

Haslett Community Church



HCC Connections

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

December 2017



Special points of interest:

- Advent & Christmas Song-fest - p5
- Social Thank You - p5
- Fall Clean up - p5
- Meijer Simply Give - p5
- CGP - p8-9
- Poinsettia order form - p10

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Annual Meeting



As announced in our November newsletter, our congregation's Annual Meeting for this year will be held after worship on **Sunday, December 3rd**. Our moderator, Tim Hiller, will lead us as we discuss and approve a new budget for 2018 (in which funding for a full-time Minister for Youth & Children's Program will be proposed - yes!), elect our Church Council members for next year, and thank both those who have finished their terms on the Council and those who will be continuing to serve on it. We'll also welcome those who will be new to the Council in '18.

Remembering that the annual meeting is one of the primary privileges and responsibilities we have in the tradition of self-governance that's ours in the United Church of Christ, we encourage all of our members to attend. As always, friends of our congregation are welcome, too. Refreshments and child care will be provided.



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 3

You are invited to bring the spirit of Advent to Haslett Community Church at Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 3rd 4:00 p.m. We will make and hang wreaths for the windows of the church. The youth will decorate the tree in the sanctuary and the youth room downstairs. There will be a crafty Christmas activity for all the young ones. Bring the whole family and some friends, too, for a night of gathering to prepare our church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. There will be a soup supper and brief worship service to center ourselves for this wonderful time in our lives together. We need lots of hands to create over 25 wreaths! If possible, please bring gloves and clippers. Please sign up on the Social Committee kiosk for Hanging of the Greens.



This month brings our annual joy of multiple Christmas Eve services as we'll again celebrate the miraculous gift of God becoming one of us in Jesus. Since this year is one of the rare times that Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, **the first service will be at our regular 10am Sunday morning service time** (instead of our usual Christmas Eve time of 4pm) and **then again at 7 o'clock and 9 o'clock**. Infant and toddler care will be provided at the 10am and 7pm services, but not at the 9 o'clock one.

The 10am service (like our usual 4pm Christmas Eve service) will be a family service oriented to children. There will be costumes available for them to dress up as different characters in the Christmas story. The service will also be a bit shorter than our usual Sunday morning worship- probably about 45 minutes.

The 7pm service will be the same as it's long been with the same Christmas readings from Scripture, the same classic and favorite carols, and the same closing candlelight during "Silent Night". As we've done the last several years, though, at 9 o'clock we'll offer a service that's a bit 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 also include Christmas readings from contemporary sources and although the carols will again be classic and favorite, they won't all be the same as at 7pm. The overall mood will be more contemplative.

In all three services we'll rejoice again in the great gift of Emmanuel- God with us!



On the first Sunday in December, we begin the Advent season, that time of the church year in which we get ready to celebrate Christmas. As we all know, a big part of traditional Christmas preparation is preparing gifts that we'll give at Christmas time. As I suspect we also all know, this can frequently be a challenging task, especially as we try to get the gift that's "just right" for those we're giving to.

Garrison Keillor writes about what it's like to receive a Christmas gift that you feel is NOT right for you. He says, "A Christmas gift represents somebody's theory of who you are, or who they wish you were . . . but what if you see yourself as a suave dude and a swift intellect and then one year your wife- your wife- gives you a pair of singing undershorts that perform 'O Tannenbaum' when you sit down . . . That's when you go through a sort of identity crisis.

"You'd like to get a gift that aims high . . . instead here is a pair of bedroom slippers with lights in the toes so you can see your way to the bathroom at night . . ."

That sort of thing can be hard to take. Gifts can painfully remind us that people we love and whom we know love us nevertheless sometimes see us very differently from the way we see ourselves.

What do we do with that? Garrison Keillor suggests that we learn not to expect too much from the gifts that others give to us. He says, "There is, for each person, a perfect gift, your heart's desire, (but) nobody can give it to you except yourself."

I wonder about that. A gift is simply something that we're given. Are we sometimes given things that we never would have asked for, things that we never would have chosen for ourselves, but that turn out to bring some of the best that we know?

