

The Congregator



From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Dan's Doctorate Update and Open House!

Pastor Dan's doctorate is complete!!! He traveled to Lancaster, Pennsylvania with his mother, Katrina, and Katrina's mother. He graduated on May 4. His dissertation is also both registered with the United States Library of Congress and has been published!! He looks forward to sharing his work with the church. Next step is Pastor Dan's Open House on Saturday, June 8 from 1-4pm at the church and you are all invited! Pastor Dan thanks you for all of your support over the years for him to complete his work.

Informational Congregational Meeting

We will have a quarterly, informational congregational meeting after worship on June 9 to briefly update the church on our financial status. Please know that your giving matters for our essential mission and ministries. Please also continue your giving through the summer months, whether you are able to be in worship or are travelling. The church offers many ways for you to give electronically or you may mail in your offerings. Thank you for your gifts.

Graduation Sunday!

Sunday, June 2 is Graduation Sunday. We have at least five graduates this year from various levels of education. If you or someone you know is a graduate, please have them attend worship on June 2 to share their celebration and what their future plans will be. See you then!

Prayer List

Active Prayers

Pat Haynes, Taliyn Merchant, Phyllis Roh and our elderly and home-bound members.

Continual Prayers

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

Church of the Month

This month, we will be praying for Park Church UCC in Grand Rapids. Park is the largest and oldest church in our Association. They started many other UCC churches in their history. They are Open and Affirming and support many missions in the Grand Rapids area. Let us pray for Park Church UCC for June.



Pastor Traci's Meanderings:

Happy Pride Month and Happy Summer Vacation!

The month is already hopping, with chalk bombs and Feeding America, graduation parties and Holland Pride. I'm sure many of you are also planning vacations, or beach trips, or gardening, or fishing trips, or bonfires (AND S'MORES!). I hope this is a time of life and vitality for all of you!

Come visit our HUCC booth at Holland Pride! We are looking forward to spending time with our community on Saturday, June 29, from 12-5. All are welcome! As you are enjoying vacations, maybe you would like some reading material for your downtime. We are getting ready to start our book club here at HUCC! This year, we will have 3 books to choose from every 2 months. Then we will plan a time to get together and share thoughts about what we have read. Our June/July books will be Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro, The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben, and The Alchemist by Paulo Coehlo. Klara and the Sun is a futuristic novel about an artificial (AI) friend, and what it means to be human. The Hidden Life of Trees is a nonfiction book about the connectedness of our ecosystems. The Alchemist is a modern-day fable about finding your own personal purpose and "treasure." Any excuse to read is good for me!

Since it's summer, here is a recipe for Fresh Strawberry Pie that I found from Harriet Bricker in the 1973 Hudsonville Congregational UCC cookbook.

- 1 baked pie shell
- 1 qt. hulled strawberries
- 1 cup mashed strawberries
- 3/4 cup water
- 3 Tbsp cornstarch
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- Whipped Cream

Simmer together 3/4 cup water and 1 cup mashed strawberries 3 to 4 minutes. Add 1 cup sugar and 3 tablespoons cornstarch (mixed). Cook again until syrup is thick and clear. Add 1 tsp. lemon juice. Cool - pour over remaining berries in pie shell. Decorate with whipped cream.

Remember to keep sending in recipes, and THANKS to all who have! I'm so excited about sharing our food ideas with one another!

We are still walking every Tuesday at noon at Hager Park. It's been a joy to see the park flowers and trees change through the season! If you would be interested in walking, but would like a different time or park, let me know. Maybe we can add a second time.

Volunteer Schedule

Offering Counters

- June 2: Christina & John
- June 9: Sandy & John
- June 16: Christina & Tali
- June 23: David & Katrina
- June 30:

Lay Readers

- June 2: Laura Baker
- June 9: Russ Broderick
- June 16: David Bendert
- June 23: Sue Dykstra
- June 30: Christina Breen

Greeters

- June 2: Rick and Angel Dannenberg
- June 9: Kelly Lockwood
- June 16: Ann Martin
- June 23: Laura Baker/Broderick
- June 30: Ann Martin



A Moment in Church History

During the Rev. Cummings era, some revisions were made in the church board structure. A Church Council was established consisting of a moderator, chairman from each board and two members at large. Several revisions to the Constitution were approved. These included the new United Church of Christ Statement of Faith, orientation or confirmation class requirement for church membership, establishment of a Board of Resources to coordinate monetary requirements, and a nominating committee to give a choice for voting instead of just one name,

From the Finance Team

Here is an update on the current income and expenses of HUCC so far this year. The chart below shows the monthly income and needed / budgeted income for January - May. More detailed information to follow at the congregational meeting after service on June 9.

	Income	Needed
January	\$22,417.00	\$25,000.00
February	\$16,939.00	\$25,000.00
March	\$22,938.00	\$25,000.00
April	\$17,428.00	\$25,000.00
May	\$20,847.00	\$25,000.00
Total:	\$100,569.00	\$125,000.00
Difference:	-\$24,431.00	

Altar Flowers

Did you know you can sign up for altar flowers? There is a poster opposite the coat room on the bulletin board where you may sign up for flowers for any occasion. Select from any of the available Sundays and let us know what or who you are honoring or remembering and we will put a note in the bulletin. Simply add a donation in a pew envelope or by electronic giving for \$25.

June Birthday Dinner

The June birthday dinner will be switching back to the last Tuesday of the month, June 25 at 6pm. As always, bring a dish to pass or just come and enjoy a free family meal. See you then!

