



**THE NEWSLETTER**

**Harvard United Church of Christ**

**Harvard, Nebraska**

**DECEMBER 2020**

**Thank you**

October Offerings Received: $4,440.00

Budget: $7,478.00

October +/- ($3,038.00

**Thanks** to our volunteer janitors and to Wanita Kroger for picking up supplies. We are very well stocked up for janitorial supplies right now but when we need something please let her or Pastor Dave know. **REMINDER:** Check sign up list in entryway for open dates to sign up for cleaning.

**Thank you** to Laberta Koehler, Chris Schuck and Toni Schmidt for baking pies and preparing other items to honor one of our area Veterans, Ken Hegwood, on October 13. There was a very nice article in the Clay County News along with a picture of Ruby Adam and Wanita Kroger serving lunch for Ken and the crews working to rebuild his shop in the 10/21/20 edition.

**Thanks** to the Pair & Jarzynka families, Elaine Scheil, Anna Jean Smith and many helpers for blowing up all the balloons for the balloon release on October 15 at the Harvard Cemetery. About 150 balloons were released in memory of lost loved ones of all ages at this annual memorial event.

**Thanks** also to all those who are helping the Children’s Memorial Garden take shape at the cemetery, a great place for prayer, relaxation and contemplation of our Creator and Savior.

+/- 2020 ($15,688.19)

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” –II Corinthians 9:7

Thank you for your donations, small and large, during the months of October and November, all of which will be matched up to $15,000.00. 11/29 is the last Sunday to donate toward the 15K challenge. Thank you for your prayers and contributions to God’s mission.

Hats, gloves, socks, Toilet paper, mittens for the People’s Project Christmas boxes may be donated in the boxes underneath the table in the narthex through December 6. Thank you.

**“The Upper Room”** is offering resources and articles specific to the pandemic on a temporary basis at: <https://www.upperroom.org/covid-19> You may also contact Roxie Helzer at 402-772-5021 if you would like a copy of The Upper Room daily devotionals in print form. Thanks to Roxie for providing these devotionals.

**IF YOU HAVE A DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY – HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

Everyone - Please call the church office and leave your anniversary date so we may wish you a happy anniversary! Also make sure we have your birthday and legal name!

**A WORD FROM DAVE……….**

**The Love of all Loves**

This article is in two parts starting with “Christ the Tiger” by Thomas Howard, posted by Rev. Dr. Susan Forshey on face book on 10/8/20. Dr. Forshey is my favorite professor at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary due to her emphasis on spiritual formation. Praetorium is a general’s tent. Massif is a compact group of mountains, especially separate from other groups of mountains.

“Here from this stable, here, from this Nazareth, this stony beach, this Jerusalem, this market place, this garden, this Praetorium, this Cross, this mountain, I announce it to you. I announce to you what is guessed at in all the phenomena of your world. You see the corn of wheat shrivel and break open and die, but you expect a crop. I tell you of the Springtime of which all spring times speak. I tell you of the world for which this world groans and toward which it strains. I tell you that beyond the awful borders imposed by time and space and contingency, there lies what you seek.

I announce to you **life** instead of mere existence, **freedom** instead of frustration, **justice** instead of compensation. For I announce to you **redemption**. Behold I make all things new. Behold I do what cannot be done. I restore the years that the locusts and worms have eaten. I restore the years you have drooped away upon your crutches and in your wheel-chair. I restore the symphonies and operas which your deaf ears have never heard, and the snowy massif your blind eyes have never seen, and the freedom lost to you through plunder and the identity lost to you because of calumny and the failure of justice; and I restore the good which your own foolish mistakes have cheated you of. And I bring to you the **Love of which all other loves speak**, the Love which is joy and beauty, and which you have sought in a thousand streets and for which you have wept and clawed your pillow.”