I taught high school for eight years. One of my most vivid memories of that time is the day one of my students, Kenny Leonesio, spoke with great passion and conviction to our class about the incredible gift his brother had been to the life of his family. His brother had been born with Down's syndrome and people from outside the family sometimes expressed pity to them about him.

Kenny said the real pity would have been if his family had not received the gift of his brother. Because of him, they had come to know and share a depth and quality of love among themselves that they had never known before. They had been forced to make changes in their lives which they should

have made sooner. They had become much better people because of his brother's presence in their family.

In my years as a minister, I've sometimes heard people speak of serious illness or some other significant burden as a gift. Not one that they wanted or that they would ever have chosen for themselves, but one that helped to put their lives in truer perspective. These were gifts that unexpectedly helped to draw their families closer together and served to bring out the best in them.

It's similar to the gift we're getting ready to celebrate at Christmas time. We're once again preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus which is certainly one of our biggest and best celebrations. Yet the Bible reminds us that at the first nativity the baby Jesus wasn't seen by many people as much of a gift at all.

Mary hears from the angel that she'll have a baby out of wedlock, and she's deeply troubled. Joseph hears from Mary that she's pregnant, and he's very unhappy. When the baby is born and King Herod hears of it, he's ready to kill.

It doesn't get much better when the baby grows up. At one point, some in his family think he's gone mad and want to put him away. The people in his hometown run him out of town. He's not the kind of Messiah most people want or expect.

He won't take up a sword to kick out the Romans. He hangs out with too many of the wrong kinds of people. He insists that the way to greatness is to be the servant of all.

Finally, the religious and political leaders of his day nail him to a cross. Those who profess to be his followers run away. As he dies, there's no one around who sees him as much of a gift at all.

But we see it all so much differently now! We see that this Jesus may not be the gift we would have thought we wanted or that we would have chosen for ourselves or that we would have identified as our heart's desire. Yet now we see that he's so much more than that. He is true God.

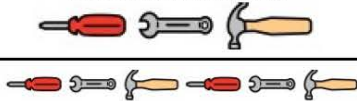
He is true God and the sign of God's great desire for us. Through him we're given unexpected and unasked for gifts that we wouldn't and couldn't give to ourselves. His gifts of the deepest hope, peace, joy, and love, put our lives into true perspective. They draw us closer together and bring out the best in us.

That's why our Christmas celebration is always among our biggest and best. It reminds us more than any other that indeed the Lord is come!"

Getting ready with you
to celebrate THE Christmas gift,



**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.



**Kingdom Makers
Workshop Sunday
School Schedule:**

December

- **3rd: Communion**
(children upstairs)
- **10th & 17th: The
Wisemen**
- **24th: Christmas Eve
family service 10am**
(candlelight services 7
and 9pm)
- **31st: Children
upstairs**

January

- **7th, 14th, 21st: Jesus'
Baptism &
Temptation**
- **28th: Jesus' Healing
Miracles**



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



**Sunday, December 3rd
4:00pm**

All HCC families are invited
to help us decorate the
church for Advent!
We will have activities and
art projects for kids while
the adults make wreaths!
The evening will end with a
brief service and a simple
supper.

Interested in helping provide
kid friendly food?
Contact Erin.



All children 3 years of age
through 5th grade are invited to
ADVENTure Club
Wednesdays in Advent:
November 29th,
December 6th and 13th
Come at 5:30pm for dinner.
The main programming will be
from 6-7pm!

This year we will be focusing
on what it means to KEEP
AWAKE (Mark 13:24-37),
PREPARE (Mark 1:1-8), and to
MAGNIFY GOD'S NAME
(Luke 1:46b-55)!



In December, our Children's
Choir will rehearse from
11:15-11:45am on Sunday,
December 3rd, 10th and 17th.
They will sing in worship,
as part of our Family Oriented
Christmas Eve Sunday 10am
service, December 24th.
No choir rehearsals on Sunday,
December 24th or 31st.
After worship rehearsals will
resume on January 7th.



All parents are welcome to join
us on Friday evenings
(free childcare is provided).

