



Hebron United Methodist Church  
9811 Main Street, P.O. Box 323, Hebron, IL 60034

# Catch the Spirit!

[www.hebronmethodist.org](http://www.hebronmethodist.org)

DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021

## The Pastor Ponders...

### ...What do I Want for Christmas?

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. (Isaiah 55:8)*

Normally at this time of year, I would do my “pastorly” thing and bemoan the fact that while the church world would have us prepare for the coming of Messiah by settling down and being quiet, reflecting on those things which we have already been blessed, and renewing ourselves through worship, the real world usually tells us that we should be out bustling around with the crowds, trying to get all our shopping done, spending our money on even more material things that we just “can’t do without,” and partying ‘til we drop. It used to be so “black and white.”

This year it is a mess! Half of the secular world is telling us to go OUT and shop, go OUT and spend (support our small, local businesses that may not have a website), go OUT and party with abandon. We deserve it. We’ve been shut in too long. Our psyches are damaged. And the other half of the secular world is telling us to stay IN, shop on line, limit our gatherings to small, socially distanced, properly sanitized and masked,



*Join us online for Worship at [www.hebronmethodist.org](http://www.hebronmethodist.org) this Christmas! We will be sharing special music, photos and memories each service during the Advent season!*

### \*\*\*Mark your Calendar\*\*\*

**NO IN-PERSON COMMUNION THIS MONTH**  
There will be no in-person communion service this December, however we are still exploring the possibility of meeting for an in-person service at the church for Christmas Eve. Please check our website, Worship Service announcements or Facebook page for updates.

**HUMC KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
Join us for online worship on December 13th to see the HUMC Kids virtual Christmas Program "Breaking News in Bethlehem."

**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
January 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

**HUMC NEWSLETTER**  
Our next issue of *Catch the Spirit* will be sent out February 2021.



## The Pastor Ponders (continued)

groups of people basically withIN our bubble. It's really hard to make a guilt-free, good decision that will keep everyone healthy and happy.

OK, so let's stay in and have discussions with folks in our bubble, ZOOM with our distant family, phone our friends. Sounds like a great idea BUT being "politically correct" has taken on a whole new meaning. First of all, politics itself has taken on a nasty us and them feeling, with not just a difference of opinion, but a win/lose, friend/enemy atmosphere. Secondly, the issue of racism has struck emotional chords with all sorts of folks in all sorts of manners. It has been suggested that even using the term "black and white" when referring to opposite options should be eliminated, or that we really should consider removing Native American references from our sports teams. It's difficult to decide whether to hold one's ground or remain silent in the interest of maintaining a peaceful relationship. The list could go on. There are no easy answers.

As humans, we begged God for a king. God sent a baby. As people, we begged God for retribution and revenge. God sent love and forgiveness instead. Fortunately, our ways are not God's ways, nor are our thoughts God's thoughts. I take great comfort in that. It is, however, our task to seek to make God's thoughts our thoughts, and God's ways our ways, for that is the meaning in having faith and that is the reason behind God's gift of God's Son. And guess what! I believe that the "pastorly" thing is still valid. Settle down. Be quiet. Immerse yourself in scripture. Listen to the words and the music of Christmas carols. Join us for on-line worship (and share our website with a friend). Reflect on the ways God has especially blessed you during these trying times and be thankful. Speak words of kindness and do loving acts. Work at bringing others joy.

What do I want for Christmas? I am asking God to help me be the hope, peace, joy, and love for others that my faith in God in Christ has been for me.

May you go out in joy and be led back in peace this Advent season.

Pastor Char



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Hebron Food Pantry during the month of November. The HUMC raised \$175.00.

## N.O.W. - Nurture

*"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brothers and sisters and offer them your hand."*  
-Mother Teresa

When I read this quote it reminded me of all that we've done this year to reach out to others. As I stated before, this has been quite an unusual year and through it all we've still remained a strong church! We've reached out to not only our congregation but others through our on-line services - which, by the way, get better every week. We've found ways to support the Hebron Community Food Pantry, the Night Ministry, Henderson's hat, mitten and scarf mission, the gift giving program through the Alden-Hebron Schools, and other missions. The generosity, caring and sharing of our congregation is something to be very proud of. We also have started sending birthdays, anniversaries, get well, and thinking of you cards. If you know of anyone who needs a little up-lift because life this year isn't the same please consider sending a note or calling them - it will make them smile and let them know we care.

