

Haslett Community Church



HCC Connections

...to inspire people with love for truth, passion for righteousness, and enthusiasm for service.

December 2014



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ing candlelight during "Silent Night". The 9 o'clock service, however, will be a little different.

In it, the closing candlelight during Silent Night will be unchanged and, as always, Scripture's Christmas story will be featured. Yet we'll include Christmas readings from contemporary sources, too, and although the carols will again be classic and favorite, they won't all be the same as at 7pm. The overall mood to the worship will be a bit more contemplative and we look forward to sharing it with you.

As usual, infant and toddler care will be provided at the 7 o'clock service, but not at the 9pm one.

This year our Christmas Eve worship will again be at 4, 7, and 9pm, but with a twist. The 4 o'clock service will, as usual, be oriented to children with costumes available to dress up as different characters in the Christmas story. The 7pm service will be the same as it long has been with the same Christmas readings from Scripture, the same classic and favorite carols, and the same closing

Our church's Annual Meeting this year will follow worship on Sunday morning, December 7th. It's an essential element in the congregational self-governance that's such a distinctive part of our tradition in the United Church of Christ and we encourage all our members and friends to take part. Our Moderator, John Leckrone, will lead us in gladly thanking outgoing and warmly welcome incoming committee leaders and Church Council members,



voting on a small bylaw change, anticipating a fresh conversation about the future growth of our church, and facing the challenges and embracing the opportunities of approving a new budget for 2015. Through it all we'll celebrate the ministry God has given to us in this year and look forward to the new horizons God is calling us to in the year to come. We'll hope to see you there! Refreshments and child care will be provided.



As the month of December begins we've started anew again. November 30th was the first Sunday in Advent, the beginning of a brand new year in the church's calendar. Soon, on January 1st, we'll launch into a brand new year in the calendar of the wider society to which we also all belong. The beginning of new years and the leaving behind of old ones points again to a reality I emphasized in a couple of my November sermons that I'd like to highlight again now.

Everything in this world keeps moving on. You, me, and everything we're part of, including the church, is in a constant state of change, flux, and transition. This can be hard on us, especially when it rattles things that we've liked, when it rumbles into situations we've been accustomed to and comfortable in. But as challenging as it often is, persistent change is an inescapable fact of life. How can we best deal with it?

UCC minister, Dan Chambers, tells a story I shared in my November 9th sermon that I think beautifully illustrates how we, as Christians, can best deal with change. Invited to preach at the closing of a retreat he had helped to lead, Dan was about halfway through the sermon when he heard something fluttering overhead. He saw several people in the congregation shift their attention away from him and towards the ceiling.

He looked up to see a hummingbird flying around. On a fine May morning with the doors of the sanctuary wide open, Dan now thinks that in finding its way into this worship the hummingbird will add an unexpected but easily welcomed grace note to the margins of the service. Soon it becomes clear, though, that this bird is in deep distress. It starts bashing itself against the lighting up above mistakenly thinking it's a window for escape.

By this point, the whole church has become focused on the bird; but no one knows what to do about it. One person reaches up with a broom to try and guide it towards the door. This only freaks it out more.

Another person suggests turning out the lights so the bird won't be fooled by them. Someone else says, "Let's all quiet down so the bird won't be disturbed by our noise." A fourth person suggests that everyone pray for and visualize the bird flying safely out the door. All of these ideas are tried, but none of them works.

A fifth person takes a pot of red flowers from the front of the sanctuary and lifts it towards the bird. He hopes it will be attracted by the red and follow the flowers as they're carried out the door. This doesn't work, either. It probably doesn't help that the flowers are plastic.

A sixth person mixes up sugar water and sprinkles it on the flowers. The bird continues to ignore them and to fly frantically up, down, and all around.

A seventh person recalls downloading a "bird call app" to his iPhone. He checks to see if it has a hummingbird call which it does, but is it of the right kind? Maybe it's the call of a competitor bird that will send the church's bird totally over the edge. But it's still worth a try.

He takes the phone back to the plastic, red, and sugar water sprinkled flowers that are now being held near the door. He lets the app do its thing- "tzch, tzch, tzch." It gets the bird's attention. Again- "tzch, tzch, tzch"- and, glory be, it works! The bird flies to the flowers and perches on them. It allows itself to be carried out the door like an emperor on a throne.

The whole congregation breaks out in wild applause. They realize their time with the bird has turned out to be the sermon for the day. It has highlighted the fact that a well-accustomed way of being the church has suddenly been disrupted. God's people are faced with an unexpected challenge to which no one knows the immediate answer, so everyone brainstorms, collaborates, and cooperates. Multiple ideas are tried and when none of them works on its own the church keeps building on them until finally a way is found to connect with the lost, frightened, and frantic bird. The church reunites it with its place and purpose and helps to set it free.

As Christians, that's the spirit in which we deal with change, whether in our individual lives or the life of the church. We focus not on ourselves and the comfort we feel in our usual ways of doing things. Instead, we face openly whatever new and unexpected realities this ever-changing world brings our way.



HCC Children's Ministry
Vision Statement:
 We partner with families to help children discover God's love and construct a foundation for their Christian faith.



In their book, *Advent A to Z: Prayerful and Playful Preparations for Families*, Sharon Harding and John Indermark share countless ideas of how families can celebrate Advent together.

