Haslett Community Church



HCC Connections

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

March 2023



Special points of interest:

- Lent cover-p2
- Wed. Wisdom & Wonderings p2
- YOUTH: Spring Break Road Rally p4
- Daylight Saving Time begins p5
- Red Cross Blood Drive p5
- Judy Connelly Celebration p5
- Happy Heart March Schedule p6
- Committee/Team Meetings p6
- Breakfast in April p7
- Inquirer's Class p8
- Addy S Environmental Book Study p9
- Meijer Winter Simply Give p9
- Medical Equipment for Loan p10
- Sermon Preview Bible Study p10

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Words	cover	Social News	<u>7</u>
Children / Youth	<u>3 & 4</u>	Spiritual Life	<u>8-9</u>
Commendations	<u>5</u>	What's Happening	<u>11</u>
Music News	<u>5</u>	Trappening	

A digital version, with working links, can be found at: https://hasettcommunitychurch.org

"God is our refuge and strength, our very present help in trouble." - Psalm 46:1

Dear Haslett Community Church,

Over the last weeks, we have come to appreciate the power of coming together in tragedy, holding each other up, and leaning in to the refuge of

God's love. You have all demonstrated through words, presence and action, what it really means to be the body of Christ, the church.

As we continue to remain Spartan Strong, I want to encourage the notion that strong looks different depending on who we are and what we are going through. Reaching out for help is strong, offering help is strong, taking time for yourself is strong, grieving and crying is strong, finding joy is strong. Strong can be acknowledging our weakness.

I am proud of the way the church and wider community came together in the immediate aftermath of the recent tragedy at MSU, but I also know that healing will take a long time. As we navigate what it means to move forward in hope, let's be gentle with ourselves and with one another. I am here for you, and the steadfast love of God surrounds us all.

In Hope,

Betsylho

Pastor Betsy

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

Lent 2023

Cracked Open: an exploration of what makes us human

Lent invites us to look inward and see our humanity, to recognize our dependence on a loving and gracious God, made known to us in Jesus. Lent is a season that leads to Holy Week, in which Jesus is triumphant (Palm Sunday), serving others (Maundy Thursday), crucified (Good Friday), and resurrected (Easter Sunday). Jesus experienced a full range of human emotions in Holy Week.

We prepare our spirits for Holy Week and Easter in a season of introspection and try to be aware of who we are, who God is, and to connect with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the season of Lent this year, we will embark on a preaching and learning series called *Cracked Open: an exploration of what makes us human.*

This series will help us learn about our very human emotions in a way that recognizes we are complex, thinking, feeling humans who are seen and known by the God who created us, and by Christ who lived among us and who lives still. What does it mean to crack open those things we feel, to let light in and see more clearly? How does knowing ourselves better lead also to better relationships with God, self, and others?

(continued on pg 2)

(Lent...continued from cover)

We are invited to consider how emotions are not bad or good ... they are part of who we are, and better understanding can lead to transformation.

The themes will be evident in worship through Scripture, prayers, and sermons, and during our Wednesday Wisdom and Wondering or WWW (formally Brown Bags & Beliefs) through a variety of resources and conversation. Details for the preaching series, and WWW are below.



Preaching Series for Lent 2023

Cracked Open: an exploration of what makes us human

Feb. 26: Fear Cracked Open to Let In Vulnerability

1 Kings 19: 3-13, Elijah on Mt. Horeb

First Sunday in Lent; Communion and Joyful Offering

March 5: **Harm Cracked Open to Let In Repentance**

Excerpts from Genesis 37-45, Joseph and his Brothers

March 12: Shame Cracked Open to Let In Love

Matthew 26: 6-13, Anointing of Jesus at Bethany

March 19: Pain Cracked Open to Let In Healing

Mark 2: 1-12, Jesus heals a Paralytic Rev. Melanie Baker. Guest Preacher

March 26: **Anger Cracked Open to Let In Clarity**

Scripture T.B.A.

April 2: **Palm Sunday**

Despair Cracked Open to Let In Hope

Matthew 20: 17 - 21: 11

April 6: Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm

April 7: Good Friday Service, 7 pm

April 9: Easter Sunday!

Sunrise Service 7:30 am Traditional with Choir 10 am

Wednesday Wisdom & Wonderings presents:



an exploration of what makes us human

Join us in person or on Zoom: ID: 897 1644 9674 Passcode: 48840



Every Wednesday in March, 6-7 p.m.

