

# Haslett Community Church



# HCC Connections

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

## January 2016



### Special points of interest:

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- Financial Stewardship - p 6
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## Worship Start Time- Back to the Future

**A**fter reflecting on the results of the congregational survey we took in June and upon the recommendation of our Spiritual Life committee, our Church Council decided at its December meeting that **beginning on January 3<sup>rd</sup> of this new year, the starting time for our Sunday morning worship will be 10am.**

That's the time at which we started worship from our beginnings in the mid-1950's until the mid-1990's when we switched to 9:30 in anticipation of having two Sunday morning services. We may try a second service again at some other time, but not on Sunday morning as far as we can tell, and we sense that the switch back to 10 o'clock might be especially helpful to some of our younger people and their families and to some of our older members as well. In any case, **we're going to try it at least until the end of August of 2016, and we'll be evaluating all along the way to see if we'll keep it at 10 o'clock after that.**

Thanks for your openness to trying this "back to the future" move.

## Helping an Aging Parent

**O**ur Member Caring Committee has arranged for a special program entitled "Supporting the Transition: Issues on Aging" to be given in our sanctuary on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 3pm by Jeannie Anthony of the Brookdale Meridian Assisted Living and Memory Care facility.

She'll provide information to help with questions like: What are signs of normal aging and which are signs of trouble ahead? When should I intervene to help my aging parent? How do I start the conversation about providing or getting extra help when I think there may be resistance to it? How can I best assure safety for my parent(s) in their living environment, with their medications and other medical care, and with their finances?

All are invited, including the general public. Do make plans to come for what promises to be a very informative presentation.





**As** 2016 begins, the threat of terrorist attack hangs heavily over our world. The intent of such attacks is to make us feel afraid and they do- naturally and understandably, they do. But in Christmas time we remember the angel's words to Mary, "Be not afraid." We remember the hundreds of times that the Bible repeats these same words of encouragement, "Be not afraid." So what about our fears? How do we deal with them? How can we best respond to them?

One common way is detachment. With that strategy I no longer risk caring very much about anyone or anything else besides me and my own feelings of security. Building walls around me physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and financially seems like the only way to feel safe.

Another way is to pretend that I have no fear. I can do that by denying outright that there's anything to be afraid of as, for example, if I like to smoke, eat, or drink to excess and convince myself that the slew of evidence of the dangers of doing such things is bogus or somehow doesn't apply to me. Or I can tell myself that anything that threatens the loss of or deep troubles with anything that I seriously care about has more reason to be afraid of me than I do of it. That must have been the strategy of the fellow I once saw whose bumper sticker read, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for I am the meanest SOB in the valley." I can take that approach, too, with my larger family, community, or nation by making sure my group always has the most firepower and doesn't hesitate to use it.

But none of those ways of dealing with fear fits for us as Christians. That's because they all assume the most important and legitimate fear we can have, the one that gives us the right to do whatever we feel is necessary to alleviate it, is the fear of physical, mental, emotional, social, or financial harm or distress to me or to those that I most care about. That kind of fear is legitimate and important, but it's not the most important.

The most important is our fear of God. The most important is the awe and respect we're meant to have for God and for what God calls us to be and do.

The God we know in Jesus Christ calls us, above all, to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus says the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned, the stranger and the enemy are included among our neighbors. If any fear that we have of them or of any distress or harm that they or anyone else might cause us leads us to ignore them, exploit them, unjustly attack them, or do anything else except seek to love them as ourselves, it means we've lost our fear of God. It means we've forgotten the thing we most need to be afraid of is turning our backs on God and on what God calls us to be and do.

This reminds us of how unnatural it is to follow God in Jesus. I, me and mine comes so naturally to all of us. Our instinct to preserve and protect ourselves and those we care about the most is so powerful that to risk loving strangers and even enemies usually strikes us as outrageous- just plain nuts. At the least, such people can make things particularly uncomfortable and difficult for us. At the worst, they might try to kill us, so that we would suffer the same fate as Jesus. Who wants to risk that?

