

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

December

Change for a Ten...Bigger than Oprah!



Can \$10 make any difference?

If you were in church on November 12, then you were a part of a rather unique worship experience. Around 100 people walked out the door with \$10 in cash and the charge to go do some good.

We picked up on the fact that Oprah had given all 300 members of her studio audience \$1000 and the instructions to "pay it forward." The results of that challenge were documented on her show just the other day and a box of tissues was needed to hear the stories of how people reached out to others. You can go to oprah.com and see for yourself.

It's interesting to note that the money used on the TV show was given by the Bank of America and equals less than it would cost them to buy a one minute commercial on the Oprah show. Oprah didn't give away her own money and the amount was petty cash for the Bank of America.

What Oprah was trying to do is not new to the people God has called to be the church of Jesus Christ. The believers in our own church have been practicing the principles of Christian stewardship here in Hartford for well over 150 years. **We don't give money to the church to pay bills, but to change lives for eternity.** We give because we follow God's commandments, not Oprah's advice, and every dollar we have belongs to God anyway.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

We look forward to everyone reporting back on December 17 on how they invested their \$10 to do some good. Isn't this a big part of what Christmas is all about?

Pastor Ron

Fact: On a percentage basis a tithing Christian is far more generous than any multinational corporation or TV celebrity any day.



Make some Christmas music!



Your singing voice is needed in our Christmas Choir. We'll be singing in both the morning and evening service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

Our new children's hand bell choir is practicing on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:00 pm and will be performing Christmas Eve morning.





December Events



Sunday Dec 3	9:15 am 10:30 am 9 am – Noon	Sunday School Worship Service Child Care	Friday Dec 15	6-9:00 pm	Childcare at Church
Tuesday Dec 5	6:45 pm	UMW meet at Woodside Apts.	Sunday Dec 17	9:15 am 10:30 am 9 am – Noon	Sunday School Worship Service Child Care
Wednesday Dec 6	7:00 pm	Worship Committee	Sunday Dec 17	6:00 pm	3 rd Sunday Youth
Sunday Dec 10	9:15 am 10:30 am 9 am – Noon	Sunday School Worship Service Child Care	Sunday Dec 24	9:15 am 10:30 am 9 am – Noon	Sunday School Worship Service Child Care
Monday Dec. 11	7:00 pm	SPPR	Christmas Eve	8:00 pm	Candlelight Service
Tuesday Dec 12	7:00 pm	Coordinating Council	Sunday Dec 31	9:15 am 10:30 am 9 am – Noon	Sunday School Worship Service Child Care

Birthdays

December

- 2 Jenna Birmele
- 3 Joanne Evans
Craig Mullauer
- 4 Johnny Ruggio
Bonita Markillie
Phillip Woodward
- 5 Margaret Hammond
Ron Hansen
- 6 Laura Colegio
Patrick Hoffman
- 10 Kim Carpenter
- 11 Rose Hayes
- 12 Patrick Hoffman
- 13 Ryan Evans
- 17 Brent Walker
- 21 Janell Birmele
- 22 Jim Meachum
Patsy Meachum
- 23 Bruce Heuser
Dona Sherman
- 24 Harold Walker Jr.
- 25 Gene Larsson
- 28 Scott Vanlandingham



Hanging of the Greens Sunday, December 3



Be sure to be present during this annual event as we begin the Advent Season!



Christmas Eve Service 8:00 pm



Members Received

We rejoice in God's gift of new members in our faith family: **Dan & Faith Dowd, Janet Melvin, Mick & Shirley Cochrane, Henry & Sherry Burtchett.**



United Methodist Women

- Next meeting – Tuesday, Dec 5, 2006
- Meet at 6:45 pm at Woodside Apartments
- Hostess: Del Troutman & Mary Arnsman
- Devotions: Odena Hansen





1st Sunday

There will **not** be a meeting for elementary youth on December 3. However, a special event is being planned to take place sometime during Christmas break.

3rd Sunday

Youth in Middle School or High School meet Sunday, December 17, at 6:00 p.m.



United Methodist Men

Men's Work Group 6 pm
Men's Study Group 8 pm

This group meets every Wednesday and all men are invited.



Missions

OCTOBER MISSION OFFERINGS

Haiti Hot Lunch	\$170.55
Grace Children's Hospital	\$205.49
World Communion Offering	\$42.00

CHRISTMAS MISSION TREE:

The mission Christmas tree will be displayed in the Social Hall again this year. Please check out the different mission opportunities available for alternative gift giving. There are a variety of missions and amounts available

Sunday, December 10 is **Gideon Sunday** and a special offering will be taken for the Gideon work and missions.

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



ATTENTION ALL PARENTS!

Parents Night Out

Friday, December 15th from 6 to 9 p.m. **child care** will be provided for your children to give you a chance to go out for dinner or do some shopping.

We will provide this service at the church, and also serve the children supper with pizza, drinks, and a dessert.

Cost for this service will be **\$5 per family** to help defray the cost of food. For further information, see Del Troutman or call her at 621-3663.



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.



Thanks to all who helped to make the annual Christmas Bazaar so successful. Look for a full report next month.



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Bring your prayer requests to worship on Sunday, or call Del Troutman or Mary Arnsman 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.

Cooperating Ministries Food Pantry



Thank you to all who donated food and toiletry items in November



Worship Committee Announces the Christmas Schedule

Sunday, Dec 3

Sunday, Dec 24

Sunday, Dec 24

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Service 8 pm

