



## The Congregator: A NEW YEAR Edition!

**Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ - January 2021**



### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK -

2020 is coming to a close and a new year is upon us. All of our prayers are for the distribution of the vaccine to be done well so that the virus will no longer take hold of our population as it has. One way that our church will play a role in helping the community is that we will be renting our building out for COVID testing by a national testing company. There is more information in another article in this newsletter about when they will be using our building. We hope that this will be helpful for our community in tracking the virus but also helping people get the help they need.

The numbers of daily new cases of Covid in Ottawa County have been coming down a bit compared to November. Average daily numbers now are between 150-200 which is down from the 400+ per day in November. There are still several deaths per day now though, so we need to continue to be mindful of social distancing and wearing our masks. We continue to follow the Council-approved 45 day rule of not having in-person worship until 45 consecutive days of daily new cases being ten or lower in our area. This means that we will probably not have in-person worship until mid February at this point, and that is only if the numbers drop now and stay down.

Until then, thank you for watching our worship services online. And thank you for your continued financial contributions for our ongoing mission and ministry here in Hudsonville! – Pastor Dan

**Grand West Association Church of the Month:** Of our 27 UCC churches and agencies in our Grand West Association, this month we will pray for Belding Congregational UCC. Let us remember Belding's mission and ministry in our prayers for January.

**New Members!** Though we have not met in-person for worship since March of 2020, new people are still finding their way to our church through our online presence. Please welcome new members: Abby VanMalsen and Dick and Margaret Patmos. They certainly look forward to meeting everyone when it is safe to do so.

**COVID 19 Testing:** In December, we were approached by the City of Hudsonville and a COVID testing company to see if we would be willing to rent our building for COVID testing. After much discussion about the safety of everyone involved, we decided to allow the rental as a community service. They started testing Dec. 21 and took breaks for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Their schedule starting in January will be:

**Sunday: 5-7pm**

**Monday: 9:30am-8pm**

**Tuesday: 9:30am-5pm**

**Wednesday: 6-9pm**

**Thursday: Noon-9pm**

**Friday: 7:30am-8pm**

**Saturday: 9:30am-5:30pm**

They will have the Gym, Commons, and bathrooms cleaned professionally at their expense. People will only come in through the front door, get tested in the Gym, and exit out the front door. Only testers will have access to the bathrooms. They plan to continue testing as long as is necessary but they only wish to be inside while the weather is cold outside. Eventually they would prefer to have drive-up testing outside. While the rental is a blessing for us, we hope that the vaccine distribution continues and we pray for an end to this pandemic for everyone's benefit.

## THE LATEST AND GREATEST FROM YOUR MISSION TEAM!

**Love Inc Christmas shop:** Thank you to everyone who dropped off wrapping supplies to make Christmas special for the kids! We appreciate you!



**HAND2HAND:** Welcome to the new year! First I want to thank you so very much for the food and money donations that have kept our pantry open to feed the children at South Elementary these past 3 months. During these different and difficult times, we really depend on you. We have 10 more delivery days during this school year. That's 480 backpacks to fill, so please keep us in your thoughts when you shop and in your prayers. For the month of January we are looking for donations of our basics: peanut butter, small cans of tuna and chicken, cream soups, and kid friendly soups, and also Tuna Helper type boxes or pouches. Of course, we appreciate any and all donations you may find on sale. Our first delivery for the new year will be January 6th. The blue bucket is at the back door and is emptied daily. Thanks for your help. We are looking forward to a great new year!

Thank you!  
Sandy Lyon and Your Mission Board



### TREASURY UPDATE

Dear friends,

2020 wasn't the year we planned for but it was still an OK year because of the generosity you showed the church. Thank you so much! While we were not able to meet in person you continued to support the mission and work of our church to ensure that we can offer help to those less fortunate in our community. Know that the only way we were able to pay our bills and continue to offer help to others is because of the continued support from people like you. Please consider whether you are able to increase your support for our church in 2021. An extra gift throughout the year helps us to pay for the unexpected costs that always seem to come up at the worst time. The heat only breaks in the winter for some reason.

