



The Congregator: Holiday Edition

Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ December 2017



WANTED: PIANO or ORGAN PLAYER and/or CHOIR DIRECTOR -- Our beloved organist, Chuck Brower has let us know that he will be resigning from the organ bench at the close of the year. He would like more time to worship with his family at his home church. We will have a farewell party for him after worship on **Sunday, December 17**. Please thank him for all he has done for us over the years!

WANTED: TREASURER -- Our church Council is looking for a new Treasurer. If you have an interest in accounting or book-keeping or would like to serve God in this important role, please let Pastor Dan, Pastor Jeff, or David Bendert know.

WANTED: POWER POINT OPERATOR – Adam Lee will be going off to college before we know it, which means we will be needing another person to join the Tech Team in the back of the church. No experience necessary—training provided. Best seat in the house!

Grand West Association Church of the Month: Of our 26 UCC churches in our Grand West Association, this month we will pray for First Congregational UCC in Rockford. Let us remember their mission and ministry in our prayers for December.

Altar Flowers: Would you like to have flowers in worship to honor a celebration in your life or to remember a loved one? If so, simply select a date from those available on the poster on the bulletin board near the coat room, write the occasion on the date you would like, fill out a form on the nearby table, return the form to the church office with \$20 and it is as simple as that! Done and done!

ATTENTION VETERANS (and friends and relations)! We here at Power Point Central are looking to update the Veteran presentation before next year. If you could please let the office know your (or your loved one's) branch of the military, that would be very helpful. If you have dates of service, we'll be happy to put those in as well!



Prayer Page

Active Prayers: Nancy Power, Melanee Kahler, Tom DeYoung, and Cathy Coulter (Joni Baragar's sister): our prayers are also with George Drayton and family on the loss of their beloved wife and mother, Lois Drayton

Continual Prayers: Jack and Eva Blair, Harriet Bricker, Eileen Cory, George Drayton, Mamie Jean Eden, Mavis (Toots) Emelander, Paul and Joyce Kunde, Ralph and Mary Lee Serum, Marcella Stoepker, Sherry Todd, Eldy Vogelaar, and Marge DeWeerd.

We celebrated the life of Lois Drayton at the end of October. Please remember George Drayton and their family in your prayers.

Please let the church office know if you would not like to be listed here (but are) or if you would like to be listed here (but are not). Please keep all of these folks in your prayers.

WE'RE ON A MISSION!



NEXT FEEDING AMERICA FOOD DISTRIBUTION - NOVEMBER 30 (THURSDAY)

Our next Feeding America Food Distribution is on Thursday, 11/30/17 from 5 pm to 8 pm. A sign-up sheet will be available closer to the distribution. If you are able to come to any time/part of the distribution, please sign up and designate the time you are available to help!

LOVE, INC CHRISTMAS GIVING - GIFTS DUE 12/3 - EVENT 12/8 and 12/9

Our church will once again partner with Love, Inc as we will collect gifts for their Christmas giving event Friday, 12/8 and Saturday, 12/9. They will be using our facility to set up their "Christmas Store", as they will have their parents "shop" for gifts they would like their children to have. Our "Chimney" will be set up by 11/19 with "stockings" which will have a list with gift ideas as you can shop from that list to purchase your gifts. The gifts need to be returned to church UNWRAPPED and can be placed at the base of the chimney by 12/3 (Sunday). If you are able to bake or buy cookies or goodies to be served during the event, please bring those to church the morning of Friday, 12/8, mark Love, Inc on the top of the item(s), and leave them in the kitchen.

NOISY SUNDAY - DEC. 31 (Out with the old change, in with the new!): Our next Noisy Sunday collection will be held on 12/31 - bring your coins and dollar bills to "make a joyful noise" to ring in the new year! We collected \$249.28 at our last Noisy Sunday collection which was held 10/29. Monies collected went to support our H2H program.

BE THE CHANGE! Bring dipes and wipes and place them in the box in the Commons Area to be distributed to little baby bottoms in need through the Nestlings Diaper Bank. Please note that our church is a drop off center so our congregation is not the only contributor to this program. Anything we are able to bring in the way of diapers and wipes is always welcome. Otherwise, our church also relies on members of the community to add to our collection! All the little dry-bottomed babies thank us either way!

