

Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ

Pastor's Report - August 17, 2021

Attendance/Giving: Since last month's Church Council meeting, we have averaged 84 people at our in-person services; 330 people at our online services; and an average of \$4,420 in weekly giving. We know that the rise in COVID cases due to the Delta variant has made many hesitant to worship in-person, but we are grateful for the strong online attendance and the continued, dedicated generosity of our members.

YouTube Channel: Our church's YouTube channel has now surpassed more than 3,000 subscribers and more than 465,000 views. That is absolutely incredible for a small village church like ours. To put it in perspective, we have more YouTube subscribers and views than our other 25 Grand West Association churches combined! Thank you to all our subscribers and viewers.

Welcome, New Members: On Sunday, August 1, we officially welcomed the following new members to our church: Bernie Lopata, Carol Rice, Anne Peterson, Lynne Snyder, Virginia Stuart, Meridith Ridl, Michael Tuleja, Shane Anderson, David Bohn, and Arturo Inda. We are grateful for the continued growth of our little church.

Yard Sale: On Saturday, August 14, and Sunday, August 15, a yard sale was held on the Retreat House lawn for the possessions gifted to our church from the estate of our late church member, Myron Freund. The sale generated more than \$700 in donations. We are grateful to all who volunteered and shopped.

Creation Justice Team: Our church's Creation Justice Team is hosting a "Gardening-is-Giving" table each Sunday after church this summer. Next month, we will be celebrating "Creation Month," with members of the Creation Justice Team speaking at each of our Sunday worship services in September.

Social Justice Team: On Thursday, August 29, at 7 PM, our church's Social Justice Team will be facilitating a reception for Native American artist, Jason Quigno, at the Saugatuck/Douglas History Center. This event is in partnership with the Saugatuck/Douglas/Fennville Arts Initiative.

Stephen Ministry: Our Stephen Ministry Leaders and I will be hosting an informational "Q & A" on Sunday, August 29, at 11 AM at the Spring Street cottage for all who wish to learn more about our church's Stephen Ministry program.

Audio/Visual Team: Thank you to Chris Clark and Mike White for facilitating and training a new Audio/Visual Team, as we prepare to live-stream our services in the next few weeks.

Pastoral Visits: Since last month's Church Council meeting, I've met with nine congregants for one-on-one sessions in my office and another at their home in Douglas.

In Addition: On July 25, I officiated a Memorial Service for Jason Boston (son of church member, Mike Boston)...On July 27, I attended the Stephen Ministry Supervision Meeting in the Friendship Hall...On August 24, I will be attending the Grand West Association Planning Meeting...On Friday, August 27, I will be officiating a Memorial Service in the church for church member, Luke Burnett.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Sal

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza, Pastor