

Haslett Community Church



HCC Connections

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

December 2023



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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A digital version, with working links, can be found at: haslettcommunitychurch.org



"O how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way, blessed hope of every people, my soul's delight and stay? O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light, to know whate'er is pleasing and welcome in your sight." - Paul Gerhardt, for the Advent hymn, "O How Shall I Receive You"

Dear Haslett Community Church,

This is the time of year that stores know to woo shoppers with Black Friday, Christmas Doorbuster, and end-of-year sales. So, forgive this very consumer sounding description of Advent:

Advent - your two-for-one season of preparation!

Yes, that description sounds a little too commercial. But it gets at the understanding that there are two connected but distinct purposes to this season. Most of us probably realize that we use the season of Advent to prepare for the birth of Jesus, God coming to live among us as humanity and divinity, to show the world God's love, the story of which we remember together on Christmas Eve and continue to celebrate on Christmas Day.

The other aspect of Advent is the recognition that we are always living in a time of expectation, preparing for the fullness of time when Christ returns and the world is at last reconciled and peaceful, when there is no more strife or struggle.

Quite frankly, it seems much more realistic to prepare for Christmas Day than to prepare for the new heaven and the new earth! Christmas comes but once a year and those things that help bring us to a time of reflection and appreciation can all be part of Advent and preparing to welcome the Christ child. From decorating our homes and our church, to music we only sing during this precious month, to lighting Advent candles and opening Advent calendars, to the special worship services and visits to our living Advent Tree to hang something edible for our feathered and furry friends – all of this helps prepare us for Christmas morning, and celebrating the birth of Christ.

As for the less easy to address aspect of Advent – take heart! The truth is that we prepare for, and take part in, reconciling the world to

God each time we love our neighbor, care for the community, worship and fellowship together, pray, seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly ... you get the idea! Preparing for Christmas and celebrating Christ's birth is a month. Living into Christ's redemptive work that is not yet complete is something we strive for all the time. And so, we keep our minds and hearts open to ways we are being called to share love in this world ... and feel OK knowing that making that favorite cookie recipe and stuffing that stocking is part of Advent, too.


Yours in the Journey,

Pastor Betsy

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

Pastor Betsy will be on vacation from January 15 - 26, 2024. During that time, please contact Pastor Erin for Pastoral emergencies, and know that Betsy will return all other messages, etc. upon her return.

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

Week 1 Scripture – Psalm 25: 1-10, Jeremiah 33: 10-11
Joyful Offering goes to the UCC Christmas Fund

Week 2 **Songfest** is a celebration of music of the season, and this year the HCC Choir will be joined by guest musicians to bring us pieces from Handel's Messiah! We will also sing some seasonal music together as the Sanctuary is transformed into an inviting dining room, with pastries for all (including gluten free, nut free, and vegan options), coffee and punch.

Week 3 Scripture – Luke 1: 39-55
This is the only "typical" worship service for all of Advent. Join us.

Week 4 and Christmas Eve – It is unusual for the 4th Sunday of Advent to fall on Christmas Eve! The result is that we recognize the 4th Sunday of Advent in the morning, with our Christmas Eve services at night.

10 a.m. – The Children's Christmas Service is designed with Children in mind, but is a time for all to worship. We will have music by some of our young musicians, an interactive children's story, and familiar elements of worship.

7 p.m. & 9 p.m. – Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at both times are nearly identical, but with a Children's Moment at 7 p.m. Both services end with "Silent Night" by candlelight.



A Tradition Continues in Celebration of Advent

HCC has a tree outside on the property again this year, to be decorated by all of us throughout the coming weeks!

We're excited to have you help us

bring the spirit of Christmas to all who come by our church.

The tree is once again generously donated by Dave and Nancy Ferguson. Thank you to all for this wonderful addition to our tradition!

Please see [page 3](#) for ideas on how you can help decorate our tree!

Help decorate HCC's outdoor tree

This year, bring any bird and squirrel friendly treat to decorate our outdoor tree and feed our furry friends!



String any fruit into a garland!
Cranberries, orange chunks, apples, pear, or raisins!

