

Haslett Community Church



HCC Connections

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

March 2017



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ONA Results

Dear Haslett Community Church Members and Friends,

On February 4th our church's Clerk, Regula Arnosti, delivered the following report on the recent vote our members took on the proposed Open and Affirming (ONA) Covenant that we had discussed and developed over the past two years.

Here is the final vote count. The numbers are based on the current list of 399 HCC members.

Number of eligible voters who cast ballots: 194 (or 48.6% of HCC members)

Number of abstentions: 2

Votes (either yes or no): 192

Number of "yes" votes: 185 (or 96.3 % of votes)

Number of "no" votes: 7

Other facts:

We received 112 emails and 82 paper ballots.

7 ineligible votes were received and therefore not counted in the tally.

Respectfully submitted, Regula Arnosti

In other words, the covenant was approved with well over the required 133 eligible votes cast and the 80% of yes votes needed. In Sunday worship on February 5th we shared these results along with the next steps we'll take in following through on the covenant. These include notifying our United Church of Christ's Open and Affirming Coalition that we have an approved covenant and are ready for official ONA designation (which we've already received), sharing our new ONA status with local church directories, and inviting community organizations to list HCC as a resource for anyone seeking an LGBTQ-welcoming church.

We celebrate this significant step in our congregation's continuing efforts to offer everyone the same kind of welcome in love that God so freely and generously gives to us in Jesus. We'll pray steadily for the gifts of genuine fellowship, wisdom, and creativity that will enable us to live faithful to our ONA covenant. We'll look forward to seeing what God will do with us as we keep on, as our founding covenant says, "seeking in every way to make Haslett Community Church a power for the building of the Kingdom of God"!



Ash Wednesday & Midweek Lenten Worship

MIDWEEK
Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday services at 7am and 6:30pm on Wednesday, March 1st will mark the beginning of our Lenten observance this year. Those services will be 20-30 minutes long and will again feature the traditional imposition of ashes as a mark of our mortality and repentance. On the following five Lenten Wednesdays, March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, and April 5th we'll gather for worship at 6pm. Those services will be about 20 minutes long and will include prayer, Scripture readings, and brief spoken, silent, and musical meditations. On each of those evenings a simple soup supper will also be served after worship (but not on Ash Wednesday), thanks to our Youth Ministry Team, and will provide a fundraiser for this summer's youth mission trips. We invite and urge you to take advantage of these additional worship and fellowship opportunities in your Lenten journey this year.



In March we begin the season of Lent, a time in the church year when we're called again to an especially deep practice of self-examination and confession. In this year's season of Epiphany which we've just ended, our church's lectionary gave us multiple passages from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Its foundation is Jesus' prior announcement that God's reign has come near. On this basis, he then delivers the core of his teaching about what our life is like when we embrace the reality of God's Kingdom come.

We become "salt of the earth and light of the world". One of the primary ways Jesus says that we do this, as highlighted in my February 12th sermon, is by controlling our anger. This leads us also to firmly control our speech which otherwise can become so cruelly destructive when our anger is out of control.

Our fellow HCC member, Sandy Vietti, has shared with me reflections related to all of this from Christian writer, Karen Ehman. They can be a great help to us, I think, in this year's Lenten self-examination of the ways that we use our words. Ehman highlights many different characteristics of salt and suggests how they might apply to the speech of those who are committed to God's Kingdom come.

She begins with these verses from Paul's letter to the Colossians: "*Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person*" (4:56). She continues:

"A friend once urged me to try a new drink at my local coffeehouse rather than the coconut mocha I usually order. When the barista cracked some sea salt on top of a mug of caramel hot cocoa and its mounds of whipped cream, I'll admit, I was skeptical. But I trusted my friend's advice and tried it and ... Oh. My. Word. Who would've thought?"

Salt. On the periodic table of elements (which I haven't looked at since high school) it's sodium chloride — NaCl. Salt is the number one flavor enhancer in the world and used in numerous cultures. In fact, over a quarter billion pounds of salt are produced each year.

Diners put a dash of salt on their casseroles, sprinkle it on piping hot potatoes and add a pinch or two to a bowl of soup. Salt is even added to sweet things to intensify their sweetness— thus the deliciousness overload of the salted caramel hot cocoa. My father always puts it on his slices of melon. And have you ever tasted dark chocolate with sea salt? Heavenly.

