



The Congregator: Unto Us a Child Is Born!

Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ - December 2022



From the Pastor's Desk:

New Directory! The church office is continuing to work on our new directory. If you have not yet had your picture taken and would like to, please let the church office know. If you have a picture that you would like the church to use, please make a copy and get that to the office. Thanks!

New Members and New Member Class In November, we welcomed five new members to the church: **Nico Spoelman, Brad and Laura Elders, and John and Traci Parker**. Since they joined, four more people have expressed interest in joining so our next New Member class will be on Sunday, December 18.

Poinsettias 'Tis the season to order poinsettia plants for our Christmas Eve worship service. Each plant is \$20. You may order from the following options: red, white, pink, or marble. You may also order in honor or in memory of loved ones. You may sign up for flowers at the welcome desk or you may contact the church office to sign up. Please have your orders in by December 11.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Christmas Eve worship will be at 7pm. We hope you will be able to join us for this wondrous celebration. We will offer the service via livestream as well if you are unable to attend. As Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year and as most families will be celebrating Christmas at home and as we do not want to require staff to give up celebrations with their families, Council has decided to not have in-person worship on Sunday, December 25. We will offer an online worship service that will be available via our Facebook page and website.

Christmas Decorations You are invited to help decorate the church after worship on Sunday, December 4. You may bring in a tree from home if you like and/or you may help set up traditional decorations. We look forward to your help!



Please Pray

Active Prayers: Al Wooton and Vic Coveny

Continual Prayers: Gloria Byle, George Drayton, Joan Edson, Helen Emelander, Paul Kunde, Delores Wheelock

Monthly Prayer Emphasis: Of our 26 UCC churches and agencies in our Grand West Association, this month we will pray for UCOM, United Church Outreach Ministries. Formed in 1985, UCOM is a food pantry, but also offers tutoring, clothing, work skills training, and financial planning education. Let us remember their mission and ministry in our prayers for December.

(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.)

WE'RE ON A MISSION!

Save the Date! Our next Feeding America will be **December 1** from 5-7 pm. Volunteers are oh! so welcome!

Pop Those Tabs!! We're collecting can tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. The money they earn from the tabs goes to buy new medical supplies and other needed items. Onesies and other infant -type gear is also being collected. You'll find the collection box in the Narthex right next to the Nestlings Diaper Display. And speaking of diapers...

No End of Change... Our Mission Team continues to partner with Nestlings to collect diapers of all sizes as well as wipes and any other important things baby backsides may need. Gift cards always welcome. Donations can be placed next to the Nestling Diaper Display in the narthex, or in the blue bucket by the church's back door. Many tiny bottoms thank you! 🧐👶

Expanding the Family We have partnered with Resilience and adopted a mother and her infant for Christmas. Watch for a list of items we can provide them—coming soon!

Hand2Hand: Can't say it enough--THANK YOU for all your warm hats and mittens/gloves donated for our children at South. We were able to deliver them to the children just in time for the first snowfall. Everyone received a hat and mittens or gloves, with extras to leave in the school office to use as needed. We even have a few left to start our collection for next school year. On Monday our Thanksgiving foods were delivered. Each child received a gift certificate toward a turkey (or other preferred meat) along with traditional side dishes. Your generosity has blessed many families in our community. For December our special request food items are Knorr chicken noodle packets, Mac and cheese, and Spaghetti O's with meat (smaller cans). We also appreciate donations of any and all of our basic pantry items - especially if you find a good sale. May you have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving! *--Your H2H volunteers and Mission Board*

Notes from Your Treasurer: Thank you again for everyone who helped with **Santa Paws** and the accompanying bake sale - we raised a total of \$371! Can't wait until next year!

Direct Your Dollars Campaign - as of 11/20/22 we have collected a total of \$90,436 in Direct Your Dollars qualifying receipts from Family Fare/Spartan Nash. We have just under \$60k left to gather to complete the campaign! Just a reminder - please turn in the entire receipt as this is a requirement for the campaign. You can place receipts in the designated bag on the welcome center or give them to Lisa Merchant. Thank you!

We have 20 Estimate of Giving cards returned with a total of \$99,000 pledged for the coming year. Thank you to those who have already turned them in. If you need a card, please contact the church office.

Take care and thank you for helping make HUCC an open and welcoming beacon in the community.