Freeze various types of fruit in ice molds to hang on the tree.



Turn scooped out orange halves into birdfeed ornaments!
Fill with berries or birdseed and hang on the tree!

Find recipes online for birdseed cookie-cutter ornaments!



Other ideas include:

- ~ Pinecone feeders covered with birdseed and peanut butter
- ~ Small suet balls, suet muffins, or small mesh bags of suet
- ~ Sprigs of native berries, like bayberry, juniper, or holly
- ~ Dried millet, dried sunflower heads, or other dried grains
- ~ Strings of broken walnuts or peanuts
- ~ Small birdseed muffins or cookies
- ~ Strings of plain air-popped popcorn or an unsweetened cereal
- ~ Cut shapes out of apple slices using a cookie cutter



Use peanuts or seeds to make wreath ornaments to hang on the tree!



Turn Ice Cream Cones into bird feeders. Fill with seed and string on the tree!

You are welcome to come and decorate the tree at anytime during Advent!



2023

- Dec. 3: First Sunday of Advent; Communion & Joyful Offering
- Dec. 10: Songfest
- Dec. 17-21: Christmas Giving Project Grocery Packing and Distribution
- Dec. 24: 10 a.m.: Children’s Christmas Service
7 & 9 p.m.: Christmas Eve Candle-light Services
- Dec. 31: NYE coffee hour with Countdown to 12:00 (noon)!

- Feb. 18: First Sunday of Lent; Communion & Joyful Offering
- Mar. 17: One Great Hour of Sharing
- Mar. 24: Palm Sunday
- Mar. 28: Maundy Thursday
- Mar. 29: Good Friday
- Mar. 31: Easter Sunday!
7:30 a.m.: Sunrise Service with Communion
10 a.m.: Traditional Easter Srvc.

2024

- Jan. 5-8: Annual Ski Trip to Treetops
- Jan. 7: Epiphany; Communion & Joyful Offering
- Jan. 14: Annual Meeting
- Jan. 21: Laity Sunday
- Feb. 10: All-HCC Connect & Reflect Retreat and Lip Sync Battle
- Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday

- Apr. 21: HCC 70th Anniversary Celebration & Choir Sunday!
- May 5: Youth Senior Sunday
- May 19: Pentecost; Communion & Joyful Offering
- Jun. 11-13: Vacation Bible School
- Jun. 22-29: High School Mission Trip
- Jul. 28-Aug.1: Middle School Mission Trip

This is a “living” Calendar of special events and once-a-year happenings that involve the whole church. It does not list things like regular meetings and weekly programming. Also additions and corrections can be made, and details will be provided as things near. *If your group is planning something you don’t see listed here, please let the office know (hcc1@att.net).



Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 14, 2024
11:00 a.m.
 (immediately after worship)

All members are invited to vote on the 2024 budget and election of Council Members. Those who are not members are still welcome to attend.

A full agenda and more information will be shared prior to the meeting date.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

It’s time to order the beautiful poinsettia plants that will decorate our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve! You have the opportunity to sponsor one or more of the poinsettias, and even dedicate the plant(s) in memory of honor of someone special.



You can order online using the QR code at the right, or by filling out the insert in the bulletin on Sunday and turning it into the HCC office **by December 17.**





ADVENT CLUB

Children (3 years old through 5th grade)
are invited to join us on Wednesday nights in Advent.
December 6th and December 13th.
5:30-7pm

We will do crafts, play games, and explore the Christmas story!
TO SIGN UP: call the church office (517.339.8383)
or email Pastor Erin (erin.Heisler@att.net)

Haslett Community Church
1427 Haslett Road in Haslett
www.haslettcommunitychurch.org



**You are invited to join us for our
Children's Christmas Eve Service**
Sunday, December 24th
at 10am

**This service will include the Christmas
story from Scripture, familiar Christmas
carols, special music from our children
and an interactive story in place of
a sermon.**



YOUTH GROUP
ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY, DEC. 3RD YOUTH SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS
GIVING PROJECT DURING YOUTH GROUPS

