

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

AugustSeptember

From the Pastor

The old King James Bible features a wonderful translation of Proverbs 29:18: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Many of us have that little bit of wisdom committed to memory. We sense the power of its truth.



How clear is the vision of the people called Hartford United Methodist Church? I've been asking myself that question lately.

I suppose it's connected to the sound of a ticking clock in my head. You see, Jan and I have served you as your pastoral family for seven years now. I'll betray my age and tell you that if I were to continue my ministry here until retirement...well, I have seven more years.

If I only have seven more years of full time ministry left, and if they are to be served at HUMC, then a clear vision is vital. After all, the first seven years have flown by at "life speed."

This fall I am inviting anyone in our church who is interested to join with me in a small group discussion around the vision of the church. We will meet for about one hour of conversation on various nights throughout the fall. (The first meeting is noted at the end of this letter.) We will look at any and all areas of our ministry life together and ask a lot of questions. We will open our Bibles and spend some time in prayer. At times our focus will be very practical and other times very devotional.

Would you consider joining with me in pursuing a renewed vision? The Message translation of Proverbs 29:18 updates the old King James in crystal clear fashion.

"If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over them-selves; but when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed."

Let's get going. I only have seven years left. Maybe less. How many years do you have? God knows!

Pastor Ron

Our first "Vision Conversation" will be Tuesday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. Other times will be announced in the Sunday bulletin.

Aug/Sept Events

Date	Time	Event
August 20	10:30 am	Worship Service
August 27	10:30 am	Worship Service "Sunday Funnies"
Sept 4	Labor Day – Office Closed	
Sept 5	6:45 pm	United Methodist Women
Sept 6	7:00 pm	Worship Committee
Sept 9	3:00 pm	Church Picnic
Sept 10	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service

Date	Time	Event
Sept 11	7:00 pm	9-11 Community Memorial Service at Ely Park
Sept 12	7:00 pm	Coordinating Council
Sept 16	4-6:30 pm	Emmaus Gathering
Sept 17	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Sept 17	6:00 pm	3rd Sunday Youth
Sept 19	7:00 pm	Vision conversation
Sept 25	7:00 pm	SPPR Committee

Birthdays

August

- 18 Meghan Engle
- 19 John Ruggio
- 20 Laura Busch
Steve Koch
- 22 David Reed
Garry Melvin
- 23 Mark Unrath
Dave Crawford
- 24 Angie Hoffman
- 27 Richard Melvin
Mary Birmele
- 28 Erin Walker
Gary Vanlandingham



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September

- 1 Kenny Tackett
- 2 Tristan Engle
Dave Kling
- 3 Jill Rose
- 4 John Smith
- 5 Jean Hoeckleberg
Kevin Walker
- 11 Connie Kilburn
- 13 Terry Voogd
Mike Robinson
- 14 Brooke Kling
Spike LaVanway
- 19 Genevieve Conklin
Karen Williams
- 21 Eleanor Martin
Rosemary Heinisch
Karrie Melvin
Diana Walker
- 22 Susan Robinson
- 23 Jason Vanlandingham
- 24 Denise Smith
Georgia Heuser
Laura Ecker
Jean Hollar
- 28 Mercedes Howard
- 29 Marcia Reed Hoke

We're Having a Picnic!

- Saturday, September 9
- 3:00 pm – meal at 3:30 pm
- Fun and games for everyone.
- Just bring a dish to pass
- Hamburgers & hot dogs provided
- Location - the home of Wally & Laura Heuser 55826 60th Ave, Lawrence.



The Not-So-Secret Powers of Super Christians



Look! Up in the air. No, wait, right there in the pew. Is someone exercising the incredible not-so-secret powers available to all Christians? Super Christians!

Be in church during "September Sundays" and check out the super powers for yourself. Learn about PPP and how to "Go MAD." Check out your "F.R.A.N. Plan." Learn to move at "Life Speed." Don't let someone else grab the super powers meant for you!

Crop Walk

The Tri-City CROP Walk is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, October 1st. It will be held at Jollay Orchards in Coloma. This is an opportunity to enjoy a walk in a lovely country setting with friends or family while raising money for world hunger. You can walk at your own pace and as long as you wish. Last year our church raised \$1040. (Total raised for the walk was \$4800.)



This is also a great opportunity to help those in our own community as 12.5% of the total raised from the walk will be returned to our own food pantry. Ronda Kaucher will have the sponsor sheets available each Sunday in September.

