

# The Congregator



## From the Pastor's Desk

### Financial Update

The financial state of the church is in need of support. This is not new in the summer or in the life of our church since the building addition from 2008. Currently, we are months behind in paying Pastor Dan's insurance and pension. We are months behind in paying for our lawn care. And we have not been able to support our missions nearly at all in 2024. Our church is essential. We love our church and need to give what we can to support our missions and ministries. Each month, we fall behind our monthly budget by about \$3,000 to \$5,000. This leaves us with just enough to cover the monthly building payment and Pastor Dan's salary and a little to put towards one bill or another. The Council and Finance Team is looking into other / new income streams for the church to complement what the congregation gives. Any additional gifts or increases in your giving are much appreciated and will help us start to catch up. If each church member could give \$300 to \$350 to the church each month, we would make our congregationally approved budget. Some church members can and do give more. Some church members are unable to give at that rate and give what they can. Each gift is celebrated. Thank you for giving what you can and increasing if you are able to keep our ministries relevant in our community and beyond.

## 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 Plymouth UCC in Grand Rapids. This church has a very active social justice ministry and were one of the first churches to put solar panels on their roof. They are Open and Affirming and support many missions in the Grand Rapids area. Let us pray for Plymouth UCC for July.



After the Rain

We had another wonderful walk at Hager Park this week. In between rainstorms, the colors of the woods pop against the trees. And there are so many kinds of trees! I don't even know what they all are. If you have the time this summer, join us! Bring the kids, bring the dog, spend a few minutes in the fresh air. We walk for about an hour at noon every Tuesday at Hager Park, starting in the VanderLaan parking lot.

That reminds me that I need to finish one of my June books, The Hidden Life of Trees. I'm about halfway through. Our other two books for June and July are Clara and the Sun and The Alchemist. We will have our first book club "read and rest" on Tuesday, July 30, at 7 pm. Come and bring you books! We might spend time reading, or talking, or snacking. We will also have note cards available to write up reviews on these books or other books that people may enjoy. Even if you haven't read the summer books, come and spend time. It's great just to be able to share the joy of reading together.

Cookbook Update

Thank you so much for the recipes! The cookbook is coming along! We will keep collecting through the month of July, and then begin to put the book together. We still have lots of room for more. We especially need cookie and dessert recipes. If you would like to contribute, drop your recipes in the basket by the welcome center, or email them to me at [pastortraci@hudsonvilleucc.org](mailto:pastortraci@hudsonvilleucc.org).

Summer Fun and Fellowship

Finally, we are talking about some end of summer fellowship ideas and some opportunities to be out and visible in the community. Help us with some ideas! Contact either me or Kelly Lockwood with your plans for fun!

Have a safe and blessed day of independence! May it be a day that encourages all of us to work for full freedom for all of our neighbors.

**Volunteer Schedule**

Offering Counters

- July 7: Tali & Russ
- July 14: Katrina & Sandy
- July 21: John & David
- July 28: Sandy & Christina
- August 4: Christina & Tali
- August 11: David & Katrina
- August 18: Tali & Russ
- August 25: Katrina & David

Lay Readers

- July 7: Ruth Broderick
- July 14: Christa Ferguson
- July 21: Alec Vieau
- July 28: Aaron Parker
- August 4: Jenna Lee
- August 11: Christy Graff
- August 18: Abby LaBarge
- August 25: Angel Dannenberg

Greeters

- July 7: Angel & Rick Dannenberg
- July 14: Kelly Lockwood
- July 21: Ann Martin
- July 28: Laura Baker
- August 4: Angel & Rick Dannenberg
- August 11: Ann Martin
- August 18: Kelly Lockwood
- August 25: Laura Baker



## A Moment in Church History

A New Church Building Project is Started -- A financial consultant group (Haney Associates) was hired to conduct a building fund campaign. This campaign netted \$96,296.00. A Building Committee was formed. It included Keith Lowing, Howard Perrin, Del Giem, Marjorie DeWeerd, Joe Kooyman, Jerry Bricker, Vern Huyser, and Gordon Smedley. They recommended dropping a previous plan to remodel the present church. They proposed a revised remodeling plan. The congregation rejected this. By March 18, 1969, the congregation approved building a new church on a new site. This vote required two resolutions to amend the Constitution because the Michigan Conference had certain controls over the church. These controls were based on a court ruling from legal action involving the Hudsonville Church in the 1930s. The first resolution stated that the Hudsonville Church has the right to manage property, but if the church ceases to exist as a member in full of the Michigan Conference, the ownership will go to the Michigan Conference. The second resolution stated that the name be changed to Congregational United Church of Christ of Hudsonville. These resolutions were approved June 29, 1969.

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### Kerygma: Amos and Hosea

Starting after worship on Sunday, July 7, Pastor Dan will lead a six-week discussion about faith and politics. Intrigued? Set in the Old Testament prophetic books of Amos and Hosea, you may be surprised to hear how God is still speaking to us in 2024 regarding leadership. Want to learn more about God's Word? Want to have conversations in a safe place? Want to see how God cares about your life and the life of the Church? Sign up at the welcome desk and / or join us for conversation.

