

# The Congregator



## From the Pastor's Desk

### Building Improvements Campaign

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 and gym HVAC systems, new projectors in the sanctuary, and addressing the basement water level management.

At the February Council meeting, the Council approved three bids. The first is from West Michigan Heating and Cooling to replace the two damaged HVAC units. We are downsizing from the 15-ton HVAC unit over the gym to 12.5-ton unit saving us thousands of dollars and still providing enough heat and air conditioning to keep the gym comfortable. The sanctuary unit is 25- tons. All three units will be replaced at the same time by crane. As soon as we learned about the damaged HVAC unit above the Gym, we turned that in to our insurance company who came out to look at it and decided to cover the entire cost of that one unit! This will save us \$15,000!! The total amount to replace the other two HVAC units is \$54,750. The total amount to replace the other two HVAC units is \$54,750.

The second bid that Council approved is from Ayers Basement Systems, which will overhaul the basement water management. We need to replace sump pumps, treat iron ochre bacteria, and replace drain tiles. As Inclusive Ottawa County continues to renovate much of the basement for a community center, we need to make sure that the space we are leasing is environmentally safe for everyone. The total cost for this is \$33,152.

The final bid that Council approved is from Christina Breen and Kelly Pelon to replace the two projectors in the sanctuary. The cost for the projectors, wiring, and enhancements is \$11,409. Christina and Kelly are donating much of the labor costs.

These three bids for the new HVAC units, sanctuary projectors, and basement water management total \$99,311. The Council is looking into a loan to cover these costs initially, which will then be fundraised by the church.

But either way, Council is requesting our congregation give as they are able to continue to make our building, God's House, hospitable and welcoming for everyone who comes here for worship, for entertainment, and for resources. Just as home ownership means unexpected maintenance costs from time to time, owning a church building has the same experiences. The "new addition" to the original church building, is now 15 years old and is in need of our care to ensure the building will continue to be a place of welcome and affirmation for decades to come. Please prayerfully discern what you can give to these projects in addition to your normal giving for the mission and ministry of Hudsonville United Church of Christ. Thank you!

## Prayer List

### Active Prayers

Al Wooton & John Hughes

### Continual Prayers

Gloria Byle, Joan Edson, George Drayton, Helen Emelander, Paul Kunde, & Delores Wheelock.

### Church of the Month

Of our 26 UCC churches and agencies in our Grand West Association, this month we will pray for Ada UCC. Let us remember their mission and ministry in our prayers for March.

\*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. Please keep all of these folks in your prayers.



### Thank you!

After more than ten years of creative and substantive journalism as the Editor of our beloved Congregator, Ruth Lee has passed the baton to our new office staffer, MJ Hernandez, to carry on the important task of sharing the monthly news of the church to our members and friends. We give thanks to Ruth for her wit and charm! From March forward, please submit your articles for the newsletter to the office staff, specifically MJ at: [mj@hudsonvilleucc.org](mailto:mj@hudsonvilleucc.org).

### Daylight Savings Time

Mark your calendars. On March 12, we spring forward by turning our clocks forward one hour. We want to make sure you arrive to worship on time. Let's spring forward together!

### New Directory

Our new directory is printed and ready to distribute! Unless you specified differently to the church office, each church family will receive one directory. We will start distributing them in worship and will mail others for folks unable to attend worship. Thanks so much to Matt Ferguson for taking some of the pictures, to Salem Sousley and MJ Hernandez (our amazing office staff) for compiling, and to each of you who submitted pictures! This was a long time coming!

### Anniversary Sunday!

Sunday, March 5 we will celebrate 146 years of affirming ministry here in Hudsonville! We will recognize members who have been active for 50 years or more. We will receive new members into the church. And we will gather for communion! It will be a great day for our church!

## **Treasurer Update**

Thank you for your patience and help as I stepped into the role of treasurer here at HUCC. There are big things on the horizon! I am pleased to say that we are current on bills and looking at what we need to do to maintain this building, this haven for the community. We have a fundraising campaign starting for replacing three of our HVACs, our sanctuary projectors, and correcting a water issue in the basement. We also have our large mortgage payment (\$19k) due at the end of March. I am so excited to see what God has done and continues to do through the people who use this space for connection and inclusion. We have got this! Miracles are on the way!

## **Volunteer Schedule**

### Offering Counters

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

Counters, remember that we have a fifth week in the month of April! Currently, there is one volunteer to count on April 30, but we need one more. Please contact [office@hudsonvilleucc.org](mailto:office@hudsonvilleucc.org) if you are willing to count on April 30. Thanks!