March 1: Fear Cracked Open

to Let In Vulnerability

March 8: Harm Cracked Open

to Let In Repentance

March 15: Shame Cracked Open

to Let In Love

March 22: Anger Cracked Open

to Let In Clarity

March 29: Despair Cracked Open

to Let In Hope

Wednesday Wisdom & Wonderings

(formerly Brown Bags & Beliefs) is back!

Join us the weeks you are able, you are always welcome.

This 5-week series, led by Pastor Betsy, requires no preparation and can be accessed in person in Friendship Hall, or on Zoom by clicking **HERE** or using the log-in info at the left. Parents who are dropping children off at Lent Event are welcome!

HASLETT COMMUNINTY CHURCH

one week or all 4!

MARCH 1ST, 8TH, 15TH and 22nd from 5:30pm-7pm

For ages 3 through
5th grade

Join us as we explore different parables!

Please RSVP to the church by February 28th

517.339.8383 or Hcc1@att.net



Youth Group in March:

March 5th March 12th March 19th 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, March 26th youth groups will not meet because of Spring Break!



8th Grade Dinner Tuesday, March 7th 6-7:30pm at HCC

11th Grade Dinner Tuesday, March 21st 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!



Monday, March 20th 7-8:30pm

Please bring money for your food. We are usually in one of the corner booths.



In February we postponed our youth group Olympics.
They will take place at one of our March youth groups, but which Sunday is a SURPRISE!
Don't miss it!



Spring Break Road Rally Saturday, March 18th

All youth are invited to join us for this fun night of following spring-break themed clues around town!

Volunteer DRIVERS & Clue Stop volunteers needed!

Youth sign up by March 15th!



FINAL MISSION TRIP PAYMENTS ARE DUE BY MARCH 5TH!

Cost for the trip is \$500/person (with a discount offered for families with more than one participant attending. Each additional family member is \$400/person).

If you have questions about your remaining balance, please connect with Erin!



On Easter Sunday, April 9th we need youth help with our children's Easter celebration during our 10am worship service!





If you are looking for ways to help support the youth ministry at HCC, keep these ideas in mind:

- We are always looking for adults to serve in a "security" role during Sunday youth groups. You help keep an eye on the unlocked door during youth groups.
- 2. We could use a few more youth families to bring snack to middle school youth group OR dinner to high school youth group for the remainder of the school year.
- We are always looking for new ideas for youth group activities, volunteer opportunities and fundraisers.

To help in any of the ways listed above, please connect with Erin!

Our Church Family



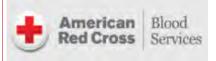
Thanks to these individuals who have recently served the church in special ways:

- To the team of folks who provided the reception for the Refugee Center Fundraiser on January 24: Betty Robinson, Joanne Ricks, Kelly Flagg, Carol Cramer, and Nancy White.
- To the Loaves and Fishes team for March: Joanne Ricks, Carol Cramer, Sally Heisler, Ann McGrath, and Paula Fry.
- To everyone who planned, participated in, and attended the Congregational Meeting January 15.
- To the Spiritual Life and Social Committees for organizing the "Connect and Reflect" all-church retreat, which was very well attended and received. Special gratitude to Katie Riley for hatching the idea, Spiritual Life for pulling it together, Don Flagg for hosting a breakout session, the Wilsons for preparing dinner, Social Committee for Bingo fun, Judy Peterson for hosting Bingo and for making the cookie for prizes!
- To Stefanie Zin for teaching Sunday School almost every week.



Daylight Saving Time Begins March 12, 2023

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 11



American Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross has

an immediate need for blood donations.

There will be a blood drive at HCC on Friday, March 17, from Noon - 6pm

 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 appointment



Dear Friends,

I am so grateful to you all and to how hard you are working. Our sound

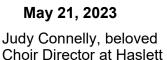
is really growing. A special thank you to Sophie Kirchoff for singing a solo during the February 19 worship service.

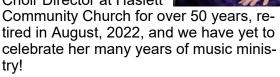
It's the perfect time to see if HCC Choir is for you - it's always open to all who would like to try it! You don't need to be a musician or have choral expertise to try.

We practice each Wednesday from 7-8:30 pm. Join us!

~ Barbara (517-881-9976, call or text)

Save the Date: Celebrating the Music Ministry of Judy Connelly May 21, 2023





Plan to join Haslett Community Church for a music infused worship service on May 21, 2023 at 10 a.m., followed by a celebratory lunch in Judy's honor.

