

Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ

Pastor's Report: June 16, 2020

Dear Church Council:

Julie Ridl and I were working on the E-pistle newsletter together last week, and we both expressed amazement on how active our church has been this past month.

Since last month's Church Council meeting, our church has taken part in both the Community Pride event and the Black Lives Matter march in Saugatuck/Douglas.

Thank you to our church members, Greg Harvath, Ruth VandenBosch, Craig Drager, and Dale Lower, for organizing the Pride event and for all our many church members who took part. I am grateful to Bob and Louise Kenny for decorating their van with our Douglas UCC Pride banner, and to Fritz Royce and Sarah Hurley for chauffeuring me in their vintage Rolls Royce in the "Care a Van" car parade. A photo of me and Fritz made the local newspaper this week!

And, thank you to Becca Waaso for organizing the Black Lives Matter march. I connected Becca with our church member, Stan Greene, who inspired and challenged us all with his powerful and prophetic words at the march. Thanks, too, to our Bev Hawkes for assisting Becca, and to all our many church members who took part in the march. A video and transcript of Stan's speech will appear in this week's E-pistle church newsletter. Also, thank you to our Mark Reiman for his excellent photos of both events.

Fifteen of our church members (Gail and Dennis Babel; Maryjo Lemanski; Garnet Lewis; Joyce and Kelly Wright; Kristi Van Howe; Kelly, Hannah, Hailey and Molly Huggett, Kathy Klage, Ray Hippolyte, Nancy Plantinga, Ruth VandenBosch) have been volunteering each week with Children's First Lakeshore, preparing and packing meals for children in need. You may remember that our church granted \$2,500 to Children's First Lakeshore last year.

Our Sunday worship services are continuing to reach people near and far. In the last 28 days, our videos have received more than 9,000 views on YouTube from people from all over the world, and we added 55 new subscribers to our channel. (Please see the attached analytics and geographic breakdown). Many thanks to our Director of Music, Peter Black, and to our weekly readers and special musicians who have been contributing videos to our services from their homes. And, of course, I am grateful to my husband, Gregg Smith, who helps me record, edit, and upload the videos each week.

Our Douglas UCC family continues to stay connected each week via the well-attended online Zoom "Coffee Hour" sessions which follow our Sunday worship services. This past month, 30 to 40 households have been joining us on these weekly calls.

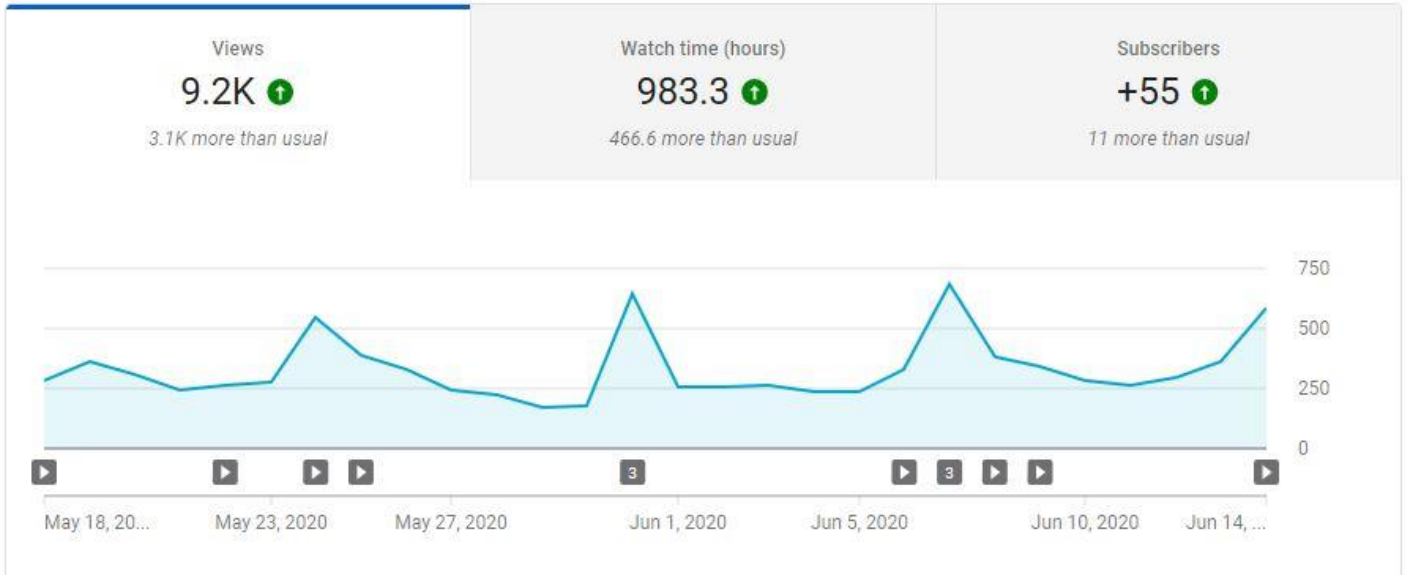
This Thursday, I will be holding a New Members Class via Zoom. A dozen people have already signed-up. Not bad during this time of pandemic! And, our special musicians are planning another virtual concert event for us on July 3 at 7 PM. That night, we'll be raising money for the Saugatuck/Douglas Rotary Club. You may remember that last month's concert raised more than \$1,000 for Christian Neighbors Food Pantry in Douglas. As I stated back in March: our church building may be closed, but our church is as active as ever!

Respectfully Submitted, *Pastor Sal*

YOUTUBE:

Views are up! Your channel got 9,219 views in the last 28 days.

That's more than the 4,600–6,100 your channel usually gets.



Geography	Views	↓
<input type="checkbox"/> Total	9,219	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United States	5,090	55.2%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom	373	4.1%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canada	142	1.5%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Africa	87	0.9%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> India	59	0.6%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Australia	58	0.6%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nigeria	15	0.2%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbados	13	0.1%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Argentina	11	0.1%