



Haslett Community Church
United Church of Christ

Sunday, July 23, 2023
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.*

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 23, 2023 10:00 am
Rev. Melanie Baker, guest preacher

*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: “No prophet is on record as having asked for the job.”

- Frederick Buechner , *Wishful Thinking*

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship (by Moira Laidlaw)

The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.

The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here.

The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here.

We come to prepare a way for the Lord.

We come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives.

For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it. Let us worship in hope.

* Hymn #388

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Kaan
AURELIA

Prayer of Approach (adapted from a prayer by Bruce Prewer)

**O brave wilderness voice, prophet of the Highest,
come among our markets
and consuming passions
and rebuke with your cry
our modern addictions
and frantic fashions.**

(continued...)

O lonely, rough-hewn soul, speaker of hard truths,
 axe our mad, fruitless boasts
 and spiritless ladder climbing;
 call us to that repentance
 which we have deftly dodged
 under pious cliches.

O smoother of crude ways, mover of mountains,
 tread down our pampered pride
 and cultured discontent;
 lead us in your ways
 that we might be comforted
 that we might offer comfort. Amen.

Moment of Quiet Reflection

Hymn Response

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

Duck
 Irish melody

Refrain

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

Fine

First Scripture Reading

Mark 1: 1-4

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

(continued...)

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,’ ”

⁴ so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins.

Special Music

“You Say”
(Mary Trebilcock - soloist)

Daigle

*** Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you;
And also with you.

Preschool through 5th graders are invited to Sunday School.

Second Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord’s hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass;
their constancy is like the flower of the
field.

⁷ The grass withers; the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows
upon it;
surely the people are grass.

(continued on next pg...)

⁸ The grass withers; the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms
and carry them in his bosom
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Sermon

“When Comfort Sounds Like Affliction and Vice-Versa”

Rev. Melanie Baker

*** Hymn**

“I Will Come to You”
(please see insert)

Haas

Announcements

Invitation to Share Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

“He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd”

Handel

*** Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*** Benediction**

Postlude



After worship, you are invited to join us for Coffee Hour in Friendship Hall.

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

Ministry Connections
Reaching Out to Each Other and Our Community
July 23, 2023



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

CHURCH CALENDAR (July 23 - July 30)

Sunday 7/23/2023	10:00 AM	Worship (S, PL, Online) <i>Guest preacher, Melanie Baker</i>
	10:00 AM	Sunday School (SS)
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship (Fr)
Tuesday 7/25/2023	10:30 AM - 1PM	Onsite Office Hours (Ofc)
	7:15 PM	Spiritual Life Meets (FH)
Wednesday 7/26/2023	11:30 AM - 1 PM	Betsy Office Hours (Ofc)
Thursday 7/27/2023	10:30 AM - 1PM	Onsite Office Hours (Ofc)
Saturday 7/29/2023	9:00 AM	Men's Group Meets (Z)
Sunday 7/30/2023	10:00 AM	Worship (S, PL, Online)
	10:00 AM	Sunday School (SS)
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship (Fr)

Legend: CR=Choir Rm; Edge=Edgewood UCC; FH= Fellowship Hall; Fr = Friendship Hall; L=Library; OD1= Door1; Ofc=HCC Office; K =Kitchen; PL=Parking Lot ; S=Sanctuary; SS=Sunday School Rooms (downstairs); YR=Youth Rm; Z=Zoom



**Coffee Fellowship
TODAY!**

You are invited to join us after worship today for Coffee Fellowship in Friendship Hall. We hope you can join us. All are welcome!

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.



Please welcome Rev. Melanie Baker as she returns as our guest preacher today!

Melanie is a retired pastor from the United Methodist tradition who served 28 years in 5 parishes across MI, retiring in 2015. Since retiring, she has found joy in a second career, exercising her lifelong love of children's literature as the Director of Lansing RIF (Reading Is Fundamental).

Melanie is a member of Edgewood United Church, where she sings in the choir. Her faith and preaching are grounded in the unfailing grace of God, which sets a table big enough for everyone.



STELLAR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE SHINING JESUS' LIGHT ON AUGUST 1-3 FROM 5-7 PM! VBS is open to all children from 1 year through 5th Grade, thanks to the addition of a toddler class this summer! Want to sign up or get more information? Contact Erin Heisler at erin.heisler@att.net.

You can also help with VBS...here's how:

1. Purchase supplies from THIS WISH LIST and make sure they arrive at church by July 30th, or pick up a supply card on Sunday morning and return the item(s) by July 30th.
2. Let Erin know that you would like to volunteer for VBS - You can do some work ahead of time (at home or at church) with preparations, decorations, etc. And/or during VBS. Be in touch with Erin and she'll work with your preferences.

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
Michele Booher	Office Manager	hcc1@att.net	517.339.8383 x10
Sally Sanchez	Custodian		

Our thanks this morning to:

Readers:	Alice Whiren
Greeters:	Rebecca Reagan & Susan Schwaderer
Ushers:	Becky & Larry Leefers
Coffee Hosts:	Steve & Barb Decker
Audio/Visual Techs:	Kirk Riley
Tellers	Larry Leefers & Cambria Decker-Larkin

Special thanks to Mary Trebilcock for sharing her musical talents with us today.

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 worshiping 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.

John 15:12; 17:20-23; Eph. 4:1-6, 11-16

Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.

1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
 2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons, as in our dai-ly life
 3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ter with all who are in need,

teach us, as sis-ter, broth-er, each per-son to em-brace.
 we strug-gle to be hu-man and search for hope and faith
 in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance, for righ-teous-ness and bread,

Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us, and bring us to be-lieve
 Teach us to care for peo-ple, for all, not just for some,
 To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance, un-til we know by heart
 Bring us new eyes for see-ing, new hands for hold-ing on;

we are our-selves ac-cept-ed and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be-come.
 the ta-ble of for-give-ness and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
 re-new us with your Spir-it; God! Free us, make us one!

Like the writings of Ambrose many centuries earlier, this hymn was born out of a doctrinal dispute. The young priest Samuel J. Stone composed twelve hymns on the articles of the Apostles' Creed in support of those reacting against nontraditional views

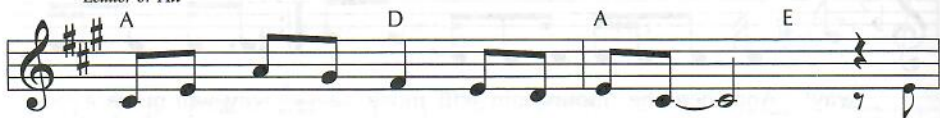
(Back)

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

I Will Come to You

You Are Mine

Leader or All



- 1 "I will come to you in the si - lence;
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less;
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom; I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. (to stanza 2)
 Come and rest in me. (to Refrain)
 all will know my name. (to Refrain)
 up, now walk and live! (to Refrain)

Refrain All



Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine."

4 "I

Presuming to speak in the voice of God, as this song does, can only be done with integrity if the singers understand their words as an expression of what they believe about God's nature and God's intentions. It is an occasion for affirming faith, not for wishful thinking.