We do, if we follow Jesus. And the only way we can do that is by anchoring our lives in the same way that he did- on the rock of God's loving presence. Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." The earth can change, the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, the waters roar and foam, the mountains tremble with tumult, but we will not fear". We won't be afraid. We won't fear the risks of loving like God does because God is with us.

In Luke's gospel, Jesus puts it this way: "Don't be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (12:32). The kingdom joy of God's love reigning in our hearts and throughout all of creation: that is God's good pleasure for us. Elsewhere, in Matthew's gospel, Jesus spells out the implications of this: "(Therefore) (d)o not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both body and soul in hell" (10:28).

To be in soul-killing hell is to refuse to live in the love of God for everyone and everything, in-

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**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.



This January in Sunday school, our children will be learning about why Jesus is called, "the Good Shepherd."

Reminder: January 10<sup>th</sup> is a Communion Sunday and children will be in worship.

Help the Shepherd find the lost sheep



We are still looking for a few teachers to help fill in our teaching schedule! Look at your calendar and see if you might be able to help:  
Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>  
Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>  
April 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>  
May 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>



We are excited to have our parent-child music group meeting again!

All families with young children are invited to join us  
Monday, January 11th  
from 10-11am.

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

These groups are led by Joyce Bischoff, one of our congregation's early childhood experts!



**Mark Your Calendars**

There will be a Safe Church Training on Sunday, January 10th at 6pm.

Our Safe Church Policy requires anyone who works with our children & youth ministries to go through these trainings. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending (training usually lasts 45 minutes- 1 hour)



The young parents of HCC want to invite any and all parents to join them in a new group that meets at Hasett Community Church every Thursday evening from 6:15-8:15pm.

Childcare is provided (free of charge) by Jenny Golota, Jenny is a friend of Jamie Keck. Jenny has experience working with young children. We are currently looking for another adult to help provide childcare as well, if you or someone you know is interested please contact Erin Heisler.

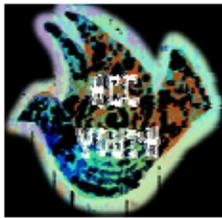
Snacks are provided for the children and the adults!

If you are interested or have questions feel free to contact Missy Lilje, Jamie Keck or Abby Bounavaara.



**Family Sledding  
Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
2pm**

Let's meet at the park on Meridian Road and have some fun together in the snow!



**Middle School  
& High School  
Sledding Party  
January 18<sup>th</sup>  
2-4pm**

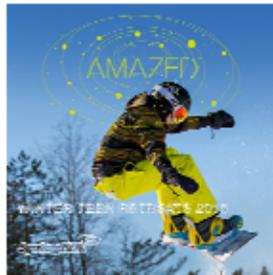
**Come celebrate not having school on January 18<sup>th</sup>!**  
We will have a sledding party from 2-4pm at the sledding hill on Meridian Road. We will be meeting at the park, NOT at the church. High schoolers, think of this as a much needed study break as you prepare for finals! Dress warmly & bring sled!



**Finals Week Study Sessions  
January 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**  
there will be study hours from 2:30-5pm in preparation for finals!



Back by popular demand, on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> High school youth will be able to participate in Yoga Nidra as part of stress relief before finals week! We will have normal youth group from 6-7pm. Yoga will begin at 7pm for those who are interested.



**Winter Retreat at  
SpringHill!  
Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**

Forms & final payment (total of \$155 per person) is due on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. 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!**



**SENIOR Dinner**

January 5<sup>th</sup>  
12<sup>th</sup> grade dinner 6-7pm  
at the church  
No need to bring food or money, but feel free to bring games!



**Pottery Painting at  
Art Unlimited  
Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**  
All middle school & high school youth welcome!  
Bring money for your pottery and the studio fee.

**SPRINGHILL INFO:  
\*who\*what\*when\*where\***

Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>  
Be @ the church NO LATER than 4pm (leaving by 4:15)

Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>  
We will return to the church by 4pm.

