



# Haslett Community Church

## United Church of Christ

[haslettcommunitychurch.org](http://haslettcommunitychurch.org)

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**Rev. Erin Heisler**  
Minister for Youth &  
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Dear Friends,

It seems that we are nearing the end of this pandemic as we **have** known it for the past 12 months. Vaccines continue to roll out and are making it into millions more arms every week. We continue to be given new guidelines about how we can begin reengaging with loved ones and small groups of friends. We continue to be diligent with precautionary measures, but indeed it seems like Spring is here in many ways. And within our church year, our liturgical calendar, each passing day brings us closer not only to Easter Day, but to the season of Easter, the season of resurrection. I wonder about these resurrection questions: what needs to be made new this year? What will we choose to make new?

On Easter Sunday, we officially begin the fundraiser that has been in the works since last fall. "Flowers and Foundations" will be our effort to both re-solidify some necessary structural needs of our building while also beautifying our grounds with a new garden filled with native Michigan plants.

As the congregation begins to imagine a post-separation life, along with continuing to celebrate the beginning of Pastor Betsy's ministry with us, there is simply some work that needs to be done. Some of the work is emergent and is already being addressed. Other projects are decades old and it's time to no longer push them down the road. Additionally, the Property Team has worked throughout the year to cross off other small tasks by their own time and expertise, or using skill sets within the congregation to make minor repairs and improvements.

The purpose of this packet is to do two things: firstly, to make plain the immediate and upcoming (sometimes literal) concrete needs of our building. Secondly, to inspire us to consider this resurrection season and the new life this congregation has before it. We ask that you deliberately set aside time to prayerfully contemplate the value of Haslett Community Church in your life, along with your ability to contribute financially to this fundraising effort.

We know that the pandemic has not affected all of us equally. We know broadly that some have been brought to a financial brink like no other time in their lives. While others have experienced very little change in their finances, and others have simply been able to save more because of reduced opportunities to expend money on normal activities. We also know that some people are indeed better off than they were from when the pandemic began, even considerably so. In fundraising efforts like this one, the focus is not on actual dollar amounts given, but on the faithfulness with which we give within our capacity. Our goal is not simply a dollar amount, but to gain as close to full participation of our entire congregation as possible. Everyone matters, everyone counts.

There is no gift too large or too small to be offered, lest we be reminded of the parable of the women and her two pennies. It'd be nice if that didn't sound so cliché, because in the end it's still true. How do we build the future of this congregation? Of course we do it together. Each offering within our own capacity.

Haslett Community Church has been one of the only places I've called home and found community through every season of my life. Since my family moved back to Michigan in

**We strive joyfully and prayerfully to warmly welcome all,  
freely share our blessings, and humbly explore God's love.**

the summer of 2019, the ability to reconnect with HCC has sustained me and renewed my spirit in many ways, particularly in this pandemic season of separation. In these days we have been reminded of the relationships that nourish us, and we have felt the physical distance from them. As we begin to do the work to come back together, as a country, as well as a church, we are all asked to consider questions of resurrection: what is new, and what will we do next?

With gratitude and love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle A. Carnes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kyle Carnes  
Finance Team, Chair



# flowers & FOUNDATIONS

## ARE GROWING AT HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH

HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH IS DOING SOME MUCH-NEEDED STRUCTURAL WORK ON OUR BUILDING SO THAT WE ARE READY TO WELCOME OUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY IN WITH OPEN DOORS! HELP US RAISE FUNDS TO COMPLETE PROJECTS THAT WILL ENHANCE THE FUNCTION, BEAUTY AND SAFETY OF OUR PROPERTY.

WE HAVE SET A FUNDRAISING GOAL OF \$65,000.

WE ALREADY HAVE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THAT TOTALING: \$42,000 (\$21,000 FROM FUND BALANCE AND AN ADDITIONAL \$21,000 PRE-PLEDGED BY DONORS).

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP TO RAISE THE FINAL \$23,000.

### STRUCTURAL NEEDS INCLUDE:

- SOUTH SIDE RETAINING WALL & PORCH
- SOUTH SIDE SEWER DRAIN REPLACEMENT

### FUNCTION & SAFETY NEEDS INCLUDE:

- FIRE & SAFETY DOOR UPGRADE AND INSTALLATION
- ELECTRICAL PANEL UPGRADE
- RE-KEYING THE BUILDING

### BEAUTIFICATION NEEDS INCLUDE:

- NATIVE PLANT GARDEN ON SOUTH SIDE AFTER STRUCTURAL REPAIRS
- PAINT AND FLOORING REPAIR IN SOME AREAS



## Let's grow together



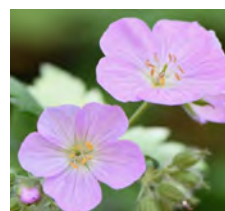
YOUR DONATIONS TOWARD OUR FLOWERS & FOUNDATIONS CAMPAIGN WILL HELP US REACH OUR GOAL AND SYMBOLICALLY ADD A NATIVE PLANT TO OUR SOUTH GARDEN! DONATIONS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED ON A GARDEN WALL OF GRATITUDE ON OUR WEBSITE.



UP TO \$200:  
ROSE MILKWEED



UP TO \$500:  
WOODLAND POPPY



UP TO \$1000:  
WILD GERANIUM



\$1000 AND UP:  
TRILLIUM



You, the people of Haslett Community Church, United Church of Christ, make our community so special. We want you to be informed about specific projects to be accomplished with this fundraiser, and the scope of what lies ahead. This initial effort to raise money for the most pressing projects will move our building and property toward readiness for a warm welcome when it is time to return. The aim is to address urgent, long-standing building concerns while the building remains largely unused, and to begin to prepare for other larger items that remain on the horizon as we look to the future.