May everyone have a Merry, Blessed Christmas.

Shirlee & Alberta,  
Nurture Team



## Building Committee Update

In Summary...

On **August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015** Church Mutual Insurance Company paid our church \$15,755 when our church roof sustained hail damage earlier that year. We soon learned that our roof had more than just hail damage. On **March 11, 2016** Donan Engineering Company determined that the entire sanctuary roof was structurally failing causing the north wall to bow out at center. Nine months later on **December 2, 2016** Hanson Engineering and Architecture Professional Services informed us that the sanctuary roof could collapse anytime and was unsafe for holding worship services so we moved into the Fellowship Hall just in time for Christmas. On **May 10, 2017** Bill Wilson's construction company from Elgin, Illinois gave us his \$200,000 quote to fix the roof which was accepted in June by our newly formed Building Committee and Facilitation Team. Six months later on **January 27, 2018** we held a Kickoff Banquet Fundraiser, "Claiming our Future, Living our Faith." The rest of the year we continued fund raising so that by **February 2019** our Capital Campaign Fund had received over \$100,000, half of what was needed. The Building Committee members then went to contractor Bill Wilson's office in Elgin to asses our predicament and he told us to get started by doing as much as you can on your own. So we did. The sanctuary demolition began in **March 2019**. In July the demolition was complete. In **August** the concrete piers were poured under the sanctuary floor. In **September** the cracked and broken rafters were repaired. In **November** the columns and beams were set in place securing the sanctuary roof. For the first time in three years we were able to be in the sanctuary again, just in time for our Sunday School children to present their Christmas Pageant.

The **January 2020** new year began with more optimism and enthusiasm than we had seen or felt for a long time. With half the building project done and paid for, there still remained \$95,528 in the capital account. Then the pandemic struck in

**March.** We could no longer use the building for worship but we could continue with the project's next phase; the Wesley Room roof. In **May** the concrete piers were poured under the Wesley Room floor and the columns were set. In **June** Arnie Escobedo and his crew began the demolition of the Wesley Room roof in order to: (1) raise the pitch so shingles, not rolled roofing could be used, (2) extend the roof to cover a new entry way, and (3) add columns to keep the weight of the Wesley Room roof from bearing down on the sanctuary roof. This was completed in **July**. The only thing left to do on the outside of the church was to remove the old shingles and lay down the new ones. Arnie finished the work in **October**. The total cost of our project to date: (2016 to 2019) \$10,935 (2020 to present) \$65,951 for a grand total of \$76,886.

We currently have \$34,169 in our account plus the recoverable depreciation of \$7,365 paid to us last week from Church Mutual dating back to the **August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015** hail damage claim. With \$41,534 still available its time to go inside the sanctuary to complete the last phase of this project. Many wonderful thanks go out to all of you who have made this massive endeavor possible. We have been on a long journey but it still rings true...with God all things are possible.

Building Committee Co-Chairs  
Steve Johnson and Shirlee Correll



## A Season of Senior Services

For the first time in all our lives, most Americans want the exact same thing for Christmas. With the Covid – 19 Pandemic almost exactly 1-year-old (the actual virus likely having originated by crossing species in December, 2019 at an open air wet market in Wuhan China), we all wish for a Coronavirus vaccine.

A vaccine that is safe, effective, easily-accessed, and free for everyone. A vaccine, given individually, that would be a collective gift for the entire world. A vaccine that lets kids go back to school, employees go back to work, Methodists (and others) go back to church, businesses go back to being open, and senior service organizations go back to serving those impacted most harshly by the Coronavirus - Older Adults.

