

Hartford United Methodist Church

Hartford United Methodist Church • 425 E Main Street, Hartford, MI 49057
Pastor Ronald Hansen • 269 621-4103 Church • 269 621-3796 Parsonage



2006 Newsletter

April

April Events

- 2 Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
(Nursery care available)
1ST Sunday Youth 6 pm
- 4 United Methodist Women 6:45 pm
- 9 **Palm Sunday**
Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship Service 10:30
(Nursery care available)
- 10 Worship Committee 7 pm
- 11 Coordinating Council 7 pm
- 13 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm
- 14 Good Friday Breakfast for Ladies
9:30 am
- 14 Good Friday Service 7 pm
- 16 **Easter Sunday**
Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
(Nursery care available)
- 23 Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
(Nursery care available)
- 24 SPPR Meeting 7 pm
- 30 Sunday School 9:15 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery care available)
- 30 Serve at Soup Kitchen - leave
church at 9:30 am

April 2006

We received a very strange FAX in the church office the other day. The headline across the top read "Sell your business NOW!" The rest of the page went on to explain how eager this company was to help us establish a "fair market value" so that we could get the best price from the sale of our business. Buyers are waiting to buy!



Well, these are called junk faxes for a good reason, but the headline poses some interesting questions none the less. While our church functions like a business in some respects, we're obviously not like most other businesses on Main Street. Our building and contents are valued at around \$1,400,000. That is a lot of money, but it doesn't begin to measure the value of our church.

Many of us understand that we are stewards responsible for building a church that belongs to Jesus Christ. Paul writes in Acts 20:28, "Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood." The Bible clearly teaches that together we are considered the "body of Christ" and that Christ is the head of his church.

Our membership vows are sworn before God and each other that we will uphold his church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service.

The events of Holy Week are just ahead of us, a searing reminder of the ultimate price Jesus paid for our church. Each and every one of us who are part of Hartford United Methodist Church make continuing choices as to how we are taking care of this church of Jesus Christ. Otherwise, our actions advertise that this church is for sale...cheap!

We're not for sale. Are we?

Pastor Ron

Church Use & Borrowing Church Equipment

- If you need to use the church facilities for an event we ask that you complete a **Building Use Request** form that you may obtain from Connie in the church office.
- If you need to borrow **church equipment** (coffee pot, roaster, etc) please reserve the item ahead-of-time and check it out and back in with Connie. We ask for your cooperation so that the items and facilities will be available when you need them.
- Tables – only the older brown are loaned out -
➔ New tables stay in the building.



Please let the office know about all high school and college graduates. 621-4103

Missions

FEBRUARY MISSION OFFERINGS

Birthing Kit Support	\$ 15.00
Haiti Hot Lunch	\$ 174.85
Philippines Emergency	\$ 179.95

APRIL MISSION FOCUS:

The **Rio Social Action Program** across the bay from Rio de Janeiro in Niteroi is our April mission focus. Cleonice Nery has ministered to street children for many years by providing elementary education and job training for approximately 200 children. Her program has moved from the Niteroi Methodist Church to its own facility and has acquired 6 homes that are used to house the children she removes from the streets. Cleonice sends her many thanks to you for the school supplies that were taken to her last fall and asks us to continue to uphold her programs with prayer. Please keep this mission in prayer as well as support it with your gifts this month.

REMINDER:

Mail your **used inkjet cartridges** and **old cell phones** in the prepaid postage envelopes available in the narthex. The money received from the recycle center goes to the kitchen remodeling.

☺ Birthdays ☺

April

- Cheyenne Hill
Stephanie Rockey
Jan Hansen
- E J Holland
- Meghan Reed
- JoAnn Stout
- Katie Stout
- Kenny Koch
- Jeff Heuser
Nichole Vann
- Becky Hayes
- Dorothy Haugard
Brandon Rockey
- Cindy Kent
- Wanda Gale
- Debbie Whitney
Danny Gale
- Bethany Smith
- Paul Markillie
- Chris Ryan
- Jenny Beuter
- Scott Smith
- Katie Jones

May

- Cindy Birmele
- Theresa
Woodward
- Stephanie Kaucher
- Rev John Hice
Aly Kent
- Lucille Davis
Venetia "Pete" Laman
Pam Williams
- Heather Lange
Rev. Jerry Selleck
- Tommy Lombardo
Tyler Schwerdt
- Alma Mosher
Taylor Poirier
- Louise Wilcoxson
- Cindy Unrath
- Glen Fulford
- Andrea Brown
- Zachary Hayes
- Candy Birmele
Ron Ward
- Keith Vann

Birthday Note: We are missing some birthdays, and we don't want to miss you. Please call the office and leave your name and birth date.