Here are their Advent ABC's:

- A: Advent
 - Read Luke 3:2-14
- B: Bethlehem
 - Read Micah 5:2-5
- C: Creche
 - Watch "O Holy Night- Josh Groban" on YouTube
- D: Dreams
 - Read Matthew 1:20-21
- E: Elizabeth
 - Read Luke 1:5-7, 24-25, 36, 39-45, 57-63
- F: Faith
 - Read Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-30
- G: Gabriel
 - Read Luke 1:8-20, 26-38 & 2:8-15
- H: Hope
 - Read Isaiah 35: 1-10
- I: Incarnation
 - Watch "On Christmas Day" (Christmas Worship Song) on YouTube

- J: Justice
 - Read Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
- K: Kings
 - Sing together "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
- L: Love
 - Watch "People, Look East" on YouTube then read Matthew 25:31-40
- M: Mary
 - Read Mary's story in Luke 1
- N: Names
 - Read Matthew 1:23
- O: Ordinary
 - Read Luke 1:46-55
- P: Prophets
 - Read Isaiah 9:2 (by flashlight)
- Q: Questions
 - Read Luke 2:1-20
- R: Rejoice
 - Read Luke 1:46-54
- S: Shepherds
 - Read Luke 2:8-20
- T: Traditions
 - Watch "White Is In the Winter's Night" by Enya on YouTube
- U: Unexpected
 - Watch "An Unexpected Christmas" the story of Christmas told by St. Paul's Church in Auckland, New Zealand
- V: Voices
 - Record your children reading Luke 2:1-20

- W: Waiting
 - Read Romans 8:18-25
- X: Kristus
 - Read Luke 7:20-23 and talk about Jesus as Christ
- Y: Yes
 - Read the Nativity story again, naming all the people who said yes to God
- Z: Zoe
 - Read Revelation 22:1-2



Our parent-child music group will meet on Monday, December 8th from 10-11am.

It is a time filled with music, dancing, learning and play!



Mark Your Calendars
 There will be a Safe Church Training on Sunday, December 14th at 4pm.
 Anyone involved with our children's or youth ministries who has not been through this training before is asked to attend! Watch the mail for more information!



Christmas Giving Shopping Trips:

- December 7th
- MS: 8:30-5pm
- HS: 6-8pm
- DRIVERS NEEDED

Christmas Parties:

- December 14th
- MS: 8:30-5pm
- HS: 6-8pm
- Wear crazy Christmas sweaters, bring dish to pass & a \$5 gift for the gift exchange!

HCC Alumni REUNION:

- December 21st at 7pm
- All high schoolers and past HCC grads are welcome!
- Please bring a dish to pass!



Grade Dinners are back!

December 8th
11th grade dinner 6-7pm

December 10th
8th grade dinner 6-7pm

A request was made that grade dinners be moved to Culvers, so we are trying that in December. Youth need to bring money for their meal. Bring games! We will be there 6-7pm



**Winter Retreat at SpringHill!
Jan. 30th-Feb. 1st**

It is time to SIGN UP for our winter retreat at SpringHill camps in Ewart, Michigan.

You are asked to sign up by paying a \$55 deposit NO LATER than Sunday, December 14th.

Forms and the remaining \$100 will be due on January 11th.

We will be meeting at the church Friday, January 30th at 4pm (leaving by 4:15pm).

We will return to the church by 3pm on Sunday, February 1st.

Bring money for Friday night dinner, extra activities and the gift shop.

Questions? Check out the SpringHill camps website or talk to Erin

SIGN UP by DECEMBER 14th with a \$55 deposit. Remaining balance (\$100) due January 11th!

Chaperones needed!



Mission Trip commitment letter & deposit (\$100) is due DECEMBER 7th!
Dates are June 20-27th.
Cost is \$500 per person.

Join us this Advent in taking a photo-a-day! The calendar can be found below, or you can pick up a copy in the church office! Post your photos to social media using #adventphoto and tag the church in it @haslettchurch

Photo-a-day Advent Calendar

Post your photos on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook and tag with #adventphoto and the word of the day. Be sure to tag the church too! @haslettchurch

Nov. 30: thankful	Dec. 13: waiting
Dec. 1: celebrate	Dec. 14: angels
Dec. 2: journey	Dec. 15: shepherds
Dec. 3: illuminate	Dec. 16: silence
Dec. 4: joy	Dec. 17: god
Dec. 5: holy	Dec. 18: birth
Dec. 6: sacred	Dec. 19: quiet
Dec. 7: mercy	Dec. 20: worship
Dec. 8: create	Dec. 21: miracle
Dec. 9: star	Dec. 22: light
Dec. 10: rejoice	Dec. 23: longing
Dec. 11: child	Dec. 24: peace
Dec. 12: life	Dec. 25: Jesus

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Join us December 14th & 15th for our mission trip fundraiser: PROJECT GIFT WRAP!

People are invited to bring their Christmas gifts to the church from 1-3pm on Saturday, December 13th and from 11-1pm on Sunday, December 14th. We will wrap their gifts for them in exchange for a donation to our mission trip fund.

PARENTS & YOUTH are asked to sign up for a 2 hour shift that weekend!

Reminder: Celebration Sunday Video

Our big thanks again to Gerry Gardner for putting together the video about our church's life that was featured during our first Celebration Sunday back on March 23rd. Thanks very much, too, to Dave Vietti for his indispensable technical assistance with it.

We look forward to Celebration Sunday again this coming March and give thanks in advance to Gerry for committing to putting together another video for it for 2014-15 and to Bob Purosky and several of our high school youth group members who are helping with it this time around.

