



P.S. by P.S.

Personal Statement by Pastor Seth

Grace and peace!

If you're like me, you're probably sick and tired of hearing about politics at this point. For months now we have been flooded with "us versus them" rhetoric on all sides. I, for one, will be grateful when this is all over and we can turn our attention to other concerns.

But until then, we cannot ignore our current reality and situation. People are angry, frustrated, anxious, and scared. We are divided on all sorts of issues, from masks to abortion, environmental protection to gun rights, and everything else under the sun. These disagreements have started to affect our conversations and encounters with family members, friends, and even the strangers in the grocery store or coffee shop. There is an increasing lack of humility, compassion, and grace among our fellow citizens of all parties.

Disagreements are a fact of life. We will not always agree with one another. But we should never let our disagreements lead us towards broken relationships and the divisive attitudes we continue to see day after day. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, followed a time-tested approach: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, charity." He also observed that, "to be ignorant of many things and to be mistaken in some is the necessary condition of humanity." The reality is, none of us have all the answers. No politician has all the answers. Only God does, and our only responsibility is to faithfully seek and serve God to the best of our abilities, and to graciously accept and love others regardless of their political stances.

So as you have conversations regarding politics or any other subject, please remember our call to share love and grace with others. If I may be so bold as to quote John Wesley once more, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences." Let us focus on what is truly important by looking past our differences and looking on what unites us... Our love for God, for our nation, and for one another. It is by working together and celebrating both our diversity and unity that we will make the future a bright and beautiful place for us all.

God bless!

-P.S.

Pastor Seth

The Hartford United Methodist Church Cornerstone



November Birthdays

- 1 Tom Kaiser
- 3 Cynthia Meyer
- 4 Elaine Foster
Lars Langrehr
- 7 Adam Johnson
- 10 Joyce Loof
- 13 Rick Ankeny
- 14 Val Grauel
- 15 Crystal Axelson
Kaitlin Retzlagg
T.J. Steineke
- 16 Renee Umland
- 20 Bentley Klinkhammer
- 22 Charles Meyer
Courtney Person
- 24 Bridget Bossman
Bryon Shumaker
- 29 Bernice Rubach

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 envelop 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 envelop 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!

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

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 if you aren't on Facebook!

If you like to read and want to develop a deeper understanding or learn more about things happening in our world and community around us, we have resources available!

The United Methodist Women have books for their reading program in the following categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. These books are available for anyone in our congregation to read. They are located in the music room across from the office. There is a binder where you can put the card when you check the book out. All we ask is that you please return it in a timely manner so that those in the reading program will have books available to complete their reading program and the books will be available for others to read.

We have books available on topics such as faith communities and suicide, racism, mental illness, loneliness, and cancer survivors. Each month I will highlight a book in one of the categories. Here is the highlighted book for November which is in the **Education for Mission** section:

A Road called Down on Both Sides: Growing up in Ethiopia and America

By Caroline Kurtz

This is a story of growing up in the remote mountains of Maji, Ethiopia in the 1950's. Her parents were missionaries there and this was the world she grew up in. Visiting the US during furlough felt like she'd been exiled, she didn't feel she fit in either place. Her life took many turns but she ended up back in Ethiopia as a missionary herself, which she wasn't planning to do until she received a call from Ethiopia. They liked the children of missionaries to come back because they understood the people, their parents tried but didn't speak the language. This story takes us through the life she's lived so far and gives the reader a deeper understanding of the very different cultures between Ethiopia and the US.

If you have questions or would like to be a part of the reading program by reading at least one book in each of the 5 categories by August of 2021, please contact Rachel Stearns or Georgia Viereck.

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Pre-Packaged Communion Available!

In our continued efforts to find safe ways to conduct our worship, HUMC has purchased pre-packaged communion elements! This will help limit our personal interactions, and allow us to celebrate the Lord's Supper in a safe way that allows everyone to participate.

If you are still choosing to worship online, you are welcome to stop by the Church during our regular office hours, or else schedule a time with Pastor Seth to stop by and pick up however many packets you may need for your household.

E-mail Address Change

The church has a new e-mail; thanks to Joel Stearns! We were having some issues sending and receiving mail. It had gotten so it was not reliable. Please note the change: humcsd@gmail.com

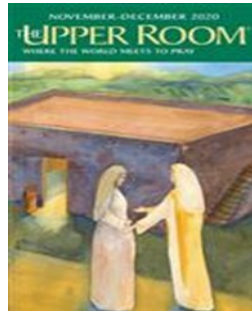
Also, I have tried to e-mail some of you—please unblock this address.

Also, PLEASE provide the church with your current e-mail address!!!!

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.



The November-December 2020 “**Upper Room**” Devotional Books are in the Church. These comes in two sizes: regular and large print. Feel free to stop in and pick up a copy.



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The November "Cornerstone"

**"Open hearts, open minds, open doors-
The people of the United Methodist Church"**

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