United Methodist Women

The 2006 program booklets are now available. You may pick yours up at the April meeting or from Maureen Cole Nichols and Brenda Melvin.

Our next meeting will be April 4th, 6:45 pm at the church. Hostesses will be Pete Laman and Brenda Melvin. Devotions will be given by Mary Birmele. Our program will be on the Gideon Memorial Bible Plan, presented by John Laman.

Business to be discussed: a new island for the kitchen.

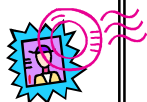
Child care can be arranged by calling Brenda at 6231-6092.

Upcoming Events

- April 4** 6:45 pm **UMW at the church**
- April 14** 9:30 am **Good Friday Breakfast**
All area women are invited
Program - Christine Vanlandingham
- May 2** 6:45 pm **UMW at the church**
Del Troutman and Kathy Anchor
will present a program on Stamping
- May 8** **Mother Daughter Banquet**
Program – Rod Snow/ Chalk Artist
- June 13-17** **Ladies Day at Gull Lake**
Get tickets now. See Brenda or Del Troutman for ticket information.

Want to do some collecting?

- Cancelled stamps
- Pop can tabs
- General Mills Education Labels
- Campbell's Soup Labels
- Spartan UPC Codes



These items are all collectible items for many **mission groups** who are then able to cash them in for cash and/or material goods. The canisters are in the fellowship hall for collection.



Did you know that the men of our church gather at 6:30 pm every Wednesday evening to work on projects around our building?

Did you know that they have worked on projects for church members in the past and in the community?

We are blessed to have these willing workers in our congregation.

Men's Study Group

This group meets on Wednesday evening at 8 pm for study, fellowship and prayer. All men are invited.



From the:
**Library
Corner**



“Witness the Passion” by Richard Exley is an intimate look at the people and events leading up to Resurrection Sunday. Through their eyes, we gain insight into the reasons for Jesus' agony in Gethsemane and into the subtle evil behind Judas' betrayal of Jesus.

We can see how encountering Jesus on that fateful Friday forever changed the lives of Simon the Cyrene and the Roman Centurian, and how it can change ours as well.

We can walk with a grief-stricken Mary Magdalene to that cold, dark tomb before daybreak Sunday morning and experience anew the Hope, Power, and Grace she found there.

Brenda Melvin, Church Librarian

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WOMEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE:



Ladies, it has been a while since we attended a Women of Faith conference, but we are looking for those who are interested in attending the conference **July 7-8 in Chicago**. There is an early bird special of \$65 for premium seating for Friday evening and Saturday 9-5, or \$119 that covers the pre-conference Friday 9-3 as well. **Sandi Patty and Patsy Clairmont are the speakers** at the pre-conference. Other speakers throughout the weekend are Marilyn Meberg, Luci Swindoll, Nicole Johnson, Sheila Walsh, Thelma Wells, and Patsy. Entertainment will be provided by Avalon, Nicole C. Mullen, and Anita Renfroe. We will be spending at least one night in Chicago, hotel reservations will be announced later. We need to purchase tickets before April 28th to take advantage of the early bird pricing. Please let Del Troutman know if you are interested in attending. You may also look up the information on the Women of Faith website at www.womenoffaith.com.



LOOKING FOR A MISSION EXPERIENCE?

A **short mission trip** to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, Illinois has been scheduled. We will be **leaving Sunday afternoon, August 13th and returning on Wednesday evening, August 16th**. Cost is yet to be determined but should not be more than \$100 per person including lodging, food, and transportation. We will have a **half-day in Springfield to visit some Lincoln sites** although sightseeing is not included in the cost. There are 12 reservations, 10 are still open so if you are interested in this experience, contact Del Troutman for further information.

Visit our Web site: hartfordmethodist.org