

Haslett Community Church



HCC Connections

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

January 2021



Special points of interest:

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Articles for the February 2021 Newsletter are due on the 3rd Tuesday of this month (January 19, 2021)

Church Officers and Council Members for 2021



As voted on at the HCC Annual Meeting, the Church Officers for 2021 are:

David Arnosti – Moderator
Regula Arnosti – Clerk
Bob Heisler – Treasurer
Paul White & Keith Carnes – Financial Secretaries

Those serving as Council Members are as follows:

Malinda Barr – Church Growth
Don Flagg – Spiritual Life
Mark Garrod – Member-at-Large
Alex Riley – Youth Ministry Team
Abby Ruonavaara – Children's Ministry Team
Stefanie Zin – Financial Stewardship Committee
Nancy White – Member Caring Committee
Barb Szkotnicki – Social Committee
Michael Parent – Property Committee
Ruth Linnemann – Mission Outreach Committee

Thank you to all for your willingness to serve in these important roles in the life of our church.



2021 Stewardship Campaign Report

The 2021 **Be the Church for Today and Tomorrow** stewardship campaign has concluded, and we want to thank those who pledged! While there is always room for growth, we are grateful that God continues to bless HCC.

For 2021, we received 100 pledges totaling \$254,718. This is three fewer pledges than in 2020 and \$7,500 lower than 2020's pledged dollars. We received eight new pledges from households that did not pledge in 2020. Eleven households that pledged in 2020 did not pledge for 2021, including three households which have moved away from our area. Thirty one households increased their pledges, and thirteen households decreased their pledges.

Thank you for your generosity!

~ Paul White, Stewardship Chair



“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year’s Day.” - Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Goodbye, 2020! Welcome, 2021!

It may be just the changing of a number...but there is a newness, a freshness, a sense of possibility and potential that comes with the new year. Especially after the year the world has been through!

As we move into 2021 with great anticipation, our first instinct might be to leave 2020 in 2020, completely. Yet, there are some things of value that we should make a point of bringing along into the new year. Some things I picked up in 2020 that will stay with me:

- Gratitude: for this church that has cared, worshiped, reached out, remained supportive, grown in faith, and been innovative in how to keep loving God and neighbor. And for the ways we have gotten to know each other more, even as the church has remained largely closed.
- Acknowledgement of Grief: for those lost right here in our church family while we could not gather how we are accustomed to; for the lives lost to COVID-19 in our country in numbers we almost cannot comprehend.
- Innovation & Creativity: around what it means to be the church, about how to make worship and community more accessible, about how to experience the peace and love of Christ as a community, even when apart.
- Increased Awareness: of inequality across racial, socio-economic, and other barriers, and the need to do my part to educate myself and participate in making the world more just.

What are some things you are taking with you into your next chapter? I would love to hear your list, so please feel free to drop me a line and let me know!

As Haslett Community Church, United Church of Christ, moves forward, we will be given opportunities in the upcoming year to contribute to projects that ensure our church is safe, sound, functional, welcoming, and beautiful, as we prepare to open our doors to the community in the years ahead. As we enter into 2021 prepared for joys and challenges, we know that we walk together as a community with our Triune God of Grace as our companion. Let us continue to celebrate together, worship together, rest together, grieve together, learn together, and care for one another, together.

Welcome to 2021, friends!

Peace & Blessings,
Betsy

Phone: 517.339.8383 x11
 Cell: 517.282.7443
 Email: aho.betsy@att.net



Virtual Check-in with Betsy

Pastor Betsy hosts a weekly informal congregation check-in via Zoom every TUESDAY at 12:30 pm.

You can participate any weeks you’d like by calling in with a phone (high-tech or low-tech)*, or with the ZOOM app on a computer or tablet to add video capabilities. See the [Zoom tips section](#) for more information.

All are invited to use this time – it’s good to hear familiar voices, see familiar faces, and be “together” as we can!

Betsy looks forward to connecting with you!

Join Zoom Meeting: www.zoom.us
Meeting ID: 885 3274 6045
To Call In*: 646.876.9923 or
 301.715.8592
**Long Distance charges may apply*

Join In At HCC! It's a new year, and we want to remind you of some of the many ways you can stay involved at HCC now and throughout the year! Below are brief descriptions, meeting information, and ways to contact and get involved with some of the different teams and committees at HCC. In the new year, we hope you consider getting involved in new ways!