United Methodist Women

- Next meeting – Sept 5, 2006
- 6:45 pm at the church

With Sympathy

A service for Penny Patterson was held on July 6, 2006. Penny was the daughter of Dale Leonard and sister of Cindy Birmele

Thanks again to Mary Smith

THANK YOU

How Can I Say Thanks?

As your pastor I wish I could adequately express my appreciation to all the many, many people who have put their shoulders to the life of our church this summer. It has been an outstanding June, July and August here at HUMC. Our theme was a "Summer of Sundays," but the good stuff has gone on many days besides Sunday.

If I were to list the names, it would cover just about everyone who makes up our church family. Fill your name in this blank spot right here _____. And that's exactly the way it should be; all of us working together. Well done, Church. Well done!

Highlights?

- The youth trip to ICHTHUS in Kentucky.
- Wednesday night elementary swim parties at Rosemary & Joe Heinisch.
- A super great Bible school led by Kathy Anchor and crew.
- Maximum effort by Dick Melvin and a cast of dozens to turn the heat of July into a great fair kitchen.
- Wally Heuser led some talented gardeners on Wednesday nights and turned our church into the most beautiful place for miles around. (Let's be honest. Not to brag, but have you ever seen a more beautiful church yard anywhere?)
- Jessica Mullauer and an ever faithful Worship Committee for helping make some incredible Sundays of summer worship. Reconciliation band. Offering of Praise. Church on the Lawn. Sunday Funnies.

Wow!

I sure hope your family has been able to get in on the best of Christian living this summer at HUMC. Stay tuned. It's going to be a great fall too!

United Methodist Men

Work Group meets every Wednesday at 6 pm at the church – all men are encouraged to attend.

Study Group meets every Wednesday at 8 pm at the church – all men welcome.



Hartford 9/11 Memorial Service



Monday, September 11
7:00 pm in Ely Park

(The High School Auditorium is the rain location.)

Sponsored by our church and other Hartford churches

One More Summer Sunday

Is it OK to laugh in church? We'll find out Sunday, August 27, as we close out our **Summer of Sundays** with "Sunday Funnies."



Thank You

I would like to thank my church family and Pastor Ron and Jan for all the support given me and my family during Paul's illness and funeral. It is difficult to express how much it was appreciated. We thank God that His provision to help us through those difficult months included all the many ways you reached out to our family with love and caring. Sincerely,
Bonita Markillie, Julie and Craig

Thanks to all my church family for your cards, prayers and offers of help after my accident.
Bob Kilburn

To my church family, Thank you for making my graduation day so special, starting with breakfast, being recognized during church and receiving the Bible and CD. It is nice to be a part of this church family.



The Fair Was Good

by Dick Melvin



The Van Buren County Youth Fair food booth sponsored by the Hartford United Methodist Church was good for the fair, the community and your church.

Many thanks to:

- Mary Birmele for scheduling all the workers – 70 individuals – like she has done for many years.
- Nancy Larsson for being there at 5 am every day to get things started
- Kim Carpenter for starting breakfast every day before 7 am and for her 2 boys help
- Anne Rockey, Florence Lauck and Pam Williams who did all of the food and supply ordering
- Great helpers like Dona Sherman who was there every day at 7 am to take orders and people like the Kent's, Heather Lange, Brian Peterson, Myra Weberg, Maxine Melvin, all the women who made all of the pies and all the others who helped.

I must mention Pete Laman and John Ruggio who had such a great time carting all the food and pies from the church and meeting up with some of the fair board members. If you don't know the story – it's quite interesting.

We cleared over \$7,000 profit which goes a long way in supporting our church ministry.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.

Dick Melvin – Fair Committee Chairman



It's Right Around the Corner

by Pam Bench



- Our **Annual All Church Bazaar**
- Saturday November 4
- It' closer than you think
- A big work & fun day for our church family

There are plenty of areas for everyone to help with this project from set up on Friday Nov. 3 to clean up on Saturday afternoon.

Booth space is still available to rent if you are a crafter or know of one who might like to participate.

On Friday afternoon Pete and John Laman and their volunteers measure and mark off the booth spaces in the entire gym and band room.

We will be serving homemade breakfast and lunch items from approximately 6:30 am to 3 pm on Saturday. We need many helpers to make pies, serve food, cashier, and clean up the dining room.

United Methodist Women sponsor one table where we sell RADA cutlery, baked goods and craft items, so warm up your ovens and your sewing machines or your glue guns.

