



Haslett Community Church
United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 3, 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.*

First Sunday of Advent, Communion, and Joyful Offering
December 3, 2023 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 “So may we know the hope that is not just for someday but for this day— here, now, in this moment”
– Jan Richardson

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Choral Call To Worship “Create In Me” Roth

Lighting the First Advent Candle

We begin this season of Advent in anticipation of what God will do in our lives and in our world.

As we gather together, we wait in hope for God.

So let us worship fully.

Let us sing joyfully!

Let us light the candle of hope.

- Candle of Hope is lit -

Holy One, as a flame, however small, you can overwhelm the deepest darkness. May the hope we have in you light our way out of despair and into your fullness of life.

May our worship this morning increase the light – for ourselves and for our world.
Amen.

* **Hymn #101** “Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People” Olearius
PSALM 42

Prayer of Approach

Holy God, the time is surely coming when our love for one another and all of your children will increase.

Might we live into that time with hope.

The day is surely coming when you will strengthen our hearts with humility and holiness.

We anticipate that day as we reach out to serve all of those in need.

The days are surely coming when we will walk the paths of faithfulness and steadfast love.

We begin this journey, knowing that one day all of your promises will be fulfilled.

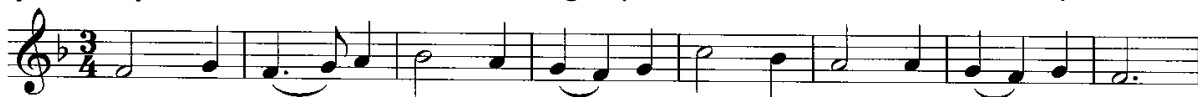
Until that time, might we live in hope. Amen.

Moment of Quiet Reflection

Hymn Response

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Wesley/ HYFRYDOL



Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free:



From our fears and sins re - lease us, grant us your true lib - er - ty.

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 25: 1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

⁸ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore God instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ The Lord leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble the way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.

Children's Moment

Preschool through 5th graders are invited to Sunday School.

Second Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33: 10-11

Thus says the Lord: In this place of which you say, “It is a waste without humans or animals,” in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without inhabitants, human or animal, there shall once more be heard ¹¹the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing as they bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord:

“Give thanks to the Lord of hosts,
for the Lord is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!”

For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the Lord.

Sermon

“Hope”

Sacrament of Holy Communion (gluten-free, alcohol free)

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

Invitation to the Offering and Joyful Offering

Offertory

* 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.

Choral Benediction

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

* Benediction

Postlude

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten/Thula Sizwe”


DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
South Africa-Zulu



You are invited to join us for Coffee Fellowship after worship in Friendship Hall.

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

Advent and Christmas Eve, 2023

 Haslett Community Church, United Church of Christ



Week 1 · Hope · Dec. 3

10 a.m. Worship with Communion & Joyful Offering

Week 2 · Peace · Dec. 10

10 a.m. Songfest with music from Handel’s Messiah

Week 3 · Joy · Dec. 17

10 a.m. Worship

Week 4 · Love · Christmas Eve · Dec. 24

10 a.m. Children’s Service · Christmas story for children & some music from our families

7 & 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Services · Choir & Candlelight

We receive your gifts with gratitude. We have some no-touch options to help make your giving easy and safe:

- Use your phone camera to scan the QR code to access our Online Giving.
- Text GIVE to our secure giving number: 517-200-3995

We are so grateful for your generosity!



Ministry Connections
Reaching Out to Each Other and Our Community
December 3, 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

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.

Gingerbread House Decorating TODAY, Sunday, December 3, right after church.



All are welcome, but **space is limited to 24 people**. If you didn't sign up ahead of time, check in with us - we may have extra supplies! :)

CHURCH CALENDAR (December 3 - December 10)

Sunday 12/3/2023	10:00 AM	Worship (S, PL, Online) <i>Communion & Joyful Offering</i>
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship (Fr)
ADVENT BEGINS	11:00 AM	Gingerbread Houses (FH)
	5:00 - 6:30 PM	YOUTH: MS shops for CGP
	7:00 - 9:00 PM	YOUTH: HS shops for CGP
Monday 12/4/2023	6:45 - 8:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal (S)
	7:30 PM	Social Committee Meets (Fr)
Tuesday 12/5/2023	9:45am	Staff Meeting (FH)
	10:30 AM - 1PM	Onsite Office Hours (Ofc)
Wednesday 12/6/2023	11:30 AM - 1PM	Pastor Betsy Office Hours (Ofc)
	5:30 - 7:00 PM	KIDS: ADVENTure Club (FH)
Thursday 12/7/2023	9:00 - 9:45 AM	Sermon Preview Bible Study (Z)
	10:30 AM - 1PM	Onsite Office Hours (Ofc)
	6:00 - 6:30 PM	Music for Peace & Comfort (S)
	7:00 PM	Haslett Women's Club (Fr)
Saturday 12/9/2023	8:30 AM	Songfest Setup (S)
	9:00 AM	Men's Breakfast - Denny's E.L.
	2:00 PM	Choir Dress Rehearsal (S)
	6:00 - 8:00 PM	YOUTH: MS Movie Night (Fr)
	8:00 - 10:00 PM	YOUTH: HS Movie Night (Fr)
Sunday 12/10/2023	10:00 AM	Worship (S, PL, Online)
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship (Fr)
	11:15 AM	Knitters, Crocheters, etc. (L)
	5:00 - 6:30 PM	YOUTH:MS ChristmasParty (YR)
SONGFEST	7:00 - 9:00 PM	YOUTH:HS ChristmasParty (YR)

Legend: CR=Choir Rm; D3= Door3; FH= Fellowship Hall; Fr = Friendship Hall; L=Library; Ofc=HCC Office; K =Kitchen; PL=Parking Lot; S=Sanctuary; SS=Sunday School Rooms (downstairs); YR=Youth Rm; Z=Zoom



ADVENTure Club begins this Wednesday, Dec. 6, 5:30-7:00 pm! Children 3 years old thru 5th grade welcome.