CHURCH & SOCIETY

Haslett Community Church

The Church and Society Committee

meets periodically to engage church members in issues of social consequence. In 2019 we started monthly pot-luck meetings to discuss ideas and progress pertaining to the committee's main areas of focus, which include environmental issues, support of the LGBTQIA+ community, diversity and interfaith relations, hometown missions, and GLUNA. Look for many involvement opportunities related to these areas in 2021! If you'd like more information or want to get involved, please contact chair, David Arnosti: arnosti@msu.edu



The **Church Growth Team** is excited to get back in action as soon as allowed in 2021! In the meantime, we are working on new ideas to engage, encourage and entice the community to be a part of the amazing HCC Family! Stand By... And if you are interested in brainstorming with us / getting involved, please contact chair, Malinda Barr: malibarr339@gmail.com or 517-749-5278

The Property Committee's

mission is to manage, improve, maintain, repair, identify needs, collaborate, and plan for the care of the church buildings, including the parsonage and the grounds. We promote acceptance of all people, valuing all in whatever they can contribute to HCC's mission and vision via their time, talent, and/or treasure. Sub-groups of this team work on technology, security, and the grounds around HCC. The committee welcomes new volunteers to our team throughout the year. For more information on how to gift us your talents, please contact chair, Laura Clark-Roumpz: laura_roumpz@hotmail.com or 517-712-0976.



The **Member Caring Committee** is a long-standing committee within the church whose members coordinate receptions for Funeral, Memorial, and Remembrance services, and have also coordinated Ecclesiastical Council Receptions and Ordination Receptions. The committee also coordinates meals for members of the congregation in times of need. We are always looking for new members and for those who would like to help with services and receptions. We meet one Sunday a quarter, right after worship. If you'd like to get involved, please contact chair, Kelly Flagg: kjflagg@icloud.com or 517-256-8392.



The **Mission Outreach Committee** seeks to promote our church's outreach through participation in the UCC's national and international programs, to reach out to our wider local community (Food Pantry, Panera bread donations, Weekend Survival Kits, Loaves and Fishes), and to explore and promote other possibilities for local, national and international mission efforts. If you'd like more information on how to get involved, please contact chair, Mary Trebilcock: trebil.jm@att.net or 517-974-7142.



The **HCC Green Team** usually meets on the second Monday of each month, at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. The Green Team works on ways to contribute to environmental sustainability by working with our congregation and others in our community. We try to encourage people to better care for God's creation and inform

people of better ways to do so. If you're interested in joining, or learning more about our team, please contact Rich Baumgartner at rianamy@aol.com or 517-339-0438 (no texts).

Next month will feature information on the Financial Stewardship, Social, and Spiritual Life Committees, as well as the Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Safety Teams, so keep looking for ways to be involved!

Information on the **Social** and **Spiritual Life** Committees can also be found on **pages 5-7** of this newsletter.

Join Zoom Meeting:

www.zoom.us

Meeting ID: 827 0943 9761

Use the usual HCC passcode

Our next Green Team meeting is January 4, at 7pm

Our Church Family



Thanks to these individuals who have recently served the church in special ways:

- To the crews that assemble pre-packed food pantry orders weekly. Current team members include Ann Pierce, Bev Wegener, Sally Heisler, Cindy Warnell, Carol Preston, and Ann McGrath.
- To the Loaves and Fishes Meal Team for January: Paula Fry, Carol Cramer, Ann McGrath, Carolyn Solomon, and Joanne Ricks.
- To Paul White for new working locks on the church sign, and cutting material for new rainbows on the sign, too.
- To Nancy Ferguson for painting new rainbows for the sign.
- To Dave and Nancy Ferguson for donating the living Christmas tree.
- To Men’s Group for setting up the living Christmas tree.
- To Pat Dalton for meeting with contractors to discuss the parking lot paving.
- To Sally Garrod for the beautiful arrangements that decorate the entrance at Door 1 and to the Cramer family for donating the greens.

BIG Thanks for Christmas Giving Project 2020 Efforts



The Christmas Giving Project distributed gifts and food to 76 families, including 210 kids.

Tremendous congregational and community support, provided as gifts, cash, and volunteer assistance, made the project possible.

Special thanks to donors who put in extra effort to obtain gifts safely. For the first time ever, every gift requested was covered by a donor, with new support from youth group and community families. Thanks to all for responding very positively to the major redesign of the project to streamline it for safety.

Extra special thanks go to the food team led by Jim Durr, with help from Barbara Szkotnicki and Wendy Johnson, who purchased and stored all the food. Core team members Richard Baumgartner, Sylvia Davis, and Kelly Flagg did behind-the-scenes tasks with help from many volunteers, to make the project happen.




