

Heavenly Notes

Volume 14, Issue 6

June, 2020

HARTLAND

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

United Methodist Church

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.

Discussion Group: 11:20 a.m.

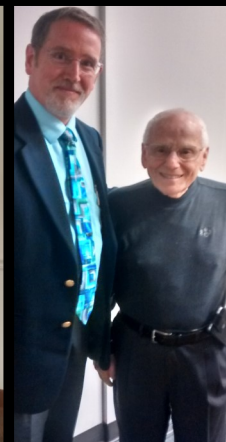
Inside this Issue

Front Page	1
Pastor's Message	2
Birthdays	3
New Heritage DS	4
Food Bank / Graduate	5
Thank You	6
Church Reopening	7-8
Mich. Conference	9
Back Page Message	10



*Thank You & Blessings
to
Pastor Paul & Lynet & Family
as
they continue
"Sharing the journey
to know, to love, and
to serve God."*

You will be missed!



~Musings from the Pastor~

When I have heard a certain song on the radio, it can bring back specific memories. One song with a mandolin vaults me back to falling asleep with my brothers when we were crammed into a tiny house and had to share a bedroom where we slept on cots. Another song reminds me of High School drafting class. Another still, of falling in love with the woman I would marry and share life with.

We all have these kinds of memories tucked away in our minds... memories of events in our lives that may have significance or may be just simply a memory. I'm sure that even as you read this, some of those memories are bubbling up to the front of your mind.

Over these last eight years I have accumulated a number of new memories. Some have to do with being at my stage of life ... learning how to play pickle ball at the Senior Center and learning how to play bridge (yes that card game) too. We watched one son give a try at Hockey, and all three have now graduated from college. I had the honor to officiate at one of my children's marriage ceremony. These are memories I hold simply because I lived in Hartland, Michigan.

When I think in terms of Hartland United Methodist Church, it has been wonderful to be your pastor. Early on we began a band which brought a certain vibe and energy to worship services. Not to replace what we've had, but to simply bring a new dimension to worship. I loved working with the youth and helping them move through a time where they could begin to see God on their own terms and solidifying that through confirmation class. Double Blessing Sunday where we raised over \$100,000 to help pay down Armstrong Hall. The baptisms of both the young and the young at heart, whether at church or at Round Lake. The people who I served communion to and served communion with (I really miss that right now due to the pandemic). Along with the absolute honor and thrill of praying with you and praying for you in those quiet moments before the altar. The small groups and bible studies where we dug into God's Word and wrestled with what God says to us and asks of us as followers of Jesus.

What I enjoyed as much was watching you grow in your understanding of God so that you began to lead in the ministries God was calling you to. The Prayers and Squares ministry is still ongoing. The Personal Needs Ministry functioned for years. More recently getting involved with the Hero Teen Center and the High School to help meet the basic needs some kids still face in today's society. We still have a Christmas Pageant with adults, and have had some creative community services with the other local churches. What was really neat was more recently the Mystery Dinner Theater made its debut at Hartland UMC with wonderful success. Of course my favorite, The Annual Corn Hole Tourney (wink, wink) to help show the community that we know how to have fun! It's okay to have fun as Christians.

What will be those songs or triggers which remind me of you in the years to come? You! The conversations we've had and the things we've done together. It's those moments I'll cherish. Thank You for allowing me to be a part of your lives.

It is my prayer as God prepares you for your next chapter, that you'll experience a continued renewal with God. Even in the midst of this pandemic, I believe God is birthing a new form of virtual ministry that will help lead Hartland UMC into the future of sharing the journey to know, love, and serve God. I thank God for you! May God richly bless you all!

Pastor Paul

June Anniversaries

10, 1961 Gar & Vivian Lemon
16, 1973 Kim & Coral Odell
25, 1982 Richard & Karen Nowak



2 Jeff Walker
13 Matthew Eichhorn
15 Billie Jo
Loran Odell
18 Sherrie Rice
20 Patrick Hankins
30 Ruth Wyckoff

June Birthdays

Happy Birthday

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 your App Store and download a QR reader.



Automate The Important Electronic Giving Is Available

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



www.hartlandumc.org

And click on the "GIVE" button

Congratulations On Your Retirement



Timing could not be worse between the COVID-19 Stay-Safe efforts and the retirement of our Heritage District DS, the Rev. Elizabeth Hill. While here in the Heritage District only 2 years, Rev. Elizabeth Hill's service has been tireless, and her leadership has made great strides in setting us up toward moving into the future.

