

HEARTS UNITED

The Newsletter of Hart United Methodist Church — Hart, Michigan

Quarterly Newsletter

February 2025



Heart to Hart: A message from Pastor Cyd

I'm probably breaking some sort of secret code by sharing this but here is the truth. When Pastors get together we sometimes talk about our congregations like a group of parents talking about their children. Just like with parents, there is always the Pastor who brags about their church to elevate his/herself while the others bite their tongues knowing the church's reputation for unfriendliness. Some Pastors remind me of exhausted parents who can only lament of the thanklessness of their jobs. Other Pastors share heart breaking stories of congregations who are full of anger and divisiveness, broken relationships and mistrust.

I confess that like my friends, I too find myself talking about us, our family. I am happy to report that I don't have to be careful to not complain like so many others do. I have to be careful not to brag about you. I hope you hear the depth of my sincerity when I say, I think you are one of the most beautiful groups of people I have ever met. Our church is full of high quality people. Of course all people are of equal worth so that is not what I am talking about. What I find in you is a group of people truly seeking to be the hands and feet of Christ for others.

I'm not sure that all of you would say that your motivation in living generous lives has been a clear pursuit of Christian ideals, but your actions have served to bless the lives of others as we are called to do. Of course, you like everyone else, deal with challenges of loving others well, but time and time again, I see you rise up.

I see Jesus in the way you care for those in our family who need extra support. I've watched as you encourage and mentor our young adults and youth. I have seen the love of Christ in your continued care for me and my daughter. I see glimpses of God's generosity as I watch so freely give to the work of his church. Time and again I see you extend grace and forgiveness to the members of our body, and swell with pride as I watch you serve in our church and our community.

Our family is one others would flock to if they knew what they would find here. Keep spreading your light every where you go and let us pray that God give us the courage to invite others to join us as we continue to give ourselves to God to be the hands and feet of Christ. Thank you, family, for the countless ways you give to make this family what it is. I am inspired by you. I know God has great things planned for us as we continue to become more like Jesus our Lord whom we serve.

Blessings,

Pastor Cyd

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

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United Women in Faith

OCEANA COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITY:

Penny Brubaker, Maureen Huizing & Kay Dion provided cake and ice cream at the Oceana County Medical Care Facility on December 13, 2024 for the residents birthday party. We have been doing this mission for several years now.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MEETING:

The UWF will be holding a planning meeting on Monday, February 17th at 10:00 AM in the library at the Hart UMC. We will be holding a UWF District meeting here in the Fellowship Hall on March 22. At that meeting we will be serving a lunch, which is one of the things that will be discussed at the February 17th meeting. If you can't attend on the 17th but have suggestions or questions, please see Penny Brubaker (231-233-5515) or Kay Dion (231-747-3537). Also, please keep in mind that on March 22, we will be hosting a Spring Fling. All of the women of the Church are welcome to attend or if you would be able to help, we would appreciate that.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SPRING FLING:

Hart UWF will be hosting the Western Waters District Spring Fling event on March 22, 2025. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the Gathering at 10:00 a.m. Rita Caviness, Advocate and Recovery Coach, Hope Project USA, Muskegon MI, will be speaking about their work with Human Trafficking. Lynn Russell, Mason County United Way will speak on the impact the political environment could have on their health and human services programs. Registration fee will be \$20.00 per person, which includes lunch. Registration forms with more information will be published in Western Waters District UWF Newsletter, ***The Anchor***, after February 16th. ***The Anchor*** is sent out by email only. If you would like to be added to the email mailing list, please contact our District Communications Coordinator: saraw1104@gmail.com.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

Giving thanks that 11.9 million shoeboxes were prayerfully packed and collected. Thanks to all in our Church that helped with that number.

HART UMC 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

We started the year with cash assets of \$101,888.77. During 2024 we received \$196,158.37 and disbursed from our total cash assets of \$298,047.14 the sum of \$174,897.24 leaving a year-end cash balance of \$123,149.90

Our yearly operational budget was \$144,813 and we expended \$142,293.35 (98.26%) or 1.76% under budget. Our major non-budget items were our Ministry Share obligations (\$15,359) which we paid in full and our Building/Improvement expenses which totaled \$8,141.41 and included exterior painting of our Church buildings, replacing our refrigerator motor and upgrading our media equipment.

