



P.S. by P.S.

Personal Statement by Pastor Seth

Grace and peace!

What a year 2022 has been... With all that the year has brought our way, I don't think it's an understatement to say that we aren't the same Church that we were when the year began. We have had our fair share of change and challenge, growth and loss. And, from what I can tell, 2023 is not going to be much different. There are significant challenges that we'll be facing as a Church, and there will be some difficult conversations.

But even though things may be demanding as we move forward, I choose to see that as a blessing in disguise. In the parable of the "Prudent Manager" in Luke 12, Jesus makes the point that, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required, and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."

Here at Hartford, we have been extraordinarily blessed by God. With our amazing members, leaders, and other volunteers, we have had some wonderful experiences and ministries. And now, for us to continue to effectively share God's hope, love, joy, and peace with this community, we must continue do the hard thing of following God's calling even when that call is demanding and asks a lot of us.

As we enter into this New Year, it is a great opportunity to both reflect on the prior year, and dream about the next. We have overcome challenges and have been given much, and we know that the next year will be filled with opportunities and much will be required of us. It can be both daunting, and exciting. But I am encouraged by the ways that this Church has always risen to the challenge.

So for all the ways that you have embodied Christ's love and ministry in the last year, I say "thank you." For all the ways that you have walked alongside one another in the highs and lows, I say "thank you." And for all the ways that you will continue to rise up the demands of ministry, I say, "thank you." A thousand times, "thank you."

God bless!

-P.S.

Pastor Seth



January Birthdays

- 2 Decian Stockwell
- 5 Zach Woods
- 6 Sean McGraw
- 12 Myra Bornitz
- 13 Wayne Stowsand
- 14 Jeremy Meyer
- 15 Kynzie Lueth
- 16 Jack Wrich
- 17 Tyler Haberer
- 19 Beverly Umland
- 20 Adam Barrett
Shirley Johnson
Shirley Johnson
Wyatt Nielsen
Wyatt Nielsen
- 21 Jeff Canfield
- 25 Kyle VaDerWerff
- 26 Crystal Waltner
- 27 Macy Wrich
- 28 Brittany Bender
Tristan Grauel
David Niewald
- 30 Dan Barrett
- 31 Mike Gacke
Ashton Gebhard
Aiden Lueth



Church Data

Totals for December

Total Attendance— 373

Tithes and Offerings— \$ 23942

Monthly Budget for 2022 – \$14,799

Women in Faith awarded the Volunteer Pins to: **Carrie Severin and Vern Niewald** in church on Sunday.



HUMC volunteered at “Lunch is Served” in Sioux Falls, on Monday, December 19.





2022 Poinsettia Memorials

In memory/honor of:	Given by:
Harold & Sara Niewald, Richard & Glenna Warne, Troy Niewald, Tim Niewald, Cherry Paige.	Dave and Karen Niewald
Jeremy Edberg	Erik & Buffy Edberg
Marcella & Ernst Edberg	Erik & Buffy Edberg
Ila & Jack Warnke	Erik & Buffy Edberg
David Kaiser	Lois, Tom & Brooke Kaiser & Miranda, Travis, Cooper, Addison & Carson Jacobsma
Katie Whitney	Lois, Tom & Brooke Kaiser & Miranda, Travis, Cooper, Addison & Carson Jacobsma
Parents: Leroy & Fern Kistler, Roy & Marie Hackenjas; Son: Timothy Kistler; Granddaughter: Nichole Waters	Gary & Genie Kistler
Jim & Gwyn Ruhaak, Ed & Ruth Ruhaak, Roy & Velma Brown and Grandparents	Arlayne Ruhaak
Larry Alderson	Joyce Alderson
Jeremy and Lexy Kinkhammer family	Ashlyn & Keelyn Klinkhammer and Grandparents & Uncle Doug Freier
Art & Bev Umland	Herbert & Ruth Umland Lois & Leroy Bickford
Carli Caslin	Grandpa Phil & Grandma Donna
Carli Caslin	Guy, Melissa & Austin Caslin

UM Men Breakfast



Thank you for your support of the Sunday morning breakfast on December 18th. \$566 was raised for one of our youth members – Megan Johnson – to support her music trip to Europe in Summer 2023 with the South Dakota Ambassadors of Music.

The UM Men will be hosting the next Sunday morning breakfast on January 15th. We will be serving before worship at 8:45 a.m. and again after worship.

Funds raised in January will be donated to UMCOR to support their efforts to assist the people of Ukraine.

Lunch is Served

Hartford UMC served at Lunch is Served on Monday, December 19 at 5:30 p.m. Lunch is Served provides simple sack lunches to working men and women who put in a full day of manual labor without the benefit of a noon meal. It is located at Emmanuel Baptist Church – 1600 E. 12th St. in Sioux Falls. 250 meals were packed as well as some lunch preparation for the next packing two days later. The UM Men made a donation of \$300 to assist with the cost of the meals.



Thank You Marlys!

Office Manager Marlys Vant Hul is retiring from her position on Dec. 31. A huge thank you for her three years of service to our congregation. We will be hosting a soup, sandwich & dessert meal following worship on January 8th to honor her and to provide everyone an opportunity to wish her well. God's blessings to Marlys on her future endeavors.

Financial Stewardship

God and the members of Hartford UMC did a tremendous job of providing during the month of December. Hartford UMC has been able to pay our apportionments in full for the 2022 calendar year. Thank you everyone!

As we move into 2023, we trust and believe that God will continue to provide us with the resources to live out our mission to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, and teaching in Hartford and beyond.

Time & Talents

We're all familiar with the topic of financial stewardship. But an equally vital topic is the stewardship of our time and talents. God has blessed everyone with their own unique set of gifts. They are continuously on display at Hartford UMC.

On January 8th following worship, we will be hosting a "Time & Talents Sign Up" in combination with our time of food and fellowship to honor Marlys Vant Hul.

Our goal is to set up leaders and volunteer groups for several areas of time / talents at Hartford UMC. It is our hope that we will be able to enhance our worship experience and make our facility more inviting and welcoming. These include Greeters / Ushers, Worship Assistants, Communion Assistants, Sunday Morning fellowship treat providers and Acolytes as well as other various needs outside of worship.

We encourage everyone to be open to offering their time and talents to further the mission of Hartford UMC to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, and teaching.

2023 at Hartford UMC

The Administrative Team met on December 19 to discuss planning for the upcoming year. We discussed strengths / weaknesses of Hartford UMC as well as opportunities for us and threats that we face. The two main items that we decided to focus our attention on in the upcoming year are:

Community Involvement - Improve our current community events / activities and start some new ones.

Hospitality - Make our sanctuary more welcoming and inviting for our guests and conduct follow up communication with them.

There will be more to come on these initiatives in the weeks and months ahead.

