



# The Congregator: St. Valentine's Edition !

## Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ - January 2023



### 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. We are hoping to print the new directory at the end of January or beginning of February. If you would like a directory please contact the church office or fill out a slip of paper on the welcome desk. We are asking for a donation of \$5 for the cost of the printing. If you have a picture that you would like the church to use, please make a copy and get that to the office. Thanks!

**Ash Wednesday** Join us for the beginning of the Lenten journey towards Easter and our penitential evening worship service of Ash Wednesday, on February 22. We will gather at 7pm.

**Wish List:** At the January Council meeting, the Council approved suggestions from the Finance Team for a prioritized list of items that need to be repaired or replaced with the facility of the church for 2023. While there is a list of several other items, the top three on which Council would like to focus are: the sanctuary HVAC and Gym HVAC systems, new projectors in the sanctuary, and renovating the basement bathrooms. Council is receiving bids now for these projects and will make decisions at the February Council meeting on February 12. If you would like to contribute towards one or more of these projects, simply mark your check or giving envelope for the project(s) you would like to help fund. Once the bids are approved, Council will inform the congregation of the total amount needed for funding.

**Thanks, Park Church!** During the autumn months, our church entered into conversation with Park Church UCC in Grand Rapids to see if they could give us a financial boost. Many conversations were conducted over a series of months culminating in the following. In December, Park Church gave Hudsonville UCC a check for \$6,000 to help us catch up on bills. This was greatly appreciated and we did just that, catch up on most of our bills. Park also designated Hudsonville UCC as one of two beneficiaries for their month-long Christmas mission offering. In January, Park gave our church another check, this one from their Christmas offering to the tune of just under \$5,000. And lastly, Park is so impressed with our Open and Affirming ministries that they are in discernment as to how they can help us again financially a bit later this year. This is what it means to be in covenant with one another in the UCC. And this is another example of God blessing our ministries as we continue to choose to serve as Christ's disciples.

### **Who's Doing What When?**

#### **Offering counters for February:**

Feb 5 - Lisa Merchant and Russ Broderick  
Feb 12 - Katrina Furman and David Bendert  
Feb 19 - John Parker and Ruth Broderick  
Feb 26 - Sandy Lyon and Christina Breen

#### **Lay Readers:**

Feb. 5 – Christa Ferguson  
Feb. 12 – Sandy Lyon  
Feb. 19 – David Bendert  
Feb. 26 – Christy Graff

#### **Communion Servers**

February 5: Pastor Dan, Katrina Furman, Rick Dannenberg, Harper Haveman, Jenna Lee

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.

- *You can view all previous services online at [facebook.com/hudsonvilleucc/live](https://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.*

## WE'RE ON A MISSION!

**Save the date!!!!** Next Feeding America is **March 2nd from 5-7 pm**. Sign up or Show up! Many hands make light work!

**Kid Stuff!!!** For the month of February our mission focus is helping our area schools. We will be collecting items for activity baskets. Sensory items like play dough, bubbles, fidgets, squishy items, headphones, etc. as well as take home type items like puzzles, books, color books, etc. Another way to help is shopping off the schools Amazon wish list. Below is the link. [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3OL9P0ALP0C7A?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3OL9P0ALP0C7A?ref=wl_share) Items can be turned into the mission bulletin board area.

Another area of need for our school is school lunch debt. We will also be collecting funds that can be disbursed to Alward and area schools to get families current with their lunch accounts so that the children can continue to have warm healthy lunches.

**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!

**Hand2Hand:** The new year is off to a strong start with food and monetary donations to Hand2Hand. It is surprising how fast we can deplete some items with just one distribution to 32 children, so thank you for continuing to remember our mission with your donations. Our special requests for February include **microwave popcorn, Chicken and Tuna Helper type mixes, and squeeze or small plastic jars of jelly and jam**. Please keep in mind that all items are going home with children in K to 5th grade in their backpacks. Some donations are overly generous with items that are too heavy or large to send with the children, and we pass them on to UCOM's pantry. We are no longer allowed to break down larger containers into smaller ones appropriate for sending home in a child's backpack. Please keep this in mind when purchasing for our pantry. Sandy Lyon would love to answer any questions about donations. We appreciate and try to use every donation you make.

