

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 2024



Special points of interest:

- Year-At-A-Glance - [p2](#)
- Congregational Meeting - [p2](#)
- Lip Synch & Karaoke Battle - [p2](#)
- February Newsletter Deadline - [p4](#)
- January Safety Snippet - [p4](#)
- Happy Heart January Schedule - [p5](#)
- Red Cross Blood Drive - [p5](#)
- HCC Ski Trip - [p6](#)
- All HCC Connect & Reflect Retreat - [p6](#)
- Men's Breakfast - [p7](#)
- Sermon Preview Bible Study - [p7](#)
- Online Giving Options - Thank You! - [p8](#)
- Weekly Sanctuary Flower Donation - [p8](#)
- Committee & Team Meetings - [p8](#)

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Words	cover	Social News	6
Youth	3	Spiritual Life	6-7
Commendations	4	What's Happening	9
Music News	4		

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

Pastor Betsy will be on vacation from January 15 - 26. During that time, please contact Pastor Erin for Pastoral emergencies, and know that Betsy will return all other messages, etc. upon her return. There will be no Sermon Prep Bible Study on January 18 or 25, and no Open Office Hours on January 17 or 24.



"When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was." - Matthew 2:9

The season of Epiphany is a season of traveling in trust, and of Christ being revealed. We will celebrate the start of Epiphany on Sunday, January 7, and the season lasts until Lent starts.

The part that is harder for me, is the traveling in trust part. I am here for Christ's fullness of divinity and humanity being revealed. Even if I can't completely comprehend it, even though there are not words to adequately describe it.

But traveling in trust? That can be hard.

Every moment, every day, every week, month and yes, every New Year, presents new unknowns. And we are expected to just ... keep moving forward and traveling in trust.

Sounds kind of scary. Or exciting. Depending on what your path is like at the moment.

When the Magi set out from the East to find Jesus, they had nothing but a star to guide them. They had no maps nor promise of safety. Just a sense that it was important for them to make the journey. To travel to the Messiah, to see him for themselves and to honor him.

If you feel like whatever path you are on requires a little more trust and a little less assurance than what you are used to or what you would prefer, know that you are not alone. There are so many putting one foot in front of the other, and praying that when their foot lands there will be something firm to step on.

The Magi had to just put one foot in front of the other, too ... relying on the light of a star that would lead them to the Messiah. Wherever your next step takes you, may you find solace in the light of a star leading you closer to Jesus.

Yours in the Journey,

Pastor Betsy

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



2024

Jan. 5-7:	Annual Ski Trip to Treetops	Mar. 31:	Easter Sunday! 7:30 a.m.: Sunrise Service with Communion 10 a.m.: Traditional Easter Svc.
Jan. 7:	Epiphany; Communion & Joyful Offering	Apr. 21:	HCC 70 th Anniversary Celebration & Choir Sunday!
Jan. 14:	Annual Meeting	May 5:	Youth Senior Sunday
Jan. 21:	Laity Sunday	May 19:	Pentecost; Communion & Joyful Offering
Feb. 10:	All-HCC Connect & Reflect Retreat and Lip Sync Battle	Jun. 11-13:	Vacation Bible School
Feb. 14:	Ash Wednesday	Jun. 22-29:	High School Mission Trip
Feb. 18:	First Sunday of Lent; Communion & Joyful Offering	Jul. 28-Aug.1:	Middle School Mission Trip
Mar. 17:	One Great Hour of Sharing		
Mar. 24:	Palm Sunday		
Mar. 28:	Maundy Thursday		
Mar. 29:	Good Friday		

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).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Annual Congregational Budget Meeting

January 14, at 11:00 AM
(immediately after worship)

This meeting is an important part of being the church! We will conduct the business of voting on the 2024 Budget and electing new members to the Church Council, in addition to sharing other important information.

An information packet will be available shortly for your review. If you have questions, please contact Malinda Barr, Church Moderator, at: malibarr339@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone is welcome to attend a Congregational Meeting and participate in discussion. Per our Bylaws, only those holding church membership can vote.

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!**

(after the 2nd Annual [All-HCC Connect & Reflect Retreat](#), sponsored by Spiritual Life Committee)

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!