Most weeks we meet on
Fridays from 6-8pm,
except on weeks when Pastor
Kurt leads his Faith & Film
group (on those weeks the
group will meet at 7pm).

**The Parent Group schedule
for December is:**

December 1, 8, 29th from 6-8
December 15th from 7-9pm
The film for December 15th is
"Flipped."

**The group will not meet on
Friday, December 22nd.**





Sunday, December 3rd
(in place of youth groups)
we gather as an entire church family to decorate the church for Advent. Youth and their families are invited to join us at 4pm for decorating, then a brief service and soup supper.



Christmas Giving Shopping Trips:

- **December 10th**
- MS: 3:30-5pm
- HS: 6-8pm
- **DRIVERS NEEDED**
- For this event we head to Target with cards off of our "giving tree" and buy gifts for families involved in our Christmas Giving Project.

Ugly Sweater Christmas Party:

- **December 17th**
- MS 5-6:30pm
- HS 7-9pm
- Wear crazy Christmas sweaters, bring snack to share & a \$5 gift for the gift exchange!

NO YOUTH GROUPS ON DECEMBER 24TH AND 31ST



12th grade dinner

December 4th
6pm @ HCC

***note: this is a change from the youth group calendar!!**

No need to bring anything!
You are welcome to bring a game to play! Please RSVP to Erin by December 3rd!



**ALL YOUTH
Trip to District 5
Saturday, Dec. 9th
6pm**

Please sign up by Sunday, December 3rd. We will need parents to drive!

alumni REUNION

**December 23rd
6pm
Buddies in Okemos**

All HCC Youth Group Alumni are invited.



The \$100 nonrefundable deposit for the mission trip was due Nov. 26th.



DECEMBER EVENTS:

December 13th:
Culver's Night 7pm
Come celebrate
National Ice Cream Day!

December 19th:
National Muffin Day
Stop by HCC on your way to school for a muffin!
7am-7:30am!

December 30th:
Breakfast at Blondies at 10am
Come celebrate
National Bacon Day!

No study hours over Christmas Break!

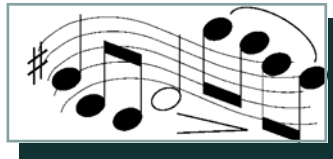


Mark your calendars for our upcoming **BINGO NIGHT 7pm on January 24th at the Mayfair in Haslett.**

This will be a fundraiser for our mission trip to Houston.

Tickets are \$10 per person (plus the cost of food or drink ordered during the event). Please invite family and friends to help support this important cause.

Advent and Christmas Songfest



The sound of joyous music fills the air as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Along with anthems of Advent the choir will lead our Songfest on December 17th. We will share food and drink around tables in the sanctuary as we sing together favorite songs of the season. Many of our favorite instrumentalists will be playing too. The choir has prepared a couple of anthems we hope you enjoy.

On Christmas Eve at the 7:00 and 9:00 services you will have the opportunity to listen to a new composition written by Barbara Freeman and Mike Eberlein to introduce and accompany "Silent Night".



A Special Thank You

This is one of the many times in this coming year that I'll want to express my special thanks to our church for your great goodness to me during my years as Pastor

with you. This time it's especially for the loving recognition you offered at this year's Thanksgiving dinner of my 20 years at HCC. The gifts of the God's Love Note signed by so many of you, of the engraved "20 years in our hearts" watch, of the great Mickey Mouse cap with my name stitched on the back, and of the special song of recognition led with such energy and enthusiasm by our Children's Choir- for all of these and for the generous and affectionate spirit in which they were given I say thank you, thank you, thank you!



Fall Cleanup Time

The following date is scheduled for the fall cleanup of our church's grounds:

- **Sunday, December 10th, 11am-1pm**

On this Sunday feel free to wear work clothes to worship for our work outside afterwards. Bring rakes, tarps, gloves, and pruning tools, too, as we'll plan if the leaves have fallen to prune some trees and bushes.

We also need: 1) a small utility trailer to help with leaf removal and, 2) a place to mulch the leaves. Please contact me if you can help with either of those items.