SATURDAY, DEC. 9TH MOVIE NIGHT AT HCC
MIDDLE SCHOOL 6-8PM, HIGH SCHOOL 8-10PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 10TH YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTIES DURING YOUTH
GROUPS (BRING GIFT FOR EXCHANGE & SNACK TO SHARE)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH 8TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM AT HCC
PLEASE RSVP TO ERIN BY THAT MORNING SO SHE CAN PREPARE

THURSDAY DECEMBER 14TH CULVERS NIGHT 7-8:30PM
BRING MONEY FOR YOUR FOOD. FIND US IN A CORNER BOOTH.

SUNDAY, DEC. 17TH REGULAR YOUTH GROUP MEETING
MIDDLE SCHOOL 5-6:30PM AND HIGH SCHOOL 7-9PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH WORSHIP SERVICES 10AM, CANDLELIGHT SERVICES AT 7PM AND 9PM.
NO YOUTH GROUPS ON DECEMBER 24TH OR 31ST. YOUTH GROUPS RESUME SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH.



Christmas Giving Project - Gifts



Gifts are a major part of the Christmas Giving Project. We estimate the program will provide gifts to approximately 225 children of the Haslett School district. You, your family and friends are invited to purchase gifts. **All wrapped gifts are due back to HCC on Sunday, December 10.**

- CURRENT NEEDS:**
1. We still need people to offer to purchase gifts (see HOW below).
 2. We still need many more volunteers, particularly on Thu., Dec. 21, for Distribution to families. Scan the QR code for Distribution Day Sign up below.

WHAT: The project offers five gifts (mostly clothing) to each child. Donors will receive a gift list that shows all gifts for a single child. You can select any number of children.

HOW: You can request a gift list remotely: Send an email with "Gift Request" in the Subject line to hccChristmas@att.net. Put three things in your email:

- 1) **your name and phone number**
- 2) **the number of children** you wish to sponsor (remember, you will be responsible for five gifts for each child you request)
- 3) **your preference of the child's age: 0 to 5; 6 to 12; or 13 to 18.** You can include a gender preference, but that is not required.

You will receive a gift list and gift preparation instructions via return email. We will do our best to match your preferences. You can pick up a gift list in person from the gift table in Friendship Hall any Sunday morning after worship or Saturday mornings from 11am to noon.

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 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

Gift Helpers - We need volunteers **Sundays** to distribute information about gifts to purchase and collect wrapped gifts. Instructions will be provided.



Gift Helper Sign Up



Food Packing and Distribution –

Over 50 people are needed to help with packing groceries on **December 18 and 19, and** to help on **Thursday, December 21**, the day gifts are distributed to families. Specific times and description of tasks are included on the sign-up available via the QR codes.



Grocery Packing Sign Up



Distribution Day Sign Up

Boxes, Boxes, Boxes - We will need many boxes for the upcoming Christmas Giving Project. Copy paper boxes including their covers are ideal; however, any box approximately 11" by 17" by 10" is helpful. The building is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday mornings for drop-off. If you need to leave boxes at another time, please phone Richard Baumgartner at 517.755.6198 to arrange an alternate drop off time.





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

- To the Hess, Walraven, and Fisher families for bringing food to youth group meetings in November.
- To Cathy Fisher, Julie VanAcker, Karen Amachree, and Menetta & George Kass for serving as security during youth group meetings in November.
- To Stefanie Zin and Liz Newport for teaching Sunday school in November.
- To Bob & Sally Heisler, Kelly Flagg, Anna Porritt, Julie VanAcker, and Karen Amachree for helping with mission trip reveal.
- To the Loaves and Fishes team for December: Nancy Ferguson, Barb Szkotnicki, Heidi Dalton, and Carol Cramer.
- To Kim Carnes, Mike Eberlein, and Cindy Meteyer for sharing their heartfelt support of HCC in worship on October 22nd.
- To Roberta Otten for choreographing and sharing "The Work of Our Hands" as the blessing for the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 12th.
- To the Horwath family, the Amachree family, the Freidhoff family, and the Newman family for hosting Chopped teams.
- To Karen Amachree, Barb Myles, Julie VanAcker, Larissa Vessell, Laura Freidhoff, Susan Fisher, Holly Hatch, Tara Pugmire, and Stephanie Horwath for driving Chopped teams.
- To Pastor Betsy, Steve Decker and Sandra Porter for being our special chopped judges!