Shalom,
Ruth Linnemann,
Project coordinator

Accessing Remote Worship

Each Sunday, worship is aired on the church [Facebook page](#) at 10 am and all are welcome!! If you do not have a Facebook account, here are additional ways you can join us in worship:



- Enter www.facebook.com/HaslettCommunityChurch/live into your web browser, then scroll down until you see the worship video.
- Visit our webpage, haslettcommunitychurch.org and click the  In the upper right corner, then scroll down until you see the worship video.
- There is also a worship link shared at haslettcommunitychurch.org at 10:00 am that will take you to that morning’s worship video on [YouTube](#).

If you need help connecting with us, please reach out to Michele, our Office Manager, at hcc1@att.net or 517.339.8383.

Thank you for continuing to join us for worship! Please share our Facebook service widely if you are a Facebook user, as we want all to know they are welcome.



Social Committee is here to guide and encourage us to stay connected, even while we all practice physical distancing. The members of the Social Committee are keeping our minds a-brewing with ideas for creative ways to bring us together during this time of staying apart. Most of these events are weather and restriction dependent.

Please keep a lookout for these events that we are trying to bring your way when the weather is best and they can be done in a healthy way. We know that emotionally, we all need to be together, and physically, we all need to stay in our own space. This is a list of the fun stuff we are hoping to bring forth in the coming months:



- Bonfire - burning of the old, bringing in the new
- Remote Game Night
- Sledding/tubing at Hawk Hollow or a big hill somewhere
- Photo Scavenger Hunt

Look for more information in Betsy's weekly email and the [HCC monthly newsletter](#).

If you have any ideas for us to promote, please let us know. We are still hoping people can be creative with their Pick-A-Party ideas, with social distancing and caring for the health of all of those who participate in the activity. Being creative may be a little more work, but can be worth it if fun and laughter is happening! Let us know! **Call or text Kim Carnes at (517) 331-3586** with your brewing thoughts, or, if your idea is a safe, distanced **Pick-A-Party, please contact Karla Hiller at michst8alum@gmail.com**.

We typically meet at 7:30pm on the 2nd Monday of each month, via the Zoom info to the right.

NEXT MEETING: Jan. 11, 7:30pm

Meeting ID: 330 584 4904
Passcode: 48451

Women's Group

Our group meets **next Tuesday, January 5, at 10 am**, to welcome in the New Year. Please join us if you can - we'd love to hear your musings on closing out 2020 and moving into 2021 with hope.



Join Zoom Meeting: www.zoom.us
Meeting ID: 872 9362 4318
To Call In*: 312.626.6799 or 646.558.8656
**Long distance charges may apply*

If you can't join us Tuesday and have ideas for meeting times or discussions that would help you connect with us in the future, or want to know how to get involved, please contact Michele at the church office at hcc1@att.net or 339-8383.



HCC Annual Ski Trip

This year would have been our 24th year at Treetops Resort for our HCC Annual Ski Trip!

With no great surprise and a sad heart, the Social Committee has decided that January 2021 is not the time to gather closely in the Hospitality Suite at Treetops. In looking out for each other, for our good health, we are looking forward to making January 2022 our 24th year at Treetops!

We already have reservations for **January 6-9, 2022!** So turn your calendar ahead a few pages and circle in red, these dates for a grand old time!

2020 Year-End Giving Statements

2020 Year-End Giving Statements will be sent out the first week of January. If you receive your statement via e-mail, please print it immediately and put it with your 2020 tax records.

If you receive your statement via snail mail, please immediately put it with your 2020 tax records.

Please be sure to look over your giving statement. If there are any questions or errors, please send an email to hccfinance@att.net, and the financial secretaries will address your concerns with you.





The various groups sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee help us to reflect on and grow in our spiritual life as well as foster closer ties between us. The committee consists of Donna Ellis Cornell, Don Flagg, Karen Klein, Carolyn Lucas, Katie Riley, and Angie Wilson. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions you might have or with your ideas for other groups or events we might sponsor. **NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 11, 7pm, via Zoom:**

Meeting ID: 865 4533 1263
Passcode: the usual HCC passcode



**Coffee With Jesus
(Exploring our Questions about Faith, Life, and Spirituality)**

The Coffee with Jesus group is continuing on our spiritual journey together, exploring our questions and providing support for meeting the challenges of living and callings of our lives as followers of Christ. Love has been our overarching theme.