Please feel free to share the date with others who you think may want to attend. As we well know, Judy has impacted the lives of generations of musicians, so let's get the word out! More information to follow in upcoming weeks!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Information you'd like included in the April 2023 Newsletter is due to

Michele no later than March 21,

(the 3rd Tuesday of this month)

the 5 Tuesday of this month

Please send to: hcc1@att.net



Happy Heart Schedule for March

Sunday, March 5		
Ministry	Name(s)	
Reader	Barb Szkotnicki	
Greeters	Barb & Mike Szkotnicki	
Ushers	Kim Carnes & Katie Riley	
Coffee Hosts	Tim & Laura Roumpz	
A/V Techs	Jon Lineberry	
Tellers	Barb Szkotnicki & Sylvia Davis	

Sunday, March 19		
Ministry	Name(s)	
Reader	Lynn Wilson	
Greeters	Dave & Nancy Ferguson	
Ushers	Bob & Sally Heisler	
Coffee Hosts	Russ & Lynn Wilson	
A/V Techs	Jim Gornick & Jon Lineberry	
Tellers	Cheryl Edwards & Bob Heisler	

Sunday, March 12 - Daylight Saving Time be		
Ministry	Name(s)	
Reader	Deb Klein	
Greeters	Liz Newport & Deb Klein	
Ushers	Sylvia Davis & Jean McIntyre	
Coffee Hosts	Cindy & Brett Meteyer	
A/V Techs	Rich Newport & Ambrose Meteyer	
Tellers	Jim Durr & Sylvia Davis	

Sunday, March 26				
Ministry	Name(s)			
Reader	Kim Carnes			
Greeters	Joanne Ricks & Lucretia Hildabridle			
Ushers	Jim Gornick & Jewell Muller-Gornick			
Coffee Hosts	Kelly Flagg & Carol Cramer			
A/V Techs	Helen & David Jones			
Tellers	Don Flagg & Jim Gornick			





Member Caring
will meet next on Sunday,
March 19, after Worship,
in the HCC Library.



Knitters, Crocheters, & Wannabees

Our Next Meeting will be **Sunday, March 12, at 11:15am** after worship, in the Library.



Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of most months.

Our next meeting will be: Tues., March 14, at 7:15 pm

If you would like to join us, please be in touch with Michele, Office Manager, for details: hcc1@att.net or 517-339-8383.



Property Committee meets next:

Monday, March 13, @ 6pm via Zoom. Contact Laura Clark-

Contact Laura Clark-Roumpz if interested.



HCC Green Team meets nexton: Monday, March 13, at 7pm, via Zoom:

https://msu.zoom.us/

Meeting ID: 910 9450 8188

Passcode: 48840

Safety Team meets next: Tuesday, March 28, at 7pm in Fellowship Hall.

Please contact Sally Heisler for details about this group: 517-230-4043 or

group: 517-230-4043 or sa<u>lly.m.heisler@gmail.com</u>

Page 6



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, March 13, @ 7:30pm in HCC's Friendship Hall



Breakfast in April!

It may not seem like it now, but Spring is only 3 weeks

away. It will be here before you know it!

At HCC, that means it's time for Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and... Breakfast in April!

This annual tradition returns in 2023, with our Social Committee (and friends) preparing breakfast on three Sunday mornings in April: April 16, April 23, and April 30, starting at 8:30 am, before worship.

Many people come together to make this event possible. If you'd like to assist with food prep, serving, set-up, clean-up, or you have new ideas for the menu, we'd love to have you.

Please contact Kim Carnes (517.331.3586) to let us know how you'd like to help.

HCC Camping

Our annual HCC camping trip is scheduled for August 10-13, 2023 at Pioneer County Park near Muskegon.



We have 15 camp sites reserved and the cost for three nights is \$110.00. More details will come but mark your calendar.

If interested, sign up HERE or on the wall outside the church office.



Social Committee

 Social Committee March 13, 7:30 pm Meets Friendship Hall

 Breakfast in April April 16, 23, & 30 **HCC** Fellowship Hall

 Sundae Sunday June 25

HCC, after Worship

 All HCC Camping August 10-13, 2023 Pioneer County Park

Muskegon



 Chicken BBQ September 10, Noon **HCC**

• Bonfire and Music

 Thanksgiving Dinner November 12, Noon

HCC

October



Spiritual Life's members, Don Flagg, Cambria Decker-Larkin, Carolyn Lucas, Katie Riley, Jenn Tafel, and Kris Belonge welcome new member Jon Lineberry to the group as our Council representative. We meet each month to envision ways of carrying out our three-part mission: supporting our clergy and staff in liturgical activities, creating and enhancing individual spiritual growth opportunities, and facilitating spiritual

connections among our community. Our committee expresses appreciation for the hard work of our pastor and staff for the many details attended to (e.g., implementation of new nametags, and many other details) as well as overall planning and direction of our worship and programming!