One time I forgot to add salt to a mint brownie recipe. When I tasted a bite, there was plenty of mint and cocoa powder, the two main flavors of the dish, but somehow it just didn't taste right. Even though the recipe called for only half a teaspoon, omitting the salt ruined the normally delicious treat. It takes only a little salt to coax out the wonderful flavor of other things around it.

In today's key verse from Colossians 4, we see our speech should be seasoned with salt and gracious. And we're told to know how to give the right answer to everyone. Might it mean that we should ask ourselves if we are bringing out sweetness in both our choice of words and in our conversations with others — especially online conversations where we not only start a conversation but often give answers?

In the Sermon on the Mount . . . Jesus states: "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for any-thing, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot" (Matthew 5:13, NIV).

Maybe you've wondered ... just what does the phrase "the salt of the earth" mean?

Here are some other uses of salt and corresponding questions we can ask ourselves about exactly what salt does:

Salt preserves. Do our words preserve God's Word? Are we helping to improve a situation and keep decay from happening?

Salt is valuable. Do our words add value to the conversation at hand, or are they empty and worthless?

Salt purifies and softens. Are the words we utter pure and truthful? Are they soft and kind or harsh and hostile?

Salt melts hard ice. Do we phrase our speech in such a way as to help melt an icy conversation and bring out the best in others?

Salt prevents infection in a wound. When an interaction starts to turn ugly — either between you and another person or in a group situation — do your words try to help heal, preventing further toxicity from spreading?

Too much salt ruins the soup. Although we're called to season our speech with salt, too much salt will not only spoil the soup but can overpower a conversation as well.

So many uses for salt. So many applications for our speech. Before we use our words — in person, while texting or online — let's grab the truths of God's Word and make our words both salty and sweet.

She concludes with this prayer to which I add my, Amen. "Father, before I speak today — in person or digitally — may I sprinkle a little salt on my words, making them sweet to the hearer and pleasing to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

With you in this Lenten time,



**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.**

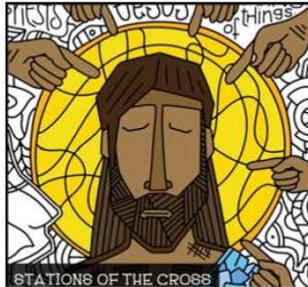


Join Children's Ministry Team & Youth Ministry Team on Sunday, March 5th after worship for a special meeting. We will be discussing the recent ideas and congregational feedback that were given as part of the long-term vision process; many of the ideas specifically related to our children's and youth ministries. Come help us discuss, plan and set goals!

You are also welcome to join us for our Council retreat on Saturday, March 18th where the discussion will be focused on moving forward with the long-term vision process!



Our parent-child music group will be meeting on: Monday, March 13th and Monday, March 27th from 10-11am.



This year, during Lent, our children will hear and remember stories from Jesus' life as we work through the stations of the cross. In Sunday school on Sundays and during the Wednesday night services, we will use resources put out by Illustrated Children's Ministry (ICM) to help us explore these 14 Scriptures.

Why the stations of the cross? In the words of the curriculum writer, "We felt there was a need for re-envisioning the stations in a way that could be accessible to children... We hope these materials will be a powerful resource for you as you follow the footsteps of Christ while coloring and immersing yourself in the biblical account of the last days and hours of Jesus' life," (Adam Walker Cleaveland).

ICM has added a fifteenth station- one that celebrates Christ's resurrection, which we will use in our Easter celebrations with the children!



The parents of kids at HCC want to invite any and all parents to join them in a new group that meets at Haslett Community Church every Friday evening from 6-8pm (once a month they meet from 7-10pm so parents can attend Pastor Kurt's Faith and Film nights).



2017 Vacation Bible School will be August 7th-9th From 6-8pm for preschool-5th graders!

Come discover your strength in God!

We will need youth and adult helpers! If you're interested in helping, let Erin know!





**Youth Ministry Team &
Children's Ministry Team
TEAM UP**
Sunday, March 5th
after worship

ALL parents are invited to join us for this important meeting as we talk about the future of our youth and children's ministry (as part of HCC's long term vision process).