Welcome Rev. LuAnn Rourke

The Heritage District would like to welcome Rev. LuAnn Rourke our DS beginning July 1, 2020. Rev. LuAnn Rourke comes to the role of Heritage District Superintendent from her current appointment to First United Methodist Church of Port Huron. Previously, she served the congregations of Clio Bethany, Seymour Lake, and Swartz Creek.



In announcing her appointment to the Heritage District, Bishop Bard highlighted her significant work in the Michigan Conference in the areas of church growth and revitalization. . "Rev. Rourke has a passion to see local churches be their best in ministry for Jesus Christ," Bishop Bard said, "She is a strategic thinker with genuine care and concern for persons and their lives."

Rev. LuAnn has a Bachelor of Science in counseling psychology from Rochester College, and a Master of Divinity from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. She is married to Pat and they have two children, Jason (married to Stacey) and Abby, and four granddaughters Elliott, Madilyn, Kylee, and Quinn. They share their home with two dogs, Cooper and Rufus.

Congratulations!!

#SENIORSTRONG



Washtenaw Community College

Attending
WCC and Wayne State University
for Bachelor's in
Musical Theatre

Class of 2020

SCOTTIE BELL

Hartland High School Graduate




**DRIVE-THRU
OPEN**

FOOD BANK



Stay in Your Car & Open Your Trunk

No Touch
We Will Remove Groceries
We Will Drop Them Off At
Gleaners Food Bank

Food Banks are experiencing a decrease in giving due to the pandemic, while the need has increased greatly. Even though we cannot gather together, we are still called to be the hands and feet of Christ. This is one way we can do this.



Hartland UMC Parking Lot

June 9th and June 23rd

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Hartland United Methodist Church,

The response to the letter to members encouraging giving during the Covid-19 Pandemic has been overwhelming. Many of you have been faithful with your gifts allowing the Church to meet our financial obligations. The UMC Michigan Conference provided relief to every Church by paying a portion of the annual amount due for Pastors Retirement Funds. This will reduce our payments by \$3,900 for 2020. The Finance Committee continues to meet via online video and performs a weekly review of finances. We thank you for your continued support of our ministry. If you have not yet done so, please review the information below to learn how to provide your offering.

Being that we are not meeting on Sundays, alternate ways of giving are more important than ever. We fully recognize that Covid-19 crisis may have impacted you, and our prayers are with you. But if you are able to give, every dollar helps. If you are able to give, even a small amount will help. We continue to count and deposit all donations each Monday.

If you are used to giving cash or check in the offering, please **mail any checks to:**

**Hartland United Methodist Church
10300 Maple Road
Hartland, Michigan 48353**

Or consider **signing up to give electronically** through our Online Giving at the Church website hartlandumc.org Hartland United Methodist has always been a generous church. When the mission has required additional finances, we've all stepped up. We've seen it in our annual Christmas offering. We've seen it in our capital campaigns. We see it in our weekly giving. We trust that God has given us together all the resources we need not to just keep our Church active, but to redirect and even expand our ministry to reach more people for Jesus, to **continue creating environments where we are, Sharing the Journey to know, love, and serve God**. But it will take all of us working together. What financial step or two is God calling you to take this week to help our mission maintain its momentum?

We earnestly appreciate your ongoing support and want to let you know we're here for you. If there's ever anything we can do for you and your family, don't hesitate to reach out. You are a valued member of our church family, and any financial support you can provide will make a difference.

Sincerely,

Finance Committee,

Paul Gruenberg – Pastor
Terrie Preiss – Chair Administrative Council
Charles Kirkpatrick – Chair Finance Committee
Karen Nowak – Financial Secretary
Mary Jo Bell – Chair Pastor Parish Relationships
Randy Bell – Chair Trustees
Becky Toth – Lay Leader
Bert Honor – Member Admin Council



Hartland United Methodist Church

Re-opening Questions and Answers

Hartland United Methodist Church as well as all churches in the United Methodist Conference lead by David Bard Michigan Area Bishop are following the guidelines to slow the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19 established by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. As we move towards re-opening our building for gathering, the Hartland Church Leadership Team is working to ensure we attend thoughtfully and carefully to public health, the common good, and the well-being of others. We do not know when we will be allowed to re-open and hold worship service in our building. The leadership team is staying in contact with the Michigan Area Conference news and information regarding best practices for safety re-opening. Please review this list of questions and answers provided for your understanding of how we will proceed once approved to re-open the Church building.

What is the recommendation for parking, and entering and leaving the church?

If possible leave an open parking spot between cars and keep 6' apart when entering and leaving the church. Cars can use all the spots in the parking lot, but do not park next to someone who is also parking as you park. When leaving and someone gets in their car next to you, give them time to get into their car before getting into yours.

What will be done to sanitize the church, e.g., doors, pews, bathrooms, pew pads, books, electronic giving cards, and writing utensils found in the pew racks?