The **cash assets** of the Church on 12/31/2024 consisted of:

Money Market	\$110,661.77	
Checking Account	<u>12,488.13</u>	\$123,149.90

Fund Balances:

General Fund	\$52,799.21	
Care (Benevolence) Fund	477.35	
Building/Improvement Fund	5,139.23	
Church School Fund	(57.09)	
Youth Fund	4,613.84	
Memorial Fund	56,643.23	
PC Pantry Fund	465.01	
Music Fund	1,023.16	
Emergency Fund	1,000.00	
Ministry Shares	805.96	
Misc Giving	240.00	
Conference Specials	<u>0</u>	\$123,149.90

Respectfully Submitted,
Walter Urick, Finance Chair
January 30, 2025



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Dave Isley-1

Melvin Olson-6

Beverly Miguel-13

Sandra Buono-16

Pastor Cyd-31

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kay Dion-18

David Jensen-21

Tommy Hitchcock-25

MARCH

Linda Stevens-12

April Russell-20

Pat Schramm-21



JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

No reported anniversaries

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

Jim & Monica Field-14

MARCH ANNIVERSARY

No reported anniversaries

If you have not reported your birthday or your anniversary to the Church office and would like to have your special days recognized in the bulletins and newsletters, please provide your information to Fauna at the Church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JENNIE GOTTARDO:

Daughter of Sheila Burrell and Paul Gottardo, received the highest honor or recognition on her Master Thesis, "Perceptions of Parent Behavior and Burnout in Highschool Coaches".

It will be published in the Quest/International Journal of Kinesiology in Higher Education. This was a competitive special issue and the bulk of Master's Theses are never published. Congratulations Jennie!

A FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION:

Was conducted at our church on January 2, 2025. We were not cited for any violations, however, some things were pointed out that we should be doing differently or better. Jeff Croll, the health inspector, and Fauna found the following issues that need to be addressed

1. There was a strong smell of gas in the kitchen. Two (2) of the oven burners were not completely shut off.
2. There were 1/2 dozen eggs in the fridge that were in an egg carton that had been cut in half. The eggs were on the 2nd or 3rd shelf. Mr. Croll pointed out that if an egg was broken it could leak onto whatever was underneath it and make someone sick. Things like that should always go on the bottom shelf. (Like meat, anything that could drip down onto other food should always go on the bottom shelf.)
3. Because the dishwasher is not used often, Mr. Croll When we use the dishwasher, be sure to run a couple of cycles through it to make sure it is up to temperature and able to sanitize the dishes.

Mr. Croll lifted up the big can opener on the counter, ran his finger over the blade to see if it had been cleaned. It was dirty. There was some food substance on the blade. There was a metal shard from opening a can which could fall into the next item that was opened.

For our information, a Certified ServSafe person should be in the kitchen anytime it is being used. We allow church members to use the kitchen assuming they will leave it like they found it--or better. If you use the kitchen, please be sure to thoroughly clean it before you leave. If you have any questions please call me. Penny Brubaker, your Certified ServSafe representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS 2024:

Thanks to a very generous donation from an anonymous doon, three families in our Church enjoyed a Merry Christmas that they had not expected.

CHILDREN/YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2024:

On Sunday, December 22, Deanna Helmlinger, Dolores Peters and Sharon Chandler treated our congregation to a Children/Youth Christmas Pageant. It was very special and brought a lot of smiles and laughter to see the children dressed as adorable farm animals. Watching the children and youth act out the Manger scene was wonderful and listening to Sharon narrate the scene was very touching. What a blessing it was to have a Christmas pageant again!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH BANNERS:

Have you noticed the new Church banners that Kay Dion brought to share with the Hart UMC? Kay's favorite saying is God Is Good All Of The Time and All The Time God Is Good.



COAT & BLANKET DRIVE:

With the cold & snowy winter and all of the people in our area that are in need of warm winter coats & blankets, Jacob Jones contacted the Church office and asked if we could put on a coat & blanket drive. We spent 3 weeks gathering items from many of our generous congregants and GHSP, where Jacob works. On Friday, February 7th, Jacob & his mom, Merri Jones, organized and bagged up all of the coats & blankets and loaded Jacob's SUV. Jacob's SUV was so packed, he said that he literally couldn't fit another coat or blanket in his vehicle. From the back of his drivers seat to the back of his car, his car was filled. He couldn't even see out of his back window. Jacob and Merri drove to Love INC in Shelby and delivered all of the donated items. Linda Scott, from Love INC, said, "Thank you so much for the winter coats/blankets. Everyone who needs a warm winter coat /blanket will receive one. We will also pass on coats/blankets to Hart Wesleyan. Thank you so much! Your donation is appreciated!"



