, meeting, fun and fellowship.

Contact Pat Schleh, Pat Harton or Donna Webber for more information.

## Lent Season Services



Ash Wednesday (Begin 40 days of Lent) - March 6th

Maundy Thursday (Celebrate Last Supper) - April

Good Friday (Crucifixion) - April

Easter Sunday (Jesus’ Resurrection) - April



## Men’s Retreat



Friday April 12 (6pm) Through Saturday 6pm at Bay Shore Camp. Enjoy time in fellowship with other men as we focus on God, fun and food!

# Hall of Crosses



As much as the hall of our favorite Jesus photos is treasured, It is time to change it up. During the Lenten & Easter Season we are asking that you bring in your favorite cross to hang up on the wall. It will make a beautiful statement, reminding us of what Jesus did for us as we enter into the sanctuary.



# Seat Covers



Please donate a package of seat covers for the needy. There will be a box available during the pot luck luncheon on March 24, 2019 to put your donations in.



# Undies for Everyone







**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