We have so much happening in January that it won't all fit on this page! More important than ever to watch weekly emails & Remind texts!

YOUTH GROUP in Jan.:

Youth Groups resume on January 7th. On January 7th, 14th and 21st both groups meet at their regular times:
Middle School 5-6:30pm
High School 7-9pm
if you have students in both groups, feel free to do drop off and pick up at 6:45pm.
On Sunday, January 28th youth groups will not meet as we are returning from retreat that afternoon.



9th Grade Dinner
Thursday, January 4th
6-7:30pm at HCC
5th & 6th Grade Dinner
Tuesday, January 23rd
6-7:30pm at HCC

For all dinners we eat at the large table by the kitchen, please use door #3. Please RSVP to Erin by that morning!



Wednesday, January 24th
7-8:30pm

All youth invited to gather for a time of fun conversation together. Please bring money for your food. We are usually in one of the corner booths.

DAY OF SERVICE

Monday, January 15th
10am-3pm

What better way to spend the day off school than to serve others? All youth will come together to do some much needed food sorting for our food bank at HCC!

Lunch will be provided. Contact Erin if transportation is needed.



January 18th
High School Final Exams
Half-day Lunch
At Cancun in Okemos.
Meet there right after school. Contact Erin if you need a ride from school. Please bring money to cover your lunch.

RESCHEDULING
Tubing at Hawk Island
The January date we had planned, is already sold out (as is much of their season). Working on alternate date for this activity...

YOUTH Mission TRIP

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR 2024 MISSION TRIPS! But for fundraising and planning purposes, it would be helpful if youth and adults committed soon!

The High School mission trip to Duluth, Minnesota is June 22-29th.

The middle school mission trip to Toledo, Ohio is July 28th-August 1st.

Cost for either trip is \$600/person (with a discount offered for families with more than one participant attending. Each additional family member is \$500/person).

As always, we offer **confidential scholarships in any amount** that is helpful (partial, half, full). Just reach out to Erin to let her know that would be helpful.

To sign up please return the **commitment letters** (on youth page of HCC website) and **deposits (\$100) could be returned to the church ASAP!** This helps start our participant list, so we know what type of housing we are seeking, as well as how many chaperones and vehicles will be needed as well.

ADULTS: Consider being one of our adult chaperones!

ALL YOUTH WINTER RETREAT



WATCH THE MAIL FOR IMPORTANT RETREAT INFORMATION!

Our Church Family



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

- To the parents who drove for our youth group shopping trip.
- To Stefanie Zin & Barb Decker for teaching Sunday school in December.
- To Katie Riley, Barb Decker, & Stefanie Zin for helping with ADVENTure Club.
- To Elliott Belisle; Sienna Reynolds; Charly, Brooklyn & Gwen Dease; Brooklyn & Sawyer Fielbrandt, and Easton Vessell for participating in the Chil-dren's Christmas Eve service.
- To the Loaves and Fishes team for January: Ann McGrath, Sally Heisler, Carol Cramer, and Carolyn Solomon.
- To Don Flagg and TJ Flagg for hanging the wreaths from Hanging of the Greens.
- To all the talent involved in Songfest: HCC Choir, Guest Musicians, Barbara, and Landon!
- Dave and Nancy Ferguson for donating the trees & greens from their property
- To Judy Peterson for Gingerbread House making.
- To Kim Carnes, Ann McGrath, and Social Committee for keeping up with a busy month in December.
- To Sally Garrod for the winter potted arrangements.
- To Barbara for offering Music for Peace and Comfort on Thursday evenings in Advent.
- To all the hard work of the Food Pantry/Christmas Giving Volunteers on this year's Christmas Giving Project, particularly those with leadership and extra responsibilities.
- To Rich Newport, Larry Leefers, and Dave Vietti for constructing the flower tree that holds the poinsettias in the Sanctuary.

Dear Friends,

Well, folks, I think we can all agree that the HCC Choir ended the year with a 'bang'. We all worked very hard on the Messiah selections featured in this year's Songfest on December 10, and your response in the 'audience' made it all worthwhile. Thank you for your enthusiastic support, and many thanks to Landon Black (our assistant choir director), the choir, and the wonderful MSU students who helped out that day in the choir and string quartet. ---And many of you caught that Landon's parents were also singing with us - a VERY musical family! We had just enough time to prepare for the Christmas Eve service, ending with the beauty and peace of a candlelit 'Silent Night'...

