

The Congregator



From the Pastor's Desk

Sustain God's House Campaign

In March, three new HVAC units were installed at the church. Two had stopped working over the Gym and the sanctuary one also stopped working. Our insurance covered one of the units over the Gym saving us \$15,000. The total amount needed to pay for the other two units is \$54,750. We are also looking to replace the two projectors in the sanctuary as well as improve our water management in the basement. The total needed for the projectors is \$11,409 and the total for the basement is \$33,152.

The total for all three projects is \$99,311. To date we have raised \$12,280 with \$6,200 more pledged. Council is requesting our congregation give as they are able to continue to make our building, God's House, hospitable and welcoming for everyone who comes here for worship, for entertainment, and for resources. Just as home ownership means unexpected maintenance costs from time to time, owning a church building has the same experiences. The "new addition" to the original church building, is now 15 years old and is in need of our care to ensure

the building will continue to be a place of welcome and affirmation for the decades to come. Please prayerfully discern what you can give to these projects in addition to your normal giving for the mission and ministry of Hudsonville United Church of Christ. Thank you!

Holy Week Worship

We will celebrate Palm Sunday on April 2. Let us gather to wave palm branches and celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Though we know this celebration will be short-lived culminating in Jesus' crucifixion, we will gather one week later on Easter Sunday to celebrate once again. Easter Sunday will begin with breakfast as well as an Easter egg hunt for our children at 9am. Our friends from En Vivo UCC will join us for a combined Easter worship service starting at 10am. Join us for these holy worship services.



Hey kids! Join the Christian Ed team after worship on April 9 for the annual HUCC Easter Egg Hunt! Location to be determined- outside if the weather cooperates, inside if it doesn't.

Prayer List

Active Prayers

Alice Perrin & Al Wooton

Continual Prayers

Gloria Byle, Joan Edson, George Drayton, Helen Emelander, Paul Kunde, & Delores Wheelock.

Church of the Month

Of our 26 UCC churches and agencies in our Grand West Association, this month we will pray for Belding UCC. Let us remember their mission and ministry in our prayers for April.

*Please let the church office know either if you would like to be added or removed from this section. Please keep all of these folks in your prayers.





Update on Pastor Dan's Doctoral Work

At the March Council meeting, Pastor Dan shared with the Council that he has found it hard to balance full-time ministry, his family life, and work on his doctorate. He informed Council that he needed to slow down his work and that he will not graduate with his class this year as planned. This led to a discussion about what could be done to support Pastor Dan in his doctoral work. The decision was to grant Pastor Dan one Sunday from preaching each month and to reduce his attendance at meetings to allow him more time to research and write his 120+ page dissertation. Pastor Dan will continue to lead the other parts of worship on Sunday's when he is not preaching. Prayers for Pastor Dan as he continues this work are welcomed.

Michigan Conference Minister to Preach at HUCC

The Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel will preach at our church on Sunday, April 30. She is the first female Conference Minister in Michigan. Pastor Dan will join in leading worship that Sunday. It will be wonderful to hear her message that day! She serves as Pastor to all the UCC pastors in Michigan. She also helps guide all 150 UCC churches in Michigan forward post-COVID to where God is leading us next.

Christian Ed Updates

There will be no Sunday School on Palm and Easter Sundays, but the nursery will be available for children under 5.

Mark your calendars for Children's Sunday when our youngest congregants will lead worship! This event will take place on May 21.

Pastor Dan's Work Anniversary

April 1 marks nine years since Pastor Dan started with us in 2014! Since then, our church has grown in many ways. We are now Open and Affirming. We have a new roof on the sanctuary, a new digital sign, three new HVAC units, and better lighting inside and outside the church. We have gained scores of new families. Two nonprofits are located here: Inclusive Ottawa County and Ottawa Area Center For Pride. A counselor and a baker both call our building home for their work. We went through an incredibly difficult pandemic where we had to adapt to major changes in society. And we have paid down our debt on the building by more than a half million dollars! Through it all, God has guided us through these changes and will lead us forward as we continue to grow. God is good! All the time!