### Lay Readers

March 5 - Paul DeYoung  
 March 12 - John Parker  
 March 19 - Stephanie Wolf  
 March 26 - Dan Huisman

### Sunday School Teachers

March 5 - No Sunday School  
 March 12 - Ruth Lee & Jenna Lee  
 March 19 - Katrina Furman & Christy Graff  
 March 26 - Amanda Haveman & Traci Parker

### Nursery Aides

March 5 - Christy Graff  
 March 12 - Traci Parker  
 March 19 - OPEN  
 March 26 - Katrina Furman

We're in need of a third Sunday nursery volunteer. Please email Katrina if you are able to help: [hurricanekatrina31@gmail.com](mailto:hurricanekatrina31@gmail.com)

## **A Moment In Church History**

The 1950s were a time of growth for the church. Mr. Hillegonds was called as a pastor in 1949. He was a student at Western Theological Seminary in Holland. He started a Youth Fellowship group and a Monday night Bible study group. The building and improvement fund was made separate from the regular fund. A special offering was taken the last Sunday of each month for the building fund.

The Friendship Circle was organized on January 25, 1950. The purpose of the organization was to develop Christian living in every day life, and to actively further the work of the church. Meetings were held every other Tuesday evening.





### Birthdays

Pat Menkveld - 3/1  
Kendra Simon - 3/2  
Denise Fisher - 3/4  
Tim Graff - 3/5  
Mary Kleinhecksel - 3/7  
Jim Simon - 3/11  
Polly Lowing - 3/17  
Alvis Wooton - 3/30

### Anniversaries

Ruth and Mike Lee - 3/10  
Howard and Alice Perrin - 3/12/65  
Duane and Cathy Hogle - 3/13/1971  
Mike and Sue Dysktra - 3/28/1981  
Russell and Ruth Broderick - 3/29/1958

### New Members

Harold Brenner will join HUCC as a member at the service on March 5.

## **Brave Space Action Steps**

On Monday, February 20, our church offered a Brave Space for people to gather who were upset about the shooting at MSU and who wanted to talk about what we could do. Four people attended this event and spent an hour and a half discussing various ways to respond.

### Coping Strategies Workshop

In light of the recent shooting at Michigan State as well as other stressors, Kelly Lockwood, who leases the office in the Music room for her counseling office, is offering a free workshop on Saturday, March 4 at 11am. Come learn ways to cope with personal and community stresses in your life. We thank Kelly for offering this service to the community.

### Stand Against Gun Violence

HUCC will hold a silent protest in front of the church against gun violence. There have been over 80 mass shootings this year. For those who want to do something, this is an event where we as a community can stand together and declare that enough is enough. And so, on Saturday, March 11 at 10am, we will gather on the sidewalk in front of the church on 32nd avenue with signs taking a stand against gun violence. This will be for one hour. Feel free to make signs and/or just come. It is time to take a stand.

## **Missions Update**

We will be holding our next Feeding America food distribution on March 2nd. Volunteers needed from 5-7 pm. Many hands make light work!

Looking for ways to help our community and others? The mission team has additional ways to help.

- Collecting "busy" items for Alward elementary activity baskets. Some suggested items include: fidget toys, play dough/squishy toys, bubbles, puzzles, color books, puzzle cubes, etc. (see QR code to the right for Alward's Amazon link)
- Pull and save those can tabs to help support the Ronald McDonald House.
- Donate onesies and baby supplies for the Ronald McDonald House.
- Drop off diapers and wipes to help under resourced families in the community through Nestlings



Thank you to everyone who donated to pay off student lunch debts for Alward and South elementary!!! We will be doing this again in a couple of months.

### Hand2Hand

It is hard to believe this is March and we only have 6 more food deliveries to South Elementary. Thank you for your loyal support and donations throughout this school year. For the month of March, we could really use fruit snacks, applesauce cups, mac and cheese, and kid friendly soups. Of course, any shelf stable donations are always welcome and will be put to good use. Thanks for thinking of us on your next shopping trip.

# March Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Inclusive Ottawa County 6pm	2 Feeding America Food Distribution 5-7pm	3	4 Coping Workshop 11am
5 Worship 10am	6 Soccer 4:45-5:45pm	7 Soccer 6-9pm Ottawa Area Center for Pride 7pm	8	9 Soccer 6-9pm	10	11 Stand Against Gun Violence 10am
12 Worship 10am Council 11:15am DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	13 Soccer 4:45-5:45pm	14 Soccer 6-9pm	15	16 Soccer 6-9pm	17	18 Sunday School Classroom Rental 9:30am- 4:30pm
19 Worship 10am	20 Soccer 4:45-5:45pm	21 Soccer 6-9pm	22	23 Soccer 6-9pm	24 OACFP Movie Night	25
26 Worship 10am	27 Soccer 4:45-5:45pm	28 Soccer 6-9pm Birthday Dinner 6pm Summergreen Condo Assoc. 7-9pm	29 Inclusive Ottawa County 6pm	30 Soccer 6-9pm	31	

Pickleball: M: 9am-12pm, 6-9pm / T: 9am-12pm, 3-5:30pm / W: 9am-12pm, 3-4pm, 6-9pm  
T: 9am-12pm, 4-6pm / F: 9am-12pm / Sat: 9am-12pm

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