Yours in Christ, *Rich Newport* 517-575-7473



MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE & OUR FOOD PANTRY

Our church's food pantry is the recipient of the donations given to the **Okemos Meijer store's Fall Simply Give campaign** and the store is also designating **Friday, Dec 8th and Saturday, Dec 9th as Double Match Days** during which Meijer will double match every customer's \$10 *Simply Give* donation. This means that for every \$10 donation card purchased, Meijer will give \$20 to the program, resulting in a total donation of \$30. We appreciate any support you can give to our food pantry by giving to this special campaign at the Okemos store, especially on those Double Match Days. Thank you!



We hold a monthly Inquirer's Meeting for anyone who is newer to our church and might be interested in learning more about us. This month's Inquirer's meeting will be offered on **Sunday, December 17th, 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.



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

- The Mahon family, Mike, Zsa, Kate & Tara, as they mourn the recent death of Mike's Aunt Maggi.
- Kathy and Tracy Baker as they mourn the recent death of Tracy's mother.
- Bob Frederick as he's been hospitalized with pneumonia.
- Stefanie Zin as she recovers from recent knee replacement surgery.
- Eleanor Baker as she's been hospitalized with a variety of health issues.
- Irmie Neils as she's back home from the hospital after receiving treatment for congestive heart failure and atrial fibrillation.
- Harry Curtis as he rests at home after recent time in the hospital.
- Irma Henner as she continues to receive hospice care.
- Kevin Harris as he continues to recover from illness.
- Tom Musolf as he continues to recover from a recent fall.
- Karen Klein as her immune system continues to recover from the successful stem cell transplant that she recently received to improve her chances that the cancer from which she's now in full remission will never come back!



Commendations

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

- To Tim & Karla Hiller for their gift of a stone setting for our baptismal font.
- To Rich Newport and Ron Rowe for their special efforts to remove and scrap out the old stove from our kitchen and to Rich for all of his good work in making sure that our new stoves have been well-installed.
- To Nancy White as Finance committee chairperson for her special efforts last year and this year to write individual thank-you notes to everyone who's made a financial pledge to our church's ministry
- To all those who joined with our Social Committee to do everything needed to set up, provide food and drink, arrange entertainment, clean up, and take down for this year's Thanksgiving Dinner. Again, it was a terrific success as we joyfully embraced the opportunity to thank God once more for the abundant blessings we've received. Thanks especially to our Children's Choir for the gifts of song that they gave!
- To Graham Riley for his presentation of our final "MYCP Minute for Mission" on Sunday, October 15th.
- To Barb Decker, Lucretia Hildabridge, Sophie Kirchoff, Karen Klein, Teri & Gordon Stauffer, and Alice Whiren for their service from May to October in staffing the Double Up Food Bucks table at the Meridian Farmer's Market.
- Our pumpkin decorating crew: Betty Robinson, Julie Wood, Sandy Corder, Donna Donavan, Julia Sleeper, Stephanie Bollman, Jewell Muller-Gornick, Sally Garrod & Kelly Flagg for bows. And Katie Riley, Barb Decker, Sandra Porter, Glen & Karla Dudasik, Diane Sloan, Sally & Bob Heisler, Lai Schaubroeck, Missy Stolicke and Anne McKinney.

Our Welcoming Teams for December

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 October. If you end up working out a switch or a substitution, please let Pastor Kurt or Pastor Erin know at your earliest convenience.

December 3rd

Greeters: Mike & Zsa Mahon
Ushers: Don & Kelly Flagg
Sound Tech: Joey Huston
Scripture Reader: Carolyn Malmstrom
Coffee Hosts: Debbie & Gary Gulliver

December 10th

Greeters: Becky Leefer & Mary Trebilcock
Ushers: Bob & Sally Heisler
Sound Tech: Ron Rowe
Scripture Reader: Laura Roupz
Coffee Hosts: Tim & Laura Roupz

December 17th

Greeters: Judy Peterson & Kim Carnes
Ushers: Ann Pierce & Rich Baumgartner
Sound Tech: Patrick Homminga
Scripture Reader: Steve Decker
Coffee Hosts: None needed due to Songfest

