



The Congregator: May Flowers Edition

Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ - May 2022

Grand West Association Spring Meeting: Each month, as a way of staying connected, we pray for one of the UCC churches or affiliated mission agencies in our area. On Sunday, May 1, the Grand West Association will gather for its first in-person gathering since the pandemic started and our church will be hosting. If you would like to learn more about our Association and meet other pastors and lay members of our sister churches feel free to attend. The meeting will be at 3pm in our Sanctuary.

Share God's Light: On February 13, our church Council approved the Facility Team's recommendation for a new digital sign. By mid-April, we had raised all the money needed! Thanks to everyone who contributed, especially to the church family who matched each donation up to half the cost of the sign. We now can advertise multiple messages to the community and the new sign has already brought in new families to our church. Together let us continue to Share God's Light!



Birthday Dinners are Back!! With the return of coffee hour, it only makes sense to bring back our monthly birthday dinner potlucks! On our traditional last Tuesday of the month, and at our normal time of 6pm, we will gather on May 31. Join us as we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in May--everyone is welcome as Celebrator or Celebratee! Bring a dish to pass or just bring your appetite and a friendly smile!



Please Pray

Active Prayers: Kendra Simon, Ken Haynes, and all affected by COVID or war. Please pray for peace and comfort for the family of Gary Hessler.

Continual Prayers: Gloria Byle, George Drayton, Joan Edson, Helen Emelander, Paul Kunde, Delores Wheelock

Monthly Prayer Emphasis: Of our 27 UCC churches and agencies in our Grand West Association, this month we will pray for Plymouth UCC in Grand Rapids. Let us remember their mission and ministry in our prayers for May.

(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!
5/1 Evan Vedders	5/18 Tom Vrugink	5/12 Joe & Kim Perrin
5/2 Brock Kleinheksel	5/19 Clayton Hill	5/17 Gary & Kathy Simmons
5/3 Jackson Leshan	5/22 Matt Ferguson	5/20 Chris & Ann Winkle
5/4 Aron Duby	5/23 Lisa Merchant	5/31 Jim & Kendra Simon
5/4 Ian Stamm	5/24 Cindy Vedders	
5/7 Kim Kotowski	5/28 Alec View	
5/10 Troy Overbeek	5/30 Nancy Mack	
5/12 Kate Carlson	5/30 Brittany Kleinheksel	
5/12 Katrina Furman		
5/13 Zach Overbeek		

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!



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.



Hand2Hand: It's hard to believe this school year is coming to a close already - the wintery weather certainly doesn't help. We at H2H are in the process of closing down the pantry for the summer months. Your generous and continuous donations have kept the pantry in great shape this past year. We cannot express our gratitude to you enough! Thirty one children and families have been helped and fed

by our Church. For those of you who take advantage of great sales, we will continue to accept donations for our Fall program through the summer months. We are not allowed to pass out expired food, so check those expiration dates and make sure your donations will be usable until at least October or later. The blue bucket will not be out for the summer, but the orange cart will be taking food offerings. Monetary donations can always be sent to the Church marked for H2H. Thank you!

--Your Mission Board and H2H volunteers

A Report from Your Treasurer:

The generosity of our church continues to amaze me. Following up on last year's huge project to replace the roof, we successfully raised the money necessary to replace our sign in just two months. Thank you for your continued support! The sign that now brightly shines our message that God's Love for Everyone to all who pass is only possible because of everyone who contributed. While our giving totals through the month of April are following closely with last year please be aware that at the end of the month we had two bills that could not be paid. The good news is that this the first time this has happened in 2022. The main cause for this is the building payment (as it always is). Even still, we are making headway on this mortgage. Our current principle balance is approaching \$1.2 million - while this is still a big number we have reduced the debt by over \$600,000 in the last decade. Our unpaid balance is low now and should remain that way going forward.

The biggest thing that you can do to help us stay current on our bills is to continue your consistent generosity, understanding that even when you travel for the summer the church continues to incur expenses. Secondly, if you are able, the Spring is a great time to make an extra gift to the church. This helps to ensure that we are able to pay our bills throughout the summer even as we take time away from Hudsonville.

As always I am grateful for the support we continue to receive. We are doing great things in our community and with your help we will be able to continue this work for decades to come.

--David Bendert, Treasurer

***Editor's Note: Please note that David has served very long and very well as Treasurer. He would now like to retire and move on to other opportunities. If anyone would like to step into his sturdy though well-worn shoes, please contact David, or the office. You will be our favorite!*

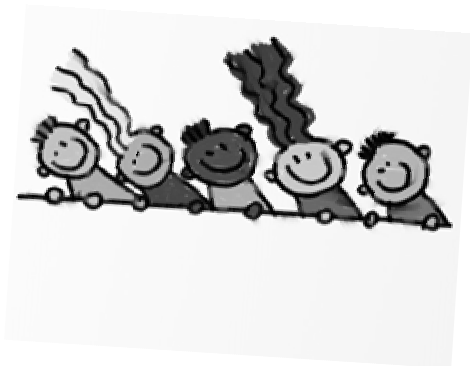


Hey, Shoppers!! Thank you so much for collecting your Family Fare receipts. We have officially passed the half way point - we are at 61,779 of the required 100,000! Please remember to turn in your entire receipt as the program does not accept partials or just the Direct Your Dollars portion and unfortunately those cannot be counted in our total. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Merchant.

May Calendar

May 1 - Worship 10am, Spring Association Meeting 3pm, Basketball 4-8pm
May 2 - Mission Team 6:30pm
May 3 - Elections 8am-8pm, Ottawa Area Center For Pride 7pm
May 8 - Worship 10am, Council 11:15am, Basketball 4-8pm
May 15 - Worship 10am, Basketball 4-8pm
May 22 - YOUTH SUNDAY 10am Basketball 4-8pm
May 24 - Summergreen Condo meeting 7pm
May 29 - Worship 10am (Noisy Sunday), Basketball 4-8pm
May 30 - Memorial Day
May 31 - Birthday Dinner 6pm

YOUTH SUNDAY MAY 22! THE KIDS WILL HAVE THEIR TURN TO BE THE CHURCH! COME SEE THEM SHINE!



(Parents, please note: This marks the end of Sunday School for the school year. We will resume in September.)

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. Reject Racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.



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.



The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven—
All's right with the world!

~Robert Browning, *Pippa Passes*, 1841

CHURCH CONTACT

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- You can also find services and Sunday School lessons at <https://www.hudsonvilleucc.org>

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