Parents are also invited to attend our Council Retreat on the morning of Saturday, March 18th (at HCC).



March Grade Dinners

Monday, March 6th
11th grade dinner 6pm

Tuesday, March 7th
7th grade dinner 6pm

Tuesday, March 28th
8th grade dinner 6pm



CULVERS NIGHTS
Thursday, March 30th 7pm

REMINDER: at this point you should have paid \$325 per person for the mission trips this summer!



**SPRINGHILL WINTER
RETREAT**

Forms & final payment (total due is \$155 per person) is due on Sunday, March 5th! The forms are all electronic, so watch your email for more information about how to complete these!

**Bring money for
Friday night dinner,
extra activities
and the gift shop.**
Questions? Check out the SpringHill camps website or talk to Erin

Chaperones ARE needed!



March 20th at 7am!
Come get caffeinated before school!



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!
HIGH SCHOOL
OVERNIGHT
FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH!**
Watch the mail for more info!
CHAPERONES NEEDED!



**2017 Lenten Soup
Suppers**

Beginning on March 8th and for the rest of the Wednesdays in Lent, the middle school and high school families provide a light soup supper as part of our Wednesday night services.

A representative of Youth Ministry Team put together the list of what families have been asked to bring: soup, bread, veggies and dessert each week. Families are also asked to come and set up tables and chairs prior to the 6pm service as well as clean up after the light supper.

You should have received a letter at the end of February (both in the mail and by email). If you did not (or if you can't find it) please contact Erin!

If you are unable to help on your assigned week please **trade with another family on the list.**

These dinners are helpful fundraisers for our summer mission trips.

We appreciate the support for all youth families in putting these dinners on!





Joyce Bartels Memorial Solar Project

Over the past several years our church's Current Events group hosted a series of presentations on environmental concerns, especially regarding climate change, and on how, as Christians, we might best respond to them. Convinced that one excellent way to do so is through the use of renewable energy, our Team started reaching out to people who had come to those presentations to see if they might be interested in financially supporting a solar energy project for our church- support they could give without in any way diminishing the financial support they otherwise would give to our church's ministry.

That effort, which has reached out as well to folks beyond HCC, has succeeded in gathering pledges that now total \$51,800 of the \$59,600 needed to put an array of solar panels on the south roof of our sanctuary. The array is designed to generate about two-thirds of the energy we use annually and to save us an estimated \$3000 a year in our energy costs. At its February meeting, our Church Council gave the final go-ahead to this project which we're calling the Joyce Bartels Memorial Solar Project in honor of HCC's first and foremost environmental leader.

We now invite any and all members and friends of HCC who'd like to help fund the rest of the project to do so, again with the provision that any gift you might give will not diminish the financial support you otherwise would plan to give to our ministry. Our aim is to have the panels installed this spring with a celebratory ribbon-cutting after worship on Sunday, April 23rd, the Second Sunday of Easter and the day after Earth Day.



From the Green Team

To help us as individuals and as a church to be good stewards of God's gifts of the earth we offer:

March's Thought for the Month which is from Kumalau Tawali :

"We need a massive global theological renewal and reconstruction regarding our understanding of God, the Creator and the Sustainer, in light of the environmental crisis facing the earth. Creation protests its treatment by human beings. It groans and travails in all its parts. Christians, you are earth keepers. Rise up to your calling."

And March's Action for the Month which is:

Support leaders who won't pander to my usual desire to maintain a status quo that's comfortable and favorable to me, but who will instead call on and inspire me to sacrifice even of my cherished habits and advantages for the sake of the long-term good of the earth and its future generations.



Many thanks to all those who made our 2017 Cabaret a success. Lots of good food, great entertainment and lots of memories looking back at the 60's and 70's. Special thanks to **Barbara** for all the accompaniments she provided and to **Laura, Tim, Jack and Nikki** for the meal. Thanks also to the choir members for providing the desserts.

Thanks also to **Nik Buchholz, David Zin, Bob McCarthy and David Jones** for instrumental help during our February anthems.

Reminder about Giving Envelopes

Here in 2017 we're staying with the change we made a few years ago in using generic giving envelopes rather than ones with preprinted numbers and dates. They cost less and are easier for our tellers to work with. If you like using them, you can pick up a bundle of 52 for weekly use or of 12 for monthly use on the table at the back of the sanctuary. There are also envelopes available in the pew chairs every Sunday.