While those over age 60 do contract the virus less often than those born after 1960, once infected their health outcomes are poorer and more permanent. And, the intentional isolation that reduces the disease transmission, also reduces social connectedness and mental health wellness. In fact, seniors are experiencing loneliness, depression, and anxiety at a rate 7 times higher than usual.

Fortunately, our church already provides a senior support structure and HUMC has a 2 hundred-year history of caring for the older members of our faith family. If, however, you (or any other senior you know) is struggling and needs some extra support this season, PEARLS can help. PEARLS (**P**rogram to **E**ncourage **A**ctive **R**ewarding **L**ive**S**) is free, confidential, and provided in your own home by a certified PEARLS Counselor. A flyer for this evidence based program, offered through the Harvard Community Senior Center, is attached and there are other services available to every McHenry county senior as well. All can be delivered in English or Spanish and in person (following Covid -19 safe contact precautions), virtually, or telephonically. These include:

- Free Smartphones/Tablets (includes cases, chargers and prepaid cellular data service) to connect to your family, friends, health care provider, church, or other supports
- Free SHIP (**S**enior **H**ealth **I**nsurance **P**rogram) to help compare, select and enroll in the Medicare plans best for you
- Free Benefit Screening and Enrollment services for reduced fee license plates, Medicaid, Extra Help with prescription costs, etc.
- Free Hearing Pre-Screens, Audiology Testing, Hearing Aid Fitting/Maintenance and Free or Low Cost hearing aids
- Free Diabetes Self-Management, Diabetes Prevention, and Chronic Disease Self-Management Programs
- Free A1C testing and nutrition counseling
- Free Flu Shot Clinics (Drive Through)

So, as we all wait, hope (and pray) for a global group gift of a Virus-ending vaccine, please contact the Senior Center if you are a senior so we can help **you** have a merrier, more connected Christmas and a healthier and happier new year.

Sincerely,

*Sharon – Senior Soon - Smith*

Harvard Community Senior Center

- E-Mail: [Info@harvardseniorcenter.org](mailto:Info@harvardseniorcenter.org)
  - Phone: 815 943 2740
  - Fax: 815 560 0104
- “Like” our Facebook page to receive news and updates @HCSC1981

**Are you a senior staying home alone due to Covid-19?**  
**Are you separated from your family & friends during the holidays?**  
**Are you feeling lonely, stressed, anxious, or depressed?**

## **PEARLS CAN HELP**

### **PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding LiveS)**

A self management program designed for seniors to reduce depressive symptoms and make lasting life changes. PEARLS teaches problem solving skills, helping you feel more connected, become more active, reducing your stress, and improving your resilience.

#### **PEARLS IS:**

- ⇒ **FREE** to all McHenry County residents age 60 or older, Veterans, and adults with epilepsy.
- ⇒ Proven to **reduce** common symptoms of depression like loneliness, sadness, frustration, worry, anger, and sleeplessness.
- ⇒ Available by phone, virtually (Tele-PEARLS), or in person in your home
- ⇒ Delivered by trained, certified **counselors** in English or Spanish.
- ⇒ Able to **connect** you with other FREE services including professional counseling, food and medication delivery, Medicare and insurance screening, technology assistance, free smartphones, and more.

**To learn more, or to refer someone you know, call today!**



**Phone: 815.701.6605**

**Fax: 815.560.0104**

**Email: [info@mcpearls.org](mailto:info@mcpearls.org)**



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*Find this and other information for Seniors on our [HUMC Seniors Page](http://www.hebronmethodist.org) at [www.hebronmethodist.org](http://www.hebronmethodist.org)*

## Church Council Discussion on Apportionments - January 3, 2021

Before the pandemic, on March 7, 2020 at Dolton Faith UMC, the NIC hosted "Road to GC2020 Conversations." HUMC members Kris Bottlemy and Stephanie Claussen attended. Bishop Sally Dyck, along with Rev. Chris Winkler of Barrington UMC, and a number of NIC delegates led a presentation and responded to questions and comments regarding the issues leading up to General Conference 2020. They introduced the NIC Exploration Team and reviewed a draft of an identity and Covenant Statement which was created to better define our Northern Illinois Conference. This Statement affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities; Affirms the sacred worth of LGBTQIA+ persons; and, Eliminates discriminatory language and restrictions and penalties of marriage and ordination in the Book of Discipline regarding LGBTQIA+ persons. (To read the full Identity Statement and all Covenants, [click here](#)).