As we begin a new church year we want to remind you again that we're asking for the help of just about everyone in taking pictures of our various church activities from which we can then select for our Celebration Sunday video. It will be especially helpful if you can send them electronically to the Rev. Erin Heisler at erin.heisler@att.net. That way we'll have them gathered all in one place when it comes time to put the video together.



Our hope is that it can turn into an annual visual record of the life and ministry of HCC and serve as a source of continuing thanksgiving and joy for what God enables us to do in and through this church. We're very grateful for any pictures that you can provide for our 2014-15 edition!



The Church and Society committee will be holding a sale of fair-trade coffee from Rwanda to support high school scholarships for students in the Kicukiro district of Kigali. Look for the table after the service in the weeks before Christmas! A note from Samuel, Rose Gakwandi's son who now leads her Beloved Child Association, is below:

Greetings

I just to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to our high school students whom have been paid their school fees. At least 40 children got contribution to their school fees this year.

We will appreciate if you will continue to raise again money for next year 2015, as we use to say a 100 USD can make different to one youth in high school for a year.

Once again we appreciate your collaboration and being our ambassador in USA

Many greetings to your families.

*Thank you,
Samuel*



Pledge Giving Update

This year we need \$5019 each week to remain current in our pledged giving receipts. As of October 31st we were \$10,020 behind in the amount of pledged gifts that we've received. Any effort we can make to catch up and keep our pledges current, especially as we move to the end of this year, is a major help to our congregation's cash flow and to the ministry that everyone's giving makes possible. Thank you!

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SEARCHING FOR MISSING ITEMS!

As most of you know, the Sunday School program here at the church uses short tables that just fit little bodies for their program on Sunday. Believe it or not... one of those large, heavy tables has gone missing. It is approx. 10' x 4' with an orange top. PLEASE, if anyone knows where it might be, give us a call or just return it. That is not something that can be replaced easily.

We have recently held two events at HCC to educate all of us about the reality and presence of human trafficking in our lives. To understand how many enslaved people worked for us today, take the brief survey at : Slaveryfootprint.org.

Church and Society Committee
of Haslett Community Church, UCC



Below is the list of those scheduled to serve in the different roles that will help to provide our church's Happy Heart welcome for each of the Sundays in December. If you end up working out a switch or a substitution, please let Pastor Kurt or Pastor Erin know at your earliest convenience.

Also, if you've served in one or more of these roles in 2014 and haven't yet responded to Pastor Erin's query about whether you'd like to serve again in 2015, please let her know as soon as possible. Also, if you weren't part of these Happy Heart efforts this year, would like to help out with one or more of them in 2015, yet haven't had a chance to indicate that through one of the inserts that have been in our recent worship bulletins, please let Pastor Erin know that ASAP too. We'd love to have you join in. Thanks very much!

December 7th

Greeters: Mary Nelson and Jill Meyers
 Ushers: Mike and Danna Dixon
 Sound Tech: Ron Rowe
 Scripture Reader: Carol Reid
 Coffee Hosts: George and Carolyn Swanson

December 14th

Greeters: Sally and Bob Heisler
 Ushers: David and Helen Jones
 Sound Tech: Pat Homminga
 Scripture Reader: Mary Trebilcock
 Coffee Hosts: Rich and Liz Newport

December 21st

Greeters: Rich Baumgartner and Ann Pierce
 Ushers: Rich and Liz Newport
 Sound Tech: Joey Huston
 Scripture Reader: David Arnosti
 Coffee Hosts: Joanne Ricks and Betty Robinson

December 28th

Greeters: June Peabody and Sharon Kelley
 Ushers: Jim and Ruth Linnemann
 Sound Tech: Rich Newport
 Scripture Reader: Cheryl Edwards
 Coffee Hosts: David and Helen Jones



Inquirer's Meeting

We hold regular Inquirer's Meetings for those who are interested in learning more about our church. The next Inquirer's meeting will be offered on **Sunday, December 21st at 3pm** in our church library.

The meetings are led by Pastor Kurt Kirchoff and offer a general overview of life and membership at HCC and our denomination, the United Church of Christ. They're purely informational and are designed to last between 60 and 90 minutes depending on the number of people who attend. If you'd like to learn more about our congregation in that kind of setting, please know that we'd love for you to come.



Many thanks to our instrumental accompanists during November, **Tana Denning**, fiddle, **Bob McCarthy**, mandolin, **Sarah Garrod**, string bass and **Jerrod Gardner**, bassoon. They are so appreciated as is our wonderful choir.

Plans for the Advent and Christmas season include an Early American Magnificat, "My Soul Gives Glory", arranged by our own Barbara Freeman, "Keep Awake" harmonized by J. S. Bach, "The Baptist Shouts" a contemporary setting by one of our Hymnal editors, and "Angels From The Realms" as our Love Feast anthem with a four hand accompaniment by Barbara Freeman and David Zin.

The **Moravian Love Feast** will be celebrated on **Dec. 21st**. Many of our talented high school and college students will be musically sharing the service with us. It is a wonderful chance to gather together in the Moravian style to share food and drink and sing some your favorite carols. Much help is needed to put this together and there will be signup sheets for you to indicate your willingness to assist.

Also don't forget the **Cabaret is coming Feb.7th**. Get your act ready!!!

Joyously Ring in the Coming of the Lord

Do you have a small bell that fits in your purse or pocket? Please bring it to church for the Advent season (Nov. 30 - Dec. 21) as our candle lighting hymn will give adults and children a chance to ring on the refrain.



