



Haslett Community Church
United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 24, 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.*

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve, & Children's Christmas
December 24, 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.*

Gathering Music "Born in the Night, Mary's Child" Ainger

Welcome

Prelude "Holiday Medley on Tuba" trad. carols
("Silent Night", "The First Noel", "We Wish You a Merry Christmas")
(Easton - tuba)

Choral Call to Worship "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"
(Charly & Brooklyn D. - vocalists, Gwen Dease - piano)

Lighting the Advent Candles *The Bélisle Family*

This morning, the final day before Christmas, we light the four candles of Advent:
the candles of hope, peace, joy and love.

We gather to worship our God, whose love reaches to the heavens.

We gather to be with people we love, people who love us.

We rest in God's unfailling love.

Let us light the candle of love.

- Candles of hope, peace, joy, and love are lit -

Holy One, may your love for us warm our hearts and light our way, that we may share
your healing love with a broken world.

**May this time of worship allow us to bask in your love for us; and may our worship
empower us to love all. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn**

“The First Noel”
(verses 1-4)

trad. carol
THE FIRST NOWELL

1 The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as
they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born in a manger, Emmanuel.

2 They looked above and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born in a manger, Emmanuel.

3 And by the light of that same star
Three sages came from country far;
To seek for a king was there intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born in a manger, Emmanuel.

4 This star shone bright in the northwest,
O’er Bethlehem it came to rest
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born in a manger, Emmanuel.

Prayer of Approach (by Rev. Gord)

Holy God, We count it in mere hours now. Soon the Light will shine in the darkness, soon the baby will be born. Soon God will once again break into our lives, coming in a way that is expected yet unusual, challenging our expectations and calling us to see life differently. God of birth, God of light, in this time of song and prayer and silence, re-awaken in us the awe of Christmas. Amen.

Hymn Response

“Away In a Manger”

Luther

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; protect me, I pray,
And stay by my side until night turns to day.

First Scripture Reading - Luke 2: 1-7

Sienna

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Special Music

“Song of Joy”
(Sawyer - piano)

Ríos
Beethoven

Second Scripture Reading - Luke 2: 8-20

Elliott

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Special Music

“Berceuse” & “O Come Little Children”
(Brooklyn D. & Charly - cello)

Schubert &
Brueckner

Children's Moment - All children are invited to come forward for an interactive story.
Adults welcome, too!

"Holy Night & Little Star" - By Mitali Perkins,

Illustrated by Khoa Lee

Hymn #160 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Jesus the Light of the World" Wesley
(verses 1-3)

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
Jesus, the light of the world;
Glory to the Christ-child bring,
Jesus the light of the world.

We will follow the light, Beautiful light,
come where the dew drops of mercy are
bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus the light of the world.

We will follow the light, Beautiful light,
come where the dew drops of mercy are
bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus the light of the world

3 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Jesus, the light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Word,
Jesus, the light of the world.

2 Joyful, all you saints arise,
Jesus the light of the world;
Join the triumph of the skies,
Jesus, the light of the world.

We will follow the light, Beautiful light,
come where the dew drops of mercy are
bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus the light of the world.

Invitation to Share Our Offering

Offertory

"Carol of the Bells" & "O Christmas Tree"
(Brooklyn D. & Charly, piano & cello)

Leontovych &
Brueckner

Offertory Response (to the tune of the Doxology)

Praise God with songs that never cease
Praise God who fills the earth with peace

Praise God for love & joy within
The Holy Child is born again. Amen.

Christmas Prayer & 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.

Special Music

“There Was a Little Baby”
(Brooklyn F. - soloist)

Raffi

Announcements

Hymn

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Afr. Amer. Spiritual
arr. BFF

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Holiday Medley on Tuba”

trad. carols

(“Angels We Have Heard on High”, “Away in a Manger”, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”)

(Easton - tuba)

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



Ministry Connections
Reaching Out to Each Other and Our Community
December 24, 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 (December 24 - December 31)