Here is to a 2021 different from 2020, with more time spent together in worship and service of God.

Ever grateful,  
David Bendert, HUCC Treasurer



### *Please Pray*

**Active Prayers:** Paul Kunde, Judd Newenhouse, and all affected by the coronavirus.

**Continual Prayers:** Betty Baareman, George Drayton, Joan Edson, Polly Lowing, Delores Wheelock

Please pray for the family of Eva Blair. Eva died in December. She had been a member of our church for 50 years. A memorial service will take place in the summer.

Please also pray for former member Kris Zylstra upon the death of her husband Jim Zylstra from complications of COVID. A memorial service will take place in the Spring.

*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*

**OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!** One of the things I love about our church is how active and involved we are as a church body. Without all of us working together, the life of this church would quickly grind to a halt. So, a massive thank you to all who have served this past year, and all who are already signed up to serve this coming year. We still have some openings left on the official teams listed below, so if there is anything that lines up with your skills and interests please reach out and we can get you plugged in. Even beyond that, if there is a skill you have that you think could benefit the church - even if it doesn't fit into one of these categories - please reach out, we'd love to have you!

**Council Clerk**

**Christian Ed team**

**Finance team**

**Worship team**

**Congregational Activities team**

Aron Duby, Church Moderator

<b>Happy Birthday!</b>	<b>Happy Birthday!</b>	<b>Happy Anniversary!</b>
1/1 Veronica Hall	1/15 Delores Wheelock	1/15 Tom & Jan DeYoung
1/2 Leif Hoezee	1/16 Chelsea Hill	1/19 Sue & Paul Lidgard
1/4 Kaleigh Overbeek	1/16 Jenna Lee	1/24 Bill & Darlene Tigelaar
1/4 Bill Tigelaar	1/17 Craig Hamstra	1/26 Nels & Deb DeVries
1/4 Ed Wolters	1/18 Dan Huisman	
1/9 Jimmy Ranta	1/18 Rocky Stilwill	
1/10 Ron Sovereign	1/19 Margaret Patmos	
1/10 Jeff Vedders	1/20 Cory Boggs	
1/11 Darleen Behrens	1/22 Katie Clark	
1/12 Anita Hoezee	1/25 Drew Couturier	
1/12 Gary Simmons	1/25 Amy Perrin	
1/12 Kailie Slagter	1/29 Mark Baragar	
1/15 Mary Slotegraaf		

**2021—TIME TO SIT DOWN WITH A GOOD BOOK:** The effects of climate change continue to accelerate. Over the past few years, warming temperatures have led to rising sea levels, shrinking glaciers, intense storms, drought, an increase in forest fires, and shifting plant and animal ranges. Unless we act now these changes will only further accelerate, potentially leading to irreversible environmental harm. As a people of faith, we are called to be caretakers of God's creation and to bear witness to climate change. But how can we respond?

In January we will begin a new book study on *Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change* by Jim Antal. According to Antal, the church must act because climate change is a justice issue that impacts all forms of injustice, including hunger, refugees, racism, and deadly viruses. Jim Antal is the national spokesperson on climate change for the United Church of Christ.

The book study will be in an online format and will begin the week of January 10<sup>th</sup>, with more details to follow. If you are interested in participating or learning more, please contact the church office or Pastor Jeff directly at [pastorjeff@hudsonvilleucc.org](mailto:pastorjeff@hudsonvilleucc.org).

## JANUARY CALENDAR: The Short Form

1/3 - Worship 10am online

1/10 - Worship 10am online (Virtual Council Meeting to follow over virtual coffee)

1/17 – Worship 10 am online

1/24 - Worship 10am online

- *You can view all previous services online at [facebook.com/hudsonvilleucc/live](https://facebook.com/hudsonvilleucc/live).*
- *You can also find services and Sunday School lessons at <https://www.hudsonvilleucc.org>*

### CHURCH CONTACT

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