**What to bring:**

- Snow gear! (and bring back ups in case your gear gets wet)
- Warm clothes (plan on layering)
- Gym shoes
- Shower stuff & towels
- Swimsuit & additional towel
- Sleeping bag & pillow
- Flashlight
- Bible
- Money for activities
- **MONEY FOR FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER!**

**What NOT to bring:**

- **CELL PHONES!**  
Parents, please help keep cell phones at home! We were notified that there were thefts reported over the winter retreat season last year. Please do not bring cell phones and other electronics. Cabins DO NOT lock! Neither SpringHill nor Haslett Community Church are responsible for lost or stolen items.
- **IPODS-** permitted for sleeping only, not to be used in the cars on the drive up or home.





**“WHATEVER”  
IS COMING**

The annual Spaghetti Dinner/Cabaret is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 6th. Dinner begins at 4:30 and the show at 5:45. Mark the date on your calendars now. It will be a wonderful evening of good food, great entertainment and lots of fun.

We have a few more openings for the entertainment portion of the program so now is your chance to sign up. See either Barbara or Judy by January 21st.

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**Choir News**

Many thanks to our wonderful choir for the special music they presented during December. We enjoyed working with so many instrumentalists. Many thanks to Kim Huston, Bob McCarthy, Gwen Dease, Marcia Anderson, Nic Buchholz, Jared Conklin, Larry Thompson, Sarah Buchholz, David Jones, Isaac Zin and David Zin. Thanks also to Mary Trebilcock and Becky Leefers for providing a duet on Dec. 27.

Greatest thanks to Barbara Freeman for her wonderful playing. She is a treasure.

**From Our Green Team**

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

January's Thought for the Month which is from Vigen Guroian: "Some of us uphold the value of Creation as if it is its own measure, as if nature is God. Others uphold human freedom as if we humans are autonomous, a law unto ourselves, entitled to act independently of God, in place of God. Biblical faith declares another view. God, who calls all that he creates good, put Adam in the Garden "to cultivate it and take care of it."

And January's Action for the Month which is: Buy "local" as much as possible and remember to use re-usable grocery bags. Ask for paper if you forget.

**This Year's Confirmation Class**

Griffin Doran, Ben Homminga, Ella McKinney, and Alex Riley are the fine young people who are joining this year with mentors Kirk Riley, Tim Roumpz, Sandy Vietti, and David Jones in the learning and exploration process of our Confirmation program. The group gathered in December for the first two of its eleven meetings and your prayers are much appreciated as our confirmands move toward the time when they will decide whether or not they will join as full members of our church in May when we will again offer the Rite of Confirmation.



**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, January 17th at 4pm 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.



**Annual Report**

Our Church Council members, committee leaders, officers and staff are hard at work in putting together our congregation's 2015 Annual Report. It will be available in our sanctuary on Sunday, January 31st, and also in or through our church office any time after that. If you'd like a copy sent to you, contact Bev in the office at 339-8383.

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cluding all those who so easily scare us- the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned, strangers, and enemies. As St. John says, "God is love" (I John 4:8). Those three words lay out the bottom line we all finally have to deal with. The God who is love ultimately rules. To turn our backs on this God, to give up on the love for everyone and everything that God calls us to be and to do is the only thing that can destroy us in the end. It's the only thing we should ever really be afraid of.

This is such a staggering vision of what our life is meant to be about. We really are meant to be like Jesus. He knew what it was like to have deep fears, so we learn from him how best to deal with them. In Gethsemane, he's terrified. One of his own is about to betray him and another is about to deny that he even knows him. His enemies are about to arrest him, put him on trial, and nail him to a cross. Jesus is scared so what does he do? He prays it all to God.

The letter to the Hebrews says, "... Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death . . ." (5:7) He prayed through his fear and then said, "Father, not my will, but yours be done." Following God's will, he went to the cross, loving even his enemies and praying for their forgiveness. That's the way to handle fear.

We rightly deal with our fears not through detachment, denial, or being the meanest SOB in the valley. We deal with them like Jesus by main-

taining, above all, our fear of the God who is love. We bring to God all the rest of our fears and say, "Your will be done. Help us to love like you do."

With Jesus, we learn to keep, above all, our fear of God. Secure in that awe, our other fears fade away. We learn as the Bible says, to "Be not afraid."

With you on the rock of God's presence,

Financial Stewardship in the New Year!