--Lisa "Taliyn" Merchant, Treasurer

P.S. Hey everyone! We have HUCC swag! AND – the sale of it doubles as a fundraiser! The link below has various apparel and other items featuring the HUCC logo. With each order, Spring produces and ships the items directly to you – and the profit goes to HUCC! How cool is that!

<https://blacksheepbrainchild.creator-spring.com/>

Happy Birthday!	Happy Birthday!	Happy Anniversary!
12/5 Kristen Lee	12/12 Melissa Huisman	12/21 Jim & Pat Thompson
12/6 Pam Jenkins	12/13 Ali Bendert	12/26 Tom & Lisa Sikkema
12/10 Alice Perrin		12/30 Paul & Mary Slotegraaf



Kid Stuff!



Elf Workshop

**Calling all Elves! Meet after worship Sunday 12/4 to make gifts!
Crafts for children of All Ages!**

Christmas Pageant - Featuring YOU!

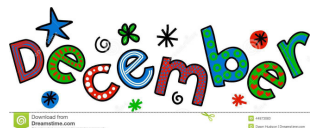
And speaking of Christmas, we are beginning to work on the annual Christmas Pageant! This year we are doing something a little different. The program is called "*Our Family Memories of Christmas*" and we want to hear **your** story! The play will include narration where our congregation's stories will be shared.

A few examples include:

- How Christmas was different when you were a child
- Your most memorable Christmas
- Favorite traditions

Join us 12/18 to enjoy this intergenerational sharing of Christmas joy!

And....Please join the list of On Call Nursery Volunteers - not only do you get to play with all the cool kids, but you just might get to snuggle new babies! Contact Katrina Furman or the office if interested.



Calendar

December 1 - Feeding America 6-7pm
December 2 - Ottawa Area Center For Pride event 6-8pm, Basketball 5:30-7:30pm
December 3 - Mission Team 11am
December 4 - Worship 10am, Elf Workshop, Christmas Decorations, Open and Affirming mtg 11:30am
December 5 - Finance Team 6pm
December 6 - Soccer 6-9pm, Ottawa Area Center For Pride mtg 7pm
December 8 - Soccer 6-9pm
December 9 - Basketball 5:30-7:30pm
December 11 - Worship 10am, Council 11:15
December 13 - Soccer 6-9pm
December 15 - Soccer 6-9pm
December 16 - Basketball 5:30-7:30
December 18 - Worship 10am Christmas Pageant, New Member class 11:15am
December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship 7pm
December 25 - No in-person worship. Merry Christmas!
****ALSO!!! Pickleball Mon-Fri. 9a-12, Sat. 8-12, M/W 6-9p. SO. MUCH. PICKLEBALL!**



Lucy: Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown! At this time of year I think we should put aside all our differences, and try to be kind.

Charlie Brown: Why does it have to be for just this time of year? Why can't it be all year 'round?

Lucy: What are you, some kind of fanatic or something?

~Charles M. Schulz, *Peanuts*, 1965

Moments in Church History – 1911-1920



In 1912, a decision was made to employ a resident pastor. The Home Mission Society continued to support the church throughout this period. In this year, a proposal was made by eleven members of the congregation that the church become a Reformed Church. When the congregation voted to remain Congregational, these members asked for letters of dismissal and began the Reformed Church of Hudsonville.

In 1919, the Grange Hall was given to the church by the Young Fellows. It was structurally connected to the church. School plays and bond drives were held there to raise money.

During the days when there was no limit on the number of deer killed, Mr. Tom Hughes gave his extra deer to the church. Venison suppers were held as a way to make money. Other money-making projects included ox-tail soup suppers, suppers for celery buyers, and pieced quilt sales.

CHURCH CONTACT

Phone 616-669-1295 The Rev. Dan Furman

Web Site: hudsonvilleucc.org E-Mail hudsonvilleucc@gmail.com

Like our Facebook page for updates -- Follow us on Instagram @ hudsonville_ucc

- *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>*
- *Church office hours: Mondays from 11am-3pm, Tuesdays from 4-7pm, and Fridays from 2:30-5pm.*

Hudsonville UCC
4950 32nd Ave.
Hudsonville, MI 49426



Online Giving
Scan the QR code to
connect with our online
giving platform.

