

Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ Pastor's Report

April 18, 2023

Resurrection Joy: The joy of the Easter season is upon us! Christ is risen, indeed! “*God has written the promise of resurrection not just in books but in every leaf in springtime.*” – Martin Luther

Holy Week/Easter Services: Our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter services were all so beautiful and meaningful, thanks to efforts of so many. We are grateful to our Director of Music, Peter Black; our Cantor, Jeff Spangler; and our talented Art Guild (Floyd Fleming, Gemina Petruzzelli, Jim Bailey, Greg Harvath, Bill Kelleher, Josephine Berault, Chris Maitner) for the beautiful installations. And, thank you to all who ordered Easter lilies for the altar.

Lenten Book Study: We concluded our six-week Lenten book study of *Rise: An Authentic Lenten* devotional by John Pavlovitz. More than 30 people took part in our weekly discussions.

One Great Hour of Sharing: On March 19, we took a special collection of the UCC's “One Great Hour of Sharing” Fund. We collected \$893.26, which our church will match. We are grateful for such generous giving.

Movie Night: More than 50 people attended our Spring “Movie Night” on April 12 for a screening of the award-winning documentary, *Radical Grace*, followed by a Q&A with the film's director, Rebecca Parrish.

GWA Spring Meeting: Douglas UCC will be hosting the Spring Meeting of the UCC Grand West Association on Sunday, May 7, from 3 to 5 PM. We are in need of volunteers to help greet and serve refreshments.

Creation Justice: On Wednesday, March 22, our church's Creation Justice Team led a Community Book Read of *The Hidden Life of Trees* at the Saugatuck/Douglas District Library. More than 30 people took part in the discussion.

Stephen Ministry: On March 28, I attended the monthly Supervision Meeting of our Stephen Ministry Team.

In Addition: On March 16, I attended the Grand West Association meeting via Zoom... On April 1, I appeared as a guest on the Morning Grind radio show to talk about our Holy Week and Easter services.

Kudos: Thank you to Jim Bailey for facilitating this year's Maundy Thursday supper in the Friendship Hall. More than 50 people attended. We are grateful to Jim and his assistants, Noelene Wilson and Gregg Smith, for setting the tables, preparing the soup, and cleaning up.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Sal

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza, Pastor