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

- To **Myrna Olsen** for her many, many years of faithful, weekly volunteer service in our church office doing an endless variety of tasks with grace and good humor that never failed. Thank you, dear Myrna!
- To our dedicated Tech Team members, especially **Wayne Mason, Laura Clark-Roumpz, Maria Cowan, Bob Purosky, Sandy Vietti**, and chairperson, **Dave Vietti**, for their great work in creating our new HCC website which is now up and running! Do check it out at haslettcommunitychurch.org.
- To **Laura Clark-Roumpz, Ron Rowe, Dick Ledebuhr**, and **Paul and Nancy White** for their special efforts in helping to sell our old metal folding chairs and to bring in the new ones which we now have.
- To **Kelly Flagg** for arranging the great deal our church received on the new countertops and cabinets that now grace our church school's Nursery and Thou Art rooms.
- To **Dick Ledebuhr** for his leadership over many years in various furnace, roof, and window replacement and repair projects that have resulted in our church recently receiving the highest possible Energy Star score of 100 for energy use efficiency in our building!
- To **Mike Dease** for bringing Tom "Bones" Malone, Sergio Rivera, and the MSU Jazz Trombone Studio to join him in a terrific jazz concert at our church on November 8th that also served as a fund raiser for our Food Pantry.
- To **Gwen and Mike Dease** for the world-class musical gifts they shared with us on the marimba and trombone at our Thanksgiving Dinner on November 16th.
- To **Jewell Muller Gornick, Shannon Murton, Stefanie Zin, Sheila and Carmen Crist** for teaching in November.



Members and friends in need of our special attention and prayers include:

- **Barbara Peterson's** family as they mourn her recent death. Barb had moved to Colorado in 2002 to be closer to family, but she was a long-time member of HCC and our former church secretary. She died on October 27th at age 91. Pastor Kurt led her memorial service at the MSU Alumni Chapel on November 10th.
 - **Kathy Denisi** as she recovers from recent major surgery for removal of a brain tumor.
 - **Huey Baker** as he recovers from a recent massive stroke.
 - **Kari Warner** as she receives treatment for cancer.
 - **Cindy Brown** as she rehabilitates from recent knee replacement surgery.
 - **Stefanie Zin** as she recover from recent knee surgery.
 - **Preston Johnston Keys** as he continues to face the challenges of chronic illness and his mother, **Kelly Johnston**, and grandparents, **Sue and Mike Johnston** as they continue in their loving care for him.
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- To **Paul White** and **Anne McGrath** for providing study hour snacks.
 - To **Russ Wilson, Maria Cowan, Dean Rhoades, Tim Roumpz, David Arnosti, Paul White, Dianne Harris, Roger Riley** and **Carrie Mowid** for driving the high schoolers to the haunted house.
 - To **Wendy Johnson** and **Deb Farrell** for driving the middle schoolers to laser tag.
 - To **Barb Decker, Nancy and Paul White** for helping with the high school overnight.
 - To **Jeanne Hall, Steve Decker, Raechel Decker, Mark Garrod, Sally Garrod, Roger Riley, Alex Riley, Liz Newport, Maria Cowan, Claire Cowan, Larry Leefers, Paul White, Carina Arnosti, Aly Homminga**, and **Dick Ledebuhr** for joining together to work on the fall cleanup on November 9th.

New Mission Trip Fundraiser!

New Mission Trip Fundraiser!

New Mission Trip Fundraiser!

INTRODUCING SCRIP FUNDRAISING!

Dear HCC:

We are excited to offer a new fundraiser for the mission trip this year and future mission trips as well. We can now raise money without buying unwanted items, without selling door to door, and with no extra cost to you. This is the **easiest fundraiser ever- you simply have to buy gift cards for places you shop and eat regularly!**

How it works

Scrip refers to a gift card. **Haslett Community Church is able to purchase gift cards from hundreds of retailers nationwide at a discount, which you can then buy at face value.** The difference is our profit. These are the same gift cards that you would purchase if you went directly to the retail store. By purchasing these gift cards before you shop for your everyday items –like groceries, gas, clothes, and restaurants – **we raise money, without having to spend an extra penny.** It's that simple!

How to Participate

Payment by Check: Use the SCRIP Order form, which **can be picked up in the church office.** Mark which gift cards and amounts you would like to order. Turn in your check for the amount of the order with the order form to Pastor Erin. Cards should be available for pick up the following Sunday.

Enroll Online: Go online to <https://www.shopwithscrip.com>. Click the register button in the top right hand corner. On the "Get Started" page, on the bottom of the page, click "Join a Scrip Program." Once on the "Enroll" page, type **L1D41B1641691** in the "enrollment code" box. Create a user name/password and fill out your personal info.

Payment Online: SCRIP has an online payment method with Presto Pay, that takes payment from your bank account. With the online payment you will be able to receive eCards instantly. There is a small convenience fee of only \$0.15 per order and you can order and pay for scrip on your ShopWithScrip account at any time, day or night. But what you'll really love about using PrestoPay is your Reloads process faster, and you'll receive your ScripNow® eCards and ReloadNow® funds in a matter of minutes! On top of that, PrestoPay is completely secure. You create a secret PIN number to use at checkout, so you know your account is protected.

It's easy to get signed up.

