



# Hampden Highland Highlights

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## UMCOR directors heard of past accomplishments and future challenges

By Linda Unger\*

February 2016

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With a "celebration of hope," the board of directors of the [United Methodist Committee on Relief \(UMCOR\)](#) and the [General Board of Global Ministries](#) marked UMCOR's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding as the relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church (UMC).

The evening included music, interpretive dance, and a festive dinner under clusters of red and gold balloons, on the opening night of the directors' spring meeting. The celebration was held April 16 at Global Ministries' current headquarters in New York City (the agency will move to Atlanta, Ga., by fall 2016).

Rev. J. Denise Honeycutt, UMCOR deputy general secretary, welcomed the directors and staff to the celebration, and Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, president of the UMCOR board, led the group in prayer.

Rev. Norma Kehrberg, UMCOR associate general secretary from 1984 to 1991, was the keynote speaker. A former missionary as well, Kehrberg was at the organization's helm when UMCOR celebrated its golden anniversary in 1990 and authored the book *Love in Action* about the first 50 years.

### Past to present

Kehrberg began her talk by invoking the words of Matthew 25:40, which, she said, "undergird the incredible [75-year journey of UMCOR](#): "Inasmuch as you have done this to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you have done this unto me."

She recalled that UMCOR was founded in 1940 as a temporary measure. It then went on to live in "denominational limbo for 32 years," she said, before becoming a permanent unit of Global Ministries. "But it was never in limbo in the hearts and minds of people called 'United Methodists,'" she added.

Kehrberg credited that close connection as a determining factor that has allowed UMCOR to respond to crises large and small for 75 years. It also has allowed UMCOR to respond to challenges around access to clean water, sustainable agriculture, disaster risk reduction, and other areas of global concern.

### Into the future, out of the comfort zone

Echoing Honeycutt's sentiments expressed in a sermon last month, Kehrberg identified three major areas where she expected UMCOR would be called to respond into the future: climate change, income inequality, and intolerance and violence.

Work in these areas may make some uneasy, Kehrberg said. Even so, she added, "UMCOR has a uniting gift in our church, and work in these areas will lead to new understandings, energies and actions in our congregations."

A musical performance and interpretive dance followed the keynote address, and then Honeycutt sealed the evening with prayer.

"We leave this place grateful for what has been, what is and what is to be," she said, "ready for new paths, new surprises, as the Spirit leads us into God's future, compelled and propelled by the love of God our Creator, sustained and transformed by the grace of Jesus the Christ."

"Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who **hope** in his steadfast love"

Psalm 33:18

"Christians are not men and women who are hoping for salvation, but those who have experienced it."

—Martyn Lloyd-Jones



## **Bible Readings for February**

### **February 7<sup>th</sup>**

Exodus 34:29-35  
2 Cor 3:12-4:2  
Luke 9:28-36

### **February 14<sup>th</sup>**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Luke 3:34

### **February 21<sup>st</sup>**

Genesis 10:32-11:9  
Luke 3:36

### **February 28<sup>th</sup>**

Genesis 6:1-22  
Luke 3:36

## **Note & Dates to Remember**

### **Soup Sunday Schedule**

February 7<sup>th</sup> - Communion Sunday

March 6<sup>th</sup> - Communion Sunday

Dear HHUMC!

Moving forward, I want your monthly Newsletter in your hands or inbox on the first of every month. I am sure you would like the same. To help me achieve this, I am attaching a list of dates for the coming months by which any contribution needs to be in my inbox. That way I have the last week of the month to have somebody proof it and prepare and mail physical copies. Thanks! – Kasandra

February 19 – for the March issue

March 25 – for the April issue

April 22 – for the May issue

If you want anything posted in the newspapers, I need at least 3 weeks' notice. Newspapers will not take anything less than 2 weeks out.