Sunday, Christmas Eve, December 24th

10:00am service

Greeters: Don & Joanne Ricks
Ushers: **volunteers needed**
Sound Tech: Joey Huston
Coffee Hosts: Steve & Barb Decker

7:00pm

Ushers: Sylvia Davis & Sophie Kirchoff
Sound Tech: Rich Newport

9:00pm

Ushers: **volunteers needed**
Sound Tech: Helen Jones

December 31st

Ushers: Volunteers needed
Sound Tech: Ron Rowe
Scripture Reader: Donna Ellis
Coffee Hosts: **volunteers needed**

- For pumpkin sale help: Betty Robinson & Mary Trebilcock for making cards and pumpkins for us to sell.
- Drivers for youth events: Glen Dudasik, Kristin Kildea, Meagan Wheeler, Carrie Mowid, Joel Corder, Rob Mowid, Monique & Joe Clifford.
- Stefanie Zin, David Arnosti, Deb Klein and Barb Decker for teaching.
- Glen Dudasik for chaperoning high school overnight.
- Karen Klein for removing the extra pumpkins.



SPIRITUAL LIFE

The various groups sponsored by our Spiritual Life Committee help us to reflect on and grow in our spiritual life as well as foster closer ties between us. Our committee's members, Donna Ellis, Barbara Freeman, Becky Leefers, Roberta Otten, Don Ricks, Katie Riley, and Mary Trebilcock once again invite and encourage you to take advantage of as many of these offerings as you can. As always, please feel free to contact any of us with questions you might have or with your ideas for other groups or events that we might sponsor.

Coffee with Jesus: This group meets after worship usually on the third Sunday of each month during the school year with this month's meeting scheduled for **Sunday, December 17th at 11:15am** in the church library. The books *Coffee with Jesus* by Dan Wilkie and *Days of Awe and Wonder* by Marcus Borg are helping to stimulate this year's discussions and both are available at Schuler's in Okemos. All are welcome even if you've never attended before. Kathy Swearingen facilitates the group and if you have questions you can contact Kathy at her e-mail: hkswear@gmail.com.



Life Stories, God Stories: Pastor Kurt Kirchoff leads this group around 11:15am usually on the last Sunday of each month with this month's meeting scheduled for Sunday, December 31st. It meets at the front of the sanctuary and the discussions in it 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 as the Spirit moves! Come and give it a try. Contact Pastor Kurt Kirchoff (339-8383, ext.11 or pastorkurt53@att.net) with any questions you have.

Current Events in Christian Context: This group meets usually on the first Sunday of each month after worship at around 11:15am and on the third Sunday of the month at 7pm. However, due to our congregation's Annual Meeting on December 3rd, the first meeting in December will be on Sunday, the 10th. It will continue this year's first Sunday of the month focus on the theme of *Life the Remix: Promise and Peril*. These discussions take as their point of departure the fact that in recent years scientists have made enormous strides in understanding the genetic structures of just about everything on our planet and, even more significantly, in our ability to alter those structures for our purposes. These advances hold out both the promise of great good and the possibility of awful catastrophe depending on how we use our newfound powers. Many scientists on the leading edge of these developments realize how crucial it is to have broad public understanding and discussion of the issues they raise. This year our Current Events group is aiming to make our Christian contribution to that effort.



This year's meetings on the third Sunday of each month are again featuring a Social Issues film series. Each film is meant to help stimulate further reflection and conversation on issues related to *Life the Remix* or to other social or political challenges of our time. December's film, *Citizen Four*, focuses on Edward Snowden, whistle-blowing, and the U.S. government's surveillance practices and will be shown on Sunday, the 17th, at 7pm. Direct any questions you might have to Pastor Kurt.

Faith and Film: Pastor Kurt greatly enjoys leading this group too which meets monthly through April at 7pm on a Friday night to watch and discuss films through questions that can be raised and illuminated by our Christian faith. The series continues this month on the 15th with the 2010 film, *Flipped*, directed by Rob Reiner and starring Made-line Carroll, Callan McAuliffe, and Rebecca DeMornay. Rated PG, it's 90 minutes long and tells a terrific story about seeing an-



other person through new eyes and about an agent of grace who helps it to happen. As always, popcorn and soft drinks will be provided.