1. Click on the PrestoPay link on your Dashboard.
2. Enter your bank account and account holder information.
3. Within 2-3 business days, Shop With Scrip will deposit two small amounts in your bank account. The next time you log in, enter these amounts in your PrestoPay registration to verify the account, and choose a PIN number to use for online payment.
4. You will receive an email with an approval code to send to me at hccscrip@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Monique Clifford
517-290-2545
hccscrip@gmail.com

Pastor's Corner, con't

Seldom, if ever, do we readily know best how to respond to them, so we brainstorm, collaborate and cooperate. We work together creatively and imaginatively to try and find the best ways to connect with the lost, the frightened, and the frantic that's in others and in us, too. We reach out to assure one another and all of God's children of our place and purpose in this world where God, as Scripture repeatedly says, is doing a new thing, in which God is working to create a new heavens and a new earth.

We keep chasing after the Holy Spirit who is determined to spread the good news of God's love for all to "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth." This Spirit brings the great good news of our true place and purpose in this world. life on the Jesus vine- life filled with the Spirit's fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

This is the spirit in which we deal with change because it's the Holy Spirit that Jesus gives to us!

With you in the Spirit through every change,




It's always available to you. Pass on any prayer request you may have to Kurt Kirchoff in person, or at 339-8383, ext. 11, or by e-mail at pastorkurt53@att.net. He'll share it with the 23 others who are now in the chain who will hold you in prayer, too. Great thanks to all of our Prayer Chain folks who now include **Shari Anderson, Rich Baumgartner, Michele Booher-Purosky, Cindy Brown, Kim Carnes, Maria Cowan, Georgia Davidson, Danna and Mike Dixon, Barbara Freeman, Paula Fry, the Rev. Erin Heisler, David and Helen Jones, Karen Klein, Becky Leefers, Mary Nelson, Liz Newport, Carol Reid, Carolyn Swanson, John Trebilcock, and Dave and Sandy Vietti.** Please let Kurt know if you'd also like to join in this ministry that's open to everyone.



All women of the congregation are invited to join in the fun and fellowship at the occasional gatherings of the Women's Coffee. These get-togethers are held on the **first Tuesdays of the month at 10:00 AM when hostesses sign up.** A sign-up sheet through May 2015 is on the Social Committee bulletin board on the kiosk in Friendship Hall. We encourage those who wish to host to sign up soon. The next Women's Coffee will be held on **Tuesday, December 2nd** and the **hostess will be Sylvia Davis.** If you have not been to this get-together before, think about coming. The conversations are delightful.

**CALLING ALL
KNITTERS,
CROCHETERS, or
WANNABES**

- What? Organizational meeting for a knitting/crocheting group
- Where? Fellowship Hall (outside the kitchen)
- When? January 11, right after worship
- Why? Opportunities for fellowship, creativity, and service



"Maybe Christmas, (the Grinch) thought, didn't come from a store."

- Dr. Seuss



SPIRITUAL
LIFE

The various groups sponsored by our Spiritual Life Committee for 2014-15 are described below. Along with providing opportunities to focus on our personal and spiritual growth, these groups help to foster stronger ties among us. The Spiritual Life Committee members are Donna Ellis, Becky Leefers, and Don Ricks and we heartily invite you to take advantage of as many of these offerings as you can. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have about them or to give us your ideas for other groups or events that we might sponsor.

Bible Study: This group meets (almost) every Sunday at the home of John and Mary Trebilcock (649 Kasey Lane, Bird's Strawberry Farm in Haslett) after worship at about 11:15am. Mary Trebilcock facilitates the group. You can contact her for more information at trebilco.john@att.net or 339-3974.

Fresh from the Spirit – Food for the Journey: This group meets on the third Sunday of each month with its next meeting scheduled for Sunday, December 21st at 11am in the church library. Its focus for discussion this year is the book *Convictions* by well-known Biblical scholar and theologian Marcus Borg. In it, Borg speaks very personally of the eleven core convictions he believes are at the heart of Christian faith. The books are on

order at Schuler's Bookstore at Meridian Mall on the Reading Group kiosk. If you have questions, contact Kathy Swearingen at hkswear@gmail.com.

Life Stories, God Stories: Pastor Kurt Kirchoff leads this group at 11am on the last Sunday of each month with the next meeting scheduled for Sunday, December 28th. The group meets at the front of the sanctuary and its discussions are always informal and wide-ranging. They begin with questions that relate to basic aspects of our life stories and how those connect to our relationship with God. From there, they take off. It's a very easy group to join and take part in at any time, so give it a try. Contact Pastor Kurt (339-8383, ext.11 or pastorkurt53@att.net) with any questions you have.

Christian Faith and Current Events: This group meets twice a month to discuss in the light of our Christian faith events that have recently been in the news. The focus this year is on issues of climate change and of international relations. The usual meeting times are the first Sunday of the month after worship at 11am and the third Sunday of the month at 7pm at the church (usually in Fellowship Hall). This month, however, with the HCC Annual Meeting taking place right after worship on December 7th, the group's first meeting will be on the following Sunday, December 14th at 11am and will feature a guest presentation by Thom Peterson. He'll talk about the recent People's Climate March in New York City which he attended. Then on December 21st at 7pm, Don Ricks will begin lead-

ing us in discussion of Zbigniew Brzezinski's recent book, *Strategic Vision*, which is readily available through libraries, bookstores or by online purchase, and which is providing a general framework for our discussion of international affairs. Any questions about this group can be directed to Don who's serving as general facilitator of it at 655-3641.