Before each service the church will be sanitized. For the time, Bibles and hymnals have been removed from the pew racks as well as pew pads and writing utensils. Only electronic giving cards remain for use and will be sanitized before they are returned to the pew racks for the following week's service.

Are face masks required?

Masks are highly recommended. If you do not have a mask, there will be some available at the church upon entering.

Are sanitization gloves required?

Gloves are not required, but it is highly recommended you use some provided sanitizer as you both enter and exit the church, and then wash your hands immediately when you get home.

Will there be ushers and greeters and how will they keep their social distance?

There will be greeters and ushers, they will remaining 6' from you entering the service. The doors will be kept open to enter and leave the church before, during and after service.

Will social distancing be followed, and if so, how?

Greeters and Ushers will control the flow of people and to ensure there is a 6' distance between people. Pews will be marked on where you can and cannot sit to maintain social distancing. Upon entering the church, people will be asked to not stand around, but go directly to the sanctuary. After service, people will be asked to leave based on where they sit to help keep social distancing in place.

Re-opening Questions and Answers Continued 2

Will programs be handed out? If so, how?

Programs will not be handed out. We will use the video monitors up front to display the service order.

Will the pew pads still be used to register attendance?

We will be using “Connection Cards” to help you remain connected to the church and the church to be connected to you. The use of Connection Cards will be discussed during the service.

Will tithes / offerings be made by passing the offering plates up and down the isles?

A collection box will be put by the exit/entrance of the sanctuary/worship center in order for you to put your tithes/offerings in. Electronic giving is still encouraged to become a normal form of giving. If you feel comfortable, you can still take an electronic card from the pew rack and drop it in the giving box as a sign of your faithfulness to God in giving. These cards will be sanitized before returning to the pew racks.

Will communion be served?

Not until we deem that it is safe enough to serve. When it is offered, we will take precautions in preparation and in distribution of the elements to ensure everyone’s safety. Even then, it will be up to you to decide when you are comfortable to take communion. Our Bishop will continue to give us direction on communion.

During the service, will the Pastor apply Holy oil for personal prayers?

Not until we deem it is safe.

How will the service be different from prior services?

Initially we will seek to shorten the service to minimize risk (i.e., less congregational singing, Choir, Praise Band, no communion or anointing of oil). Connection Cards will be used instead of pew pads to keep us connected with one another. Tithes and offerings can be dropped off in a collection box at the entryway of the sanctuary/worship center. Social distancing guidelines will be followed as directed by state and federal guidelines.

What will be done if someone doesn’t abide by social distancing?

The greeters/ushers will remind them to keep 6’ apart from others.

Will on-line services still be offered?

Yes



Re-opening Questions and Answers Continued 3

Will there be a “social gathering” after service in Armstrong Hall?

No, the after service gatherings in Armstrong Hall will resume once State and Federal guidelines are relaxed and we feel that it is safe to do so.

When will Children’s and Adult Sunday School begin to meet?

Children for the time being will worship with their parents and will not be directed to Sunday school after the singing. We encourage parents to provide coloring books or other quiet activities they can do while worshipping with them. Adult Sunday School can begin to meet online 30 minutes after Service has ended allowing people to get home, grab a snack, and get into the zoom meeting.

Will we be allowed to shake hands, exchange hugs, or other physical signs of greeting?

For the time being, we encourage signs of greeting with hand waving, thumbs up, nod of heads or use of other non-physical gestures of acknowledgement. As State and Federal guidelines are relaxed, maybe the use of elbows/forearm bumps, then to knuckle/fist bumps. Then it will be up to each individual to determine for themselves, based on their level of comfort, how they will greet others.

2020 MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Sowing Seeds: Rooting, Tending, Reaping is the theme of the 2020 Annual Conference. Vibrant Congregations is the third in the series based on the vision statement of the Michigan Conference.

The focus of the conference is on equipping the local church for vibrant worship, strong lay leadership, and new ministries that engage the community.

In consultation with Michigan Conference leaders and public health experts, **Bishop David Bard announced that Annual Conference will be held online Sunday, July 26, through July 29, 2020.** Bishop Bard has asked that the Commission on the Annual Conference Session design the event in a manner that assures those with varying access to technology be able to participate as fully as possible, given these extraordinary circumstances. Future announcements about the virtual Annual Conference will be emailed and posted to the conference website 2020.MichiganUMC.org. Please direct questions regarding the virtual Annual Conference to district offices or Conference Events Planner Nancy Arnold at narnold@michiganumc.org



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

An earthly **DAD**
who is led by the
heavenly
FATHER
is a *priceless
treasure*