



HCC Connections

...to inspire people with love for truth, passion for righteousness, and enthusiasm for service.

March 2010

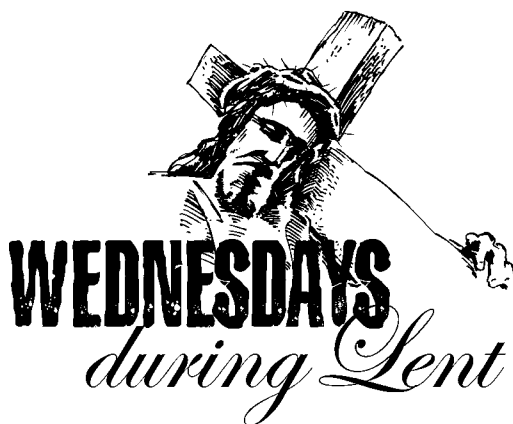


Special points of interest:

- Holy Week 2010 - p4
- Photo Directory - p6

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We began our observance of this year's Lenten season on February 17th with special services on Ash Wednesday. As Lent continues through the month of March we'll offer Wednesday evening services each week as an ongoing part of our Lenten journey. They'll be on Wednesday nights at **6pm on March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th** and will feature **simple prayers, brief Scripture reading and reflection, and musical meditations.** The services will be about 20 minutes long and will be **followed each week by a soup supper provided by this year's high school youth Mission Trippers and their families.** The free will offering taken at the suppers will go to support this year's trip. Come and join in these opportunities for worship and fellowship in this season of the church year that calls us into deeper reflection.

One great hour of sharing.



In His final moments with his disciples, the Good Shepherd asks Peter, "Do you love me?" "Yes Lord," Peter replies. Then, Jesus tells him, "Feed my lambs," and "Tend my sheep." Three times, Jesus passionately repeats his instruction, pressing his followers: If you love me, take care of the people I love. (John 21:15-19)

The members of the family of God, including those in parts of the world we may never visit, are God's flock, the sheep of God's pasture (Ezekiel 34:31). Yet, God's flock is often forcefully scattered as people are chased from their homes and livelihoods by brutal expressions of war, or as communities are blasted by natural disasters, or as societies and countries are ground down by unrelenting hunger, disease, and poverty.

On March 14th, you will have an opportunity to offer your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Every year The United Church of Christ, along with nine



Pastor's Corner

Turning to God

The Cross

(Twenty-third in a series on connecting with God in the ordinary)

Even though the cross was originally an instrument of torture and execution we see it now in everyday life in all sorts of places. We see it where two lines, roads, paths, streams, tree branches, clouds, jet trails, or ship wakes meet then go on at perpendicular. We see it whenever any of us holds out our arms at right angles to our body. We see it in tattoos, jewelry, and, of course, in and on tops of churches. Our eyes have been trained to pick it up in many different places because of one man in particular who was tortured and executed on it according to its original purpose. His crucifixion has changed the meaning of the cross forever.

This man was Jesus, God in the flesh. His suffering and death on the cross was God entering the full breach of our sin and brokenness, of the whole creation's sin and brokenness, in order to heal it and bring us back to God. That's why the cross has become the central and most powerful symbol of how deep God's love for us goes. To see it in everyday places is a rich blessing indeed so long as our familiarity with it doesn't

dull us to its real meaning. When we see and remember in it God's amazing love for us, it changes our lives.

Here's one of my favorite stories of its power. Three young students are walking by Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. They're full of adolescent bravado. They're doing their best to act out rough and loud, rude and brash. Completely cynical about religion, they're sure it's all just a big racket. They decide to show it up and have some fun at the expense of a priest they figure must be clueless.

Two of them tell the third to go into the cathedral, enter the confessional, and make a bogus confession. They dare him to do it, betting him that he doesn't have the nerve to pull it off. He says, "I'll show you."

He strides into the confessional, relishing the thought of pulling one over on an old, foolish priest. The priest, however, soon catches on to what he's doing. He listens to the phony confession and senses the arrogance in the young man's voice. He says, "Very well, my son. Every confession requires a penance and this will be yours. Go into the chapel and stand before the crucifix. Look into the face of the crucified Christ and say to him, 'All this you did for me, and I couldn't care less.'"

