

# The Congregator

Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ January 2012



## Happy New Year!

A new year. A new chapter in the history of Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ. The hunt for a new pastor is underway. In the meanwhile, here are....

### 5 EASY and FREE things you can do to make a BIG difference in our church:

- 1) **Attend on Sunday.** See? This really is an easy list! As simple as it seems, your presence, your voice, and your contributions really do make a difference every Sunday.
- 2) **Sit near the front of the church.** We will stay with the really easy things. Our sanctuary is made to seat a lot more people than our average attendance. When everyone is scattered around and in the back, the church looks and feels empty. Try a seat near the front and see what a difference it makes!
- 3) **Pray for our church.** You can do it anywhere, anytime. God is always ready to hear your prayers!
- 4) **Use your talents.** What do you love to do? Talk? Sing? Play? Cook? Write? No matter what it is, chances are the church could use your talents. Don't know where to even start? Contact the church council (Julie at 813-6378 or jjcouturier@yahoo.com) or call the church office at 669-1295 and they will connect you to the right person.
- 5) **Invite a friend.** Maybe you know someone who does not have a church family. Statistics show that the number one reason someone visits a church for the first time is through personal invitation. You could make a big difference in someone else's life!

### Happy Birthday!

1/1 Veronica Hall  
1/2 Leif Hoezee  
1/4 Kaleigh Overbeek  
1/4 Bill Tigelaar  
1/5 Kyle Plagen  
1/9 Jimmy Ranta  
1/10 Melanee Kahler  
1/11 Darleen Behrens  
1/12 Anita Hoezee  
1/12 Gary Simmons  
1/12 Kailie Slagter  
1/14 Boyd VanderLaan  
1/15 Mary Slotegraaf  
1/15 Delores Wheelock  
1/16 Brandon Kuiper  
1/16 Jenna Lee  
1/18 Chad Slagter  
1/18 Rocky Stilwill  
1/19 Olivia Biezunski  
1/20 Elsa Hyde  
1/20 Lucia Schuel  
1/22 Lillian Timmer  
1/25 Drew Couturier  
1/25 Amy Perrin  
1/26 David Sund  
1/29 Mark Baragar

### Happy Anniversary!

1/2 Al & Shirley  
Russell  
1/15 Tom & Janice  
DeYoung  
1/19 Paul & Sue  
Lidgard  
1/24 Bill & Darlene  
Tigelaar  
1/26 Nels & Deb  
DeVries



### A MOMENT IN CHURCH HISTORY



A task force on Organ and Music was set up in 1979. They recommended the purchase of an Allen Electronic Organ at a cost of about \$34,000. The organ was purchased in 1982 and a special inaugural concert was given by the noted Carlo Curley. A special fund was set up to help pay for the organ. The organ debt was retired in 1984.

-- Pat Hall, Church Historian



**Hey!  
Listen  
Up!**

**Important Stuff!**

*Happy Birthday to you! We want to make sure to say a special "Happy Birthday" to you each month but first we need to have your birth dates on record. If we do not post your birthday in the congregator or have the wrong birth date listed, please contact Joan in the office and let her know.*

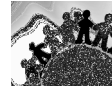
**Please Pray For:**

- Joyce Kunde*
- Shirley Russell*
- Joyce Van Dyk*
- Wes Schuel*
- Pam Jenkins*
- Patti Vruggink*



*"Prayer doesn't change things for you, but it for sure changes you for things."*

*--Samuel M. Shoemaker*



**Mission Team Thanks You!**

The Mission Team would like to thank everyone who contributed to this year's Giving Tree, which was a huge success! Due to your generous giving, we were able to assist South School in collecting gifts for several families plus we collected food for 2 food baskets for 2 families through Love, Inc. As your Mission Team, we feel proud to be able to help families right here in our community!

**Now Let's Keep Going...Fill the Box!**

The Mission Team will again be starting our Fill the Box collection in January and will be collecting baby items for the months of January, February, and March. Items collected could include: baby food (jar and cereal), formula, diapers, lotions and creams, baby oil, baby powder, baby laundry detergent, soaps, and baby wipes. Please watch for sales and coupons, and of course, check out the dollar stores! Since we will be collecting items for 3 months, half of what we collect will be taken to UCOM and the other half will go to Women in Transition, a shelter for abused women and their children in Holland.

