



Haslett Community Church
United Church of Christ

Sunday, January 14, 2024
10:00 AM

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

haslettcommunitychurch.org

P.O. Box 217 · 1427 Haslett Rd.
Haslett, MI 48840

517.339.8383

hcc1@att.net

We strive to ensure that all are comfortable worshipping with us. Therefore, we:

- Offer three ways to worship: in our Sanctuary, from your car in our south lot (radio to 88.7 FM - turn up your volume) and via livestream (see website for details).
- Provide large print worship bulletins and hearing assist receivers in the sanctuary upon request – an usher would be happy to help you
- Have a building that is barrier free with accessible restrooms. Gender neutral bathrooms are downstairs and are accessible by stairs and elevator.
- Are an Open & Affirming Church which means we welcome and affirm persons of every gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, age, race, nationality, economic status, faith background, marital status, or family structure.

Three Ways to Worship
Sundays at 10:00 am



1. In person
2. Parking lot (car radio on 88.7FM)
3. Remotely (via YouTube)

The church office is open for On-site Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday 10:30am - 1:00pm.

Pastor Betsy is in the office Tue-Fri. Appointments recommended, or come for her drop-in office hours on Wednesdays from 11:30am - 1:00pm.

We love to see you, so please stop by!

Your staff continues to be available to serve you by email and phone outside these on-site hours as well.

We welcome families and households of every size and age and want children to know they are welcome here. Therefore, we:

- Don't mind when children wiggle and make noise in church-your whole family is welcome here! We also have nursery care downstairs staffed by safety-trained volunteers.
- Have preschool through 5th Graders begin each week in worship, and then offer Sunday School following the Children's Moment most weeks
- Have vibrant and active middle and high school youth groups for 6th-12th graders

Our Vision:

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

**Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 14, 2024 10:00 am**

*When you see an *, you are invited to stand as you are able. When text is in bold, you are invited to speak aloud.*

For Your Meditation *“Whether in cave paintings or the latest uses of the internet, human beings have always told their histories and truths through parable and fable. We are inveterate storytellers.” -Beeban Kidron*

Gathering Music

“You Are the Seed”
(our 2nd hymn this morning)

Gabaráin

Welcome & Announcements

Safety Snippet

Choral Call to Worship

“Peace of the Earth”

Bell

Call to Worship (adapted from a prayer by Nancy C. Townley)

What mysteries there are in God's world!

With all our knowledge, we still stand in awe at the wonders of the natural world.

We look at the tiniest of seeds and wonder what will happen,

Yet from that small seed will grow a large shrub.

Although we consider our gifts to be small and insignificant,

God will use our gifts in miraculous ways.

Praise the God of small seeds and mighty power. Amen.

* Hymn #325

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

Cole-Turner
STUTTGART

Prayer of Approach (adapted from a prayer by James E. Janeczek)

God of steadfast love, you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy,

Now let us germinate a new life, growing with integrity!

God of steadfast love, you change the cold distance of broken hearts sunrays of mercy

Now let us sprout a new life, growing with honesty!

God of steadfast love, you change the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy,

Now let us branch out into new life, growing with generosity!

Divine Gardener,

You tend us in steadfast love,

Unending mercies, and eternal faithfulness;

you cultivate true friendship with you

through boundless forgiveness.

In Christ, this faithful love is planted in our hearts.

Gathered as your community, our family of faith,

with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us,

we can now produce forgiveness for each other as we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Moment of Quiet Reflection

Hymn Response

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”
(verse 1)

Vajda / Freeman

1. Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's
word, I come in half be - lief, a pil - grim strange-ly
stirred, but there is room and wel-come there for me.

First Scripture Reading

Mark 4: 1-9

Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ² He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³ “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell on a path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” ⁹ And he said, “If you have ears to hear, then hear!”