This fall we will be learning from the experience and challenges shared by Valerie Kaur in her powerful memoir *See No Stranger, a Memoir of Revolutionary Love*. From the book jacket we read: "HOW DO WE LOVE IN A TIME OF TURMOIL?" Valerie Kaur declares revolutionary love as the call of our time, a radical, joyful practice that extends to others, to our opponents, and to ourselves. Drawing from the wisdom of sages, scientists, and activists, Kaur reclaims love as "an active, public, and revolutionary force that creates new possibilities for ourselves, our communities, and our world."

Parker Palmer says of Valerie and her book: "Tested and tempered by suffering, but rising up with hope and joy, Kaur shows us how to love others, opponents, and ourselves in ways that will bring us closer to the Beloved Community. This book will change your life."

Join Coffee with Jesus **every Sunday at 11:15 am:**

Join Zoom Meeting: www.zoom.us
Meeting ID: 327 644 165
To Call in*: 253.215.8782
301.715.8592
**Long distance charges may apply*



Coffee & Chat

Virtual Coffee Hour

It's a New Year, and we're celebrating with Coffee Hour! Please join us **every Sunday in January at 10:45 am** for a time of conversation and catching up with one another after the virtual morning worship service.

Join Meeting: www.zoom.us To Call In*: 301.715.8592 or
Meeting ID: 838 7918 1000 312.626.6799

**Long distance charges may apply*



The Men's Group

will continue to meet **MEN'S GROUP** regularly this year in different ways, including **online Zoom meetings every Saturday morning during physical distancing at 9:00 am** (see info on how to join below).

Please **contact Dave Vietti** if you're interested in connecting with this group:

517-339-5731 vietti@msu.edu

Join Zoom Meeting: www.zoom.us
Meeting ID: 416 360 920
To Call In*: 253.215.8782
301.715.8592
**Long distance charges may apply*



Bring your own Book:

Read some great books lately?
Looking for some more?
Book Lovers Unite!

We have enjoyed getting together to share some of our favorite stories, and we'll be continuing into the New Year!

We will meet next on: **Tue., Jan. 19, at 7 pm, via ZOOM** (see below).

Any questions, contact Karen Klein: (kklein76@aol.com).

Join Zoom Meeting: www.zoom.us
Meeting ID: 872 2559 0098
To Call In*: 646.558.8656
301.715.8592
**Long distance charges may apply*



BROWN BAGS & BELIEFS: Make Time for Mindfulness

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 6:57 p.m.

Begins: Wednesday, January 13, 2021



The first two weeks of this 3-week mini-series will be led by
Becky Womboldt, LMSW

Mindfulness and Meditation Coordinator, Camp Highfields

who will teach us about the importance of mindfulness, lead us in some
easy-to-apply practices, and more.

Our third week will tie mindfulness to prayer with a presentation on
contemplative prayer led by Pastor Betsy. All are welcome!

Zoom Meeting ID: 829 5299 7342



Haslett Community Church
United Church of Christ



Our Church Council members, committee leaders, officers, and staff are hard at work putting together our congregation's 2020 Annual Report. It will be available in **late January** on our website and via email. Copies will also be available in the document holders near the sidewalk by Door 1, and by mail if requested.

If you'd like a copy sent to you, contact Michele in the office at hcc1@att.net or 339-8383.

Annual Report



CHOIR NEWS & NOTES

As we begin this new year, there is the chance of performing live music together in the far, far, far distance. Due to the electronic age, we have been able to share pre-recorded anthems from our choir (thanks, Kirk Riley), virtual choir experiences with Edgewood UCC, and single performances by our many talented members. During Advent and Christmas we had special music from Gwen Dease on her marimba, the virtual choir, Aly Homminga, Andrew Pomerville, and Brooklyn Dease on both piano and cello for the children's service.

Many thanks to our wonderful Barbara for working with Tana Denning and Fred Johnson to provide our special music for our Songfest service in December.

In January we will have special music on the 17th, as we observe Martin Luther King, Jr Day, a great anthem you haven't heard in a while, and revival of a few anthems you haven't heard yet. Our wonderful instrumentalists and soloists continue to provide beautiful music also.

Wishing you all a healthy New Year as we await the promising light.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross, due to COVID-19 creating a shortage in blood drives, has an immediate need for blood donations.