**And How About That CWS Blankets+ Program?**

Church World Services Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity for all ages. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world, including the U.S by providing **blankets, tents, food** and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster; **tools and seeds** for refugees returning home to replant their fields; **wells** for families living in drought-prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens; **literacy training and microcredit** for women struggling to realize their potential.

**Oh, And Start Saving That Change!**

We will have a "Noisy Sunday" collection on January 29. The Mission Team has decided to use any monies collected toward Blanket Sunday. We will also offer special collection envelopes for those who wish to make a separate contribution as well. Watch the church bulletin for more information!



## HAND2HAND MINISTRY

“You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.” Psalm 145:16

The number of children receiving weekend supplemental food has had its ups and downs. We are presently providing food to 23 children. We gained a family with 3 children two weeks ago. Between our Hand2Hand program and the one at Jamestown Reformed we're able to provide supplemental meals for two children in which one attends Jamestown Elem. and the other is at South Elem. It's a blessing that we are able to partner together to help as many children as possible.

**Thank you to:** Kristy Ranta and friends--the birthday bags are great!--and to Lisa Sikkema and Bev & Barb Price for picking up backpacks on Mondays. It's a big help.

**FYI—Last Chance!** If you are considering using the state tax credit for charitable donations to food pantries time is running out. **December 31, 2011** is the last day that this option will be available. If you're not aware of it, this is how it works: you make a donation to an area food pantry and you earn a \*50% tax credit.\* Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ hand2hand Ministry has an account at Feeding America West Michigan. You can access this account on our website ([hudsonvilleucc.org](http://hudsonvilleucc.org)). Your monetary donation will go directly to our hand2hand account. Our dollars go a long way shopping at Feeding America.

*\*Michigan Public Acts 256 and 231 of 1994 reward financial contributions to Michigan food banks with a 50% State income tax credit (half your money back!). Limits: up to a \$100 credit ( for a \$200 gift ) for an individual; \$200 ( for a \$400 gift ) for a married couple filing jointly; and for businesses, 5% of the business's tax liability before claiming any other credits, or \$5,000, whichever is less.*

### Feeding America:

Sixty-one families received food at the Nov. 17 Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry. This is nearly twice as many as our food distribution held in July. Thank you again to all who helped with this event.

## KIDS HOPE NEWS



I can't say it enough so I need your help. Please help me say **Thank you** to the many people who make our Kids Hope program work, and grow, and give to our children and the community.

A smile, a handshake, and a “Thank you-job well done” from you to any of our volunteers will be greatly appreciated. Thank our mentors for their time and commitment: Karen Kaulen, Pat Hall, Julie Veldman, Melanee Kahler, Eric Thorsen, Howard Perrin, Carolyn Biezunski, Kristy Ranta, Dan Clark, Kendra Simon, and Chris Kahler. Thank our prayer partners for their love and prayers: Helen Meredith, Mary Lee Serum, Marge DeWeerd, David and Debbie Sund, Mary Lou Koons, Marsha Stoeper, Eileen Slagter, Jean Steffan, Delores Wheelock, Denise Fisher, Joan Edson, Polly Lowing, Jeannie Haynor and Marcia Lane. Thank Joan Edson and Nancy Adams for their guidance and time on the leadership team. Thank Jan Thorsen, Darleen Behrens, Steve Lyon, and Joan Edson for their invaluable help with our Christmas party. Thank yourselves for the support and prayers which keep us going. Thank our loving Father in Heaven for bringing these precious children to us to love and help. So many blessings. Thanks for helping to pass our gratitude to these deserving folks. Merry Christmas and may God continue to bless you in 2012.