As always, you can still place your contribution check or cash in the collection plate or mail your gift to the church without using a giving envelope. You may also want to use automatic electronic payments which an increasing number of our members seem to do. Our Treasurer, Bob Heisler, at 339-0194 or bob@michucc.org can give you the details about that. For whichever way you choose to give, we thank you!

Our Welcoming Teams for March

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

March 5th

Greeters: Jim & Jewell Gornick
 Ushers: Kim Carnes & Judy Peterson
 Sound Tech: Joey Huston
 Scripture Reader: Joyce Bischoff
 Coffee Hosts: Barb & Steve Decker

March 12th

Greeters: Sylvia Davis & Donna Ellis
 Ushers: Lynn & Russ Wilson
 Sound Tech: Ron Rowe
 Scripture Reader: Don Flagg
 Coffee Hosts: Bob & Sally Heisler

March 19th

Greeters: Mike & Sue Johnston
 Ushers: Angie & Jerry Wilson
 Sound Tech: Patrick Homminga
 Scripture Reader: Kathy Swearingen
 Coffee Hosts: Mike & Zsa Mahon

March 26th

Greeters: Rich & Liz Newport
 Ushers: Shannon Murton & Sophie Kirchoff
 Sound Tech: Rich Newport
 Scripture Reader: Jim Linnemann
 Coffee Hosts: Ron & Cathy Rowe



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, March 19th,** 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.



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, March 7th, at 10am.** If you have not been to this get-together before, think about coming. The conversations are always fun and interesting.

We are still in need of a host for this month of March. Please consider signing up!



Knitters, Crocheters, and Wannabes

The next meeting of the Knitters, Crocheters, and Wannabes will be on **Sunday, March 12th.** We will meet right after worship in the Fellowship Hall.



2016 Annual Report

Our church's 2016 Annual Report continues to be available. Copies of it were first put out on the table at the back of our sanctuary on January 29th and will continue to be there for anyone who'd like to pick one up in that way. We have copies of it in our church office, too, so you can get it there if that's your preference. Or if you'd like one mailed to you, just call Bev in the church office at 339-8383. Only one copy per household, please.



On the last Sunday of this month, March 26th, we'll begin promoting our church's annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Leading up to the start of our actual collection of it on April 9th, we'll offer details, both written and spoken, about this year's OGHS effort to help those in special need all across the globe. On the 26th, we'll also begin making special envelopes for the offering available in the backs of the chairs in our sanctuary and in our church office. We'll look forward once again to this great giving opportunity that our church has long embraced.



Commendations

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

- To Our Open and Affirming Task Force members- **Rich Baumgartner, Dave and Nancy Ferguson, Barbara Freeman, Rev. Erin Heisler, Karen Klein, John Leckrone, Eileen Lovett, Carolyn Lucas, and Susan Turney** for all of their fine work in enabling us to take our recent ONA covenant vote and to our Clerk, **Regula Arnosti**, for her conscientious efforts in tallying and reporting the ballot results.
- To **Mike Mahon** for helping to secure our new LED parking lot lights and to **Rich Newport** and his spotters- **Rich Baumgartner, Gary Gulliver, Larry Leefers, Ron Rowe, Fred Schmidt, and Paul White**- for their installation of those lights which lighten so much more of the darkness than our previous ones had.
- To **Roberta Otten** for her weekly care of all of our church's indoor plants.
- To **Becky Leefers** for her Laity Sunday preaching and worship leadership.
- To **Dave Vietti** for the gift of and **Dave and Paul White** for the installation of a sound bar on our new 60" HD television set.
- To **Dave & Nancy Ferguson**, who used February's unusually warm weather to start spring-clean up around the church's property.
- **Liz Newport and Karla Hiller** for teaching Sunday School this month.
- **Katie Riley, Barb Decker, Carly Doran, Heather Dykstra, Abby, Elsi, Tristan and Tyrian Ruonavaara** for helping clean all the toys and classrooms downstairs.
- **Maria Cowan** for driving youth to District 5 in February.