There will be a blood drive at HCC **Friday, January 15, from Noon - 6pm**

Red Cross already has stringent safety protocols, and they've implemented additional **COVID safety protocols** as well, including:

- 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.
- Face masks required
- Health screenings/temperature checks upon entering building
- Physical Distancing
- Hand sanitizer use before and during donation process / sanitization between donors
- (NO guests with donors)

HCC Generosity

Thank you for continuing to support Haslett Community Church as you are able. We are still The Church with a mission and a staff, even as we gather in new ways, and we receive your gifts with gratitude. There are several options to make giving more convenient:



1. You can mail checks, and they will be accounted for weekly.
2. You can also go to PayPal.com or use the PayPal app and use your existing account or register for a new one, and enter HCCgenerosity@gmail.com to route payments to Haslett Community Church.
3. Online Giving, Text Giving, and Giving via Mobile App are all now available to help make your support of HCC even easier! Visit www.haslettcommunitychurch.org/giving for more information.
 - **Online Giving** - This secure option is available through our relationship with easyTithe™ and is accessible through our website.
 - **Mobile Giving** - This secure option utilizes the easyTithe™ Giving App which you can download from [The App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).
 - **Text Giving** - Just text GIVE to our secure giving number: 517-200-3995

Thank you for your generosity & support during this time!

zoom Tips

Zoom is a handy social-distancing meeting tool, no matter how technical you are. You can use anything from a home phone to the fanciest computer and still join! Until we can be together, we will use Zoom for meetings, classes and programs and want them to be accessible to as many as possible! Please don't hesitate to be in touch with Michele in the office for help connecting:

hcc1@att.net or 517.339.8383.



Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

The next regular Council meeting will be January 12, at 7:15 pm, via ZOOM.

If you would like to join us, please be in touch with Michele, Office Manager, for details: hcc1@att.net or 339-8383

What's Happening at HCC

For everyone's safety, most meetings are happening by phone or computer, via ZOOM videoconferencing or Facebook Live, but there are also a few in-person opportunities. In place of the usual HCC Calendar, here is a list of meetings scheduled, online and other, so you can stay connected.

WEEKLY

[Worship Service](#) [\(p4\)](#)

Sundays, 10:00am

January 3 is Epiphany Sunday & Communion

[Facebook Live](#) & [YouTube](#)

[Virtual Coffee Hour](#) [\(p6\)](#)

Sundays, 10:45am (right after worship)

Zoom

[Coffee With Jesus](#) [\(p6\)](#)

Sundays, 11:15am -12:45pm

Zoom

[Virtual Sunday School](#)

Sundays

Email

[Youth Groups](#)

Sundays starting at 5:00pm

Zoom

[Virtual Check-In with Betsy](#) [\(p2\)](#)

Tuesdays, 12:30pm

Zoom

[Brown Bags & Beliefs](#) [\(p7\)](#)

Wednesdays, 6:00pm (*Jan. 13, 20, & 27*)

Zoom

[Men's Group](#) [\(p6\)](#)

Every Saturday, 9:00am

Zoom

ONCE THIS MONTH

[Green Team Meets](#) [\(p3\)](#)

Monday, January 4, 7:00pm

Zoom

[Women's Group](#) [\(p5\)](#)

Tuesday, January 5, 10:00am

Zoom

[Spiritual Life Meets](#) [\(p6\)](#)

Monday, January 11, 7:00pm

Zoom

[Social Committee Meets](#) [\(p5\)](#)

Monday, January 11, 7:30pm

Zoom

[Council Meeting](#) [\(p8\)](#)

Tuesday, January 12, 7:15pm

Zoom

[Red Cross Blood Drive](#) [\(p8\)](#)

Friday, January 15, Noon - 6:00pm HCC

(by appointment only)

[Bring Your Own Book Discussion](#) [\(p6\)](#)

Tuesday, January 19, 7:00pm

Zoom

HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH
PO Box 217
1427 Haslett Road
Haslett, Michigan 48840-0217

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



HCC Connections

January 2021

Haslett Community Church

Office Hours: By Appointment with Staff

www.haslettcommunitychurch.org

Phone: 517-339-8383

Email: hcc1@att.net

Pastor: Rev. Betsy Aho
Minister for Youth & Children: Rev. Erin Heisler
Office Manager: Michele Booher
Choral Director: Judy Connelly
Organist/Pianist: Barbara Freeman

aho.betsy@att.net
erin.heisler@att.net
hcc1@att.net
judyleeonly@earthlink.net
bff7@comcast.net

Worship by Facebook Live, Sundays at 10:00 am

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