Our Church Family



Seasons' Greetings to all our HCC Family!

Yes, the season is upon us, isn't it? :) The big focus for the HCC choir this fall has been the 5 choruses from *Handel's Messiah* that will be woven in as part of the **Songfest celebration on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 10 AM** (I'm calling this "Getting a little Handel on Songfest '23"...). The choir is being rehearsed and prepared by Landon Black, a senior in the choral conducting program at MSU. Through his connections, we will have guest vocalists and a string quartet, as well as Rich Illman on piccolo trumpet(s), piccolo, and more. We are truly grateful and blessed to have such a talented and enthusiastic musician as Landon to help us prepare. Please join us for this special event!

And, as most folks know, we have a wonderful Christmas Eve service here at HCC. The 10 AM service on the 24th will be oriented to children; it's a very special and sweet service for all ages. Our Candlelight services are at 7 and 9 PM, and are a special time for families and friends to gather together in prayer and praise, song and celebration.

We in the music family of HCC look forward to being with you for this special time in our church life!

~ Barbara Freeman, Church Musician



Music for Peace and Comfort

Barbara Freeman will once more be offering music for peace and comfort on Thursday nights during Advent (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, & 14) between 6:00 and 6:30 PM. All are welcomed, the sanctuary is darkened, sit where you wish, stay as long as you wish.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Information you'd like included in the January 2024 Newsletter is due to Michele no later than December 19 (the 3rd Tuesday of this month)

Please send to: hcc1@att.net



Happy Heart Schedule for December 2023

Sunday, December 3 – Advent Begins	
Ministry	Name(s)
Reader	Don Flagg
Greeters	Don & Kelly Flagg
Ushers	Jim Gornick & Jewell Muller-Gornick
Coffee Hosts	Ruth Linnemann & Menetta Kass
A/V Tech	Rich Newport
Tellers	Don Flagg & Jim Gornick

Sunday, December 24 10 AM – Children’s Christmas	
Ministry	Name(s)
Reader	N/A
Greeters	Ron & Cathy Rowe
Ushers	Sylvia Davis & ??
Coffee Hosts	??
A/V Tech	Jim Gornick & Jon Lineberry
Tellers	N/A – Tellers will count after 9pm

Sunday, December 10 – Songfest	
Ministry	Name(s)
Reader	Becky Leefers
Greeters	Joanne Ricks & Lucretia Hildabridle
Ushers	Barb & Mike Szkotnicki
Coffee Hosts	Russ & Lynn Wilson
A/V Tech	Helen & David Jones
Tellers	Larry Leefers & Barb Szkotnicki

Sunday, December 24 7 PM – Candlelight Service #1	
Ministry	Name(s)
Reader	N/A
Greeters	Sylvia Davis & ??
Ushers	Rich Baumgartner & Ann Pierce
Coffee Hosts	N/A
A/V Tech	Helen & David Jones
Tellers	N/A – Tellers will count after 9pm

Sunday, December 17	
Ministry	Name(s)
Reader	Pam Maxwell
Greeters	Bob & Sally Heisler
Ushers	Cambria Decker-Larkin & Cindy Meteyer
Coffee Hosts	Pam & Todd Maxwell
A/V Tech	Rich Newport
Tellers	Bob Heisler & Cheryl Edwards

Sunday, December 24 9 PM – Candlelight Service #2	
Ministry	Name(s)
Reader	N/A
Greeters	Rebecca Reagan & Susan Schwaderer
Ushers	Liz Newport & ??
Coffee Hosts	N/A
A/V Tech	Rich Newport
Tellers	Sylvia Davis & Rich Newport



Sunday, December 31 – New Year Countdown	
Ministry	Name(s)
Reader	Rachel Bullock
Greeters	Brett & Cindy Meteyer
Ushers	Lucretia Hildabridle & Malinda Barr
Coffee Hosts	N/A – New Year Countdown
A/V Tech	Jon Lineberry
Tellers	Dave Ferguson & Rachel Bullock

This is a proposed schedule for the month. If for any reason you are unable to serve, please try and find a sub and let Michele in the office know who that may be as soon as possible. If you're unable to find one, please let her know that soon :)

There are also some open opportunities to serve this month (indicated by ??s). If you are able to fill into those spots, please let Michele know asap.

