



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

# Catch the Spirit!

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

## The Pastor Ponders...

### ...What's All This About the "Sin of Empathy?"

*In everything do to others as you would have them  
do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.*  
Matthew 7:12

I have been very disturbed by the latest debate over the legitimacy of Christian empathy in the goings on in our country these days. Apparently those on the right feel that those on the left are so caught up in a bleeding heart attitude towards racism, gender inequality, xenophobia, attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community, and so forth that they cannot rationally appreciate the way the leadership of our country is moving us towards better living conditions for all. On the other hand, those on the left are accusing those on the right of being so hard-hearted towards the issues that they are failing to move us towards better living conditions for all. And, of course, God is on whoever's side, which means that you are unChristian and, therefore, unpatriotic (or maybe, the other way around) if you are on the "wrong" side. (It should also be noted that Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and Sikhs also have a "Golden Rule.")

I began by turning to Google AI for a definition of Christian empathy (hey! It's supposed to pull from 1,000's of sources and be somewhat impartial).

## Mark your Calendars

**Sunday, September 14th 10:30 AM**

We've Got Team Spirit RALLY DAY!

Wear your team colors!

Picnic after Worship at the Never Say Never  
Playland, Delavan, WI

**Sunday, September 21st**

**Church School Begins!**

9:30 AM Youth Group (High school)

10:30 AM Sunday School

(during last half of worship):

Pre-k - Kindergarten (Ms. Riley)

1st - 8th grade (Ms. Steph)

**Friday, October 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st**

Fall Productive Aging 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Chair Tai Chi class led by Stephanie

Exploring the Ministry of Healing:  
led by Pastor Char

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**HUMC BOWLING FUNDRAISER**

at J's Lanes in Harvard, IL

October 12, 2025 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

\$15 Adults / \$12 Children (12 & under)

\$10 for 50/50 Raffle ticket

Tickets go on sale SEPTEMBER 21st!

(continued on page 2)

## ***The Pastor Ponders (continued)***

It said that Christian empathy involves understanding and sharing the feelings of others, modeled by Jesus' compassion for humanity, exemplified by the incarnation, and his suffering on the cross. It goes on to say that as we experience God's love ourselves, we are moved to go beyond understanding the feelings of others to taking action to address and alleviate suffering, and that Christian empathy should be balanced with love and truth. It should not condone harmful behavior and should always point people towards God.

An article that I found somewhat helpful in trying to understand the points in this debate appeared in the *Baptist News Global* August 24, 2021. On his website in 2019, Joe Rigney posted an article in which he stated that Christian empathy pulls people into sin, acquiescing to any and all beliefs, including those that run counter to the Christian faith.

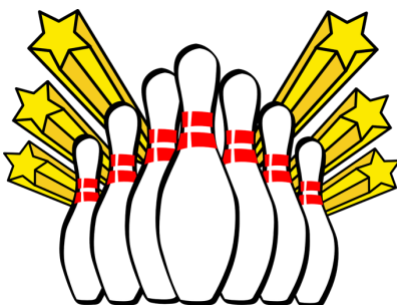
Currently, the Christian right has latched on to his words and supports the position that debates about racial justice, LGBTQ+ issues, the role of women, and immigration issues are too concerned about peoples' feeling and not concerned enough about US laws or biblical truth. The word "empathy" emphasizes feelings over the actual suffering of others, which leads to harmful ideologies, enables weakness, leads to inaction, and does not foster the true flourishing of all. Instead it should lead to actions which promote genuine well-being without a moral framework based on human desires.

This article goes on to subtly point out the work of Becky Castle Miller which reports that the above attitudes prevail among white evangelical males and actually demonstrate the suppression of feelings and exaggeration of rationality that has been a characteristic of men in evangelicalism since WWII. Shane Moe, a licensed marriage and family therapist, points out that these attitudes keep one from feeling vulnerable. Instead, they lead to feelings of power and control.

While I don't agree with everything that James White, a seminary professor, says, he did offer a helpful guideline. He encouraged his readers by saying that we are not to empathize with those in sin, rebellion, or evil, but with those who have a reason for weeping that is in line with God's revelation. Warren Throckmorton, a professor of Psychology in Pennsylvania, says "Empathy is simply understanding the inner world of other people. It is all about being able to relate to them and understand what they are going through. It is quite important in human functioning and when absent is associated with cruelty and antisocial behavior."

So, I leave you with 2 thoughts from scripture. The Great Commandment: Love God and love others as you have been loved. And Matthew 25: Jesus said, "everything that you have done for the least of these, you have done for me." Ponder with me, if you will.

Blessings, Pastor Char



### **Save the date for our Bowling Fundraiser and 50/50 Raffle!**

**Sunday, October 12th 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. @ J's Lanes, Harvard, IL**  
\$15 for Adults - \$12 for children (12 and under)

Includes 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, 2 slices of pizza and soda, cookies, and 3 chances to win an "H.U.M.C. Basket!" - \$1 for each additional chance! An additional \$10 gets you a chance to win our 50/50 Raffle! (Do not need to be present to win 50/50 Raffle)

Tickets go on sale September 21st. Tickets will also be available at the door. *Proceeds to benefit the HUMC General Fund.*



## HUMC KIDS

Our HUMC Kids & Youth had an incredibly busy summer! On Pride Sunday, we met before worship to create rainbow filled chalk art on our sidewalk in front of the church. The Northwest Herald featured our artwork in an [article](#) about our inclusive church here in Hebron! We are very grateful to our Kids and Youth for their witness and participation!

In June, our Kids and Youth headed over to St. John's Lutheran Church for a TRUE NORTH adventure with the Alden-Hebron Community Vacation Bible School! A big thank you goes out to Laura Leedle of St. John's Lutheran for her leadership and to all of the A-H Community for continuing to support this great summer program!

