

The Congregator



From the Pastor's Desk

Sustain God's House Campaign Update

At the June 4 Congregational meeting the church approved the application of a loan from the UCC for \$75,000 to pay for the three new HVAC units above the sanctuary and Gym and also for water management in the basement. The application was completed in July. The UCC hopes to have the application processed for September.

You may continue to give to the Sustain God's House campaign to help us pay back the loan which will be a minimum of \$870 per month over a 10-year period. We can pay it back faster without penalty. As a requirement of the loan, we will need to increase our OCWM giving so extra donations to our Missions are also welcomed.

Part of the reality of owning a building or a home is the regular maintenance costs that come along with upkeep. We do this as good stewards of this sacred place we call home as we continue to Sustain God's House for future generations. Thank you for your continued support.

Office Changes

In the late Spring of 2022, the leaders of Inclusive Ottawa County as they began renovating the church basement for the development of their community center, offered to help in the church office as we had no secretary at the time. Salem and MJ were instrumental in helping to organize the office, help with bulletin and newsletter production, and their crowning achievement was to help finalize our new church directory!

Salem and MJ will be stepping down from their role as church secretaries at the end of August and will dedicate more of their time to growing their nonprofit. Please join Pastor Dan in thanking them for all they have done for the church in the past year.

On September 1, Christy Graff will volunteer her time as the new church secretary. To reach Christy, you may email christy@hudsonvilleucc.org for newsletter additions or church office emails. We will determine office hours as soon as she begins. Thank you to MJ and Salem! Welcome Christy!

Prayer List

Active Prayers

Our elderly and home-bound members.

Continual Prayers

George Drayton, Joan Edson, Helen Emelander, Jeanne Haynor, Paul Kunde, Alice Perrin, Delores Wheelock, & Al Wooton.

Since our last publication, long-time member Gloria Byle passed from this life to the next. We offer our prayers of support to the Byle family as they grieve.

Church of the Month

Of our 25 UCC churches and agencies in our Grand West Association, we will pray this month for En Vivo UCC. We have become very familiar with En Vivo in our partnerships this year. En Vivo has a new location on Plainfield in Grand Rapids. Let us remember their mission and ministry in our prayers for September.

*Please let the church office know either if you would not like to be listed here or if you would like to be added to the list. Please keep all of these folks in your prayers.



Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, August 27 we welcomed new church members: Kelly Lockwood and Kathie Delaney. Kelly is a licensed social worker and therapist who rents space at the church to see her clients. Kathie is a retired real estate attorney who now enjoys spending her time with her partner Al Kramer. Please welcome Kelly Lockwood and Kathie Delaney to our church family!

Informational Congregational Meeting

In the hopes of keeping open communication between the Council and our church, the Council approved the idea of creating quarterly informational congregational meetings. Our next meeting will take place after worship on Sunday, September 10. The church will not be voting on any action items. The meeting is simply to share where we are financially and for an update on our mission activities. Please plan to attend the meeting.

Rally Day

Do you have school age children who can't wait to get back to Sunday School? Well, mark your calendars for September 17 when we will have an Open House after worship for parents to drop by the Sunday School classrooms and get ready for a new year of Christian Education! We look forward to a great school year!

A Moment in Church History



April 3, 1956 brought tragedy to Hudsonville. A tornado caused many deaths and much destruction of property. The tornado struck the area on the western end of town. It traveled northeast along the edge of Hughes Park, stretching to west through the muck land. It continued to proceed on the ground toward Standale. Members of three church families were injured and lost their homes. Money was received from the Michigan Conference Churches and given by our church to members and friends whose homes were destroyed.

Volunteer Schedule

Offering Counters

September 3 – Russ Broderick & Taliyn Merchant
September 10 – David Bendert & Katrina Furman
September 17 – Ruth Broderick & John Parker
September 24 – Christina Breen & Sandy Lyon

*Please email christy@hudsonvilleucc.org if you can count on October 30. Thank you!

Lay Readers

September 3 – Abby LaBarge
September 10 – Sandy Lyon
September 17 – David Bendert
September 24 – Christy Graff

Treasurer Update

Hi! Your friendly neighborhood treasurer here! We are over the halfway point of the year and almost to the last quarter – where did the time go?! Your faithfulness in the mission of this church to stand up and stand out, to focus on the radical inclusion and love Jesus showed, never ceases to warm my heart. I can't put words to how much I personally needed a place like this and am so happy to be here with you.

As is always the ebb and flow of the year, we are at the point where long-term rentals are to be resuming in the next few months but aren't here yet and various families participate in what I always heard called "The Great West Michigan Exodus" – going up north and traveling often during this time of year. These are valued down times and important to the experience of life.

