



The Congregator: Reunited In-Person Edition!

Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ - June 2021



WE ARE OPEN!!! Council approved the recommendations of the QuaranTeam to re-open our building on May 23, 2021. After 14 and a half months of having our building closed to protect everyone's health, we finally opened our doors on Pentecost Sunday, the anniversary of the birth of the church, and celebrated a return. But things are not yet back to normal. We are not yet offering Nursery or Sunday School. Children are welcome in the sanctuary, but we ask that children younger than 12 wear masks for their safety until a vaccine is made available for their ages. We ask that unvaccinated adults continue to wear masks for their safety. Vaccinated adults can wear masks for comfort or they may choose not to as they prefer.

In June, we will begin to offer coffee and refreshments after worship. In the Fall, we will bring back the monthly potluck birthday dinners. We will celebrate communion on June 6, but it will not be inunction as we have done so in the past. We will continue to livestream our worship services from now on both for our local church members as well as several who live far away.

Thank you for continuing to be part of the life of our church while we were isolated from one another. We were still the church and our church is still here and stronger than ever. Thank you for your continued financial support for our mission and ministries. We are open and we are affirming!! Thanks be to God!

SABBATICAL 2021: The time is finally here. I have been planning for over a year my sabbatical, approved with my call agreement, for three months of study and rest away from my normal pastoral responsibilities. As many of you know, I plan to study race in its historical context in America. I will leave on June 14 and return to the office on September 15.

Here's one of the hard parts. **Please do not contact me** from the simplest of questions to the most urgent of pastoral needs. In order for me to rest and replenish, the purpose of this time is for me to temporarily step away from my role as pastor. So I'm going to ask you not to check in, not to call asking for a church member's phone number, or any reason. I love you all and so that makes this a hard request. All of these questions will be fielded by the church office or the Church Council.

Michael Boro will be tending to the day to day matters at the church office. I have secured several local UCC pastors to preach while I am away. Please come to church or watch online to hear their important messages to us. Pastor Jeff will preach once per month and he will be leading two classes over the summer. I hope you will choose to attend his classes. Emergency pastoral care--say for hospital visits or deaths in the church--will be handled by local UCC clergy including the Rev. Sal Sapienza from Douglas UCC, the Rev. Jon Reidel from Newaygo UCC, and the Rev. Bryan Berghoef from Holland UCC. I secured grant money from the Michigan Conference of the UCC to pay for all of the pulpit supply preaching and to go towards other unforeseen costs while I am away.

Please continue to attend worship either in person or online and continue your financial support as best you are able over the summer months.

Here's who will be preaching this summer: Pastor Jeff will lead worship June 20. The Rev. Ricardo Tavarez who is in the process of becoming UCC and who leads a new church called En Vivo in Grand Rapids will be preaching here June 27, July 4, and July 11. Pastor Jeff will lead worship July 18. The Rev. Andy DeBraber will preach on July 25. Andy is the former Pastor at Douglas UCC. He also formerly worked with Heartside Ministries in Grand Rapids. He now works for the UCC national office. The Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle from Park Church in Grand Rapids will preach here on August 1. Pastor Jeff will preach on August 8 and August 22. The Rev. Dr. Bruce Roller from UCOM, a UCC affiliated mission in Grand Rapids, will preach here on August 15 and 29. The Rev. Ruth Fitzgerald, who is our Area Conference Minister for the Michigan Conference, will preach here on September 5. Pastor Jeff will preach on September 12. I will return on September 15 and I will return to the pulpit on September 19.

I cannot thank you enough for granting me this time away. I very much look forward to the opportunity to rest as well as to study and then to come back in the fall ready to serve and to continue our walk in faith together, boldly, with love and affirmation for all.

—Pastor Dan

RAISE THE ROOF! Three months into our Raise the Roof campaign to replace the 50+ year old sanctuary roof, we are pleased to announce that we have raised over \$53,000 towards our goal of \$55,000!! Thanks to our generous church family who is matching every dollar donated, we now just need less than \$1,800 more to complete our fundraising campaign. To all who have already made your donation, thank you! If you have not yet made a donation, please consider a gift that feels good to you for this important next step in the life of our sanctuary, so that we may continue to provide a safe place but also a sacred place of praise and affirmation for generations to come. You may mail your check to the church or give online at give.hudsonvilleucc.org, or you may go to our website: www.hudsonvilleucc.org and give on PayPal by clicking on the donate button. Together, we will raise the roof!