Thank you for serving on our Happy Heart Teams!



Social Committee is here to guide and encourage us to stay connected. The members of the Social Committee keep our minds a-brewing with ideas for creative ways to bring us together. Many of these events are weather dependent. Please keep a lookout for fun events we are trying to bring your way. We are looking forward to spending time with you!

Call or text Kim Carnes at (517) 331-3586 if you'd like to be involved, or have ideas. **We usually meet at 7:30pm on the 1st Monday of each month. NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 4, @ 7:30pm in HCC's Friendship Hall.**



Gingerbread House Decorating

Social Committee invites you to join us for decorating Gingerbread houses on **Sunday, December 3, right after church.**

This event has been a part of the church for many years. **Space is limited to 24 people, so sign up as soon as possible** on the board on the wall outside the HCC office.

All are invited. Judy Petersen has made the houses and asks all participates to bring a small bag of candy to decorate the houses.

HCC Christmas Caroling

Social Committee invites you to come Christmas Caroling with us on **Sunday, December 17, at 4:00 pm.**



All are invited - bring the whole family! **We will meet at HCC at 4:00 pm, and then head out from there** to go caroling at homes to spread Christmas cheer to those who aren't able to get out much these days. Please sign up online [HERE](#), on the Social Committee wall outside the HCC office, or email / call the church. All singing will be done outdoors.

Hoping you all join us in helping spread Christmas cheer for the holidays. We look forward to a great time singing Christmas music with you!



26th Annual HCC Ski Trip

Social Committee is ready for your reservation for a great

weekend of fun in the snow. We will be traveling again to **Treetops Resort in Gaylord, on January 5-8, 2024**, where there will be lots of skiing (downhill and cross country), cards and games being played, sports watching, eating, laughing, swimming, eating, worshipping, tubing, laughing, and just having a great time being together!

The total cost is \$134 per night for a Standard Room

and a total of \$268 for 2 nights (includes all taxes and resort fees). There is an option for a 3-night stay. Ask for details if interested. There was a deposit due in November (check with Kim Carnes for details). Sign up (on the wall outside the HCC office) to reserve your room for this fun-filled weekend. You can pay online [HERE](#) (our online Giving Page, Fund=Social Committee, SubFund=Ski Trip), or by making checks payable to Haslett Community Church.

If you have questions, please contact Kim Carnes at 331-3586. Plan ahead so you and your family don't miss out on the fun of the winter gathering.



- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|--|
| • Gingerbread House Decorating | Dec. 3, 11:00 am
Fellowship Hall | • HCC Ski Trip | January 5-8, 2024
Treetops, Gaylord |
| • Social Committee Meets | Dec. 4, 7:30 pm
Friendship Hall | | |
| • Christmas Caroling | Dec. 17, 4:00 pm
Start & end at HCC | | |

Social Committee is still planning winter activities. Keep watch in the newsletter! Also, if you have ideas about events we could sponsor please contact Kim Carnes at 331-3586



The Spiritual Life Committee cooperates with our clergy to empower laity to continue building a healthy, Christ-centered, Spiritual Community and respond to the spiritual needs of the HCC congregation. Our members are: Don Flagg, Cambria Decker-Larkin, Carolyn Lucas, Kris Belonge, and Jon Lineberry. We would love to welcome new faces to our committee. If you are interested, please contact the new chair, Cambria Decker-Larkin.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, @ 1:00 pm in the HCC Library. If you have questions or are interested in learning more about becoming a member of this committee please contact Cambria Decker-Larkin at cambriawhitta@gmail.com or 517-505-6442.