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### **Important!**

Sunday School doors need to be propped open as part of heating that area. The thermostats that are in the first two Sunday School rooms both need to be left at 70 degrees to maintain a constant temperature during the winter months so when Sunday rolls around we won't be freezing!

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### Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

Communion Stewards: Chris Henderson, Jesse Davis & Linda Mosley  
Lector: Kelly Santiago  
Acolytes: Sarah and Emma Damboise  
Greeters: Sharon Bellerose & Jessie Davis  
Ushers: Dave Bishop & Chuck McMahan  
Counters: Kathy Gallupe & Darla King  
Fellowship: SPRC (Soup Sunday)

### Sunday School-

Pre-K/Kinder: Liz & Katie  
1-4: Kaela  
5-8: Noel  
Nursery Assistant: Vickie D.

### ASH WEDNESDAY, February 10<sup>th</sup>

Lector: Leanne Bishop  
Acolytes:  
Greeters: Vicky Davis & Jeanne Stratton  
Ushers: Jim & Anne Tatgenhorst  
Counters:  
Fellowship:

### Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

Lector: Linda Mosley  
Acolytes:  
Greeters: Jim & Anne Tatgenhorst  
Ushers: Amy & Grace Clement  
Counters:  
Fellowship: Trustees

### Sunday School-

Celebrating God's Love:  
Valentine's Day Party  
  
Nursery Assistant: Linda

### Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

Lector: Anne Tatgenhorst  
Acolytes:  
Greeter: Noel & Laurie March  
Usher: Jay Willey & Darla King  
Counters:  
Fellowship: Christian Ed/Youth

### Sunday School-

Pre-K/Kinder: TBD  
1-4: TBD  
5-8: TBD  
Nursery Assistant: TBD

### Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

Lector: Pauline Kilhefner  
Acolytes:  
Greeter: Elaine Lewis & Barb Packard  
Usher: Thomas Family  
Counters:  
Fellowship: Admin Council

### Sunday School-

Pre-K/Kinder: TBD  
1-4: TBD  
5-8: TBD  
Nursery Assistant: TBD

## An Ash Wednesday Prayer

Dear righteous Lord,  
we enter the holy season of Lent  
confessing our many sins that  
separate us from you. We're  
sincerely sorry for offending you  
repeatedly through our thoughts,  
our words and our actions – and  
often through our inactions, too.

Forgive us, Lord, and show us your  
tender mercy. Restore and  
strengthen us to become your  
faithful and faith-filled servants.  
During our Lenten journey, remind  
us to show mercy to other people,  
just as you've shown mercy to us.  
In Jesus' name, amen.

## An underappreciated faith hero

Saul, who was converted from persecutor of Christians to the foremost evangelist Paul, is a tremendous role model for surrendering one's life to Jesus. But another man in that story warrants celebration, too.

Ananias, a disciple of Jesus, lived in Damascus when Saul was led there, blind from his bright-light encounter with Jesus. The Lord told Ananias to visit Saul, lay hands on him and restore his sight (see Acts 9:11-12). Not surprisingly, Ananias resisted; he knew of Saul and his violence toward Christians. Yet the disciple surrendered and obeyed.

To top it off, when Ananias arrived, he spoke the warmest of greetings: "Brother Saul ..." He didn't just call Saul by name, nor did he berate him. Despite initial misgivings, Ananias claimed this former enemy as a fellow member of God's family. What an act to follow!

## An early start to spring cleaning

Although Lent starts early this year, before spring appears in many areas, it's an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, *Lent* comes from old German and English words for "spring." So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is ideal for some *spiritual* spring cleaning.

Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. "Lent cleaning" lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith – and it's never too early for that.

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## Knowing God

God cares about how we live. And a relationship with God naturally will flow out in daily attitudes and actions. So if you look good, you are good, right? Well, maybe not.

Knowing God can lead to a positive lifestyle, but the reverse isn't true. Our outward actions alone don't prove that we enjoy an inward relationship with God. Just because we do good doesn't mean we know the One who is good.