Baptism of Elizabeth Lynn Downs, born July 11, 2023

Parents: Devon and Tara Downs

Godparents: Claire Cowan, Ted Wilson

Anthem

“Epiphany Carol”

Latin, 12th century
Lovlace

Second Scripture Reading

([See insert to follow along](#))

Mark 4: 10-12, 30-34

Sermon

“Seeds, Soil, Sunshine, Sprouts”

* Hymn #528

“You Are the Seed”
(verses 1 & 2)

Gabaráin

Invitation to Share Tithes & Offerings

Offertory (see [page 4](#) for digital giving options)

* Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Christ all creatures here below; One God, Triune, whom we adore.
Amen.

Blessing of David and Regula Arnosti’s Adventures Ahead

Annual Congregational Meeting is Called to Order

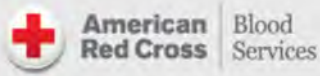
We worship every Sunday at 10:00 am, and you are welcome to join us.

Thank you for continuing to support Haslett Community Church as you are able. We receive your gifts with gratitude. We have some secure electronic options to help make your giving easy and safe:



- Use your phone camera to scan the QR code to the right to access our Online Giving.
- Text GIVE to our secure giving number: 517-200-3995
- PayPal us at: HCCgenerosity@gmail.com

We are so grateful for your generosity!



**American Red Cross
Blood Drive**

The Red Cross has an immediate need for blood donations. **There will be a blood drive at HCC on**

Friday, January 19, Noon - 6pm

- Donation **by appointment only** (NO WALK IN appointments).

Visit www.redcrossblood.org/give then scroll through the Drives listed in the left panel to find Haslett Community Church and an appointment time that works for you.

GREEN TEAM BOOK CLUB!!!

The Green Team book club will meet again on **Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, in Fellowship Hall, at 7pm**

We will continue discussing Douglas Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home - how you can sustain wildlife with native plants.*

If you have further questions, you can email Kim Huston at:

kimahuston@gmail.com.



In this start of 2024, the Safety Team reminds us that January has been

identified as HCC's Safety Month. To that end, members of the Safety Team will be elevating specific Safety and Security Initiatives each week in January via short comments during the Announcements portion of the service. Remember, part of loving everyone in our Congregation is protecting everyone... ensuring church safety begins with each and every one of us!



Men's Group meets **THIS SATURDAY, January 20, at 9:00 AM** for breakfast together at **Denny's at 2701 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing, MI 48823.**

We look forward to seeing you!

Ministry Connections
Reaching Out to Each Other and Our Community
January 14, 2024



We heartily welcome all to our service of worship.

May the comfort and challenge of God's loving presence renew and inspire you this morning and throughout the coming week.



Follow us on Facebook
 Haslett Community Church

Haslett Community Church welcomes You!

If you are visiting, please take a purple dove cup with a sweet treat and helpful information on your way out!

We worship every Sunday at 10:00 am.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Annual Congregational Budget Meeting TODAY

January 14, at 11:00 AM
 (immediately after worship)

This meeting is an important part of being the church! We will conduct the business of voting on the 2024 Budget and electing new members to the Church Council, in addition to sharing other important information.

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone is welcome to attend a Congregational Meeting and participate in discussion. Per our Bylaws, only those holding church membership can vote.

CHURCH CALENDAR (January 14 - January 21)