First, thank you for your generous pledges to Haslett Community Church in the past and for 2016. These gifts make it possible for HCC to carry out its various missions and programs. I think all of us look around at the many church activities in wonder. It is amazing to see the good that HCC pursues and accomplishes.

Related to this, we adopted the 2016 HCC Budget in early December, and the 2016 Stewardship Campaign is in the rearview mirror. The approved budget was about \$295,000. This was below our 2015 budget of \$308,000, but slightly more than 2014's budget. Importantly, it was below our 2016 proposal which included the following goals: (1) Provide support for a full-time position to the Reverend Erin Heisler, (2) Provide a 1.5% increase in wages/salaries for HCC staff, and (3) Provide child care for church activities. Now we stop looking in the rearview mirror and start looking forward.

Although we did not achieve all of our goals, we look forward to the new year with anticipa-

tion and high expectations. Many exciting things are going on at HCC, and there is a feeling of growth which comes with the approaching spring! Our Church Council will closely monitor income and expenses in the coming year and make budget adjustments as needed. We will not lose sight of this year's goals and will address them when possible.

In closing, I want to mention a few Financial Stewardship Committee updates. Larry Leefers has stepped down as chair of the committee—this creates an (exciting!) opening if you are interested. Rich Baumgartner will represent the committee on Church Council. Anyone interested in joining this committee should contact Rich.

With God's Love,

Larry Leefers on behalf of the Financial Stewardship Committee (Rich Baumgartner, Bob Heisler, Dave Vietti, Alice Whiren, Nancy White and Stefanie Zin).

Women's Coffee

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 at 10:00 AM when hostesses sign up**. A sign-up sheet through May 2016 is on the Social Committee bulletin board on the kiosk in Friendship Hall. We encourage those who wish to host to sign up. The next Women's Coffee will be held on **Tuesday, January 5th and a host is still needed**.

If you have not been to this get-together before, give it a try!



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

- To all who helped with the many tasks involved in making this year's Thanksgiving dinner another wonderful success under the fine leadership, once again, of our Social Committee.
- To **Fred** and **Bev Schmidt** for donating the Christmas tree that graces our sanctuary.
- To members of our **Men's Group** for cutting down, transporting, and setting up the tree that the Schmidts gave.
- To **Rich Newport** for setting up and taking down the poinsettia tree and window candles that adorn our sanctuary during Christmas time.
- To **Nancy** and **Dave Ferguson** for donating all the greens with which this year's wreaths were made during our Hanging of the Greens.
- To all those who helped with the Advent and Christmas decorating of the church during Hanging of the Greens and to **Kim Huston** and her Circle of Friends folk music group for the great music they provided for the event.
- To all those who served in 2015 on our weekly **Happy Heart** welcoming teams as ushers, greeters, sound techs, Scripture readers, or coffee hosts and to all those who have volunteered to serve in these capacities in 2016.
- To **Tim Hiller**, **Rich Baumgartner**, **Karla Dudasik**, **Shannon Murton**, and **Barb Decker** for their service now as new members of our Church Council.
- To **Jane Roehm**, **Rich Newport**, **Mary Trebilcock**, **Karen Klein**, **Eileen Lovett**, and **Laura Clark-Roumpz** for continuing in their service as Council members in 2016.
- To **Bob Heisler** and **Paul White** and **Keith Carnes**, as they continue to serve in 2016 as our church's Treasurer and co-Financial Secretaries, respectively.

- To the outgoing members of our Church Council, **John Leckrone**, **Helen Jones**, **Kelly Flagg**, **Larry Leefers**, and **Gerry Gardner** for their dedicated service to our church in that very special leadership role.
- To **Cheryl Edwards** an especially big commendation for her TEN YEARS of service to our church as Clerk. Thank you, thank you, thank you, Cheryl!
- To **Debbie Gulliver** and **Kelly Hammerle** for teaching Sunday school in November.
- To **Shannon Murton** and **Shawn Belanger** for teaching Sunday school in December.
- To **Deb Farrell** for her organization of the pie sale and to **Sandy Maines**, **Nikki Corr-Lennemann**, **Pat Homminga**, **Mary Jo Wegenke**, **Julie Wood** and **Stephanie Bollman** for helping to sell pie certificates after worship and distribute them during youth group.