At the time, this statement was going to be put forth before the Annual Conference in June 2020 for adoption, after and in response to the discussions and actions of the General Conference scheduled in May 2020. However, due to the pandemic, the Annual Conference was held virtually this November, the General Conference has been pushed to the end of August 2021, and the action calling for the adoption of this statement has been delayed.

The HUMC Church Council, in opposition to the Traditional Plan, voted to withhold apportionments to the NIC in 2019. We would now like to hear from our members as we will be discussing the following, and voting on a course of action on January 3rd at the next council meeting:

1) To continue to withhold apportionments in protest of the Traditional Plan until further action is made at the August 2021 General Conference.

2) To recognize and support the preliminary actions of the NIC for a more

inclusive church and reinstate apportionment payments.

3). To recognize and support the preliminary actions of the NIC for a more inclusive church but designate apportionment funds to remain within the NIC only.

Please contact any member of the church council before January 3rd or you may email the church at [churcoffice@hebronmethodist.org](mailto:churcoffice@hebronmethodist.org).



### Happy Birthday!

Kim Garrett 12/8

Debbie Arnold 12/11

Isela Elverman 12/13

Marge Lopeman 12/19

Olivia Barios 12/19

Natalie Elverman 12/22

Kris Bottlemy 12/24

Oliver Schaid 12/26

Glen Walker 12/27

Travis Garrett 12/28

Grant Johnson 12/29



### Happy Anniversary!

Debbie & Jeff Arnold 12/5



*Dear Lord, please hear our prayer for the following...*

Dawn Nelson's nephew, Donnie, diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma and undergoing chemo

Dave Dickey experiencing health problems

The Claussens' neighbor, Rhonda, who was diagnosed with cancer

Alberta Austin who is not only recovering from a broken wrist and a stroke but is in quarantine for 14 days

Pastor Char & Glenn's daughter-in-law, Julie, as she deals with effects MS

Debbie & Jeff Arnold's friend Wendy

Kris Bottlemy's Aunt Lorraine healing from a leg wound

Jack Proesel at Burr Oak Manor

Nora Winn at the Fair Oaks Nursing facility

Luke Moore

Anita Landry, her son-in-law, Emil, on oxygen 24/7, & her daughter, Cora, as she takes care of both

Our former Pastor Jim and Char

Our former Pastor Paul and Lynn

Jeanne and Marlo Johnson

LaVerne Schmarje

Dorothy Peterson's family

Betty Garrett's family

Arlyne Mummer

Those affected by hurricanes and fires

We pray for protection and safety for all those who defend and protect us.

We pray for the victims and families of all who have been affected by and from violence. We also pray for the return of goodwill among all people

We pray for all those affected by COVID-19 and their families; and we pray for the safety of all medical staff and personnel during the care of all patients.

We pray for our church, the Village of Hebron, and all leaders - local, state and national; our church leaders in Hebron, our Elgin District Sup't., our Bishop and the entire UMC.

We pray for the names in our hearts that they will be kept safe from harm. God bless us all. Amen

If you wish to have someone added to our Prayer List please contact Shirlee on our Nurture Team at (815) 648-5009 or at [offcqueen@aol.com](mailto:offcqueen@aol.com).

During a mental health crisis, anyone can call the 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. Veterans crisis line is 800-273-7255.



# JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE!

[www.hebronmethodist.org](http://www.hebronmethodist.org) and find us on



## Red Bird Mission

We can't hang up our hat and mitten tree this year, but we are still collecting monetary donations in the month of December to be sent to the Red Bird Mission. Please mark your donations "Red Bird Mission" and send it to HUMC, P.O. Box 323, Hebron, IL 60034. Thank you so much for making this season a little warmer for those in need!



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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