Sunday 1/14/2024	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:45 AM 5:00 - 6:30 PM 7:00 - 9:00 PM	Worship (S, Online) Sunday School (SS) Congregational Meeting (S) Knitters, Crocheters, etc. (L) YOUTH: MS Youth Grp (YR) YOUTH: HS Youth Grp (YR)
Baptism, Annual Meeting		
Monday 1/15/2024	1/15-1/26 10:00 AM	MLK DAY Pastor Betsy Vacation YOUTH Day of Service (FP)
Tuesday 1/16/2024	10:30 AM - 1PM 7:00 PM	NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE <i>Email to hcc1@att.net</i> Onsite Office Hours (Ofc) Green Team Book Club (FH)
Wednesday 1/17/2024	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (CR)
Thursday 1/18/2024	10:30 AM 1/2 day	HCC Onsite Office Hours (Ofc) YOUTH: HS 1/2 day Lunch <i>Cancun Okemos</i>
Friday 1/19/2024	11:00 AM Noon - 6:00 PM	Red Cross Blood Drive Setup Red Cross Blood Drive (Fr,FH,S)
Saturday 1/20/2024	9:00 AM	Men's Group Breakfast <i>Denny's on Grand River Ave.</i>
Sunday 1/21/2024	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:15 AM 5:00 - 6:30 PM 7:00 - 9:00 PM	Worship (S, Online) Sunday School (SS) Coffee Fellowship (Fr) Coffee With Jesus (MM) YOUTH: MS Youth Grp (YR) YOUTH: HS Youth Grp (YR)
Laity Sunday		

Pastor Betsy will be on vacation from January 15 - 26.

During that time, please contact Pastor Erin for Pastoral emergencies, and know that Betsy will return all other messages, etc. upon her return.

There will be no Sermon Prep Bible Study on January 18 or 25, and no Open Office Hours on January 17 or 24.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Information you'd like included in the February 2024 Newsletter is due to Michele no later than **January 16** (THIS TUESDAY) Please send to: hcc1@att.net

The Staff:

Rev. Betsy Aho	Pastor	aho.betsy@att.net	517.339.8383 x11
Rev. Erin Heisler	Minister for Youth & Children	erin.heisler@att.net	517.339.8383 x19
Barbara Freeman	Church Musician		517.881.9976
Landon Black	Choral Conductor Intern		
Michele Booher	Office Manager	hcc1@att.net	517.339.8383 x10
Sally Sanchez	Custodian		

Our thanks this morning to:

Reader:	Saundra Porter
Greeters:	Lucretia Hildabridle & Ann McGrath
Ushers:	Barb & Mike Szkotnicki
Coffee Hosts:	Ron & Cathy Rowe
Audio/Visual Tech:	Jon Lineberry (Train Aaron Copeland)
Tellers	Barb Szkotnicki & Bob Heisler (Train Kristin Schuster)



To donate Sanctuary flowers for a future Sunday , please sign up on the sheet on the wall outside the HCC office or online [HERE](#).

Permission to reprint music and words from sources other than The New Century Hymnal is granted under CCLI License # 1340749 or by special permission.

Thank you for worshipping with us! If you are visiting, or would like to know more about Haslett Community Church, you are invited to:

- Take a “Purple Dove Cup” for your household on your way out – it has some helpful info and a treat inside.
- Fill out a “Welcome!” card available in the seat in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher so that we might be in touch with you in the ways you indicate would be helpful.
- Ask questions if you have them; our Pastors, ushers, and the people sitting around you are great sources of information and are happy to help you feel comfortable here.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome at Haslett Community Church where we strive to welcome everyone with the same unconditional hospitality demonstrated by the love of God in Christ for all people.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 4: 10-12, 30-34

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹ And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything comes in parables, ¹² in order that 'they may indeed look but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.' "

³⁰ He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples. [\(Back\)](#)

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981



- 1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;
2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!
3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
4 Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.
Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.
Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God more than all.



Ronald Cole-Turner, a teacher of theology, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He is an award-winning author on the interface of science and religion.

(Back)

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716), in
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

Sois la Semilla (You are the Seed)

Gabaráin

84



1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a
2. You are the flame that will bright - en the way, send - ing



3
star that will shine through the day;
spar - kles of hope faith and love;



5
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a
You are the ci - ty that's built on a rock, where



7
bea - con to glow in the night.
jus - tice and truth al - ways reign.



9
Go, my friends, go to the world, pro - claim - ing love to all,



13
mes - sen - gers of my for - giv - ing peace,



15
and e - ter - nal love. and e - ter - nal love. (Back)