

HARTLAND

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

United Methodist Church

November, 2024

Please Join Us Hartland United Methodist Church Annual Turkey Dinner

November 2, 2024
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Adults : 12 years +

\$15.00

Kids: 5-11 years

\$10.00

Under 5 years Free



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Sunday Worship

Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.
Or

Facebook Live 10:00 a.m.
Or

Watch anytime at
hartlandumc.org

Zoom Meetings

Meeting ID: 969 9365 4405

Password: 11111111

Or connect by phone

Call 1 312 626 6799

THE PASTOR'S PEN Hartland UMC November, 2024



God's People,

By now, most of you probably realize something that I have been doing is that I am the Church Storyteller. I write a story each month for the newsletter that features fictional characters. 11-year-old "Chris," and Chris's friends try to navigate their way in the world in which they live, facing realistic challenges, and how they respond to those challenges.

Each story is a serial and ends in a cliff hanger. To find out what happens in the story, the congregation is encouraged to tell me what they would like to have happen in the story, so the story is influenced by you, making it your story. The story is always spiritual in some way, and therein is a message, either obvious or subtle.

But how did The Chris Story get started?

It all began in 2015, when I was first intervened for consideration as a pastor candidate by the District Superintendent of the then Ann Arbor District, Mark Spaw. Rev. Spaw asked me to find a way to get some time at the pulpit, the more the better. I was already serving as one of the liturgists at my home church, but I needed something more.

I needed to develop something creative, and I didn't want to compete with the pastor by giving an additional sermon. It had to be something new and different.

Then it hit me. I could tell stories. Then, I was blessed by the Holy Spirit with the idea for The Chris Story and the ideas began to flow. The idea for the very first episode on the trestle came to me from some obscure TV show I saw when I was a kid. Once that idea came to me, I ran with it.

At first, the Bully, Frankie, was going to be a boy, but the Holy Spirit came to me and suggested that Frankie be a girl, and that Chris's gender not be revealed so that people reading the story can place themselves in the position of Chris. Some stories will feature Chris with a masculine side, and others a feminine side.

When I went to the pastor of my home church with this idea, he loved it. To him, it was something in the worship service that he didn't have to plan and didn't know what was coming. He gave me his blessing to begin my storytelling. So, it began. Each week I read a new episode of "The Chris Story" as it came to be known.

At first, I thought that The Chris Story may be only a few episodes, maybe 3 or 4, but by the time I read the 4th episode, the congregation was hooked. They began to relate to the characters in the story, so much so, that they began to ask about them and pray for them by name during Prayer Time.

As I began my pastorate, Chris went with me to the churches that I was appointed to. When I start a new appointment, the story starts anew with the first episode and continues with new suggestions from the new congregations. The episodes you read are different from the episodes that other churches have heard in the past. They are, for the most part, unique to us.

Before I left my home church, I had written and read over 50 episodes, with the last one being the one that announced my being appointed and that Chris was leaving too. As I left the church that day, someone asked me, "Is Chris a boy or a girl?" I gave them the answer, "Yes."

In case you're wondering, Lord willing, Chris will be here with us as long as I'm your pastor. I look forward to what happens in Chris's world, and I hope that you do as well.

In His Service,
Pastor Terry



1 Mike Sharlow
3 Nile Remsing
11 Bruce Wright
13 Sara Campbell
25 Karen Tabaka
30 Mary Jo Malott

Happy Anniversary
25, Wes & Karen

We are sorry if we missed your day. Please let us know so we can update our records.

Meetings for November, 2024

(Leader will notify members if there is a change)

Monthly Meetings and Special Events

Mon.	4	TBD	Trustees Meeting
Wed.	13	10:00 a.m.	Worship Team Meeting
Thurs	14	7:00 p.m.	Worship Team Meeting (Zoom)
Sat.	23	9:00 a.m.	Church Conference in Howell

Weekly Meetings

Wed.	6:30 p.m.	Praise Band Practice
Wed	7:30 p.m.	Alcoholic Anonymous
Thurs.	10:00 a.m.	Alcoholic Anonymous Sat.
Sat.	7:00 a.m.	Alcoholic Anonymous
	10:00 a.m.	Alcoholic Anonymous

Newsletter Information deadline is November 23, 2024

Prayer Chain Requests

Please send to Karen Nowak
 810-632-7476 or via email at
 secretary@hartlandumc.org

THE CHRIS STORY



After some time had passed, Frankie asked me if I wanted to hang out with her. Since nobody ever wants to hang out with me, I felt honored. I asked her if she had to check in. She told me no, but I had to, so I invited her to come home with me.

When we got home, Mom was outside, working in the garden.

“Hi Chris. Who’s your friend?” She said it in a way that made it obvious that she was surprised that I would even have a friend.