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## Our Church Family



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

- The family of our long-time member, **Romi Chaffee**, as they mourn the loss of her. Romi died on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Plans for her memorial service which will be held at our church are pending. Condolences to her family can be sent in care of her daughter, Gigi Saunders at 6460 Highland Ridge Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823.
- The family of our long-time member, **Naomi Sherman**, as they mourn the loss of her. Naomi died on November 30<sup>th</sup> and her funeral service was held in our sanctuary on December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Barb Rogers** as she continues in her battle against mouth cancer.

## Spiritual Life

The various groups sponsored by our Spiritual Life Committee help us reflect on and grow in our spiritual life as well as foster closer ties between us. The groups have geared up again this fall and our committee's members, Donna Ellis, Barbara Freeman, Becky Leefers, Mary Trebilcock, Don Ricks, Katie Riley, and Mary Trebilcock 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.

**Bible Study:** This group meets almost every Sunday after worship around 11:30am throughout the school year at the home of John and Mary Trebilcock (649 Kasey Lane, Bird's Strawberry Farm in Haslett). Mary Trebilcock is the facilitator and can be contacted at [trebilco.john@att.net](mailto:trebilco.john@att.net) or 339-3974.



**Coffee With Jesus:** Speaking Christian by the late Marcus Borg, along with Coffee With Jesus by David Wilkie, are the two books this adult education group is reading and discussing this year, usually on every third Sunday following worship at around 11:15am in the church library. January's meeting will be on the 17th. Books 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](mailto:hkswear@gmail.com).

**Life Stories, God Stories:** Pastor Kurt Kirchoff leads this group at around 11:15am, usually on the last Sunday of each month. January's meeting, however, is scheduled for the second-to-the-last Sunday, the 24th and will be at the front of the sanctuary. The discussions in it are always informal and wide-ranging, beginning 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, so give it a try. Contact Pastor Kurt (339-8383, ext.11 or [pastorkurt53@att.net](mailto:pastorkurt53@att.net)) with any questions you have.

**Current Events in a 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 Sunday of the month at 7pm. January's meetings are scheduled for the 3rd and the 17th. Questions can be directed to Don Ricks who serves as the group's general facilitator. Don's number is 655-3641.

**Faith and Film:** Pastor Kurt leads this group which meets monthly at 7pm on a Friday night down in the Youth Room to watch and discuss films through the eyes of our faith. January's gathering is on Friday, the 22nd and the film is Fruitvale Station. During the

week of the Martin Luther King, Jr holiday its powerful story will give us a prime opportunity to reflect on where we stand as a nation in creating the "beloved community" that Dr. King dreamed of. It stars Michael B. Jordan, Melonie Diaz and Octavia Spencer, is 85 minutes long and is rated R. As always, popcorn and beverages will be provided.

**Men's Group:** The Men's Group meets regularly for breakfasts, barbecues, and fishing trips up north. Dave Vietti faithfully serves as its 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](mailto:vietti@msu.edu) to be included on his e-mail list or to ask any questions.

**Being Christian in Daily Life:** In the complex, nitty-gritty details of daily life with our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, and strangers how do we think, feel, and act as followers of Jesus Christ? That's the big, basic question this group ponders and discusses usually on the second Sunday morning of each month starting at around 11:15. January's meeting is scheduled for the 10th. All are welcome and Pastor Kurt leads the group. Feel free to contact him if you have any questions about it.

## Knitters, Crocheters, and Wannabes

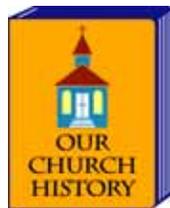


The next meeting of the Knitters, Crocheters, and Wannabes will be on **Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet right after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Commendations -  
cont. from pg. 7