Faith and Film: The next gathering of this group led by Pastor Kurt Kirchoff will be Friday, December 12th at 7pm in the Youth Room. This month's movie is *Invictus* (2010), directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Morgan Freeman, Matt Damon, and Tony Kgoroge. Rated PG-13, it's 134 minutes long and after viewing it, the group plans on 30-45 minutes for discussion that focuses on questions about the film that our Christian faith can help to raise and illuminate. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Kurt at 339-8383, ext. 11 or at pastorkurt53@att.net.

Loving Each Other in Daily Life: The practice of love is at the center of Christian faith, but what, more specifically, does it mean to love each other in the nitty-gritty of daily life? Our Biblical tradition has a great wisdom to share on that, especially in its "one another" passages that are the focus of this discussion group which Pastor Kurt Kirchoff leads from 7-8:30pm on the last Sunday of each month from October through April. This month's meeting is on Sunday, December 28th. All are wel-

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Mystery Dinner

The Social Committee is excited about hosting a new event in January and wants you to know about it now, so you can put it on your calendar. The Mystery Dinner is just that.....a mystery! You will come and enjoy dinner with friends and family, and anyone else you want to bring. We are sure there will be laughs, good food and entertainment for all! So mark January 31st with a big MD for Mystery Dinner. Child care will be provided. You wouldn't want to miss out! Look and listen for more details coming your way in January!

Social Events



December 28th - right after worship - Final Ski Trip Meeting

January 2nd- 4th, 2015 - Annual HCC Ski Trip at Treetops in Gaylord, MI

January 31st (Saturday) - Mystery Dinner

Welcome to Our New Members

It was our great delight to receive the following new members into our church during worship on November 16th. If you haven't had a chance to meet them you can see their pictures in the display case in Friendship Hall and also learn a bit about them from the biographical sketches below. Let's do all we can to make them feel fully welcome!

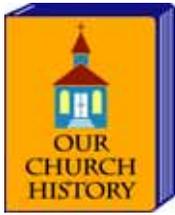
Shari Anderson moved to the Lansing area from Ohio when she was 12 years old and has lived here ever since. She first connected with HCC through our food pantry and loved how nicely she was treated by everyone in that ministry. She's appreciated how welcoming everyone else has been to her as she's become more involved with us. She's grateful for the service we provide to our local community through our food pantry and other outreach efforts. She values her connection with Pastor Kurt and especially likes the fact that both HCC and the United Church of Christ welcome interaction with other denominations which is very different from other churches she's been part of. She loves talking to Jesus and listening to old, classic hymns. She has special affection for and devotion to animals, especially guinea pigs, rabbits, cats, and dogs. She loves being out in nature, especially near water and among wildlife. Her special interests also include singing, playing musical instruments- guitar, in particular- writing journalistically and creatively, including songs and poems, studying foreign lan-

guages, history, and social studies. And, oh yes- she loves Star Trek and Star Wars, too!

Michael and Gwen Dease were joyously married this past August in a service that Pastor Kurt was honored to lead. Gwen has been in this area for about ten years, having moved from New Haven, Connecticut. Mike moved here from New York City about three years ago and he and Gwen first met when he also joined the faculty at Michigan State. Both are professors of music there. Gwen teaches percussion and Mike teaches jazz trombone. Our church has already been recipients of the wonderful musical gifts that they share so freely. They love the open, friendly, and accepting environment our church offers as well as the many service activities we provide to our local community and beyond.

Mark and Sally Garrod have lived in the Lansing area since attending graduate school at MSU. They moved to Haslett in 1989 and have raised four children here. Rob lives and works in Lansing; Adrienne has special needs and is living in a loving home with two other special needs "ladies"; Andrew attends Michigan Tech and is engaged to be wed here at HCC next fall; Sarah is the youngest, was confirmed two years ago as a member of our church, and is currently a junior at Haslett High School. The Garrod family loves animals including six pets- two stand-

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The following is from HCC's newsletter, December 1958:

Circle Members to Join Hands in December to Help Others

The December Circle meetings will direct the attention of the women toward FRIENDLY SERVICE, that part of our work where each of us can have the wonderful experience of sharing some of our talents and tokens to help others on home or foreign missions. We have been asked to stretch out our hands to help our fellow Christians four places in the world: Micronesia, Franklinton Christian Center at Bricks, NC, the Congregational Christian Service Committee work in Italy, and Migrants in Ingham County. Some women have been saying, "I don't know anything about some of these places." We'll tell you at Circle meeting where Micronesia is and what Franklinton Center does, and lots more. Your part will be to come with your open mind and ready to learn, your heart full of compassion for fellow Christians who have very little, and hands full of things which will tell them that we care. Bring as much of the following (used or new) as you possibly can to your December Circle meeting: [list of articles followed]

Gifts of money are needed too from those who feel that they can contribute. LET'S JOIN HANDS TO HELP OTHERS.

Spiritual Life - cont. from page 10

come. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Kurt.

Men's Group: The Men's Group is again meeting regularly this year for breakfasts, barbecues, and fishing trips up north. Dave Vietti serves as the facilitator and he gladly lets anyone who's interested know of the events as they're being planned. You can contact him at 339-5731 or at vietti@msu.edu to be included on the email list or to ask any questions.