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 faithful facilitator of it 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.



All women of the congregation are invited to join in the fun and fellowship at the next **Women's Coffee** to be held on **Tuesday, December 5th, at 10am**.

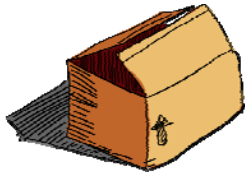
We encourage those who wish to host to sign up. On the kiosk in Friendship Hall. If you have not been to this get-together before, think about coming. The conversations are delightful.



Knitters, Crocheters, and Wannabes

The next meeting of the Knitters, Crocheters, and Wannabes will be on **Sunday, December 10th**. We will meet right after worship in the Library this month.

Small ways to help with the Christmas Giving Project



Boxes, Boxes, Boxes - We need over 500 copy paper sized boxes (please no larger than 18x12x10). It is best that the boxes have a top or flaps that cover the top. Bring the boxes to church **at ANY time, the sooner the better**. If you have access to boxes at work and need assistance transporting them or have questions call Rich Baumgartner, 517-339-0438.

Stocking Stuffers – 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.



Home Shoppe - Gently used small household items will be available for our Christmas families.

In high demand are blankets, dishes, pots & pans, and bath towels. Small working appliances are also appropriate. Children's books and toys are welcomed. If you can donate any of these items please bring them to church beginning December 3. Please do NOT bring any clothing or shoes. Call Mary Trebilcock at 339-3974 or Sylvia Davis at 643-0076 with questions. Thanks.



Freezer Space Needed Turkey Purchase Help

A big part of the food we give in our Christmas Giving Project is a turkey or ham to each of our 90+ families for their Christmas meal. We have donations from Haslett High School and Kiwanis but we can use:

- Freezer space to store turkeys
- Purchase and store turkey(s) that can be picked up or delivered to the church on distribution day -Thursday December 21.

Please contact Barb Szkotnicki via email-barb.szkotnicki@gmail.com or call 517-381-0732 to let Barb know if you can store turkeys; purchase turkey(s); or buy and store turkey(s). You will be reimbursed for any turkey(s) you purchase.



Loving In Little Ways

There is an old romantic song entitled, “Have I Told You Lately that I Love You?” Recently I heard Mort Crimm, a Detroit newsman, tell this poignant story about that song. When he was a young boy, he used to hear his parents singing that song to each other. They usually did this only when they did not think he was around. Many years later his father lay dying in the hospital. When he got to the room where his father was, he saw his mother sitting next to his father's bed. She was holding his hand, stroking his head gently, and singing softly through her tears, “Have I told you lately that I love you?”

Romance is about the little things. Yes, it is. It is about brushing the snow off her car, making his favorite dessert, saying “thank you,” watching the kids for the day, fixing the toaster, giving a hug for no special reason, and saying “I'm sorry.”

The spiritual life is about the little things too. It's about getting up fifteen minutes earlier to pray. It's about subscribing to a religious magazine. It's about taking some blueberries to the elderly couple across the street. It's about volunteering for a church ministry. It's about trying to be more attentive with the kids.

When we die, we might find ourselves asking Jesus, “Have I told you lately that I love you? And hopefully, we just might hear Jesus say to us, “not only have you told me. You showed me in a million little ways your whole life long!”

From the book, “*Rummaging For God*” by Melannie Svoboda, SND



GIFT IDEAS & SCHEDULE

Parents in the ninety families we will serve this year in our 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 Wednesday, December 13, 2017. Thanks for your support. The church is open weekday mornings from 9am to noon for weekday drop-off.

1. Select card(s) from the Gift Board.
2. Purchase and wrap the gift(s).
3. Secure the card to the outside of the wrapped gift. It is our only way to know which family and which child is the recipient of the gift.
4. Return the gift(s) to Church with the card securely attached to the gift(s) by **Wednesday, December 13th**.