- To **Joyce Bischoff, Katie Riley, Kelly Flagg, Alex Riley, Barb Decker and Shannon Murton Claire Cowan, Ben Homminga, Sally Heisler, Ella McKinney, Chaesa Moffatt, Nathan Riley, Dave Vietti, and Sandy Vietti** who helped with ADVENTure Club.
- To **Jewell Gornick, Monique Clifford, Carrie Mowid, Tim Roumpz, Pat Homminga, Deb Farrell, Sandra Riley, Sandy Maines, Anne Schmidt, Julie Wood, Anne McKinney, Mary Jo Wegenki and Dianne Harris** for driving our youth on their shopping trips! Debbie Gulliver for her help with the wrapping of the gifts!
- To **Molly Gadola, Claire Cowan, Emily Wegenke, and Brisban Roumpz** for their enthusiastic and joyful help with setting up confirmation mentor reveal!
- To **David Jones, Sandy Vietti, Tim Roumpz and Kirk Riley** for serving as confirmation mentors this year!
- To **Eileen Lovett** for bringing her gift of gingerbread houses to our youth study hours!
- To **Rob Mowid, Barb Decker, Bob Heisler, Dave Ferguson, & Paul White** for help with the Photo Scavenger Hunt.

- To **Carrie and Rob Mowid, Glen and Karla Dudasik, Tim and Laura Roumpz, Deb Farrell and Pat Homminga, and Bob Heisler** for coming to the high school Christmas party and for their help in cleaning-up!
- To **Karen Barnes** for her many months of service as a food pantry scheduler



*The following is from HCC's newsletter, January 1961.*

Diaconate

The December diaconate meeting was preceded by a dinner in honor of our young college folks and sponsored by the diaconate. A delicious meal was prepared by Judy Hoffman and Noreen Roelfs and was served by Nancy Hoffman and Gary Roelofs.

After the beautifully served dinner, there was a short discussion with the college group and Mrs. Chaffee was introduced as our church contact with the young people away from home. Mrs. Chaffee spoke of her function to keep this group informed about the church at large through mailed publications, the church at home and an inter-relationship among the students at different colleges.

Our church wants our young people at college to carry their same Christian attitudes with them that they have so effectively displayed during the years they spent in the local church. We hope that this continuing effort on the part of the local church will be a constant reminder to them that they are in our hearts and prayers no matter where they may be.

**Laity Sunday**

**T**his month we again recall that one of the most important gifts of our inheritance as Protestant Christians is the emphasis on the gifts and ministry of lay people in the life of the church. From the time of the Reformation on we've been clear that all Christians, both lay and clergy, are indispensable members of the Body of Christ and that the committed ministry of each of us is necessary to the health and vitality of the church as a whole.

In keeping with that recognition and with thanks to the efforts of our Spiritual Life Committee, we'll celebrate Laity Sunday once again this year. It's a day on which our whole worship will be led by lay members of our congregation. Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, will be the day this and we'll be blessed to have **Kim Carnes** as our preacher!

**BIG Thanks for a Great Project**

**T**he Christmas Giving Project distributed gifts and food to 90 families in 2015. Tremendous congregational and community support provided as gifts, money and volunteer assistance makes the project possible. Thanks to the donors, interviewers, shoppers, wrappers, bakers, packers, sorters, and kitchen, distribution and cleanup crews.

A huge thank you goes to the core team members Nancy and Paul White, Sylvia Davis, Kelly Flagg, Wendy Johnson, Mary Trebilcock and Mary Nelson. It would be impossible for me to be the project coordinator with their strong support, experience and countless hours contributed to make the project happen. Shalom,

*Ruth, projector coordinator*

**Esther Roege Memorial  
Enrichment Fund**

**A**t our congregation's recent Annual Meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>, we again solicited contributions to the Esther Roege Memorial Enrichment Fund. This fund, in support of the continuing Christian education of our children and youth here at HCC and in memory of Esther, was generously established in 2002 with a \$15,000 gift from Esther's husband, Mr. William Roege. As we begin 2015, it's especially fitting to recall both his benevolence to our church and Esther's honored place in our history.

By all accounts, Esther Roege was a major pillar of support to the ministry of our church for many, many years. In support of her particular concern for the Christian education of our children and youth, we once again encourage your donations to this fund set up in her cherished memory.

