



The Congregator: Wonderful Christmastime Edition

Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ - December 2021



Christmas Eve Worship will be at 7pm this year. There is a chance we will still be asking folks to wear masks, though we pray of course that the Covid numbers decrease by then. We will serve communion at this service as we celebrate this joyous day in our church and for all our families.

Poinsettia Orders: As we enter the Season of Advent, it is time to order poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Each plant is \$15. Checks may be made out to Hudsonville UCC. You may order plants in honor or in memory of loved ones. You may order Red, White, Pink, or Marble. There is a sign-up sheet on the welcome desk in the Commons or you may contact the church office to place an order. Orders are due by Sunday, December 12.

Vaccinations: In November, Council approved our church to be a location for vaccinations, especially for children and youth. We are partnering with the Ottawa County Department of Public Health as well as SpartanNash for this event. The first opportunity will be on Tuesday, November 30 from 3:30-6:30pm and the second is on December 21 at the same times. Booster shots for adults will also be available.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: *“In the beginning was the Word...”* Join us after church in the parlor for a study on the Gospel of John. We will read together the gospel while studying the meaning of the various signs and metaphors that describe and point us towards who Jesus is. Grow in your faith as we discuss this important book. Please contact Pastor Jeff with any questions.

Please Pray

Active Prayers: Pat Haynes, Tom Perrin, Kendra Simon, and all affected by the coronavirus.

Continual Prayers: Betty Baareman, George Drayton, Joan Edson, Paul Kunde, Delores Wheelock

December Prayer Emphasis: Of our 27 UCC churches and agencies in our Grand West Association, this month we will pray for Lowell UCC. 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.)

Happy Birthday!	Happy Birthday!	Happy Anniversary!
12/2 Nate Fitton	12/19 Gloria Byle	12/21 Jim & Pat Thompson
12/5 Kristen Lee	12/21 Pat Hall	12/26 Tom & Lisa Sikkema
12/6 Pam Jenkins	12/23 Shirley Russell	12/30 Paul & Mary Slotegraaf
12/10 Alice Perrin	12/26 Keegan Hoezee	
12/11 Joni Baragar	12/28 Barbara Price	
12/12 Melissa Huisman	12/28 Beverly Price	
12/13 Ali Bendert	12/29 Cameron Ranta	

Please let me know if I miss your day or have the wrong date! I'll do better next year! –Ruth Lee

WE'RE ON A MISSION!



Feeding America: Coming to you Live, Curbside, December 9! **We will be needing volunteers from 5:30-7:30.** Come help feed the community and enjoy fellowship with your church family and friends.

Nestlings: The times are always changin'. We are still collecting diapers and wipes for our wee neighbors. Any and all sizes are needed, but larger sizes (for the less wee) are a particular need. Donations can be placed next to the Nestling diaper display in the narthex, or in the blue bucket by the church's back door.

Help Needed: We are still looking for someone to be our ServSafe person for the kitchen. We want to be able to provide meals to the community for celebrations, funerals and other gathering opportunities but need someone who can be our coordinator and work with our amazing kitchen people. Think you might be interested? Have questions? Reach out to Sue Dykstra or Janet Overbeek.



HAND2HAND: During this time of year when we are thinking a lot about being thankful for our many blessings, we at H2H have SO much to be thankful for. Today I would like to mention three of our many blessings. One is Pat Vieau. She is our "jack of all trades" She plans menus, orders and picks up food, stocks the shelves of the pantry, keeps track of inventory, packs the orders, attends meetings, and many other tasks that need to be done. I don't know what I would do without her. Another is our two new volunteers, Pat and Paul DeYoung who will be helping with the order packing. Third is the members of Hudsonville High School Acceptance Club who held a food drive for our program. They literally stocked our pantry, floor to ceiling. People like these, along with you, our generous congregation, are feeding the needy children of South School. So much to be thankful for. Such a blessing. Thanks to all! Sandy Lyon

