



Hudsonville

United Church of Christ
Open & Affirming

March 2, 2025

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

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

Mr. Rae Mieskowski, Student Pastor (he, him)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU

Our musician this morning is Pat Menkveld (she/her). Thank you, Pat, for sharing your music ministry with us!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Today is our Anniversary Sunday! We celebrate being the first church in Hudsonville, founded in 1877. We will recognize members who have been active for 50 years or longer. Thanks to everyone for making our church a bold witness of love and affirmation for so many years.

COMMUNION

We will celebrate communion today. You do not need to be a member to participate. All are welcome to the table.

SUPPORT GROUPS

The Sunday afternoon gatherings hosted by Pastor Rae are concluding, yet you are welcome to contact him for conversation regarding the topics of queer and trans people of faith and/or healing from religious trauma. His email address is pastorrae@hudsonvilleucc.org.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Join us for Taize worship at 7pm as we begin the season of Lent.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We are looking for volunteers for the next Feeding America Food Distribution this Thursday any time from 5 to 7pm. There is a sign-up in the Fellowship Hall.

IT'S CHARLIE!

Our own Millie Bendert will be performing this week as Charlie in the classic story *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. You may get free tickets to the show using the QR code on the bulletin board just outside of the sanctuary. Performances are this week Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

HAND2HAND

This month Hand2Hand is requesting donations of small cans of chicken, small jars of peanut butter, one-pound boxes of elbow macaroni, mac and cheese, granola bars, microwave popcorn, and cream soups.

PRELUDE....."Thanksgiving and Praise"
Mallard

WELCOME AND SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We come together, a community of faith.

All: We have gathered to listen for our God.

Pastor: May our faces shine in anticipation.

All: Our God has invited us to this moment.

Pastor: We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

All: We assemble here, eager to be changed by God.

OPENING SONG....."Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"
Hymn #4 (black)

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
Opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the storms of doubt away,
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All your works with joy surround you,
Earth and heaven reflect your rays.
Stars and angels sing around you,
Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Teach us what our praise should be!

You are giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!

Loving Spirit, Father, Mother—
All who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other;
By that love our joy renew.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,
Reconciling race and clan.

Ever singing, move we forward,
Faithful in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us onward
In the triumph song of life!

OUR CHILDREN'S MOMENT.....Ruth Lee (she/her)

PASSING THE PEACE

UNISON PRAYER

Holy are you, O God of all time and space. The mysterious gift of life is ours to live into, shape, and sustain. You have created for us justice and equity. You have drawn us to the mountaintop to commune with you. Enlighten us and empower us for service. Amen.

28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

30 Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.

31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

33 Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said.

34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

35 Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'

36 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify.

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church, to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto you. Amen.

PRAYER SONG....."We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"
Hymn #182 (black)

We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
Where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.

Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
Searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks through
our clouds and shadows,
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.

Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ with garments
drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
We like Peter, find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.

But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
That our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.

PASTORAL PRAYER.....The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine, is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

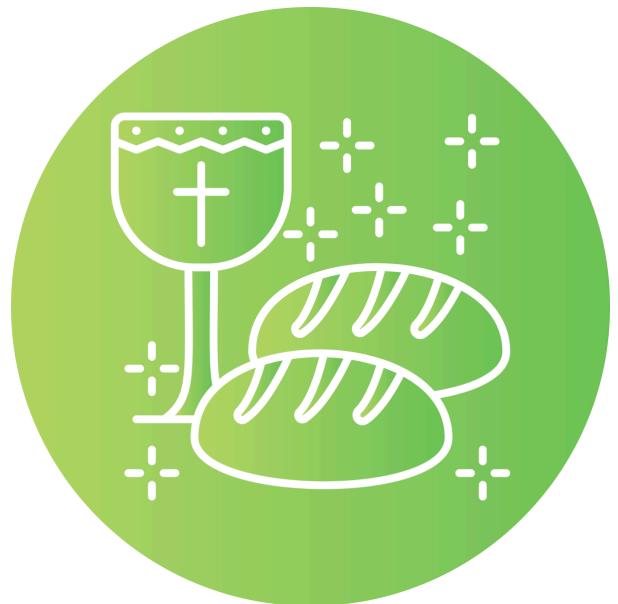
THE OFFERTORY....."I Will Lift Up My Eyes"
Schreiner

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION



CLOSING SONG..... "God, You Have Set Us"
Hymn #372 (black)

God, you have set us in this time and place,
Called us as stewards of your love and grace

O keep us faithful, set our souls afire,
And by your Spirit all our work inspire.

We dedicate this work of human hand,
Built for your glory may it firmly stand.

Let truth be preached
and justice rightly done.
In Christ our Savior make us truly one.

Let doors and hearts
provide a welcome here.
Let walls and voices ring
with songs of cheer.

Let windows speak of beauty and of light.
Let smile and gesture show your love aright.

Call youth and age into these halls for praise.
Then send us out for service all our days.

Your words of peace and
challenge here made real
Spurs us to act with energy and zeal.

So may the world
become our neighborhood,
Each wishing each the right,
the true, the good.

Word, font, and table calling us to be
Bound up in Christ, in Christ set boldly free.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE..... "Triumphal March"
Handel

PRAYERS

Remember our elderly and home bound, anyone facing illness this morning, the families of Palestine, and all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

Christina Breen, Paul Lidgard, Luke and Dana Bailey, Sandy Lyon,
Sonny Bailey, Kendra Simon, Al Wooton, and Ada UCC.

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."

Email	Contact Person	Usage
pastordan@hudsonvilleucc.org	Rev. Dr. Dan Furman (he/him)	pastoral inquiries, emergency pastoral care
pastorrae@hudsonvilleucc.org	Mr. Rae Mieskowski (he/him)	Student Pastor, group support, open and affirming
moderator@hudsonvilleucc.org	Christina Breen (she/her)	moderator inquiries, meeting questions, anything needing to be brought to Council
treasurer@hudsonvilleucc.org	Taliyn Merchant (she/her)	financial matters, giving, payments, bills
facility@hudsonvilleucc.org	Christina Breen (she/her)	building and grounds, maintenance, fixes, inspections, etc.
office@hudsonvilleucc.org	Taliyn Merchant (she/her)	general inquiries, bulletin/congregator articles, office matters
missions@hudsonvilleucc.org	Janet Overbeek (she/her)	missions matters, Hand2Hand and other program inquiries
huccevents@hudsonvilleucc.org	Angel Dannenberg (she/her) Taliyn Merchant (she/her)	Craft Show, Santa Paws
WIFI Name: HUCC Password: 6166691295		



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