Coffee With Jesus

is a group sponsored by the Spiritual Life

Committee to help us reflect on and grow in our spiritual life, as well as foster closer ties between us. We will be paying attention to our experiences with the Bible this year. The book, *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans, will be our focus.

We usually meet on the third Sunday each month, **after worship in Mary & Martha's room** (next to Youth room downstairs).

Our next Meeting will be: Sunday, December 17, at 11:15 am.



MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group

continues to meet regularly in different ways, including **online Zoom meetings on**

most Saturday mornings at 9:00am (see info below).

**** On Saturday, December 9, we will be meeting for in-person breakfast. NEW LOCATION:** Denny's, 2701E. Grand River, East Lansing, 48823

Please **contact Dave Vietti** if you're interested in connecting with this group: 517-339-5731 or vietti@msu.edu

Zoom Meeting ID:	416 360 920
Passcode:	48840
Call In**	301.715.8592

Sermon Preview Bible Study
Shining a Light on Scripture
Thursdays 9-9:45 a.m.
Via Zoom,

Weekly Bible Study, lead by Betsy, based on readings for the upcoming Sunday

Meeting ID: 870 5721 1746
Passcode: 48840

no preparation expected - join when you can

haslettcommunitychurch.org

Sermon Preview Bible Study: Shining Light on Scripture

Several times a year, people ask me for a great Bible study that they can use at home. I love that question, and depending on what the asker is looking for, I am happy to recommend some sources that might work. But Bible study is actually best done in community and in group study or conversation.

Consider joining me and others for a weekly Bible study in which we look at the readings for the upcoming

Sunday service and study them together. I welcome those who are brand new to Bible study and those who have been at it for years. And often you hear your own wonderings reflected back in a sermon. No preparation is expected, we honor our 45-minute time commitment, and you can just Zoom in on the weeks that are best for you! Use the link below, or the Zoom info on the graphic. This Spiritual Life offering happens weekly on Thursday morning at 9am.



Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing

The Interfaith Service of Solidarity and Hope on Nov. 16th was full to the brim and a sacred time with neighbors.

Thanks to the many of you who attended (or tried to but couldn't make it because of the long parking lot line). The offering that was taken to split between the two local synagogues and the local mosque to offset increased security costs, raised over \$5,000.

If you would like to watch the recording of the service, you can do so at the link below. Please note that the service was delayed due to the crowd, so the recording is queued to begin about 11 minutes in, when the service began.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Ft81Gih8I2g?si=oia4oqswFP29J7Dn&t=664>



Start Rehearsing Now. Prepare Those Costumes. Save the Date!

Because on **February 10, 2024**, there will be an epic, all church, **Lip Sync and Karaoke Battle!**

Whether you plan to lip-sync to your favorite tune, or sing with a backup track (so many available now), or come be part of the audience, this will be a night to remember! More details will be coming, but we wanted to give our talented congregation plenty of time to prepare!

Participation by adults and youth and children – all welcome! Each act should be kept to about 2.5 minutes, so we have time for every performance!

Green Team



The Green Team and Green Team Book Club are taking a break in December! We will resume meetings in 2024: January 8th for the Green Team and January 16th for the Book Club.

On a related note, we are considering installing a lending library by the bench in the pollinator garden. We are wondering if anyone has some wood working talent to construct one of these. If so, please contact Doug Holem: 989-780-4054 or douglasholem@gmail.com

Weekly Sanctuary Flowers

You can help provide some of the beauty in our weekly worship service by providing fresh flowers for the altar / sanctuary on weeks other than Easter and Christmas!



You can sign up [HERE](#) or on the sheet on the wall outside the HCC office. Choose one week or multiple weeks (there are 2 slots per week), then bring the flowers by 9:30am that Sunday morning for all to enjoy! Vases are available in the Kitchen if needed.



December's "Safety Snippet"

HCC's 2024 Focus on Safety

As 2023 draws to a close, the HCC Safety Team is looking forward to 2024 as a brand new year, affording even more opportunities to elevate the Safety and Security Initiatives that we believe are vital to the HCC Congregation.