On July 5th & 6th, our HUMC Kids and Youth joined the 100 Year Celebration of our Sanctuary! They passed out candy while riding on our float during the Independence Day Parade and they participated in the rededication service by sharing a song they learned at VBS: "My Hope is in the Lord."

Finally, our HUMC Kids & Youth rolled up their sleeves and got to work in the kitchen for our Summer Productive Aging Program! They prepared and served 3 healthy and delicious meals for seniors in our community. We couldn't be more grateful for their enthusiasm and their developing culinary talents!

It's now time to start the new school year! We've Got Team Spirit Rally Day is September 14th at 10:30 a.m. After worship we will head to the Never Say Never Playland in Delavan, WI (picnic lunch provided) and see the Playland that was constructed with the help of funds raised by the HUMC Kids/Youth over the years!



★ WE'VE GOT TEAM SPIRIT! ★

**RALLY DAY**  
**SEPT. 14 2025**  
**10:30 AM**  
**@HUMC**

LET'S KICK OFF OUR CHURCH  
SCHOOL YEAR & OUR HUMC  
KIDS/YOUTH MISSION  
PROGRAM:

MISSION IN MOTION

AFTER WORSHIP  
WE WILL PICNIC  
AT THE NEVER  
SAY NEVER  
PLAYLAND IN  
DELAVER, WI

PLAY HARD. PRAY HARD.

#1





Go to our [photo gallery](#) on our website to see more photos of our 100 year celebration!



## Celebrating 100 Years!

No words can describe the joy of Celebrating the 100th birthday of our beloved Sanctuary and the hands and hearts that have kept it our HUMC worship space! On July 5th we joined the Hebron Independence Day Parade with a miniature version of our church building. Following the parade, the Hebron community stopped in for ice cream and cookies and walked through a historical audio tour of our Sanctuary and the individuals who were honored in 1925 after its initial construction. On July 6th we welcomed District Superintendent Wendy Hardin Hermann to our church. She delivered an inspiring message - one that resonated with many of us: "Nothing is impossible with God." We enjoyed a beautiful rededication service, with special music by Stephanie Kasten, Shirlee Correll, James Hampton, as well as the HUMC Kids/Youth. We ended the celebration with an HUMC Potluck Luncheon. Thank you to all the hands and hearts that made this celebration come together in such a meaningful and beautiful way!



## Cultivating Health Ministries

Our Summer Productive Aging Program was a great success! Our guest speakers, chair tai chi class and of course, the amazing meals prepared by the HUMC Kids and Youth were exceptional! Our Fall Productive Aging program will take place every Friday in October from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. We will continue with our chair tai chi classes led by Stephanie, followed by a new program led by Pastor Char: *Exploring the Ministry of Healing: Learning about how we can experience God's gift of healing personally and also share it with others.* Be sure to register for this program by contacting Stephanie at 815-715-2956.



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



Dorothy Peterson, in the hospital  
Karen's nephew, Mark, recovering from cancer surgery  
Candy Wasicak, experiencing health problems  
Glenn Hoffmann, experiencing health problems  
Norita Farrell's son-in-law Mark who is in hospice, and Norita's daughter, Leanna.  
Stephanie Kasten's friend, Mary, experiencing multiple problems  
Harold, Juanita and Roy Bailey  
Sandy Rutherford, experiencing health problems, and Rose as she cares for him  
Karen Vipond's friend, Bob Athey, going through cancer treatments, and her brother, George, diagnosed with cancer  
Marj O'Halleran experiencing health problems  
Dan Staten's son, Nick  
Alberta Austin who is at a nursing home in Octonto Falls, WI (address to follow)  
James Hampton; his mother, Marjorie; and his brother-in-law, James, experiencing heart problems  
Dave Dickey  
Joan O'Halleran  
Katelyn Winter Sampson  
Pastor Char & Glenn's daughter-in-law, Julie, and her family, as they deal with the effects of MS  
Luke Moore  
Our former Pastor Jim & Char and their daughter, MaryBeth  
Our former Pastor Paul & Lynn  
Dorothy Peterson  
Betty Garrett

We pray for the victims and families of all who have been affected by and from violence.  
We pray for children, women, and men who've been victims of abuse  
We pray for the return of goodwill and unity among all people.  
We pray for all those affected by illness; and 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 Prairie Central District Sup't. Wendy Hardin Hermann, our Bishop Dan Schwerin, 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.*



Pride & Pentecost Sunday



Juneteenth Worship  
led by Roy Bailey



Worship led by Dan Holmes

# JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M



## Opportunities to Give

Thank you to everyone who gave to our missions this Summer! We collected \$248.00 for The Night Ministry (with matching), \$100.00 for Peace with Justice Sunday, \$70.95 for United Voices for Children, and \$115.00 for UM Student Day. A big thank you to Shirlee and her baking crew who raised \$451.00 at the Hebron Garage Sale Days bake sale! These proceeds will be matched by HUMC and distributed equally to the following Mission Links missions: UMVIM North Central Jurisdiction, Cienaguita Ngobe Community Health Project, and Missionary Guillermo Berman Ramirez. Thank you! [Click here](#) for our full Mission Links Program 2025. Upcoming ways you can give this month:

- 1) Special Sunday - World Communion Sunday - October 5
- 2) Local Giving - School Supplies for A-H Schools - any Sunday
- 3) Local Giving - Hebron Community Food Pantry - any Sunday

*Baskets to collect items are located at the back of our Sanctuary. Monetary donations to restock the pantry's meat supply will also be accepted and appreciated!*

**[Click here](#) to give to any of these missions through HUMC.**



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