We were pleased to put it to good use again in 2015, as it enabled us to provide bus transportation for our high school youth group to its winter retreat at Spring Hill. Also, in the 2016 budget we approved at our congregation's December 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting we're looking to receive \$1000 from the fund to use in providing child care at new events being offered this year in our children's ministry. Through your continued generosity in building up Esther's fund, we anticipate being able to draw on it again in the future to meet similar needs. Thanks very much for your consideration of this special benevolence.

**Social Events**



The entire Pick-a Party booklet will be available at church and on our website starting January 10<sup>th</sup>, or call the church office to have one mailed. you a copy after that date.

**Sing A Long**

**(Free - Snacks to share)**

All youth and adults are welcome!

Date: Saturday, January 9

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Home of Kirk and Katie Riley

5931 Summerfield Ct, Haslett

Hosts: Kirk and Katie Riley (896-3145)

**Yeast Dinner Rolls (Cost \$3)**

Min age 13. Max no of people 5

Date: Saturday, January 9

Time: 8:00-12:00 noon

Place: HCC Kitchen

Host: Nancy Ferguson (230-1249)  
nancy.ferguson02@gmail.com

**Yeast French Bread (Cost \$3)**

Min age 13. Max no of people 5

Date: Sunday, January 10

Time: 12:00-4:00 PM

Place: HCC Kitchen

Host: Nancy Ferguson(230-1249)  
nancy.ferguson02@gmail.com

**Yeast Burger Buns (Cost \$3)**

Min age 13. Max no of people 5

Date: Saturday, January 30

Time: 8:00-12:00 noon

Place: HCC Kitchen

Host: Nancy Ferguson (230-1249)  
nancy.ferguson02@gmail.com

**Yeast Pita Bread (Cost \$3)**

Min age 13. Max no of people 5

Date: Sunday, January 31

Time: 12:00-4:00 PM

Place: HCC Kitchen

Host: Nancy Ferguson (230-1249)  
nancy.ferguson02@gmail.com

**Explore Asian Calligraphy**

Minimum age 8yrs with an adult

Maximum number of guests 20

Date: Tuesday, January 19

Time: 7:00-8:00 PM

Place: HCC Church

Host: Karen Klein (517-339-6439)  
kklein76@aol.com

**Beauty of Ireland**

All ages welcome. Max 20 people

Date: Sunday, January 24, 2016

Time: 3:00-6:00 PM

Place: The Leefers' Home

5610 Wood Valley Dr, Haslett

Hosts: Larry and Becky Leefers (517-337-0560),

bleefers@hotmail.com

**Life Though the Eyes of an Ugandan Orphanage**

Min age 21. Max no of people 25

Date: Friday, January 29, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: The Barbieri Home,

5505 Star Flower Dr., Haslett

Hosts: Lorie Barbieri (517-282-5463)  
ljbarbieri@comcast.net



Camping reservations:  
Needed by Feb 7<sup>th</sup>.

