



P.S. by P.S.

Personal Statement by Pastor Seth

Grace and peace!

Do you ever just let your mind wander? Maybe, like me, you sometimes daydream or just pause to breath and soak in the sunshine. It can be a very restful and relaxing thing (although I don't recommend doing it while in the middle of a conversation with your spouse). Allowing our minds to wander and daydream for a time can sometimes tap into our imagination, as well.

As we get older, we don't really use our imaginations as much. After all, that sounds like something for children, or more suited to great Hollywood directors or writers. And yet neglecting our imagination is to deny one of the greatest gifts God shares with us. After all, Jesus encouraged us to be more childlike (which is not to be confused with childish). Our imagination lets us escape reality for a time (which is very important for our emotional and mental health), and it also invites us to make room for the supernatural in our lives.

As Christians, much of what we do needs to allow some room for the supernatural. Our ministry is something more than the programs we do, or the meetings we hold. Take, for instance, the Communion meal. We believe it is something more than simply bread and juice; we can't say precisely what God does in that sacrament, but it is something supernatural, something more than what we can understand on our own. In the same way, everything we do should make room for God and the supernatural ways that God works in, with, and through us. As we imagine and dream about what could be, we open ourselves to the idea that this imagined reality could be possible with God's supernatural presence to shift our reality.

So the next time you find your mind wandering and daydreaming, see where your imagination takes you. Make some room for God's supernatural work and presence, and imagine how God might spark something new in the world around you. As we allow our imaginations to expand, we begin to recognize the power of the eternal God that brings salvation to earth in amazing and unexpected ways, and we find ways to partner with God's work in demonstrating the supernatural love of God with others.

God Bless!

-P.S.

Pastor Seth

The Hartford United Methodist Church Cornerstone



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Raleigh West
- 2 Niklaus Leimbach
- 3 Holly Gage
Kylie Schneider
- 5 Don
- 6 Barb Thaler
- 7 Dale Smith
- 9 Jory Montis
- 13 Dimitrie Condon
- 14 Dennis Bossman
Lynnae Redenius
- 15 Darienne Mammenga
- 17 Ashlie Jacobs
- 18 Kyle Hodge
- 22 Seth LaBounty
Deb Langrehr
- 24 Silas Stone
- 26 Erik Edberg
- 27 Zachary Nielsen
Miyah Pechous
- 28 Konrad Engels
- 29 Joyce Hoefert
Langon Klinkhammer
Lloyd Smith

We need your help to update our Church's sound system!

As this pandemic continues to push us towards innovative expressions of ministry, the need to update our sanctuary's sound system has become increasingly apparent. Not only would a new system allow those worshipping in-person to hear better, but we would be able to incorporate video elements to enhance the quality and reliability of our online worship. As you might imagine, this is an expensive project (roughly \$40,000). To help us reach that goal, we have launched a new fundraiser which would allow anyone of any financial status to participate as they are comfortable and able. We have labeled a series of envelopes from \$1 to \$250, and we invite you to prayerfully consider picking up the envelope (s) with the amount you would like to contribute. If every envelope is filled we will raise over \$30,000 towards a new system and will be able to move forward on this project. You are, of course, free to give more than your envelope indicates, and you can take as many envelopes as you may wish. Whether you contribute \$250 or \$1, we want to thank you for your generosity and support in this endeavor!

To date, you have donated over \$8,000 towards this sound system. We have also received an additional \$2,000 in grant funding from the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation, which has expressed its excitement and hope that this gift will inspire us to fully fund the rest of the project and assist us in our mission of reaching others for Christ.

Connect with Us!

If you would like to stay up-to-date on what's going on in the Church, there are a couple ways to stay connected! The easiest way is to go to the Church's website (www.humcsd.org). Pastor Seth makes regular updates to the website to keep it up-to-date with everything that's going on in the Church. In this season of online worship, the services and Pastor's Seth sermon manuscript are also uploaded onto the website.