The young man swaggers out. He goes back to his buddies and claims he's ready to collect his winnings on their wager. The friends insist, however, that before they'll pay

he'll have to finish the performance. He'll have to complete the penance the priest has given to him.

The young man goes back, confident that this will be a snap. He enters the chapel, stands before the crucifix, and looks into the face of Jesus. He says, "All this you did for me, and I couldn't . . . All this you did for me and I . . . All this you did for me . . ."

He can't get it out. He can't say it because he does care. The depth of God's love for him matters more than anything else and admitting this changes the course of his whole life. His arrogance begins to drain away. His heart becomes tender and strong. He starts to love God and his neighbor as himself.

The cross has this power to change our lives. In this Lenten season and every day we pray that it will keep changing us.

Kurt





YOUTH News & Events

LENT... What does that mean to you? Here's a hint, it's not the fuzzy stuff you find in your jean pockets (that's lint).

LENT is a season of the church year, and it just so happens to be the season that we're in now. LENT is the 40 days before Easter.

A few weeks ago, in Faith Speak, the middle schoolers were exploring LENT and what it is and why we celebrate it. What most everyone knew about LENT was that people usually "give something up" during that time. Whether it be chocolate or soda, people give things up for LENT, but why?

One of my favorite authors, who I have mentioned before, Julie Clawson asked that same question on her blog this week. How does giving something up make us more spiritual? "LENT isn't about denial, it's about transformation. Transformation is about letting ourselves be filled with God's presence so that we can be shaped by God's grace. So for me the ques-

tion for Lent is not "what am I giving up?" but instead "what can I do to allow God to transform me this season?"

Now, some people may find that giving something up for LENT does allow them to be transformed by God, but that might not work for everyone and that's okay. May Clawson's question be one that you ponder this LENT, "what can I do to allow God to transform me this season?"

At youth group I'm going to hand out a calendar of things to do, or read, or think about everyday this LENT. My hope is that one thing will spark something in you that will allow you to be transformed in some way.

Eui

It's that time of year again...

CARAMEL ROLLS ARE BACK!

Mission Trippers will be taking orders for rolls the first three Sundays in March (7th, 14th & 21st).

**Saturday, March 27th @
4pm we will assemble the
rolls.**

Sunday, March 28th they will be available for pick up following worship.

Middle Schoolers & High Schoolers: Winter Jam 2010

March 26th

Join us as we travel to Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti for WinterJam 2010.

Third Day, Newsboys, Newsong, 10th Ave North, Fireflight, Revive & Mikechair are just some of the bands that will be performing.

Tickets are just \$10!

Sign-up on the youth board or @ youth group.

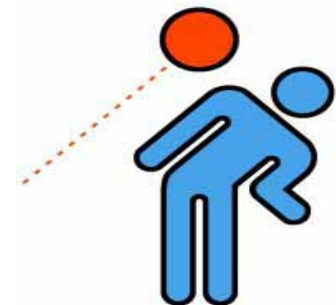
High School DODGEBALL Night

MARCH 20th

Meet @ the church at 3:30pm.

We'll walk over to the Meridian High School gym to play dodgeball, with a member of the MSU dodgeball team.

We'll return to the church to watch "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story"



Jesus | Cont. from page 7

on the theme "Competing Early Christian Voices: The Contest for Authority". More information about Westar Institute, the Jesus Seminar, the topics to be presented, and registration can be found at <http://www.westarinstitute.org/index.html>.

As a co-hosting church, we will be responsible for supplying volunteers to help with hospitality, registration and selling books. We are also asked to supply cookies for the break-times during the seminar. Please contact Becky Leefers, 337-0560, about helping out. All are invited to attend the Jesus Seminar to get an interesting perspective on the life and times of Jesus and our Christian heritage.