New Members- cont. from page 11

ard poodles, one kitty, and three rats. Mark works as a financial advisor and Sally as a plant pathologist. Gardening, native ecosystem restoration, nature photography, and bird watching are among Sally's special interests while Mark especially enjoys biking, music, reading, and supporting Sally's ecological efforts. They've been drawn to HCC by our commitment to warmly welcome everyone and to be "hands on" in serving our local community. They see themselves joining our ministry in lots of ways, e.g. helping out with hospitality on Sunday mornings, sharing their musical gifts in worship, assisting with the activities our Social Committee offers as well as with the work our Member Caring and Property committees do.

Amy Lerg has been especially attracted to our church both by our commitment to

warmly welcome everyone and by our many service activities that demonstrate our resolve to "practice what we preach". She and her husband, Bob, are both retired teachers. They've lived in the Haslett area for 37 years and have two grown children, Charlie and Matt. Amy's hobbies include reading, knitting, baking, biking, kayaking, cross-country skiing, hiking, and camping. She anticipates helping with our ministry on Sunday mornings as an usher, greeter, or Scripture reader and very much enjoys participating in our Fresh from the Spirit - Food for the Journey spiritual life group. She also looks forward to involvement with our various social activities by helping with setup and providing food.

Carlene McGrath, a retired school teacher, moved to this area about six years ago from the Boston area to be closer to her son, Mitchell, and his family. Following Mitch, Ann, Kyle, and Alex to our church she's found that she especially appreciates the many friendly people she's met, Pastor Kurt and his messages, and the spiritual outreach we make to our community. She has another son, Curtis, who lives in Massachusetts, but often comes to Michigan to visit. She likes to travel, quilt, read, cook, and play bridge. She sees herself helping with our Sunday morning ministry as an usher or greeter as well as with the work of our Member Caring committee by preparing meals for people who are ill and helping to host and provide food for funeral and memorial service receptions.

2014 CHRISTMAS PROJECT – WORKERS NEEDED

A great deal of help is needed to complete the all-congregational Christmas Giving Project. Mark the options that interest you. You will receive a card to confirm your work time or responsibilities.

Prior to December 16, you select time and location

- Shopping for jeans and other gifts; cash or reimbursement provided
- Make cookies for volunteer refreshments (bring to church by 12/16)
- Gift wrapping (at your home anytime or at church on Saturday 12/13 at 9am)

Tuesday, December 16, Food Packing & Gift Sorting (adults, high school or middle school youth)

- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at church (no meal served)

Wednesday, December 17 Merge gifts with food

- 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., At church (suitable for families with elementary school aged children)

Thursday, December 18 Flea Market Sort and Set-up

- 3:00-5:00pm or 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., at church (you pick time)



Friday, December 19, Distribution

- 8:00 – noon., at church (hosting, loading recipient cars or kitchen help assembling produce)
- 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., at church (hosting, loading recipient cars)

For information on specific tasks, talk to Sylvia Davis, 339-6466 or Ruth Linnemann, 339-6138 or rlinnemann3@aol.com.

Family Name _____ # of adults _____ # of children _____
 Address _____ Ages of children _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Poinsettias



Poinsettia plants have a way of adding beauty to our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. We are asking for your help to purchase at least twenty-five, 6-inch pots, with foil for \$8.00 each. They may be taken home following the last worship service on Christmas Eve. Again this year we are hoping to get some larger flowers to further decorate the sanctuary. The cost of those will be \$20.00 each.

Please attach cash or check to this form and return to the church office by December 7th. Thanks!

Your name: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

6" pot @ \$8.00 red _____ white _____ marbled (red/white) _____

9" pot @ \$20 _____ (red only)

Total number of plants _____ Total check _____ Total Cash _____

_____ I will pick up my plant(s) after the last worship service on Christmas Eve.

_____ Please donate my plant(s) to our shut-ins.

North Pole Needs for the Christmas Giving Project

GIFT SELECTION & DELIVERY

Parents in the ninety-five families we will serve this year in the Christmas Giving Project identified a large variety of needs for their children. We encourage you to visit the gift board for items you wish to purchase. Wrapped gifts are due at the church by **Friday, December 12, 2014**. Thanks for your support. The church is open weekday mornings from 9am to noon to make weekday drop-off possible.

Coats for Those in Need



Our friends at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Haslett invite us to bring in new or “gently used” winter coats for distribution through their Coat Bank to those in need in our community. Simply bring the coats here to HCC and put them in our big wooden food bank box in Friendship Hall. We’ll make sure they get over to St. Luke. Thank you!

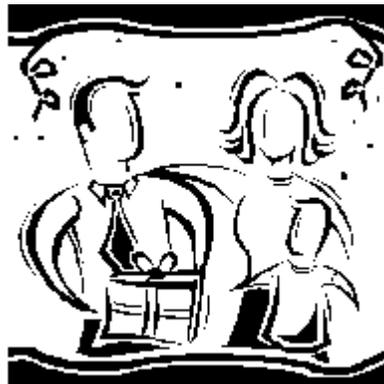
SMALL WAYS TO HELP the Christmas Giving Project

FLEA MARKET

Gently used small household items will be available for our Christmas families to select from as they wait to receive their holiday baskets. In high demand are **dishes, pots & pans, blankets, odds & ends of silverware, glasses, cooking utensils, dish towels, bath towels, sheets & bedding.**

Also popular are children’s useable toys & games, books, **winter** clothing, and baby accessories. **Small** working appliances are also appropriate.

If you can donate any of these items please bring them to church **beginning December 7**. Thanks. Call Mary Trebilcock at 339-3974 or Sylvia Davis at 339-6466 with questions.