January 2024 has been identified as HCC's Safety Month. To that end, members of the Safety Team will be lifting up specific Safety and Security Initiatives each week in January via very brief comments made during the Announcements portion of the service.

So, please stay tuned for more information to be provided in the New Year! The Safety Team wishes everyone a very happy and holiday season! Stay Safe!

Simply Give at Bath Meijer



The Haslett Food Pantry will be the recipient of the **Holiday Simply Give** campaign **through Sat., December 30, 2023**. The campaign will run in the **Bath Meijer only**.

Meijer will double Simply Give donations made at the Bath store on Saturday, Dec. 16. That day, for every \$10 donation, Meijer will provide an additional contribution of \$20, resulting in a total donation of \$30 that comes to the food pantry. While other days are not double matched, a Simply Give donation on any day is welcome. as the total campaign produces valuable food pantry assistance!!

Thanks to generous customers and Meijer Foundation support, the Simply Give campaign has generated over \$84 million in food donations for more than 430 food pantries throughout the Midwest since 2008.

Thank you for your 2024 commitment to Fully Fund the Church We Love! We have a few more pledges we are waiting on, but are moving toward a significant increase in pledges. Thank you for your generosity and for investing in Haslett Community Church. You can still make your 2024 pledge by mailing a pledge card, completing one Sunday mornings, or by emailing hccfinance@att.net with your name and pledge amount.

Thank you for participating in the Don't Let Go campaign, and for contributing to all the good we hold fast to at Haslett Community Church!



Haslett Community Church strives to be a true community space, and in that spirit hosts many groups from the community in our building. One such group is Haslett Boy Scout Troop 97. This year that troop is holding a wreath sale as a holiday fundraiser and would love it if you'd consider supporting them in that effort (details below). "Thank you and have a very merry holiday season! ~Troop 97"

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

Thank You for Giving!

Thank you for continuing to support Haslett Community Church as you are able. We receive your gifts with gratitude. We are still The Church with a mission and a staff, and we receive your gifts with gratitude.

- Use your phone camera to scan the QR code to access our Online Giving.
- Text GIVE to our secure giving number: 517-200-3995
- You can mail checks, which are accounted for weekly.
- You can also PayPal us at: HCCgenerosity@gmail.com.



We are so grateful for your generosity!

Mary L. Nelson Memorial Food Pantry

The Mary L. Nelson Memorial Food Pantry at HCC is inviting donations of specific items each month that can be used throughout the year.

**In December, we're requesting:
Toilet Paper**

You can bring your donations to church on Sunday mornings – there will be a cart /box near the sanctuary. If you bring your donation during the week, you can use the wooden box by the Food Pantry on the north end of Friendship Hall.

The Food Pantry phone number:
(517) 339-8430



Knitters, Crocheters, & Wannabees

Our Next Meeting will be **Sunday, Dec. 10, at 11:15am** after worship, in the Library.

Safety Team meets next on **Tues., Dec. 19 at 7pm** in Friendship Hall.

Please contact Sally Heisler for details about this group:
517-230-4043 or sally.m.heisler@gmail.com



HCC Property Committee usually meets the 2nd Monday each month. Our next meeting will be: **Mon., Dec. 11, at 6pm, via Zoom**



HCC Green Team usually meets the 2nd Monday each month, but we are taking a break in December. Our next meeting will be: **Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7pm, in Fellowship Hall**

For more info, you can contact Doug Holem: douglasholem@gmail.com



Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of most months.

Our next meeting will be: Tues., Dec. 12, at 7:15 pm

Mission Outreach meets next: **Thursday, Dec. 14, @ 1:30pm** in Fellowship Hall.



GREEN TEAM BOOK CLUB!!!

The Green Team book club will take a break in December and meet again on **Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, in Fellowship Hall, at 7pm**

We will continue discussing Douglas Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home - how you can sustain wildlife with native plants*."

If you have further questions, you can email Kim Huston at kimahuston@gmail.com.



