

# Welcome to Worship

# Welcome to Worship

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP....."In The Hands of God"

## WELCOME AND SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.

**All: We will prepare the way for the One who is coming.**

Pastor: God will gather us in gentle, loving arms.

**All: We are surrounded y God’s steadfast love.**

Pastor: The day of God is coming; lift up your voices.

**All: Let us make a joyful noise unto our God!**

OPENING SONG....."Thrive"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE.....The Parker Family

OUR CHILDREN'S MOMENT.....Pastor Dan(he/him)

### PASSING THE PEACE

### UNISON PRAYER

**Gracious God, your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted and mountainous problems are leveled. In your presence, we see more than our immediate situation. Come to us, Emmanuel, and speak your word of peace. Feed us with your truth and prepare us to welcome the Christ child. Amen.**

REFLECTION SONG....."The Waiting is the Hardest Part"

SCRIPTURE READING.....Matthew 1:18-25  
Russ Broderick (he/him)

SERMON....."Are You Sure?"  
Pastor Dan Furman (he/him)

PRAYER SONG....."Show Me Your Ways"

PASTORAL PRAYER.....The Lord’s Prayer  
(words on screen)

THE OFFERTORY....."Better Days"

### DOXOLOGY

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

CLOSING SONG....."Lord I Lift Your Name on High"

### BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE....."In The Hands of God"

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THANK YOU!

Our musicians this morning are: Ali Bendert, Ken Haynes, Jim Thompson, Paul DeYoung, and Jon Larsen.

### THIS SUNDAY

Council is meeting today after worship in the parlor. Feel free to drop by.

Thank you for wearing fun Christmas sweaters this morning. May our joy overflow into the community this season!

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Next Sunday is our children's Christmas pageant. Come support our young families as we continue to prepare for Christmas.

### POINSETTIA ORDERS

It's time to order poinsettias. Christmas is around the corner. You may purchase red, white, pink, or Jingle Bells (which are red with white flecks on the leaves) in honor or in memory of loved ones. Each plant is \$20. You may sign up in the fellowship hall or contact the church office to reserve plants by December 17.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will have a morning worship service at 10am and a traditional Christmas Eve service at 7pm.

### HAND2HAND

We will be helping Jamestown to prepare special Christmas food bags for our H2H kids. Our part is to provide snack packs. Can you get this information in the bulletin, Friday news, and pulpit this week so the congregation can help us get these items ready in time. We need popcorn microwave packets, gummy fruit snack packets, and packages of peanut butter crackers ASAP.

“

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” - Eleanor Roosevelt

”

## Open & Affirming Statement

Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming church. We celebrate our human family's diversity of race, age, cultural background, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, family structure, education, faith history, economic status, marital status, spiritual journey, and life circumstances. Aided by this God-given gift of diversity, we strive to reflect God's unconditional love to all creation, and we affirm that all people are created in God's image. We welcome the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ. We believe that God is still speaking and as Jesus prayed, one day we will all be one.

We recognize that the universal church has at times rejected difference and denied God's promises for itself and others. We believe we can love alike, even though we may not think alike. So, we boldly proclaim, "Welcome, ALL who seek God's life-giving grace. Come as you are, so together, we will make a world of difference.



**Hudsonville**  
United Church of Christ  
*Open & Affirming*

**December 10, 2023**

### PRAYERS

Remember our elderly and home bound.  
Craig Roh, Al Wooton, and Joy Like A River UCC.



4950 32nd Ave., Hudsonville, MI 49426

[www.hudsonvilleucc.org](http://www.hudsonvilleucc.org) | (616) 669-1295 | [hudsonvilleucc@gmail.com](mailto:hudsonvilleucc@gmail.com)

LIKE us on Facebook and Instagram | Open & Affirming

**Rev. Daniel Furman, Senior Pastor (he, him)**

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!***