STOCKING STUFFERS

Fun, small “stocking stuffer” gifts are requested for children ages two to teens. Especially needed are items for toddlers or teens. Ideas: hair brush or accessories, bath gel, deodorant, microwave popcorn, hot chocolate packets, chewing gum, pens. Donations do not need to be wrapped and can be left any time in the Food Pantry large wooden box in a bag labeled “Stocking Stuffers.” Call Kelly Flagg at 339-8841 with questions.



BOXES

We are again in need of 500 + **copy paper sized boxes** (please, no larger) for packing heavy groceries, produce, and other items distributed in our annual Christmas Giving Project. Bring the boxes to church **at ANY time, the sooner the better.** If you have access to boxes and need assistance transporting them or have questions, please call Paul or Nancy White at 339-2837.



December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp 12 PM - Alanon 2:30-4:30 PM Study Hours 6:15-7:15 PM Boot Camp 7:00 PM - Mission Outreach 7 PM – Boy Scouts	2 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp 10:00 AM Women's Coffee 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp 7:00 PM Venture Crew	3 12 PM – Alanon 6:00 AM – 11 th grade dinner 6:15-7:15 PM Boot Camp 7:00 PM - Adult Choir	4 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp 2:30-4:30 PM Study Hours 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp 7:00 PM – AA 7:15 PM Church Council	5 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp	6 7:00-8:00 AM Gideons 9:30 AM Member Caring mtg
7 ANNUAL MEETING 9:30 AM Worship and Church School 11:00 AM – Annual Meeting 3:30-5:00 PM - MS Youth 6-8:00 PM - HS Youth 6:30 PM - Gracewood	8 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp 10:00 – 11:00 AM Play Group 12 PM - Alanon 2:30-4:30 PM Study Hours 6:15-7:15 PM Boot Camp 7 PM – Boy Scouts	9 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp 7:00 PM Venture Crew	10 12 PM – Alanon 2:45-4:30 PM – Scouts 6:00 PM – 8 th Grade dinner 6:15-7:15 PM Boot Camp 7:00 PM - Adult Choir	11 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp 2:30-4:30 PM Study Hours 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp 7:00 PM – AA 7:15 PM Church Council	12 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp 7:00 PM Faith & Film <i>"Invictus"</i>	13 7:00-8:00 AM Gideons 11-1:00 PM MS/HS Gift Wrapping Fundraiser 2:00-5:00 PM Private recital
14 9:30 AM Worship and Church School 11:00-1:00 PM - MS/HS Gift Wrapping Fundraiser 11:00 Current Events 11:00 AM – CGE Sanctuary set up 11:15 AM – Bible Study 3:30-5:00 PM - MS Youth 6-8:00 PM - HS Youth 6:30 PM - Gracewood	15 7:30 AM - Yoga 12 PM – Alanon 2:30-4:30 PM Study Hours 7 PM – Boy Scouts Christmas Project PACKING set up	16 8:00 AM - Newsletter items due 7:00 PM Venture Crew Christmas Project PACKING 6:30-8:00pm	17 12 PM – Alanon 7:00 PM - Adult Choir Christmas Project MERGING 7:00-8:00pm	18 2:30-4:30 PM Study Hours 7:00 PM – AA Christmas Project FLEA MARKET SETUP 3:00-5:00 or 7:00-9:00pm	19 7:30 AM - Yoga Christmas Project DISTRIBUTION 8:00-12noon 6:00-8:30pm	20 7:00-8:00 AM Gideons
21 LOVE FEAST 9:30 AM Worship and Church School 11:00 AM – Fresh From Spirit 11:15 AM – Bible Study 3:00 PM – Inquirer's meeting 6:30 PM - Gracewood 7:00 PM – College Reunion 7:00 PM – Current Events	22 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga 12 PM – Alanon	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 4:00 PM Family Service 7:00 & 9:00 PM Carols & Candlelight	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Office Closed	27 7:00-8:00 AM Gideons
28 9:30 AM Worship and Church School 6:30 PM – Gracewood 7:00-8:30 PM Loving Each Other	29 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga 12 PM – Alanon	30	31 12 PM – Alanon	<i>Newsletter articles for January are due the 3^d Tuesday, December 16th, at 8:00 AM.</i>		

HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH
1427 Haslett Road
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Haslett, Michigan 48840-0217

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT NO. 5



HCC Connection

December 2014

Worship for December 2014

Sunday, December 7th - 9:30 am

"Why Isn't God More Obvious?"
Psalm 80:1-7 & Isaiah 64:1-9

Sunday, December 14th - 9:30 am

"Why Confess?"
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 & Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 21st - 9:30 am

Moravian Love Feast
(see article on page 6)

December 24th - Christmas Eve

Family Service- 4pm
Candlelight Services- 7 & 9pm
(see article on page 1)

December 28th - 9:30 am

"Back to the Ordinary"
Psalm 106:1-3 & Luke 2:22-40

Haslett Community Church

Church Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00, M-F PHONE – (517) 339-8383 Fax (517) 339-8526

www.haslettcommunitychurch.org Contact us: hcc1@att.net

Pastor Kurt Kirchoff - pastorkurt53@att.net **Minister for Youth & Children - Rev. Erin Heisler** - erin.heisler@att.net
Beverly Wegener - bev.wegener@att.net **Wayne Mason**—hcc1@att.net

Worship and Church School, Sundays at 9:30 a. m.