--Sandy Lyon

<b>Jan 2012</b>	<b>Worship Center</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Greeters (Front/ Sanctuary)</b>	<b>Sanctuary Servers</b>
<b>1/1</b>	Julie	TBA	Baragar/Bayko	Noah/ Annajean	Koons H. Perrin	
<b>1/8</b>	Jodi	TBA	Behrens/Hamstra	Sydney/ Colin	Sund Stilwill	<b>Communion TBA</b>
<b>1/15</b>	Ruth	TBA	Edson/Hoezee	Nick/ Kailey H.	Lyon Overbeek	
<b>1/22</b>	Kristen	TBA	Carlson/Couturier	Kailey S./ Nolan	L. Sikkema Ranta	
<b>1/29</b>	Julie	TBA	Dirkse/Dykstra	Cameron/ Adam	Slotegraaf Simmons	

### Financial News




<u>Date</u>	<u>Gen'l Fund</u>	<u>Priorities</u>	<u>Missions</u>
11-06-11	\$ 4290.80	\$ 424.90	\$ 323.40
11-13-11	\$ 2813.13	\$ 245.20	\$ 225.70
11-20-11	\$ 2641.50	\$ 177.05	\$ 209.95
11-27-11	\$ 3338.70	\$ 274.90	\$ 316.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13084.13</b>	<b>\$ 1122.05</b>	<b>\$ 1075.45</b>
Housing	\$ 550.00		
Roof Repair	\$ -1424.00		
Funeral	\$ 205.80		
Rental	\$ 225.00		
Transfer	\$ 500.00		
Special Event	\$ 1156.85		
*****			
Total Month	\$ 14297.78	\$ 1122.05	\$ 1075.45
Total Year	\$ 176745.54	\$13474.05	\$ 23039.60
*****			

#### General Fund Summary Thru November 30, 2011

Budget	\$ 17085.16	YTD	\$ 210783.08
Actual Receipts	\$ 14297.78	YTD	\$ 176745.54
Actual Expenses	\$ 15985.96	YTD	\$ 187458.17
Variance	-1688.18		-10712.63

--Jack Blair, Treasurer

<b>January 2012</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
1 10a Worship/Communion Church School 4:30-5:30 HS/College Study Group 6-7:30 Middle School WUD	2	3 5:30p Wt. Watchers 7p Council	4 10a Mens' Coffee 6:30p Small Group 7:30p Choir	5 <b>WUD</b> <b>HS</b> <b>Pando</b> <b>5-10p</b>	6 Noon-6p Blood Drive <b>**Give blood, get cookies!!!</b> 	7 <b>WUD</b> <b>Middle</b> <b>School</b> <b>4-9p</b> <b>Pando</b>
8 10a Worship/Communion Church School 4:30-5:30 HS/College Study Group 6-7:30 Middle School WUD	9 7p Missions	10 5:30p Wt. Watchers 7:30p Band	11 10a Mens' Coffee 6:30p Small Group 7:30p Choir	12	13	14
15 10a Worship/ Church School 4:30-5:30 HS/College Study Group 6-7:30 Middle School WUD	16	17 5:30p Wt. Watchers	18 10:30a Mens' Coffee 6:30p Small Group 7:30p Choir	19	20	21
22 10a Worship/ Church School 4:30-5:30 HS/College Study Group 6-7:30 Middle School WUD	23	24 5:30p Wt. Watchers 7:30p Band	25 10:30a Mens' Coffee 6:30p Small Group 7:30p Choir	26	27	28
29 <b>NOISYSUNDAY!</b> 10a Worship/ Church School 4:30-5:30 HS/College Study Group 6-7:30 Middle School WUD	30	31 5:30p Wt. Watchers				

## **The Last Word... from Eric & Jan**

Dear Friends,

How can we ever thank you enough for all the amazing love and blessings with which you have gifted us this last Sunday—and indeed, these last 18 years? We cannot believe all the hard work and planning that went into your farewell dinner and gifts! We are truly overcome with emotion at what you have done for us—and what you are doing for God in this place. Thank you!

We leave you with hearts that soar with joy to have known you and worked beside you, and yet we are sad to say good-bye. What an emotional time! We take with us such wonderful memories and the certain knowledge that God is doing great things through you. We hope and pray that God will continue to prosper you and your ministries, and that many, many people will come to know our wonderful, loving Savior through you and your faith.

In Him we offer our deep blessing and thanks.

Love,

Eric and Jan

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