Now that the new year is here, we are ready to start afresh, and if you have been considering joining the choir, give Barbara Freeman a call (at 517-881-9976) and come check us out, this is the perfect time!!

~ Barbara Freeman, Church Musician



January 2024's "Safety Snippet"

REMINDER: HCC's 2024 Focus on Safety in January!

Welcome to 2024! With a New Year upon us, the Safety Committee reminds us that January 2024 has been identified as HCC's Safety Month. To that end, members of the Safety Committee will be elevating specific Safety and Security Initiatives each week in January, via short comments made during the Announcements portion of the service.

So, please stay tuned for more information to be provided in this new month of 2024.

Remember, part of loving everyone in our Congregation is protecting everyone... ensuring church safety begins with each and every one of us !

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Information you'd like included in the February 2024 Newsletter **is due to Michele no later than January 16** (the 3rd Tuesday of this month).

Please send to: hcc1@att.net



Happy Heart Schedule for January 2024

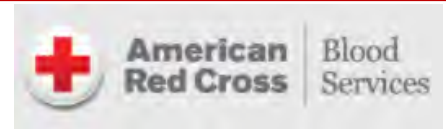
Sunday, January 7 – Epiphany (HCC Ski Trip)		Sunday, January 14 – Annual Congregational Meeting	
Ministry	Name (s)	Ministry	Name (s)
Reader	Cheryl Edwards	Reader	Sandra Porter ??
Greeters	Bob & Sally Heisler	Greeters	Malinda Barr & Ann McGrath
Ushers	Don & Kelly Flagg	Ushers	Barb & Mike Szkotnicki
Coffee Hosts	Steve & Barb Decker	Coffee Hosts	Ron & Cathy Rowe
A/V Tech	Jim Gornick	A/V Tech	Jon Lineberry (Train Aaron Copeland)
Tellers	Don Flagg & Jim Gornick (Train Kris Belonge)	Tellers	Barb Szkotnicki & Bob Heisler (Train Kristin Schuster)

Sunday, January 21 – Laity Sunday		Sunday, January 28	
Ministry	Name (s)	Ministry	Name (s)
Reader	Elliott Belisle	Reader	Cambria Decker-Larkin
Greeters	Allison Sevegney & Sienna Reynolds	Greeters	Don & Kelly Flagg
Ushers	Sylvia Davis & Lucretia Hildabridle (Train Aaron Copeland)	Ushers	Rich Baumgartner & Ann Pierce
Coffee Hosts	Russ & Lynn Wilson	Coffee Hosts	Tim & Laura Roumpz
A/V Tech	Helen & David Jones	A/V Tech	Rich Newport (Train Aaron Copeland)
Tellers	Jim Durr & Sylvia Davis	Tellers	Rich Baumgartner & Cambria Decker-Larkin

This is a proposed schedule for January 2024. 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 :)

Thank you for serving on our Happy Heart Teams!

Red Cross Blood Drive



There will be a blood drive at HCC Friday, January 19, 2024, from Noon to 6pm

At our drive in November, we helped collect 37 units of much-needed and appreciated blood. The Red Cross is still in need of your life-giving donation during this time, so please consider giving.

- 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.

- Please use hand sanitizer on the way in and out of the appointment.



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 2nd Monday** of each month. **NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 7:30pm** in HCC's Friendship Hall.



26th Annual HCC Ski Trip

Social Committee is excited to be hosting the 26th Annual HCC

Ski Trip this weekend (Jan. 5-8)!

We have 14 families signed up to join us at the Treetops Resort in Gaylord, 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! If you have questions, please contact Kim Carnes at 331-3586.

Please send thoughts and prayers for safety and fun for our group.

Looking Ahead...

- HCC Ski Trip January 5-8, 2024
Treetops, Gaylord

- Social Committee January 8, 2024
Meets Fellowship Hall
7:30 PM

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 chair, Cambria Decker-Larkin.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, @ 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.



CONNECT & REFLECT - our 2nd annual HCC retreat for all ages!

February 10, 2024

We will gather at 2:00 pm for a time of connecting for all ages! Stay tuned - more details to come!