Volunteer Schedule

Offering Counters

April 2 – Russ Broderick & Lisa Merchant
 April 9 – David Bendert & Katrina Furman
 April 16 – Ruth Broderick & John Parker
 April 23 – Christina Breen & Sandy Lyon
 April 30 – David Bendert & Lisa Merchant

Lay Readers

April 2 – Palm/Passion Sunday
 April 9 – Christina Breen
 April 16 – Ali Bendert
 April 23 – Traci Parker
 April 30 – Jenna Lee

Sunday School Teachers

April 2 – No Sunday School
 April 9 – No Sunday School (Easter)
 April 16 – Katrina Furman & Christy Graff
 April 23 – Amanda Haveman & Traci Parker
 April 30 – Katrina Furman & Christy Graff

Nursery Aides

April 2 – Christy Graff
 April 9 – Traci Parker
 April 16 – OPEN
 April 23 – Katrina Furman
 April 30 – Amanda Haveman

We're in need of a third Sunday nursery volunteer. Please email Katrina If you are able to help: hurricanekatrina31@gmail.com

A Moment In Church History

Church building improvements were approved in 1952 at a cost of about \$6,500. The sanctuary was enlarged and included a recessed choir loft. Two extra classrooms were added for Sunday School. Some of the money for the improvements was borrowed from the bank at a rate of 5%. The Michigan Conference loaned the church \$1,000 at no interest for new pews. The church was given five years to repay the loan. Twenty-two red oak pews were ordered and stained a light color. The seating capacity was 132 people. The old pews, which had been saved from the 1937 fire, were sold for \$5 each and placed in one of the missionary churches in the state.



Birthdays

Nancy Szymko - 4/6
Chris Kahler - 4/7
Dan Korienek - 4/7
Laura Korienek - 4/13
Roger Behrens - 4/15
Taylor Boro - 4/17
George Drayton - 4/17
Helen Emelander - 4/20
Janet Overbeek - 4/21

Sam Elders - 4/23
Tony Baker - 4/25
Steve Lyon - 4/25
Ann Winkle - 4/28

Anniversaries

Ron and Carol Sovereign - 4/2/71
Paul DeYoung and Pat Menkveld - 4/10/04
Mark and Amy Perrin - 4/24

Missions Update

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped at the last Feeding America. We were able to feed 101 people and 44 kids. Thank you to everyone who has and continues to donate items for the Ronald McDonald House and the busy baskets for Alward Elementary.

Easter Brunch

Come for brunch on Easter Sunday! Lots of delicious egg dishes and goodies. Come hungry!

Hand 2 Hand

As school is winding down (yes, it's that time already) we are starting to prepare our H2H pantry for the summer months. That means using up our supplies of food that might expire over the summer. We still need 11 cake mixes and 16 cans of frosting for our birthday bags and peanut butter if you would still like to make any donations in April. NO MORE CANDLES, PLEASE. We have a 2-3 year supply thanks to a very generous donor. Thank you all for your prayers for our children and families and your support of our program.

Rootbeer Theology and Dr. King

Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that. -Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

There is true evil in this world, true darkness, true hate. I was reminded of that as our son Aaron played Schindler's List for us again. It was almost too much to watch. I think one of the most difficult acts of faith is to believe that love is more powerful than hate: that love is powerful even in the presence of hate.

Dr. King spoke about human problems. He understood human hate, that we all have human hate. But he believed that we can meet human hate with godly love. He believed love is the only way to fight evil. Love born out of sacrifice isn't idealistic. It isn't soft. It isn't easy. It doesn't acquiesce. Sacrificial love can truly require laying down one's life for our enemy with no guarantee of success.

Many of us carry open wounds. We ache for each other. We are witnesses and recipients of oppression and violence and injustice. How can we stand for righteousness and still retain our kindness? Can we be healed to the point where we desire the best for our adversaries? Is it possible to hope for Easter in a world that seems full of Good Fridays?

Check out Psalm 85. Here's just an excerpt: "10 Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. 11 Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. 12 The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. 13 Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps." May we find the hope of Easter in the place where righteousness and peace kiss!

We have a great opportunity to soak in Dr. King's words during our spring ROOT BEER THEOLOGY. Come and have a root beer and discuss with us! All are welcome! Each session is individual, so come to one or come to all. The Sunday sessions will be videos, and the midweek sessions will be from text from the collection A Gift of Love. See the schedule below.

3/26 Video - "Love your Enemies"

Midweek: 3/28 at 6:30 - "Love in Action" (Text)

4/16 Video - "But if Not"

Midweek: 4/25 at 6:30 "Good Neighbor" (Text)

4/30 Video - "Drum Major Instinct"

Midweek: 5/9 "Our God is Able" (Text)

5/21 Video - Dr. King's Last Sermon

For more information, contact Traci Parker after church or by email (parker.traci.l@gmail.com).

April Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
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2 PALM SUNDAY Worship 10am	3 Finance Team Meeting 6pm	4	5	6	7	8
9 EASTER Breakfast and Egg Hunt 9am Worship 10am	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Worship 10am	17 Missions Team Meeting 6pm	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship 10am	24	25 Birthday Dinner 6pm Summergreen Condo Assoc Meeting 7-9pm	26	27	28 	29
30 Worship 10am						

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