Sunday 12/24/2023	10:00 AM	Worship (S, Online) <i>Family Christmas</i>
CHRISTMAS EVE	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship (Fr)
	7:00 PM	Candlelight Service 1 (S)
	9:00 PM	Candlelight Service 2 (S)
Tuesday 12/26/2023	10:30 AM - 1PM	Onsite Office Hours (Ofc)
Wednesday 12/27/2023	11:30 AM - 1PM	Betsy Office Hours (Ofc)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (S)
Thursday 12/28/2023	9:00 AM	Sermon Preview Grp (Z)
	10:30 AM	HCC Onsite Office Hours (Ofc)
Saturday 12/30/2023	10:00 AM	Men's Group Meets (Z)
Sunday 12/31/2023	10:00 AM	Worship (S, Online)
	10:00 AM	Sunday School (SS)
	11:00 AM	Special Coffee Fellowship (Fr) <i>Countdown to 12 (noon)</i>
NEW YEAR'S EVE		

Legend: CR=Choir Rm; DS = downstairs; FH= Fellowship Hall; Fr = Friendship Hall; K =Kitchen; L=Library; Ofc=HCC Office; MM = Mary & Martha Rm DS; N = Nursery DS; S=Sanctuary; SS=Sunday School Rooms (downstairs); YR=Youth Rm; Z=Zoom

Thank you for continuing to support Haslett Community Church as you are able. 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!



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.

The Staff:

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

Our Thanks this morning to:

Readers:	Sienna & Elliott
Greeters:	Ron & Cathy Rowe
Ushers:	Sylvia Davis & Malinda Barr
Coffee Hosts:	Tim & Laura Roumpz, Kelly Flagg
AV Techs:	Jim Gornick & Jon Lineberry
Tellers:	N/A (Tellers will count after 9pm)

And to Charly, Brooklyn D., Brooklyn F., Easton, Gwen, & Sawyer for sharing their musical gifts with us today. And to the Belisle family for lighting our Advent candles.

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

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.

We thank all who sponsored poinsettias. Plants may taken after the 9 PM service. Poinsettias were given by Angela Wilson and ...

In Memory Of

Sylvia Aho, from Wally, Phil, Betsy, Zoe, and Bryce Aho

Irmie Neils, from Kris Belonge

*Steve Booher (Dad) and Helen & Gib Walters (grandparents),
from Michele Booher & Bob Purosky*

Mike Bray and Pat Kay, from Carol Bray

Ruth & Rha Arnold and Nick & Florence Connelly (parents), from Judy Connelly

Rose, Hobert, Erna, & Lawrence (our parents), from Carol & Bob Cramer

My Family, from Cheryl Edwards

Our Mothers, from Don & Kelly Flagg

*Chuck & Marcile Garrod and Bob & Elaine Westveer (Our parents),
from Mark & Sally Garrod*

Rob Oesterle; Ernie & Velma Hildabridle, from Lucretia Hildabridle

Vicky Johnson (mother), from Todd Johnson

*Milton & Mary Ten Have, Lester & Virginia Jones, Carol (Jones) Oberg, and
Harold Ten Have, from Helen & David Jones*

Martin Fuchs, from Monique Jost

Our parents, from Barb & Charlie Kotz

Gerard & Maryann Mahon, from Mike Mahon

Mary Nelson and daughter Shelly, from Tom Nelson

*James Cody, Richard Newport, Sr. & Margaret Newport (parents),
from Liz & Rich Newport*

*Our parents: Martha & Ted Burr and Evelyn & Glenn Ricks,
from Joanne & Don Ricks*

*Pat Pellegrom (Katie's Mom) and Don & Greta Riley (Kirk's parents),
from Kirk & Katie Riley*

Tom & Juanita DeFord and Marvin & Anne Solomon, from Carolyn Solomon

Christy Rahl-Letts, from Barb & Mike Szkotnicki

In Memory Of (continued)

Our parents, from John & Mary Trebilcock

Theresa Ryan Cox, from Karen Webster

David's brother, Forrest Weight, Jr., from David Weight

Roger Wilson, from Russ & Lynn Wilson

In Honor Of

*The wonderful staff, Church Council, officers, and lay leadership of
Haslett Community Church, UCC, from Pastor Betsy*

*"My Uncle Don Sautter who always made me feel special",
from Heidi Dalton*

Mom and Dad, from Amy Lerg

Betty Cody (Liz's mom), from Rich and Liz Newport

The International Red Cross, from Rebecca Reagan & Susan Schwaderer

All of our grandkids, from Carol & Dan Reid

My children, my siblings and their families, from Carolyn Solomon

Happy 432nd Anniversary, KJ!

Love, DJ