

Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ

Pastor's Report – August 20, 2019

Since our last Church Council Meeting.....

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
Sunday, July 21	165	\$4,313
Sunday, July 28	169	\$4,131
Sunday, August 4	170	\$3,018
Sunday, August 11	162	\$2,965
Sunday, August 18	155	\$2,931
Average	164	\$3,472

Farewell, Jeff: On Sunday, August 11, we bid a fond farewell to our Director of Music, Jeff Spangler. A member of Douglas UCC since 2001, Jeff served as our Director of Music for 13 years. We are grateful for his leadership and service to our church. On his final Sunday, Jeff was presented with an engraved crystal vase on the front steps of the church.

New Director of Music: We are excited to announce that Peter Black has been named our new Douglas UCC Director of Music. Peter has been our pianist since 2004, and we are so very grateful for his willingness to step into this new role.

Church Picnic: Our 4th Annual Douglas UCC Church Picnic took place on August 7 at Beery Field. More than 150 people were in attendance. Kudos were given to all the many volunteers, who were named in the weekly e-Pistle and Sunday bulletin. Extra-special thanks to Gemina Petruzzelli for coordinating the event.

Social Justice Team: Thank you to our church's Social Justice Team for facilitating a screening of the documentary, *Traces of the Trade*, on August 16. Next month, the Social Justice Team will be leading a six-week "White Privilege" course developed by the UCC.

Creation Justice Team: Thank you to our Creation Justice Team for facilitating the "Adopt-a-Highway" clean-up on July 16, as well as the "Gardening is Giving" table this summer. The month of September is designated as "Creation Month," and our Sunday worship on the last three Sundays of the September will be based around creation themes.

Douglas Social: The last Douglas Social of the season is this Thursday, August 22. Thank you to all who helped with our church's food booth this summer: Larry Labine, Greg Harvath, Gemina Petruzzelli, Peter and Kathleen Mueller, Ed Korson, Gregg Smith, Annie Hotwagner and Marty Coffin.

Pastoral Relations Committee: The PRC met on July 28 to share the feedback they received from last month's small-group discussions regarding my sabbatical next year. It was all extremely positive, and the congregation seems very excited about leading worship while I am away. The next PRC meeting is August 25.

Upcoming: Our church member, Jack Ridl (recently named "Poet Laureate" of Douglas), will be reading poetry and telling stories on Thursday, October 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. On Sunday, September 22 at 12:30 p.m., authors Sarah and Larry Feldman will be having a book reading in the Friendship Hall for their new book, *Building Bridges Across the Racial Divide*. On Tuesday, September 24, at 6:30 p.m., a discussion of the Community Book Read of *Braiding Sweetgrass* will take place in the Friendship Hall.

Pastoral Duties: In addition to my regular monthly duties, I also met with eleven congregants in my office for one-on-one meetings this past month...I met with the PRC on July 28...I met with the Stephen Ministers on August 12...I worked the Douglas Social on July 25...I was a guest on the Morning Grind radio show on August 3, promoting upcoming events at Douglas UCC...I officiated a Memorial Service in the church on July 20 for church member, George Brown...I spoke at the Celebration of Life for church member, Carl Jennings, on August 18 at the Dunes Resort.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Sal

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza, Pastor