Our Church Family



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

- **German Bindika** as he recovers from injuries suffered when he was attacked and badly beaten on the streets near his home in Adrian.
- **Pat Kelley** as she mourns the recent loss of her stepson, Shaun, who died in a car accident.
- **Linda Peet** as she mourns the recent death of her mother.
- **Fred Schrepfer** as he continues to receive hospice care.
- **Mark Ellis** as he continues in his battle with bladder cancer.
- **Karen Klein** as she receives chemotherapy.
- **Shari Anderson** as she continues to struggle with a variety of health issues, including recovery from a recent emergency dental surgery.
- **Marlene Bentley** as she recovers from a recent fall in which she suffered a broken rib.
- **Carolyn Lucas** as she recovers from recent eye surgery.
- **Jack Claucherty** as he recovers from a recent knee injury.
- **Stefanie Zin** as she recovers from recent knee surgery.
- **Carolyn Swanson and Carol and Dan Reid** as they mourn the loss of their beloved husband, father, and father-in-law, George Swanson. George, a long-time pillar of our church, died on January 26th. His memorial service was held in our sanctuary on January 30th.



Long Term Vision Update

After worship on February 12th, 45 members of our church met to discuss the next steps in the Twelve Keys Long-Term Vision process that we started with last fall's cottage gatherings. Pastor Kurt began the meeting with the following brief review of the Twelve Keys process to date.

Since last October our Church Council's been leading us as the steering committee in a long-term vision process that's designed to help us maintain and increase the health and vitality of our church. The process has three main steps: 1) Taking a focused "big picture" look at our current ministry; 2) Identifying the greatest strengths of that ministry; and 3) Deciding on specific, practical, and doable ways in which those strengths can be made even stronger in the years ahead. Through our cottage gatherings we've taken the first two of these three steps. The core to the Twelve Keys as described by Kennon Calhoun who developed this process that we are using as a guide is *"The art of helping a church move ahead is to build the key major objectives on the strengths a congregation presently has. The church that denies its strengths, denies God's gifts. The church that claims its strengths, claims God's gifts."*

The twelve key areas that were used as discussion points during the Cottage Gatherings last fall are; Relational Characteristics: 1. One Mission Outreach, 2. Shepherding Visitation, 3. Stirring, Helpful Worship 4. Significant Relational Groupings, 5. Strong Leadership Team, 6. Solid Decision Making; Functional Characteristics: 7. One Major Program, 8. Open Accessibility, 9. High Visibility, 10. Land, Landscaping and Parking, 11. Adequate Space and Facilities, 12. Generous Giving. We held ten gatherings attended by 80 members and friends. At each, following discussion, those who attended were asked to rank which of the twelve keys they felt were our key strengths as a church. The top three strengths will be the initial focus of our three year Long Term Vision process.

Those three top strengths are; 1) One Major Program – specifically our Youth and Children's Ministry, 2) One Mission Outreach – specifically our Food Pantry

and Christmas Giving Project, and 3) Stirring, Helpful Worship.

The people attending the meeting on February 12th, we're then asked to break into groups and come back with the one key specific, practical and doable way that these three key strengths can be made even stronger as we move forward. Many very good objectives were then presented by the individual groups to the group at large, and then each person attending was asked to pick the top three objectives they felt strongly about that will be used the big steering committee to move forward.

Some of these objectives are more "sprinter" focused activities, meaning they will be able to be achieved in a shorter period of time and some are more "marathoner" focused activities that will take us a little longer to achieve. Some will have little to no impact on our church finances and some will have a greater impact on them.

The top key specific, practical and doable objective for each of our key strengths are as follows. For One Major Program we need to elevate our Children's and Youth Minister position to full time status. For One Major Program we need to recruit and mentor more leaders and volunteers. For Stirring, Helpful Worship we need to incorporate more technology into our worship time and church in general.

We have had a great number of people involved in the process so far, and we need more moving forward. If you have a passion for any one or all of the top key strengths, the steering committee is asking you to give your time and talents to help us move towards our goal. There are short term "sprinter" activities and longer term "marathoner" activities that need to be completed. If you'd like to help, reach out to any of the Church Council members, the Moderator or Pastors Kurt and Erin.