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF:

Congratulations to the 1st place winner, Tyler Kindinger on his award winning Mango Chili. It really seemed to be the crowd favorite!

A big **THANK YOU** to all who participated, including the 10 entries, those who donated and those who stayed to eat and vote. It was a fun afternoon! The total cash that was taken in was \$238.87 and a \$5.00 I.O.U. It was a great day for the UWF ministries.

Our 2025 Annual Chili Cook-Off winners were:



TYLER KINDINGER & SHARON CHANDLER



CHELO FACUNDO



RANDY & DOLORES PETERS



COLLEEN MURPHY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAVID JENSEN'S ADVENTURES:

David Jensen, our world traveler, went on a 3 week vacation right after the New Year. He was kind enough to share some of his pictures with us. If your interested, ask David about his adventures. I'm sure that he would be happy to share his stories with you. Below is a paragraph and a few pictures from his trip that he has shared with us.

Antarctica is like the Grand Canyon in that it is an amazing place with spectacular scenery, but I wouldn't want to live there. Viewing such a vast majestic landscape without the presence of humans is near a religious experience. One almost feels like they are trespassing where they shouldn't be. If God has a place where he vacations, it may be here.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



EVENTS

THE UNITED METHODIST SPECIAL SUNDAYS:

The United Methodist Church sets aside a number of Special Sundays each year to recognize specific ministries we support as a denomination. We celebrate and identify these as Special Sundays. We encourage you to take the time to educate, prepare and charitably give and learn to participate in the United Methodist connection. The date for these Special Sundays will be listed in the quarterly newsletters.

- UMCOR Sunday-March 30

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- UWF Meeting-Monday, February 17 at 10:00 AM in the library at the Hart UMC
- Ash Wednesday-Wednesday, March 5, 12:00 PM Service at the Mears UMC & 7:00 PM Service at the Central UMC in Muskegon
- Governance Board Meeting-Monday, March 17 at 2:00 PM at the Hart UMC
- Chosen Bible Study-Wednesday, March 19 at 6:00 PM at the Hart UMC
- UWF Spring Fling-Saturday, March 22 at 10:00 AM at the Hart UMC

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

The past couple of months have been a little quiet for the youth group with the hustle and bustle of the holidays and the cold winter weather. The youth group enjoyed a Christmas celebration at The Pink Elephant on Sunday, December 22 after the Church Service. We played some games, had lunch and enjoyed each others company.



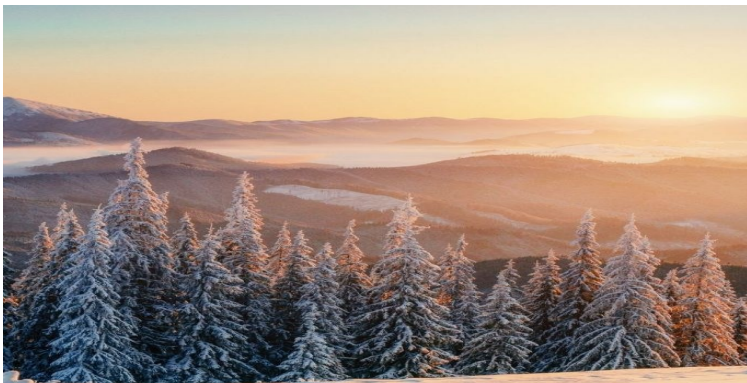
In January we celebrated Beverly Miguel's 16th birthday. Beverly had asked me to teach her how to make lasagna so I brought in the ingredients and the youth group, Anya and Beverly, learned how to make lasagna. We all enjoyed lasagna, salad and garlic bread. We had homemade cinnamon rolls for Beverly's birthday dessert. We sang to her and she blew out her candles. The youth also played games together.

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

On Sunday, February 9th, Pastor Cyd and I took the kids sledding at the Hart Dam. We dressed for the weather and hauled the kids to the sledding hills. We had good weather and a lot of laughs! Did anyone know the Pastor Cyd can actually fly? Take some time to ask her about her sledding experience. I'm sure she would love to share her sledding stories with you! After we all wore ourselves out, we gathered at the picnic table and enjoyed homemade hot chocolate and candy canes. Everyone had fun and luckily no injuries!



Make The Most Out Of Winter



*"Kindness is like snow -
It beautifies
everything it covers."*

-Kahlil Gibran, Lebanese-American
writer, poet, artist, philosopher, 1883-1931



The best things in life are free: hugs, smiles, family, friends, kisses, sleep, love, laughter, and good memories.