The second part of this message is a heartfelt plea for everyone to enjoy whatever our Advent and Christmas Season looks like this year, especially as you call, write or gather with your loved ones. Advent was originally a season much like Lent when Christians spent more time in spiritual formation with loved ones to be drawn closer to “Christ the Tiger” by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Giver of life. If you have more time due to cancelled events and gatherings, some of which we cherish dearly and need to miss this year, please consider some of the multitude of on online opportunities we offer at Harvard UCC. Just as Advent is a time of **waiting patiently** to celebrate the birthday of Jesus and His sure return in eternal victory, now is the time to be more diligent in **waiting patiently** for a vaccine and for life to gradually return to normal. Your loved ones would like to celebrate as many years as the Lord will bless you with, so please be safe in the days ahead! It perplexes me when some who were fairly cautious when we were in the yellow zone, now cast caution to the wind at times while we are in the red zone. God will provide a vaccine and safer days ahead on God’s time clock!

South Korea has more than 51 million people and is mourning 509 deaths due to the pandemic. South Dakota has less than 2% of the population of South Korea (900,000) yet they are mourning 819 deaths due to the pandemic. Do you think the South Koreans are paying more attention to the guidelines set by their government, health officials and others in authority who hope they will live long and joyful lives? The primary focus of our COVID response is to help those known to be most at risk from the virus: nursing home residents, the elderly and the vulnerable, and those who work with them. Please love God, your neighbors and yourself as we worship and celebrate the One True God of Israel who is the **Love of all loves; calling us to balance common sense and the precious freedom given to us.**

Shalom,

Pastor Dave

**YOUTH PAGE**

**Thank you** to the positive feedback from parents of our Pre-K through 2nd graders regarding the online lessons and packets that follow the sermon focus during worship each Sunday.

**Thanks** for your prayers for **Dylan Pair** who will be confirmed as a member of Harvard UCC on December 20 and thanks to Cory Marshall for being his mentor. We also look forward to the Youth Christmas Program on that day.

**Faith Pair** is making bracelets, Christmas ornaments, vinyl stickers and coasters and donating proceeds 50% to Harvard UCC General Fund and 50% to the Children’s Memorial Garden at the Harvard Cemetery. Check with Faith to get your shopping done early as she puts Matthew 25:14-30 into practical use! ☺



**Sundays:** **9:00 AM- confirmation and 6th-12th Grade Sunday School**

**10:00 AM** Live worship on “Harvard UCC” face book or in person

**Tuesdays:** **12:30-5:00 PM** - Quilting

**12:30 PM** FB Bible lesson (9th-12th + all welcome);

**5:15 PM** Bible study in person: all welcome.

**Fridays:** **6:00 AM** Men’s Prayer gathering; currently at the home of Ken Lockling, Jr., on porch, weather permitting. Call Pastor Dave for details.

**2nd & 4th Sat., 9:00-10:30 AM**  **People’s Project at Methodist Church**

**11/29: “Hanging of the Greens” No stone soup which will make it better in 2021**

**Tuesday, December 1 -** Pastor Dave will be engaged in online Boundary Training required by

the United Church of Christ before becoming a pastor and initially annually and then every three years. **Therefore, he will be unable to communicate between 9:30A.M.-2:30P.M.**

**Thursday, December 3 – 6:00 PM -** Grief Support Group

**Sunday, December 6 - 10:00A.M.** Lord’s Supper will be celebrated during worship.

You are invited to celebrate at home with any food and liquid while watching on face

book. Proper prayers to God & the Words of institution will be recited as always. What

matters is God’s grace, love and mercy. In person celebration happens within guidelines.

**3:00-4:00 PM** FCA Virtual Huddle (tentative)

**Friday, December 11 -** Pack Christmas Boxes at Methodist Church

**Saturday, December 12 –** **9:30 – 10:30 AM -**People’s Project Christmas Boxes distributed at Methodist

Church, - no distribution on 12/26.

**Sunday, December 13 -** **All of our members who are 80 or older** will be honored at the

beginning of 10:00A.M. worship & are encouraged to send in a picture to celebrate. We thank you for your service to Christ’s Church. For those who wisely stay home, please check it out on face book & maybe get help from a younger relative to do so!

Offering for Harvard People’s Project received. Minute for Mission

for Christmas Fund Offering on 12/20.