The business expenses and mission of the church continue to move forward even as we take time away and in the summers our income is much lower than at other times of the year. We are struggling to make some payments and make them on time. The end of August brings another \$6500 loan payment and next month, September, is the quarterly \$19k one – both of which we are short on right now. We are also still in the middle of our Sustain God's House campaign to finish paying the hvac and work on the foundation/water matters as well as working to maintain our positive loan status and keep up with utilities and other bills.

If you are traveling, I ask you to please keep us in mind for your regular giving or catch up from while you were away. For those who are able, I humbly ask you to see if a special gift might be made at this time to get us through. Every dollar counts! Your prayers and continued support along this journey are greatly appreciated as we come to the final quarter of the year.

--Taliyn Merchant



Birthdays

Rachel Fournier - 9/1
Christa Ferguson - 9/5
Aaron Parker - 9/6
Christy Graff - 9/7
Isabel Wolf - 9/7
Caleb Ferguson - 9/9
John Parker - 9/12
Dan Furman - 9/14
Sydney Bruinsma - 9/17
Angel Dannenberg - 9/22

Birthdays

Olivia Baker - 9/25
Rick Dannenberg - 9/25

Anniversaries

Sandy & Steve Lyon - 9/3/82
John & Traci Parker - 9/17/64
Christa & Matt Ferguson - 9/22/12
Brenda & Rocky Stilwill - 9/26
Judd & Lori Newenhouse - 9/27/80
Janet & Troy Overbeek - 9/28/96

Craft Show

SAVE THE DATE

The Craft Show takes place on September 9, 2023 from 9am-3pm. Please keep that day open for Pre- and Post-Show help as well as one or two evenings the week prior for one-time volunteer opportunities.

Bargain Shop

DONATIONS NEEDED! Our annual craft show will take place Saturday, September 9th! A large part of what makes this event so successful is our Bargain Shop: a donation-based "shop" where individuals or families can pay what they'd like to take home gently-used items. We would love your help stocking the shop! Please bring any donation items to the Sunday School room at HUCG between now and September. (Please note, the Bargain Shop CANNOT accept clothing or electronics. Instead, think toys, home decor, books, sporting equipment, housewares, furniture, etc.)

Bake Sale

Along with our annual craft show the bake sale continues to help us raise extra funds in a delicious way! For this event to be a success we need your help. Breads, pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, crackers, dog treats...whatever your specialty, we would love to have your items out to sell at the craft show.

Any goods may be dropped off at the church Friday, Sept 8 between 3 and 6pm. You do not have to worry about dividing things - we will take care of packaging for the sale. Please label any goods with what the item is as well as if they have allergens in them (eggs, nuts, gluten, etc.) or if your item is specially made for those with diet needs such as gluten-free, sugar-free, egg-free, etc. People have greatly appreciated this when selecting items to buy and are super excited to find things they can eat if they need to be careful.

Thank you for all of your help! I can't wait to see what yumminess will be available to buy!

Missions Update

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped at the August Feeding America food distribution.

Nestlings Reminder

We continue to collect diapers and wipes for Nestlings to help families who are in need of baby supplies.

Ronald McDonald House

Save those can tabs! We are collecting them for the Ronald McDonald House. They in return use them to purchase needed medical equipment.

Coming Soon!

Missions is working on a new partnership with CarePortal. CarePortal is a website that allows us to see the immediate needs of local families and support them while in crisis. More information to come.

Hand2Hand

With school started (already?!), we are currently enrolling students in this year's Hand2Hand backpack program. We need help to start filling the summer emptied pantry so we can begin food distribution in September. We always appreciate any shelf-safe donations you make, but right now we are focusing on the "basics". We can use: peanut butter, mac and cheese, small cans of tuna and chicken, soups - both cream and kid friendly - fruit and applesauce cups, tuna and chicken helper type boxes and packets, instant oatmeal packets, raisins, individual size boxes of cereal, and granola bars. We will keep you updated as our needs grow and change. We are looking forward to another successful year feeding the children of South Elementary. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, contact Sandy Lyon or any member of the Mission Board. Thank you for your support, Your Mission Board

September Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 Christy starts as secretary	2
3 Worship 10am	4 LABOR DAY	5 Finance Team Meeting 6pm	6	7	8	9 HUCC Craft Show 9am-3pm
10 Worship 10am Congregational Meeting 11am Council 11:30am	11 Mission Team Meeting 6pm	12	13	14	15	16
17 Worship 10am Sunday School Open House 11am	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship 10am	25	26 Birthday Dinner 6pm	27 Condo Assoc. Meeting - 7pm (Commons)	28	29	30



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