It takes many willing hands and feet to pull this all together in one day.
Mary Birmele will be calling for helpers and pies.

Please feel free to call any of the following people if you have questions or would like to help in any way including donations of funds to purchase some of the food items.

Bazaar Chairperson	Angie Showerman	621-3673	- Booth Reservation & General
Information			
Set-up and Clean-up	Pete Laman		
Kitchen	Rosemary Heinisch	621-3435 and Pam Bench	621-4181
UMW Booth	Pam Bench	621-4181	
Recruiter/Scheduler	Marv Birmele	621-4401	



Get Back to Class!

Our Christian education program gets “back to class” starting Sunday, September 10, at 9:15 a.m. and you need to be there. We have child care for the youngest kids and great learning groups for everyone else from kindergarten on up.

The Pastor’s Class begins on September 10 with a session entitled “Rewind the Psalms.” September 17 and September 24 examine an episode of the TV reality show “30 Days.” We will watch what happens when an atheist spends 30 days living with a Christian family and what it might teach us about our own life styles.

Get back to class starting September 10!

Del’s Class

Women, you are invited to attend a Sunday School class with Del Troutman continuing the study of the book ***Becoming a Vessel God Can Use*** by Donna Partow. The class will begin again August 10th at 9:15 a.m.



Youth News

Parents, help us get the word out to all the children and youth. We have “not to miss” activities just for them.

Elementary Youth: Your first assignment of the fall is to show up for the picnic on September 10. Get all the details elsewhere in this newsletter. There will be some fun and games just for you.

Middle School & High School: Our “3rd Sunday” for September will find us at the church on September 17 at 6:00 p.m. Good times, good food, good things to know.

Missions

JUNE MISSION OFFERINGS

Haiti Hot Lunch	\$198.41
Ana Gonzaga Ecological Center	25.00
Mission Offering for Medicine Boxes	175.32

AUGUST MISSION FOCUS:

Our August mission focus is People’s Central Institute in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Located in one of the worst slum areas of the inner city of Rio, People’s Central Institute was a pioneer institution and continues to minister to the habitants of the surrounding favella. This mission offers a wide range of educational opportunities for elementary age youth, a day care, vocational training for adults, as well as scouting and sports programs for area youth. Many of the adults from this favela work as servants and gardeners to the elite, or in restaurants and other minimum wage jobs that pay them about \$130 per month. People’s Central Institute is a very important part of this community. Please pray for this mission and support it with your gifts during August.

SEPTEMBER MISSION FOCUS:

Our September mission focus will be on Christian Education. Christian Education Sunday will be celebrated throughout the conference. Half of the offerings for Christian Education Sunday stay right here at Hartford UMC with the remainder going to the conference. This offering helps to provide training in Christian Education within the conference, and further enhances the Christian Education ministry within our own church. Please keep Christian Education in your prayers through the year, and 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.



COOKBOOKS:

HUMC cookbooks are available in the church office or call Del at 621-3663. Cost is \$10. Proceeds at this time benefit the kitchen renovation fund.



We Continue to Collect! Cancelled stamps -Pop can tabs - Spartan UPC Codes - General Mills Educaion Labels - Campbell’s Soup Labels
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.

Hartford United Methodist Church



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Prayer Chain



Bring your prayer requests to worship on Sunday, or call Del Troutman at 621-3663 to add them to our prayer chain.

If you would like to be a participant in this praying ministry give Del or the office at call.

Fellowship/Service Opportunities

- Coffee Hour
- United Methodist Women
- Methodist Men's Group
- Sunday School teacher
- Adult Sunday School classes
- Work on Community Christmas Bazaar
- Substitute nursery care provider
- Soup Kitchen
- Food Pantry

Emmaus Gatherings

The August, September and November monthly gatherings will be held here at HUMC

August 19th 5:00-7:00 p.m.

September 16th 5:00-7:00 p.m.

November 18th 4:00-6:00 p.m.

"Gatherings take place on the third Saturday of each month. The community will gather for praise singing, a short talk followed by small group discussion, communion and prayer. A potluck supper will follow the gathering. Bring a dish to pass and/or a beverage and your table setting. All community members as well as non-community members are encouraged to attend gatherings for a spiritual boost!"

Food Pantry

We continue to provide food for families in the area. You may help by providing canned meats, mac. and cheese dinners, spaghetti sauce and toiletry items. Thanks for your support