Anyone interested in our group's activities, please contact current chair, Carolyn Lucas.

We meet **next on Thursday**, **March 23**, **at 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary and on Zoom**. If you would like to attend, please send your request to Carolyn Lucas at <u>csrlucas@aol.com</u> or text her at 517.881.4241.



HCC Inquirer's Class

Sunday, March 19, 11:15 am

If you would like to know more about Haslett Community Church, UCC, or are considering becoming a member of the church, Inquirer's Class is for you!

This class, led by Pastor Betsy, lasts about an hour and shares information about the church and the denomination, and invites questions, too.

Interested? Please let the office know by email or phone. Register by March 12 if childcare is needed. Thank you!



The Spiritual Life committee held an all church retreat on February 4, at HCC. It was well attended, with around 50 participants throughout the day. The focus of this year's retreat was Connect and Reflect. There were 2 adult-focused activities, a labyrinth walk and a discussion on The Power of Myth by Joseph Campbell, and Pastor Erin provided a retreat for the children. Becky Leefers led a sing-along, and the retreat was followed by a Baked Potato Bar and Social Committee-led game night. Thanks to all who participated! This just may be a new annual HCC tradition.



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 continue in the adventure of prayer and support for the journey in a difficult world.

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

Our next Meeting is: Sunday, March 19, at 11:15 am.



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, March 4, we will be meeting in-person for breakfast at Blondie's Restaurant in Haslett, at 9am.

Please **contact Dave Vietti** if you're interested in connecting with this group: 517-339-5731

vietti@msu.edu

Zoom Meeting ID: 416 360 920

Passcode: 48840

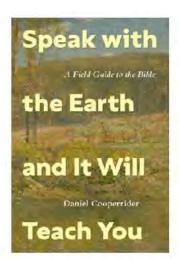
Call In** 301.715.8592



Tuesdays, 7 -8 p.m. through March 28, 2023

Grand Traverse Pie Co., E.L. Community Room 1403 E. Grand River Ave., E. Lansing

Speak with the Earth and It
Will Teach You: A Field Guide
to the Bible by D. Cooperrider
Available from
Pilgrim Press and Amazon







haslettcommunitychurch.org



Environmental Justice Book Study

Join Haslett Community Church, UCC and Edgewood United Church, UCC as Addy Stuever, Climate Justice Fellow for both congregations, leads an 8-week, in-person, book study! "Speak with the Earth and It Will Teach You: A Field Guide to the Bible," was written by Daniel Cooperrider, a Pastor in United Church of Christ.

This event will take place weekly at Grand Traverse Pie Co. in East Lansing (1403 E. Grand River Ave.). The book is available at the links below, and reading will be just a couple of chapters per week. Come to the weeks you are able! Come early if you plan to order something, as the group has just an hour to meet and will begin at 7:00 pm. Order the book from Pilgrim Press or Amazon.



Meijer Simply Give Winter Campaign

The Haslett Community Food Pantry has been selected by the Bath Meijer store to be a beneficiary of the **Winter** *Simply Give* campaign.

The campaign will run in Bath Meijer from now through April 1, 2023.

Meijer will double donations on the following days:

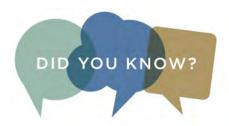
Saturday, March 4, and Saturday, March 25, 2023

On those days for every \$10 donation card purchased, Meijer will provide an additional contribution of \$20, resulting in a total donation of \$30. Donation cards are available on the HCC kitchenette counter or at the Bath Meijer store.

While other days are not double matched, a Simply Give donation on any day is welcome as the total campaign produces much valuable food pantry assistance!!

Thanks to generous customers and Meijer Foundation support, the Simply Give campaign generated over \$77 million in food donations for more than 430 food pantries throughout the Midwest since November 2008.

Page 9 (Back to Top)



Did you know HCC has some medical equipment that is available for our members and friends to borrow? We have one wheelchair, one walker, and a raised toilet seat. These are stored in the basement at HCC. To borrow, please speak with one of the pastors and we will happily get you what you need.

There are also a wheelchair and a walker that we keep in the library at HCC for use on Sunday mornings (these stay in the building, not to be borrowed). Please feel free to grab one of these if you see someone who needs one while at HCC.