HOLY WEEK

We're preparing again for the extraordinary time of Holy Week, the fullest and most significant week of worship in the life of our faith and church. **Prior to it, our final midweek Lenten service and soup supper of this year** will be held at **6pm** on Wednesday, **March 24th**. **Holy Week then begins** four days later **on Palm and Passion Sunday, March 28th**. At the beginning of our service that day our children, before going to church school, will parade once again with waving palms through our sanctuary to help us remember and celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Later in the week, on **Maundy Thursday, April 1st**, we'll gather at **6pm** for a **simple meal followed by the Sacrament of Holy Communion and a Lenten musical offering from our Adult Choir**. As usual, we will be seeking volunteers to help with setup and cleanup and to bring soup, bread and fruit for the meal. Our coming together on that sacred night

will help us to remember Jesus' final celebration of the Passover meal with his disciples and to anticipate the rest of his Passion that will come into full focus for us on the next day, **Good Friday, April 2nd**. On Good Friday, our worship will begin at 8pm and will be in the form of a Tenebrae service that will lead us into complete darkness as we ponder Jesus' crucifixion and its meaning for us. Please know that children are welcome to participate in all of the events of our worship both on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Finally, on **Easter Sunday, April 4th**, we will rejoice to celebrate Christ's resurrection and the new life that it brings. Our worship will be in the form of **identical festival services, full of music and song, Scripture and prayer, and held at 9am and 11am**. Church school will be offered for our preschool through 5th grade children during the 9am service, but not at the 11 o'clock one. Nursery care will be available at both times.



Members in Ministry

The following tasks need volunteers for this month. Can you help fill in the blanks?

MARCH 2nd

Women's Coffee hosts (2):
Phyllis Lang

MARCH 7th

READER:
USHERS:
GREETERS:
COFFEE HOSTS:

MARCH 14th

READER: Danna Dixon
USHERS:
GREETERS:
COFFEE HOSTS:

MARCH 21st

READER:
USHERS:
GREETERS:
COFFEE HOSTS:

MARCH 28th

READER:
USHERS:
GREETERS:
COFFEE HOSTS: Rich & Liz Newport

Correction

The Haslett Women's Club was inadvertently not on the Food Bank list of contributors. Over the years they have supported the food bank in countless ways.

OGHS | Cont. from page 1

other churches, joins together with Church World Service to help people in the U.S. and around the world through our gifts to OGHS. OGHS offers: **disaster victims shelter, food, water, and medical supplies; communities aid to develop secure sources of food and clean water; aid with building of new schools and medical clinics; refugee housing and long term aid; development opportunities through micro-credit loans**

to women and communities. This year OGHS funds have already been directed to the victims of the Haiti earthquake. As more money comes in, more will be given to help Haitians rebuild their lives.

On Sunday, March 14th, we will gather this year's OGHS offering to feed His lambs, tend His sheep and take care of the people God loves. In sharing your gifts you will change lives, including your own.



This column is left blank intentionally to protect the privacy of our members.

Social News

Movie Night for Everyone!!

HCC Social Committee is having a Movie Night for Everyone here at the church. Mark your calendars for Saturday, **March 13th at 7:00 pm.** Come in comfy clothes to relax and enjoy a movie with friends and family. You can bring a pillow and a blanket to be extra cozy if you want! There is no cost and there will be popcorn and pop to munch on! Please sign up on the Social Committee board so we can be sure to have enough munchies for Everyone. Thanks so much and we look forward to seeing you there! (Keep an eye on the bulletin in March to see which movie will be showing!)

LOOKING AHEAD TO FUN EVENTS COMING SOON!!

- Photo Road Rally - end of April or beginning of May

- Coed Softball practice starts in mid-April and games start the week of May 11th More info. coming in the April newsletter. (Start warming up 8-)
- Women and Girl's Brunch - Saturday, May 8th at 10:00am
- Lansing Lugnuts - we have 50 seats reserved for Saturday, July 10th (tickets go on sale early May)
- New this year! . . . Summer Potluck Picnic . . . Sunday, July 18th right after church

Please look for more detailed information on each event in upcoming newsletters.

Recycling News

Document Destruction Day

Saturday, April 17, from 8 AM to 12 noon. Contact Friedland for additional information at (517) 482-3000.

Computer and Electronics Collection

Saturday, May 1, from 8 AM to 12 noon at the City of Lansing Transfer Station. Call 483-4400 for additional info.

Phone Book Recycling

Reminder that phone books are now collected year round at the East Lansing drop off at 1800 E. State Rd and 841 Timberlane St.