Work is scheduled to begin on the main part of the roof the first week in June. The flat parts of the roof are scheduled to begin towards the end of June. And the vertical sides will be completed last. Thanks to your generosity, our sanctuary will soon be ready to witness decades more of our bold witness of unconditional love.

NEW MEMBER CLASS: We are offering a new member class on Sunday, June 6 after worship. Five people have signed up for the class so far. If you would like to learn more about our church and/or join our bold ministry, please call the church office at 669-1295 or email Pastor Dan at: hudsonvilleuccpastor@yahoo.com to reserve a spot.

Grand West Association Church of the Month: Of our 27 UCC churches and agencies in our Grand West Association, this month we will pray for East Congregational UCC in Grand Rapids. East recently called a new minister. Let us remember their mission and ministry in our prayers for June.

New Discussion Group: Bible and Coffee: Is the Bible a rulebook, a guide to life, or something else entirely? Beginning on June 6th join Pastor Jeff after worship in the parlor for a new discussion series entitled Bible and Coffee. This group will discuss topics related to the scripture passage of the day as well as various Bible topics. While no reading is required, we will be looking at a few sources including *What is the Bible?* by Rob Bell and *How the Bible Actually Works* by Peter Enns. Feel free to bring any questions you may have about the Bible. For more information or questions, please contact Pastor Jeff. This group is open to everyone and all are welcome!

Summer Study Series: Overlooked Books of the Bible: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” This summer, join Pastor Jeff on Wednesday evenings in the church parlor as we read and study together overlooked books of the Bible. Our first book will be Ecclesiastes. We will look at the author’s pursuit to find the meaning of life in this overlooked “Wisdom” book found in the Old Testament. Many of the questions the author wrestles with have direct implications for us living in a postmodern society of the 21st century. Please contact Pastor Jeff with any questions. This study is open to everyone—Wednesday nights 7 pm. A sign up sheet will be available soon.

(P.S. About that Coffee with your Bible...Thanks to the wonderful Thompsons and Dykstras, Coffee Hour will be back beginning June 6 with a few changes such as styrofoam cups for coffee and juice boxes for the kids. YAY!!!!)



Craft Show 2021 is a go! Vendors have been notified and most who had signed up last year have signed up again for this year. It will still be a socially distant event, but we are moving forward with our plans including food trucks. We will again have our church sales area, formerly named Grandma’s Attic., selling donated clothing, toys, furniture and whatever else you would like to donate that is in good condition. Start setting these gems and household future treasures aside so that you can bring it to the church as soon as we open the building to be sold and raise money for our building fund. All proceeds from the craft show go to our building fund. See you in September!

MISSION NEWS: Feeding America will be held on June 24th. We will need many volunteers from 5:30-8 to help set up, distribute and clean up. Sign up at the Welcome desk or call the church.

Mission team is also looking for someone to become our Safe Serve representative for the kitchen in 2022. This person would need to be certified and help make sure the kitchen is maintaining safety standards when we or outside organizations use it. If you're interested or would like more information you can contact Sue Dykstra or Janet Overbeek.

The Red Cross will be hosting 3 different blood drives at the church this year. We are looking for someone to be the contact person for the church. Opening / closing the building and such. Please contact Janet Overbeek with interest or questions.

HAND2HAND: As the school year ends and we are closing down the pantry for the summer, I want to take one last time to thank all of you for the support you have shown to our Hand2Hand mission at South Elementary School. Your food and monetary donations have kept us going through an unusual and sometimes difficult year. I would also like to recognize and thank the people who have played a huge part in this year's program. A big THANK YOU to the teachers and staff at South who took over the task of getting the food bags to their students, as we could not go into the school.



Another big THANKS to Pat Vieau who kept the pantry supplied with the food we needed. From the planning of menus, to the shopping, picking up, and sorting of the food, to the packing of the bags, she always had the food ready and waiting to be delivered - and with such enthusiasm! She was my right hand partner. THANKS also to my husband, Steve, who supplied the "muscle" and transportation for getting the food to the school every delivery - even when I couldn't be there. We are hoping for a more normal school year next fall, so we can give more of you the opportunity to participate in H2H. It's comforting to know we have a congregation who is there to support this mission through prayers, donations, and volunteers, no matter what the fall will bring. Have a wonderful, safe summer.