KIDS HOPE: We currently have the Director of the Kids Hope program that we partner with heading up our Kids Hope program. Cheri Huisman from our partner church, First CRC will be our acting director so she will oversee our Mentors and Prayer Partners as we move into the 2017 - 2018 school year. If we do have anyone that may be interested in becoming the Director or being involved in our Kids Hope Program, please see Sandy Lyon, Kathy Simmons, or Pastor Dan.

HAND2HAND: "You open your hands and satisfy the desires of every living thing" Psalm 45:6

Good news! One of our H2H students has left our program because her family no longer needs the extra help. Always good to see a family's life move in a positive direction. Our prayers continue to go with them. We now are serving 37 children at South.

Just a couple reminders: We will be collecting donations of warm hats, scarves, and mittens for our kids until the end of November. It's getting cold and we want to get these items on those cold heads and hands. Thanks for all you donations to our food pantry. We appreciate and use everything you bring us. Monthly special needs are posted on the collection shopping cart by the back doors and on the big screen in the sanctuary. Thank you for noticing!

—Sandy Lyon, co-coordinator

If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice.

~Meister Eckhart



Dec 2017	Nursery	Coffee Host	Lay Reader	Greeters	Power Point	Communion	Ushers
3	<i>Please</i>	<i>Please</i>	<i>Kramer</i>		<i>Sund</i>	<i>Lidgard Thompson</i>	<i>Bayko Couturier Hoezee</i>
10	<i>Please</i>	<i>Please</i>	<i>Wolters</i>		<i>Lee</i>		
17	<i>Please</i>	<i>Please</i>	<i>Bendert</i>		<i>D. Huisman</i>		
24	<i>Please</i>	<i>Please</i>	<i>Thompson</i>		<i>Lee</i>	<i>Overbeek/ Dykstra Giem (late)</i>	
31	<i>Please</i>	<i>Please</i>	<i>Lee</i>		<i>Lee</i>		

NURSERY CAREGIVING FRIENDS! COME PLAY! WE MISS YOU!
love, THE NURSERY KIDS



Happy December Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

<i>12/2 Nate Fitton</i>	<i>12/19 Gloria Byle</i>	<i>12/21 Jim & Pat Thompson</i>
<i>12/5 Kristen Lee</i>	<i>12/21 Pat Hall</i>	<i>12/26 Lisa & Tom Sikkema</i>
<i>12/6 Pam Jenkins</i>	<i>12/23 Shirley Russell</i>	<i>12/30 Paul & Mary Slotegraaf</i>
<i>12/10 Alice Perrin</i>	<i>12/26 Keegan Hoezee</i>	
<i>12/11 Joni Baragar</i>	<i>12/28 Mike Kaulen</i>	
<i>12/11 Marcella Stoepker</i>	<i>12/28 Barbara Price</i>	
<i>12/12 Melissa Huisman</i>	<i>12/28 Beverly Price</i>	
<i>12/13 Ali Bendert</i>	<i>12/29 Cameron Ranta</i>	
<i>12/14 Jack Blair</i>		

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MIND AND THE SOUL: Beginning on Wednesday, December 6th at 7pm, we will be starting a Compline service. A Compline service is an evening prayer service that marks the end of the day. This will be a time for personal reflection, as well as a time where we will pray for our church, the community, and our world. Wednesday is the halfway point between Sunday worship so it is also a time for spiritual renewal during the busy work and school week. All are welcome to attend. The service will be held in the choir room. For more details, please contact Pastor Dan or Pastor Jeff.

As a reminder, on the first and third Sunday of each month, we will have a Going Deeper discussion, regarding the sermon. This will be held in the Parlor immediately following worship. Please come with your questions and comments. All are welcome to attend.



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AND NOW A WORD FROM YOUR COUNCIL:

The church council met on Sunday November 12th to discuss the business of the church.