Your cash donations are cheerfully accepted for purchasing items from our Holiday Gift board, especially jeans, socks, and underwear. In addition, cash will be used to buy needed foodstuffs through the Greater Lansing Food Bank and retail groceries during sales. Look for envelopes marked CASH for this purpose on the board. Please make your check payable to Haslett Community Church and put "Christmas Giving Project" on the check memo line. Place the envelope in the offering plate or turn it into the Church Office.

We are blessed again to be the recipients of the Holiday Simply Give campaign at the Okemos Meijer. It runs through December 30th. If you want to effectively triple your donation simply purchase the cards December 8th & 9th at the Okemos Meijer and they will Double Match your donation.

2017 CHRISTMAS PROJECT – WORKERS NEEDED

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

Prior to December 19, you select time and location

- ☐ Shopping for jeans and other gifts; cash or reimbursement provided
- ☐ Make cookies for volunteer refreshments (bring to church by 12/19)
- ☐ Gift wrapping (at your home any time prior to 12/19)
- ☐ Move empty cardboard boxes to the hallway (10am to noon 12/20)

Tuesday, December 19, Food Packing & Gift Sorting (adults, high school or middle school youth)

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

Wednesday, December 20

- ☐ 1:00-5:00 p.m., Home Shoppe (former flea market) Sort/Set-up at church (you pick 2 hours to help)
- ☐ 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Move gifts to sanctuary, (suitable for families with elementary school aged children)

Thursday, December 21, 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, 643-0076 or Ruth Linnemann, 339-6138 or email to rlinnemann3@aol.com.

Family Name _____ # of adults _____ # of children _____

Address _____ Ages of children _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS NOW!



We would love to decorate our sanctuary with an array of beautiful poinsettias again this year! We are asking for your help to purchase at least twenty-five, 6 -inch pots, with foil for \$8.00 each. The larger plants are still \$20 and will be placed around the sanctuary to enhance the joyful atmosphere of the Christmas celebration! The plants you purchase may be taken home following the last worship service on Christmas Eve.

Please attach cash or check to this form and **return to the church office by Dec 10th**.

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

Holiday Folk Dancing Party



Guests: For the Ladies and the Gents 16 years and older!

Minimum 8/Maximum 12 Dancers

Date: Saturday, December 9

Time: 1:30 to 3:00 PM

Place: HCC Friendship Hall

Cost: Free

Host: Roberta Otten (339-0905)

Share in community through ethnic dances of France, Greece and other countries. No special skills needed. If you can walk, you can dance! We'll have International Teas and Holiday Treats. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes without a rubber sole.

Gingerbread House Decorating



Guests: Every age! 25 maximum.

Date: **Sunday, December 10**

Time: 11:30 AM

Place: Haslett Community Church

Host: Eileen Lovett (401-261-6285)

Come decorate your own gingerbread house. Bring a bag of small candies like M&M's, Lifesavers, Smarties or Tic Tacks. Everything else will be provided!



For Those in Need

With winter officially starting this month, our friends at St. Luke Lutheran

Church in Haslett continue to invite us to donate new or "gently used" winter outer apparel for distribution through their Coat Bank to those in need in our community. They have ongoing need for plus sized coats from 2X to 5X for both men and women. They also often run short on coats for school-aged children size 7 to 16 for boys and girls. Another frequent need is for waterproof winter gloves/mittens for school-aged children. You can bring your donations here to HCC and put them in our big wooden food pantry box in Friendship Hall. We'll make sure to get them to St. Luke. Thank you!