After the Retreat, join us for our HCC Lip Sync & Karaoke Battle ([see pg. 2](#))!



Spiritual Life Committee continued...

Wednesday Wisdom and Wondering is on hiatus due to the Holiday Season and Betsy's January vacation. It will return for a Lenten Series beginning February 21. Stay tuned for more information!



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, January 21, 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, January 20, we will be meeting for in-person breakfast. STAY TUNED to emails for our NEW LOCATION!**

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

There will be no Sermon Prep Bible Study on January 18 or 25, while Pastor Betsy is away on vacation.

We worship together each Sunday at 10 AM.

Services are in person with a livestream option on our website: (haslettcommunitychurch.org) and

YouTube channel (youtube.com/HaslettCommunityChurch)

Consider following us on Facebook (facebook.com/haslettcommunitychurch) for activity photos, up-to-the-minute updates and reminders, and more!

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!

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.



HCC Property Committee usually meets the 2nd Monday each month. Our next meeting will be: **Mon., Jan. 8, at 6pm, via Zoom**



Knitters, Crocheters, & Wannabees

Our Next Meeting will be **Sunday, Jan. 14, at 11:45am** after Congregational Meeting, in the HCC Library.



HCC Green Team usually meets the 2nd Monday each month. Our next meeting will be: **Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, at 7pm, in Fellowship Hall**

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

GREEN TEAM BOOK CLUB!!!

The Green Team book club will 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.



Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of most months.

Our next meeting will be: Tues., Jan. 9, at 7:15 pm

Mission Outreach meets next: **Thursday, Jan. 11, @ 1:30pm** in Fellowship Hall.



Safety Team meets next on **Tues., Jan. 30, at 7pm** in Friendship Hall.

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



What's Happening at HCC in January

What's Happening no longer shows individual committee meetings. Instead, you can find specific committee meeting information on [pages 6, 7, & 8](#) 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 - Epiphany & Laity Sunday
*Sanctuary, parking lot via 88.7 FM, [YouTube](#)

Sunday School

Sundays, during worship, except Jan. 7
Downstairs

Coffee Fellowship

Most Sundays, after worship, Friendship Hall

YOUTH: Youth Groups Meet (p3)

Most Sundays, *MS: 5:00-6:30pm; HS: 7:00-9:00pm
Youth Rm
(*No Youth Groups Jan. 28.)

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
*No Office Hours on January 17 or 24
(She is also available by appointment Tue-Fri)

Choir Rehearsal (p4)

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:30pm
Choir Room

Sermon Preview Bible Study (p7)

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

Men's Group (p7)

Saturdays, 9:00am
Zoom (except Jan. 20 - in-person breakfast; watch emails for location info)

YOUTH: All Youth Winter Retreat (p3)

Saturday - Sunday, January 27-28

ONCE THIS MONTH

ALL JANUARY YOUTH EVENTS (p3)

*Our YOUTH Group is super busy! See p3 & Youth messages from Erin for info.

Connect & Reflect Planning Meeting

Friday, January 5, 1:00pm
HCC Library

HCC Ski Trip (p6)

Friday - Monday, January 5-8
Treetops Resort - Gaylord, MI

Church Council Meets (p8)

Tuesday, January 9, 7:15pm
Fellowship Hall

Annual Congregational Meeting (p2)

Sunday, January 14, 11:00am
Sanctuary

Knitters, Crocheters, etc. (p8)

Sunday, January 14, 11:45am
(after the Congregational Meeting)
HCC Library

Pastor Betsy Vacation (cover)

Monday-Friday, January 15- 26

Newsletter Items Due (p4)

Tuesday, January 16, 10:00am
Email to hcc1@att.net

Green Team Book Club (p8)

Tuesday, January 16, 7:00pm
Fellowship Hall & Zoom

Red Cross Blood Drive (p5)

Friday, January 19, Noon - 6:00pm
Fellowship Hall, Friendship Hall, Sanctuary

Men's Breakfast (p7)

Saturday, January 20, 9:00am,
TBD

Coffee With Jesus (p7)

Sunday, January 21, 11:15am
Mary & Martha's Rm downstairs

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



HCC Connections

January 2024

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

[\(Back to Top\)](#)