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, and we receive your gifts with gratitude.



SCAN ME

There are several options to make giving more convenient:

1. You can mail checks, which are accounted for weekly.

- You can also PayPal us at: <u>HCCgenerosity@gmail.com</u>.
- 3. Online Giving, Text Giving, and Giving via Mobile App are all available to help make your support of HCC even easier! Visit www.haslettcommunitychurch.org/giving for more information, or use the QR code above to access our Giving page.
- Online Giving is available through our relationship with easyTitheTM and is accessible through our website.
- Mobile Giving utilizes the easyTitheTM Giving App which you can download from <u>The App</u> Store or Google Play.
- Text Giving Just text GIVE to our secure giving number: 517-200-3995

Thank you for your generosity & support!



Sermon Preview Bible Study Continues!

Did you know:

- Sermon Preview Bible Study happens every Thursday
- You can drop in any weeks you want and do not have to attend regularly to benefit
- You are not expected to study the texts in advance and do not need to have a history of Bible study to attend
- No one is put "on the spot" to share or contribute
- Our learning is rich, and our discussions often help shape the sermon that week
- The Zoom format of this group makes it accessible to people near and far
- We stick to the 45-minute window of time
- You are invited to give it a try any time

Come in OPEN

Church Office Hours

Have some church business you'd like to take care of in person? Have a question that's easier face-to-face? Just want to say hello?

Grab a mask and stop by for office hours!

The church office is open for On-site Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday 10:30am - 1:00pm.

Pastor Betsy is usually in the office Tuesday - Friday. You can make an appointment or swing by during her drop-in office hours on Wednesdays, 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.

What's Happening at HCC in March

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).

Worship Service Sundays, 10:00am	_
Sanctuary, parking lot via 88.7 FM, YouTube	
Sundays, during worship, Downstairs	_
Coffee Fellowship Sundays after worship, Friendship Hall	_
Youth Group	(p4)
Sundays, Youth Room* 5:00-6:30pm Middle School (MS) 7:00-9:00pm High School (HS) *March 26 - No Youth Group (Spring Break)	<u>(P1)</u>
Onsite Office Hours	(p10)
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30am-1:00pm HCC Office	115 - 57
Pastor Betsy's Drop-In Office Hours Wednesdays, 11:30am-1:00pm (She is also available by appointment Tue-Fri) HCC Office	(p10)
KIDS: Lent Event	(p3)
Wednesdays*, 5:30-7:00pm *No Event on March 29	
Wednesday Wisdom & Wonderings Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm Sanctuary	(p2)
Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary	(p5)
Sermon Preview Group Thursdays, 9:00 - 9:45am, Zoom*	(p10)
Men's Group Saturdays, 9:00am Zoom (except March 4 - in-person @ Blondie's	<u>(8q)</u>
Zoom (except march 4 - m-person @ Biondie s	>)

WFFKIY

ONCE THIS MONTH **Haslett Women's Club** Thursday, March 2, 7:00pm Fellowship Hall Men's Breakfast (p8)Saturday, March 4, 9:00am Blondie's **YOUTH: 8th Grade Dinner** (p4)Tuesday, March 7, 6:00-7:30pm Fellowship Hall **Daylight Saving Time Begins** (p5)Saturday Night, March 11 Set your clocks forward one hour Knitters, Crocheters, etc. (p6)Sunday, March 12, 11:15am Library **Church Council Meets** (p6)Tuesday, March 14, 7:15pm Fellowship Hall & Zoom **Red Cross Blood Drive** (5a) Friday, March 17, Noon - 6pm Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary YOUTH: Spring Break Road Rally Saturday, March 18 **Coffee With Jesus Meets** (8g) Sunday, March 19, 11:15am Mary & Martha's room (downstairs) Inquirer's Class (p8) Sunday, March 19, 11:15am Sanctuary **YOUTH: Culver's Night** (p4) Monday, March 20, 7:00 - 8:30pm Okemos Culver's Newsletter Items Due (p5)Tuesday, March 21, 10:00am Email to hcc1@att.net **YOUTH: 11th Grade Dinner** (p4)Tuesday, March 21, 6:00-7:30pm Fellowship

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



HCC Connections March 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 aho.betsy@att.net
Minister for Youth & Children: Rev. Erin Heisler erin.heisler@att.net

Office Manager: Michele Booher hcc1@att.net

Church Musician: Barbara Freeman 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: https://doi.org/

(Back to Top)

_