--Sandy Lyon and Your Mission Board

A Report from Your Treasurer: Can you believe we have made it all the way to June? As we begin to return to normal and look forward to traveling, please keep in mind that the expenses at church are not dependent on your attendance, but giving often is! Over the last 14 months we have found many ways to continue giving even though we have not been together. Thank you so much for your continued generosity, ensuring that our ministries can continue. The month of June is the end of the second quarter, which means we have a principle payment in addition to our monthly interest payment. This means we need to bring in \$20,000 to cover this cost. I know that many of us have had to dig deep to make extra gifts towards the roof replacement. These gifts have exceeded our expectations. Thank you so much for your willingness to share these with the church. As this project begins you will get to see directly how your gifts are changing our building on a weekly basis. As this happens, realize that your gifts made that work possible. Though not as visible, your continued support of our ongoing campaign to pay down the mortgage is vital to our ministry in Hudsonville. Thank you for all you do to support our work!

--David Bendert, Treasurer



Please Pray

Active Prayers: Judd Newenhouse, Kendra Simon, and all affected by the coronavirus.

Continual Prayers: Betty Baareman, George Drayton, Joan Edson, Paul Kunde, Delores Wheelock

Please let the church office know either if you would not like to be listed here or if you would like to be listed here and are not. Please keep all of these folks in your prayers.

Happy Birthday!	Happy Birthday!	Happy Anniversary!
6/4 Paul Lidgard	6/21 Ginnie Bendert	6/1 Eric & Jan Thorsen
6/8 Sue Dykstra	6/21 Tom Sikkema	6/1 Ed & Cindy Wolters
6/8 Wanda Giem	6/25 Kathy Simmons	6/6 Christian & Jordyn Hennells
6/10 John Couturier	6/28 Ben Wolters	6/15 Chris & Betty Sikkema
6/11 Mark Perrin	6/29 Ben Borrego	6/17 David & Ali Bendert
6/12 Hunter Dirkse	6/30 Adam Lee	6/20 Al & Jean Wooton
6/13 Belinda Coronado		6/24 Dan & Katrina Furman
6/14 Isabel Borrego		6/26 Roger & Darleen Behrens
6/17 Ann Martin		6/26 Donovan & Denise Wass
6/19 Pat Vieau		6/29 Dan & Laura Koriemek
		6/30 Terry & Eileen Slagter

June CALENDAR: The More Long-ish Form

June 1 - Mission Team 6:30, Basketball 7:30-9pm

June 2 - Basketball 6:30-8pm

June 6 - Worship 10am, Coffee Hour resumes, Bible & Coffee, **New Member class 11:30**, Basketball 4-5:30 and 6:30-8pm

June 7 - Ottawa Area Center For Pride 7pm

June 8 - Basketball 7:30 - 9pm

June 9 - Summer Studies Series 7 pm, Basketball 7:30-9pm

June 13 - Worship 10am, Bible & Coffee, Council 11:15am, Basketball 4-5:30 and 6:30-8pm

June 16 - Summer Studies Series 7 pm

June 20 - Worship 10am, Bible & Coffee, Basketball 4-5:30 and 6:30-8pm

June 23 - Summer Studies Series 7 pm

June 24 - **Feeding America (sign up to volunteer)**

June 25 - Happy Birthday to the UCC - 64 years old!

June 27 - Worship 10am, Bible & Coffee

- *You can view all previous services online at facebook.com/hudsonvilleucc/live.*
- *You can also find services and Sunday School lessons at <https://www.hudsonvilleucc.org>*



We're Back! We're Back! Now What?

Boy, have we got ideas for you! For starters, people willing to run sound and video are in great demand. Fear not! The tech is not hard to learn (said the girl who can barely manage a cell phone but deals with power point most Sundays). Reserved seat in the back pew just for you! Contact Aron Duby or Ruth Lee. You will be our favorite!

OR....you could teach Sunday School! Hang out with all the cool small folk and a teaching partner one Sunday a month. Lesson book provided. Contact the office if interested. You will also be our favorite!

OR....you could help keep us all clean and well-fed! We are in need of a few specific items for our coffee hour, as well as cleaning supplies. Needed items include 100% juice boxes, toilet paper, toilet bowl cleaner, and Clorox wipes. Please consider donating these items if you are able.

Congratulations Graduates!

*High School: Drew Couturier
Peyton Perrin
Raina Sikkema*



College: Nate Couturier

P.S. If anyone was missed, please holler and further cheers for you will go up in the next newsletter, along with my humble apologies.

BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. **Reject Racism.**
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*





2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

CHURCH CONTACT

Phone 616-669-1295 The Rev. Dan Furman and the Rev. Jeff Vedders

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