I introduced Frankie to Mom, and then Frankie asked if she could use the bathroom.

While Frankie was gone, Mom then lambasted me.

“What is wrong with you, bringing trash like home with you? I know her family. They live in the projects on the other side of the railroad tracks. We don’t need her kind over here.”

“So, if they live on the other side of the tracks, just how do you know them?”

“It’s a small town. I see what people say about her mother on Facebook. They say that she is not married to her father. Her father might not even be her father. They just live together. That’s sinful.

She is one of ‘those’ people. They don’t know how to act. They are ‘different.’ I want you to get her out of here. She is just trash, just like her mother. They don’t know how to act. I’ve heard about her. She’s just a mean ole bully. Get rid of her.

And look at her. She looks like a Mack Truck. I mean ugly. Do you want to be seen with “that”? Then, something came over me. This is the first time I brought someone home with me, and I get shamed I don’t think so. Knowing that Jesus was bullied, I thought, “What would Jesus do?”

So, I did something that Jesus would do, but totally uncharacteristic of me. I stood up for someone else. Usually, I need someone to stand up for me. Not this time. I said, “Mom. Frankie is my friend. God made her the way she is. God wants her here. And God loves her, and there’s nothing you can do about it.

Besides, you should talk, Mom. I can add you know. They do teach us math at school. You and Dad were married on Valentine’s Day, right?” “Well, yes, but what does that have to do with anything?” “My birthday is in April. I’m 11, Mom. You think I don’t know how things work?”

Then I picked two stones from the garden. I said to my mother, “If you have never done anything bad, then when Frankie comes back, you can throw the first stone.” She took a stone, threw it down, and ran in the house. Then I thought, “Shoot. I guess now wouldn’t be a good time to ask for that new cell phone.”

I walked in the house and met up with Frankie. We sat at the kitchen table while Mom was angrily making sandwiches. I think I may have shamed her into doing it because she offered to make one for Frankie. I was feeling so full of myself.

Somehow, we began discussing Facebook. I said to Mom, “So, you believe everything you read on Facebook? People post all kinds of stuff on Facebook that isn’t true you know. I can read you know.

They do teach us to read at school. I was looking over your shoulder when you wrote a certain swear word about a certain politician the other day. You do it too.”

Then Mom gave me the look, and said, “I’ve had about enough of you acting smart.” I couldn’t help myself. She practically asked for it I had to say it. “So, would you rather I act stupid?”

With that, I got up to run, and she ran after me, carrying the loaf of bread. She swatted me in the behind with the load of bread. When she did, the wrapper broke open, and slices of bread went everywhere. It was hilarious, and I thought I would play this out for all it's worth. I am so on a roll. This is gonna be good.

I threw myself down on the floor, as if my legs were numb. I yelled, "I can't feel my legs. I can't feel my legs. Child abuse! Child abuse! Call the police! Oh, the pain. I can't feel my legs." Then, POW! Frankie kicked me right square in the legs. "Can you feel 'em now?" she asked.

Then she said, "You don't know what child abuse is. And don't talk to your mother like that. Haven't you ever heard of 'Honor your mom and your dad?' That's one of the top ten condiments you know." I started to laugh, "It's not condiments, it's commitments."

Before Frankie could answer, Mom walked over to her and said, "This story shall be continued, but not today. The rest of the story is in your hands, and will be continued based on your answers to this question..."

What should Chris do?"

Be sure to join us for the next episode, when the story continues based on what you tell me what Chris should do. Until then, let us pray.

Oh, Dear God,

Children can try our patience, yet they can also be such a pleasure, just as we, your children can try your patience, yet we too try to please you. May you bless all the children, everywhere.

May our participation in this fictional story help us to realize that many real children face many real issues, as do their parents. May your love be our love whenever we interact with children, in the way that you would have it.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

On Line Giving

We appreciate your financial support that allows us to continue serving each other and our community. There are several ways to give:

- * through pew side offerings during Sunday worship.
- * by bringing or mailing your gift to the church office.
- * through your online banking service.
- * or through your computer or smart phone:

Computer

Go to hartlandumc.org
Click "Give" on blue banner.

Smart phone

Scan the QR Code below
(you can get a reader from
the app store on your phone)

Click on the box of your preferred option of where you'd like your gift to be directed and fill out the form.

Online banking, computer and phone giving
lets you set up recurring contributions.



Please contact the office if you need help, or
if you'd like a packet of weekly offering envelopes.

The November / December issue of The Upper Room
is now available outside of the sanctuary doors
and outside of the secretary's office.

Hartland United Methodist Church

10300 Maple Road Hartland, MI 48353

Service 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

www.hartlandumc.org

Phone: 810-632-7476

Pastor Terry Melton

734-395-3432

pastor@hartlandumc.org

Secretary Karen Nowak

secretary@hartlandumc.org

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