



Haslett Community Church
United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve 2023
7:00 PM & 9:00 PM

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.*

Christmas Eve 2023

7:00 and 9:00 pm

*You are invited to say the **bolded phrases aloud**, and to stand where an * is indicated, as you are able.*

Gathering

“A Stable Lamp is Lighted”

David Hurd

Welcome!

Choral Call to Worship

“Coventry Carol”

arr. Shar

(from the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors - 15th c.)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

On this Christmas Eve, we approach the manger, hoping to catch a glimpse of the baby Jesus.

We take hope in the miracle of his birth.

In Mary and Joseph's journey we experience God's peace and joy.

In the shepherd's awe we feel God's love for the whole world.

Let us light our four Advent candles, and the Christ candle, as symbols of God's presence with us.

- The Christ Candle is lit alongside the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love -

Holy One, may your light shine in the darkness of night. May you move our spirits from anticipation to joyful celebration!

Let us sing praises to you, O God! Our hearts overflow with gladness on this Christmas Eve! Amen!

*** Hymn**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Wade / ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold him, born the King of angels

REFRAIN: O come, let us adore him,

O come let us adore him

O come, let us adore him,

Christ, the Lord!

(continued on next page...)

O Come All Ye Faithful continued...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy
morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

REFRAIN

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, all glory in the highest

REFRAIN

Prayer of Approach

Let the love that shaped earth and heaven dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that created humankind in God’s own image dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that overcomes suffering and violence dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that forgives and renews dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that brings reconciliation dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that brings the blessing of peace dwell within us this Christmas.
And may we share Christ’s peace with all people near and far. Amen.

Hymn Response #131

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
(verse 1)

Sears

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold
Peace on earth, goodwill to all, from heav’n’s all gracious king
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Anthem

“Oh Little Town of Bethlehem”
(verses 1 & 2)

Brooks

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

Scripture Reading**Luke 2: 1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Anthem

“Hurry, Hurry Yonder”

Davenport
Wagner**Scripture Reading****Luke 2: 8-12**

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

*** Hymn #154**

“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!

(continued on next pg....)

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!

7 PM - Children's Moment

9 PM - * Passing the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Scripture Reading

Luke 2: 13-20

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

*** Hymn**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Wesley

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king:
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

(continued...)

Joyful all ye nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies,
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

REFRAIN: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb;
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.

REFRAIN

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild he lays His glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.

REFRAIN

Sermon

"That's Not What I Asked For"

*** Hymn**

"Joy to the World"

Watts / Handel

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Invitation to Share Tithes and Offerings (see pg. 7 for electronic giving options)

Offertory

"'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime"

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

***Doxology**

Praise God with songs that never cease; Praise God for love and joy within;
Praise God who fills the earth with peace; The Holy Child is born again. 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.

*** Candle Lighting & Silent Night**

*There is a choral introduction as the light is passed.
Please stand, as able, when indicated.*

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*** Benediction**

Postlude

“Christmas Medley”

arr. BFF

Merry Christmas!



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.

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.



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



Please join us next Sunday during
 Coffee Fellowship for a special
 Countdown to the New Year!
 (12 noon)

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!

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 evening to:

<i>Greeters:</i>	7pm: Sylvia Davis & Sandra Porter 9pm: Dave & Nancy Ferguson
<i>Ushers:</i>	7pm: Rich Baumgartner & Ann Pierce 9pm: Liz Newport & Sylvia Davis
<i>Audio/Visual Techs:</i>	7pm: Helen & David Jones 9pm: Rich Newport
<i>Tellers</i>	9pm: Sylvia Davis & Rich Newport

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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.

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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