Meridian Twp Recycling Event

Saturday, April 24, from 9 to 2 PM at the Twp Building on Marsh Rd. Plastics, books, glass, Pharmaceuticals, Styrofoam, and bubblewrap. Call Barbara at 337-1705 for questions or to volunteer.

Hazardous Waste Collection

Every Thursday 2-6 PM May through Sept at 5303 S. Cedar in Lansing for Ingham County residents.



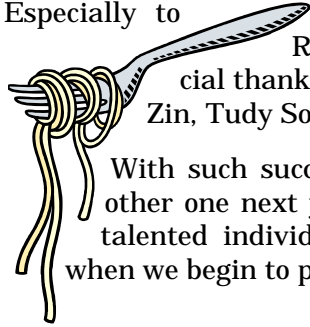
Commendations

Thanks to these individuals who have recently served the church in special ways:

- Again, to all those whose efforts made this year's Cabaret such a rousing success, especially **Laura** and **Tim Roumpz**, **Nikki Corr**, **Jack Lennemann**, **Michele Booher**, **Bob Purosky**, **Donna Ellis**, **Judy Connelly**, **Barbara Freeman**, **David Zin**, **Ben Turkus**, **Tudy Solberg**, our **Adult Choir** and all the other outstanding performers.
- To **Donna Ellis**, **Becky Leefers**, **Michele Booher**, and **David Zin** for their worship leadership on Laity Sunday.
- To **Becky Leefers** and the **Rev. Erin Heisler** for leading Ash Wednesday services while Pastor Kurt was away.
- **Dave & Sandy Vietti**, **Stefanie Zin**, and **David Arnosti** for teaching in Kingdom Makers Workshop in February.
- **Mike Dixon** for teaching FaithSpeak in January & February.
- **Gary & Debbie Gulliver** for hosting the high school youth group's Superbowl Party!
- **Maria Cowan** and **Mike & Danna Dixon** for leading middle school and high school youth group on February 14th!
- **Tom Nelson**, **Paul White**, and **Fred Schrepfer** for sorting food from the Ralya Food Drive.

Spaghetti Dinner and Cabaret a Huge Success

With almost 200 dinners served, over 100 donated items for the silent auction (which all sold!!) and a wonderful evening of entertainment, the February 6 event was fabulous. The resulting profit of about \$1,500 was put into a special fund that will help pay for long-term repair and maintenance projects at our church. This project would not have been possible without the expert leadership of **Laura Clark- Roumpz** and her wonderful crew. Especially to



be praised are the spaghetti chefs, **Tim Roumpz** and **Jack Lennemann**. Another special thanks to the Adult choir, **Barbara Freeman**, **David Zin**, **Tudy Solberg** and all the individual performers.

With such success behind us, we definitely plan to do another one next year and have already had some offers from talented individuals. Watch your newsletter in December when we begin to publicize the 2011 February date.



Photo Directory

Yes, it has been four years since we last produced a **Church Photo Directory**, so we've decided it's time to do it again! We have tentatively scheduled **May 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th** for our photo shoot days this year. Sign-up will be performed via the web this year; however, those without a computer will be able to call the church office to schedule their sitting. More details will follow in future newsletters and Sunday bulletins. Be thinking about which day(s) will work best for you.

Women's Coffee

All women of the congregation are invited to join in the fun and fellowship at the occasional gatherings of the Women's Coffee. These get-togethers are held on the **first Tuesdays at 10:00 AM when hostesses sign up**. A sign-up sheet through May 2010 is in the display case next to the church office. We encourage those who wish to host to sign up soon. The next Women's Coffee will be held on **Tuesday, March 2nd** and **Phyllis Lang** will be **hostess**. If you have not been to this get-together before, think about coming. The conversations are delightful!



Spiritual Life

Opportunities for Adults

The adults of the congregation are invited to join in these many activities sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee. You are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

The Spiritual Life Committee members are Becky Leefers, Michele Booher, and Don Ricks. Please contact any of us with questions about these programs and events.

New Programs This Year

Wisdom Heart: This is a facilitated group experience designed to help you connect with your deepest wisdom about what is important in your life and how to live your life up with your deepest values. Sessions are continuing in **March** on Tuesdays 5:30 - 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Questions can be addressed to the facilitator of this group, Lisa Davidson, at 517-749-4075 or wisdomheartlife@yahoo.com.