Dear Fellow Members,

We are in need of volunteers to transport friends to church. At this time we have a member of our congregation who lives in Grange Acres who needs a weekly ride. We are hoping that we could get people to sign up for one month at a time...with 10 volunteers the rest of this year could be covered. Please contact Kelly Flagg with Member Caring if you can help out. Contact Kelly at 256-8392 or kellyanddon@comcast.net Thank you for considering!!!

Breakfast in April

Get ready for the 10th annual "Breakfast in April" every Sunday in April! Come ready to eat and enjoy each Sunday morning before worship. There will be a different menu each week with lots of choices of fresh fruit, eggs, pancakes, French toast, cinnamon rolls, sausage, potatoes, quiche.....oh so many choices! Breakfast time is from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. every week except Easter. Easter Sunday breakfast will be from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Bring your family and friends and experience the deliciousness of Breakfast in April! And...bonus.....there are 5 Sundays in April this year!

If you would like to join in the fun and share your favorite breakfast dish with all, just let us know. We will welcome any help you may like to give.....cooking, setting up, providing food, serving, cleaning up. It really is a joy to work together to make this happen every Sunday in April! There will be a free will offering to help cover the costs of the food.

HCC Camping 2017

We are finalizing the details of our August HCC Camping trip. We have chosen to go to Pioneer County Campground just north of Muskegon, right on the shore of Lake Michigan. The dates will be August 10th-13th, again offering a three day weekend event. We are still figuring out the ins and outs of reservations and will share all the information through emails and the Sunday bulletin as soon as possible. If you have gone in the past, you know what a good time this is. If you are ready join us for a group camping weekend, in a beautiful setting, please stay tuned for more information. If you have questions, in the meantime, please contact Kim Carnes or Karla Hiller.



MOVIE NIGHT! BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Guest: All ages (movie is rated PG)
Date: Friday, March 17
Time/Cost: To be announced
Place: NCG (Eastwood Town Ctr)
Host: Judy Peterson 402-5849
booboojpk@hotmail.com

Come and enjoy this Disney Movie! Bring family and friends. We can meet early and car pool from the church to the theaters or meet there. Emma Watson is playing Belle and Dan Stevens is playing the Beast. (The movie is rated PG any one under the age of 13 needs to be accompanied by a parent.)

BOX SOCIAL!

Guest: Adults and Older Children (min. 8, max 30)
Date: Saturday, March 18
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Cost: Varies with what is made or purchased at the Box Social
Place: 1154 Teakwood Cr, haslett
Hosts: Ruth & Jim Linnemann
339-6138 rlinnemann3@aol.com

A Box Social is a fun-filled evening seasoned with a little suspense. Box makers prepare a meal for two, packaged in a decorated box or basket. Be creative with your presentation. All food should be items that will be served at room temperature. Include all parts of your meal except place settings and beverage, which will be provided. The contents and creator of the box/basket remain a secret. Boxes/baskets are auctioned off at the Social. The highest bidder for the box/basket eats with the person that brought the box/basket. Attendees at the event will vote for where funds from the auction will be donated. Guests are welcome to linger for games and/or conversation. Younger children are welcome to come and enjoy a provided meal, eaten away from the auction.



Several Volunteer Opportunities

Paul and Nancy White are "retiring" from coordinating food for the Christmas Giving Project. We thank them for their years of service. We are looking for a team of people to share the responsibilities. Examples of tasks include transporting and unloading food purchased at Meijer, obtaining and coordinating the storage of meat and dairy, the preparation of family food order sheets, and set up and management of packing night. The time involved varies and ranges from September to December. We have two volunteers now and want at least two more. Team members will meet this spring to divide the tasks and receive background information.

The Christmas project also needs two people to conduct phone interviews of recipient families. The interviews are done in early November to gather information about gifts requested by the family. Instructions and orientation are provided.

Contact Ruth Linnemann, 339-6138 or rlinnemann3@aol.com or Mary Trebilcock, 339-3974, trebilco.john@att.net to get more information and express interest in these volunteer opportunities.

Have you ever wondered about chaperoning a mission trip? This could be your year! We still need chaperones for our middle school mission trip. Join us in Detroit, July 22-27th. Talk to Erin about details!



The various SPIRITUAL groups sponsored by our Spiritual Life

Committee 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, Barbara Freeman, Becky Leefers, Don Ricks, Katie Riley, and Mary Trebilcock, 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.