### 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.

### 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!





### July Birthdays

Judy Tigelaar - 7/3  
Dale VanderMarkt - 7/7  
Sir Visser-Jackson - 7/8  
Jacob Hall - 7/9  
Cindy Wolters - 7/12  
David Aubrey - 7/14  
Duane Hogle - 7/16  
Brenna Couturier - 7/18  
Sydney Overbeek - 7/19

Ady Davis - 7/20  
Veronica Leshan - 7/21  
Jodi Carlson - 7/21  
Kim Kwekel - 7/23  
Millie Bendert - 7/24  
Brenda Stilwill - 7/24  
Peyton Perrin - 7/30

### July Anniversaries

Mike & Karen Kaulen - 7/11  
Craig & Leah Hamstra - 7/13

### August Birthdays

Megan O'Hair - 8/1  
Betty Sikkema - 8/2  
James Dykstra - 8/5  
Hailey Boggs - 8/6  
Michael Boro - 8/8  
Nicklas Carlson - 8/12  
Nate Couturier - 8/15  
Phyllis Roh - 8/04  
Gail Emelander - 8/18  
Chris Sikkema - 8/18  
Stephanie Wolf - 8/22  
Jim Thompson - 8/25  
Jeanne Haynor - 8/26  
Gordon Walsworth - 8/26  
Sam Wolters - 8/29

### August Anniversaries

Angel & Rick Dannenberg - 8/7  
John & Julie Couturier - 8/8  
Karl & Mary Kleinheksel - 8/11  
Robert & Stephanie Wolf - 8/14  
Dick & Margaret Patmos - 8/19  
Ken & Pat Haynes - 8/21  
Nate & Andrea Fitton - 8/28

## **Missions Update**

Hand2Hand is taking a brief break and then beginning our planning for the fall semester at South. We will begin stocking our pantry again in August starting with the basics. Please watch for our announcements of times and needs in our many information media then. Thank you again for the many ways you have supported this mission program. Please keep our children and families in your prayers as you enjoy a great summer! Your Mission Board

### Stuff the Bus

It's time again to plan for our annual STUFF THE BUS collection in partnership with Love Your Neighbor (Love INC). This year we will be collecting backpacks and school supplies for the GIRLS at Hudsonville Early Childhood Preschool Program. (Someone else has the boys). We have 15 backpacks with supplies to assemble. The donation sign-up sheets will be available on Sunday, July 7th in the narthex. All of your donations must be brought to the Church by Sunday, August 4th so we can get them to the school on time. Stop by the table to have your questions answered and be a part of helping to get these little girls off to a good start in their school career!

## **Christian Ed**

Happy Summer! We have a few exciting things happening this summer. The Jr Youth Group will be meeting once a month over the summer on the 4th week of the month. For information or questions, see Katrina Furman.

We are planning some park play dates to spend some time together and have a little fun for an hour or two. Feel free to drop in and say hi, or spend some time out in the sun with HUCG friends. (We'll make sure there are popsicles and snacks!)

Saturday Park Play Dates:

July 13: Hager Park by the Wood playground, 2PM

July 27: Hughes Park, 2PM

August 10: Hager Park, 2PM

August 24: Hughes Park, 2PM

# July Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 OACFP 6:30PM Basketball 7:30PM	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7 Worship 10AM Amos & Hosea 11:30AM	8 Finance 6:30PM	9 Basketball 7:30PM	10	11 Basketball 7:30PM	12	13 Chr Ed Play Date @ Hager Park 2PM
14 Worship 10AM Council 11:30AM	15	16 Basketball 7:30PM	17	18 Craft Show Meeting 6PM Basketball 7:30PM	19	20
21 Worship 10AM Amos & Hosea 11:30AM	22	23 Condo Assn 6PM Basketball 7:30PM	24	25 Hobby Hub 7PM Basketball 7:30PM	26	27 Chr Ed Play Date @ Hughes Park 2PM
28 Worship 10AM Amos & Hosea 11:30AM HUCC/IOC 12:30PM	29	30	31			

# August Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Feeding America 5-7PM	2	3
4 Worship 10AM Amos & Hosea 11:30AM	5 Finance 6:30PM	6 Election 7AM-8PM	7	8	9	10 Chr Ed Play Date @ Hager Park 2PM
11 Worship 10AM Council 11:30AM	12	13	14	15	16	17 OACFP Open House 12-3PM
18 Worship 10AM Amos & Hosea 11:30AM	19 Missions 6PM	20	21	22 Hobby Hub 7PM	23	24 Chr Ed Play Date @ Hughes Park 2PM
25 Worship 10AM Amos & Hosea 11:30AM	26	27 Condo Assn 6PM	28	29	30	31



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