



The Congregator: Marching into Spring Edition

Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ - March 2022



Share God's Light! On February 13, our church Council approved the Facility Team's recommendation for a new digital sign. Our current sign is difficult to change messages and many of the light bulbs no longer work. The cost of a new sign is just under \$40,000. A generous church family has offered to match all donations for the new sign up to half the cost of the sign! This means we just need to raise \$20,000 in order to Share God's Light with our community. Our goal is to have funds raised by the end of March or beginning of April. Council also approved needed light improvements to the front parking lot and Gym. These improvements will help with security at night as well as shed much more light in the Gym for our sports teams, to our crafters, to our elections. Many first-time visitors to our worship service say they come because of our sign. A new sign will attract even more new people to the life of our congregation. The digital part will allow us to promote more than one event at a time like in March when we have both a food distribution and our anniversary. For now, we can only promote one event at a time. With a new sign, we will be able to promote both at the same time. In the coming days, you will receive a letter from the church Council going into more detail about our Share God's Light campaign. Please prayerfully consider an extra financial donation so we can improve our messaging to the community, better light our front parking lot, and more brightly welcome guests into the Gym.

Ash Wednesday: Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. This ancient practice unites us with our Christian siblings of the past who used ashes as a form of penitence and meditation in preparing for the start of the journey towards Easter. Please join us for this evening service on March 2 at 7pm.

Anniversary Sunday! Sunday, March 6 marks our 145th anniversary of being a church of extravagant welcome here in Hudsonville! We will celebrate by recognizing our church members who have been active for 50 years or more. We hope will be able to join us either in-person or online.



Please Pray

Active Prayers: Kendra Simon and all affected by COVID.

Continual Prayers: George Drayton, Joan Edson, 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 First Park Congregational Church UCC in Grand Rapids. 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 and are not. Please keep all of these folks in your prayers.)

If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life.

~Author unknown

WE'RE ON A MISSION!



Save the Date!!! Our next Feeding America will be held on **March 3rd** from 5:30-7:30 pm. The distribution will be done curbside and many hands make light work. We would like volunteers to arrive around 5pm to help set up. As soon as the truck arrives and is unloaded, we can start the drive through process for whomever comes. We should be done around 7:15 or so. If you are able to help, please either sign up at the Welcome Desk or contact the church office to let us know that you can help.

More Mission News! Thank you for your continued financial support of the many organizations we support as a church. It was wonderful to hear from Jodi Cole Meyer from Love Your Neighbor. As she shared what they do for those in need of help and how our financial help support those offerings. We look forward to hearing from leaders of the GR NAACP in March.

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: Feel a calling to help serve? Enjoy working or organizing in a kitchen environment? We are still looking for someone to head up the running of our kitchen. If you'd like a few more details, see Sue Dykstra or Janet Overbeek.

Hand2Hand: It is hard to believe, but we only have 6 more deliveries to South Elementary to complete this school year. Your generosity as a Congregation has kept our pantry stocked so we can serve our children. Thank you! For the month of March, we are requesting donations of cream of chicken, cream of mushroom, and any other kid friendly cans of soup. We will also continue to receive and appreciate any other donations of shelf-safe, not too heavy, food items to add to the backpacks. **HOWEVER**, please check the expiration dates on any donations to make sure the food will be good to use until at least next November. We are beginning to start the process of closing down our pantry for the summer months and do not wish to have items that will expire before we can use them. Thanks for your consideration of this.

--Your Mission Board and H2H volunteers

A Report from Your Treasurer:

I wanted to take a second to say **Thank You!** After completing the annual giving reports I can honestly say this has been the most generous year of giving for our church in at least the last 10 years. Because of your gifts we were able to do amazing things in our building and our community. We truly could not have done this without you. Know this, each gift - no matter the size - is important and appreciated. Our congregation is made up of members and friends who believe in our mission and your gifts make that happen.

All of that aside please let me know if you received your giving report and think something is not quite right. Additionally, if you were expecting to receive a giving report and have not yet received one please let me know.

Thank you again for all that you do to show that the Love of God is for everyone.

--David Bendert, Treasurer



It's almost Spring! Turn over a new leaf! Volunteer as...A Sunday School Teacher! A Post-Service Offering Counter! A SafeServ Kitchen Person! A Treasurer!!!! Contact the church office for more information. March right into a new beginning! Volunteer!

Happy Birthday!	Happy Birthday!	Happy Anniversary!
3/1 <i>Pat Menkveld</i>	3/12 <i>Alona Dulaney</i>	3/12 <i>Howard & Alice Perrin</i>
3/2 <i>Kendra Simon</i>	3/14 <i>Brecken Fitton</i>	3/13 <i>Duane & Cathy Hogle</i>
3/4 <i>Denise Fisher</i>	3/15 <i>Tom DeYoung</i>	3/28 <i>Mike & Sue Dykstra</i>
3/7 <i>Mary Kleinheksel</i>	3/15 <i>Derek Leshan</i>	
3/7 <i>Brady Sikkema</i>	3/17 <i>Polly Lowing</i>	
3/10 <i>Andrea Fitton</i>	3/22 <i>Elliot Wass</i>	
3/10 <i>Karen Keip</i>	3/30 <i>Al Wooton</i>	
3/11 <i>Jim Simon</i>		

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

March Calendar

3/1 Basketball 5:30-8:30pm
 3/2 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm
 3/3 Feeding America 5-7pm
 3/6 Worship/145th Anniversary Celebration 10am, Youth Group 11:15, Mission Team 11:15 Basketball 2:30-8pm
 3/7 Soccer 5-6pm
 3/8 Basketball 5:30-7pm
 3/10 Soccer 6-9pm
 3/11 NO PICKLEBALL—NEW GYM LIGHTS BEING INSTALLED
 3/13 Worship 10am, Council 11:15am, Basketball 2:30-8pm
 3/14 Soccer 5-6pm
 3/17 Soccer 6-9pm
 3/20 Worship 10am, Youth Group 11:15-12:30, Basketball 2:30-8pm
 3/21 Soccer 5-6pm
 3/22 Summergreen Condo Assoc. 7-9pm
 3/24 Soccer 6-9pm
 3/27 Worship 10am, Basketball 2:30-8pm
 3/28 Soccer 5-6pm
 3/31 Soccer 6-9pm



ALSO...Pickleball is...weekdays 8-11, Mon. & Wed. 6-9, AND Saturdays 8-12. On Sundays, thou shalt put down thy paddles and rest.

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. CAN YOU BEAT ARON AT "BEAT THAT"? FIND OUT! ALL ARE SO VERY WELCOME!



CHURCH CONTACT

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

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