HUCC Cookbook

We have started collecting and researching for the next HUCC cookbook. Send us your favorite recipes! It may seem like a small thing, but I've been going through previous cookbooks (thanks to both our UCC church historian and to our library historian at Gary Byker!). They are pieces of history, and of family, and of friends, and of faith, passed down to tell the story of the people here. We're a part of those people today. That's beautiful to me! Please, share a bit of your family with us by sharing something you make in your own home. There are recipe cards on the fellowship tables that can be returned to the basket on the information table, or you can email me, pastortraci@hudsonvilleucc.org.

HUCC Pride!!

June is Pride month! For the past several years, our church has had a booth at Holland Pride. If you would like to spend some time in our booth sharing Christ's love with the community, please see either Pastor Dan or Pastor Traci. Holland Pride is June 29.

Let's Float a Float!

The idea has been proposed that our church have a float in the Hudsonville Thanksgiving parade. If you either have a truck and/or a trailer that can be pulled behind a truck, please contact Pastor Dan or the church office. If you would like to help plan and/or participate on the holiday float, please also contact Pastor Dan or the church office. Thanks!

PEACE GARDEN

The plants are in the ground and our PEACE Garden is officially starting its second season! This year, we will be growing tomatoes, basil, peppers, herbs and other produce in roughly double the garden space. We are always looking for volunteers to help weed, water and harvest produce from the PEACE Garden. If you're interested, please contact Christa at ChristaFerguson22@gmail.com.



Birthdays

Jan Eastman - 6/1 Laura Pickerd - 6/14
 Paul Lidgard - 6/4 Ann Martin - 6/17
 Andy Bruinsma - 6/6 Pat Vieau - 6/19
 Paul DeYoung - 6/7 Ginnie Bendert - 6/21
 Sue Dykstra - 6/8 Tom Sikkema - 6/21
 Wanda Giem - 6/8 Kylie Parker - 6/25
 John Couturier - 6/10 Harper Haveman - 6/27
 Julie Couturier - 6/10 Ben Wolters - 6/28
 Mark Perrin - 6/11 Adam Lee - 6/30
 Allie Pickerd - 6/11
 Hunter Dirkse - 6/12

Anniversaries

Ed & Cindy Wolter - 6/1
 Christian & Jordyn Hennells - 6/6
 Chris & Betty Sikkema - 6/15
 Dave & Ali Bendert - 6/17
 Al & Jean Wooton - 6/20
 Roger & Darlene Behrens - 6/26
 Tony Baker & Laura Broderick - 6/27
 Dan & Laura Korienek - 6/29
 Terry & Eileen Slagter - 6/30

Missions Update

Hand2Hand Update

H2H has completed another successful year feeding children at South Elementary School. We appreciate all the prayers, donations of food and money, and support you, the members and friends of our Church, have so generously given. We will be taking a few weeks off before beginning to plan for the next school year. Ann Martin will be serving as our new Food Coordinator. We welcome her enthusiasm and skills and her willingness to serve. During this time off, we will not actively seek your donations, but will resume stocking our pantry in August. Just a reminder, if you should run across a REALLY good sale this summer for something we can use, and you want to take advantage of it, please do! or let us know so we can. BUT make sure the items are backpack size and their expiration date is at least next October or after, so we can use them. Thanks again for your help. You can continue to contact Sandy Lyon if you have any questions or concerns or wish to become more involved in this Church Mission. Have a great summer, Your Mission Board

DIAPER DRIVE!!!!

Did you know 1 in 3 families struggle to diaper their baby? Having a sufficient diaper supply reduces abuse, chaos, stress and trauma to babies and their families. Babies do not choose their circumstances or income level, to be deprived of a basic need. For the month of June the mission team will be collecting diapers and wipes for Nestlings. If we can hit our goal of 500+ diapers by the 23rd, we will have an ice cream celebration after the service. We need diapers of all sizes!

FEEDING AMERICA

Our next Feeding America will be held on June 6th from 5-7pm. We will need many volunteers to help make this distribution successful. Help feed our community and sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Christian Ed

Happy Summer to our Christian Ed families! Even though Sunday school is finished for the season, there is a lot of exciting things happening at HUCC this summer! We're planning park play dates, ice cream socials and maybe even a beach day! Information TBA! Watch this space!

I was asked recently at the bus stop "If God was all alone, how did he create everything all alone?" Answering this stumped me, but I was inspired to go looking for answers. What I found, while not a direct answer to this particular question, was a podcast that might be fun for both kids and adults to listen to and talk about. It's called "Ask Away" by Meredith Miller, a pastor and author who has extensive children's ministry experience. Her most recent book, Woven, looks at the Bible and how we can teach our kids about God and the Bible in ways that they understand.

June Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 IOC Chalk Pride 12-4PM
2 Worship 10AM Graduate Sunday	3 Finance Team 6:30PM	4 OACFP 6:30PM	5	6 Feeding America 6-7PM	7	8 Pastor Dan Open House 1-4
9 Worship 10AM Congregational Meeting 11:00AM Council 11:30AM	10	11	12	13	14	15 Graduation Open House
16 Worship 10AM Father's Day	17	18 Condo Association 6-8PM	19 Juneteenth	20	21	22 Jenna Lee Open House
23 Worship 10AM	24	25 June Birthday Dinner 6:00PM	26	27 Hobby Hub 6-9PM	28	29 Holland Pride
30 Worship 10AM						



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