Bible Study: The UCC bible study based on the Book of Acts will be used for these sessions, meeting after worship (11:00am) on **March 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th**. Kim Huston is the organizer of the group and she can be contacted at kima-huston@gmail.com or 339-2610 (before 3:00pm or after 7:00pm).

Religion and Science: Based on a DVD that considers the question of whether we must reject belief in God to accept the findings of science, the meet-

ings will continue on Sundays, **March 7th and 21st, 6:00 - 7:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Questions can be addressed to the facilitator of the group, Jim Linnemann, at 339-6138.

The Power of Forgiveness: Based on a DVD that considers the psychological and physical effects of forgiveness, this group will meet in Sunday evenings, 6:00 - 7:30, beginning in April. Questions can be addressed to the facilitator of the group, Joyce Bischoff, 339-9935.

Sermon Discussion

Continuing on **Sunday, March 28th**, Kurt Kirchoff will lead a discussion of the previous weeks' sermons. This once-a-month discussion will occur in the Sanctuary after worship. Questions can be addressed to Kurt at 339-8383.

Spiritual Development: Practicing our Faith

This group will continue meeting on **March 21st**, after worship. Don Ricks will lead a discussion of the book *Winning with People* by John Maxwell. Another aspect of the discussion will be centered on our observations of people living their faith. Questions can be addressed to Becky Leefers at 337-0560.

PeaceCircle

PeaceCircle was begun as a way to get to know our neighbors, especially those from different religious and ethnic backgrounds. The premise is that by beginning peace gestures on our local scale, the ripples can be felt globally. Already, those coming to Peace-

Circle have met many new friends and have learned much about other religions. World Peace is an awesome goal and PeaceCircle is reaching towards that. Information about future meetings will be in the Sunday announcements. Please contact Joyce Bischoff at 339-9935 or Becky Leefers at 337-0560 with any questions.

Men's Group

The Men's Group has been meeting for breakfasts, book discussions, barbecues, and a fishing trip up north. Dave Vitti has an email list of all those interested in the Men's Group. Contact him at 339-5731 or vitti@msu.edu to be included on this email list or to ask questions.

Retreat

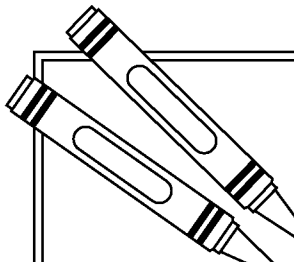
The Spiritual Life Committee has begun discussing having an adult retreat - a time for adults from the church family to get away from the daily routine and to focus on our spiritual journeys. Let us know what you think about this idea!

Jesus Seminar

Haslett Community Church will be co-hosting the Jesus Seminar, coming **April 9th - 10th** to People's Church in East Lansing. The Jesus Seminar is presented by Westar Institute, a group of Biblical scholars with a double mission: to study ancient biblical texts to discover who Jesus was and how Christianity evolved and to share this information with the public. The speakers, Rubén Dupertuis and Milton Moreland, will make presentations

See Jesus | page 4





Just for **KIDS**

Pray Today!

The first Friday in March is World Day of Prayer. God wants us to pray to Him everyday. So start today and never stop!

Write the words from the scrambled jigsaw pieces onto the blank puzzle to discover when Psalm 55:17 (KJV) says we should pray.

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Psalm 55:17

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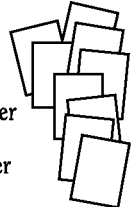
my voi

Make a Prayer Calendar

We should pray everyday. There are so many people and so many things to pray about in our lives. "Make a date" to pray every day and stick to it!

What you need:

- 12 pieces of blank paper for calendar pages
- a pencil, pen or marker
- a ruler



What you do:

1. Write the name of the month on the top of a sheet of paper.
2. With your ruler and pencil, draw vertical (up and down) lines to divide the page into 7 columns.
3. Draw horizontal (left to right) lines to make 5 rows.
4. You should have 35 boxes.
5. Number the boxes to match the dates of the month. (Tip: Use another calendar to look at, so you put the numbers in the correct boxes.)
6. Repeat the steps to make a calendar page for each month of the year.
7. On this month's calendar, fill in the spaces with people, events and things you need to pray for. They can repeat.
8. When each day comes, pray about what's on that day's space.
9. Before the end of the month take time to fill in next month's calendar. You may be able to see God's answering your prayers, so be sure to add "thankfulness" to your list.

"Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth."

—Psalm 54:2, NIV



Answer: Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.



Haslett Community Church

Church Phone 339-8383 Church E-mail hcc1@att.net

Church Web Site: www.haslettcommunitychurch.org

Conference Web Site: www.michucc.org UCC Web Site: www.ucc.org

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10 AM Women's Coffee 5:30 Wisdom Heart	3 6 PM Lenten Service 7 PM Adult Choir	4 2:30 PM Youth Choir 7 PM Haslett Women's Club	5	6
7 9:25 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 10:45 AM – Bible Study 4 PM – MS Youth 6 PM - Religion & Science 7 PM – HS Youth	8 7 PM Youth Ministry Team Meeting 7 PM Mission Outreach Meeting	9 5:30 Wisdom Heart 7 PM Church Council	10 6 PM Lenten Service 7 PM Adult Choir	11 2:30 PM Youth Choir 7 PM Social Committee	12	13 7:00 PM Movie Night
14 Daylight Savings begins 9:25 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided OGHS Offering 10:45 AM – Bible Study 10:45 AM – Member Caring 4 PM – MS Youth 7 PM – HS Youth	15	16 8:00 AM Newsletter deadline 5:30 Wisdom Heart	17 6 PM Lenten Service 7 PM Adult Choir	18 2:30 PM Youth Choir	19 1 – 7 PM Blood Drive	20 1-4:00 PM Circle of Friends 3:30 PM HS Dodgeball Night
21 9:25 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 10:45 AM – Bible Study 10:45 AM – Spiritual Dev 3 PM - Inquirers' Meeting 4 PM – MS Youth 6 PM - Religion & Science 7 PM – HS Youth	22	23 5:30 Wisdom Heart	24 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 7 PM Adult Choir	25 2:30 PM Youth Choir	26	27 4PM Youth Carmel Roll making
28 9:25 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 10:45 AM – Bible Study 10:45 AM - Sermon Discussion 4 PM - MS Youth 7 PM – HS Youth	29	30 5:30 Wisdom Heart	31 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 7 PM Adult Choir			

Newsletter articles are due the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00 AM.

Pastor Kurt Kirchoff can be reached at 339-8383, ext. 11 or pastorkurt53@att.net Erin Heisler can be reached at 339-8383, ex 19 or erin.heisler@att.net

Beverly Wegener can be reached at 339-8383, ext 12 or bev.wegener@att.net Wayne Mason can be reached at 339-8383, ext. 10 or hcc1@att.net

Susan Witkus can be reached at 339-8383, ex 10 or susan.witkus@peoplepc.com

Judy Connelly's e-mail is judyleeonly@earthlink.net Barbara Freeman can be reached at bff7@comcast.net

HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH
1427 Haslett Road
PO Box 217
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HCC Connection

March 2010

Worship for March 2010

Sermon titles and Scripture readings include:

Wednesdays, March 3rd, 10th, 18th, 24th, 6pm
Midweek Lenten services (see article on page 1)

Sunday, March 21st, 9:25 am
"The Realm of the Senses "
Psalm 126 & John 12:1-8

Sunday, March 7th, 9:25 am
"Take Care of Business Now "
Psalm 63:1-8a & Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 28th
"Take It All In "

Sunday, March 14th, 9:25 am
"He Comes Running"
Psalm 32:1-7 & Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Isaiah 50:4-9 & Luke 22:14-23, 47-53 & 23:32-38, 49

Haslett Community Church

Church Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00, M-F PHONE – (517) 339-8383 Fax (517) 339-8526

www.haslettcommunitychurch.org

Contact us: hcc1@att.net

Pastor Kurt - pastorkurt53@att.net

Children's Ministry - Susan Witkus - susan.witkus@att.net

Beverly Wegener - bev.wegener@att.net

Youth Ministry - Erin Heisler - erin.heisler@att.net

Worship and Church School, Sundays at 9:25 a. m.