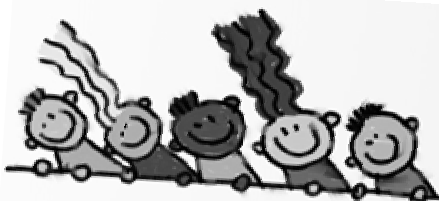
This month's special needs are: boxes of pudding, Jiffy cornbread, Jiffy muffins

--Your Mission Board and H2H volunteers

A Report from Your Treasurer: Thank you for making this one of the most successful years in a long time for our church! Through your generosity we have raised over \$425,000! This has allowed us to replace the roof of the sanctuary as well as maintain the building in working order. We also were able to continue our services to the community - even if that looked different as we transitioned back to an open building. It is also important to note that every one of those dollars that came in were spent. Like our home budgets, the costs of running the church has not reduced as utility costs among others continue to rise. It is always our goal to have all bills paid at the end of the year - and this year there remain several bills that need to be cleaned up. If you have been blessed this year, and are able to share an extra gift, we would very graciously accept it. If you are not able to share a gift at this time please know that we value your presence and your prayer as much as a financial gift. Thank you again for all you do to make our church great!

--David Bendert, Treasurer

YO! YOUTH! LIVE, IN-PERSON, YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS ON THE 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAYS OF EACH MONTH! COME BY TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON. ALL WELCOME!



DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 – Pickleball 9-noon and 6-9
- 2 – Pickleball 9-noon, Soccer 6-9
- 3 – Pickleball 9-noon
- 4 – Pickleball 8-12
- 5 - **Worship 10am**, Mission Team 11:30, basketball 4-8pm
- 6 - Pickleball 9-noon, Soccer 5-6pm, Pickleball 6-9pm
- 7 - Pickleball 9-noon, Basketball 5:30-8pm
- 8 - Pickleball 9-noon and 6-9pm
- 9 - Pickleball 9-noon, **Feeding America 6-7**
- 10 - Pickleball 9-noon
- 11 - Pickleball 8-noon
- 12 - **Worship 10am, Pastor Jeff's Farewell, Council 11:30am**, Basketball 4-8pm
- 13 - Pickleball 9-noon, Soccer 5-6pm, Pickleball 6-9pm
- 14 - Pickleball 9-noon, Basketball 5:30-8pm
- 15 - Pickleball 9-noon and 6-9pm
- 16 - Pickleball 9-noon, Soccer 6-9
- 17 - Pickleball 9-noon
- 18 – Pickleball 8-12
- 19 - **Worship/Christmas Pageant 10am**, Basketball 4-8pm
- 20 - Pickleball 9-noon and 6-9pm
- 21 - Pickleball 9-noon, **Vaccinations 3:30-6:30**
- 22 - Pickleball 9-noon and 6-9pm
- 23 - Pickleball 9-noon
- 24 - Pickleball 9-noon, **Christmas Eve Worship 7pm**
- 25 – MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!
- 26 - **Worship 10am**
- 27 - Pickleball 9-noon and 6-9pm
- 28 - Pickleball 9-noon
- 29 - Pickleball 9-noon and 6-9pm
- 30 - Pickleball 9-noon
- 31 - Pickleball 9-noon, HAPPY NEW YEAR,EVERYONE!

SOOO MUCH



Dear Santa,

I have been a very good church this year.

For Christmas I would like some Sunday School Teachers, a Sunday morning Tech Crew Person, a Post-Service Offering Counter, a SafeServ Kitchen Person, and a Treasurer. Maybe a few random committee members too.

Love,
the Church



- *You can view all previous services online at [facebook.com/hudsonvilleucc/live](https://www.facebook.com/hudsonvilleucc/live).*
- *You can also find services and Sunday School lessons at <https://www.hudsonvilleucc.org>*

CHURCH CONTACT

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