The south side of the building needs some structural renovation. Nearly half of the \$65,000 total fundraising goal will be spent on these efforts. The south side projects include replacing the deteriorating lumber retaining wall with long-lasting poured concrete, replacing the pitted and aging south porch and porch roof, and replacing the blockage-prone south sewer line from the building to where it connects to the township line, which is needed to prevent further sewage backup problems.

When the south side projects reach completion near the end of Spring, we will beautify that space with a native plant garden that the entire community will be able to enjoy when walking or driving near the church. In this mailing you have received a package of native plant seeds, just a sampling of those that will fill the garden. These beautiful flowers will bloom during different seasons to support native pollinators, while providing the benefits of hardiness and lower maintenance that native perennials offer.

Additionally, we will invest in safety. One upgrade is to equip the building with two-way radios ("walkie-talkies") so there can be communication between Sunday School rooms and the upstairs on Sunday mornings. We will carry out a long-overdue project to re-key the building and install new door locks to streamline access for groups utilizing our space, while still enabling access to congregants who need it. There are also some interior doors that need to be replaced for safety. Functional needs include a bike rack installed outside and upgrading our electrical panel to safely accommodate electrical needs in the building. Your contributions to Flowers & Foundations will move all the above projects along!

One of the other key elements to this campaign is the creation of a Building Fund. This fund will serve as the expense account for our current projects, but also will be kept into the future to support major projects needed for maintenance, improvement, and upkeep of our building. The Church Council approved the starting of this fund along with the transfer of funds in our fund balance to begin our fundraiser. All funds raised will go directly into this account for the sake of transparency for current and future expenses. If Flowers & Foundations exceeds our fundraising goal, the monies will still be spent on building projects moving forward.

Investment in the future of our building and property is necessary, as, moving forward, there are still large-ticket items that remain. The flat portion of the roof has been evaluated and is nearing the end of its life, but there are still a few years for us to come up with the best plan for it. In addition, some research is being done to investigate the best way to repair and/or repave the parking lot. For these larger expenses, we will continue to research options, seek bids, and plan, so that we can operate in a financially transparent and predictable manner. There are other projects on the horizon as well, and of course we want to be prepared for surprises, too.

The Building fund will be able to receive ongoing donations. We know that some people feel called to support the church building itself above and beyond their annual pledge to the general operating fund of the church. This is a way to do that. It can also be a place to leave your bequests and other tax-deductible donations. Haslett Community Church is grateful for your previous contributions, your ongoing generosity, and your continued faithfulness to this congregation, its facilities, ministry, and mission. Flowers and Foundations are growing at Haslett Community Church!

Sincerely,  
David Arnosti, Betsy Aho, Malinda Barr and Kyle Carnes  
Flowers & Foundations Fundraising Team

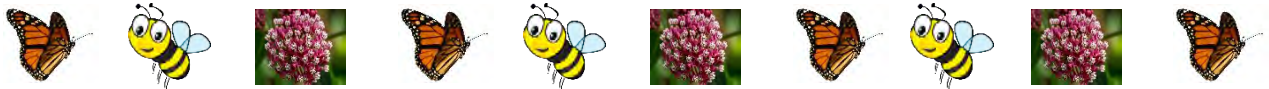


It is easy to make a tax-deductible donation to Flowers & Foundations. You may indicate if you would like your name(s) on the online Garden Wall of Gratitude, or if your gift is in honor or in memory of someone. The Garden Wall of Gratitude will appear on [haslettcommunitychurch.org](http://haslettcommunitychurch.org) with the names of donors/honorees.

- To give online, go to [haslettcommunitychurch.org/giving](http://haslettcommunitychurch.org/giving) and click the “Give Online” box. When the HCC Online Giving page appears, choose “Flowers & Foundations Spring Fundraiser” from the Fund dropdown. If you would like your name and/or the name of someone your donation is in honor of to appear on the online Wall of Gratitude, please type the information into the Note field that appears. Then enter the Amount you’d like to donate, and enter your billing information to complete your donation.
- To give by text message, text the word “give” to 517-200-3995. A link will be texted to you, and you can then follow the online giving instructions above.
- To give by check, please make your check out to Haslett Community Church, and add “Flowers & Foundations” in the memo line. Mail checks to:

Haslett Community Church  
PO Box 217  
Haslett, MI 48840

If you pay by check and would like your name or the name of someone the donation is in honor of included on the online Garden Wall of Gratitude, please include a note along with your check, indicating what names to include online.



#### About your seeds:

Rose Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), also known as Swamp Milkweed, is an excellent native perennial pollinator plant that supports many species of butterflies, moths, bees, and more. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs only on milkweed plants.

Rose Milkweed grows best in full sun, in moist to wet soils, but will do well in average garden soil. “The 3–5-foot plant forms a beautiful clump with upright stems, long narrow leaves, and clusters of fragrant pink flowers - followed by attractive seedpods for late season interest.” ([prairienursery.com](http://prairienursery.com))

Milkweed seeds require a damp cool stratification period prior to germination:

1. Place the seeds in a sealed container filled with damp seed starting soil, sand, or potting mix.
2. Refrigerate the seeds for 30 days.
3. Sow seeds outside on the soil surface after danger of frost. Or, alternatively, in pots indoors.
4. Keep moist.

Seeds may also be sown directly outdoors in the fall to be stratified naturally.