Coffee with Jesus: Marcus Borg's book, *Speaking Christian*, continues to serve as the stimulus for this group's discussions, usually on every third Sunday following worship at 11:15am in the church library. This month's meeting will



be on **March 19th**. The book may be purchased at Schuler's and everyone is welcome even if you have never attended before. Kathy Swearingen facilitates the group and if you have questions you can contact her by e-mail, hkswear@gmail.com.

Current Events in Christian

Context: This group meets to discuss in the light of our Christian faith events that have recently been in the news. It usually meets on the first Sunday of the month after worship at around 11:15am and on the third or fourth Sunday of the month at 7pm. At its first **Sunday meeting for March on the 5th**, the group will continue discussing David Gushee's new book, *A Letter to My Anxious Christian Friends*.

Gushee, a prominent Christian ethicist, has written it to help address from a distinctly Christian perspective, the anxiety many people feel about the current state of our country's political and social life. How, as Christians, can we best understand and act upon many of the pressing, large-scale problems that currently challenge our nation and world? Gushee's chapters 11 through 15 (about 30 pages long) have been rescheduled again from last month as the focus for the March 5th meeting. The book is available at Schuler's in Okemos.

The group's third Sunday meetings for this year are featuring a Social Issues film series. This month's movie, set for the night of **March 19th**, is *The Visitor*. A 2008 film, starring Richard Jenkins and Hiam Abbass, it helps to put a deeply human face on the questions that surround our country's immigration system. Questions about the group can be directed to Pastor Kurt (339-8383, ext.11 or pastorkurt53@att.net).

Being Christian in Daily

Life: In responding to people whose beliefs and actions are very different from ours, even to the point of being offensive to us, how do we think, feel, and act as followers of Jesus Christ? That's the big, basic question this group is focusing on now, usually on the

second Sunday morning of each month starting at around 11:15. The group's **March meeting will be on the 12th** and all are welcome. Feel free to contact Pastor Kurt if you have any questions.

Faith and Film: The next gathering of this group led by Pastor Kurt will be on **Friday, March 24th** at 7pm.

This month's movie is *The Great Santini*, made in 1979, directed by Lewis John Carlino, and starring Robert Duvall and Blythe Danner. Rated PG, it's 115 minutes long and tells the story of fighter pilot, Bull Meechum, the "Great Santini", and his long-suffering family. In this Lenten season, it asks about the costs that need to be paid for different kinds of heroism and self-sacrifice. As usual, popcorn and beverages will be provided.



Life Stories, God Stories: Pastor Kurt leads this group at 11:15am usually on the last Sunday of each month. This month's meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **March 26th**. 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. They take off from there. It's a very easy group to join and take part in at any time, so give it a try. Contact Pastor Kurt with any questions you have.

Men's Group: The Men's Group meets regularly 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.

March 2017

*Newsletter articles for April
are due on the 3rd Tuesday,
March 21st, at 8:00 AM.*