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <i>Newsletter articles for January due on the 2nd Wednesday, December 13th, at 8:00 AM.</i> </div>					1 7:30am – Yoga 7:45am – Boot camp 5pm – BFF recital 6pm – Parents Group	2 7am – Gideons
3 COMMUNION ANNUAL MEETING 10am - Worship; Children in Worship 11:15am– Annual Meeting 11:15am – Children Choir 4pm – HANGING OF THE GREENS 6:30pm – Gracewood	4 7:30am - Yoga 7:45am/9:15am Boot Camp 12pm – Alanon 2:30pm-Youth Study Hr 6pm – 12 th grade dinner 6:15pm – Boot Camp 6:30pm–Moms in Touch 7pm – Mission Outreach 7pm – Boy Scouts	5 10am Womens Coffee 5:30pm – Boot Camp 6:30pm - ETCH 7pm Social mtg	6 10am - Bagel team 12pm – Alanon 5:30-7pm Adventure Club 7pm – Choir 7pm –Venture Scouts	7 7:45am/9:15am Boot Camp 5:30pm–Boot Camp 6-6:30pm – Quiet Music in Sanctuary 6:30pm Women's Club 7:30pm – AA 8pm-HCC Band	8 7:30am – Yoga 7:45am – Boot camp 6pm – Parents Group	9 7am – Gideons 1:30-3pm – <i>PAP Folk Dance</i> 6pm – Youth to District 5
10 FALL CLEANUP 10am - Worship; Church School 11:15am – Knitters, Crocheters & Wannabes 11:15am – Children Choir 11:15am – <i>PAP Gingerbread Houses</i> 11:15am – Current Events 3:30pm – Wolf Den mtg 3:30-5pm – MS Youth 6-8pm – HS Youth 6:30pm – Gracewood	11 7:30am - Yoga 7:45am/9:15am Boot Camp 12pm – Alanon 2:30pm-Youth Study Hr 6:15pm – Boot Camp 6:30pm–Moms in Touch 7pm - Youth Ministry 7pm – Green Team 7pm – Boy Scouts	12 5:30pm – Boot Camp 7:15pm Church Council	13 8am-newsletter items due 10am - Bagel team 12pm – Alanon 5:30-7pm Adventure Club 7pm – Youth Culvers night 7pm – Choir 7pm –Venture Scouts	14 7:45am/9:15am Boot Camp 5:30pm – Boot Camp 7:30pm – AA	15 7:30am – Yoga 7:45am – Boot camp 7pm – Parents Group 7pm – Faith & Film <i>"Flipped"</i>	16 7am – Gideons 10-11am - Set-up for Songfest
17 Advent Christmas Songfest 10am - Worship; Church School 11:15am – Children Choir 11:15am – Coffee w/Jesus 3pm – Inquirers meeting 5-6:30pm – MS Youth 7-9pm – HS Youth 6:30pm – Gracewood 7pm – Social Issues Film	18 7:30am - Yoga 10am–Parent/child music 12pm – Alanon 2:30pm-Youth Study Hours 6:30pm–Moms in Touch 7pm – Boy Scouts	19 7-7:30am Youth Muffin Day 6:30pm- ETCH Christmas Project PACKING	20 10am - Bagel team 12pm – Alanon 7pm – Choir Christmas Project FLEA MARKET SETUP	21 7:30pm – AA Christmas Project DISTRIBUTION	22 7:30am – Yoga	23 7am – Gideons 6pm – Youth Reunion/dinner @ Buddies
24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 10:00 AM - Family Service 7:00 & 9:00 PM Carols & Candlelight ***** 31 10am - Worship; Children in Worship 11:15am – Life Stories, God Stories	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27 10am - Bagel team 12pm – Alanon	28 7:30pm – AA	29 7:30am – Yoga 6pm – Parents Group	30 7am – Gideons 10am – Youth breakfast @ Blondies

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
Haslett, Michigan 48840
PERMIT NO. 5



HCC Connection

December 2017

Worship for December 2017

December 3rd

"Why Choose Mary?"
Isaiah 2:1-5 & Luke 1:26-38

December 10th

"Thundering Hope"
Psalm 85:1-7 & Luke 3:7-20

December 17th

Advent/Christmas Songfest
(see article on page 5)

December 24th- Christmas Eve

Family Service- 10am
Candlelight Services- 7 & 9pm
(see article on page 1)

December 31st

"Make My Word Your Flesh"
Jeremiah 31:10-14 & John 1:1-5, 14-18

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 Jim Durr - hcc1@att.net

Worship and Church School, Sundays at 10:00 a. m.