**11AM -Noon** sanitize, disinfect

**11:30 PM -3:30 PM** Bazaar, bake sale and Brisket Sandwich take-out at the Comm. Room by

Stewardship Committee

**Noon-6 PM** Sadd family cookie baking in church kitchen;

**6:00 PM** Worldwide Candlelight Memorial Service

**Wednesday, December 16 – 7:00 PM** - Zoom Council Meeting

**Saturday, December 19 – 10:00 AM** - Christian Education sacks gift bags, Christmas Program

practice

**Sunday December 20 – 10:00 AM** - Youth Christmas Program, Confirmation of Dylan Pair, Christmas Fund Offering received, gift bags given

**Thursday, December 24 – 9:00 PM -** Carols and Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

**Friday, December 25 – 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**  - Christmas meal to go at church from 11:30A-1:00P (Free) by

Evangelism Committee; RSVP to Terry Owens: ham, mashed potatoes, vegetable, roll; All are welcome to donate pies.

**December 27 – 10:00 AM** - Lay-led worship. Stay in tune with the rhythms of the Holy Spirit on this 3rd day of

the Christmas **SEASON** which lasts

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED** to make sure our church records are correct. I have discovered all names are not your legal name, nick names! If



CALENDAR continued

**Sunday, December 13 continued**

Offering for Harvard People’s Project received. Minute for Mission

for Christmas Fund Offering on 12/20.

**11AM -Noon** sanitize, disinfect

**Noon-6 PM** Sadd family cookie baking in kitchen

**6:00 PM** Worldwide Candlelight Memorial Service- all welcome to light a candle in memory of

a child who has died

**Wednesday, December 16 -** **7:00 PM** Zoom Council Meeting

**Saturday, December 19 - 10:00 AM** Christian Education sacks gift bags, Christmas Program practice

**Sunday, December 20** - Youth Christmas Program, Confirmation of Dylan Pair, Christmas Fund Offering received, gift bags given

**Thursday, December 24 – 9:00 PM** Carols and Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

**Friday – December 25- MERRY CHRISTMAS-11:30 AM – 1:00 PM** Christmas meal to go at church (Free) by Evangelism Committee; **RSVP to Terry Owens**: ham, mashed potatoes, vegetable, roll; All are welcome to donate pies.

**Sunday, December 27 – 10:00 AM**- Lay-led worship. Stay in tune with the rhythms of the Holy Spirit on this

3rd day of the Christmas **SEASON** which lasts through 1/5/21 to celebrate the love of God for

the universe which includes the human birth of Jesus, Son of God Incarnate.

**TBA:**  Drive-in caroling with social distance between vehicles and only

household members in each car. This will happen when the weather

permits it. Perhaps one of our awesome singers will have a mic just

outside the south doorway. This will be announced when a date is

chosen. **THANK YOU** to everyone who is being flexible to worship

and share the love of Jesus in unique ways! The Spirit is doing great

things in our midst!

**Pastor Dave** will be on vacation from 12/25/20-1/14/21 so please call Elaine or Council President Chuck Conway if you are need of a pastor.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

**JOYS**: “Let all who run to you for protection always sing joyful songs. Provide shelter for those who truly love you and let them rejoice.” –Psalm 5:11

\*Ongoing **prayers of joy and encouragement** for Kelli Green, daughter of Ronnie & Jane (Pauley) Green who recently received her Masters of Divinity at Princeton Seminary. Kelli is now completing her residency requirements to be a hospital chaplain at Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego.

**\*Shawn Spooner’s** new grandson, Riley Michael Rhodes, born 11/6 to Shawn’s daughter Krissy.

**\*Sheldon & Deb Tobler’s** niece is expecting a baby this spring!

**\*Rev. Darrell Goodwin** will be the first director of a new United Church of Christ Conference in Connecticut starting in January, 2021. Jean Haseloh sent him one of her beautiful cards on behalf of our community of faith to thank him for his service to the Nebraska Conference and the Tri-States Conference. God has given Darrell the gift of preaching as many of us found out on May 11th & 12th of last year along with many other gifts in the Spirit. Thank you for prayers for a smooth transition for him.

**\*Please pray** for all those on the “front lines” of the pandemic including the many health care workers who are members of our church and their families. Prayers for all those who have contacted Covid-19 & to those who have lost loved ones. Prayers for everyone affected by the hurricanes and wildfires.