–Craig Groeschel, *The Christian Athiest: Believing in God But Living As If He Doesn't Exist*



### For Your Information

#### Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, *February 7, 2016*
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 7, 2016*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 10, 2016*
- First Sunday in Lent, *February 14, 2016*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2016*
- Presidents Day, *February 15, 2016*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *February 21, 2016*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *February 28, 2016*

For God so loVed the world  
thAt He gave His  
onLy  
begottEn  
SoN,  
thaT whoever  
belIeves  
iN Him should not perish  
but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)



March 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

“They who love  
are but one step  
from heaven.”

–James Russell Lowell



Dear Saints,

Lent begins in February this year—Ash Wednesday is February 10, meaning that the first Sunday in Lent is the 14<sup>th</sup>. I have been reflecting on the strange confluence of Lent and Saint Valentine's Day. Lent has an increasingly peculiar character for Christians, while Valentine's Day is less and less Christian.

In the hierarchy of American values, romantic love (and in fact sexual love and expression) far outweigh the Christian virtues central to Lenten discipline (prayer, fasting, penitence, and self-control broadly defined), all embedded within the Baptismal covenant. As Valentine's Day often focuses on the former, rather than the latter, I suspect that the call to observe a Holy Lent (common across Christian churches) will not be shared by the wider culture! I think, though, this might be a good thing.

Christians need to be aware of our peculiarity in the contemporary world. It would be easy to imagine that Christianity is about making good people (in itself, not a false statement), and so the purpose of the Church is to help people be good. That's not quite it, though. The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ—to conform people into the image of Christ. That's what a disciple is—one who walks in the way of the Teacher. Jesus models for us a way of being that doesn't ignore the world, but which instead offers a corrective when the world gets out of order. Romantic love can be valuable, and can facilitate good things (stable, long lasting marriages, in fact), when properly embedded in the overall ethic of Christian discipleship. Romance alone doesn't have staying-power, but the covenantal love of Christian community can foster and strengthen bonds formed by and heightened by romantic affection. That's why Christian Marriage depends not on two people being "in love," but on embedding the love of two people within the Baptismal covenant.

Lent began, long ago, as a time to prepare for baptism, or to re-enter the covenant community. If we use the season to reflect on living baptismally—to reflect on living with the covenant of baptism as the defining characteristic of our whole lives, we can reclaim the power of the season and extend it to the whole of the year!

I want to invite you to join us for worship on Ash Wednesday, and on the Sundays throughout Lent, to take the time to reflect on the meaning of being a Disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of the Covenant Community formed by Baptism. We will be focusing on covenant stories from the Old Testament and their relationship to Jesus, and through him to us. I hope that together, we will find ways for our covenant of baptism to define our way of life and our priorities, not just in the Lenten season, but on Valentine's Day, in the months to come, and all the year through.

In Christ, with you,

**The Rev. David Nicol, Pastor of Hampden Highlands UMC**



**Please note:** Anything in *italics* takes place at *Ellingwood's Corner UMC*, 796 Lebanon Rd. in Winterport. You can call 223-2240 for more info.

## February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30 pm SPRC	Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	
7 9:00 am –Worship 9 am – Bible Study 10 am - Worship 11:30 am Worship Committee	8	9 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	10 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm  <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	11 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm  5:30 pm Bell Choir 7pm Voice Choir	12 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	13
14 9 am –Worship 9 am – Bible Study 10 am - Worship	15	16 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	17 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm  6:30 pm Finance Committee	18 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm  5:30 pm Bell Choir 7pm Voice Choir	19 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	20
21 9 am –Worship 9 am – Bible Study 10 am - Worship 11:30 am Trustees  6:30 pm Evening Worship	22	23 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	24 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	25 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	26 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	27
28 9:00 am –Worship 9 am – Bible Study 10 am - Worship	29	1	2	3	4	5