- The treasure's report for October indicated that giving was very good in October. The church received additional gifts from several members which helped to make the large insurance payment and the building interest payment. Unfortunately, the list of outstanding bills continues to grow. Bills will be paid based on priority and late payments as directed by the Finance Team.
- Pastor Dan Furman gave a report on his work during the month of October. One item Dan pointed out is that because there is not an office manager he has had to take on many of the duties that the office manager would normally do. The council acknowledged the additional work and offered thanks for his willingness to take on the extra tasks that needed to be completed
- Associate Pastor Jeff Vedders discussed the work he conducted during October. He highlighted the White Privilege discussion he has been leading and the "Going Deeper" opportunities after the service on several Sundays.
- Gregg Hampshire supplied a report on his first few weeks on the job as youth director. He has been meeting with approximately 6 youth on the 1st and 3rd Sundays to focus on service work including writing letters to homebound members.
- The council discussed how we present our inclusive message to the community. The conversation will continue at the annual meeting with additional information provided to the congregation.

The next council meeting will be on Sunday December 10th following the service.






Calling all Elves! After church on the first Sunday of Advent (Dec. 3) there will be an Elf Workshop in the gym, where elves of all ages are welcome to gather to make special homemade gifts for friends and relations. Come make it and take it and celebrate the gift of giving. Pointy ears optional.

Senior Elves: If you would like to help with "Hanging of the Greens" please meet at the Welcome Desk in the Commons while the Junior Elves are busy in the gym, and choose a task from the list provided. Let's all get into the "Christmas Spirit" and work together to make the church festive!



And after all the cookies are baked and gifts set under the tree, don't forget the real reason for the season: Christmas Eve services are 6:30pm and 11pm. This is a time-honored tradition of singing carols, sharing the story of Jesus' birth, and lighting candles representing the light of Christ in our world. We will also celebrate communion at both services. Hark, the herald angels sing!

December	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Nov. 30 FEEDING AMERICA (come help!)	1 Softball Coaching 4-8p	2 Pickleball 9-1
3 10a Worship (Love Inc gifts due) 11a Elf Workshop 11a New Member Class Youth Group 12-3 2-4 and 6-8p Basketball	4 <i>Pickleball 6-9p</i>	5 Pickleball 9-11a Soccer 6-8p Mission Team 7p	6 <i>Pickleball 6-9p</i>	7 Pickleball 9-11a Basketball 5:30-8:30p	8 Love Inc. Christmas Party 8a-8p 	9 Love Inc. Christmas Party 8a-1p 
10 10a Worship 11:15 Council Mtg. 2-4 and 6-8p Basketball	11 <i>Pickleball 6-9p</i>	12 Pickleball 9-11a Soccer 6-8p	13 <i>Pickleball 6-9p</i>	14 Pickleball 9-11a Basketball 5:30-8:30p	15 Softball Coaching 4-8p	16 Pickleball 9-1 Rental 4:30-8:30
17 10a Worship Youth Group 12-3 2-4 and 6-8p Basketball	18 <i>Pickleball 6-9p</i>	19 Pickleball 9-11a Soccer 6-8p	20 <i>Pickleball 6-9p</i>	21 Pickleball 9-11a Basketball 5:30-8:30p	22 Softball Coaching 4-8p	23 Pickleball 9-1
24 10a Worship 6:30 Christmas Eve Service 11p Christmas Eve Service ***** 31 Noisy Sunday 10a Worship Youth Group 12-3	25 	26 Pickleball 9-11a Birthday Dinner! 5:30	27 <i>Pickleball 6-9p</i>	28 Pickleball 9-11a Basketball 5:30-8:30p	29	30 Pickleball 9-1



140 YEARS OF HISTORY!

MUSIC

Music has always been an important part of the Church. Early church history indicates the purchase of new hymn books in the 1880's and election of a chorister (Mr. Coleman Cory) in the early 1900's.

A Hammond organ was purchased in 1950. This was replaced with an Allen Electronic Organ in 1982. The current organ (1982 model Allen custom Theatre Organ) was purchased as a used organ in 2000.

New hymnals and choir robes were purchased or given throughout the years. The church building on Van Buren street had a choir loft added as part of building improvements in 1952. The current building had a designated choir area behind the location of the organ.

There have been several choir directors throughout the church life. Among them were LaVern Huyser, William Mumma, and Peg Dygas, Children's choirs have also performed at various times under the direction of dedicated volunteers. Special concerts have been presented. The Christmas Cantata "A Song Unending" was presented in 1997; Joel Gary presented an "Organ Meditation" in 2003 and a "Christmas Pops" concert in 2005. The Praise Band was started in 2005 with Veronica Leshan as director.

—Pat Hall, Church Historian

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