Camping Dates for 2016 are:  
Aug 7, 8, 9

# January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 7:30 – Yoga HCC SKI	<b>2</b> 7-8am Gideons WEEKEND
<b>3</b> 10:00am Worship; Church School 11:15am – Current Events 3:30-5pm - MS Youth 6-8:pm - HS Youth 6:30pm – Gracewood	<b>4</b> 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp 12pm – Alanon 2:30 – Study Hours 6:15-7:15 PM-Boot Camp 6:30p- Moms in Touch 7pm – Boy Scouts 7pm–Mission Outreach	<b>5</b> 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp 10am Womens Coffee 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp 6pm – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade dinner	<b>6</b> 12pm – Alanon 7pm - Choir	<b>7</b> 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp 6-8pm – Parents group 7pm – Venture Sc 7pm – AA	<b>8</b> 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp 3:30pm – Daisy Scouts	<b>9</b> 7-8am Gideons 10-11:30am Confirmation 12-4pm – Baking <i>Pick-a-Party</i> 1pm – Youth Pottery/Painting 7pm - <i>Pick-a-Party</i> Singalong @ Rileys
<b>10</b> 10:00am Worship; Church School 11:15am – Being Christian 11:15am - Knitters 12-4pm – <i>Pick-a-Party</i> Baking 3:30-5:30pm – Wolf Den 3:30-5pm - MS Youth 6-8:pm - HS Youth 6:30pm – Gracewood	<b>11</b> 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp 12pm – Alanon 2:30 – Study Hours 6:15-7:15 PM-Boot Camp 6:30p- Moms in Touch 7pm – Boy Scouts 7pm – Youth Ministry 7pm – Green Team	<b>12</b> 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp 7:15pm – Church Council	<b>13</b> 12pm – Alanon 7pm - Choir	<b>14</b> 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp 6-8pm – Parents group 7pm – Venture Sc 7pm – AA	<b>15</b> 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp  12 – 6pm Red Cross Blood Drive	<b>16</b> 7-8am Gideons
<b>17</b> 10:00am Worship; Church School 11:15am – Coffee with Jesus 2pm – Member Caring Presentation 3:30-5:30pm – Wolf Den 3:30-5pm - MS Youth 4pm – Inquirer’s meeting 6-8:pm - HS Youth 6:30pm – Gracewood 7pm –Current Events	<b>18</b> 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp 12pm – Alanon 2-4pm–Youth Sledding 6:15-7:15 PM-Boot Camp 6:30pm Moms in Touch 7pm – Boy Scouts	<b>19</b> 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp <b>8:00 AM Newsletter items due</b> 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp 7pm – <i>Pick a Party</i> Calligraphy	<b>20</b> 12pm – Alanon 2:30pm – HS Finals Study Hours 7pm – choir	<b>21</b> 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp 2:30pm – HS Finals Study Hours 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp 6-8pm – Parents group 7pm – Venture Sc 7pm – AA	<b>22</b> 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp 3:30pm – Daisy Scouts 7pm – Faith and Film ( <i>Fruitvale Station</i> )	<b>23</b> 7-8am Gideons 10-11:30am Confirmation
<b>24</b> 10:00am Worship; Church School 11:15am – Life Stories, God Stories 3-6pm – <i>Pick-a-Party</i> Beauty of Ireland @ Leefers 3:30-5:30pm – Wolf Den 3:30-5pm - MS Youth 6-8:pm - HS Youth 6:30pm – Gracewood	<b>25</b> 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp 12pm – Alanon 2:30 – Study Hours 6:15-7:15 PM-Boot Camp 6:30pm Moms in Touch 7pm – Boy Scouts	<b>26</b> 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp	<b>27</b> 12pm – Alanon 7pm - Choir	<b>28</b> 7:00-8:30 AM Boot Camp 5:30-7:15 PM Boot Camp 6-8pm – Parents group 7pm – Venture Sc 7pm – AA 7:30pm – Church Growth mtg	<b>29</b> 7:30-8:30 AM Yoga, Boot Camp 4pm – Youth Winter 7pm – <i>Pick-a- Party</i> Day in the Life of an African Orphanage @ Barbieris	<b>30</b> 7-8am Gideons 12-4pm – <i>Pick-a-Party</i> Baking <b>Retreat at Springhill</b>
<b>31</b> 10:00am Worship; Church School 12-4pm – <i>Pick-a-Party</i> Baking 3:30-5pm - MS Youth 6-8:pm - HS Youth 6:30pm – Gracewood				<p><i>Newsletter articles for February are due the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 AM.</i></p>		

HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH  
1427 Haslett Road  
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*HCC Connection*

January 2016

## Worship for January 2016

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**January 3<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am**

"The Word Made Flesh"  
Psalm 147:1-6 & John 1:1-18

**January 10<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am**  
**First Sunday after Epiphany**

Sacrament of Holy Communion  
"The Whats That Have a Real Why"  
Psalm 67 & Luke 3:21-22

**January 17<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am**

"Taken By the Hand"  
Isaiah 42:5-7 & II Corinthians 12:9-10

**January 24<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am**

"Cut and Comforted"  
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 & Luke 4:14-30

**January 31<sup>st</sup> - 10:00 am**

**Laity Sunday** - Kim Carnes preaching  
(see article on page 9)

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### Haslett Community Church

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

[www.haslettcommunitychurch.org](http://www.haslettcommunitychurch.org)    Contact us: [hcc1@att.net](mailto:hcc1@att.net)

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

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