			<p>1 ASH WEDNESDAY 7 AM –Worship 12 PM – Alanon 6:30 PM – Worship 7:15 PM - Adult Choir 7pm – Venture Scouts</p>	<p>2 7:30am - Boot Camp 5:30-7:15pm - Boot Camp 7pm – AA</p>	<p>3 7:30am - Yoga, Boot Camp 3:30pm Daisy Scouts 6-8pm Parent Group</p>	<p>4 7am - Gideons 9am – Stroller Exercise</p>
<p>5 COMMUNION 10am - Worship; Church School 11:15am - Current Events 11:15am – CMT & YMT meeting 1-5pm – Girl Scouts 5-6:30pm - MS Youth 7-9pm – HS Youth 6:30pm – Gracewood</p>	<p>6 7:30am - Yoga, Boot camp 12pm – Alanon 6:15pm - Boot Camp 6:30pm - Moms in Touch 7pm – 11th grade dinner 7pm- Mission Outreach 7pm – Boy Scouts</p>	<p>7 7:30am - Boot Camp 10am – Women’s Coffee 5:30-7:15pm Boot Camp 6pm – 7th grade dinner</p>	<p>8 12pm – Alanon 6:00 PM Lenten service & supper 7pm – Choir 7pm – Venture Scouts</p>	<p>9 7:30am - Boot Camp 5:30-7:15pm - Boot Camp 7pm – AA</p>	<p>10 7:30am - Yoga, Boot Camp 6-8pm Parent Group</p>	<p>11 7am - Gideons 9am – Stroller Exercise</p>
<p>12 10am - Worship; Church School 11:15am – Knitters, Crotchetters & Wannabes 11:15am - Being Christian 3:30-5:30pm – Bear Den 5-6:30pm - MS Youth 7-9pm – HS Youth 6:30pm – Gracewood</p>	<p>13 7:30am - Yoga, Boot camp 10am– Parent/Child Music 12pm – Alanon 6:15pm - Boot Camp 6:30pm - Moms in Touch 7pm – Youth Ministry 7:30pm - Green Team 7pm – Boy Scouts</p>	<p>14 7:30am - Boot Camp 5:30-7:15pm Boot Camp 7:15pm - Church Council</p>	<p>15 11:00-1:30pm – Alanon 6:00 PM Lenten service & supper 7pm – Choir 7pm – Venture Scouts</p>	<p>16 7:30am- Boot Camp 5:30-7:15pm - Boot Camp 7pm – AA</p>	<p>17 7:30am – Yoga 12-6pm ARC Blood Drive 6pm PAP – NCG movie 6-8pm Parent Group</p>	<p>18 7am - Gideons 9am – Stroller Exercise 8-12pm – Council Retreat 1-5pm – Leefers Shower 6:30-8:30pm PAP-Box Social at Linneman’s house</p>
<p>19 10am - Worship; Church School 11:15am Coffee with Jesus 11:15am Member Caring meeting 1-5pm – Girl Scouts 3pm – Inquirer’s meeting 5-6:30pm - MS Youth 7-9pm – HS Youth 6:30pm – Gracewood 7pm–Current Events film</p>	<p>20 7am – B/4 school Bigby 7:30am - Yoga, Boot camp 12pm – Alanon 6:15pm - Boot Camp 6:30pm - Moms in Touch 7pm – Boy Scouts 7pm – Youth Culvers night</p>	<p>21 7:30am - Boot Camp 8am – Newsletter items due 5:30-7:15pm Boot Camp</p>	<p>22 12pm – Alanon 6:00 PM Lenten service & supper 7pm – Choir 7pm – Venture Scouts</p>	<p>23 7:30am - Boot Camp 5:30-7:15pm - Boot Camp 7pm – AA</p>	<p>24 7:30am - Yoga, Boot Camp 7:30am – Yoga 7-10pm Parent Group 7pm– Faith & Film “The Great Santini” 8pm – HS overnight >>></p>	<p>25 7am - Gideons 9am – Stroller Exercise</p>
<p>26 10am - Worship; Church School 11:15am - Life Stories, God Stories 11:30am - The Bridge 5-6:30pm - MS Youth 7-9pm – HS Youth 6:30pm – Gracewood</p>	<p>27 7:30am - Yoga, Boot camp 10am –Parent/Child Music 12pm – Alanon 6:15pm - Boot Camp 6:30pm - Moms in Touch 7pm – Boy Scouts 7:30pm – Church Growth</p>	<p>28 7:30am - Boot Camp 5:30-7:15pm Boot Camp 7pm – 8th grade dinner</p>	<p>29 12pm – Alanon 6:00 PM Lenten service & supper 7pm – Choir 7pm – Venture Scouts</p>	<p>30 7:30am - Boot Camp 5:30-7:15pm - Boot Camp 7pm – AA 7pm – Youth Culvers night</p>	<p>31 7:30am – Yoga 6-8pm Parent Group</p>	

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HCC Connection

March 2017

Worship for March 2017

Wednesday, March 1st

Ash Wednesday Services (see page 1)

March 5th - First Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Holy Communion
"Free to Confess"
Psalm 32:1-5 & I John 1:8-9

Wednesdays, March 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Midweek Lenten Services & Soup Suppers
(see page 1)

March 12th

"Born from Above"
Psalm 121 & John 3:1-17

March 19th

"All Fall Down"
Psalm 46 & John 4:4-42

March 26th

"It Rocks Our World"
Psalm 95:1-7 & John 9:1-41

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.