

The Congregator

January 2025

A Welcoming Sign

Seven years ago, our church voted to become open and affirming. At that time, a Pride flag was placed on the outside wall of the church to let those passing by know we are a safe place for all to come and worship. But the installation was done without approval by the church Council nor the Congregation. Shortly after the flag's installation, due to several different circumstances, it was taken down.

Fast forward to October 2024, when the Facilities Team asked church Council to consider installing a Progressive Pride flag. Council voiced support for the flag, but felt it should be brought before the Congregation for a vote. At the November annual congregational meeting, the Congregation echoed the Council's sentiment, unanimously approving reinstatement of the Progressive Pride flag!

Days later, the Facilities Team installed the new flag. Since then, we have had new visitors in church who said they came because they saw the Progressive Pride flag flying on the outside of the building.

Being an open and affirming church and having the flag is a visible statement that we are a safe place that is affirming of all.

— **Christina Breen, Church Moderator**
She/Her



Save the Date Congregational Meeting



If you are able, please join us at church on Sunday, Jan. 19. Immediately following worship, we will hold our quarterly informational congregational meeting to update the church on the status of our financial situation as we begin a new year.

Group Meetings

Community group meetings led by Pastor Rae are returning in the new year at a new time: 4 p.m. on Sundays. The schedule is as follows:

- Jan. 12- Queer Trans + Faith at 5 p.m.*
- Jan. 19- Healing Church Hurt
- Jan. 26- Queer Trans + Faith

(*Hour later this week only)

All meetings will take place in the church parlor.

Pub Theology.

Our next Pub Theology gathering will be on the third thirsty Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at White Flame Brewing Co., located at 5234 36th Ave. in Hudsonville. We hope to see you there!

Association Installations

Two pastors will be installed into their settled churches this month. The Grand West Association unanimously vote to affirm the Rev. Ricardo Tavaréz as an authorized minister in the United Church of Christ. He will be installed as pastor of En Vivo UCC on Sunday, Jan. 12 at 2:30 p.m.

The Rev. Brian Smilde will be installed as the new pastor of Rockford UCC on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 3 p.m. All are welcome to attend either installation.

Prayer List

Active Prayers

Our elderly and home-bound members



Continual Prayers

Alice Perrin, George Drayton, Helen Emelander, Jeanne Haynor, Al Wooton and Darleen Behrens

On the same day in December, two church members passed from this life to the next. Mary Slotegraaf was a member for 46 years and a beloved Elementary school teacher for over 20 years. Delores Wheelock was a member for 30 years who loved her church, her children, and her grandchildren. Both will be missed. Please keep both families in your prayers.

Grand West Association Church of the Month

This month, we will be praying for Wayland UCC, which started a gun safety project for the community in 2023. They hand out yard signs that say "Love Our Kids, Lock Your Guns" as a way to protect children from gaining access to weapons. Let us pray for Wayland UCC in January.

Please let the church office know either if you do/do not want to be listed here. Please keep all of these folks in your prayers.

Missions Update

Christmas Impact

Thank you to everyone for your generosity this Christmas season! Because of you, we were able to provide gifts to a single mother through Resilience, toys on Love Your Neighbors Christmas Sale wish list, cleaning supplies for Ronald McDonald House, and warm clothes for two sisters in Hudsonville through Care Portal.



Hand2Hand Pantry Needs

The number children in our Hand2Hand program has risen to 39. We need your support restocking the pantry to fill their backpacks with food. These are the items we will most need for the month of January:

- Tuna Helper
- Peanut Butter (10 and 16 oz. sizes only)
- Granola Bars
- Spaghetti O's
- Ramen Noodles
- Kid-friendly soups
- Fruit snacks



Can Drive

Here's your chance to clean out your house and help Hand2Hand! The mission team is collecting empty, depositable beverage cans in support of the program. Please drop off your cans in the white container in the commons area or by the Hand2Hand shopping cart.

Volunteer Schedule

Greeters

Jan. 12: Pat Menkveld
Jan. 19: Ann Martin
Jan. 26: Laura Baker

Lay Readers

Jan. 12: Christina Breen
Jan. 19: Christy Graff
Jan. 26: Abby LaBarge

Offering Counters

Jan. 12: Christina Breen and Laura Baker
Jan. 19: Sandy Lyon and Taliyn Merchant
Jan. 26: Christina Breen and Laura Baker

Interested in volunteering? Contact the church office at HUDSONVILLEUCC@gmail.com to sign up!

January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Pickleball 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Basketball 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	3 Mary Slotegraaf Celebration of Life Vanderlaan Funeral Home 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	4
5 Worship 10 a.m. Book Study 11:30 a.m. Dissertation Team 2 p.m. Healing Church Hurt 4 p.m.	6 Finance Team 6:30 p.m. Soccer 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m..	7 Basketball 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	8 Basketball 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	9 Pickleball 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Basketball 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	10	11 Council Strategic Plan Meeting 1 p.m. Wildroast Coffee Grandville
12 Worship 10 a.m. Council Meeting 11:30 a.m. Installation of Rev. Tavaréz at En Vivo UCC 2:30 p.m.	13 Basketball 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	14 Basketball 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Basketball 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.	15 Basketball 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	16 Pickleball 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Pub Theology 6:30 p.m. (Location TBD)	17	18
19 Worship 10 a.m. Congregation Meeting 11:15 a.m. Rockford UCC Pastor Install 3 p.m. Basketball 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.	20 Soccer 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Basketball 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	21 Basketball 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Basketball 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.	22 Basketball 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	23 Soccer 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Basketball 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	24	25
26 Worship 10 a.m. Queer + Trans Faith 4 p.m. Basketball 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.	27 Soccer 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Basketball 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	28 Basketball 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Basketball 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.	29 Basketball 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	30 Soccer 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.	31	

Birthdays

Bill Tigelaar - Jan. 4 Jenna Lee - Jan.16
 Ed Wolters - Jan. 4 Dan Huisman - Jan.18
 Leo Graff - Jan. 13 Rocky Stilwill - Jan. 18

Anniversaries

Sue & Paul Lidgard - Jan. 19
 Bill & Darlene Tigelaar - Jan. 24



Hudsonville UCC
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