

# *Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ*

## **Pastor's Report** – July 16, 2019

*Since our last Church Council Meeting.....*

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Giving</u></b>
Sunday, June 16	137	\$5,024
Sunday, June 23	118	\$5,072
Sunday, June 30	158	\$3,516
Sunday, July 7	152	\$3,219
Sunday, July 14	165	\$2,944
<b>Average</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>\$3,955</b>

**Two Services:** Our two Sunday summer services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. have begun! The 9 a.m. service has been averaging 99 people, and the 11 a.m. service has been averaging 60 people. We have been seeing new faces at both services. The Coffee Hour outside between the two services has also been a lot of fun. I am grateful to Peter and Jeff for their willingness to work two services; to Mike VerMerris, our Sunday Volunteer Coordinator; and to everyone for their flexibility as we do our best to accommodate our summer growth.

**Annual Meeting:** Our Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, June 16. Thank you to our Church Council, our Investment Advisory Committee, our Pastoral Relations Committee, and our Facilities Team for their excellent presentations.

**Holland Pride:** Our church had a booth at the Holland Gay Pride event on Saturday, June 22. Throughout the day, more than a dozen members of our church joined me behind the booth, as we greeted people and handed out rainbow wristbands with our church's name on them. It was a lot of fun!

**New Members:** During our 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 30, we welcomed 20 new members to our church! They were each presented with a certificate and pin from the UCC. We are so grateful for the continued growth of Douglas UCC!

**Sabbatical Discussion Groups:** Thank you to our Pastoral Relations Committee for leading a series of small discussion groups in preparation for my sabbatical next year. More than 30 people took part in these discussions. The PRC will be meeting on July 28 to discuss the feedback from these sessions.

**Douglas Social:** The first Douglas Social of the season on June 27 was a great success. Thank you to all who helped with our church's food booth: Larry Labine, Gemina Petruzzelli, Peter and Kathleen Mueller, Gregg Smith, Annie Hotwagner and Marty Coffin. Our food booth took in \$547 in donations. The next Douglas Social is on July 25 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Beery Field.

**Highway Cleanup:** On Saturday, July 13, eight of our Douglas UCC members cleaned up three miles of our "Adopt-a-Highway." More will take part this evening from 4 to 7 p.m. We are grateful for their service.

**Lights for Liberty:** On Friday, July 12, our Social Justice Team took part in the Lights for Liberty march in Holland to protest the treatment of immigrants and children in our nation's detention centers.

**Church Picnic:** Our Annual Church Picnic is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Beery Field. Thank you to Gemina Petruzzelli for facilitating this year's picnic.

**Pastoral Duties:** In addition to my regular monthly duties, I also met with eight congregants in my office for one-on-one meetings this past month; met with the director of Grace of Douglas on June 12; attended the UCC Planning Committee Meeting on June 20 at Holland UCC; taught two New Member classes on June 2 and June 23; met with a minister from the Unity Church on the Lakeshore on July 8; met with the Stephen Ministry leaders on July 3; was interviewed by the Hope College Broadcast Club on July 3; was a guest on the Morning Grind radio show on July 6; and officiated the wedding of church members, Foye McDonald and Ian Mills, at the church on July 12.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Pastor Sal*

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza, Pastor