

Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ

Pastor's Report: March 16, 2021

Dear Church Council:

Season of Lent: The Season of Lent began on February 17. That day, I shared a short "Ash Wednesday At Home" service on our church's YouTube channel and Facebook page. That service received more than 960 views. We are grateful to Jim Bailey of our church's Art Guild for the Lenten installation.

Centering Prayer: During the season of Lent, I have been facilitating a "Centering Prayer" group on Zoom every Wednesday night on Zoom at 5:30 p.m. More than 20 people have been attending these sessions.

Maundy Thursday: On April 1, we will be broadcasting an online Maundy Thursday service on our church's YouTube channel and Facebook page. I am grateful to Jim Bailey, Peter Black, Jeff Spangler, Louise and Bob Kenny, who will be assisting me in this special service for Holy Week.

Spring Street Men's Group: On March 15, I joined the Spring Street Men's Group on Zoom for an evening called "Ask the Pastor." I was grateful for the invitation and the lively discussion.

White Privilege Class: Last week, our Douglas UCC Social Justice Team began the first of a six-week "White Privilege" class on Zoom. We are grateful to facilitator, Bob Kenny, and to all who are participating.

Stephen Ministry: On February 26, I attended the Stephen Ministry Supervision Meeting on Zoom. I am grateful to our Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers for their dedicated weekly care to our church members.

Interfaith Action: In our partnership with Interfaith Action of SW Michigan, we are taking part in an online book discussion for *The Beauty of Your Face*, the bestselling book by Sahar Mustafah, who will join in the discussion this Thursday night on Zoom.

UCC Planning Committee: On February 23, I attended the UCC Grand West Association Planning Committee meeting on Zoom.

UCC General Synod: The UCC General Synod (a biennial national gathering of UCC churches) will be a virtual event this year. I am honored to have been selected as one of the Michigan Conference delegates. The Synod will take place July 11-18, 2021.

Special Collection: On Sunday, March 21, we will be taking a special collection for the UCC's "One Great Hour of Sharing," which helps bring the gift of clean water to those who would not otherwise have easy access.

Radio Shows: On February 21, I was a guest for a full-hour on the new "Saugatuck on Sunday" radio show on 92.7 FM, the Van, and on March 6, I was a guest on the "Morning Grind" radio show.

Online Services: The past month, our worship videos on YouTube received 11,283 views, plus another 2,860 views on Facebook. We are so grateful that our services are continuing to reach people far-and-wide beyond our church walls.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Sal

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza, Pastor