



Haslett Community Church

United Church of Christ

www.haslettcommunitychurch.org

Dear youth families,

Mission trips are a long-standing tradition at Haslett Community Church. This summer we will take our 27th youth mission trip. From the outset, our Youth Ministry Team was aware that need exists all over our world, but they felt that it was important to show our youth the need that exists right here in the United States; so while opportunities exist to serve all over, we have been committed to staying in the US. This year's seniors debated all of the mission trip options carefully and ultimately chose this particular trip because of the wide array of the types of service projects this trip will involve.

This year we will be traveling to Nashville, Tennessee the week of June 17-24, 2023! We will be partnering again with Service Learning Camps, a Minneapolis based organization that seeks to provide youth with opportunities to both serve communities while also learning about issues relating to their service sites. More info about our service sites coming soon!

I want parents to know that I do **not** take the responsibility of traveling with your children lightly; **safety** is always my first priority (both in choosing the group we work with as well as planning every single detail of the trip). I have led 19 of HCC's trips (and have attended 24 of the previous 26 trips)! In addition to myself, every year we are blessed to have an amazing team of chaperones that help with the leadership of these trips. If you have any questions about this trip at any point of the planning process, please be in touch!

From the beginning, our Youth Ministry Team (YMT) sought to keep mission trips affordable for families. We are proud that for over 20 years our trip participant fee was able to remain the same. **This year, however, due to the increased rental, gas and food prices, we do need to slightly increase the participant fee to \$500/person.** The experiences that mission trips offer are invaluable and for that reason, the YMT & I would hate for anyone to miss out on this experience for financial reasons. I want to stress that we have **scholarships** available for all youth, to help cover any portion of the cost! Please do not hesitate to speak with me if this is something that would ease the burden of the cost for your family! Scholarship information is 100% **confidential**- only I (Erin) know who receives them, so PLEASE don't hesitate to talk to me if this would be beneficial to your family! Also, for families with more than one family member going (whether student or adult), we offer a reduced rate for each additional family member (\$400/person), but again, scholarships are also available for ANYONE!

All of that being said, these trips are expensive endeavors. **As our group has grown, so has the necessity for our fundraising!** The "tuition" paid by each family, only covers part of the overall cost of the trip. For example, we pay Service Learning Camps a per person fee for the trip. In addition to that cost, we also have to cover all transportation costs (van rentals, gas, parking, etc), all of our food costs, as well as activities that we will do during our week, etc. **Our fundraisers are what help to supplement these costs;** which is why we stress the **importance of each family's commitment to helping with our fundraisers.** We are expecting higher than usual travel costs (both at the gas pump, but also the cost for rental vehicles has skyrocketed compared to past trips).

(over)

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

HCC

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Rev. Betsy Aho
Pastor

Rev. Erin Heisler
Minister for Youth &
Children's Programs



We are off to a good start! The 2022 pumpkin sale in October brought in about **\$800**. On November 2nd we had a meeting to plan more fundraisers for this year. Attached you will find a flyer about some ideas that were brainstormed at that meeting. These events can't happen without the help from our families. Take some time to indicate ways that you are either interested in or able to help with **PLANNING** these various fundraisers and return the sheet with the mission trip commitment letter. It is our hope that we can establish a core group of parents to help plan each event. Then, of course, we will need our youth and their families will come & participate in these fundraisers day of, as well as helping to spread the word about them!

I realize that in addition to HCC, your families are involved in other organizations that do fundraising as well. We don't want to over-tap our community or overwhelm our families, but **these trips cannot happen without fundraising and donations from our community.**

Even though summer feels far away, we need to **start our sign up list NOW**. Attached you will find a **letter of commitment**- showing your commitment to the trip, to helping with fundraising and to **being involved in youth group** this year! I ask that the **youth AND a parent/guardian sign** the letter & return it with your **\$100 nonrefundable deposit (per person) by December 4th.**

The attached letter of commitment AND DEPOSIT will serve as the "contract"- reserving your spot on the list.

The payment schedule is:

December 4th: \$100 deposit/person (nonrefundable)

January 29th: \$200

March 5th: \$200

Also, if you're **interested in being one of our adult chaperones**, please indicate that on your student's letter of commitment! It is an incredible experience. My own parents have gone on many trips with HCC and my dad says often, "I wish you would have made me do this sooner!"

While you're marking your calendar, please make note of one more important date. Sunday, June 25th will be Mission Trip Sunday. The day after we return from Nashville, the youth and chaperones come together to lead our Sunday morning service at HCC (10am). It is always a very moving service as they share stories about what they did, the impact the trip had on them and how they were transformed. I invite all of our youth families to be in worship that morning!

I know this is a lot of information at once & next summer seems very far away, but the time between now & then will go quickly. Please text, call or email me with any questions!

Cell phone: 517-230-8713

Email: erin.heisler@att.net

Peace,

Erin



Letter of Commitment

I, _____
have decided to participate in the 2022 HIGH SCHOOL mission trip to NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE the week of JUNE 17-24th.

We (parents & youth) understand of need for a serious commitment to this trip, and we agree to help & participate in at least **75% of all fundraising activities.**

_____ (parent initial) _____ (youth initial)

We (parents & youth) recognize the importance of **building team unity** before leaving for a trip of this physical and spiritual demand, and I (youth) agree to do my best to participate in **youth group** and as many of the **pre-trip meetings** as possible.

_____ (parent initial) _____ (youth initial)

I have received the payment schedule and know that the remaining payments are due on **December 4th (\$100 nonrefundable deposit), January 29th (\$200) and March 5th (\$200).**

_____ (parent initial) _____ (youth initial)

I am interested in one of the scholarships that is available:**

- _____ half-scholarship (\$250)
- _____ whole scholarship (\$500)
- _____ other amount: _____

I am interested in serving as an adult chaperone for the mission trip this year:

Youth signature: _____

Date: _____

Adult signature: _____

Date: _____

Please sign and return this letter to Erin **with your \$100 nonrefundable deposit on December 4, 2022.**

** If you would rather speak to Erin about the need for a scholarship, feel free to do so. You do not have to indicate that on this form, if you would rather not.