What's Happening at HCC in December

What's Happening no longer shows individual committee meetings. Instead, you can find specific committee meeting information on [pages 10, 11, & 14](#) of this newsletter and [HERE](#). Please remember to check with Michele in the office to coordinate building and grounds space use for your group (hcc1@att.net or 517.339.8383).

WEEKLY

Worship Service

Sundays, 10:00am - Advent Info [\(p2\)](#)
*Sanctuary, parking lot via 88.7 FM, [YouTube](#)

Sunday School

Sundays, during worship on Dec. 17 & 31
Downstairs

Coffee Fellowship

Most Sundays, after worship, Friendship Hall

YOUTH: Youth Groups Meet [\(p6\)](#)

Most Sundays, *MS: 5:00-6:30pm; HS: 7:00-9:00pm
Youth Rm
(*Special events on Dec. 3 & 10 during regular evening Youth Groups. No Youth Grps Dec. 24 or 31.)

Onsite Office Hours

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30am-1:00pm, HCC Office

Pastor Betsy's Drop-In Office Hours

Wednesdays, 11:30am -1:00pm, HCC Office
(She is also available by appointment Tue-Fri)

Kids ADVENTure Club [\(p5\)](#)

Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7:00pm, Dec. 6 & 13
Fellowship Hall

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays*, 6:45 - 8:30pm
Choir Room (*check choir emails for updates on days and times in December)

Sermon Preview Bible Study [\(p11\)](#)

Thursdays, 9:00 - 9:45am, Zoom only

Music for Peace & Comfort [\(p8\)](#)

Thursdays, 6:00 - 6:30pm, Nov. 30, and Dec 7 & 14
Sanctuary

Men's Group [\(p11\)](#)

Saturdays, 9:00am
Zoom (except Dec. 9 - in-person @ Denny's, 2701E. Grand River, East Lansing, 48823)

Christmas Eve Services [\(p2\)](#)

Sunday, December 24, Sanctuary
10am - Children's Christmas service
7 & 9pm- Candlelight Services

ONCE THIS MONTH

Gingerbread House Decorating [\(p10\)](#)

Sunday, December 3, 11:00am
Fellowship Hall

Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 5, 9:45am
Fellowship Hall

Haslett Women's Club

Thursday, December 7, 7:00pm
Friendship Hall

Men's Breakfast [\(p11\)](#)

Saturday, December 9, 9:00am,
Denny's, East Lansing

ALL DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS [\(p6\)](#)

*Our YOUTH Group is super busy! See [p6](#) & Youth messages from Erin for info.

HCC Songfest [\(p8\)](#)

Sunday, December 10, 10:00am
Sanctuary

Church Council Meets [\(p14\)](#)

Tuesday, December 12, 7:15pm
Fellowship Hall & Zoom

Coffee With Jesus [\(p11\)](#)

Sunday, December 17, 11:15am
Mary & Martha's Rm downstairs

All HCC Christmas Caroling [\(p10\)](#)

Sunday, December 17, 4:00pm
Start & end at HCC

Christmas Giving Project Distrib. [\(p7\)](#)

Sun.-Thu, Dec. 17- 21
Many HCC spaces

Newsletter Items Due [\(p8\)](#)

Tuesday, December 19, 10:00am
Email to hcc1@att.net

Knitters, Crocheters, etc. [\(p14\)](#)

Sunday, December 10, 11:15am,
HCC Library

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



HCC Connections

December 2023

Haslett Community Church

Office Hours: Tue. & Thu., 10:30am - 1:00pm (HCC Office)
Wed., 11:30am - 1:00pm (Betsy Office Hours)

Email: hcc1@att.net Phone: 517-339-8383

www.haslettcommunitychurch.org

Pastor: Rev. Betsy Aho
Minister for Youth & Children: Rev. Erin Heisler
Office Manager: Michele Booher
Church Musician: Barbara Freeman

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

3 Ways to Worship Sundays at 10:00 am: In the sanctuary <> Via 88.7 FM <> [YouTube](#)

A digital version of HCC Connections, with working links, can be found at: haslettcommunitychurch.org

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