Another option is to follow us on Facebook! Using your smart phone/tablet, use the camera to scan this QR code to find our Church's facebook page.



If you don't have a such a device, then type this address into the browser your computer:

www.facebook.com/HartfordUnitedMethodistChurch

The Hartford United Methodist Church Cornerstone

It is the intent of the Finance & Stewardship committee to provide a quarterly update on how we are progressing with our finances.

This is an **average of our monthly bills** and General Fund income for **January 1 to March 26, 2021**. The General Fund is money that is given to the church to pay everyday bills.

INCOME/EXPENSES CHURCH

| EXPENSES | AVERAGE COST PER MONTH | INCOME | MONTH |
|---|------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Property & Liability Ins | 816.36 | January | \$15074.0 |
| Water – Parsonage | 50.67 | February | \$ 7764.0 |
| Church | 57.28 | March | \$13316.8 |
| SV Electric – Parsonage | 64.42 | | |
| Church | 272.46 | | |
| Mid Am Gas - Parsonage | 98.81 | | |
| Church | 483.04 | | |
| Phone/Internet - Parsonage | 65.95 | | |
| Church | 91.73 | | |
| Cressman - Parsonage | 27.69 | | |
| Church | 30.02 | | |
| Vanco (e-giving) | 17.39 | | |
| Century - copier | 175.43 | | |
| Arrowhead – Snow removal | 254.57 | | |
| Misc. – taxes, etc. | 170.00 | | |
| Conference – Church’s share of pastor insurance & pension | 2111.17 | | |
| IRS | 370.66 | | |
| Visa | 99.74 | | |
| Wages for staff | 6267.00 | | |
| Apportionments | 1500.00 | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | \$13024.39 | | |

Funds in Memorial Account: \$ 7824.25
 Funds in Building Account: \$12074.63
 Funds in New Sound System: \$13962.02

Budgeted need weekly: \$ 3583.82
 monthly: 14,335.31

Thank you for your continued support.

Electronic Giving is Available!

We are now set-up to accept financial gifts through electronic means! If you go online to the Church's website, you'll see a new tab labeled "E-Giving." On that page you'll find a window to set up a donation either through credit/debit cards or bank account transfers. These can be set up as one-time donations, or as a recurring gift. If you would like some help signing up for this service, please contact Pastor Seth and he will walk you through the process. If you would still prefer to share your gifts through checks and/or cash, you are certainly welcome to mail those to the Church through the post office. However you choose to share your gifts, financial or otherwise, thank you for the ways you continue to support our staff, help us pay our bills, and continue our ministry in the community.

The new 2021 offering envelopes are available at the church.

Bible Study Resources - RightNow Media

In the midst of social distancing, it can be hard to find resources for Bible study and devotion. Thankfully, our Church has access to a wide array of Bible studies through RightNow Media! There are lessons on a wide variety of topics, such as marriage, leadership, books of the Bible, and history. There are even videos for kids and youth! If you would like to access this vast database of studies and lessons, please contact Pastor Seth at pastor.labounty@gmail.com.

Weekly Devotional from Pastor Seth



If you are on Facebook, join us live each Wednesday at 5:30 pm for Wisdom Wednesday! Pastor Seth will share a brief devotional thought, an encouraging word, and a song to lift your spirits. These devotionals will be uploaded to the Church's website around 6:00 pm on Wednesdays, so don't worry about missing out you if you aren't on Facebook!

Dakotas Camping is back!

The United Methodist Camps are a great way to grow in our faith, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation! With opportunities for any age from infants to grandparents, there is a camp for you! If you would like more information regarding those camps, please go the camping website at <https://www.dakotasumc.org/camping>. Sign up for a camp by April 30th to take advantage of the early bird discount, and make sure to let **Pastor Seth know when you plan to register to receive our Church's discount code and save even more!** Plus other details that the church office will supply.