Music for Peace and Comfort - Barbara Freeman will offer music for peace and comfort the next two Thursday nights (Dec. 7 & 14) between 6:00 and 6:30 PM. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS !

It's time to once again order the beautiful poinsettia plants that will decorate our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve!

You can order online using the QR code to the right or by filling out the insert in today's bulletin and turning it into the office by December 17.



Please join us next Sunday for Songfest!

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:	Don Flagg
Greeters:	Don & Kelly Flagg
Ushers:	Jim Gornick & Jewell Muller-Gornick
Coffee Hosts:	Ruth Linnemann & Menetta Kass
Audio/Visual Tech:	Rich Newport
Tellers	Don Flagg & Jim Gornick



Sanctuary flowers today are donated by Kris Belonge.

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.

1 "Com - fort, com - fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
 2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!

Com - fort those whose hearts are shroud - ed, mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 Bid - ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes - si - ah's ho - ly reign.

Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For God's glo - ry ev - er - more shall be known o'er all the world;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Written for John the Baptist's Day, June 24, this hymn clearly reflects the Isaiah text. Johannes Olearius, a Lutheran pastor, held a faculty appointment at Wittenberg University as well as church administration positions in his region.

(Back)

Tune: PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
 (FREU DICH SEHR)
 Trente quatre Pseumes, Geneva, 1551

O How Shall I Receive You

102

*Paul Gerhardt, 1653**Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, and others; alt.*

1 O how shall I re - ceive you, how meet you on your way,
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you un - to me;
3 You come, O Christ, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,

blessed hope of ev - ery peo - ple, my soul's de - light and stay?
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O Je - sus, Je - sus, give me now by your own pure light,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to know what-e'er is pleas - ing and wel - come in your sight.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
when a re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

As a German Lutheran pastor serving during the Thirty Years' War, Paul Gerhardt's trials were legion. In the midst of it all, he composed more than a hundred hymns, among them some of the finest and most beloved in Christian hymnody.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.

(VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)

Melchior Teschner, 1615[\(Back\)](#)

ORDER YOUR 2023 POINSETTIAS NOW!



We plan to decorate our sanctuary with an array of beautiful poinsettias again this year! You can sponsor the 6½" pots of red or white with foil for \$15.00 each, and the larger 8½" pots of red, white, or marbled flowers for \$30. They will be placed around the sanctuary to enhance the joyful atmosphere of the Christmas celebration! The plants you sponsor may be taken home following the last worship service on Christmas Eve, and your dedication will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Please attach cash or check to this form and **return to the church office by Dec 17.**

Your name: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

6½" pot @ \$15.00 _____ 8½" pot @ \$30.00 _____

Total number of plants _____ Total check _____ Total Cash _____

_____ I will pick up my plant(s) after the last worship service on Christmas Eve

_____ Please donate my plant(s) to our homebound members

[\(Back\)](#)

Christmas Giving Project - Gifts




Today you are invited to stop by the Christmas Project table after the service to request a child to sponsor. You are asked to purchase 5 gifts for each child you sponsor.

You can request a gift list remotely. Send an email with Gift Request in the Subject line to hccChristmas@att.net. Put three things your email: 1) your name and phone number, 2) the number of children you wish to sponsor, and 3) your preference of the child's age and gender.

You will receive a gift list and gift preparation instructions via return email. We will do our best to match your preferences. The gift lists will be sent out beginning on November 14.

If you choose to support the project financially, without shopping, you can send a contribution on our [Online Giving page](#) by choosing "Christmas Giving Project" as the fund you're donating to. You can also send a check to HCC, PO Box 217, Haslett, MI 48840, with "Christmas Giving Project" in the memo line.

Christmas Giving Project - Volunteering

Task & Description	When & where help is needed	Amount of time involved	How to respond or sign up
Receive and store gift donations	Sunday, Nov. 12; 11am to 12:30pm, and each Saturday & Sunday starting November 25, at HCC	1.5 hours per shift	
Layout and post family ID signs for food packing	Monday, December 18, in sanctuary	10am to noon	Contact Ruth: rlinnemann2@gmail.com
Pack groceries - requires carrying 20 lb. boxes	Monday, December 18, or Tuesday, December 19, at HCC	1.5 hours per shift	
Distribution - multiple tasks described on opening page of sign up; see QR code	Thursday, December 21; 3 shifts	2 to 3 hours per shift	

I'm interested and want more information:

Name _____

Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Holiday Wreath Sale

November 26, December 3 & 10

After 10:00am Service

Haslett Community Church

1427 Haslett Rd., Haslett, MI 48840



Haslett Scout Troop 97 is selling holiday wreaths to support scouting activities.

- 22" Fraser Fir holiday wreath
- Hand decorated with a red bow, berries, and pinecones
- Michigan grown
- Long Lasting
- \$28 each
- 46% of the price goes directly back to the Scout to fund camping trips, gear, uniforms, summer camp, and merit badge opportunities.

**We will be able to take Venmo, PayPal, Cash App, cash, or check