*--Your H2H volunteers and Mission Board*

**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/>

Are you following us on Instagram? If so, is it the right us? HUCC accidentally ended up with two Instagram accounts, but we are sunseting one of them. Moving forward, please follow us on Instagram [@hudsonville\\_ucc](#) so you don't miss anything!



## Please Pray

**Active Prayers:** Jon Hughes, Paul Lidgard, Al Wooton

**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 the White Lake UCC in Whitehall. Let us remember their mission and ministry in our prayers for February.

Happy Birthday!	Happy Birthday!	Happy Anniversary!
2/2 Paul Kunde	2/20 Al Kramer	2/6 Scott and Lisa Merchant
2/2 Terry Slagter	2/22 Joe Perrin	2/11 Dan & Melissa Huisman
2/4 Ashlyn O'Hair	2/22 Kristine Roberson	
2/6 Cathy Hogle	2/22 Kevin Boggs	
2/9 Ellie Korienek	2/22 Shannon Visser	
2/12 Kathy VanderMarkt	2/25 Howard Perrin	
2/12 Keegan Korienek	2/25 Dick Van Dyke	
2/16 Ellianne Ferguson	2/28 Kristy Ranta	



### Moments in Church History – Church Fire

March 25, 1937 brought tragedy to the Congregational Church people. The church caught fire and burned. It appeared that it may have started when the ladies were cooking a dinner at the church. The following is an excerpt from a poem written by a church member at the time of the fire:

#### FIRE OF THE CHURCH by Orin Edson

Fire! All winter you have been a dear friend,  
We fed you and kept you. Gave praise without end.  
Now you are raging, burning, tearing like mad,  
Nothing can stop you. You seem to be glad.

Burning the Altar, where prayers have been given.  
Heard by the Lord, they are written in Heaven.

...

You tore at the tower, and the spire till it fell,  
And twisted and melted the faithful old bell.

...

Hope springs eternal in the heart, the poets write.  
Drive out the gloom, open the door, let in the light.  
Churches can be built, there are workers in stone.  
Forgive and forget. Be thankful it left us our home.



*Our destiny often looks like a fruit-tree in winter. Who would think from its pitiable aspect that those rigid boughs, those rough twigs could next spring again be green, bloom, and even bear fruit? Yet we hope it, we know it.*  
~Johann Wolfgang Goethe

### Calendar



Feb 2 - Soccer 6-9pm  
Feb 5 - Worship 10am  
Feb 6 - Soccer 4:45-5:45, Mission Team 6pm  
Feb 7 - Soccer 6-9pm, Ottawa Area Center For Pride 7pm  
Feb 9 - Soccer 6-9pm  
Feb 10 - Ottawa Area Center For Pride Game Night 6:30-8:30pm  
Feb 12 - Worship 10am, Council 11:15am  
Feb 14 - Soccer 4:45-5:45  
Feb 16 - Soccer 6-9pm  
Feb 19 - Worship 10am  
Feb 21 - Soccer 6-9pm  
Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday worship 7pm  
Feb 23 - Soccer 6-9pm  
Feb 26 - Worship 10am  
Feb 27 - Soccer 4:45-5:45pm  
Feb 28 - Soccer 6-9pm  
**\*\*ALSO!!! Pickleball Mon-Fri. 9a-12, Sat. 8-12, M/W 6-9p. If the gym is a-rockin', it's probably PICKLEBALL!**

**CHURCHCONTACT**

Phone 616-669-1295 The Rev. Dan Furman

Web Site: [hudsonvilleucc.org](http://hudsonvilleucc.org) E-Mail [hudsonvilleucc@gmail.com](mailto:hudsonvilleucc@gmail.com)

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Hudsonville UCC  
4950 32nd Ave.  
Hudsonville, MI 49426



