



P.S. by P.S.

Personal Statement by Pastor Seth

Grace and peace!

This has been a long, and difficult year for many of us. By the time you get this letter, 2020 will either be in its last few days, or else a fading memory. If you're like me, you won't be sorry to see it go.

And yet in spite of all the hardships 2020 brought our way, I believe that there has been some good to come from it. For example, families are able to connect with one another around the home in ways they hadn't before as we spend more time at home. As our jobs and other responsibilities shifted, many of us found time for rest and new hobbies. We have tried new things in our worship and day-to-day activities that have demonstrated our resilience and capacity for change. 2020 has been an ugly, painful year, but I think we have learned something about ourselves as a result. As much as we may want to return to "normalcy", I think the changes we've seen in 2020 have made us stronger and more focused on what is really important in our lives.

Perhaps in the year 2021, we can use what we have learned about ourselves in 2020 to hold on to some of the positive changes and experiences we have seen. After all, New Years Day is a great opportunity for us to take stock our lives, and set goals for ourselves. We can recommit ourselves to spending time with our families. We can have goals to keep up those new hobbies. Even as we look forward to worshipping fully in-person again, we can continue to provide digital options for people as they travel or are otherwise unable to physically attend our worship.

As I said, I won't be sorry to see 2020 fade into memory. But I believe Paul's words when he wrote that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). This has been a tough year, but God has brought about some good for us in the midst of all. Let us take those blessings, however small they may seem, and cherish them as we look forward to a brighter future.

God bless, and Happy New Year!

-P.S.

Pastor Seth

The Hartford United Methodist Church Cornerstone



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Roger Burgers
Declan Stockwell
- 3 Blake Siebelts
- 4 Ashley DeWald
- 5 Zach Woods
- 6 Sean McGraw
- 7 Nicole Axelson
- 8 Tim Ginter
- 12 Myra Bornitz
- 13 Wayne Stowsand
- 14 Jeremy Meyer
- 15 Della Bossman
Trenity Edberg
Kynzie Lueth
- 16 Jack Wrich
- 17 Tyler Wrich
Milford Tammen
- 19 Beverly Umland
- 20 Adam Barrett
Shirley Johnson
Wyatt Nielsen
- 21 Corey DeGiovanni
- 26 Travis Jacobsma
Crystal Waltner
- 27 Brooke Bathke
Macy Wrich
- 28 Brittany Archer
Brittany Bender
Tristan Grauel
David Niewald
- 30 Dan Barrett
- 31 Mike Gacke
Ashton Gebhard
Aiden Lueth

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 **September 1 to November 30, 2020**. 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	784.18	September	\$8,977
Water – parsonage	38.92	October	\$10,771
Church	51.69	November	\$9,003
SV Electric - parsonage	87.79		
Church	304.37		
Mid Am Gas-parsonage	17.61		
Church	52.8		
Phone/Internet - parsonage	62.30		
Church	90.10		
Cressman - parsonage	27.69		
Church	33.03		
Vanco	23.01		
Century – Copier	170.81		
Post Office	35.00		
Conference-church's share of pastor insurance & pension	2057.58		
IRA	370.66		
Visa card	239.93		
Wages for the staff	6532.07		
TOTAL	\$10,979.54		\$9593.66

APPORTIMENTS PAID OR DUE YET THIS YEAR. We pay 16% on funds that we receive into the general fund and these get paid to the conference.

DOLLAR AMOUNT PD TO DATE	BALANCE DUE	
\$9000	\$8339	As of 12-1-2020

FUNDS IN MEMORIAL ACCOUNT: \$7,579.06

FUNDS IN BUILDING ACCOUNT: \$9,271.63

FUNDS IN NEW SOUND SYSTEM: \$6,651.52

Thanks for your continued support.

The Hartford United Methodist Church Cornerstone

GRADUATION



On Friday, December 4th Brooke Kaiser graduated from USD with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She plans to take her boards to become a certified Registered Nurse (RN). Brooke has accepted a position at Sanford in Sioux Falls on the Medical Oncology unit.

Brooke is the daughter of Tom Kaiser & Shari Kaiser & Granddaughter of Lois Kaiser.

BAPTISM



Pastor Seth baptized Carson Joe Jacobsma on Saturday, December 05, 2020. Carson was born on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 weighing 6 lbs 13 ozs. He was welcomed by his parents Travis & Miranda Jacobsma, brother Cooper & sister Addison. His grandparents are Tom & Vicki Kaiser, great grandma's Lois Kaiser & Judy Ricad Carson Joe Jacobsma is wearing the romper made from his mother's wedding dress by Marlis Bartmann. It was made for his brother Cooper who was baptized in it 4 years ago. Carson's booties were made by his mother also material from her wedding dress.

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

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!

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2021 Offering Envelopes

The new 2021 offering envelopes are available at the church.

Electronic Monthly Newsletters

We are considering moving to electronic newsletters. The newsletter will also be available on the church's webpage (<https://humcsd.org>). In order for this to happen, **we will need to have your correct e-mail and we will need to know who does NOT have access to a computer and wants to receive the newsletter.** I will print off a few copies of the letter to have in the office for people to pick up at their convenience and if you would like the newsletter sent to you let us know and I will mail you a copy of the letter.

We are trying to decide if sending out a few first class mailings and using mostly email would: 1) save paper, 2) save postage (and thus, money) and 3) help the environment. Now, I need from everyone one of two things: your current e-mail address or let me know if you would like to receive the letter in the mail. After this info is gathered a decision will be made about moving forward.

Thank you!

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.

Communion To-Go

If you would like to continue to join our worship online, please make sure to pick up your pre-packaged and pre-blessed Communion elements so that you can join in that expression of God's grace on the first Sunday of the month!



Resuming In-Person Worship - January 9 and 10, 2021

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we followed the recommendations of our Bishop and other denominational leadership in suspending worship over the month of December. In this New Year, we will resume in-person worship with the same physical distancing guidelines as before for our services on January 9th and 10th, and we will continue to live-stream those services on Facebook Live. We will also continue to monitor things as the vaccine is distributed, and look forward to the time when it is deemed 'safe' for us to suspend our physical distancing measures.