**\*Please pray** for unity in Christ among those with whom we disagree and for worldwide peace.

Please pray that **FCA will continue to become more active in Harvard (online &/or in person) and thanks to those who continue to pray & for those on the Coaches Support Team.**

**\*Prayers & condolences to** Darrel & Ruby Adam as they mourn the passing of Darrel’s brother Dan Adam on October 28, 2020.

**\* Prayers** for Terry & Kelley Owens and family as they mourn the passing of Kelley’s cousin, Mitch Cole. **\*Prayers** for the Chuck Priessler family as they mourn his passing.

Health:

Jerry Owens Michelle Batt Harold Bartlett Adam & Kelley Keizur

Lillian Coplen Chris Van Diest (Rueben & Connie Hock’s niece) Susie Brown Mary Herbek Susan Kloke Alexis Schuck Jerry SaddBrett Kuhn family Larry Bartlett

Kaitlyn ­­­­Hoosier Carol Hamburger Diana Noack Lucille Waters Nancy Scott

Jeanette Hendrickson Heather Cowell Angelina Hibler Janet Hachtel Tresita Wilson

Sharon Greenlee Florence Alexander Tom & Dea Hamburger Laurie Hergott

Robee Bigelow Sara Marshall Cory Marshall Danny, Courtney & Hadley Buerer

Corinne Tanner Pastor Bonnie Linton-Hendrick and the grandson of Pastor Buck & Bonnie

**Military**: Families of all soldiers serving throughout the world. For the nations of the world to seek shalom and follow the Prince of Peace.

\***Kourtney Boehler** as she shares the Gospel at Bright Hope Imports in Kansas City & in Asia. Please pray that the nation that her community of faith ministers to continues to give access to foreigners to enter and be there, 2) that the covid-19 lockdown inspires people to seek God, 3) that God meets their physical and spiritual needs. \***Dr. Marjie Heier** in Zambia as she continues to serve the “least of these” at the Chifundo Rural Health Clinic in Zambia. \***Steph Mazankowski** as she helps to alleviate hunger in Zambia and other nations in Africa. \***Rob & Christina** and their three boys in Thailand: Top prayer priority: that students at CMIS (school where Rob teaches & leads 3 Bible studies during the lunch hour) will come to know the love of Christ and be challenged to walk with Him daily. Christina now works at Thai Village which makes homemade crafts and sells them to help those in need. She is also a substitute teacher at the same school where Rob works since all three of their boys are now in school. Please pray for the mental health of the family since their 2020 scheduled visit to the USA was cancelled due to Covid. **\*Harvard Rest Haven:** Gayla Disney, Shirley Brown.

**Missionaries:** Chris & Crystal Clinchard, Istanbul (Crystal is a daughter of Keith & Sue Ljunggren); Kristin Hamner, Dominican Republic: Please say special prayers for Kristin’s congregation and community in the DR as they were hit hard by Hurricane Laura. Please pray for the many others who were also hit hard.

Al & Ellen Smith, Eastern Europe; Please pray for the work of the Spirit in the twinning projects that Al & Ellen work for in matching churches in Eastern Europe with churches in the U.S.A.

**Please** keep us informed as to necessary additions or deletions to the list. Prayer chain is also available – contact Terry or Kelley Owens: 402-772-4121 or Pastor Dave: 402-705-4079. Whatever degree of confidentiality you want will be maintained.

HARVARD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

206 SOUTH ADAMS

HARVARD, NE 68944

402-772-5161 – church phone

Pastor – Dave Johnson

402-705-4079 – cell phone

Chuck Conway – president

Elaine Scheil-secretary

402-772-5441 or 402-618-0552

Facebook – Harvard UCC

Harvard UCC Youth

[harvardunitedchurchofchrist@gmail.com](mailto:harvardunitedchurchofchrist@gmail.com)

[www.harvarducc.weebly.com](http://www.harvarducc.weebly.com)

“O sing to the LORD a new song;

Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

1 – Tiffany Dowse

8 – Dennis Hachtel

Jerry Schmidt

19-Daniel Buerer

20-Trisha Burbach

21-Terry Owens

25-Shirley Doupnik

Greg Schuck

29-Troy Marshall

Samantha Porter



