



The Congregator: Shelter in Place Edition

Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ - April 2020



From the Pastor's Desk -

Friends, the past couple weeks have been a trying time in the life of our church and in our own personal lives. Just looking out the window, hearing the Spring song birds chirping, seeing the sunlight lasting later into our evenings, watching cars drive by albeit a bit less frequently than normal, we can get lulled back into a sense of normalcy, which sounds very good about now. Yet all we need do is turn on the radio or the television or look to our phones and we are inundated by the news of this awful virus. A virus that has closed schools nationwide, sent many workers home, and even closed our public worship forcing us to learn new ways of gathering as God's people online or on our own.

I'm going to put this next sentence in bold so even the skimmers will see it. **In consultation with Aron and David, we have decided to follow the advice of Governor Whitmer and NOT hold public worship until after April 12 which means we will not have public worship services for Holy Week.** On the one hand, it seems impossible to not have our traditions that week: waving Palm branches, remembering the Last Supper, experiencing the loss of Jesus to crucifixion, and then celebrating the resurrection with a communal breakfast, egg hunt for our children, invigorating worship with the sanctuary filled with song, people, and flowers. We will still celebrate the good news of the resurrection this year, but we will do so in our own homes, much like the early Christians did.

But there are still ways for us to be together. Palm branches ordered far before the virus hit, arrived this week. Palm branches may be picked up at the door in the back parking lot near the sanctuary entrance on Saturday, April 4 from 10am to noon. We will offer online worship for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday both at 7pm, and again for Easter worship on April 12. For Easter morning worship, we will try something new once again: online communion. If you can have ready some bread and some juice, we will be able to commune together even though we are not in the same room.

These are difficult times, but this is not the first time our world has faced a global pandemic. Let us continue to do as we have been instructed: wash your hands, keep a good distance between people, no handshaking, stay home and stay safe. Easter is coming whether we worship together or online. The good news of the resurrection will not be stopped. Thanks be to God.

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

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, 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, and return the form to the church office with \$20. It's as simple as that!



Please Pray

Active Prayers: Polly Lowing

Continual Prayers: Betty Baareman, Eva Blair, Eileen Cory, George Drayton, Joan Edson, Paul Kunde, Delores Wheelock

***Please let the church office know if you would like to be on (or off) this list.*

Missions and Other News -

NOISY SUNDAY: March 29! Noisy Sunday will be missed this month but if people would like to donate their change / dollars they can still do so via online.

HAND2HAND: Life has really changed and become more challenging these past few weeks. We at H2H are taking measures to ensure the safety of our volunteers and the children we serve while we still provide weekend food so our kids don't go hungry. Each Thursday, H2H volunteers from ALL the programs at ALL the schools in Hudsonville come to our parking lot with their backpack food. Families in the various programs come here to receive their food. Person to person contact is minimal as our volunteer hands a bag of food to our regional director who takes the food to the family in their car. Plans are to provide this help for 3 weeks beginning last week March 19. Future distributions may be planned as the changing situation dictates. I have been told we have enough food in our pantry (thanks to your generosity) to last until the end of the regular school year, A REALLY BIG THANK YOU to Pat Hall, Pat Vieau, Kevin Boggs, and his friend who have been our volunteers. H2H has requested no volunteers 65 or older to pass out food. We may need a couple of our younger congregation to help in future distributions. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please call Sandy Lyon 616-821-0394. May you experience God's comfort during these difficult times. Thank you so much and go wash your hands!

DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS: You can still help us earn money simply by shopping for groceries! We are collecting Family Fare and D&W receipts - once we have \$150,000 in receipts, SpartanNash will donate \$1,000 to the church. This money will go toward our building fund. Receipts can be given to Lisa Merchant or left at Welcome Center when we're back to live church again!



Selfie Sunday Easter Parade! We may have a livestream service, but we can still sport our Easter bonnets! Join us on the HUCC facebook page for a Selfie Sunday, on April 12. Just post a photo of yourself in your Easter best and share it on the page. Let's celebrate together in a socially distant way!

A NOTE FROM YOUR FINANCE TEAM:

I want to take a moment to thank all of you for continuing your donations in uncertain times. Through a mix of online donations, automatic giving, and mailed checks we have been able to maintain close to average giving levels. Thank you so much. In addition, we have received word from West Michigan Community Bank that our building payments will be deferred for three months. This is truly a blessing that will ease our burden during this uncertain time. While we don't have all of the details about what the deferment means in the long term it gives us much needed breathing room now. Our intention is to continue paying salary and critical utilities while we are unable to meet. As we get more information we will share it with you through the weekly email, facebook, and this Congregator. Your continued support is so appreciated. If you would like to make an online donation you can use the following link give.hudsonvilleucc.org or you can always send checks to the church.

Blessings and Love, *David Bendert, treasurer*

P.S. Just wanted to let everyone know that we have a shortcut URL to use for online giving now. It's simply give.hudsonvilleucc.org so if you're pushing online donations use that link.

Thank you, *Aron Duby, Moderator*

April 2020	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Pick up Palms 10-Noon
5 Online Worship 10 am	6	7	8	9 Online Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm	10 Online Good Friday Worship 7pm	11
12 Online Easter Worship 10am No Council Meeting	13	14 Finance Team 6pm	15 <i>Beechridge Condo Assoc 6:30-9</i>	16 Pastoral Relation Team 11:30	17	18
19 Worship 10am	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 10am	27	28 Birthday Dinner 5:30 Summergreen Condo Assoc. 7-9	29	30		

Apr	Offering Counters	Nursery	Coffee Host	Lay Reader	Greeters	Power Point	Comm- union	Sunday School
5	<i>On-line church</i>							
12	<i>On-line church</i>							
19	<i>Bendert Boro</i>			<i>Wolf</i>	<i>Sovereign</i>	<i>Lee</i>		<i>Alexander Furman</i>
26	<i>Bendert Duby</i>			<i>Alexander</i>	<i>Barnum</i>	<i>Lee</i>		<i>Martin Davis</i>

Happy Birthday!	Happy Birthday!	Happy Anniversary!
4/4 <i>Lyman Moored</i>	4/20 <i>Helen Emelander</i>	4/2 <i>Ron & Carol Sovereign</i>
4/6 <i>Mykenzie Hoezee</i>	4/20 <i>Kelsea Perrin</i>	4/24 <i>Maciek & Carolyn Biezunski</i>
4/6 <i>Nancy Szymko</i>	4/21 <i>Janet Overbeek</i>	4/24 <i>Mark & Amy Perrin</i>
4/7 <i>Chris Kahler</i>	4/21 <i>Darlene Tigelaar</i>	
4/9 <i>Caleb Baragar</i>	4/22 <i>Leah Hamstra</i>	
4/9 <i>Jan DeYoung</i>	4/24 <i>Blake Todd</i>	
4/12 <i>Natalie Wass</i>	4/25 <i>Steve Lyon</i>	
4/15 <i>Roger Behrens</i>	4/26 <i>Justin Hill</i>	
4/17 <i>Taylor Rabineau</i>	4/28 <i>Ann Winkle</i>	
4/17 <i>George Drayton</i>		

CHURCH CONTACT

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