

Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ

Pastor's Report: July 21, 2020

Dear Church Council:

I want to begin by thanking you for such a wonderful Annual Meeting on June 28 via Zoom. I am so very grateful for your leadership, guidance, and professionalism, especially during this time when we are physically distant. It has been almost 5 months since our church doors have been closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, but our church continues to grow and to serve.

Since last month's Church Council meeting, we officially welcomed 17 new members to our church: Becca Waaso; Barb and Tim Schipper; Joyce and Kelly Wright; Liz Wilson; Bill Briggs and Jeff Chinski; Jim Kern; Tim Lemanski; Marjorie and Mark Reiman; Rebecca and Jack Klott; Sheryll and Greg VanPortFleet; and Tracey Shafroth. Our new members took part in a "New Members" class I led on Zoom last month, and many of them joined us on our Zoom "Coffee Hour" last Sunday to introduce themselves. Each of them was mailed a certificate and pin from the United Church of Christ.

Last month, the terms of several church leaders came to a close, so thank you to Glynis Whitcomb and Greg Sherman for their two years of service on the Pastoral Relations Committee; to Sue Fleming for her two years of service on the Church Council; and to Cindy Winkler for her two years of service as our Congregational Care Team facilitator. Each of them received a gift in the mail as a token of our appreciation.

And, I am excited and grateful to announce that Betsy York and David Miedema will be joining the Pastoral Relations Committee beginning at their next meeting on July 27; that Stan Greene begins serving on the Church Council at today's meeting; and that Lynne Snyder will be taking over as Congregational Care Team facilitator. We are grateful to all of them for their willingness to serve.

Last month, we also welcomed two interns who are staying at our church's Retreat House this summer. Both young women are volunteering at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts. I am grateful to our Retreat House Coordinator, Kathleen Mueller, for making the interns feel so welcome.

On July 3, we hosted an online concert, "A Summer Celebration," featuring our Douglas UCC musicians. The virtual event (which was watched by more than 550 people) helped raise money for the Rotary Club of Saugatuck/Douglas. I am grateful to Peter Black, Nancy Plantinga, our specials musicians, and to Gemina Petruzzelli who designed the poster which ran in the local newspaper.

On July 18, I officiated a small wedding in the church for a couple from Grand Rapids. There were less than 20 people in attendance and social distancing was practiced. The couple made a very generous donation of \$225 to our church.

Last week, my husband, Gregg, and I installed a brand new Peace Pole in front of the church. It looks exactly like the old wooden one, only this new one is made of plastic. Our church grounds are looking wonderful this summer thanks to the good stewardship of Dick Bont, Stacy Honson, Gemina Petruzzelli, David Geen, Claudina Johnston, Linda Charvat, and Larry Fuerst.

And, finally, as you will see from the attached analytics, our online viewership continues to grow. This past month, our online videos received close to 120,000 views on YouTube, and we welcomed another 900 new subscribers to our channel!! We also continue to receive messages each and every week from new viewers watching from all over the world. This is absolutely extraordinary for a small, village church in Douglas, MI.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Sal

Views are up! Your channel got 119,808 views in the last 28 days.

That's more than the 5,000–7,700 your channel usually gets.

<p>Views</p> <p>119.8K ↑</p> <p><i>112.1K more than usual</i></p>	<p>Watch time (hours)</p> <p>10.0K ↑</p> <p><i>9.3K more than usual</i></p>	<p>Subscribers</p> <p>+910 ↑</p> <p><i>857 more than usual</i></p>
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"Open & Affirming" Sunday - Douglas UCC Video Worship Service

● 06/28/20
7:00 AM

1.5K



"Climbing the Spiritual Ladder" - Video Worship Service

● 07/19/20
7:00 AM

1.2K



"Independence Sunday" - Video Worship Service

● 07/05/20
7:00 AM

1.1K



"Parable of the Sower" - Video Worship Service

● 07/12/20
7:01 AM

1.1K



"A Summer Celebration!" - Virtual Concert

● 07/03/20
4:00 PM

554

